



“A safe and caring place for all to learn”

THOM TIMES

The gift giving edition
@thomtimesnews



All photos taken by: Hannah H., Grade 9

Oh, hi there!

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!

Send us a direct message on :
our Instagram, *@thomtimesnews*
or email: *thomtimesnewspaper@gmail.com*

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Teachers of the Future

Emmalea H, Grade 12

Teachers are important no matter what anyone says. Teachers provide us with the ability to learn and grow as people. Teachers truly are heroes. École Thom Collegiate has been lucky enough to be graced with some amazing staff members along with some newbies who are now proud Thom Trojans. As we know, 2020 has been anything but normal; but no matter what has happened, these interns have come out stronger and better. As a tribute to them, we asked each intern to share their highlights and challenges throughout their internship, as well as share some advice for us in our future. Check out their responses below! We are sad to be saying goodbye to these lovely teachers. But as you may have heard, “ONCE A TROJAN, ALWAYS A TROJAN!”



Mrs. Adams-Huber

Highlights : “I absolutely loved my experience at Thom. The students have such amazing personalities. This was an extremely weird year for not only me, but everyone, and I can't express enough how wonderful and meaningful it was to have the joyful presence of the students.”

Challenges : “Due to Covid-19, myself and many other interns did not get to experience a full pre-internship. It was quite challenging to be thrown into a school environment and begin teaching highschool with very little previous experience. Thankfully the staff and students were very welcoming and helped us to feel at home and comfortable as we navigate teaching in such a unique environment.”

Advice for Thom students : “I want the students at Thom to know that they are living through an extremely different time right now. I don't think I would have been able to manage my highschool experience in the middle of a pandemic as well as these students have been able to. I want them to be aware that the time they are living through right now is far from normal and that they are an inspiration to many for being as successful as they are. I don't doubt that it is a struggle and that it may be difficult. I want you all to know that it's okay to reach out and ask for help if you need; because everyone is struggling right now, which means you are not alone. I may not have known you very long, but I am very proud of you all for handling this year so well.”



Mr. Cheverie

Highlights : “In such a crazy year I believe there were a bunch of highlights! It was awesome to see how resilient the students here at Thom are. A lot was going on in both Quint 1 and Quint 2, and these students always answered the bell. The biggest highlight would have had to have been working with these students on a daily basis. When we decided to go ahead with Internship, the University was unsure what the school year would look and consist like. I find myself very fortunate to have been able to work with these students on a daily basis! And lastly, winning the pairs Halloween competition going as Brennan and Dale from Step Brothers with Mr. Goski!”

Challenges : “I think for all of us, students included, it was figuring out how to do this school thing during a pandemic! For most of us interns, our pre-internship was also cut short due to COVID-19. This was challenging because those basic skills are practiced and developed during pre-internship. So it was definitely an awesome learning experience getting to deal with everything that has occurred over the first 2 Quints.”

Advice for Thom students : “Students! You are going through your schooling during a period of time that will be looked back upon in history and studied! You are all incredibly resilient for doing so! Keep on rockin in the free world!”

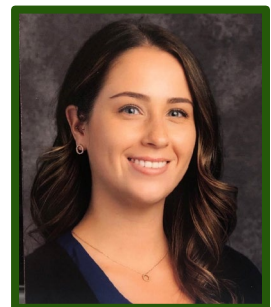


Ms. Epp



Highlights : “I loved interacting and getting to know staff and students - Thom has such a welcoming sense of community. Also getting to see my students succeed and have fun in the classroom was very rewarding for me. Our birdhouse project in the wood shop with Mr. Heuck was one of my favourites!”

Challenges : “Transitioning to online learning and figuring out the best way to teach online was one of the biggest challenges. Covid in general altered the nature of teaching and the experience for me as well as there were less opportunities to get our FIAP crew out in the community, which in other years would've been a huge part of



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their program. Also, learning how to deal with behaviour management and classroom management in a FIAP setting was my biggest learning obstacle!”

Advice for Thom students : “You are all amazing and I feel so thankful to have met you and been your teacher. Despite the complications of Covid, we managed to do lots of learning and have tons of fun. Continue to work hard - you will all do great things with your future!”

Ms. Gordon



Highlights : “Some positive highlights would be the relationships I made with my colleagues and my students. Being able to joke around and have fun with them was one of the best parts of my experience. However, a highlight I had was being there for my students when they needed someone to talk to. That is one of the main reasons I decided to become a teacher.”

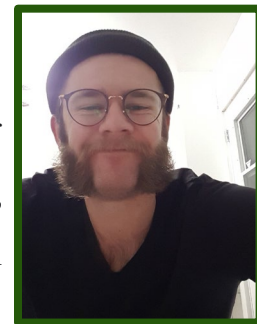
Challenges : “One of the biggest challenges was COVID. Everyday you would go in not knowing if you were going to be in the classroom or if you would have to adapt and change it to online. Or what students you were going to have because it got changed to day 1 and 2.”

Mr. Goski

Highlights : Growing out some mutton chops - "Yoohoo big summer blowout.”

Challenges : “Biggest struggle during this time was finding pants that fit.”

Advice for Thom students : “If you can, always grow out some mutton chops.”



Mme. Hamm

Highlights : “I was a student here in high school so being back at Thom was very special to me. It was great to work alongside some of my favourite teachers as well as getting to know many of the French immersion students!”

Challenges : “When we went online for two weeks I felt so lonely in the classroom! Even though we had a Google meet everyday, I missed the energy of the students.”

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Advice for Thom students : “If you keep your mind to it, you can all do great things. I will always believe in you and what you're capable of.”

Mr. Rayner

Highlights : “Building relationships with students and really just interacting with students every day.”

Challenges : “Moving to online school and having to plan different instructional strategies that were Covid Safe.”

Advice for Thom students : “Honestly just have fun, don't care what other people think about you, just have fun and be yourself! If something you do makes you happy then do it! Also listen to your teachers, they truly want the best for you.”



Ms. Moat

Highlights : “I know this may sound cheesy but honestly all of it. My highlights would be where I was truly able to help and connect with my student not just academically but in life, whether that meant just listening to them, or helping them solve other issues. One reason I wanted to become a teacher in the first place is that that meant I could help people who need someone who is there for them and on their team. I never had that so I hope I was able to provide that... have truly grown to care about each and every one of my students and their well-being and that is one thing although I will be sad to leave, I will never let go off. All in all I really just enjoyed being here and being able to make a positive impact and have positive relationships with everyone here. That is something I will never forget.”

Challenges : “Another highlight but also a challenge which I haven't decided how I feel yet is that I am one of the younger interns. So I am able to connect with our current students on a different level and understand the world they are currently in and the problems of life they may be facing.



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Now I never told them exactly how old I am, maybe I will on the last day I am here. Because of this I feel I showed my students who I am in many different ways, I felt as though I could always be myself around them. On the other hand, I feel my age and who I am as a person prevented me from putting my foot down a little harder when needed because I am aware of the everyday struggles a teen can go through.”



Advice for Thom students : “Give your teachers a break! Just like you all are working very hard, they work very hard to make sure you are learning what you need to. The next few years for you may be difficult but you will forever remember this experience. Remember one thing - you all are very different people and you all will do very different things in life. Everyone takes things at their own pace, do not be too discouraged if you get something wrong once in a while. Everyone makes mistakes including teachers, that is what makes us human. I know I have. I have learned more about myself and who I am as a person and how people perceive me than I ever have in my life and I have grown from it. Do not fear personal

growth, accept it for what it is, and become a better person from it.”

Mme. van Dyke

Highlights : “I got to meet so many great kids and great staff who helped me along my learning journey.”

Challenges : “The biggest challenge has definitely been some of the changes due to covid. Having taken classes online as a student myself I know just how hard it is to stay tuned in some days. I wanted to find cool activities to keep students interested while learning from home.”

Advice for Thom students : “The future is full of possibilities. It's okay to make mistakes, that's part of the journey. Ask for help along the way. Be kind to yourself and others.”



“Without teachers, life would have no class.”

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Safe Ways to Shop During the Pandemic ~Happy Holidays!~

Marjan R., Grade 12

We want to take a moment to acknowledge some celebrations that occur during this month in order to promote inclusivity. Christmas, Hanukkah (Jewish celebration), Kwanzaa (celebration of African-American culture), and Ōmisoka (Japanese New Year celebration) are among many celebrations that happen around the world. It is truly remarkable how vast human culture is and it is only our rightful duty to recognize each of them. As the holidays are approaching, it is important to consider how one should safely do shopping. The pandemic has created an ensemble of restrictions that has greatly diminished the holiday joy. However, not to worry, I have listed below some safety tips you can follow while shopping.

Safety Tips!

1. Wear a mask at all times when entering a store or in any public spaces. It is for the safety of yourself and those around you.
2. Main social distancing at all times-keep 6 feet between other shoppers.
3. If possible, resort to online shopping. This prevents exposure to human contact and the spread of COVID-19.
4. Wash your hands with warm water and soap for 20 seconds after you return home. Sanitize your groceries or shopping materials immediately as it is possible other shoppers may have touched it. Wash your hands again.
5. Try to get your in-store shopping done early as crowds will soon flood the stores. The earlier, the better.
6. Keep hand sanitizer handy!



Eco-Conscious Gifting

Isaac M., Grade 12

Reducing our carbon footprints is super important, so here are a few ways you can help the planet and save some money, while still giving the people you care about something they will enjoy:

└ Gift them something they can use! In other words, give them items that will result in little to no waste like food, a reusable item like a water bottle or clothing, or write them a letter. Giving gifts like these helps reduce waste and will give them a gift that they'll remember you by.

└ Ask them what they'd like! Asking someone what they would like as a gift is an easy way to reduce waste and save money.

└ Offer your time! Spending time with people you care for is an excellent way to create deeper bonds. This could mean you offer to spend a day with a friend or help someone clean their space.

└ Gift them something you made! A hand made gift is an excellent idea, especially if you aren't looking to spend money. A few ideas would be a piece of art, a plant you've grown or a story you've written

└ Reuse gift bags and avoid wrapping and tissue paper! Reusing gift bags or even giving them back at the end of the day is an excellent way to keep your space clean and helps to not need to buy a new one every year. Wrapping and tissue paper aren't recyclable, so if you can, avoid using them whenever possible. Instead, you can always use flyers or newspapers to wrap and stuff.

Being eco-conscious is vital, not just when gifting presents, but in your everyday life as well. I believe it is important to do our part in reducing our personal carbon footprint so please take some of these ideas and incorporate them into how you'll be gifting in the future.

Check out these videos for more information!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ZDicRGXBes>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P0ZnLkgtQ98>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4f8eW8tTBU>



DIY Gifts and Activities To Do During The Holiday Season

Sam M., Grade 12

Hot Chocolate Bombs: On a cold winter day, it would be nice to wrap yourself in a blanket and enjoy a cup of hot chocolate. But, hot chocolate bombs make the hot drink more exciting! They are a ball of chocolate filled with hot chocolate powder and marshmallows. Then you pour hot milk over it and it melts into a delicious drink.



It's easy to make: melt chocolate chips and pour into a mold, make sure the chocolate is evenly spread in the mold. Then put it into the freezer until they are firm. Fill the mold with the hot chocolate mix and marshmallows (and anything else like candy cane, sprinkles or toffee). Pour the remaining melted chocolate to seal it all together and put back into the freezer until firm. Serve it in a mug, pouring hot milk over it and enjoy.

Colourful Epsom Salts: Whether you have sore muscles or the weather is cold, baths are a good choice. A way to make baths even better is to add coloured epsom salt to it to make your soak in the tub nicer.



How you make it is simple: put epsom salts in a plastic bag and add a couple drops of food colouring, zip the bag shut and shake or knead it until it is blended together. You can also add a couple drops of essential oils to add some of your favourite scents. You can keep your epsom salts in the bag and use them whenever you need them.

Scented Candles: Candles are nice for any occasion and it's great as a gift!

How to make them: Attach the wick to a heat-proof container before pouring the wax. Melt the wax and add your fragrance oils to your liking, then pour it into a heat-proof container. If you want to make your wax colourful add in crayons while melting the wax.



Crafts: If you're looking for something to do, crafts are an easy and fun thing to do! You can also give it to someone as a gift! You can find crafts to do online or you can just go for it and see what you come up with.

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Colourful Yarn Wall Hanging: If your room looks a little bland and you want to change it up a little, then add this to make your room exciting and unique!



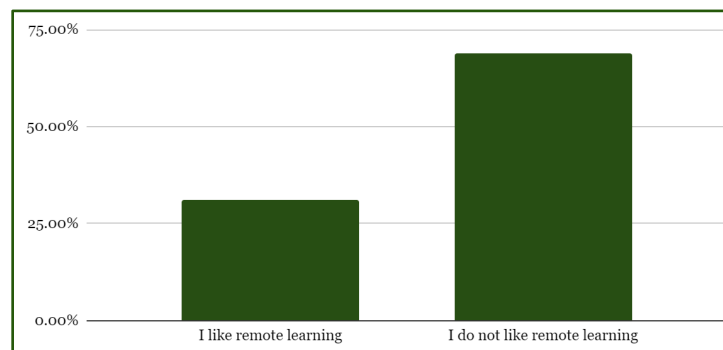
How to make it: Place the yarn on the dowel rod and measure the yarn to the desired length. After cutting the yarn and placing it to the pattern you like, secure the yarn by looping it around the dowel and tying it to itself. Then, you can hang it wherever you want!

Photo credits: Sugar Geek Show, No.2 Pencil, Pinterest, A Beautiful Mess

Remote learning

Emmalea H., Grade 12

Remember those mornings when you would wake up in the morning and think “I wish school was online so I don’t have to leave my bed.” Well, that has become the reality for us Trojans this year. We have all faced online Zoom calls and learning through Google Classroom. Remote learning in a sense has become our new normal. So we asked you guys on Instagram ([@thomtimesnews](#)) what your thoughts on remote learning are.



Want to take part in our polls? Follow [@thomtimesnews](#) on Instagram :)

Some students who wanted to share their thoughts and lived experiences of remote learning:

Matt R., Grade 10 - “It’s painful.”

Danica S., Grade 11 - “I like that we are doing remote learning. I feel that it will be much safer, considering we’ve had a case of COVID-19 almost every week. Remote learning can be hard for some people, but I feel as if it’s the right decision for everyone. I can’t imagine being a teacher, I know how hard it can be for us students and I just know it’s probably way more difficult for the teachers.”

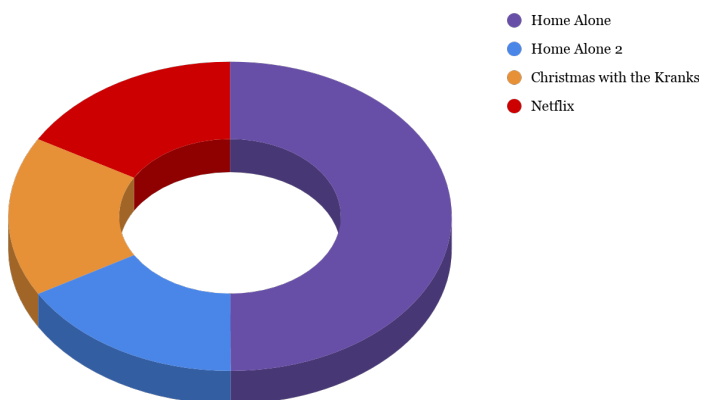
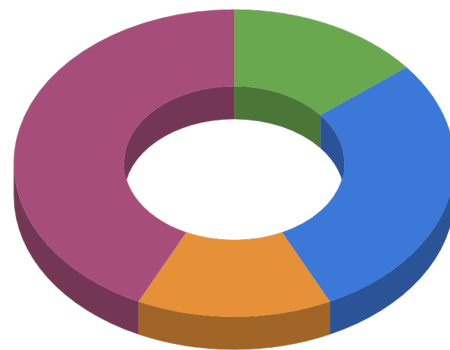
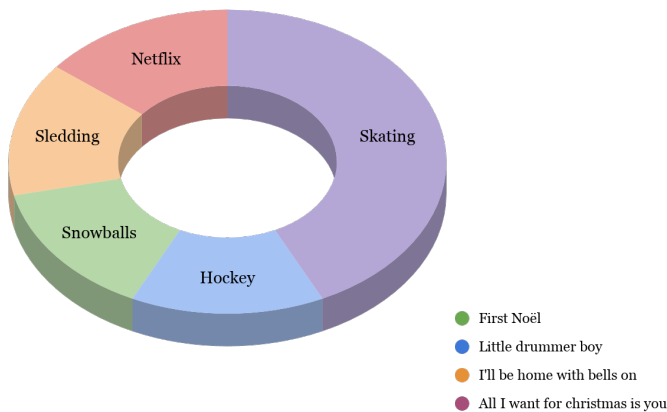


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Emmalea H., Grade 12 - “2020 has been a wack of a year, a year that no human will ever forget or even thought could happen. I remember thinking this summer if it was even possible for us to leave our homes and attend school again. As September approached my excitement grew due to it being my senior year. Long story short as a senior at École Thom Collegiate, remote learning has been a struggle but truthfully, **SUCCESS IS BORN UPON STRUGGLE!**”



We had a few other questions for you, including: what are your favourite winter activities, Christmas carols and movies? Here are the results :



A Winter Break Word Search

Isaac M., Grade 12

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B | C | R | J | M | Q | R | K | F | H | A | E | M | O | U |
| D | L | L | W | E | T | K | N | O | R | M | B | L | L | Z |
| F | F | O | R | N | K | U | L | A | E | E | R | T | U | T |
| S | N | R | A | O | A | L | N | N | D | J | X | L | A | Y |
| S | A | P | E | R | Y | I | E | R | T | E | V | G | J | G |
| N | U | N | Y | A | K | X | E | I | C | N | T | S | M | F |
| M | W | H | T | H | J | I | N | P | Z | M | K | E | K | A |
| N | Q | I | F | A | D | H | E | E | Y | X | X | A | D | N |
| E | E | W | D | E | C | P | A | S | U | B | C | T | F | A |
| W | D | C | L | N | L | L | H | N | R | V | V | A | Y | S |
| Y | K | I | D | M | I | Z | A | F | U | W | J | L | J | E |
| E | Z | T | F | Y | C | H | T | U | G | K | R | P | K | K |
| A | A | Z | N | A | W | K | U | D | S | E | K | F | U | T |
| R | R | C | G | O | T | N | Z | M | O | I | G | A | Q | A |
| S | C | H | R | I | S | T | M | A | S | V | A | C | H | L |

CHRISTMAS
DREIDEL
HANUKKAH
HOLLY
KINARA
KWANZAA
LATKES
MENORAH

MKEKA
MUHINDI
NEW YEARS
SANTA CLAUS
SNOW
TREE
YULE



Classic Sudoku

Isaac M., Grade 12

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | | | | | | 7 | | |
| 4 | | | 6 | | 5 | | | |
| | | | | | | | 2 | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | 2 | | | 9 | | 5 | 3 |
| 8 | | | 2 | 4 | | | 1 | |
| | 3 | | | 6 | | | | 2 |
| | | | 8 | | 3 | | 9 | |
| | | 7 | | | 4 | | | |

Normal sudoku rules apply; each row and column must contain the digits 1-9

Have a safe and wonderful Winter Break, Trojans!
