



Thornlea SS

Principal: Joe Foti

Vice-Principal: Anthony Hu

Vice-Principal: Sofia Papadatos

September 7, 2018

Welcome Back!

Some Important Dates Coming Up

September 13

FIT Day Gr. 9's only

September 17

School Council Meeting

September 18

Club Fair

September 20

Terry Fox Run

September 24

PD Day

Sept. 25-Sept 28

Safety Assemblies

Sept. 26

Wellness Fair

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Families and Community Members,

I would like to welcome everyone back to a new school year at Thornlea. This year is special for a number of reasons. Thornlea opened its doors for the first time fifty years ago on September 3, 1968. We also have experienced significant growth once again. We are no longer the tiny High School in Thornhill. We welcomed over 270 new grade nine students this year our largest grade nine class in years. The school has about 1020 students in all grades this year. Our growth we believe is a result of the positive experiences of our graduates and current students. They have gone out into the community and shared the experiences they have had at Thornlea. This growth has caused some problems this year in accommodating everyone's needs but most of the timetable issues have now been resolved. Since the start of school year five new courses have been added to accommodate our growth. If your child is still experiencing difficulty with their timetable, please do not hesitate to contact me. The other problem that we are experiencing is limited space in some of our tech classes and the gym. We can create more room by changing our schedule. At this year's first School Council meeting we will discuss changing our schedule for the 2019/2020 school year. We could create a five period day with two different lunches. This would create more space in our gyms and in our tech classes. It would also limit our ability to run activities and meetings at lunch. Our first Council meeting is Monday September 17th in the library at 7:15 p.m. all are welcome.

The new school year also brings a lot of new activities our Grade Nine's will be travelling to Camp Green Acres for our annual FIT Day on September 13th. The students will be outside working on team building activities for the day with our teachers and student council members. On September 18th we will hold our annual Club Fair in the gym. Students are encouraged to sign up for a club that interests them. Last year we had over forty different clubs running. The fall sports season has also started with try outs for girls' basketball, boys' volleyball, golf, rugby sevens and cross country all under way, for further information please contact the physical education department. We hope that your children have experienced a good start to the school year. If there is anything I can help you with, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Warmest regards,

Joe Foti,

Principal



Message From Our Trustee

I am pleased to welcome all of our students and families to the start of the 2018-2019 school year. This is an exciting time of year. I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer and is looking forward to the months ahead.

York Region District School Board is committed to advancing student achievement and well-being. The Trustees' new [Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#), developed based on feedback from the community, outlines four priorities that will guide this work: Foster Well-Being and Mental Health, Champion Equity and Inclusivity, Build Collaborative Relationships and Empower Ethical Leadership. Thank you to everyone who shared their thoughts.

Our schools are stronger when families are engaged. There are many different ways families can support their child's learning and get involved in life at the school, and I hope that you find opportunities to get engaged.

I wish you all the best for the upcoming school year.



LITERACY CORNER

Education Quality and
Accountability Office



Hello Parents and Guardians,

My name is Lovleen Rai and I am the Literacy Lead for the 2018 – 2019 school year. I look forward to working with your child to support his/her preparation for the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT).

Information about the Test:

- ⇒ Students are tested on basic reading and writing skills.
- ⇒ Successful completion of the OSSLT is a graduation requirement for all students who are working towards their diploma.
- ⇒ The OSSLT will take place on **March 27, 2019**.

'Whole School Initiatives' (WSIs):

- ⇒ All Grade 9 & 10 students (including Grade 11 & 12 students without the requirement) will write a WSI. Each WSI will focus on providing students with an opportunity to practice the reading & writing tasks from past OSSLTs.
- ⇒ Dates for the WSI sessions are:
 - Period 2 on **October 11** = Multiple-Choice Questions
 - Period 3 on **November 14** = Writing Open Responses
 - Period 4 on **December 6** = Writing a Series of Paragraphs
 - Period 3 on **March 4** = Writing a News Report

OSSLT Lessons for Grade 10 Students Only:

- ⇒ Grade 10 students will participate in a lesson prior to each WSI so they can practice strategies for completing the different tasks.
- ⇒ Grade 10 teachers will determine when the students will participate in the lesson.
- ⇒ Dates for the OSSLT Lessons are:
 - Period 2 = **September 28 & October 1-5**
 - Period 3 = **October 29-31 & November 1-2, 5-9**
 - Period 4 = **November 19-22, 26-29**
 - Period 3 = **February 25-28 & March 1**

Should you have any questions and/or concerns, please contact me either by phone or email

Lovleen Rai
905-889-9696 Ext/254
Lovleen.raai@yrdsb.ca

Post-Secondary School Visits: 2018-2019

POST SECONDARY SCHOOL	VISIT DATE
Canadian Forces Recruiting Centre Toronto	September 25
Brock University	September 26
Western University – Ivy School of Business	September 27
Durham College	September 28
Centennial College	October 1
Laurentian University	October 2
Brescia University	October 3
York University	October 4
Huron at Western University	October 5
Queen's University	October 9
King's University College Western University	October 9
Concordia University	October 10
University of Windsor	October 11
Seneca College	October 12
Georgian College	October 15
Carleton University	October 18
UOIT University of Ontario Institute of Technology	October 19
Nipissing University	October 23
University of Toronto	October 24
Wilfred Laurier University	October 25
University of Waterloo	October 26
University of Toronto – Science and Engineering	October 29
OCAD Ontario College of Art and Design	October 30
George Brown College	November 2
Humber Institute of Technology & Advanced Learning	November 5
Ryerson University	November 7
Ryerson University – Science and Engineering	November 8
University of Guelph Humber	November 12

Trent University	November 13
Western University	November 14
McMaster University	November 15
Redeemer University	November 21
Bishop's University	TBA
Lakehead University	TBA
University of Toronto – Scarborough Campus	TBA



Attention, parents and guardians!

Thornlea Breakfast Club
is up and running for 2018-2019!

Breakfast is available every morning
in Room 150 from 8:15 to 8:45 a.m.

Fresh Fruit available in main office
and TLC (213) all day!

Everyone is welcome at Breakfast Club!

This Thornlea Wellness Initiative is generously funded by:
Student Nutrition Central Ontario East, Food for Learning,
and President’s Choice Children’s Charity.

Donations of the following items are welcome:

- dry cereal (nut free, unsweetened or slightly sweetened)
- nut-free instant oatmeal
- disposable bowls, side plates, and cutlery
- bagged pre-cut bagels (for freezing)
- cream cheese
- nut-free granola bars
- frozen waffles



Thornlea Wellness Initiative Council would like to thank our staff and student volunteers who make Breakfast Club possible. A special thank you to Malcolm MacNeil, who is returning this year as our parent volunteer and who is the individual most responsible for the success of Thornlea’s Breakfast Club. He does all of the inventory, shopping, record-keeping, paper work, and organizing, despite the fact that his daughter graduated from Thornlea over 3 years ago!

Thornlea Wellness Fair - Fall 2018 - Wednesday, Sept. 26 - 10:10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (Rain Date: Sept. 27)

THORNLEA ANNUAL WELLNESS FUN FAIR

The Thornlea Wellness Initiative Council is very excited to announce its upcoming 2nd Annual Wellness Fun Fair. Wednesday, September 26th is scheduled to be a regular school day, but a portion of the day will be dedicated to celebrating physical and mental health, and just to have fun.

The events we are currently planning include:

- Free Healthy Snacks
- Pie the Teacher
- Pavement Chalk Art
- Music
- Giant Jenga
- Crafts
- Free Play Frisbee
- Bubbles
- Face Painting & Henna Tattoos
- Meditation Hill

Special Guests include representatives from:

- Therapeutic Paws of Canada will be here with 3 of their best dogs and handlers! Please see the next page for information about the therapy dogs.
- JACS (Jewish Addiction Community Services)
- Women's Support Network of York Region
- Canadian Mental Health Association
- York Region Public Health
- Thornhill Fitness Centre
- YRT (Viva)

Rain Date: Thursday, September 27



**Therapeutic Paws of Canada
PAWS Event Informative Letter**



Dear Parent/Guardian,

On Wednesday, Sept. 26, 2018, the Therapeutic Paws of Canada, a Pet Therapy Team, will be coming to Thornlea Secondary School to provide a free pet therapy program called a PAWS Room. Your child will have the opportunity to participate by interacting with the Certified Pet Teams in a group setting to promote health and wellness.

Therapeutic Paws of Canada is a non-profit organization of volunteers whose pets have undergone a strict Therapy Pet Evaluation to determine their suitability to work with children and adults. All pets have been certified in this national organization to work in these programs. All pets involved have up to date vaccinations and handlers have full background checks and Criminal Record Check for Vulnerable Persons clearance.

PAWS Rooms have been used in many other schools as well as many colleges and universities. Medical evidence suggests that the presence of a Therapy Pet has been shown to lower blood pressure and heart rate and release chemicals (oxytocin) in the body that make us feel more relaxed, peaceful, and happy. This program is commonly used in conjunction with other Health and Wellness initiatives within the school to promote a healthier learning environment.

I understand that the Handlers and the Dogs/Cats involved in this program are members of Therapeutic Paws of Canada and have been certified by that organization as Therapy Dog/Cat Teams or where the program is provided to minors, as Child Certified Therapy Dog/Cat Teams. Therapeutic Paws of Canada has strict guidelines in place for the safety of those they visit and for the safety of teams performing the visits. While every possible precaution is taken, accidents can and do happen and can occur without fault of either the participant, the facility, it's employees/agents or the service provider being Therapeutic Paws of Canada and its certified teams. The chance of injuries or incident can be reduced by carefully following instructions at all times whilst engaged in the visits. By permitting this activity you accept the associated risk.

If you do NOT wish your child to participate in this program please contact Debra Hanff at debra.hanff@yrdsb.ca or contact the Team Leader below for more information.

(Team Leader Markham/Unionville: Barbara Slattery: slatteryb93@gmail.com)

Website: www.tpoc.ca

Facebook: "Therapeutic Paws of Canada"

Twitter: @Therapeuticpaws

**THORNLEA ANNUAL
WELLNESS FUN FAIR**



every student counts
November 2018 **Survey**



Help us learn more about the students in our school communities.

In November 2018, York Region District School Board will invite all students from Kindergarten through Grade 12 to participate in an important census to better understand who they are and how they feel about school.

Inspire Learning!
www.yrdsb.ca @YRDSB




every student counts
November 2018 **Survey**



The **Every Student Counts Survey** is part of our Board's commitment to improving student achievement and well-being. Students' voices are important. We want to learn more about the students we serve and create more equitable and inclusive school environments.

The survey is confidential and voluntary. The census will be sent home with students in Kindergarten to Grade 6 to be completed with a parent/guardian. Students in Grade 7 to 12 will be invited to complete the census at their school. Accessibility options will be available for any student who needs assistance completing the survey. All students will be given the opportunity to participate.

Look for more information from the school in September or visit www.yrdsb.ca.

