



"A safe and caring place for all to learn"

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# THOM TIMES

*We're Back!*

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# Howdy, how's it going 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!**

**Please send us a message through:**

Our Instagram: [@thomtimesnews](#)

Our email: [thomtimesnewspaper@gmail.com](mailto:thomtimesnewspaper@gmail.com)

**You can also reach out to us in person!**

**We would love to hear from you:)**

Ellery N, Anneka M, Ava H. N., Aynzlei M, Ben S, Emmalea H, Hania K, Hannah H, Jack  
M, Jordane A .P., Keagen L, Rosabelle H, Sabeen M, Saydee B, Kate S., Keagen L.,  
Jordan Anthony P., Mr. Klassen, Ms. Kuntz:)

# Back to School!

**Anneka M. (she/her/hers)**

Evidently, these past two years have been unlike anything that the majority of us have ever seen. The 2020-2021 school year was unique in a myriad of ways, one of which being the inconsistency in school and online school attendance. One day we would be completely online, the next would be in person school every two days, and the next would be “regular” in person learning. Even so, in September and October of last school year, we were using the quint system, which was of course bizarre in and of itself. September of 2021, we returned, all at the same time, with five classes a day, extra- curriculars, and everything else. It was an adjustment for everyone. We’ve all taken the return to “regular” (ish) school in different ways. A poll on the Thom Times Instagram page showed that out of 25 students:



**36%** (9) of students said “I miss online schooling.”

**12%** (3) of students said “I feel nervous.”

**32%** (8) of students said “It’s okay.”

**20%** (5) of students said “I love it!”

As you can see, there is a diverse range of answers from our student body about our return to school thus far. After receiving the results from this poll, some of our Thom Times reporters collected information from students and staff members around the school. They asked the interviewees “How have you felt about starting up a new school year in person during a pandemic? Are you happy to be back to in-person learning, or do you feel a sense of worry/anxiety?” Here are the statements that they got from their interviews.

## **Riley S, Grade 11**

*“Well I think that it’s nice, I felt like last year my grades really slipped and I’m pretty sure that because online schooling really sucks, it’s terrible, so I am super happy to be back in school, it feels like it’s back to normal, it feels like my grade 9 year, it’s really nice.”*

## **Makayla H, Grade 11**

*“Uh it gives me a little bit of anxiety because you never know if some people in the school don’t wear their mask properly so it kinda gets you worried but I’m fully vaccinated so it causes a little bit less fear but at the same time the vaccine doesn’t stop you from getting covid it just makes you less sick so i’m nervous but it’s also fun to be back at school at the same time”*

**Paul R, Grade 9**

*"It's very different and I like it more freedom, less teachers telling you what to do"*

**Claire S, Grade 10**

*"A little nerve wracking for the safety of everyone, but I'm glad we're not going online, glad we're in person, it helps me learn better, it's better for me."*

**Caleb P, Grade 9**

*"I'm glad to be back. No, I don't feel any anxiety."*

**M. Clement**

*"There's a lot to unpack. Honestly, yes, it is a lot nicer to teach students face to face. Online was nice because you were in the comfort and safety of your own home. In person is easier from a teaching standpoint, as you can read body language for comprehension. I feel comfortable teaching at school because I am double vaccinated. I am torn because there should be more restrictions, but being in person is way better for a student's mental health. However, being in person is not necessarily the best course right now with where the numbers are at."*

**Ellery N, Grade 12**

*"I'm not really nervous about covid, but I'm not used to having five classes at once so that's kind of stressful."*

**Mme. Merk**

*"I am excited to be in person, but it makes me nervous. I am super impressed with the student body and their following of the Covid rules. Being in person is better for our students as there are more resources."*

**Mme. Shatkowski**

*"I'm glad I didn't do my internship during the quints. I've recently done all of my university classes online, so being back in person is difficult. I don't like not being able to be face to face without masks with the students."*

Some of the things that students are looking forward to most this year are:

*"Math, I love math."* - **Caleb P, Grade 9**

*"Is it cliché to say graduation?"* - **Ellery N, Grade 12**

*"Graduating."* - **Natalya T, Grade 12**

*"The Halloween costume contest polls on Thom SRC instagram."* - **Danica, Grade 12**

*"It ending."* - **Alicia G. Grade 11**

*"Finishing high school."* - **Gage R. Grade 12.**



# Food is Back at Thom!



*The Sign at the Thom Cafeteria (Ben)*

## **Ben S (He/Him/his) grade 10**

At Thom this year, we have food that students and staff can buy, to be more specific the cafeteria and vending machines are back. Now if you need food and don't have money we also have free snacks by the guidance counselors and by the career center. The vending machines are located at the Science Hallway, Lower Commons, and Upper Commons. The vending machines have drinks and junk food. At the cafeteria you can get pizza, cold drinks, instant noodles and milk. Now as the food being back is primarily an impactful change for students we got some comments on the matter from students.

I asked three students the very important question, *How do you feel about food being back at Thom?*



*Sabeen M and Nyshane C using a vending machine (Ben)*

Riley S, grade 11: "I think that it's alright, but I think if you can go outside for lunch, get away from school, not just because of Covid, go to a park near Thom, go for a little picnic with friends. It's a great way to relieve any stress from school. As for the canteen, I'm okay with it, so long as people are staying safe with washing etc. If they can keep that up, then I think that it's a good idea to have food in the canteens."

Makayla H, grade 11: "Uh great, now I don't have to pack lunch every single day!"

Paul R, grade 9: "Honestly, I never buy from them because I don't have the money to"

Food being back at Thom along with the semester system really makes it feel like a normal school year, even with the pandemic going on. I'm personally happy that the food is back because I can get a cold lemonade on a hot day of school.

# Thom Sports Updates



## **SOCCER**

*Saydee (she/her)*

The Thom Times would like to congratulate the boys' soccer team on winning the City Final against the Spartans! The team had a great season posting a 4 and 0 season, with one tie.



Credit to a Thom Times News Member



The girls' soccer team has shown tremendous resilience over the season growing as a team and they also made Thom Collegiate proud. The girls team posted a 1 and 4 season, with one tie.

Thom Times reporters interviewed Coach Buzash of the girls soccer team to get her thoughts on the season.

### **What do you think of both girls and boys soccer teams?**

*"Both groups are filled with ambitious and talented young athletes. Each individual on the team is unique in their own way and has something*

*different to offer which adds to the overall dynamic of the team. Speaking on behalf of my soccer girls, they are all very well rounded individuals as they are fantastic people both on and off the field. Additionally, I admire the way that each one of them shows resiliency. Whether we are down a few goals in a game, are short players, or lost a match, my soccer girls show that they are able to withstand and overcome any adversities they may face as they always have a smile on their faces and are cheering their teammates on at all times despite the circumstances. It is an honour to be a part of the soccer community at Thom!" - Ms. Buzash*

### **How long have you been a soccer coach?**

*"I have coached on and off for about five years and over these five years I have had the privilege to coach U5, U11, and U15, teams. This year, coaching the Thom girls soccer team was my first time coaching a high school soccer team." -Ms. Buzash*

### **What made you want to be a coach?**

*"Having played soccer for many years, the reason I wanted to coach was to give back to the sport of soccer. Soccer has truly made me who I am today as it was such a large part of my life growing up. As such, many of my coaches and teammates were a part of many memorable moments which I am grateful for.*



*So my hope as a coach is to give others the same experiences memories that I have from playing this sport." -Ms. Buzash*

### **Have you ever played soccer yourself?**

*"Yes, I have played soccer since I was 5 years old and continue to play today in women's leagues. Some highlights of my time playing soccer include when my teammates and I represented Saskatchewan in Nationals in 2016 and when I got invited to a Vancouver Whitecaps select camp where I had*

*the privilege to travel to Vancouver with girls my age from all over Canada to practice in camps and play some matches against other teams.” Ms. Buzash*

### **How do you think covid has impacted this year's soccer program?**

*“To be honest, I do not feel as though covid has impacted this year's soccer program all that much, aside from maybe having more team bonding opportunities!” -Ms. Buzash*

## **CROSS COUNTRY**

*Anneka McLaren (she/her)*

This 2021-22 school year, our Cross Country team had the best turnout that it has had in years! Ten students from Thom Collegiate participated:

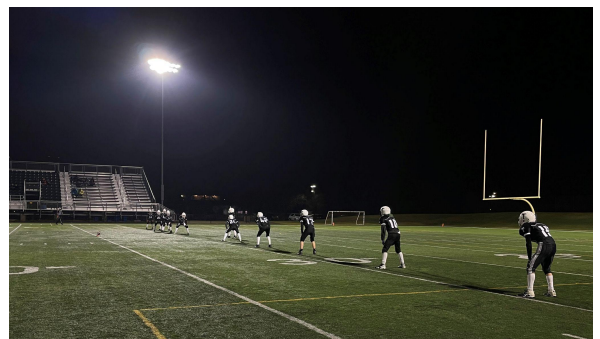
-Keagan L.	-Sara N.
-Emma S.	-Hannah F.
-Kianna R.	-Troy S.
-Sumil S.	-Daniela K.
-Caydance J.	-Joey H.

The Cross Country Team participated in four races which took place in Regina, with Emma S. qualifying for provincials! Provincials took place in Humboldt on October 16th. The coaches were Ms. Powers and Mr. Slywka. Congratulations to all of our cross country runners this fall season!

## **FOOTBALL**

*Anneka McLaren (she/her)*

The Trojan football team is currently at a zero and a five season record. Thom reporters contacted Coach Aaron Audette to get his take on the season.



*“With this being the first time Thom has fielded a football team in 3 years, it has been challenging. We have yet to win a game, posting a 0-5 record with one regular season game left this week. The players have learned a lot this year in the way of what it means to be committed, the value of teamwork and showing pride in being a member of the Trojan family. We have a good core of dedicated young players and I look forward to building the Thom football program in the years to come.” -Football Coach Aaron Audette*

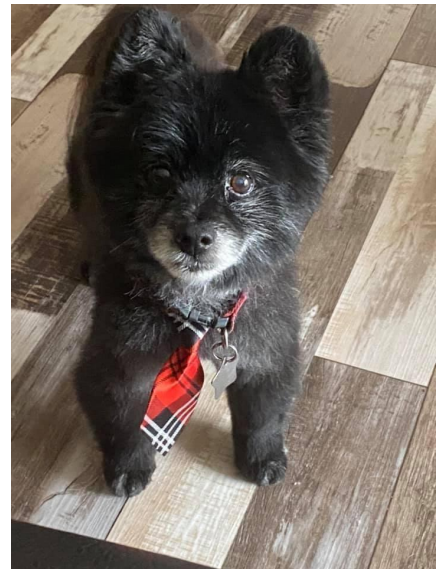


# **Tribute to Ms. Milligan**

It is with great sadness that Thom Collegiate learned of the passing of Ms. Sandy Milligan, who was one of our Administration Assistants last year. Prior to coming to Thom Collegiate, Ms. Milligan worked at the front reception desk at the Division Office, and she also worked for Warner for a period of time.

Ms. Milligan was a wonderful person, and she always had wild stories to tell. She sought out the positives in many situations, including everything she went through in terms of her health. She was witty and fun, and she had a soft spot for animals, especially her little dog, Toby.

Our Thom community is grateful we got to know Ms. Milligan and we are thinking of her friends and family who miss her dearly.



# Gender: 101

Ellery (they/them/theirs)

## Gender FAQ: (fact and answer segment)

### “What should I do if I accidentally mess up someone’s pronouns?”

Simply correct yourself and move on. The trans people I’ve spoken to agree that it doesn’t need any more attention than that; drawing attention to the mistake is generally uncomfortable for all parties involved. Here’s an example: *“Have you seen my friend? He, sorry: they, wanted to meet up for lunch.”*

### “How do I ask someone what their preferred name and pronouns are?”

Just ask. It may feel invasive, but it isn’t; you’re respecting the person’s identity. One way you could go about it is this: *“By the way, what are your pronouns?”* or *“Hey, I just wanted to do a pronoun check. What are yours?”* Sometimes, introducing yourself with your pronouns helps others feel more comfortable with sharing theirs.

### “I’m thinking of coming out but I don’t know how to tell people that I want to use a different name and pronouns?”

Coming out can be a tough situation no matter who you are or what your gender or sexuality is. As general advice, it’s generally best to start by coming out to your close friends and working your way outwards from there.



Photo Credit Saurabh Anand from Garnet Education



Credit to Atlas Corps



# Gender 101: at Thom Collegiate

*Ellery (they/them/theirs)*



Credit to Julie at Adobe Stack



Credit to Thom Times News Member

**Zaya L. Gr. 9** - *"There should always be gender neutral bathrooms. Especially if you're not comfortable with the label women's or men's. There should always be more options."*

**Anonymous, Gr. 9** - *"The recognition and acceptance of gender identity in schools is very important. Some students may not have family at home who accept them for being themselves. If they could go to school knowing the teachers and students will use their preferred name and pronouns it could make that student more likely to show up and want to be at school. Having that sensation of being accepted can be a real life changer for someone. We should always be trying our hardest, as members of society, to make everyone feel accepted."*



Credit to Thom Times News Member



Credit to Marie Holmes

**Sam B, Gr 9** - *"It's amazing that Thom is providing that option. It's going to make so many people more comfortable."*

**Ella B, (she/they) Gr 11** - *"I mean the first thing I think of is inclusivity and having an open and honest space where people can not only be themselves but find themselves too. Especially since high school is the time to find who you are."*

## **Thom Collegiate SRC!**

*Sabeen M. (He/They), Grade 10*

Happy Spooky Season! Time is flying by pretty quickly, can't believe that it's already October...but you know what that means? IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR HALLOWEEN! Probably my favourite holiday and I feel like many can agree with me on that. To celebrate our spooky season our SRC has some fun things planned for spirit week which will range from the 25th to the 29th:



- **Monday**, October **25th**: Comfy **Cozy** day
- **Tuesday**, October **26th**: Twin **Day**
- **Wednesday**, October **27th**: Flannel **Day**
- **Thursday**, October **28th**: Thursday **Throwback**
- **Friday**, October **29th**: Costumes/**Orange** and Black **Day**

I hope everyone has their Halloween costumes planned for the 29th, because there will be a costume contest poll on @thomslc2021! So get ready to show off your costumes this year! Even if you don't feel like dressing up you can always enjoy halloween by putting on a scary movie and getting cozy in a blanket. With how cold it's getting, that would be a perfect way to enjoy halloween night. Hope everyone has an amazing spooky season!



# It's that time of the year again!

Aynzlei M. (she/her)

We are finally in that time of the month. You guessed it, Halloween! The month of pumpkin spice, haunted houses, candy corn, and dressing up. Halloween was all about lighting jack-o-lanterns and wearing costumes to ward off ghosts and witches, but then over time it became a day where you dressed up and went door to door and got candy. Now that COVID-19 has been around for one and a half years it has really changed how Halloween is looked at.



So here are some ways you can jump start Halloween this year.

There are many ways of handing out candy, many of which can be boring; using tongs, wrapping paper towels over candy and leaving them in a bowl, etc. Why not spazz it up a bit. Get yourself some tubing ( 6ft ) and when kids come to trick or treat you have a no contact and pretty fun way of handing out candy.

A second way of handing out candy is; if you have a drone, rumba, robotic lawn mower. That you could use that, why not surprise the people coming to the door with candy flying over their head or shuffle to them. You could even dress the drone, rumba, etc in a homemade costume.

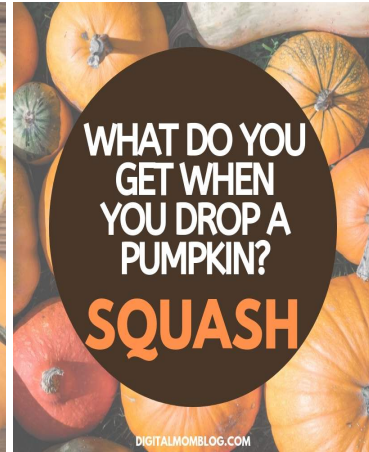
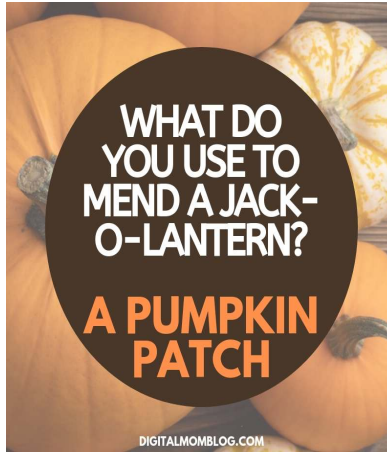
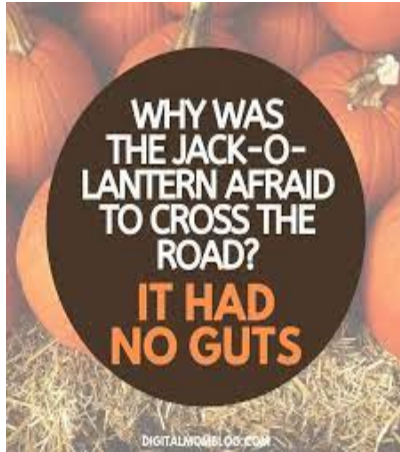
Ex: a ghost (drone,) a bat (drone,) zombie (rumba/lawn mower,) you could even attach a fake hand to the rumba/ lawn mower if you really wanted.

Now since Covid is still around we have to be safe with what we are doing, a.k.a trick or treating. *How do we be safe while trick or treating?* You may ask, well we got your back. Here are some ways you can make yourself and others safe.

- 1.) You can wear your mask while going up to the house that you're getting candy from, you don't have to wear it while walking around but it is recommended.
- 2.) Staying 6ft apart from other people (a.k.a when going up to houses, passing other people, etc.)
- 3.) Stay with your inner bubble (Friends, family, guardians,etc.)

TrojanTimes hopes you have a safe and fun halloween this year!!

Of course we had to put in some cheesy Halloween Jokes!



Credit Digital Mom Blog

## Truth and Reconciliation

*Hannah H. (She/Her)*

On September 30th, we recognized that day as the **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation** here at Thom Collegiate. On this day we honoured every child that attended residential schools in the past and everyone that continues to be affected by residential schools.



Everyone was encouraged to support them by wearing orange shirts in recognition of Truth and Reconciliation. Many of our school staff and students could be seen wearing special orange shirt pins, orange buttons and ribbons made by Ms. Powers' grade 10 Sewing class.

Elder Frank led Thom students and staff in a smudging ceremony followed by a community walk. The ceremony began with a smudge and prayer led by Elder Frank, and was followed by an Honour Song performed by the Thom Drum Circle. A Grass Dance was performed by Thom student Alexei, as well two Fancy Dances were performed by Joseph and Stacey. After the smudge ceremony, as a school we paid tribute to the victims of Residential Schools by taking part in a community walk. The day was a success and we are proud of everyone at Thom for their participation and commitment to truth and



A heart-shaped artwork on a light-colored background. Inside the heart, a child is shown from the back, wearing a yellow shirt with the words 'EVERY CHILD MATTERS' printed on it. The child is surrounded by green leaves and pink flowers. A red banner with white text is draped across the bottom of the heart. The entire heart is outlined in black. Below the heart, the words 'EVERY CHILD MATTERS' are written in a stylized, blocky font with a decorative border.

Art work created by student Stacey J.

# Thom Comic Strip

