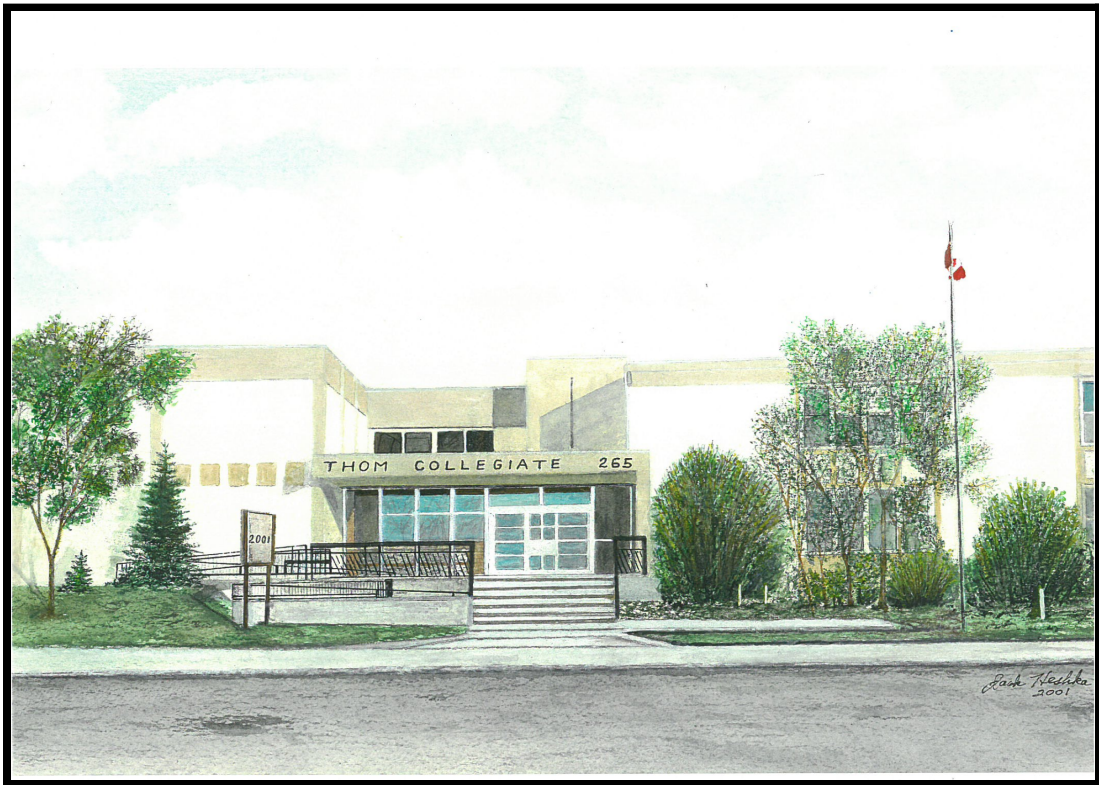


THOM TIMES

December 2021



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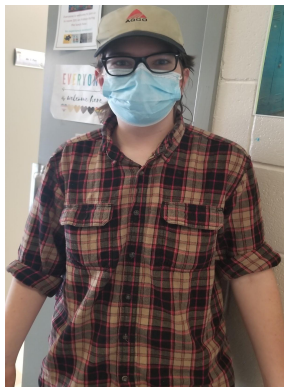
What's Happening at Thom?

Thom Takes Goldie Wars to the Mayor... by Accident!

By Keagen L (he/him) and Ms. Kuntz (she/her)

Back in November, an ambitious Thom student had an interesting interaction with a famous Regina citizen - our mayor, Sandra Masters. Want to know how? Here is how it all went down.

It all started with a fish tank and a jealous group of students. Colby F (gr 10) walked past the door of Mr. Koroluk's science room. He saw the fish tank in there and he instantly wanted the fish tank in his Science classroom, Ms. Keir's. So, he asked Ms. Keir if he could move the fish and fish tank into his classroom, and she said YES! However, Mr. Koroluk took the fish tank back into his room - fish snatcher! (actually, this is not totally true, but we love to villainize Mr. Koroluk because, well, he asks for it!). This went on for a week - back and forth as the two Science classes battled for the goldfish.



Colby F, gr 10 student

Colby then asked Ms. Keir how he can get the fish to stay in their science room. Colby suggested that maybe a petition would help and Ms. Keir agreed. She

suggested that gathering about 50 signatures in support of the cause would be a good idea. So, Colby filled out an entire page of student signatures and presented it to Mr. Koroluk.



Mr. Koroluk said "You need Mrs. Masters' permission first, and then they are all yours". Apparently, Mr. Koroluk did not take care of the fish he inherited from Mr. Gatin (previous Thom teacher) very well, so the lovely Mrs. Masters (formerly Ms. Kelly) took care of the fish. She even cleaned the tank and nursed the neglected fish back to health. So really, they were rightfully hers!

Colby, however, did not know who this new teacher, Mrs. Masters, was (Ms. Kelly recently got married, so she is now Mrs. Masters!). So, Colby resorted to Google, of course. He searched her name on Google and the first email address he found was *Sandra Masters*. And, he composed a well-written email requesting that the fish be transferred to Ms. Keir's Science class. He even included the signatures of supporting

students. Colby had no idea that he actually emailed the MAYOR OF REGINA and not our Thom teacher, Mrs. *Samantha* Masters.

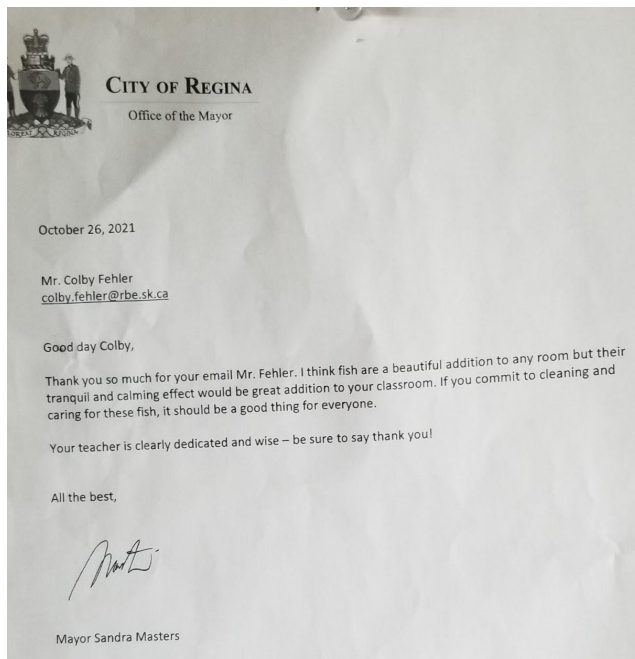
Luckily, Mayor Sandra Masters has a great sense of humor. She replied back a few days later. Check out the copy of the letter she sent Colby on the next page!

After all this, the fish ended up under full custody with Mrs. Masters (as in our *Thom teacher*, Mrs. Samantha Masters) in Room 213. And, Colby still stops by to visit the beloved goldfish and he helps out with caring for them. You rock, Colby!

So, even though Colby and the rest of his grade 10 class did not end up with the fish in Ms. Keir's Science class, Colby learned a valuable lesson: *never trust a Google search!*



Mrs. Masters, as in our *Thom teacher* - NOT to be confused with Mayor Sandra Masters :)



City of Regina Mayor, Sandra Masters (image from Regina.ca)

Thom Donates 2021!

Blood Drive

Hannah H. (she/her)

This year's blood drive was run by Mr. Bekker and other Thom Collegiate volunteers. In order to donate, students had to make an account at blood.ca to sign up and donate. During this year's blood drive, we had 7 people sign up! Overall, 4 people successfully donated this year.

This year, Canadian Blood Services (CBS) wanted us to have a smaller amount of people contribute due to COVID rules. Normally, we would have around 25 to 30 people donating. Some advice from the leader himself (Mr. Bekker) is:

"Remember your photo ID. Remember you have to be in good health to donate. In this time the need for blood is very important so please check out Canadian Blood Services and donate." -Mr. Bekker



Thom Sports Updates

Thom Curling Team

By Anneka M (She/Her), Mr. Klassen (He/Him)

Tis the season to strap on the sliders, pick up a broom, and polish your stones because curling season is upon us and Thom's curling club has taken to the ice!

Leading our junior, senior, recreation, and mixed open teams this year are Thom's Mr. Atchison and Mrs. Lenihan.

The junior team has adjusted to the learning curve brought on in the first half of the season. They finished this half with a tie against Leboldus on December 13 and they're looking forward to finishing the season strong once after the winter break is over.

The senior girls team is defending their 2020 City Championship this year. On this year's team are *Kayla R, Tegin M,*

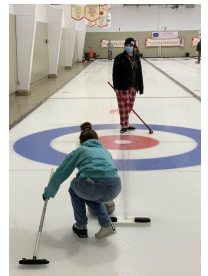


Pam S, and Amelia K. They've been curling every Tuesday honing their skills hoping to take home another championship. The team currently holds a record of 2-0.

Thom's recreational team curls every Wednesday at the Highland. On this year's team we have *Zac P, Kaden H, Logan M, and Brody P.* They currently hold a record of 2-0.

The mixed open team featuring *Danila K, Zuni A, Teanna B, Avan T, and Hayley P,* curls Thursdays at the Callie. They hold a record of 1-1.

The teams are cruising through the regular season with playoffs starting at the end of January. Hurry hard Trojans!



Senior Girls Basketball

By Mr. Vanstone (coach) and Ms. Kuntz (she/her)

The Senior Girls Basketball season is off to a great start! The Senior Girls placed 2nd in the Balfour Classic this year. We had our home open last week against Leboldus. Lastly, we are hosting our own tournament January 7th and 8th. If anyone is interested in helping out, we will need volunteers. Please contact coaches Ross Vanstone, Ryland Switzer, or Jade Appelquist if you are interested in volunteering.



Team photo, Senior Girls Basketball team 2021.



Senior captains receiving their second place plaque.

Junior Boys Basketball

By Ms. Powers (coach) and Ms. Kuntz (she/her)

The Junior Boys Basketball team has hit the ground running this year, too! The team is coached by Jordan MacNeil (community volunteer) along with teachers, Ms. Powers and Ms. Stoyko.

So far, the Junior Boys Basketball team has played 4 pre-season games, with a record of 3-1. The team participated in the Lumsden High School tournament December 10 & 11, where they placed 2nd overall, with a tough loss to Greenall.

In the new year, the Junior Boys Team has an exhibition game against the Huda school and then they dive right back into the Balfour Junior classic playing Riffel on Thursday, January 6th.

Trojans, come out and cheer them on in the new year!

Junior Girls Basketball

Submitted by Coach Richard Phillips and written by Ms. Kuntz (she/her)

The Junior Girls Basketball team is coached by Richard Phillips this year, with Assistant Zoe Kourles. Coach Rich attended Thom Collegiate during his grade 9, 10 and 11 years. He is happy to be back at Thom coaching basketball!



The Junior Girls are currently at 2 wins and 1 loss heading into the final preseason game. A pretty great start to the season!

Trojan Jr Girls have played in the Miller invitational Basketball tournament on the opening weekend of the season. The team will also play in the Balfour Jr Classic Tournament on January 6-8th in the new year. Our upcoming games are on Jan 6 @ 7pm and Jan 7@ 1pm. The Trojan Jr Girl captains are Maraya S and Patience B.

The Junior Girls are a younger team with a big heart and a whole lot of hustle. In fact, the team hands out two awards at the end of each game: the Spirit Ball Award and the Hustle Award (see photo). At the beginning of every game, this spirited team gathers into a huddle to share positive comments about each other to build team work (see photo).



Clearly, the Junior Girls have a lot of spirit! We would love to see more Trojan Pride in the stands cheering them on! Watch the announcements for more updates on upcoming games. Please support our Thom athletes and come cheer them on in the new year!



Senior Boys Basketball

Submitted by Coach Clark

Thom's Senior Boys Basketball team is coached by Mr. Joel Clark. Several other volunteers have taken on the Assistant Coach duties - thank you to Cole Lawson, Jordan Hibbert, and Michael Sotropa!

The season has started and the Senior Boys have participated in the Balfour tournament that was previously held. The Seniors recently won their first game against Scott last week, so right now, we will celebrate the win and continue to work hard in practice to move forward!



Thom SRC Update!

Sabeen M. (He/Him), Gr 10

Happy Holidays Trojans! Felt like just yesterday it was Halloween, but now it's almost time for winter break, and you know what that means?

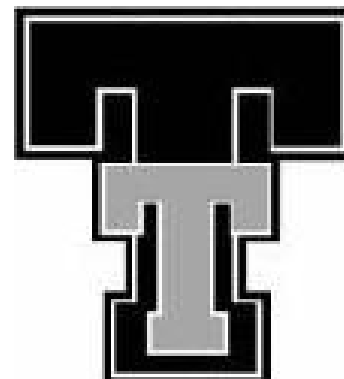
Christmas is near. I don't celebrate Christmas but I hope everyone has a good winter break, and gets to spend time with their family and friends. Here are the spirit week activities that our SRC has planned for the month of December!

- **Monday**, December 13th: Comfy Cozy day
- **Tuesday**, December 14th: Tropical Tuesday
- **Wednesday**, December 15th: Ugly Sweater Day
- **Thursday**, December 16th: Festive Headgear Day
- **Friday**, December 17th: Whoville day (dress up like someone from the Grinch) or red/green day



Another thing our SRC is doing this whole week is selling hot chocolate with candy canes in the lower and upper commons during lunch, so be sure to buy some! It's only a dollar, and it's going towards a good cause, to beat cancer! I hope everyone has a wonderful winter break with lots of family fun before finals roll around.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone dressed up for Friday before winter break/ happy holidays, Trojans!



Religious Holidays Around the World

Tiree Kirk (she/they) & Jordane Parkes (he/him)

There are five major religions in the world: Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism. Each religion has their own customs, beliefs, traditions, cultures and holidays. Here at Thom Collegiate, we have a diverse population of students who celebrate or partake in many of these religious holidays, whether it be minor or major.

Every religion has their own unique and special holiday that everyone can partake in. Religious holidays often bring families together and enhance bonding, no matter the religious beliefs you hold. Many religious holidays involve the use of decorations, costumes and special dress with unique meanings. Religious Holidays are celebrated all around the globe, and are an important part of people's lives. There are over 51 celebrated religious holidays around the world.

It's important to remember that all religions deserve our respect, whether you're Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Hindu, or Buddhist, etc. Each religion has its fair share of holidays which are celebrated yearly, but they're are some standout holidays that many people may be unaware of. Here are some we would like to share with our readers:

Yule: The idea of Yule is what we picture as a modern day Christmas. The snow, the gifts, the trees, and almost everything to do with the aesthetic of Christmas can be traced back to the Pagan/Wiccan holiday.

It lasts from the Winter Solstice to the New Year. (December 21st to January 1st). Yule focuses

on rebirth and renewal, corresponding to the darkest time in the year. If you're interested in celebrating

Yule, such traditions include making a Yule wreath, cleaning your space, doing a luck or wishing ritual, as well as many others.

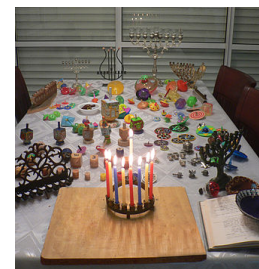


Paganism is one of the oldest religions in the world, and with the age of the religion, comes hundreds of years of stereotypes and misinformation. The last laws against witchcraft and Wicca were lifted as soon as the 1950s. Such symbols, like the



Pentagram, have been misinterpreted by the church and by society into symbols of evil, when they really represent nature, protection, and safety.

Hanukkah: Hanukkah, otherwise called the Festival of Lights, is the holiday celebrated by people of the Jewish faith. It starts on the 25th day of Kislev according to the Hebrew calendar, which may occur at any time from late November to late December. Hanukkah teaches us to rededicate ourselves to kindling the flame of hope, and personally, I think we all need that this year! Over the eight days and nights, one candle on the



menorah is lit every night. Hanukkah ("Dedication" in Hebrew) commemorates the rededication during the second century B.C. of the Second Temple in Jerusalem, where, according to the story, Jews revolted against their Greek-Syrian oppressors.

Kwanzaa: The name Kwanzaa is derived from the phrase "matunda ya kwanza" which means "first fruits" in Swahili. Dr Maulana Karenga created Kwanzaa in 1966 after the Watts riots (which started to end mistreatment by the police and to end discrimination in housing, the workspace, and school systems in August of 1965). This began as a celebration of African-American culture, based on African harvest festival traditions. This year, Kwanza will start on December 26, and end on January 1 2022. On each of the nights, the family gathers and a child lights one of the candles on the Kinara (a candleholder). Each night, one of the



seven principles in Swahili) are values of African culture which discuss building and reinforcing community, family, and friendship. An African feast, called a Karamu, is held on December 31, to represent the ending of the holiday.

Ōmisoka (大晦日): Ōmisoka is a Japanese traditional celebration on the last day of the year. Traditionally, it was held on the final day of the 12th lunar month, until the switch to the Gregorian, which caused it to be held on the last day of the year.

Traditionally, important activities are completed in order to start the new year well and fresh. Some

include cleaning the home, repaying debts, purification



(such as driving out evil spirits, bad energy, and bad luck), and bathing so the final hours of the year could be spent clean and relaxed.

Clearly, there are so many beautiful religious celebrations around the world, and these are only SOME of them! It is important to take time to seek an understanding of the varying beliefs and celebrations in order to eliminate stereotypes or misinformation.

*** Readers, you may be wondering why we haven't addressed the Islam faith in this article - this is because we are working hard on an article that is solely dedicated to sharing some wonderful information we have been gathering about Islam, the Quran, and Muslim beliefs, thanks to some wonderful Thom students who have been spending time with Ms. Kuntz while she asks all the questions! Please stay tuned and watch for our NEXT edition for a detailed article on this wonderful topic! And, thank you for your patience!*



Gender: 101

Gender Terminology You Might Not Know

Ellery (they/them/theirs)

AFAB: Assigned Female At Birth.

AMAB: Assigned Male at Birth.

Cisgender/Cis: A gender identity that coincides with one's birth gender.

Cishet: A combination of the words Cisgender and Heterosexual; a slang term to refer to someone not in the LGBTQ community.

Neopronouns: Sets of pronouns outside of he/him, she/her, and they/them, such as ze/zir and xe/xem pronouns.

TERF: Trans-Exclusionary Radical Feminist. To put it simply, TERF is usually used as a term for those who oppose trans rights and do not believe that trans women are "real women."

Dysphoria: The uncomfortable/upsetting feeling of disconnect between a person's gender identity and their biological sex and/or body.

Agender: A gender identity that is neutral or rejects the influence of gendered concepts. It is often defined as "without gender."

Intersex: Someone whose birth sex does not align with the binary notions of male and female. Not all intersex people identify as part of the LGBTQ community.

All definitions come from a combination of my own experience and genderminorities.com

Correction:

In the last issue of our newspaper, we used the wrong lesbian flag as one of our photos. Please accept our apology! Please refer to the flags pictured below. The flag on the top, also called the "lipstick lesbian flag", was actually created by a person who discriminated against bisexuals and 'butch' or masculine lesbians, as well as trans and nonbinary lesbians. Therefore, the flag on below is the current and most accepted lesbian flag since it was created to include all lesbians who were excluded by the original flag.



Incorrect flag



Correct flag

Resources:

Transwhat.org is a great resource for allies looking to support trans peers!

Goodbye and Thank You to the Interns

Ben S (he/him) along with Mr. Klassen (he/him) and Ms. Kuntz (she/her)

2021 is almost over and here at Thom, that means that our lovely interns are leaving us for their future endeavors. We will miss our interns very much and we hope that in the future we meet with them again! In the meantime, I gathered some final thoughts from our interns. Here they are:

Ms. Buzash:

What are your areas of study and teaching areas?

"I am majoring in Physical Education and minoring in Health and Outdoor Education."



What are some highlights from your internship at Thom?

"I enjoyed coaching the girls soccer team, developing relationships with students, and staff, and learning more about myself becoming a teacher."

What were the biggest challenges you have faced as an Intern?

"Some challenges were lack of student engagement, masks, and hallway wanderers."

What are your future plans / goals?

"My future plans/goals are to get a full-time teaching position and eventually get my Masters in Education!"

Ms. Connick:

What are your areas of study and teaching areas?

"My official areas of study in education are social studies and inclusive education. When I say social studies my main focus has been history as I am a history geek through and through. I had the amazing opportunity of interning in Jr. FIAP and teaching a social studies class. I taught two Computers classes, Recreation, and Leisure and Social Studies 9."

What are some highlights from your internship at Thom?

"Honestly, there are too many to count! I could go on and on but I will keep it short and sweet. In order: spirit week(s), students asking me how my cats are doing, outings in the community, students laughing or pretending to laugh at my corny jokes, and getting the opportunity to meet some new people!"



What were the biggest challenges you have faced as an Intern?

"Honestly, stepping out of my comfort zone and taking risks. As a perfectionist, it is hard to accept making mistakes and taking risks in your teaching. Accepting that not every lesson is going to go as planned and to just go with the flow has definitely been a

rewarding experience! Time management was another challenge, something I still need to work at."

What are your future plans / goals?

"First and foremost, finish the rest of my university (only 3 more classes! Whoop whoop) and obtain employment which is a pretty common response. My goal and something I am looking forward to in the future is growing as a teacher all while pursuing something I am passionate about!"

Ms. Kleisinger:

What are your areas of study and teaching areas?

"So my major is social studies and my minor is in English. I have taught Social Studies 30, Law 30, Social Studies 20, and Psychology 20."

What are some highlights from your internship at Thom?

"The highlights of my internship are getting to know the students. There are tons and tons of really great kids at Thom Collegiate! Becoming part of the community has been another really big highlight and being able to just teach what I'm really passionate about and what I really care about."



What were the biggest challenges you have faced as an Intern?

"Covid is one of them, 100%. It is ten times more difficult to teach with masks on and with distancing and all of that stuff then it is in a normal year. And another big challenge is being new to the teaching profession and figuring out what it means to be a teacher."

What are your future plans / goals?

"To get a job mainly, I would love to get a job and eventually keep working at my education to get a masters, maybe a doctorate... who knows?"

Mr. Klassen:

What are your areas of study and teaching areas?

"My main focus of study is in Social Studies, but I have a minor in Inclusive Education. I've spent most of the Fall teaching with Mrs. Gibson in the senior FIAP classroom. During my time here at Thom I have had the opportunity to teach Academics, Physical Education, and a Recreation and Leisure class. Throughout the month of November I also taught Social Studies 20 in Ms. Stoyko's classroom."



What are some highlights from your internship at Thom?

"As an intern my goal is to learn from all the wonderful staff and students here at Thom, taking what I learn here into my future teaching career. For me the highlights are all the little lessons I learned during my time as part of the Thom community."

What were the biggest challenges you have faced as an Intern?

"You may not realize this as a student but all those lessons in your classes and all the extracurricular programs in your school take a lot of time & resources to put together. Getting used to the pace & time commitment of being a teacher requires some getting used to, and I was no exception. It took me a little while to get into a comfortable pace."

What are your future plans / goals?

"I'm hoping to be teaching with the Regina Public School division this spring, then the plan is to move and teach in Australia for a year."

Mme Shatkowski:

What are your areas of study and teaching areas?

"My teaching area is French. This fall, I taught French 9 and 10, Mieux-être 10, and Français intègre."



What are some highlights from your internship at Thom?

"The relationships that I have made with students"

What were the biggest challenges you have faced as an Intern?

"The biggest challenge I think is time management and also learning how to manage students who don't necessarily want to be at school."

What are your future plans / goals?

"Right now I want to be just a substitute teacher so I hope to come back and see everybody again, then eventually I would like to have my own classroom where I teach French"

Ms. Legare:

What are your areas of study and teaching areas?

"English and Social studies."

What are some highlights from your internship at Thom?

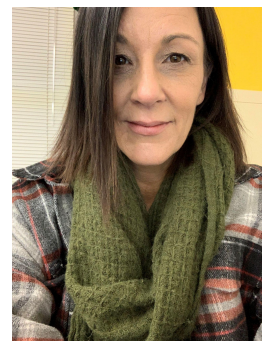
"Building relationships with all the students. I will miss each one of them. Another highlight is having a wonderful COOP teacher, who allowed me to find my own way and inspire me to find my 'teaching style.' Thom Collegiate will be in my heart forever forward now!"

What were the biggest challenges you have faced as an Intern?

"Commuting and exhaustion! Driving in from Moose Jaw every day did not allow me as much time exploring and helping out with extra-curricular activities as much as I wished. But being part of the recreational curling team was a wonderful experience."

What are your future plans / goals?

"I plan to find a job in Moose Jaw, Sk. just to be a little closer to home."



Ms. Yang:

What are your areas of study and teaching areas?

"My major is in Physical Education and Physical Literacy and my minor is in Health Education."



What are some highlights from your internship at Thom?

"I loved working as an intern here at Thom! The students and staff are amazing and I am glad that I was able to create memories with everyone."

What were the biggest challenges you have faced as an Intern?

"Some challenges I encountered were late/missing assignments and students forgetting how to wear their masks."

What are your future plans / goals?

"I hope to do some travelling (especially to Cambodia to visit family) and get a full time teaching job somewhere close to home."

Again, THANK YOU to our wonderful interns! We would also like to thank *Mr. Jonathan Slywka* and *Ms. Lisa Ayi-Bisah* for working so darn hard that they just didn't have enough time to connect with our Newspaper Team for these interviews (it's all good - we get it!!).

Interns - you have navigated through some pretty challenging times in education, and you've done so with grace and a smile on your face... hey, that rhymed! Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts. We hope you will all find your way back to Thom Collegiate someday soon!

Thank You

Hey, YOU!

Are you a **student** or **staff** member interested in having your work in the school paper?

We'd love to get in touch with you and see your **art**, know your **thoughts**, and **hear** anything else you would like to **share**!

Please send us a message through:

Our Instagram: [@thomtimesnews](#)

Our email: thomtimesnewspaper@gmail.com

You can also reach out to us in person!

We would love to hear from you:)

The December Edition THOM TIMES NEWSPAPER TEAM was created by the following hard working students and staff members (in no particular order):

Ellery N, Anneka M, Ben S, Emmalea H, Hannah H, Jordane A .P., Keagen L, Sabeen M, Tiree K, Jack M., Mr. Klassen, and Ms. Kuntz.

***Thank you for reading our newspaper.
Happy holidays, Thom Community!***