

## **Goodbyes**

While the end of the school year brings excitement for the summer ahead, it can also be a sad time when we need to say ‘goodbye’ to members of our school community.

To our students who will not be returning to PDPS in September, we wish you all the best at your new schools, whether they be elementary or high school. We hope the lessons you have learned and the memories you have made at Plattsville will stay with you for a very long time!

We have a number of key Board staff who have supported our students this year and who will also be moving on in September. We have to say goodbye to Mr. Wright, our Superintendent, who will be supporting a new Community of Schools beginning this fall; to Ms. Richardson, our School Support Worker who will be re-assigned to schools a bit closer to home; to Mrs. Bedard, our Special Education Learning Coordinator, who will become the VP at Central PS in Woodstock; and to Mrs. McLeod, our Math Facilitator, who will be moving ‘down the road’ to the Vice Principal role at Hickson PS. We wish you all the best in your new roles and positions!

Several school-based staff will no longer be with us in September due to the end of their temporary contracts – Mrs. Lowrick, our Grade 3/4 teacher, Ms. Arthur, one of our prep teachers, Mr. Austerberry, our Itinerant Long-Term Occasional teacher and Ms. O’Reilly, one of our Educational Assistants. We are also losing two noon-hour supervisors – Ms. Vance as she continues her studies at Teacher’s College and Mrs. Fletcher who is retiring after 5 years in the role. We hope that our paths will cross again with you all at Plattsville in the future.

Finally, we must say goodbye to Mrs. McRorie who has retired from teaching but is continuing to support students and staff in a new educational leadership direction, and to Mrs. Knight who will be moving out of the area with her family. You will be very much missed by the entire Plattsville School Community, and we wish you all the best in your future endeavours!

## **Grade 8 Graduation – Thanks for the donations!**

From the Graduation Committee: We could not have created the atmosphere we did without the generosity of some local (and not so local) businesses. Please give a shout out to these businesses on Facebook, Instagram or when you are out shopping.

- Andy’s Legendary Pizza - pizzas for after party
- Foodland Ayr -squares and cookies
- Sobeys Paris - flowers
- Lumina Marquee - GRAD marquee sign (Instagram lumina\_marquee ; Facebook luminamarquee)
- Jacqueline Anderson – balloon centerpiece (Facebook Jacqueline Anderson, located in Baden)

Special thanks to all of the teachers who spent endless hours putting the presentation and evening together and to the parents who donated food, refreshments, decorations, money and time. Congratulations to all of the grade 8s.

## **2023-2024 School Year Calendar**

The 2023-2024 TVDSB calendar is now available at <https://www.tvdsb.ca/en/schools/school-year-and-religious-holiday-calendars.aspx> . Please note the first day of school for all SK – Grade 8 students will be **Wednesday**, September 6, 2023.

## **Year-End Recognition Assembly**

On Thursday, our entire school gathered to recognize students who have been part of teams, clubs, student leadership activities and PAWSitive Panther recipients, Board staff who have supported us throughout the year, Noon Hour Supervisors and school staff who will be leaving PDPS. We also were able to bring together many of our parent and community volunteers who have supported our students in many different ways including field trips, hot lunches, the nutrition program, Strong Start, the Oxford Community Library, our Safe Schools Committee and the School Council. We also want to acknowledge the generosity of our School Community for their participation in the many fundraising opportunities this year to purchase ‘extras’ for our school, as well as for your support of various charities through donations during the year. Our students’ success is due to the amazing support from Plattsville’s School Community involvement!

## **School Council Executive Elections**

The School Council is an important and mandated group within the PDPS School Community. “The purpose of school councils is, through active participation of parents, to improve pupil achievement and to enhance the accountability of the education system to parents.” In addition, our School Council organizes fundraising, the hot lunch program, and family engagement opportunities. In September, the Executive and Members at Large are elected. Attached please find an outline of the roles of the Executive, as well as nomination forms for those interested in holding a formal position. You do not have to be a member of the Executive to attend School Council meetings – they are all open to all members of the school community to attend.

## **Ministry of Education**

Please see the attached letter to parents from the Minister of Education regarding updates to Curriculum and School Supports for the upcoming school year and beyond.

## Parent Volunteers 2023-2024

We are encouraging all parents to complete a Police Check to be able to volunteer with students at the school as well as for field trips and driving to sports events in 2023-2024. You do not have to wait to complete your free online request through the OPP. If you do not already have a Vulnerable Sector report filed with the school, please contact Ms. Elcombe to receive the 'agency letter' you will require. Those who have their Police Check on file will only have to complete an Offence Declaration for 2023-2024. <https://www.opp.ca/index.php?id=147&lng=en> If you are interested in becoming a volunteer for next year, please contact Mrs. Werezak at [r.werezak@tvdsb.ca](mailto:r.werezak@tvdsb.ca) for more details.

## Lost & Found

Now that our year is over, we have many new Lost and Found items to share. If anything belongs in your home, please contact Ms. Elcombe ([t.elcombe@tvdsb.ca](mailto:t.elcombe@tvdsb.ca)) and we will arrange for them to be available during the Oxford County Library opening hours for you to pick up. Remember, the Mabel's Labels fundraiser runs continually throughout the year and these labels have been very helpful in returning items to students so they do not end up in the Lost and Found in the first place! [https://mabelslabels.ca/en\\_CA/fundraising/support/](https://mabelslabels.ca/en_CA/fundraising/support/)

## Summer Contacts

Although our custodians will be working in the building throughout the summer, our phones will not be monitored daily for any messages or inquiries. Should you need to get hold of the school this summer, the best way to contact us will be through email to either [plattsville@tvdsb.ca](mailto:plattsville@tvdsb.ca) or Ms. Elcombe [t.elcombe@tvdsb.ca](mailto:t.elcombe@tvdsb.ca) directly for a quicker response. The office will re-open on Monday, August 28, 8:30 – 4:00 pm.

## Produce Express

Don't forget to use the **PLATT2023** code as you are making your purchases from Produce Express this summer. They have generously offered us an ongoing fundraising code that can be used throughout the year, summer included! All proceeds go toward our school's nutrition program. Just enter our code in the 'fundraising code' section when you checkout. Thanks for your support!

## A Letter From Kathy in the Oxford Community Library

Hello Friends,

Thank you for picking up the blue package for Summer Reading - Curiosity Club. Please remember to sign up on Beanstack as this is the way we get our statistics on how successful or unsuccessful our programs are. In the package, you were given information for Beanstack as well as TD Summer Reading Club. These 2 are not connected so if you put something on Beanstack you will need to put it on TD as well if you want to participate in both. Beanstack tracks minutes read. I will have a chart at the library to show how many minutes have been read by Plattsville participants. Let's see if we can get to 5000 minutes by August 31st. As of right now 64 packages have been picked up and 14 have signed up on Beanstack.

My plan at the library is to have Curiosity Club Craft/Activity time at the library every Wednesday from 1-2 (the library opens at 2 so people can stay longer). We will not be having one on Wednesday, August 16th.

### Plattsville Curiosity Club – Summer Reading

- Get a registration package – Please sign up on Beanstack as that is where we get a lot of statistics from.
- READ 100 Books Challenge – bookmark
- Pick a Stuffedie with a flag – limited quantities
- Get picture taken with Stuffedie in Photobooth – continue to share your pictures of stuffedie throughout the summer by emailing [plattsvillelibrary@ocl.net](mailto:plattsvillelibrary@ocl.net) Pictures with people in will not be shared on social media unless a consent form is signed.
- Colour first letter of your name and add to desk – each week you come in add a sticker
- Follow OCL on social media and watch the calendar for special events
- Every Wednesday starting July 5<sup>th</sup>- Curiosity Club from 1:00 – 2:00 (no club on August 16<sup>th</sup>)
- 2 Special Events – **Registration required** Registration opens on July 4<sup>th</sup> on OCL Calendar or in person. Museum of Ontario Archeology – Wednesday July 26<sup>th</sup> 10-11 – Pinch Pots (pottery) and Wednesday August 9<sup>th</sup> 10-11 – Mini Excavations - 25 spots available for each program.
- Ice cream party and games for those who have participated in Summer Reading – Wednesday August 30<sup>th</sup> 1-2. Please let us know you are coming by August 25<sup>th</sup>

Visit the Plattsville Library regularly for fun activities ie: scavenger hunts, movies, Craft and Connect kits

**Library Open Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 9-12 and 2-7**  
**Wednesdays 2-7**  
**Saturdays 9-1**

There is plenty of time to pick up a package if you have not picked one up yet or if your friends want to join too. Looking forward to seeing lots of families this summer.

Kathy

## **Summer Mental Wellness Supports**

To support students with changes in routine during the summer, anxiety for starting back to school in September and other issues that can become overwhelming for students, the following supports are available throughout the summer to support their mental wellness, both for general and crisis assistance.

*Drop-in Mental Health Support Clinics* are available across all regions of the Valley. Students and caregivers can attend any of these clinics, regardless of which school they are registered to attend in September. See the schedule posted at the link below. The closest schools listed to Plattsville are Algonquin PS in Woodstock and IDCI in Ingersoll.

<https://www.tvdsb.ca/en/students/mental-health-and-well-being.aspx>

Additional local and online supports can be found through the following services:

### **Wellkin**

Quick Access Therapy Services: [https://wellkin.ca/programs\\_services/quick-access-therapy-services/](https://wellkin.ca/programs_services/quick-access-therapy-services/)

24/7 Phone Support: 1-877-539-0463

### **Woodstock General Hospital**

Outpatient Mental Health Support: <https://www.woodstockhospital.ca/mental-health/>

Talk-in Counselling: Thursdays 12-6pm at Woodstock Hospital (Athlone Entrance). Valid Health Card Required. Contact Outpatient Mental Health at 519-421-4223. Please call between 8:30 am-4:30 pm Monday through Friday to book an appointment.

**CMHA Talk-In Clinics (All Ages)** <https://cmhatv.ca/>. Registration ends 1 hour before closing time. Appointments are made in advance by phone.

**Woodstock:** Saturdays from 11am-4pm

Canadian Mental Health Association, 522 Peel Street | 1-800-859-7248

**Tillsonburg:** Mondays from 12-8pm

Canadian Mental Health Association, 41 Broadway Street | 1-800-859-7248

**Ingersoll:** Tuesdays from 3-8pm

Canadian Mental Health Association

Ingersoll Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinic, 19 King Street East | 1-800-859-7248

**Kids Help Phone** 1-800-668-6868, or text CONNECT to 686868

**One Stop Talk** <https://onestoptalk.ca/> - Virtual counselling

## **Thoughts of the Day this past week**

A diamond is merely a lump of coal that did well under pressure.

A goal is a dream with a deadline.

Be a first-rate version of yourself, not a second-rate version of someone else.

We made it! We crossed the finish line and we're ready to celebrate! To all Grade 8s - best wishes for your new start in high school!

Thank you Panthers, for making this year memorable and amazing. Enjoy your summer and we'll see you in September!

## **Upcoming Dates**

Wednesday, September 6

First day of school for Senior Kindergarten through Grade 8s!

Have a safe, happy, memory-filled summer, Panther families! Please enjoy the End of Year slideshow

<https://youtu.be/PcwXsU3HM4o> and the collage from Playday.

Contact Us at [plattsville@tvdsb.ca](mailto:plattsville@tvdsb.ca) or 519-684-7436.