

# Thorold Secondary School

*...your community high school*

## SCHOOL INFORMATION

### Thorold Secondary School

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School Website

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## DSBN INFORMATION

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SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

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DSBN WEBSITE

[www.dsbm.edu.on.ca](http://www.dsbm.edu.on.ca)

## APRIL 2008

### GOLDEN EAGLES EARN GOLD AGAIN!

During the month of March, over 3800 students were involved in DSBN Technology Skills Challenges throughout the Board. TSS students, once again, did a great job bringing home 2 Gold, 1 Silver and a Bronze medal.

Congratulations to **Gavin Taylor** who, for the second year in a row, won a gold medal in Architectural Design. **Alex Martin** earned a gold medal in Mechanical Design and a bronze medal in Precision Machining and **Brad Morrisette** won Silver in Architectural Design.

Good luck to Gavin and Alex as they represent the District School Board of Niagara at the Skills Canada-Ontario Provincial competition in Waterloo on May 6.



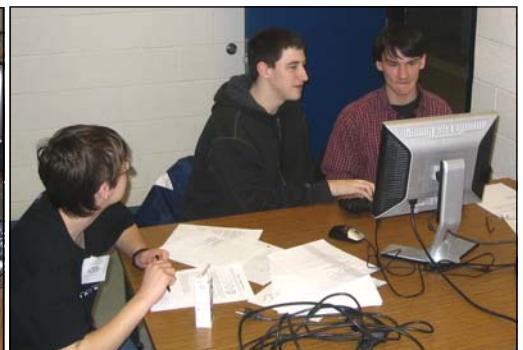
LEFT: Teachers Mr. Demers (Technological Design) (left) and Mr. Lachance (Manufacturing & Welding) (right) flank students Gavin Taylor and Alex Martin. RIGHT: Brad Morrisette and Gavin Taylor .

### A FIRST AT BEING FIRST!

Annually, ECOO, the Educational Computing Organization of Ontario, holds a computer programming competition for secondary school students of all grades. This year's local DSBN qualifying round of the competition was held at the Maid of the Mist Campus of Niagara College. Thorold Secondary School entered two teams; each team had three members. Our two teams tied for first place! This is the first time in the competition's 19 year history that there has been a tie... to have that tie be between two teams from the same school is additionally remarkable! Congratulations to both teams and to their 'coach' **Mr. Christensen**. These teams will now travel to the University of Western Ontario to compete in the South Western Regional Competition on May 10th. Good Luck to all!



Angelika Robidas, Andrew Bacon, Patrick Hinchliffe



Eric Sones, Adam Caverhill, Evan Verworn

## A STUDENT'S VIEW



Michaela Gualtieri (left) and Michelle Kroetsch stand on either side of a line representing the equator on their recent trip to Ecuador.

## LEARNING AND HELPING OTHERS

by

Michaela Gualtieri

Over this past March Break, Michelle Kroetsch and I went with a group called Leaders Today to the country of Ecuador for the trip of a lifetime. We met so many wonderful people and saw many different things that opened our eyes to what other parts of the world are going through. At the beginning of our trip, we spent a day in the capital of Quito. This gave us a great opportunity to get to know the other 15 students that went with us from Grimsby and Vancouver. We also got to see some of the buildings in Quito, including The Church of the Society of Jesus of Quito, La Compañía. This church was built from 1605 to 1765, and is a living example of the Ecuadorian people's art and faith. We also got to visit the equator and we learned some cool gravity tricks as well. We got to try some guinea pig at a local restaurant, which is a traditional delicacy in Ecuador. After spending a day in Quito, we headed down to a village called San Miguel de Pachamanca. This was where we got to actually help build the foundation for a schoolhouse. We helped make Adobe bricks, mix cement, shovel dirt, and bend rebar. It was a 9-5 job for us, but we didn't mind the work. It was worth it to get to interact with the kids and know we were making a difference in their lives. After spending 5 days building, we headed off to a community called Pulinguán San Pablo, situated near a live volcano called Chimborazo. The altitude in this part of Ecuador was about 4200 feet, causing us all to have quite a headache when we first arrived. Despite our discomfort, we enjoyed getting to see the Alpaca farm and local market that was situated in the town. Unfortunately, time seemed to fly while we were down there, and before we knew it we were on our way back to Quito to spend two more days there before heading home. We knew that we would miss the people and surroundings of Ecuador, but we were eager to share what we experienced with others back home. We will never forget this trip and we encourage everyone to take advantage of trips such as this one whenever they can.

## COOP IS WORKING AT TSS!

Congratulations to the following Cooperative Education students who are in the process of being signed on as Ontario Youth Apprentices this semester.

Wade Bishop — Automotive Service Technician; Curtis Blakely — Drywall Applicator; Tamara Halliwell — Hair Stylist; Dan Helmink — Cook; Nathan Lewis — Cook; David McComb — Truck and Coach Technician; Jesse McDermaid — Electrician; Alex MacLeod — Motorcycle Technician; Colin O'Brien — Cook; Matt Rea — Automotive Service Technician; Justin Yusek — Automotive Service Technician.



Kim Wheeler, Employment and Training Consultant for the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, congratulates Jesse McDermaid as he is signed on as an Apprentice Electrician. Jesse's supervisor, Amos Gritter, of BCR Electric, looks on. Jesse has been working with BCR Electric to replace the wiring at Thorold Secondary School.

## HIGH FIVE FOR SCIENCE!

Grade 5 students from Burleigh Hill, Ontario, Prince of Wales, Richmond Street and Westmount schools recently participated in the second TSS Science Olympics. Challenges included building marshmallow towers and building paper helicopters. As always, we enjoyed welcoming future Golden Eagles to TSS!

**It's not enough to do your best; you have to know what to do, and then do your best.**

**- Deming**

# THOROLD SECONDARY SCHOOL

## ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE



In the top photos, Serena Murphy-DelCueto, Meghan Cecchini and Darcy Enns create masks in Mr. Duncker's Drama class. Students then transform themselves for their performances. One of the 'masked performers' is Mr. Duncker himself. Guess which one!

## THE MAIN THING... LITERACY

In our newsletters, we like to tell you about students having fun in special school activities, receiving awards and doing interesting things... and there is always lots of that going on at Thorold Secondary School! The majority of the time, however, students are in classes engaged in reading, writing and problem solving. Our School Goals this year have included two that are focused directly on Literacy. Our first goal has been to increase the percentage of students who are successful on the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test on their first attempt. These are referred to as First Time Eligible students, or FTE. Our second goal is to increase the success rate of Previously Eligible (PE) students, or students who are writing the test for the second time. Provincial data show that students who are unsuccessful on the first attempt have even lower pass rates on subsequent attempts, and this is a concern to us.

To address this second goal we had the PE students rewrite a mock literacy test last October. These tests were marked by teachers in our English department and the areas where students needed specific literacy support were identified. Since last fall, these students have received small group instruction focused on their particular area(s) of need. This instruction was provided by a qualified English teacher, generally 2 to 3 times per week. Students who participated in these sessions reported that they felt the sessions had been very helpful and that they felt confident when they wrote the OSSLT on March 27th. We expect the results of the test will be available in June. We will share them with you in our next newsletter in early July. It is important to note that no student has ever failed to graduate from TSS for want of the literacy component.

Strong literacy skills are needed not only to be successful at school, but to ensure students leave school ready to embrace all of the opportunities that will present themselves for post-secondary education, including apprenticeships, and to enable students to continue to learn in the complex world of work.



# THOROLD Football Alumni GOLF TOURNAMENT

Sunday, May 25, 2008

Beechwood Golf Club

18 holes, cart, steak dinner, prizes

4 person scramble, best ball format

\$100 per player

Contact Phil Mosley at

905.227.1188

## HOKKAI VISITS AGAIN THIS YEAR

In March, our friends from Hokkai High School in Sapporo, Japan, visited TSS. This annual event is a great opportunity for our students to interact with Japanese students and to display the qualities of our students, school and community. The students spent time at TSS on three days over the course of two weeks. On these occasions, students visited classrooms, played volleyball and performed Karaoke. There was a special appearance by City of Thorold Mayor, Henry D'Angela, who presented each Hokkai student with a City pin and demonstrated great Golden Eagle spirit by joining in the singing!

Whether it is helping our students to travel, like Michaela and Michelle (see page 2) or hosting international guests such as these terrific Hokkai students and chaperones, we will always do our best to encourage Thorold students to experience other cultures, geography and languages. It is through these that we learn to appreciate our place in the global community and come to appreciate that it is, indeed, a small world after all.



A Hokkai student, along with Rob Thomas, Mayor D'Angela and Chris Costiff entertain the crowd during a Karaoke session. No matter what language you speak, everyone enjoys sharing in song and laughter!

## TSS GOLDEN EAGLES

The Senior Boys Basketball team finished the season as undefeated Zone IV Champions. They were also SOSSA finalists! Team members Matt Lane and Josh Vankralingen represented TSS in the Niagara All Star Game. Congratulations to all the boys and to Mr. Kemp and Coach K for a successful season.

TSS wrestlers also had a great season. Darcy Enns won SOSSA and placed at OFSSA, while Craig Stewart finished second at SOSSA and placed at OFSSA.

The following teams are now underway at TSS: boys and girls soccer, junior boys rugby, badminton, rowing, track & field, boys baseball and cheerleading.

## CHECK MATES!



The TSS Chess Team finished a respectable fifth in the DSBN Championship. Our team, coached by Mr. Pavone, consisted of Ryan Cecchini, A.J. Heykoop, Jake Moore, Mike Sandonato, Chris Costiff and Josh Yates. Well done!

In the hour between 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. on Friday, March 28, 2008, the halls of Thorold Secondary School were filled with more shadows than light. Students gathered in the gym for a presentation on the importance of energy conservation

and reducing our impact on global warming. Mrs. Alexandre, Mr. Huyzers and Mr. Stone led an informative and entertaining presentation. Mrs. Kornelsen, Mr. Regier, Ms. Lenko and Mr. Duncker all contributed to the event by performing 'eco-info-skits'. Michelle Kroetsch spoke to students and staff about how her recent trip to Ecuador has helped her to better appreciate our collective duty to be responsible consumers. Upon returning to classrooms, students worked on posters, poetry, and math problems all designed to increase environmental awareness.

We were able to determine that we saved 50 kW of energy in one hour alone! This is enough to power 5 homes for an entire day, or 17 homes for an hour each. Imagine what we could do if we all made energy conservation a priority! For more information on Earth Hour, visit [www.earthhour.org](http://www.earthhour.org).



## ATTENDANCE UPDATE

### GRADES 9 & 10...

In the 2 months since the introduction of the grade 9 and 10 attendance policy requiring students who have unexcused absences from school to serve study hall detentions at lunch time, we have already noted a 25% decrease in unverified absences among grade 9 and 10 students. Thank you to parents and guardians who are helping this effort by calling the school if your child is going to be absent.

### AGE OF MAJORITY...

Students who are 18 years of age or older have the privilege of being accountable for their own attendance. Our Student Management computer system does not automatically call home when an adult student has been absent from class, as it does for students under the age of 18.

Students are encouraged to realize that, along with this privilege, comes responsibility. The ability to sign in and out does not mean students are entitled to be absent without reason and students need to remember that, as legal adults, they also assume the responsibility for the consequences of their decisions.