

# THORNLEA S.S. SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 2

November 24, 2023

Welcome to the November 2023 edition of the Thornlea S.S. School Council newsletter.

The School Council is made up of Thornlea parents who are dedicated to fostering a stimulating and nurturing school environment for students. Working in partnership with teachers, administrators and families, we provide advice on school matters to ensure all students have access to enriching learning and growth experiences and a nurturing and supportive community. Our monthly newsletter keeps families up to date on important school information and resources. All parents are welcome to attend council meetings and share ideas to support our work.

If you have questions about Council or want to get involved, please feel free to contact us at [thornlea.ss@sc.yrdsb.ca](mailto:thornlea.ss@sc.yrdsb.ca).

-- Aroon B. and Myra C., co-chairs, School Council

## Preparing senior students for their next steps

As Thornlea S.S. students in Grades 11 and 12 prepare for life after high school, the school's guidance counsellors want to set them up for success.

On Nov. 20, the **Guidance Department** held its first Planning for the Future event to help school families understand high school programs that can support their pathway to post-secondary education. The event also covered key information about applying to college and university, scholarships and awards, and pathways between Ontario's public colleges and universities.

### Preparing for graduation

In order to graduate from high school, students must earn a total of 30 credits: 18 compulsory credits and 12 optional credits.

Students must also complete 40 hours of community involvement activities. There is also a requirement for most students to pass the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test. There is also a requirement to earn two credits through online learning, however, families can choose to opt out of this requirement.



*Nizam Alkins, head of the Guidance Department, sharing information at the Planning for the Future event.*

To learn more, click [here](#) or contact the Guidance Department. *(continued on p. 2)*

### Thornlea School Council 2023-24

#### Executive Committee

Aroon B., co-chair  
Myra C., co-chair  
Sharon A., communications  
Jennifer F., treasurer  
Diana L., secretary

#### Members at Large

LeeAnn C.  
Jenn D.  
Peter D.  
Jenn I.  
Eileen M.  
Jane P.  
Amir S.  
Mandy S.  
Angela Y.  
Grace Y.

Contact us:  
[thornlea.ss@sc.yrdsb.ca](mailto:thornlea.ss@sc.yrdsb.ca)

## Thornlea Guidance Department

Mr. Alkins, A - KAL

Ms. TSE, SHER - WANG

Ms. Rai, KAM - SHEN

Ms. Ceausu, WAT - Z

The logo for FlipGive, featuring the word "FlipGive" in a stylized font with a teal background behind the word "Flip".

You can support Thornlea School Council's initiatives by making purchases at your favorite online stores via FlipGive's website, or buying gift cards via FlipGive's Shop App to pay for your in-store purchases. Click [here](#) to join and you'll earn a \$5 bonus the first time you shop! Use code 5FLXC7.

## Resources

- [Daily announcements website](#)
- [School Council Newsletter back issues](#)
- [School Council meeting agendas and minutes](#)

(continued from page 1),

### Cooperative Education

Cooperative education is a credit-earning educational program for students in grades 11 and 12 that integrates classroom course expectations with workplace experience. There is an agreement between the school and a business or community organization that the school or student arranges.

Students who pursue a coop opportunity in a field of their interest can undertake a semester or full-year program for either half or full days, and can earn up to two credits for each related coop course they take.

The co-op teacher works with the placement supervisor to develop a differentiated and personalized placement learning plan that suits the student's strengths, interests and needs. The supervisor guides the student's learning at the coop placement and provides appropriate training and supervision.

Co-op students develop workplace knowledge and experience that can help them make informed educational and career decisions. To learn more, contact Emily Livi, department head, [Emily.livi@yrdsb.ca](mailto:Emily.livi@yrdsb.ca) or 905-889-9696 ext. 331.

### Specialist High Skills Majors

Specialist High Skills Majors (SHSM) lets students focus on a career path that matches their skills and interests while meeting the requirements of the OSSD. Students get to customize their high school experience by taking a bundle of 8-10 courses in grades 11 and 12, including four major credits in their area of interest. English, math, science or business courses are specifically designed to complement the majors. Students participating in SHSM also take at least two co-op credits related to their chosen sector.

SHSM students experience what it's like to work in a specialized area, and gain skills and work habits that employers value. They will receive a diploma with a red seal, which certifies their participation in career-focused programming, and provide them with an advantage in the job market. Thornlea S.S. offers SHSM in three sectors: health & wellness, business and arts & culture. To learn more, click [here](#) or contact Guidance.

### Dual Credit

Some senior Thornlea students are eligible to take a first-year college-level course while still in high school. This dual credit course counts as one of the student's three or four courses they are taking in a semester. Students earn BOTH an elective high school credit, as well as a credit towards a college certificate, diploma or degree program.

Dual credit courses in many diverse subjects/fields offered through various colleges and run once a week. This program is free for students – there is no cost for course tuition, books and other learning materials, and most transportation costs are covered.

Students can take a maximum of four dual credit courses that can be applied as elective credits towards their high school diploma.

The Dual Credit program lets students explore college education options, and gives them a head start in completing a college program. To learn more, click [here](#), contact the Guidance Department, or contact the regional dual credit teacher for Thornlea: Leo Scire, [leo.scire@yrdsb.ca](mailto:leo.scire@yrdsb.ca), 416-562-5367.

### Transfers and pathways

As your child considers whether to attend college or university, it's helpful for them to know about [ONTransfer.ca](http://ONTransfer.ca).

This Ontario government website features valuable information on the pathways and transfer opportunities available between post-secondary programs at colleges and universities. Transfer allows students to move from one program or school to another without having to start from scratch.

### Advanced Placement

Advanced Placement (AP) lets students engage in university-level work while still in high school. These enrichment courses help students develop abilities in a specific subject, build their study skills and personalize their learning. Students who successfully complete AP courses receive transfer credits for up to two courses and qualify to write the U.S. College Board AP exam.

Thornlea offers these [Grade 12 AP courses](#): Advanced Functions, Arts, Biology, Calculus, Chemistry, English, French and Physics.

### Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program

Students interested in the skilled trades can do an apprenticeship, combining classroom learning with on-the-job training to earn a skilled trade credential.

The Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program lets students complete 90% of their training at a trades workplace and 10% at school. OYAP participants work towards becoming a certified journeyman in a skilled trade while completing their high school diploma.

Thornlea S.S. students can pursue an apprenticeship through OYAP in one of the following trades occupations: automotive technician, cook, Early childhood educator, electrician, general carpenter, plumber, refrigeration & air conditioning. To learn more about OYAP at Thornlea, click [here](#).

### Scholarships and awards

Students can access three main categories of scholarships and awards. If they have the right marks, they would qualify for an **automatic entrance scholarship** upon applying to university or college. A **direct application scholarship** is open to students who meet eligibility requirements. Meanwhile Thornlea S.S. can forward students as applicants for a **school nominated scholarship**.

Sites that offer information about scholarships and awards include:  
[Scholarshipscanada.com](http://Scholarshipscanada.com)  
[Yconic.com](http://Yconic.com)  
[ontariouniversitiesinfo.ca/scholarships](http://ontariouniversitiesinfo.ca/scholarships)  
<https://ontarioscholarships.ca>  
[Disabilityawards.ca](http://Disabilityawards.ca)  
[CICIC.ca](http://CICIC.ca)  
[Educanada.ca](http://Educanada.ca)  
[Higheredpoints.com](http://Higheredpoints.com)

Higher education scholarships and awards are sometimes also offered by professional associations, unions, banks, contests ([duckbrand.com/stuck-at-prom](http://duckbrand.com/stuck-at-prom)). Some also use crowdsourcing to generate money for higher education.

To learn more, contact Robyn Papoff, liaison officer at George Brown College, [rpapoff@georgebrown.ca](mailto:rpapoff@georgebrown.ca).