

Thornton High School  
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## Thornton Students Represent

### STUDENT LEADERSHIP IS SHOWCASED AT SPRING SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

Students were provided the opportunity to present at recent School Board meetings this semester. Christopher Perlera of the SLC provided School Board members a glimpse of student-led activities at Thornton. These activities included spirit competitions, student store, promoting job opportunities for youth, and attendance awareness. In addition, Aracely Salas, Gabrielle Sarion, and Jasper Stanley shared student work by presenting about influential figures in celebration and commemoration of African American History Month. We are proud of our student voice and look forward to our next presentation with our School Board on April 17th discussing school lunch programs. Last, we are happy to announce Gabrielle Sarion as our Student of the Month for April at the April 17th School Board meeting.

### SCHOOL COMES TOGETHER TO ADDRESS GUN VIOLENCE

Students participated in a school wide celebration of peace and unity in March standing together against gun violence and promoting safe schools. Students voiced their opinions and shared meaningful conversation with staff and students to explore problems and solutions to gun violence. Common solutions included recommendations for more mental health services and building relationships. Homerooms designed posters and the school participated in a gallery walk to display their work. In a fitting end to the event, the entire school was treated to brunch by Thornton staff. All enjoyed a meal together promoting peace and unity.

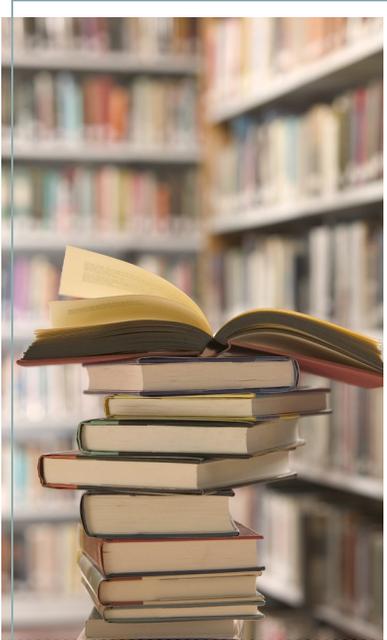


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#### SPECIAL POINT(S) OF INTEREST

- Graduation, Tuesday May 29th, 2018, 2pm
- Last Day of School— Thursday May 31st, 2018



## CAREER WEEK EXPOSES STUDENTS TO OPTIONS

The start of the 4th quarter brought new beginnings for students. The start of 4th quarter also kicked off Career Week. During Career Week, students participated in activities exposing students to a variety of professions. One activity in particular included interacting with guest speakers about their work, education, and experience. Guest speakers included our District Superintendent, Dr. Terry Deloria, repre-

sentatives from the military, food services, computer science, vocational programs, and career readiness. Students learned about the many options available to them after their high school years. A big thank you to Wellness/ Guidance Counselor Karla Talkoff for her work in coordinating the event and to those who helped bring speakers to our community.

*“Failure is not fatal, but failure to change might be.” - John Wooden*

### School Attendance FACTS:

- Absenteeism in the first month of school can predict poor attendance throughout the school year. Half the students who miss 2-4 days in September go on to miss nearly a month of school.
- When students improve their attendance rates, they improve their academic prospects and chances for graduating.
- A student’s relationship with their school is a key indicator of school attendance. The more connected a student is to their school community leads to better school attendance.

## WHAT DO WE MEAN BY CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM?

Chronic absence refers to students missing an extended period of school when both excused and unexcused absences are taken into account. Given the critical importance of time devoted to learning, especially in the early years, we believe it is important to count all absences. We intentionally use the term “chronic absence,” because the more frequently used term, “truancy,” only refers to unexcused absences and connotes inappropriate student behavior requiring a punitive response. Rather than blaming students, we want to broaden awareness that missing extended periods of school could be an early sign of distress in school, community or home that could respond to appropriate early intervention. We recommend defining chronic absence as missing 10 percent or more of the school year (equivalent to 18 days out of a 180 day school year) regardless of whether absences are excused or unexcused. If students miss this much school, students are less likely to meet graduation requirements and become in danger of dropping out of school. Daily school attendance above 90% is a key indicator of success in school.