

THORNLEA SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 2
MARCH 2025

CLUBS @THORNLEA

New student club fosters Jewish unity

Written by: Sharon A.

As soaring antisemitism continues to erode the sense of safety and well-being of Jewish people, Thornlea Secondary School has responded with the introduction of the Jewish Students Association (JSA).

Co-created last year by two Jewish teachers, the club offers Jewish students community and opportunities to celebrate their Jewish culture and heritage, while enabling students from other faiths to learn about Judaism.

"We felt it was very important to have a space for Jewish students at Thornlea where we can showcase Jewish culture, and allow for positive interactions with Judaism," says co-founder Celia Lewin, who currently teaches geography and works with learners with autism spectrum disorder. The other co-founder was teacher Willem Hart.

The JSA first met last October to celebrate Rosh Hashanah, the holiday marking the Jewish new year. Lewin notes students enjoyed traditional holiday foods such as apples dipped in honey, which signify the hope for a sweet new year, and pomegranates, reflecting the wish to complete as many good deeds as the number of seeds in the fruit.

In December, the JSA threw a party to celebrate Hanukkah, the eight-day festival of lights marking the reclaiming of Jerusalem and the second Holy Temple by the Jewish Maccabees in the second century BCE. Lewin says participants, which included not only Jewish students and teachers but those from other faiths, lit candles on a menorah, an eight-branched candelabra, and enjoyed the traditional holiday food of sufganiyot, or jelly doughnuts.

Going forward, Lewin says the group may hold events for Purim, the holiday commemorating the salvation of the Jewish people from a genocide in ancient Persia, and Passover, which marks the liberation of Israelites from slavery in ancient Egypt.

All JSA events take place in **room 242**, and students wanting to learn more can check out the Google Classroom **T4JW6KZ**.

"We want to show people that Judaism is a rich culture, and that we are a warm and welcoming club for all who are interested," Lewin says.

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NEWSLETTER

Find the next issue of
School Council News in
the *Thornlea e-Bulletin*!

IMPORTANT DATES

Parent/Teacher Interview

Thursday, April 3, 2025

School Council Meeting

Monday, April 7, 2025 @7pm

Location: School Library

FlipGive

Love online shopping?

You can support
Thornlea School
Council by making
purchases at your
favorite online stores
via FlipGive's website
or buying gift cards to
pay for your in-store
purchases.



A percentage of your purchases will
support our various initiatives.

Click here to join!

Thornlea School Council 2024-2025

Executive Members

Aroon B. (Co-chair)

Myra C. (Co-chair)

Sharon A. (Co-chair)

Diana L. (Communication/Secretary)

Jennifer F. (Treasurer)

Members at Large

Amir S., Brenda C., Eileen M., Erika G.,

Grace Y., Jady K., Jane P., Jenn I.,

Lee Ann C., Natasha F., Sigalit S.,

Susan S., Winnette S., Ying T.

Contact Us

Thornlea.sc@gmail.com

DO YOU
KNOW?



Thornlea has over 40 clubs!

Encourage your children to explore and
join Thornlea's diverse range of clubs by visiting
the [Clubs page](#) and join the club's Google Classroom.

It's a fun way to explore interests, build strengths,
meet new friends, and make the most of their
Thornlea experience!

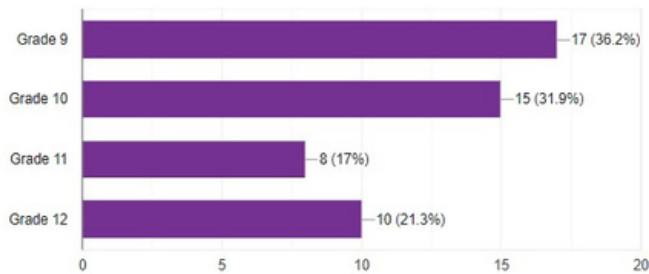
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PARENT/GUARDIAN SURVEY RESULTS

Purpose of the survey: To gather feedback from parents and guardians on areas that can make the Thornlea experience even more rewarding for students and families

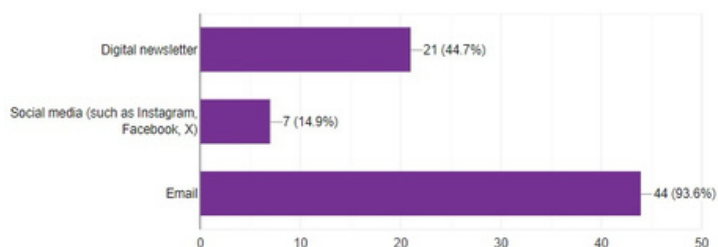
Grade level of respondents' children



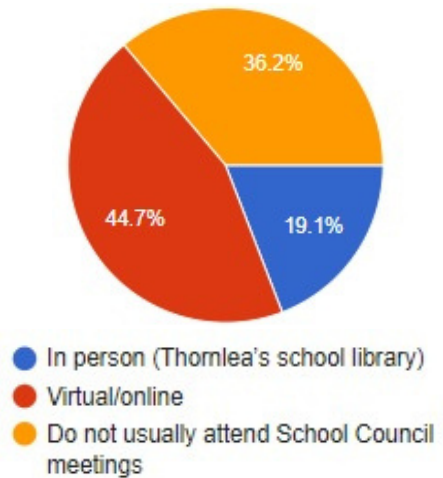
Top 8 areas that may require support (sharing of information/resources)

- ✓ Financial literacy and money management
- ✓ University/college application and career pathways
- ✓ Learning strategies - time management, note taking
- ✓ Exam preparation - tips and study strategies
- ✓ Extracurricular activities - clubs, sports teams, band
- ✓ Mental health and wellness
- ✓ Academic support for students - tutoring, extra help
- ✓ Technology in education and artificial intelligence

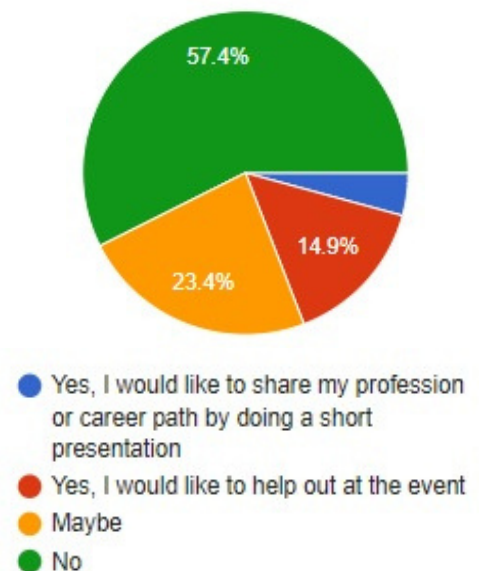
Preferred communication channels



Preferred council meeting format



Volunteering at the Career Night



**SPEAKERS
NEEDED**

Are you interested in sharing your profession with our students at Career Night?
If so, please email your name and contact info to: Thornlea.sc@gmail.com