



***"A safe and caring place for all to learn"***

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**A "Better-Late-Than-Never" Summer Bonus Edition:  
Dedication to the Graduating Class of 2021**

# THOM TIMES



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# Why, Hello there fellow TROJANS!

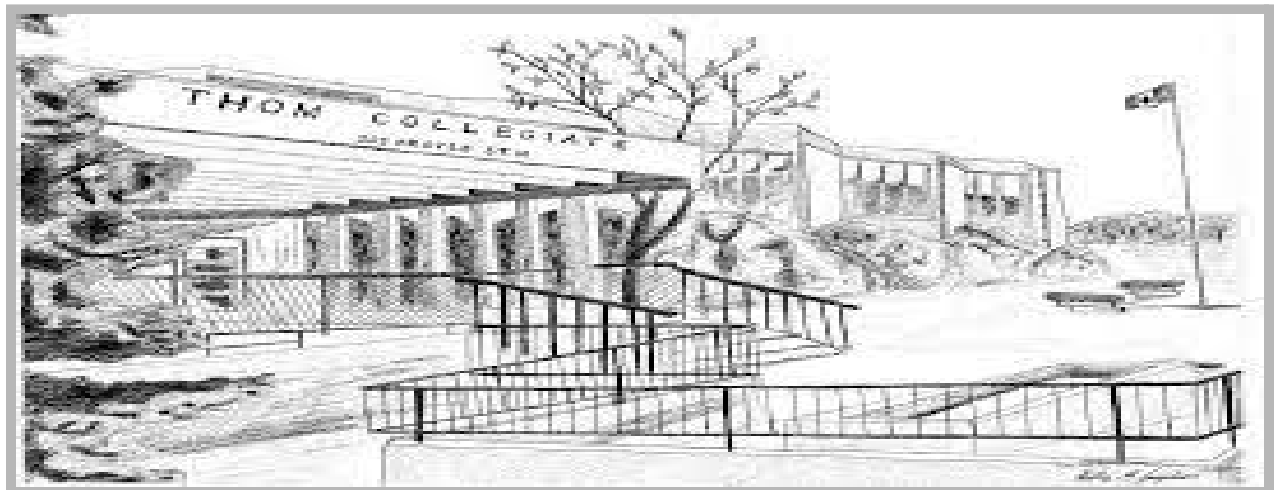
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## “ONCE A TROGRAN, ALWAYS A TROJAN!”

Emmalea H, Graduate of 2021 (she/her)



The Graduating Class of 2021 is a group of individuals who have had their last years of highschool limited. We've been limited to on and off school days, we've had limited interaction with fellow teachers and our very own friends, and learned through Google Meets instead of in-person at many times, too. This was a huge

challenge for all students, and in particular, the seniors. But, we (the class of 2021), have made the best out of the cards we were dealt. We have face-timed with friends, made outdoor social functions happen, gotten vaccinated, and most of all, we came together on Graduation Day to celebrate the fact that we are all now High School Graduates!

I look back on my four years at Thom Collegiate, and just remember how worried and anxious I was at the beginning. But amongst the worry, I see how many memories and friends I made along the way, and the precious memories that were made. So that is why I reached out to my fellow graduates and asked, ***what are some of your best memories and what are you going to miss most about Thom?***

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## **What 2021 GRADUATES will remember most about Thom Collegiate:**

### **Ahrameen A, Class of 2021 Graduate:**

“The whole Beat Cancer week is a vibe! Especially including the Jail and Bail fundraiser. The assemblies used to be amazing, especially the teachers’ challenge and “Gatin’s Feud’s.”



*Grad Shoe Day, Graduates of the Class of 2021*

### **Kareena A, Class of 2021 Graduate:**

“Some of my favourite memories of my classmates happened during Beat Cancer weeks, especially when everyone would work together to be able to pie our teachers.”

“Heuck’s “teachable moments” in the woodshop were never a dull moment. They often consisted of him making some sort of mistake and then showing us so we didn’t do the same.”

“Thank you, to all the teachers I’ve had for helping make these past four years truly something to remember. Whether it be from the way teachers like Henderson and Benoit who show how much they care and believe in students’ abilities, to teachers like Dumba, Pon, and Heuck who were always great to talk to and whose classes were always fun to be in. Thom teachers are definitely something special.”



**Charlene A, Class of 2021 Graduate:**

“Thank you for making my last year of high school memorable. Making the school an enjoyable experience that I will never forget thank you!”

**William F, Class of 2021 Graduate:**

“I do remember just the extent to which Mr. Neufeld helped me pass my social studies, and his enormous amount of help is the reason I was able to have the chance to graduate this year.”

“Thank you all for giving me the opportunity to graduate in these trying times.”

***Take PRIDE in how far you’ve come. Have FAITH in how far you can go. But don’t forget to enjoy the JOURNEY. - Michael Joesphson***



*Eric S, Aiden W, and Ethan R, Graduates of 2021*

**Marjan R, Class of 2021 Graduate:**

“Some of my favourite memories of Thom Collegiate include meeting wonderful teachers who not only helped me be academically successful, but they helped me refine my character. I love how involved the Thom school community is in helping out those in need by raising awareness about food insecurity and many other things. I am so grateful to end my senior year with sweet memories that I can cherish for as long as I can.”

**“The future belongs to those who believe in their dreams.” - Eleanor Roosevelt**

**Esther O, Class of 2021 Graduate:**

“I didn’t really socialize much with people. So I’ll probably say when me, some of my friends and other students took Mrs Robinson’s English class before she left. That was a really good time. Mrs Robinson’s class was awesome. She didn’t make any of us feel left out at all. Everyday in her class was memorable.”

“I honestly just wanna say a huge thank you to all the teachers who helped me with my journey. It would’ve been almost impossible to do this all by myself. Cheers to the reason for our greater tomorrow, cheers to the teachers. We love and appreciate you all.”



*Ariel P, Graduate of the Class of 2021*

**Nadia K, Class of 2021 Graduate**

“I remember back on memories when we would blast music in the SLC room or even miss class to do SRC activities. Oh yes, and our scary hotel in Edmonton on our music trip was a memorable experience too.”

**Adair J, Class of 2021 Graduate:**

“I have always loved the dances and Beat Cancer week.”

**Anonymous, Class of 2021 Graduate:**

“To meet everyone!” “They are the best.”

***“Success is the ability to go from one failure to another with no loss of enthusiasm.”***



*Mikayla, Emmalea, Kareena, Andrea, and Adair*

**Andrea P, Class of 2021 Graduate:**

“Being the narrator in the *Into the Woods* Musical.”

**Anonymous Responses, Class of 2021 Graduate:**

“The drama, hearing all the tea. Drama classes were so much fun and I got to be me.”

“Thank you to the teachers who didn't give up on me.”

**Issac M, Class of 2021 Graduate:**

“French music staff and getting to hang out with the teachers. I also loved my trip to Quebec, and I also loved working with ACT (leading discussion activities on topics such as racism or indigenous communities.) Snowshoeing trip. One of my favourites, the Concours and French Ambassador Program.”

**Sherry S, Class of 2021 Graduate:**

“Hanging out with the SLC room, Making a skit for *Brave New World* for English in Grade 10, and one of the most memorable Beat Cancer week fun days with Atchison's goat.”



*Samantha M, Class of 2021 Graduate*

**Simon P, Class of 2021 Graduate**

“Thank you Ms. Nicholson for always being a supportive teacher, thank you for helping us students with our problems, ie. helping us out with timetables, sending us important news through emails, updates about the school, and just helping us out on everything that we need help with. Thank you for being such a great homeroom teacher for the past 2 years (since Balas left us in grade 10). Have a wonderful rest of your career and God bless.”

**Hailey S, Class of 2021 Graduate**

“One of my favourite memories with my friends was when we played a big game of tag at school. Some teachers got mad and told us to stop running in the halls. Then there was Mrs. Armstrong who let me have a 30 second start so I wouldn’t get tagged.”

“One of my favourite memories of Thom classes is when we would watch movies instead of doing school work.”

“Thank you to all the teachers who made high school enjoyable! Thanks to Heuck for being one of my favourite teachers. Thank you to Mrs. Henderson for dealing with me and Kaitlyn being annoying all the time. Miss you guys!”

***“Go into the world and do well. But more importantly, go into the world and do good.” -Minor Meyers Jr***



*Class of 2021 Graduates*

**Sean S, Class of 2021 Graduate**

“Being with friends. Befriending teachers.”

**Janaya S, Class of 2021 Graduate**

“How accepting most kids are.”

“Thank you for all your help in my past year and a half here and getting me to where I am today!”

**Mikayla W, Class of 2021 Graduate**

“When we were in Grade 9 and were walking to the gym at lunch and there was dill all over the science hallway, and there was a piece of paper that said ‘It’s dill, not weed’.”

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# G~R~A~D~U~A~T~I~O~N

*Emmalea H, Class of 2021 Graduate*



Graduating high school is the beginning of a fun and exciting journey that can also be quite bumpy. I have been told many times that graduation is just the start of a long life. It is the entrance to a new chapter that you never know how long it will go. Graduation is a time of your life where you were so grateful for it... until the actual day has

arrived. Although graduation is scary it is like any other things in life it has its downs but it also has its ups.

One of those ups being “Graduation Day” is a day that you will never forget. It is a day where not only the people closest to you get together but people that you haven’t seen since the first day of grade 9. It is a day where you put on your school coloured gown and that extremely awkward cap that looks good on no one, and you walk across that stage with extreme adrenaline that makes you want to ball but it also makes you want to scream “Heck yes!” It is a day that makes you feel as though all the struggles, studying, mental breakdowns, and late nights were all worth it.

You go through high school wishing it would fly right by, but you don’t realize that until placed into the exact moment of “graduation” that you really shouldn’t wish for time to fly. One thing I know for sure “graduating” looks EXTREMELY AMAZING on the Thom Collegiate Graduating Class of 2021!

**“The TASSEL was worth the HASSLE!”**

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## **Toasts to the GRADUATES!**

### **Thom Collegiate Staff Members**

We reached out to all our favourite TROJANS (the Staff!) and asked them to share their words of glorious wisdom for us graduates... but let's just say, some of the advice is very insightful where some is comical.

#### **Blondeau:**

"Congratulations on your graduation milestone and all the best moving on to the next chapter in your lives.

You have overcome many obstacles and you should feel especially proud for persevering and successfully graduating during a global pandemic! It has been a pleasure working with many of you and you all will be missed at Thom but are welcome back to visit anytime! I am so proud of all of you!"

#### **Mr. Audette:**

"Words for the class of 2021 to remember: "Change takes courage." —Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez."



*Class of 2021 Graduates*

#### **Miss. Edey:**

"Dear Grads -- You did it. You got through classes on-line, classes every other day, and isolation. Even after all of the interruptions, you have reached the finish line of a Grade 12 Diploma. I wish you all kinds of adventures in your future. Pursue your dreams. You have one life. Live it to the fullest."



**Ms. Nicholson:**

“I wish health & happiness to all students who are graduating. Work hard & follow your own path!”

**Ms. Henderson:**

“Congratulations Class of 2021! We are all very proud of your accomplishments and how well you persevered through this tough Covid year. I want to remind you that the best years of your life are ahead of you and that you have so much to look forward to. Take time to travel, eat good food, go to concerts, spend time in nature, make good friends, be with family, and above all else, find something that you absolutely love to do. Whether that be continuing with school, going into the trades, working a good job, starting your own business, or exploring the world. Find something you love and enjoy it.”

**Ms. Grabka:**

“Congratulations on your graduation and best wishes for your adventure!”

**Mrs “Front”** (AKA Mrs. Back)

“Life is sure more exciting if you don't worry about asking for permission, you can always beg for forgiveness. Keep that in mind :)”



*Andrea P, Mikayla W, Kareena A, Nadia K, Kailey F, Adair J, and Emmalea H*

**Merkster:**

“You have all succeeded through an extremely trying and difficult year. You should be very proud of yourselves for what you have accomplished. It is no easy thing and we are all proud of you for making it through.”

**Mr. Babcock:**

“Money can't buy you happiness but you can park your Yacht right beside it.”

**Mrs. Armstrong:**

“Congratulations on surviving one of the most trying school years in my memory. You have managed to overcome so many challenges through this COVID year. You should all be very proud of that! Your perseverance has not gone unnoticed, and although you might not know it yet, this has been your most important lesson of the last 1.5 years! Now that you are heading out into the "big, bad, real world", you can manage anything that comes your way. You have sacrificed so many of the typical high school experiences, but know that you have so many exciting and wonderful things coming to you in the future! You will appreciate all of these things so much more, and when you have those days when you question it all, you will look back knowing that you have faced adversity before and will be able to conquer it again, and again. Best Wishes to you ALL!”

**Mr. Houston:**

“Ignorance is optional, choose knowledge.”



*Merkster and Aiden W.*

**Ms. Tomya:**

“Don't feel pressured to make big life decisions right away. Take some time, try new things, even the ones you wouldn't normally choose. You never know where you're going to end up or where you're going to find a new passion! Good luck in the future and congratulations!”

**Ms. Lenihan**

“Enjoy your grad, but know that it's just your first stepping stone into the real world. The best is yet to come! High school is only four years of your life. You have so many more exciting things on the way. You've made incredible memories and found friends along the way to take with you into the future. Take time to look around and really see the end of your grade 12 year. Before you know it, it will be your ten year reunion and you'll wonder where the time has gone! Congratulations! You've done amazing things.”



*Marjan R, Class of 2021 Graduate*

**Mrs. McCredie:**

“You have to eat every day for the rest of your life. Learn to cook, and learn to enjoy doing it! Life is too short for bad food.”

**Mrs. MacAulay:**

“Congratulations on your huge milestone graduates!! I wish you all happiness and success in all of your future endeavors. Always believe in yourself and you will be sure to succeed.”



*Class of 2021 Graduate*

**Ms. Kuntz:**

“Congratulations, Class of 2021! Just think of all the wonderful skills you’ve learned and discovered about yourself from getting through this turbulent COVID year. You are all more *resilient*, you are all more *grateful* for the people around you, and you all probably have some pretty awesome *tech skills* by now, too! I have 4 pieces of advice to share as you embark upon your new journeys: 1) Do *not* feel pressured to live your life according to some timeline, and don’t make big decisions right now. Take the time to figure out your passions and try new things; 2) Travel. Just do it! Travel and learn all about the world and other people; 3) Never stop learning, and never stop pursuing your passions and goals; and 4) Always, always spread kindness. Leave the room / the workplace / the home / the world a little better than how you first found it. Always :) Good luck to you all!”



*Grad Shoe Day*

**Ms. Powers**

“All I can think of is C's get degrees, but probably don't put that! Ha!”

**Mrs. Gibson:**

“Congratulations Graduates! The 2020-2021 school year was a difficult one and each of you deserve extra kudos for your hard work, flexibility and motivation to persevere through it all. I hope you celebrate your success with everyone who helped and encouraged you along the way. Best wishes for your next adventure!”



*Class of 2021 Graduates*

**Mr. Flood:**

“Living life to its fullest is simpler than most believe. Keep in touch with your creative side; draw, paint,

create. Stay grounded and connected with the natural world. Get outside to hike, bike, walk, camp, play... whatever you like to do. Share these experiences with friends and family. Life is for living, loving, creating, and laughing! Live your life.”

**M Clément:**

“Spend the extra 10 cents for the better Ramen. Treat yourself.”

**Ms. Kodas:**

“Dear Grad Class of 2021,

Know that your "path" may not always be straight but it is how you persevere and move forward in life that counts. Do what makes you happy. Travel more. Say 'I Love You' to the people who matter most to you. Be your authentic and true self. Best of Luck!”

**Mme. Campbell:**

“Have the courage to make mistakes, to learn from them, and allow yourself to grow.”

**Master of the Universe (Mr. Atchison):**

"A boy may be two, three, or four potential people. A man can only be one; he murders the others" (Richler). You you need to decide who you are going to be.”

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## MEMORIES TO ALWAYS REMEMBER

*Emmalea H and the Class of 2021*

Another favourite memory that we can all agree was awesome (Pre-COVID) was the Annual Thom Collegiate Chili Competitions and all the smack talk that came along with it. Whether that be Ms O'Donnell's proclamation that "my chili is cheesier than my smile." Or, remember what our Champ, Mr. Derosier said? I believe it was: "I haven't made my chili yet, uuuhhhh, it might be good, so vote for Billy's Chilli. It'll be chili-licious!" For such a lame catch-phrase, it was pretty surprising that his was, hands-down the best chilli!



Remember Tailgate parties, Graduates? Those were the best, especially the ones where we all did each others' face paint. I remember in grade 9 when we were on our way back to the school and my whole bus was singing to whatever hit song was playing on 98.9 that night. So fun!

Hosting Basketball tournaments was also a blast. Not only did we get to miss class, but there was always a great game happening and lots of "Go Trojans!" cheers.

Another one for the memory box was the Atchison vs Austin wrestling match. That was truly something I never expected to have in my high school experience; it's a one and a million memory!



Pep rallies have always been a hoot and howl at Thom Collegiate. I remember back on times where Ms. Mallory would lead us in chanting "this is TROJAN TERRITORY!" and "BLACK/WHITE" chants at not only pep rallies, but every sports game too. We loved that!



Cheering my fellow Trojans on at any sport game, whether it was football, soccer, hockey, volleyball, a wrestling match, a cheerleading competition, or curling, will always be one of my favourite high school memories.



Decorating for formals was always a great time, from running all over the place, to trying to find out who knows how to rip scotch tape. But no matter how crazy it is, it always turns out beautifully.

Remember the Pumpkin Pie eating contest? Now that was another one for the record books. It was nasty, messy, but no matter how gross it truly was, you could not stop laughing nor looking.

So, Graduates ... even though our grade 12 year wasn't as perfect as we wanted it to be, thanks to COVID... we should still be super thankful that we have all of these other

amazing memories to look back on. Thank you, Thom Collegiate for the memories!

**“The best thing about MEMORIES.... Is making them!”**



*"The most important thing in life is to stop saying 'I wish' and start saying 'I will'"*



Class of 2021,

You are a Class of RESILIENCE.

You are a Class of PATIENCE.

You are a Class of PASSION.

You are a Class of HARD WORK.

You are a Class of TROJANS.

You are a Class of HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES.

**CONGRATULATIONS!**