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# Thor News

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## Spelling Bee

On January 14th, Thor College held its annual Spelling Bee. Previous to the Spelling Bee, class eliminations were held in each classroom from Grade 1 to Grade 10 and 3 people were chosen from each grade to go to the gym. Some students were nervous but everyone did a great job. Even the Kindergarten students had an opportunity to show off their spelling skills.

The winners of the Spelling Bee are as follows:

### Primary – Grades 1-3

3<sup>rd</sup> place – Ashley T.  
2<sup>nd</sup> place – Jessica D. & Hannah B.  
1<sup>st</sup> place – Michael S.

### Junior – Grades 4-6

3<sup>rd</sup> place – Alan D.  
2<sup>nd</sup> place – Tristan B.  
1<sup>st</sup> place – Austin H.

### Senior – Grades 7-8

3<sup>rd</sup> place – Carter C.  
2<sup>nd</sup> place – Luke H.  
1<sup>st</sup> place – Jacob T.

### Secondary – Grades 9-12

2<sup>nd</sup> place – Dan L.  
2<sup>nd</sup> place – Dallas P.

## Canwest Spelling

The school top speller is Jacob T. Jacob will be writing the Written Qualifier test by January 22<sup>nd</sup>. If he is in the top 75 students he can move on to the Regional Bee at Ryerson University in February. Congratulations Jacob and best of luck!



## Canwest National Post Regional Spelling Bee

After a series of classroom and school spelling bees at schools throughout Toronto, Hamilton and surrounding communities, we are pleased to announce that Jacob T. is a super speller who has qualified for the next level of Canspell competition - the National Post Regional Spelling Bee.

Jacob is one of thousands of talented young scholars in grades 4 - 8 who have been poring over word lists

and dictionaries to prepare for their school spelling bee competitions. Now, from an incredible pool of talented spellers, 65 students have qualified to compete at the National Post Regional Spelling Bee, February 21, at Ryerson University.

Congratulations, Jacob on being one of the Regional Finalists!

### **Alliston Legion Public Speaking Contest**

The following students were invited to attend the Alliston Legion Public Speaking Contest:

Antonio P. – Grade 2

Alex B. – Grade 6

Alan D. – Grade 5

Jacob T. – Grade 7

On Sunday, January 24, 2010, Antonio P., Alan D., and Jacob T. attended the Alliston Legion Public Speaking Contest and they all spoke very well. Antonio P. placed 1<sup>st</sup> in his age group. Antonio will be going on to the next level in Orangeville on February 28<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to all our students!

### **6<sup>th</sup> Annual Ski/Snowboard Tournament**

Thor College held it's 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Ski/Snowboard tournament at Snow Valley on January 28, 2010. This year we had 9 SSAF schools participating. It was a great turnout.

Jessica D. placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the U10 girls skiing this year. After we tallied up all the points, Fieldstone Day School had won the tournament. Congratulations to everyone! It was a fantastic day.



**2010 Ski/Snowboard Tournament**

### **Winter Carnival**

The winter carnival took place over three days, Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup> to Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup>. On Thursday we had a family ski day at Snow Valley and some of the students took part in the ski/snowboard tournament.

On Friday all the students took part in a bunch of activities starting with a talent show in the gym, followed by Grade 7-10 fundraising activities, and ending with the Winter Olympics outdoor activities.

Special recognition goes out to those students who shared their talent with us. From karate to dancing & singing to telling jokes, we have some very talented students at Thor College:

James & Elizabeth H.

Lucas N.

Emma M.

Matilda B.

Kathleen B.

Gaby R. & her Dad

Kaitlyn M. & BoMin K.

Jessica D.

Jake D.

Hannah B.

Winston B. & Austin H.

Blake C.

Arthur S.

Sophie W.



**Kathleen B. - at the talent show**



**Mrs. Wilson & Alisha with whip cream pie**



**Mr. G. (in a dress); Miss Wardlaw (taped to the wall); Mr. Smith (wearing make-up).**

The Grade 7-10 students raised over \$1,000.00 from this fundraising event.

The house points for Winter Carnival are as follows:

Tigers – 35 points

Hurricanes – 22 points

Olympians – 18 points

Royals – 16 points

### **Team Tigers are the overall winners of the Winter Carnival**

We have two students who are to be recognized for all of their hard work during winter carnival. Both of these students participated very well and were very helpful in the set-up and organization of all areas of the Winter Carnival.



The Prince of the winter carnival is Derek P.

The Princess of the winter carnival is Megan A.

### **30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala/Snowball**

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual TCPA Snow Ball/30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala was held on Saturday January 30<sup>th</sup> at the Barrie Country Club. We had a very good turnout of guests including some alumni from years ago. We enjoyed a delicious chicken dinner and dessert table. One of the highlights of the evening was the beautiful 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cake prepared by our own chef, Jeffrey Kenny. He did a fantastic job of merging the original schoolhouse with the new school building. It was almost too nice to cut.

We followed our dinner with dancing to the music of the live band,

Hi-Fi Seoul. To capture the family spirit, portraits were offered and many great pictures were captured.

The TCPA also offered a silent auction. Overall the silent auction was a great fundraiser and raised almost \$800. Thanks go to everyone for bidding!

It was a great evening to complete the annual Thor College Winter Carnival and to celebrate 30 Years of Education at Thor College.

All in all, the evening was a success.



30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cake

### **Easter Seals Chili Fest With Chef Jeff**

On Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup> Chef Jeff was involved in the Easter Seals 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Chili Cook Off. Students and staff from Thor College showed their support for Chef Jeff and the Easter Seals Society by handing out Chef Jeff's chili at this event.



We received a very nice thank you letter from Chef Jeff for our support this weekend:

*Dear Thor College:*

*From all of us at Canadian Culinary Guild, we would like to express our deepest and dearest thanks for all of your support and assistance this past weekend at the Easter Seals 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Chili Cook Off!*

*Helping charities and staying involved with our communities is something we hold true to us and is very important for all those involved leading by example.*

*We are Proud to have you a part of our family and are always there to aid and support in anything we can for you.*

*Thanks again Thor College, you stepped in and showed overwhelming support for a great cause.*

*Jeffrey Kenny  
Chef/Owner  
CCG Inc.*

## Grade 7 to 10 trip to Ottawa

By Rosina H., Grade 7

On February 8 to 11, 2010 the Grade 7 to 10 students went to Ottawa with Mr. Mike and Mr. Smith. I will give you an overview of our trip:

Monday morning we all got to school around 7:15/7:30 a.m. We put our suitcases on the bus and got on the bus. We met our bus driver – Fred – he told us the rules and then we left the school. We had a four-hour bus ride of talking, listening to music, and eventually we watched a movie. After four hours we had to stop for a bathroom break. So we wandered around this stop for about 10 minutes, then we were on the bus for another two hours.

When we finally got to Ottawa, one of the first things we did was find a food court so we could have lunch. After that, we met our tour guide, Valerie. In the afternoon we toured around Ottawa. Later we went to the Quebec side of Winterlude.

The Winterlude on the Quebec side is so fun! I think it was everyone's favourite part of the trip. They have tubing and ice fishing (the ice fishing was only open on the weekends so we couldn't go) and these really cool ice slides. We went on the slides again and again. It was tiring running up to the slides, but worth it. At last we got to our hotel. We went out for dinner to a restaurant in Quebec.



At the Ice Slides

Tuesday morning we woke up, had breakfast, and we took the bus around Ottawa. We went to the places we hadn't been yet. We saw the French Embassy and the Prime Minister's house. We also saw some of the Rideau River rapids. We also went outside the Civilization Museum because Valerie showed us how the entrance looks like a "First People's" face. She also showed us that the building had no corners because the "First People's" believed that that's how bad spirits got in. The building was built like this because the architect was First People.

We then went shopping. Tuesday was the only day we could buy souvenirs. We had lunch at Subway followed by a visit to the War Museum. That was really cool. We went to the hotel for free time which was a relief because we were tired. We were still tired when we went out to dinner at Swiss Chalet.



At the Civilization Museum

When dinner was finished, we kept asking the teachers if we could go back to the hotel, we were so tired. But, when we got on the bus, Mr. Smith gave us all envelopes. Valerie told us we had to open them all at the same time and then we could go to our hotel if we still

wanted to. When she said, “Go!” we all opened the envelopes. The minute we saw it we were all so happy and we realized that we would not be going back to the hotel...we were going to an NHL hockey game! The Senators vs. the Flames. The hockey game was really fun! We screamed so much!

The next day was our busy Wednesday. We had breakfast and then it was off to see the inside of the Civilization Museum. The museum had some things that were pretty cool. We had lunch at Pizza Hut and went skating on the canal. I destroyed my knees. It’s not only because I fell a lot, it’s because I fell hard. I definitely wasn’t the only one that fell.

Tired and sore we headed back to the hotel for some free time. We went to Quebec again for dinner. We went to the biggest buffet in North America, which was pretty cool. At about 7:00p.m. we went to the Old Ottawa jail (also known as the haunted jail). We got a tour of the haunted jail, which was cool, not to mention it was fun scaring each other.



**At the War Museum**

Thursday was a day of rushing. We were fairly lucky that instead of waking up at 6:30 a.m., we got to wake up at 7:00 a.m. That morning we had to rush to pack, rush down to breakfast, rush to bring our luggage down, and rush to the bus.

First, we went to the Art Museum, had lunch at McDonalds, and finished with going all around and inside the Parliament buildings. After that we said good-bye to Valerie and started home at about 2:30 p.m. Six long hours later we got back to the school at 8:00 p.m. Tired and hungry for supper, we all went home.

The trip was fun because we started a few funny traditions without realizing it. Every night at about 9:30 p.m. the girls would watch Much Music. Every day at least 3 of us had Beavertails, and we all got very little sleep. Trips like this are fun and, at the time, you never want it to end but on the day you’re leaving all you want to do is go home.



**2009-2010 Trip to Ottawa**

## **Valentine’s Day Dress Down and Dance**

On February 12, 2010 Thor College had a Valentine’s Day Dance. Everybody dressed in red, pink and white. Students and teachers exchanged Valentine Candy Grams and then had a Valentine lunch.

The teachers held a scavenger hunt where the houses were split up into

groups of 5. Each group had to follow the clues and riddles around the school and bring their answers to Miss Wardlaw. The winning team was the Olympians.

After the scavenger hunt, there was a small dance and there was a variety of fun music to dance to. We all had lots of fun. The dance ended when we went to Family skating.



Valentine's Day Dance

### MS Read-A-Thon

Students at Thor College held a read-a-thon for Multiple Sclerosis. It started in January and went until February 20, 2010. In this time, students were to record how many minutes they read and how many pledges they received. The students also put the Valentine candy gram money towards the MS Read-A-Thon. After tallying up the pledges, Miss Sweet is very pleased to announce that Thor College students raised \$1,600.00. The Grade 5/6 class raised the most money and will be having a party with Miss Sweet.

One in 500 Canadians live everyday with Multiple Sclerosis. With your donations to the MS Society we are able to help people get wheelchairs and equipment to make their day-to-day life

a little easier. The other half goes to doctors and researchers who are trying to find a cure.

Congratulations to Mr. Gregotski's Grade 5/6 class and to all the students who participated in the read-a-thon. Great reading!



### Orangeville Legion Zone Level-Public Speaking

On Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, Antonio P. went on to the zone level competition for public speaking at the Orangeville Legion. Antonio did very well in his age category. Well done, Antonio!



Antonio P. - Public Speaking Contest

## Thank You

On behalf of Thor College staff and students, we would like to extend a very heartfelt thank-you to all of the Thor College Parents' Association members who organized a fantastic Snow Ball/30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary dinner and dance.

Thank you to the TCPA members for all of your efforts in organizing the venue, the well-received silent auction, the photographer, the beautiful decorations, and a well laid out seating plan. Everyone contributed a lot of time and hard work towards making the evening run so smoothly.

The evening was a tremendous success and will be a memorable experience for all who attended.

## Our Students' Work

### Young Writer's Poetry Contest

Hannah B.s poem "Flowers" has been chosen to be included in the top group of entries in the Young Writer's Poetry contest. Her poem will be published in a book of verse called *The Treasure Ship*. Hannah's poem will now go forward into the final competition to be judged in the Spring 2010. Congratulations Hannah! The winning poem is written below:

#### Flowers

They bloom in sunlight  
They have pretty colours too  
They smell so good  
They give food to good bees

## Winter

Speech by Antonio P., Gr. 2

"Hey everyone! It's snowing! Get dressed, we can go out!" Good morning teachers and students. Today, I'm going to tell you about all the fun we can have in winter. Santa comes in the winter and my birthday is in the winter. Sit back and enjoy my speech.

In the winter, we celebrate Christmas and Santa comes. At Christmas we give Santa milk, cookies, apples and beer. He brings me and Frank two toys each and Mom and Dad bring the rest. We like the toys because they are sweet and so much fun to play with. Christmas is a great part of winter.

Another cool thing about winter is the snow. We can have snowball fights and go snowmobiling. We go snowmobiling in our field. I go with Mom, Dad, Frank, Mr. Natalie, and Nicholas. Sometimes we even go on the trails. Afterwards we get to have hot chocolate.

A really cool thing about the winter is that it's my birthday. My birthday is on January 27. My friends come over and we build a skating rink. I get to see my family and we are allowed to wrestle in the snow.

I love having my birthday in the winter. Wow! Winter sure is fun! We have Santa and Christmas, snowmobiling, and my birthday. I hope winter is as fun for you as it is for me!

## Dilbert

Speech by Alan D., Gr. 5

What's the first thing you read when you open a newspaper? I, personally, need a laugh in the morning so I go straight to the comics. What is your favourite one? Mine is the legendary Scott Adam's cartoon DILBERT. It's so popular that it's everywhere; on TV, Internet, and Calendars. There are also many books. You can see those pictures in pretty much every office; on desks, bulletin boards, and walls. This cartoon became very popular all over the world, but in North America in particular. Why? Because each and every cartoon's funny situation is 100% real. Most people can hotly say, "That is just like our office".

There are some main characters, which are easily recognizable. First is the smart, hardworking but unhappy and disappointed engineer, Dilbert. He always tries to do his job in the best possible way, but it doesn't do him any good. In Dilbert's eyes everyone in marketing is an idiot and the HR department is the root of all evil. Dilbert has a very intelligent dog whose name is Dogbert. Dogbert knows the corporate world very well. He always uses his knowledge by creating endless consulting and supporting companies to extract money from the big corporations.

Dilbert's opposite is Wally. Wally is smart, but incredibly lazy. He spends most of his time drinking coffee and avoiding any kind of work. Here is the situation:

Wally: Gaaa! I feel a pang of caring about my work!

Wally gulps down coffee: Glug, Glug, Glug, Glug...

Dilbert: Did you kill it?

Wally: I think so, but I better roll a donut in front of the cave!

In my opinion Wally has knowledge of everything. He knows how to avoid work and to avoid people asking for help on their projects. He knows everything about coffee. He even has some sort of religion: I believe God created Earth because he hates people and also coffee tastes better if you stir it with your finger.

Alice represents all women who try to work their way up the corporate ladder. She is very smart, incredibly hardworking, dedicated, but also very aggressive. She has to be. Corporate environment is not an easy world, especially for women. So, yes, she has a temper the size of the Earth and she is famous for her FIST OF DEATH.

Asok is a poorly paid intern who can use telekinesis and hopes that someday he will be promoted. Asok is always asking Wally for advice and, surprisingly, Wally gives him advice. Is it good advice? This is the question!

There are also people from the other (dark) side: Nameless, Shameless, and Blameless Pointy Haired Boss, The Evil Director of HR Catbert and last, but not least, when it comes to money, multiple CEO's.

Cartoon is about everyday life inside a poorly managed company. Pointy Haired Boss is always dropping huge amounts of work on Dilbert, Wally, and Alice only to have it cancelled later. Think about it; you stay up all night working on some deadlines for a "very important" project and then when you are almost done with it your boss drops in and says, "By the way, your project

was cancelled yesterday”. Alice and Dilbert and Wally are a team. If one of them fails, they all fail. But Wally never does anything, so Dilbert and Alice must do his work as well as their own. There is also no appreciation to be expected. Ever...

Catbert is full of dreadful ideas how to make people’s life even more miserable. Company HR doesn’t need to fire people. They make the employees’ job so terrible that they quit themselves.

Many people can compare this office place with their own. They are sitting in the crumpled cubicles, working on useless projects, while their bosses are in private offices shifting the documents on the desks. CEO’s are making a huge amount of money by making stupid decisions, even though company stocks are plummeting down.

I am sure I will see Scott Adam’s cartoon on the walls of my first cubicle as well as I will drink coffee with Wally and Dilbert and choose the seat at the meeting table as far from Alice as possible.

## **My Mexican Vacations**

By Jacob T., Gr. 7

Most people when they go to Mexico they go to Cancun, big beach resorts or some huge casino place but they never get to experience what I have. Mexico is a lot different from Cancun and all those places. Most people have never even seen a single Mayan ruin! Every year at March break my family and I head to Mexico for two weeks in different places every time.

The first time I went was in 2008. The first days were in a hotel complex in the middle of the jungle right beside the pyramids! The only downside

was the peacocks. It was mating season so they screamed all night. I slept through it but my family did not. The first thing I heard when I woke up was ‘HOW DID YOU SLEEP THROUGH THAT!!!!’ After the night of the noisy peacocks we headed to the ruins with a tour guide. The big pyramid was closed so we could not climb it because of two old people falling down the steps and dying. The arena for ball games had two hoops on each side of the walls and you had to throw the ball in the hoop to earn a point. If you won you would be sacrificed to the mighty gods. Being sacrificed was awesome back then.

After a few days we went to Merida, a city of a million people, where we stayed for the rest of the trip.

The next year I went we first went to an island called: ‘Isla Mujeres’. Isla Mujeres means island of women. It is named this because when the white man discovered it they found that there were statues of people that looked like women. After 3 days there we left to my new condo in Progreso.

The condo was built where the big asteroid that killed all the dinosaurs landed. It was in a small community with a lot of nice people. No one would even try to hurt you. The community has restaurants, stores and people just trying to make some money. The beaches were not the kind you see in the movies they have some resemblance but there were some rocks shells and bits of coral in the sand.

Every day my family and I on the beach would take a walk at 8:00 AM right when the fishermen came back so we got fresh fish on the spot. For my sisters birthday she wanted to visit a cenote. A cenote is a giant sinkhole in the ground that leads to an underground

river. To get to some of them in the Yucatan, one has to go by a horse drawn cart. There were three cenotes and they were all fun.

On our last full day in Mexico for that time, we had a party with all the condo owners in the courtyard. Every person was in charge of one type of food and I was making the shrimp. But like all vacations it had to end but I have the chance of going back for Christmas!

On the Christmas vacation we had my cousins from Quebec be with us. The first day was horrible since my cousins' plane was late we had to stand for 2 hours waiting in the rain

The next day...not a single cloud in the sky! Because of the nice weather, we went straight to the ocean after having had a breakfast of mangoes, toast and juice. (The Mangoes there are way better than here!) The ocean was nice and warmer than the pool, which was freezing!

The next few days were the same routine i.e. wake up, eat, talk, go for a walk, visit a bit, eat and chat for a few hours. Christmas was different.

A couple nights before Christmas, we saw two police officers blocking the road. We went to ask them what was going on. They said that a Christmas celebration named "Posada" was underway. It is celebrated every night at a different house for the last 9 days until Christmas.

Our Mexican neighbours invited us to join in. The kids sang and danced and then they hit the Piñata and we ate the candies that came out of it! The people are so nice there!

On Christmas Eve we stayed up until midnight and opened the presents from each other and played charade. Our tree was a fishing net hung to make a

shape of a cone and was decorated with tree decorations.

Our last full day was in a hotel called "Courtyard Marriott" the place and the food was great. The next day we had to come back to this frozen land of snow. (I had a hard time adapting.) Other wonders of this country we call Mexico are yours to discover.

## **My Thoughts on Communication Throughout the Ages**

By Alex B., Grade 6

Good afternoon, teachers and fellow students, I would like to share with you my thoughts on communication throughout the ages.

From the dawn of time, humans have had a "need" to communicate with each other. Cavemen had a fascinating form of communication. A few grunts and a club smashed over someone's head got the point across. Life was good.

As time went on humans developed less painful forms of communication. This is where the story of communication really begins. Face to face communication was very easy and effective. You just stood there and talked.

People got the point and friendships were made and possibly enemies depending on the conversation.

Communication is what we do to give and get understanding. It is an exchange of words and meanings, a two-way process of sending and receiving messages. Effective communication builds strong, healthy relationships. This implies that poor communication will cause relationship problems.

It was a little more challenging, as the world got larger through

exploration. Long distance communication was born. Some countries had runners that carried messages to other parts of the world. Wait! Did I mention communication now had a written form?

The Indians had smoke signals and of course don't forget the carrier pigeon. This is only to name a few ways of long distance communication.

This still didn't satisfy the human's need for communication. The more they had the more they wanted. Soon, there were radios, televisions, movies, satellites, and much more. People needed to know what was going on in the world around them.

Technology was a good thing – for a while. Then everyone was hooked. The telephone was not good enough anymore; everyone also needed a cell phone. Then cell phones weren't good enough, now everyone wants a Blackberry. People look like cyborgs with their phone earpiece stuck to them. People look like they are talking to the air when they are driving.

Let's not forget the internet. You can access the internet from almost anywhere using your cell phone, blackberry, iPod, or computer – 24-7.

The sad part is, that with all this technology, the human factor has diminished. People obsess over their telephones and computers but find it hard to say good morning to their neighbours. They will spend hours in chat rooms on the internet but not attend family gatherings.

I think we need to step back and remember what's important. With people stuck on cell phones and computers they will never experience the small joys in life. People should hang out with their friends, have a drink, and

sit down and talk together. Don't get me wrong, the internet is very important. It allows you to talk to family and friends all over the world, but there is nothing like face-to-face communication.

These are my thoughts on communication throughout the ages. Thank you for listening and have a good day.

## *Other News*

### **Oral Health Screening**

On Tuesday, February 23, 2010 the Simcoe County Health Unit was at Thor College for an oral health screening of students in JK-SK, Grades 2, 4, 6, & 8. The Health Unit is now offering an extension program for teens.

#### **CINOT EXTENSION PROGRAM**

Teens, up to and including the age of 17, are now included in dental coverage for urgently needed dental care through the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, Children in Need of Treatment (CINOT) program. If you do not have dental insurance benefits and cannot afford the cost of urgent dental treatment for your child you may be eligible for financial assistance.

For more information on the program call the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit – Health Connection at 721-7520 or 108770721-7520 ext 8804 (Mon. to Fri., 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) or visit our website [www.simcoemuskokahealth.org](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org)