

# September Newsletter



## Principal's Message

Hello everyone! Welcome back to a new school year at Thorsby Junior-Senior High School. My name is Theo Dykstra, and this is my second year as principal at TJSHS. While I had the privilege of getting to know most of you last year, I look forward to getting to know those I have not yet met. One of the joys of being a principal is that each day is different, but the primary goal of working together with students, staff and parents to ensure students' success stays the same.

I looked at my message from last year and my hope was for a more 'normal' year. That remains the same for this year. I am excited to introduce more clubs and activities back into the school. I can feel the increased energy and excitement as we begin to have whole school assemblies to boost school spirit.

Some previous staff members have left, but we also have new staff who bring new skills and energy. I am proud that at TJSHS every staff member gets to know every student throughout the school year, and that our daily work is driven by how much we care for each student. I am positive this is going to be a great year!

With that said, there are still many societal concerns which continue to impact us. These past few years spent facing a pandemic, and the current challenges of social, political, and financial unrest, stretch many people further than they have been before.

One of the things that I focus on when interacting with students is recognizing that all behaviour is a form of communication. This means that when an undesirable behaviour is displayed, the student is communicating an underlying factor. My goal is to explore these underlying factors before addressing the behaviour that was expressed. I am becoming increasingly aware that this is equally true in our interactions as adults. When strong emotions are involved, this can be very challenging; if we look past these emotions and see the underlying fears and concerns, we can find solutions.

This year I encourage everyone to be gracious to each other and ourselves. If there are concerns, start by assuming misunderstanding rather than malintent, and articulating a common goal can be a good starting point. In the case of our work at TJSHS, our common goal is to help every student succeed.

Any work that involves others can be messy, but working together to support the students is important and incredibly rewarding. I look forward to this school year and I hope that you will reach out if you have any questions. May this be a wonderfully exciting and 'normal' year!



## Meet the Teacher BBQ

On Thursday, September 22, from 3:30 to 6:00 pm., Thorsby Junior Senior High School is hosting our Meet the Teacher BBQ. Come stop by for a hot dog and a beverage, and meet our new and returning staff!



## Just a Friendly Reminder

As fall approaches, and we enter cold and flu season, TJSHS is requesting that students who are experiencing symptoms of illness stay home until their symptoms have improved and they feel well enough to resume normal activities.

More specific recommendations can be found at <https://www.alberta.ca/isolation.aspx>

## International Students

From November 19 to December 17, TJSHS will be hosting 3 international students from Columbia. This is an opportunity for our students to form friendships with students from another country and it provides these students with the opportunity to practice English and experience our community. TJSHS will be getting students in grades 9 and 10. Please see the info pages in this newsletter.

Please email [theo.dykstra@blackgold.ca](mailto:theo.dykstra@blackgold.ca) if you have questions or to express interest.

## Calendar

### September 16

PD Day No School

### September 20

Picture Day

### September 20

RCMP Presentation

### September 22

Meet the Teacher BBQ

3:30-6pm

### September 23

Jostens Ring Day

### September 29

Terry Fox Run

### September 30

National Day of Truth and Reconciliation No School

### October 10

Thanksgiving

No School

### October 11

PD Day No School





# Library News

If you found any library or textbooks over the summer, you can still bring them back! If books are returned, charges on your power school account!

**Grads: All outstanding fees need to be paid prior to buying grad tickets**

Library is open at lunch--come in and say Hi! I also welcome any book suggestions! I am always eager to add to our collection.

## 2021-2022 Yearbooks

The 2021-2022 yearbooks are being printed as we speak! They should be here Mid October.

If you didn't order one, that is fine! We will have extras for sale for \$40

We still have 2020-2021 yearbooks for sale as well! Cost of these is \$40

**Interested in helping with the 2022-2023 yearbook? Talk to Mrs. Mcleod or Mrs. Raugust**

## Breakfast Program

We are fortunate to be able to offer breakfast to any of our students who may need or want some breakfast. We welcome donations to this program. We will accept yogurt, yogurt tubes, cheese strings, nut free granola/breakfast bars and fruit.

## School Contacts

### Address

Box 500

5306 48 Ave

### Phone

Phone: 780 789 3983

Fax: 780 789 3024

### Email

tjshs@blackgold.ca

### Instagram

tjshs\_insta

### Facebook

Search for our page:

Thorsby Junior Senior High School

### Website:

tjshs.blackgold.ca



## Meet our Staff

Every year we like to introduce our THS families to our fabulous staff. Check out their bios here!

Welcome to our new members, Ms Turner, Ms Enseleit , Mr. Gourley and Mrs. Hrytsak!

### Ms Diana Turner

My name is Diana Turner and I am so excited to be starting my first year of teaching at TJSHS! I grew up down the road from Thorsby (near Sunnybrook) and for the last fifteen years, I have called Leduc my home. Before becoming a school teacher, I had the pleasure of teaching private piano and voice lessons for six years. I spent my summer kickboxing, taking care of my plants, and playing Beatsaber. This year, I will be teaching all the best subjects: English, health, and fine arts options!



### Mr. Scott Gourley

My name is Scott Gourley. I currently teach grade 7 Language Arts, Health, and junior high Sports Performance. I am a huge bookworm - I love reading and have a degree in English from MacEwan University before I got my Education degree. In addition to reading, I also have a passion for sports. I have been coaching high school volleyball for the past few years, and a few of my friends and I love to compete in trail races in the summer to keep us moving.







## Ms Tayler Enseleit

My name is Tayler Enseleit. This is my first year at TJSHS and I will be teaching Science 7, 8 and 24, Math 8 and Junior High Foods. I grew up in Edmonton but am excited to be a part of the Thorsby community. My favorite hobby is camping (year-round), but I also enjoy getting out on a bike ride, baking up a storm or doing some DIY home projects.



## Mrs. Trish Hyrtsak

My name is Trish Hrytsak and this is my first year at TJSHS, but my fourteenth with Black Gold Schools. I teach ELA 9, am the personal counsellor, learning support teacher, and wellness and literacy leads. I love the mountains, kayaking and travelling, particularly when I am with my husband and my dog Charlie. We spend much of our time with friends and family, particularly with our nieces and nephews, where we watch rodeo, hockey, and basketball.



## 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. This year I am teaching: Social 7, 9, 10-1; ELA 10-2 JR Art. I love to read, garden, cook, hunt and fish and spend time with my family.



## Mr. Jonah Feil

My name is Jonah Feil. I have been teaching in Thorsby since 2015. I am the Athletic Director and Physical Education teacher and this year I am also teaching Social Studies 8. Last year my wife and I had our first child (August). He is a handful. All he wants to do is move, move, move and he never wants to be left alone. He will be the reason I am half asleep some days. We also have two dogs (Boo and Charlie). Looking forward to another year at TJSHS.



## Mr. Tyler Verge

My name is Tyler Verge. This is my second year in Thorsby Jr/Sr High School. I am originally from Newfoundland where I graduated with A B.Sc. in Mathematics minoring in Physics. I then moved to Alberta to work in the oil field where I worked for 10 years. I then decided to pursue a B.Ed. from the University of Alberta.

In school I teach Math, Science and Computers at both the Jr and Sr High levels. I am always trying to get kids involved in Math through the Math Help Center or through Math Competitions that are held weekly. I'm married to my wife Micheala and we have two wonderful children. In my spare time I like to play fantasy hockey and football a little too much, and I like sitting outside to a nice fire with my family.



## 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 15 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.







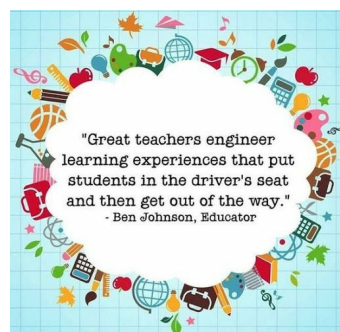
## Mrs. Shelley Gramlich

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, PhysEd, 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 15 grandchildren, ranging in age from 1 year old to twenty six years old. I also have one foster girl, two cats and a 120 lb American Bulldog. My interests and hobbies are too diverse and numerous to list, but include yoga, water sports, sewing and crafting. I spent a week this summer at the Computer Science Teachers of America 2022 Conference in Chicago. I am the VP of the Alberta Chapter of the CSTA.



## Mr. Theo Dykstra

Hello, my name is Theo Dykstra and I have the pleasure of being the principal of Thorsby Junior Senior High School for a second year and hopefully for many years to come. Prior to my role as principal, I taught at TJSHS for three years previously. I am super excited about this school year as we return to many of our regular school clubs, teams and activities. Outside my role at the school, I live with my wife and children in Leduc. With the start of this school year, I now have children in the work world, post-secondary, high school, junior high, and a little one starting preschool. It looks like it will be another fun and busy year. I greatly appreciate the students at TJSHS as well as the support I receive from the parents that I have the pleasure to talk to and work with.



## Mrs. Lorelei McLeod

My name is Lorelei McLeod. I am the head secretary at TJSJS. I've been with Black Gold since 2011 and TJSJS since 2012. I have 2 children. My daughter teaches grade 1 at Calmar Elementary, and my son graduated last year from Warburg School. I enjoy camping, hiking, paddle boarding, and riding my horses.



## Mrs. Cheryl Raugust

This is my 7th year at THS. I am the Librarian and Finance Secretary. I live in Thorsby with my husband and 2 senior dogs. I have 2 grown children and on October 1, I will gain a new daughter in law, Corbin. In my spare time, you can find me behind my sewing machine or my nose in a book!



## Mrs. Kathy Verhun

My name is Kathy Verhun and I am an Educational Assistant at TJSJS. I live outside of Thorsby with my husband Dan. He is retired and spends his time raising cattle and grain farms. I have 2 great sons. Doug and his girlfriend Amber, Doug is currently a Director at AMA and his girlfriend Amber teaches at NAIT. My youngest son Chris and his wife Jenna run their own finishing carpentry business, Jenris Creations, and are also raising their children, Broc 7 and Ayla 4. Both of my sons live on acreages outside of Calmar. I am passionate and proud of the community that I live in. To all the students, strive to do your best, let's all have a great year.

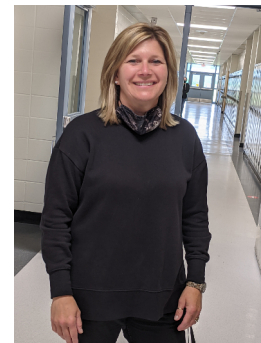




## Mrs. Jody Mitchell



Hi I am Jody Mitchell. I enjoy working as an Educational Assistant at TJSJS. I live at Pigeon Lake with my husband and my son Colin who is in grade 11 and is an avid outdoorsman and rugby player. As for my other 3 children who all attended TJSJS - Brent is heading to Albany, New York this fall as he has signed a pro lacrosse deal after graduating with a Biology degree at Walsh University in Canton, Ohio last year, Conrad who has had an exciting hockey career is starting post secondary at Concordia University and Sarah is in her 2nd year at Macewan University. We all love spending time with family and friends and living at the lake. I look forward to another school year in Thorsby.



### Orange Shirt Day & Terry Fox Run

**Thursday, September 29, 2022**

For the 15th consecutive year, Thorsby Junior Senior High School will participate in the annual Terry Fox school run. On the same day, students are encouraged to wear their orange shirts as we will also recognize the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

**School Goal: \$1000.00**

If students raise \$500, Mr. Proc will either wear a toupee or shave handlebars.

If students raise the full \$1000, Mr. Dykstra will get a pie in the face!

Students are encouraged to bring at least a toonie on run day (collected as students exit the gym to the route) or donations can also be made online.

To donate, please follow this link: <https://schools.terryfox.ca/4991/donate>







# Information for Host Families

NOVEMBER 2022 INTERNATIONAL STUDENT OPPORTUNITY

From November 19 to December 17 2022, Black Gold School Division will be welcoming a cohort of International Students from Colombia for a one-month homestay experience. **We are currently seeking enthusiastic, outgoing families who are interested in welcoming international students into their homes.** Hosting a student is a rewarding cultural and personal experience.

## WHAT WILL STUDENTS DO WHILE THEY ARE HERE?

International students are expected to attend school full-time during their stay. In the evenings, they may choose to participate in extracurricular activities. On some weekends, the students will be scheduled for group outings and on other weekends you may plan family activities to do with your student. A schedule of planned activities will be provided to host families.

## HOW OLD ARE THE STUDENTS?

The students range in age between 12 - 16 years old.





### *WHAT AM I REQUIRED TO PROVIDE AS A HOST FAMILY?*

A host family is required to provide the following:

- A private bedroom that includes an egress window, bed, dresser, closet, table, lamp, and desk. Access to laundry and bathroom facilities are also required. For high school students, access to a computer with internet access is preferred.
- Provide 3 well balanced, nourishing meals and snacks daily.
- Provide transportation to and from extracurricular activities.
- Ensure that you carry adequate home insurance coverage (details in the host family package).
- Judicious and caring parenting, treating the student as a member of the family.
- Criminal record check and vulnerable sector check for each adult member living in the home, or who may be staying overnight in the home during the student's stay.

### *WHAT EXPENSES WILL I BE REQUIRED TO COVER?*

You will be required to provide adequate room and board to the student, including a private bedroom and three nutritious meals and snacks. While the students will be expected to cover the cost of any school organized extracurricular activities, outings, trips, or purchases, families will pay for any costs of family organized activities.

### *WHAT ARE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF A HOST FAMILY?*

A host family is responsible for:

- Ensuring that the student attends school every day.
- Being generally aware of the student's whereabouts.
- Monitoring the physical and mental health and well-being of the student.
- Including the student in all aspects of family life.
- Ensuring that the student dresses appropriately for the weather.
- Ensuring that the student is aware of and abides by reasonable family rules and expectations.
- Ensuring that the student is aware of emergency procedures.
- Contacting the school principal if any issues arise with the student's health or wellbeing.
- Being sensitive to possible cultural differences, language barrier and homesickness.

### *HOW WILL I BE COMPENSATED?*

To help offset the expenses of hosting an international student, host families will be compensated \$825 for the month of the student's stay.

### *WHAT IF I HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT THE STUDENT?*

Please contact the school principal for assistance in addressing any issues or conflicts.



# Shop Class







Students of all ages, genders, and sexualities are invited to meet with the Gender and Sexuality Awareness club at lunch on Mondays in Room 105 (Miss Turner's room). The purpose of the club is to create a safe and accepting environment for students to eat lunch and make new friends. Students involved in the club may wish to organize special events, fundraisers, or activities.

**Thorsby High School**

# GSA

**MONDAYS AT LUNCH  
ROOM 105**

# RAISING FUNDS & AWARENESS TO SUPPORT MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVES AND COMMUNITY TRAIL DEVELOPMENT

Join us on October 1, 2022



Our **mission** is to raise **awareness** and **funds** for mental wellness and **accessible** trail development. We would like to give our families, our friends, our community **somewhere to run** and remind ourselves **if Chris can, we can!**

## EVENT SCHEDULE:

Event time 10:00am - 2:00pm

Run/Walk Start 10:00am

Keynote Speaker 11:30am

**1 km walk/run**

**5 km walk/run**

**5 km timed walk/run**

**10 km timed run**



2022 KEYNOTE SPEAKER

C H R I S K O C H

Visit our website [calmarnowheretorun.weebly.com](http://calmarnowheretorun.weebly.com) to register today!



CSSNoWhereToRunRun



no\_where\_torun\_



calmarnowheretorun@gmail.com



## Senior Cos







Sign out a Family Pass to the  
Leduc Recreation Centre at 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 Library.
- This pass will provide you and your family with access to all of the amenities at the LRC. Enjoy the Aquatic Centre, Fieldhouses, 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 Library for other families to enjoy.



Leduc.ca/LRC  
@leduc recreationcentre



## Our First Assembly



## Fun in Math 30-1

