



“A safe and caring place for all to learn”

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THOM TIMES

Your back-to-school newspaper!

@thomtimesnews



Photography done by : *Hannah H, Grade 9*

Meet our NEW Trojans!

Written by : Emmalea H, Grade 12

It is a brand new year, which means new teachers. We have six new teachers joining the Trojan Family this year. So in order for us to get to know these lovely new Trojans, I interviewed them and asked them a few questions. You'd never guess some of these answers! In fact, one of our Trojans has been to Europe 15 times!

These were my questions for them :

1. *What are you most excited about this school year?*
2. *What subject do you teach?*
3. *What are two interesting facts about yourself?*
4. *What is your favourite thing about being a teacher?*

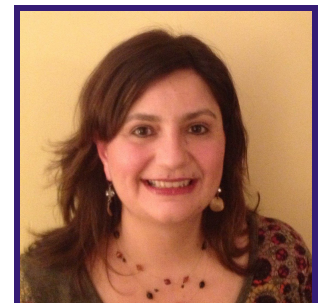
Mr. Audette - Room 203

1. I am most excited to get to know the staff and students at Thom and be a part of the awesome community here at École Thom Collegiate.
2. I am teaching a mix of different subjects this year, including: Social Studies, Math, and PAA.
3. Two interesting facts about me are that I have twin daughters and that I really enjoy basketball and football as a player, coach, and fan.
4. My favourite things about being a teacher are the amazing students I get to work with everyday and having the opportunity to learn new things constantly.



Mrs. Kodas - Room 102

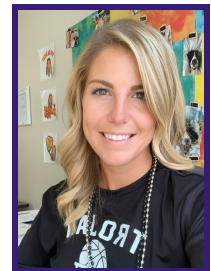
1. I think the thing I am most excited for is meeting our Thom students. I love teaching and I missed the students most when we were on lockdown. I know there are some great students to meet! I also love meeting new staff and re-connecting with others I used to teach at previous schools. Previous schools: Balfour, Sheldon, Johnson...and now Thom!
2. I teach English Language Arts 9, 10, 11, and 12. I'm also the Learning Leader at the school.



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3. I love to travel. COVID has definitely put a standstill on my travel plans. Otherwise, I've been to Europe 15 times (Greece, Italy, Spain, France, and England and I've seen all of Canada (except the Maritimes). I've also been to places like Costa Rica which was really cool. Travelling just makes me happy and expands my mind. I love learning about diverse cultures.
I'm the best auntie ever. I don't have my own children but I spoil my nephew Stavros, in Dallas, Texas (who is 17 years old in Grade 12) and my nephew George (who is 4 years old) and my niece Demi (who is 2 years old) in Regina. Yeah, they have me wrapped around their fingers! Lol, I love spending time with them.
 4. Connecting with students and staff! I love seeing the "light" go off when students understand a concept.

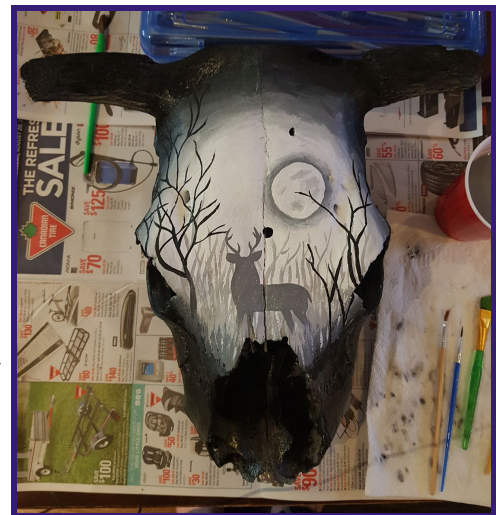
Ms. Powers - Room 154

1. I am really excited to finally have a permanent contract at Thom. It is my absolute favourite school in the city. The staff and students are so welcoming.
2. I teach Phys. Ed. and Health and a little bit of computers.
3. I have lived on three continents and I was a vegetarian for a year on a dare.
4. My favourite thing about being a teacher is getting to participate in my Phys. Ed. class, specifically playing dodge ball and the Cooper run. I take great joy in beating my students in sports.



Ms. Grinyer - French Hall

1. I am most excited about getting back to the classroom. The time off from school has given everyone a different perspective on how learning and teaching can look so I would like to try some non-traditional instruction and learning.
2. I teach French Immersion. This year I am teaching: Mathématiques 9, Français 9, and Sciences Sociales 9.
3. I have lived in four different countries, two of them at separate times. I love food and the creativity of developing new recipes. If I wasn't a teacher I would be a chef.
4. No day is ever the same. There's a surprise around every corner of everyday life.



A cow skull painted by : *Mme Merk*

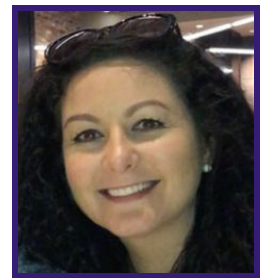
Ms. Williams - Room 126

1. I'm excited to be a part of the Trojan family! I am looking forward to being back in the classroom and getting to know all of my students.
2. I teach in the Vocational Program (VAP).
3. I love traveling and puppies.
4. My favourite thing about being a teacher is working with kids. The Vocational Program allows me to be creative in my teaching and spend time with the community.



Ms. Macloone - Room 126

1. I am excited about navigating the school year with the many new and different challenges we face.
2. I am an EA in the Vocational Program.
3. I am from Ireland and I can speak three languages.
4. I love building relationships with students and seeing them develop and become confident in who they are.



Mr. Marcotte - Room 215

We Trojans would like to welcome Mr. Marcotte to École Thom Collegiate.

“What a teacher is, is more important than what they teach”



Painting done by : *Mme Merk*

Thank you, Teachers!

Written by : *Emmalea H, Grade 12*

As we all know, the year 2020 has been a wild and honestly a tad bit of a freaky year. This March, we experienced something that we have never experienced before. Schools closed down and teachers and students had to teach and learn all through a computer screen.

Google Classroom, Zoom meetings and emails soon become the way of communication and learning. Teachers were left to create new ways of teaching. To some, this was very challenging and outside of their comfort zone.

For some, it may be scary to come back to school and not know what exactly is going to happen. Personally, I am grateful for the ability to see my friends, teachers, and fellow Trojans.

I am here to say thank you, teachers. Teachers, you had to teach during a global pandemic. You had to go from seeing your students every day to communicating with them through Google Meet. Even though you were unsure of what the next step was going to be, you still were there for all of your students.

If you ever think you can't do anything, just know that you can, because you taught your students through a global pandemic. Not many can say they have accomplished that.

“I wasn't born to 'just teach' I was born to inspire others, to change people, and to never give up, even when faced with challenges that seem impossible.”



Mailbox painting done by : *Mme Merk*

COVID-19 & What it has taught us...

Written by: *Marjan R, Grade 12*

The COVID-19 pandemic has undeniably paralyzed the world, halted our daily outings and gave us a glimpse of living in a dystopian world. All the fictional stories we once savoured suddenly breathed life in the form of a disease outbreak. Despite being at several odds, we showed resilience by rapidly increasing testing and establishing safety precautions for the public. However, much of that success was elevated due to the collective agreement between countries, politicians, health officials, and educators. Although there are flaws in what we have established, to get where we are today is a victory. We are the heroes of this dystopian story; not one, but all of us who collectively worked together. Below are the **lessons** that we learned from living through a global pandemic.

Similar to how the public is trying to flatten the curve, there is a growing trend of people who are suffering from mental illnesses but are not able to access mental health services. The pandemic exacerbated the mental health problem in Canada. Students are encouraged to reach out to their guidance counsellors or peers. We can only flatten this curve by communicating with one another. We also encourage students to show their gratitude to health care workers and teachers for prioritizing our safety. This can be done by sending a sweet email or by simply saying *thank you*. The simplest gestures are remembered the best. Be kind, take the time to appreciate what you have and what you have been given. We would also like to punctuate that there is no need to rush through things this school year. Take things slow and do not overwhelm yourself with any tasks or homework. We recommend putting aside some time each day dedicated to your *self-care*. Good luck to everyone! We hope this school year treats you well.

We want to thank the teachers and many other crucial roles who made a great deal of effort to ensure our return to school is safe. Thank you for doing what you do.



Nail art done by : *Isaac M, Grade 12*

Start High School The Right Way: Tips and Tricks For Grade 9s

Written by : *Samantha M, Grade 12*

1. **Take care of yourself.** You're doing yourself a huge favor when you practice self-care! It can relieve stress, increase energy levels, and make you happier! Doing something as little as going for a walk, getting enough sleep, or doing something you enjoy can make a huge difference in your attitude and overall life!
 2. **Be prepared.** Now that you're going back to school, you might have a hard time remembering everything you need to do. Getting a daily planner to write down important dates to remember has helped me a lot during high school. If there was ever a test coming up, I would write it down and it reminded me of what I needed to do. Also, it might be a good idea to keep an extra mask in your bag just in case you forget yours at home!
 3. **Listen to your teachers.** Be respectful. They are trying their best to work and help you through these difficult times. Don't forget to thank your teachers.
 4. **Meet the guidance counselors.** Get familiar with the school guidance counselors! They will be there whenever you need something.
 5. **Be yourself.** Don't try fitting in! It would be a boring world if we all tried being the same! Be yourself because that's what makes you special and different from everyone around you. You won't have to pretend to be someone you're not and make yourself unhappy during the process.
 6. **Time management.** Know when you can play games or hang out with friends and when you should study and do homework. When you have good time management skills you will succeed in high school— and life. It's all about a healthy balance of both having a social life and keeping up with school.
 7. **Do your homework and study.** Make sure you understand the concept instead of just memorizing your notes. Unlike other years, we don't have the incentive for exams, so your mark will matter. If you don't understand your assignment, don't be afraid to ask your teacher; they are happy to help you out!
 8. **Your grades are more important than you realize.** I know from personal experience that I didn't care much about my marks when I was in grade nine. Although it might not seem important to do now, start focusing on keeping your grades above 70%. It will make it much easier to get into your dream university!
 9. **Make new friends.** It might be hard to do with all the new rules but be friendly to your peers! Give them compliments or words of encouragement when they need it. P.S. - just because you are wearing a mask, doesn't mean you can't smile at your peers.
 10. **Be nice!**
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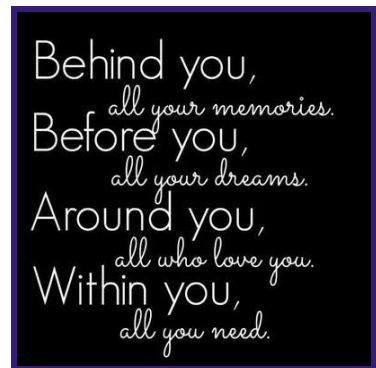
What does being a 'Senior' mean?

Written by : *Emmalea H, Grade 12*

Seniors : as a senior you are the leader of the school. You are who young kids look up to. You are their heroes. Being in Grade 12 is a new and exciting thing. There are things you will often hear when you are a senior such as “experience every moment ... this time flies ... and focus on your studies.” All of those things are true. I think senior year means to just take it step by step, day by day, and experience everything!

Google tells seniors that they should abide by the following rules and responsibilities : you are supposed to do things like keep your grades strong, start planning for university and all that lies ahead, maintain your friendships, start looking for scholarships, and go to open houses and fairs for a variety of schools.

Yes, all of that is important, but it is also important to remember that you are a senior, a graduating student, and that you are going into adulthood. Adulthood is a 50/50 thing for people. Either you are thrilled about finally becoming an adult and graduating or you want to forbid the word from your dictionary. Which are you? Send us your thoughts on our Instagram!

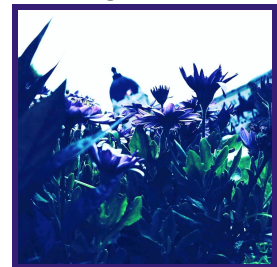


Creativity during Quarantine

Written by : *Emmalea H, Grade 12*

Quarantine is something that never even crossed our minds, until this March, when quarantine became our everyday life. In our daily life we would be out and about; we would go to the mall, restaurants, and all sorts of events. But as we know, the spring of 2020 stopped us from doing a lot of that. We were left to our own devices. At one moment or another we were all bored out of our minds. To alleviate some of this boredom, some of our fellow Trojans took photos and created art, which can be seen throughout the paper. I can guarantee that during your lockdown, you have done at least one of the following :

1. Bleached and/or tie-dyed clothing from your wardrobe.
2. Painted a picture or a wall in your bedroom.
3. Took pictures of the shrub in your backyard.
4. Planted flowers or an entire garden.
5. Deep cleaned your bedroom.
6. Played games for longer than six hours.



Photography done by : *Hannah H, Grade 9*

Hey You!

Are you interested in having your work in the school paper?

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

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