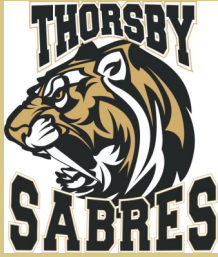


THSHS Newsletter



SEPTEMBER 2020



Ganton Gazette

Here we are, at the beginning of a new school year. To our new families, welcome to Thorsby Junior Senior High School. To our old families, welcome back.

I know that the beginning of the school year brings many increased emotions especially this year. Excitement, trepidation, and anxiety are all common emotions to have when returning to school. Having not been in-person for ~6 months will only heighten all of these as well as likely elicit others that aren't listed. These are all normal and as we continue through the school year the more negative feelings will wane, while hopefully the positive emotions will continue to grow.

We will start the school year with slightly less staffing than previous years as we had to transfer staff to the Black Gold Distance School to account for the students from TJSHS. We will start with 10.3 Teaching staff, 3 Educational Assistants, 1.5 Secretarial staff, and 0.5 Librarian. It should be noted that we had to transfer 0.7 teaching staff to the Distance Ed school. Many of you have likely heard that educational funding has increased this year and might be questioning why then are we down in teaching staff compared to last year. The reason for that is that the increase in funding was in operations and maintenance, not instruction. So yes, over the summer our gym got painted and parts in our HVAC, boiler, and security system were upgraded, but the overall instructional piece in budget was reduced. Unlike a household budget, one pot of money can't be used to cover a shortfall in another area. We can't just eat rice for a month to pay for fixing our car. The silver lining in all of this is that it is the first time in the six years that I have been a principal that we aren't introducing a new staff member this year as all staff are returning members of TJSHS.

I believe that the staff of TJSHS is the most dedicated staff of any school in Black Gold. We welcome the challenges that the 2020/2021 school year will possess and we will also be there to celebrate the successes at the same time. I hope we all have a safe, healthy, and productive 20/21 school year. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at the school or by email.

As always, here is a picture of Jack (10), Ruby (7) and Lewis (2.75) on Jack's first day of Grade 5, Ruby's first day of Grade 2, and Lew's first day heading back to daycare.






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LIBRARY AND TEXTBOOKS

We still have a number of outstanding library and textbooks. Please bring in to the school as soon as possible. Grade 7 students can bring books from Grade 6 here and I will make sure they get to the Elementary. Books not returned will be added to ACORN in October.



It has become a yearly tradition to reintroduce our amazing staff to our Thorsby families. Enjoy getting to know them again!



Mr. Jon Ganton



I'm Jon Ganton. This is my sixth year of using this bio as the principal of Thorsby Junior Senior High School. I grew up in Devon and attended Black Gold schools throughout my childhood. I completed my undergraduate Education degree at the University of Alberta in December of 2005 and have been teaching full-time since January

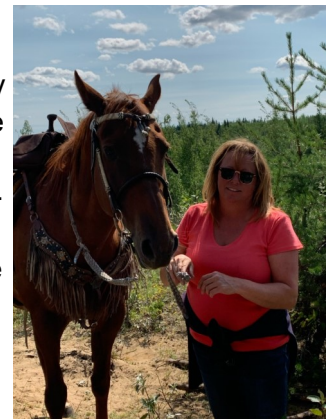
2006. I completed my Masters in Educational Leadership through the University of Portland in 2015. I spent most of my summer in my new Arctic Spas hot tub with my wife Bethany and our three children: Jack (10); Ruby (7); Lewis (2.75). When we weren't in the hot tub we were either camping or at the local

park. I believe that the staff, students, and parents in Thorsby are the best in Black Gold. I look forward to another great year and many more to come.

Mrs. McLeod

My name is Lorelei McLeod. I'm the head secretary at TJSHS. I've been with Black Gold since 2011, and with TJSHS since 2012. I have 2 children. My daughter is in her last year of University at Concordia. She will graduate

in the spring with her Education degree. My son just entered grade 11 at Warburg High School. I enjoy camping with family and friends, hanging at the lake, and of course, riding my horses.



Mrs. Melinda Pharis



My name is Melinda Pharis. This is my 3rd year as an EA at TJSH. I have been an EA in the Blackgold Schools for 15yrs. I am looking forward to spending the 2020/2021 school year with the kids. When I am not at school working, I am running trails and

ultras, I am Bootcamp instructor, a Personal Trainer, and I have a busy side gig of flipping furniture. I am married to Tod and we have 3 kids. Our oldest 2 kids, Oakly & Aspen, got engaged this year, so we are busy planning weddings. Our youngest, Avery, recently

graduated during the pandemic, and is preparing for a semester in Mexico, teaching English to 3-6yr old kids.

-

Mr. Ed Van Horn



My name is Ed Van Horn and I have taught in Thorsby Junior Senior High School for over Ten years. I have been with Black Gold Regional Schools for over twenty

years. I teach Math and Science to the Junior High students and Biology, Chemistry and Math to the Senior High students. I am happily married to my wife Donna for nearly twenty-nine years and I have two wonderful daughters. Paige is twenty-one and finished a bachelor's degree in Sociology from Macewan University and Carmen is eighteen and has started her first year of engineering at

the University of Alberta. Our family enjoys camping in the summer months and skiing in the winter. We like to ski at Marmot Basin in Jasper and Panarama. I enjoy playing golf and hockey with the occasional mix of curling in the winter. I am excited to back in the classroom this season and look forward to seeing everyone in the community throughout the year.

Mr. Brent Proc

I am excited to be part of the staff of Thorsby Jr/Sr. School. I grew up in the Calmar area and graduated from Calmar High School. I attended the University of Alberta, receiving a Bachelor of Education degree. My

teaching experience includes 12 years with Black Gold and Parkland School Divisions. My goal for the CTS (Industrial Arts) program is to provide students with a wide range of interesting and unique

projects. My hobbies include woodworking, hunting, fishing, and numerous other outdoor activities.



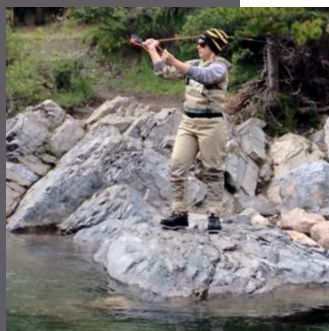
Mrs. Kathy Verhun

I'm Kathy Verhun and I am celebrating my 30th year as an Educational Assistant. I have been blessed to not only live in the Thorsby, but also have had the privilege of working in Thorsby, assisting and encouraging many great students

over the years. I live outside of Thorsby on a farm with my husband. In my spare time I am learning to play the piano. I love spending time with family and friends.



Mrs. Sam Sauer



My name is Samantha Sauer. I have been at Thorsby since the 2008-2009 school year when I graduated from the University of Alberta. I also completed my Masters in Education in Curriculum Studies through the University of New Brunswick in May 2016. I am so happy to be back in the classroom with our incredible

students! This year I am teaching: Social 7-9, ELA 10-2/20-2/10-4/20-4 and JR Art, in addition to marking online SR Art. When I am not teaching I can be found "hunting, fishing and loving everyday," with my husband, Aaron. I spent the summer gardening and building a greenhouse and hanging out with family (socially-

distanced). I also love to read (mystery novels and National Geographic magazines), bake and spend time with my nieces and nephews.

Mrs. Shelley Gramlich



I have been teaching in Thorsby since the 1999/2000 school year. In the time that I have been at Thorsby, I have taught CTS -Information Processing, Design, Communications Technology, Computing Science, Digital Media, Robotics, Esthetics and Cosmetology, LA,

Social, Math, French, Phys Ed, Psychology and Sciences, as well as facilitating several online courses and options. I am a Certified Yoga Instructor, Swim (Red Cross and Royal Lifesaving NLS), Synchro, Therapeutic Foster Caregiver, freelance writer and have coached cheerleading. I have five

adult daughters and 14.5 grandchildren, ranging in age from 0 months to twenty four years old. I also have two foster children and three cats. My interests and hobbies are too diverse and numerous to list.

Mrs. Jacquie Simeniuk



My name is Jacquie Simeniuk. I am excited to return to Thorsby Junior Senior High for my second year. I am married to Travis and we have one son,

Xavier. My family and I had a crazy busy summer. We recently moved closer to Thorsby and we are enjoying life on the farm. We got another puppy named Leddi and got 3 kittens. I am looking forward to adding some goats

and a couple of cows to our farm in the spring. This winter I hope to spend most of my free time on the ski hill with my family and close friends. I look forward to spending another school year with all of the kids.

Ms Brilene Wohlgemuth



Hello, my name is Brilene Wohlgemuth and this will be my third teaching at Thorsby Junior Senior High! This year I am teaching English 30, Eng-

lish 20-1, English 9, CALM and Options. My favorite thing to do in the summer is travel but obviously that wasn't an option this summer. Unfortunately I had to cancel a scuba diving trip to Cuba over spring break and a trip to Brazil & Argentina this summer; I'm super bummed! Instead I spent almost my whole summer out at our family cabin at Slave Lake. I used the time off to read

quite a few new books; my favorite book of the summer was Stamped: Racism, Antiracism and You. I look forward to an amazing 2020/2021 school year!

Mr. Jonah Feil

Welcome back to another year at Thorsby junior/senior high school!

My name is Mr. Feil and I will be teaching primarily Physical Education this year. So you are more likely to see me in the gym with a group than anywhere else in the school. I know the end of last school year and this past summer were a bit different for most

people but I hope everyone is looking forward to being back and seeing everyone they missed seeing, I know I am.

This summer I had the opportunity to travel a bit in BC. Did a lot of hiking and sight-seeing while in the mountains and I also managed to do some social distance visits with family and friends in

Victoria.

I also got a second dog over the summer. At first the dog was annoying but he has started to grow on me.

Anyways, welcome back and I look forward to seeing you throughout this year.



Mr. Daniel Hodges

Hi there I'm Mr. Hodges, the fast-talking math teacher from England, by way of New Zealand and now Canada. I look forward to instilling in students the importance of recognising that pavlova was invented in New Zea-

land, that a kiwi is a bird not a fruit (that's a kiwifruit!), and that it is Sam, not Frodo, who is the hero of Lord of the Rings. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to write to me daniel.hodges@gshare.

blackgold.ca



Mrs. Kim Engler



My name is Kim Engler and this is my fifth year teaching at Thorsby Junior Senior High! I am so happy and excited to be back, live in the school for the 2020-2021 school year.

This year I am teaching Grade 7 Language Arts and Math 10-3/20-3. I am also here for you in the role of Counsellor, Learning

Support Teacher and I will be helping out with Guidance Counselling. Outside of school, my husband and I live in Sherwood Park with our 2 awesome kids (Owen and Olivia), 2 westie dogs (Sophie and Emilie) and baby cockatiel (Dorian). During school closure I kept busy teaching my amazing students; baking way too much;

reading for fun; hatching ducklings, chickens and pheasants; building a deck and growing vegetables in my greenhouse. I'm looking forward to a fun and unusual school year!!

Mrs. Cheryl Raugust



I'm Cheryl Raugust. This is my 6th year at TJSHS. I am the Librarian and this year I have taken on the role of Finance Secretary. Huge learning curve!

I've been married to my husband, Jody for 26 years. We have two

amazing kids, Riley and Jillian, and two fur babies, Baxter and Abbey.

I spent most of my extended summer reading and quilting. My "Covid 19" reading list was extensive and I got through most of it!

TJSHS is like home to me and I am so excited to be back in class with our kids. This year will be amazing!

Mrs. Rebecca Riley



Hi, I'm Rebecca Riley. This is my second year teaching here at Thorsby Jr/ Sr High school. I will be teaching Science 7, Math 8, Jr and Sr Music and French 10. When I'm not at school you can find me

curled up crocheting, or spending time with my husband and 2 year old son. This summer, we went to B.C. for some vacation time and looked for new adventures in the area. I look forward to

another great year!

Mrs. Kim van Steenis

Hi! My name is Kim van Steenis and I am a THS teacher! I have worked at the school since 2001 teaching English, Social, Foods and Art at the Junior and Senior levels. I also facilitate the Off-Campus Education Program (Work Experience, RAP and Green Certificate) and do some post-secondary counseling. I am a teacher who is both fun and tough. Kids tell me I have high expectations, but I am a big believer in the talents and abilities of our students and try hard to keep my programs and the student's education experiences top notch. I

hope to continue working at the school and being a part of students' lives.

Out of school I am a dedicated mother, wife, daughter, sister, and of course... sport parent! You can find me in the winter and spring in town watching hockey or baseball (or on the road travelling to a game...lol), and in the summer you can find me at the golf course with my boys! My two amazing sons, Adam and Levi, are the center of my life and I love being able to spend time with them whenever I can. I am currently enjoy-



ing living at Pigeon Lake and being part of the local community. I am known for my cooking, gardening, decorating, and creative side and I'm always finding new interests and challenges which makes life exciting.

A good teacher can inspire hope, ignite the imagination, and instill a love of learning.

- Brad Henry

ESL Kids
GAMES

Find us on Social Media!

Look for **Thorsby Junior Senior High School** on Facebook! We've posted grad pictures and videos along with more cool things!

Thorsby Student Union is also on Instagram and Snapchat.

Instagram:
ths_studentsunion
Snapchat:
thorsbyschool





Sign out a Family Pass to the
Leduc Recreation Centre at the office!

Come get it from
the Library!



How does the pass work?

- The LRC Family Pass is valid for 2 adults and all children living in the same household.
- Sign out your LRC Family Pass for FREE from the office.
- This pass will provide you and your family with access to all of the amenities at the LRC. Enjoy the Aquatic Centre, Field Houses, Arenas, Fitness Centre and Indoor Track.
- Passes are valid for a one week time period.
- After your one week rental, return the LRC Family Pass back to the office for other families to enjoy.



Due to COVID-19, LRC amenities must be booked in advance through the LiveLeduc App or by calling 780-980-7120.
For more information, go to leduc.ca/re-opening.



[@leduc recreation centre](https://leduc.ca/LRC)



ACTIVE 8's & 9's

Enjoy your

**FREE
MEMBERSHIP***
to the LRC and
Alexandra Outdoor Pool.

October 1, 2020 – August 31, 2021

Applicable to 2020/2021 Grade 8 and Grade 9 students that live or go to school in the City of Leduc or Leduc County.

Let's get moving!

Get the latest information about what is happening at the LRC, receive special offers and discounts and be in the know about contests and giveaways.

leduc.ca/lrc   @educorecreationcentre

*Applicable only to residents who pay municipal taxes to the City of Leduc and Leduc County.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who is eligible for the Active 8's and 9's membership?

Applicable to 2020/2021 Grade 8 and Grade 9 students that live or go to school in the City of Leduc or Leduc County. Applicable only to residents who pay municipal taxes to the City of Leduc and Leduc County.

What schools are within the City of Leduc and Leduc County?

Black Gold Outreach
Caledonia Park
Calmar Secondary
Christ the King
Covenant Christian
Ecole Leduc Junior High

Father Leduc Catholic School
New Sarepta Community High
Thorsby Junior/High
Warburg Hutterite Colony
Warburg School
West Haven School

How long is the membership valid for?

October 1 – August 31, 2021

What is the cost for the Active 8's and 9's membership?

FREE for those Grade 8 and Grade 9 students that live or go to school in the City of Leduc or Leduc County.

When can I register for the membership?

Starting September 1 you can visit Guest Services to register so you can get moving October 1.

What facilities can you access with the membership?

The LRC and Alexandra Outdoor Pool.

This opportunity is funded by the City of Leduc through tax support and Leduc County through the financial contribution, made by them on behalf of their residents, for recreational opportunities offered in Leduc via the Cost Sharing Agreement we have in place.



TJSHS

Customize Your Spirit Wear

**Get it delivered to you house !
Free Shipping on orders over \$75**

**ORDER YOUR
SPIRIT WEAR
ONLINE!**

SHOP NOW



Go to: thorsbyjuniorseniorhighschool.entripyshops.com

Click on "+Register"

Fill out your information and click "Register"

Click on the item you want to buy to be brought to the customizing screen

On the customizing screen, choose your shirt colour, your design, and your size

Click on the different views underneath the product picture to get a look at the arms and back of the product

To add personalizations:

- a. click a view of either the arm or back of the product
- b. check off one of the check boxes depending on whether you want your name or number on the product
- c. type your name or number into the text box

If you want to add multiple items to your order, click the red box that says *Add Multiple Sizes* and fill out the quantity boxes.

Once you have your order put together, click the blue BUY button and follow the instructions on the next screen.

Feel free to contact Cheryl Raugust or Lorelei McLeod at the school, 780-789-3983

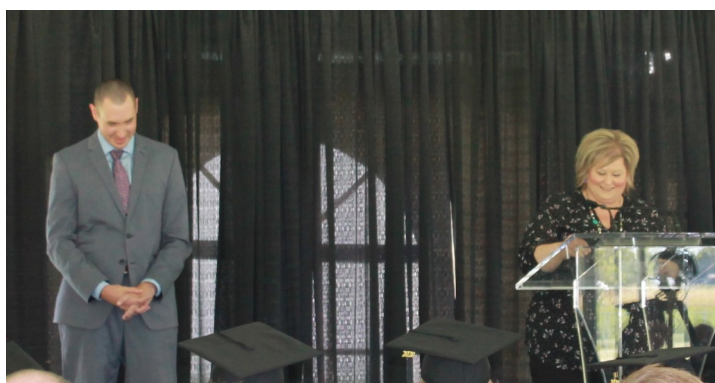


FIRST WEEK BACK



Grad 2020





September 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 <i>Orange Shirt Day</i>			

October 2020

Sun

Mon


Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 <i>Early Dismissal</i>	8	9	10
11 	12 <i>No School Thanksgiving</i>	13 <i>No School PD Day</i>	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 