



FINAL SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING



Mark your calendar for the final School Council meeting of the school year! Join us on **Monday, April 17, 2023, at 7pm** in Thornlea's School Library. At the meeting, we will showcase upcoming Council events and share updates from administration, teacher, and student representatives about various events taking place at Thornlea. We would be delighted to meet you in person, so we hope to see you on April 17!

RAISING RESILIENT KIDS MENTAL HEALTH WORKSHOP



Join us for the "Raising Resilient Kids Mental Health Workshop," where Dr. Bisleen Attli N.D. will be sharing valuable strategies for navigating social media, engaging in difficult mental health conversations, and creating a positive home environment for tweens and teens. This workshop is open to all parents/guardians of Thornlea and our elementary feeder schools. Please fill out the **RSVP form** to let us know that you will be joining us on May 16 at 7pm!



SPECIAL EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE



Dear parents and caregivers,

Thornlea Secondary School is committed to providing a safe and inclusive learning environment for all students, including those with special needs and learning differences.

The School Council, which consists of parents seeking to support our children's well-being and success at Thornlea, understands that every student is unique and may require different types of support. We have established a new **Special Education Subcommittee** that will work with the school team and families to ensure that all students with exceptionalities receive the supports and accommodations they need to thrive in both the classroom and extracurricular activities.

To help us best serve students with special needs, we value input and feedback from school families. We encourage you to share your experiences with accessing special education support at Thornlea by writing to us at thornlea.ss@sc.yrdsb.ca.

We believe that by collaborating with families and the school team, we can better understand how to help students with exceptionalities excel and succeed.

Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership in ensuring the success of all students at Thornlea Secondary School.

Sincerely,

Parent co-leaders of the Special Education Subcommittee:

Sharon A.

Amir S.

Homeira S.



THORNLEA SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 11

APRIL 6, 2023

IMPORTANT DATES

Final School Council Meeting

Thornlea S.S. Library
April 17, 2023 7p.m.

Career Night

April 18, 2023 7p.m.

Raising Resilient Kids

May 16, 2023 7p.m.

CAREER NIGHT ~ APRIL 18 @7PM ~

Thanks to the incredible support from our parent/guardian volunteers, the upcoming Career Night is set to be a fantastic event for our students! They will have the opportunity to explore a variety of exciting career paths, including screenwriting, television production, speech-language pathology, supply chain, financial planning, real estate, public relations, communication, eye care, postsecondary teaching, governance, and compliance.

Each session will last approximately 30 minutes, and students can choose up to 2 sessions to attend. A Google form for sign-up has been sent to their YRDSB GAPPS account and posted on the Guidance Google classrooms. In this newsletter, you will find bios of some of our amazing speakers. We encourage you to have your child(ren) sign up for Career Night and take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to explore different career pathways.

FlipGive

BUY GIFT CARDS SUPPORT COUNCIL

Purchase gift cards as a gift or for yourself and give Thornlea School Council up to 10% of your gift card purchase!

Click here to join our team!

Visit Flipgive.com or download the FlipGive Shop App.

Thornlea School Council

Executive Members

Myra C. (Co-chair)
Eva S. (Co-chair)

Diana L. (Communications)
Sharon A. (Extracurricular)

Claudia M. (Secretary)
Jim Z. (Treasurer)

Contact Us

thornlea.ss@sc.yrdsb.ca

PROFESSOR - POST SECONDARY EDUCATION CAROLINE G.

Caroline has a Bachelor of Psychology (with a focus on neuroscience biomedical ethics) from the University of Toronto, a Bachelor of Social Work from the University of Victoria, and a Master of Social Work from the University of British Columbia.

Caroline is a full-time professor at Seneca College in the Faculty of Applied Arts & Sciences, Department of Community Services, cross-appointed to the Social Service Worker Gerontology diploma program and the Bachelor in Therapeutic Recreation program since 2005.

Prior to this, she worked in a variety of group home settings, and then transitioned to the palliative care setting where she first supported those dying of AIDS and eventually moved into working with older adults in long-term care facilities.

Caroline has also been a practising psychotherapist for the past 20 years, using Cognitive Behavioural Therapy and focusing on trauma, depression, anxiety, grief, and geriatric and caregiver issues.

Additionally, she speaks at senior support services agencies and seniors' community centres to teach older adults about safe sex and sexuality in older adulthood.

Caroline has been a gerontechnology consultant for the past 25 years, engaged with global think-tanks on how technology can allow for aging in place. In this role she designs and implements studies to test industry technology with older adults and runs clinical trials on medical grade technology that assists older adults in maintaining or improving their mobility and independence.



COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST SHARON A.

Sharon is principal of Higher Ed Communications, which provides **writing, editing, content advising** services and project management to universities and colleges in Canada and the U.S.

Sharon completed an honours degree in **communications and sociology** at York University, studied **Journalism** in a post-graduate program at Humber College, and completed **social media marketing** courses at Ryerson University. She currently serves on the program advisory committees of two writing/communication programs at Humber College.

In business since 2004, Sharon partners with post-secondary schools to conceptualize and develop content for **communication projects** such as newsletters, alumni/community magazines, blogs, websites, speeches, annual reports, donor reports, viewbooks and social media. She uses her conversational writing style to tell stories that are clear, concise and compelling, and that can help institutions engage with their stakeholders and achieve their communication objectives.

As a **journalist**, Sharon writes for consumer and trade publications about issues, trends and innovations pertaining to the higher education space.

DIRECTOR - TELEVISION PRODUCTION BROOKE J.

Brooke currently works as a **director** for CBC National News and News Network.

Brooke has been making television for over 40 years. He's had **almost every job** in television production over his career.

Some of the shows Brooke has worked on include CTV National News, sports programs at TSN, children's programs at YTV and Treehouse, and current event programs at TVOntario and Global Television.

Brooke **teaches** studio production at colleges in the GTA, including Sheridan College and Seneca College.

ENERGY TRANSITION ANALYST - COMPLIANCE & GOVERNANCE ERIKA G.

Erika was born and raised in LaSalle, Ontario. Following high school, she obtained a Bachelor of **Science** Degree from the University of Waterloo and a post graduate certificate in **Human Resources** from Durham College.

Erika has worked for a number of companies, most familiar will be Research In Motion (BlackBerry), Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, Bell Canada and Enbridge Gas Inc. In addition to her 9-5 office job, she has a passion for **Real Estate** Investing and loves to be involved in her community.

Erika has been an active **volunteer** with Junior Achievement, Scouts Canada, Girl Guides of Canada, and St Mary's Anglican Church. She **enjoys** helping with minor hockey when possible and is currently on school council at Adrienne Clarkson Public School.

At home, Erika is a proud wife and mother who **loves** to spend time with her family and close friends. Longing for the good weather, the next big adventure ahead is the construction and finishing of a cottage in Northern Ontario where many memories will be made for generations to come.



REGISTERED OPTICIAN NEDA M.

Neda earned her bachelor's degree in **French Literature** from Iran before migrating to Canada in 1999, where she embarked on a career in the optical industry. She pursued her passion for the field by obtaining a degree in **opticianry**, and gaining admission to the College of Opticians of Ontario in March 2009.

After working for major optical and optometric companies for over a decade, Neda made a courageous move and established her **own practice** in 2014. She acquired Eyes on Avenue, a reputable optical shop serving patients for more than 30 years, and later expanded her portfolio of Eyecare companies focused by adding Toronto Eye Clinic in 2021, which she now operates as the **owner and CEO**. Her ultimate goal is to provide her patients with optimal and comfortable vision care.

Neda **specializes** in problem-solving and has a talent for assessing her patients' needs and addressing any issues with their vision. She provides glasses and contact lenses and is passionate about fitting proper contact lenses and instilling proper hygiene habits. Furthermore, she is **well-versed** in assessing vision for more complex issues, such as Binocular Vision and Myopia control.

Neda's expertise and dedication have been recognized by her peers. In January 2015, she was **elected** to serve as a Council member of the College of Opticians in Ontario, where she dedicates her time to governance, inquiries, complaints, and patient relations. Her **commitment** to providing exceptional care to her patients has earned her their trust and loyalty.

REAL ESTATE & INSURANCE PROFESSIONAL, FINANCIAL PLANNER AMIR S.

Amir is a University of Waterloo Alumnus who joined the Financial Planning, Insurance and Investment industry after graduation in 1993.

Amir has earned **Designations** through his career such as Chartered Financial Consultant, Chartered Life Underwriter, Certified Health Insurance Specialist and Certified Executor Advisor. He has been recognized as a top Producer for many years with insurance companies.

Amir added Buying and Selling Real Estate to his practice from 2003 and since then has qualified as Top 1% Sales Associates in Canada and earned Top Awards like, Platinum Club, 100% Club, President's Club and Executive Club to name a few.

As an **entrepreneur** he runs his own business and helps his clients plan their existing and future financial goals and objectives and design plans to help them achieve their financial goals.

He is a **contributor** to Children's Miracle Network and Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) by donating part of his commission in every real estate transaction through Remax Realtron Realty Inc. Brokerage, Home of the Top Producers.

Amir's **extracurricular** activities are:

- Martial Arts Instructor and past Karate Ontario Referee and Official with 26 years of practice and 3rd Dan Black Belt
- Mountain Climber with Mountain Climbing Coaching Certificate
- Camping, golfing and canoeing
- Founder and President of International Languages Teacher's Association in Waterloo And Waterloo County Board of Education, 1990-1997

Amir's passion in life is "to help people."



MARKETING PROFESSIONAL

ZAHRA M.

Zahra is a Marketing professional with over 20+ years of experience in **Public Relations, Communications, Project Management, Business Development and Events**, within a variety of industries.

Zahra is also a **professor** of Event Management at Sheridan College.

She has a **C.M.P. (Certified Meeting Planner)** designation, and completed the Public Relations program at Seneca @ York.

Zahra is **passionate** about producing events and experiences that bring people together, for both learning opportunities and to have fun!

Currently, Zahra is an **Event Manager** in the I.T. Department at Scotiabank. Her responsibilities include organizing conferences and meetings, as well as creating social events for employees, such as Blue Jays Night, Corporate Picnics and Holiday Parties.

Prior to Scotiabank, Zahra worked for an insurance company where she managed sales conferences in Canada, the U.S. and Europe.

Outside of work, Zahra loves to travel. Her most memorable trips are to India and Barcelona, and looks forward to visiting Costa Rica and Thailand in the near future!

SCREENWRITER - FILM, TELEVISION, VIDEO GAMES

KIM S.

Kim is an award-winning screenwriter who works in film, television, and video games.

Kim has an **MFA** in Creative Writing from the University of British Columbia. She is also a **graduate** of the Canadian Film Centre's Prime Time Television Program and UCLA's Professional Screenwriting Program.

Kim has written **episodes** of preschool series which have been broadcast on Treehouse, TVO, and BBC Kids. She's also written **scripts** and **dialogue** for AAA video games, including Assassin's Creed Odyssey.

Most recently, she was the **lead writer** on a game to be released this year.

Kim **teaches** a number of writing courses (film, television, video games, radio) at universities and colleges in the GTA, including Toronto Metropolitan University and Sheridan College.

SUPPLY CHAIN PROFESSIONAL

LEE ANN C.

Lee Ann is a Supply Chain Professional who studied **Engineering** at Queen's, followed by a **Master's of Business Administration** from Ottawa University, and her **Professional Purchasing Designation**.

Lee Ann's first full time job involved working as a **laboratory** analyst at a manufacturing company, directly applying engineering principles to everyday quality testing. Through problem solving with suppliers, she became involved in cost trade-offs that led to post-graduate **business** studies.

Business fundamentals led to roles buying goods and developing processes to import & physically transport merchandise from Asia into Canada. **Supply Chains** were incredibly active and volatile during the pandemic when buying habits in North America spiked, along with eCommerce transactions.

She currently works for Canadian Tire Corporation, where her job title is **Associate Vice President, Supply Chain Integration Asia Operations**.