

PDPS Update February 2, 2024

Student Council Activities

Student Council will be running several events during the month of February with our “Be Kind” theme at the center of it! While many school-wide challenges will take place in the school, students will be encouraged to carry these over into their homes and the greater community.

Our kick-off will begin on February 14th with a red, white and pink day. Each day through to Pink Shirt Day on February 28, our students will be challenged to do a kind deed around the school. Students will also come home with a ‘kindness card’ on Thursday, February, 15th. This card will be given to everyone to complete and record their ‘acts of kindness’ at home or in the community. Once the card is full, it may be returned to the school before our “Be Kind” assembly on February 28th.

Starting early next week, you will be able to purchase a pretzel (like an Oktoberfest pretzel) through SchoolCash Online until Friday, February 23rd. For the low price of \$3.00, your child can have a yummy pretzel delivered on Wednesday, February 28th. For those with an allergy, wanting something different OR who forgot to buy before the 23rd you will be able to purchase a rocket popsicle the day of February 28th for \$2.00. Monies raised from this treat day will go towards the Thames Valley Education Foundation’s “Toonie Tuesday Caring Fund” which provides support for our students and their families across the Valley who come to school hungry, without proper clothing, school supplies or other basic necessities that we all are fortunate to have. For more information on how the Caring Fund has supported students in TVDSB, including some here at PDPS, please see the Impact Report attached. Thank you for always supporting our students and the events that we all can be a part of. [Caring Fund impact report](#)

School Council Fundraiser

The PDPS School Council will be selling Elmira Chicken Products to raise funds to purchase materials and items for Special Education and Arts resources for classrooms. The order forms were sent home Thursday with your youngest/only child in paper form. We will be using SchoolCash online to collect all orders and payments but will **ask that a master copy of your orders (paper form with your selections checked off) also be sent to the school with your family's name (no money please)** so we can track and double-check orders on delivery day. An electronic copy of the order form is attached to the SchoolMessenger email sent to all families that can be shared with family or friends who may wish to order, as we will not be sending out an additional link to SchoolCash. If you have family and friends who do wish to order, we would ask that you keep track of their information on your family's paper copy and put in one 'master order' through SchoolCash online. The window to enter orders online will be Thursday, February 1st through to midnight on Tuesday, February 13th. If you have any questions with regard to the SchoolCash online process, please contact us at the school (plattsville@tvdsb.ca). Questions directly related to the orders should be sent to Dawn at boomer_dawn@hotmail.com. Orders will need to be in by Tuesday, February 13th, and pick-up for orders will be on Saturday, March 2nd at the school (times to follow). Thanks in advance for your support. [Master sell sheet](#)

Tarmac only before/after school

Once again, we are reminding everyone that all outdoor equipment, including the climbers, slides and monkey bars, are closed for the winter season during school hours (8:30 – 4:00 pm). We also ask that before and after school, students remain on the tarmac areas as we have limited staff available to supervise at these times. While we know that many parents are with their children, staff are not able to distinguish between those who are being supervised by adults and those who are not. Accidents can occur very quickly no matter who is supervising, and we would like to mitigate these types of winter occurrences as much as possible. Students will have the opportunity to play in the snow during recesses and outdoor learning times when we can provide sufficient supervision for everyone. Thank you for your understanding and support.

Lost & Found

Please see the attached photos for this week’s lost and found items. Please let us know what belongs in your home and we’ll make sure it gets back to your child! [Photos](#)

Graduation and Class/Group Photos

Grade 8 graduation and class/group photos will take place on Tuesday, February 6. [Grad Photo flyer](#)

Skating at the Arena

Thanks to the many student and parent volunteers, and to staff for making our first two weeks of skating at the arena so successful. We can always use additional volunteers for tying up skates and to assist on the ice. If you require your police check, please contact Ms. Elcombe (t.elcombe@tvdsb.ca) for the ‘agency letter’ required. If you have any questions regarding skating, please contact Mrs. Finnie (e.finnie@tvdsb.ca).

Dental Screenings

Students in JK/SK and Grade 2 will participate in oral health assessments by Public Health on Wednesday, February 14, and Grade 7 students and those requiring re-screening from last year will be seen on Friday, February 16. If your child is NOT in JK, SK, Grade 2 or Grade 7 but you would like them to be screened when Public Health is at your school, please send a letter or note to your child's teacher. If you do not want your child to be included in the Public Health dental screening, please send a letter or note to your child's teacher. [poster](#)

Black History month

February is [#BlackHistoryMonth](#). At [#TVDSB](#), It's a time to celebrate the outstanding achievements of Black Canadians and learn about the many Black individuals who have changed our world for the better. Please visit <http://www.tvdsb.ca/BHM> to learn more about how we are recognizing Black History Month. [logo](#)

Black Community Engagement Session

Thames Valley is pleased to announce the third in a series of Community Engagement Sessions held in 2023-24 designed to foster and enhance relationships with various groups and communities. This initiative is aligned with Goals 1, 2 and 7 of the TVDSB Operational Plan: **Goal 1:** Student identities and abilities are affirmed. **Goal 2:** Students, staff, and families will experience a greater sense of connection, safety, and well-being in their school. **Goal 7:** Engage and communicate with staff, students, and the community to build relationships and inform our work at Thames Valley. This session is an opportunity for Thames Valley District School Board representatives to **listen and learn** from students, families, and community members from the Black community as they share their input in support of Thames Valley's Combatting Anti-Black Racism Strategy. Details related to the session are as follows:

What: Black Community Engagement Session

When: Wednesday, February 7, 2024; 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Where: Sir Frederick Banting Secondary School (125 Sherwood Forest Square, London, ON)

Who: Any and all members of the Black Community connected to TVDSB are invited to attend.

How: Register at the following link: <https://bit.ly/BlackCommunityEngagement2024>

Description: The Black Community Engagement Session is for Black students, families, and community members in London, ON. This session is an opportunity for Thames Valley District School Board representatives to **listen and learn** from students, families, and community members from the Black community as they share their input in support of Thames Valley's Combatting Anti-Black Racism Strategy. A free meal will be provided to all attendees. Please see the poster for further information. [Poster](#)

Change to April PD Day

In alignment with other school boards across the province, please be advised that the Professional Activity Day scheduled for Friday, April 19th, 2024, will be changed to Monday, April 8th, 2024. The reason for this decision is safety concerns associated with a total solar eclipse scheduled to affect the region between 2-4:30pm on Monday, April 8th, 2024.

Looking directly at a total solar eclipse can be dangerous because of the intense sunlight that is still present even when the moon is blocking part of or all of the sun. The sun's rays can cause damage to the eyes. Regular sunglasses are not sufficient for looking at a solar eclipse because they do not block the harmful solar radiation.

Southwestern Public Health and the Middlesex-London Health Unit recommend following the advice of the Canadian Association of Optometrists to safely enjoy a solar eclipse. For more information about on how to safely experience the total solar eclipse, please visit the NASA website for additional resources. <https://science.nasa.gov/eclipses/resources/>

Thank you for your understanding. The health and safety of students and staff is our number one priority. TVDSB

Ongoing Fundraisers

Milk and popcorn tickets may be purchased through SchoolCash online. Milk is sold daily, popcorn is sold on Wednesdays. [Mabel's Labels](#) is an ongoing fundraiser throughout the year.

From Southwestern Public Health

Eating Disorders Awareness Week – February 1-7, 2024

Diet and weight loss talk is so common in our society that it's really hard to feel good about our bodies and the food we eat. Eating disorders and disordered eating are becoming more common; 46% of Ontario youth in grades 7-12 have concerns about food, weight and body image. The way that adults talk about food and bodies has a big impact on how kids feel. Let's work together to make a change! Learn how you can support your child in developing a positive relationship with food and with their body by reading our new resource (<https://www.swpublichealth.ca/en/my-health/resources/2024-food-tips-for-children-and-parents.pdf>). If you have concerns about your child's eating or body image, visit nedic.ca to access live chat support, or call 1-866-NEDIC-20.

Community Events

Plattsville Youth Dance

There will be a FREE youth dance for Grade 6 to 8 students at the Plattsville Lion's Hall on Friday, February 9. Please see the attached poster for details. [Poster](#)

Discovery Western Summer Camp

Western Engineering Outreach is looking forward to offering our summer camp programs again in 2024! In our Summer Day Camp you can look forward to a LOT of engineering and science fun! We program robots, design structures, and of course, a few engineers might be made in the process! Campers will register based on the grade they will be entering in fall 2024. Our camp groups are grades SK-2, grades 3-5, grades 6-8 and Just For Girls camps. **This year our registration is changing! Each camp week will have registration open on a unique day:**

Week 1 (July 2 to July 5)- Registration opens Tuesday, January 23rd.

Week 2 (July 8 to July 12)- Registration opens Thursday, January 25th.

Week 3 (July 15 to July 19)- Registration opens Tuesday, January 30th.

Week 4 (July 22 to July 26)- Registration opens Thursday, February 1st.

Week 5 (July 29 to Aug 2)- Registration opens Tuesday, February 6th.

Week 6 (Aug 6 to Aug 9)- Registration opens Thursday, February 8th.

Week 7 (Aug 12 to Aug 16)- Registration opens Tuesday, February 13th.

Week 8 (Aug 19 to Aug 23)- Registration opens Thursday, February 15th.

Tip: Take the time to create an account ahead of the registration dates to make your registration process smoother!

Registrations will open at 11 am. The cost for a 5-day camp week is \$275.

Thoughts of the Day

Your time will come. Everything before that is either a lesson or a reminder.

Gratitude paints little smiley faces on everything it touches.

The world is changed by your example, not your opinion.

Kindness is doing what you can, where you are with what you have.

Why didn't the quarter roll down the hill with the nickel?.....Because it had more.....CENTS!

Important Upcoming Dates

February	Black History Month
Feb. 6	Grade 8 Graduation photos, Class/Group photos, Girls' Volleyball vs. Eastdale, Boys' Volleyball @ EastOxford
Feb. 7	World Read Aloud Day, Girls' Volleyball @ Innerkip, Boys' Volleyball vs. Algonquin Black Community Engagement Session
Feb. 8	Skating, Girls' Volleyball @ Blenheim
Feb. 9	Term 1 Report Cards & Kindergarten Communication of Learning home, Term 2 IEPs home, Gr. 6-8 Dance
Feb. 10	Lunar New Year
Feb. 12 – 20	Toonie Tuesday campaign
Feb. 12	Girls' and Boys' Volleyball Regional Tournaments
Feb. 13	Shrove Tuesday
Feb. 14 – 28	Be Kind Campaign @ PDPS
Feb. 14	Red/White/Pink Day, Valentine's Day, Dental Screenings (JK/SK, Gr. 2) Ash Wednesday
Feb. 15	Skating
Feb. 16	Dental Screenings (Gr.7+)
Feb. 17	Random Acts of Kindness Day
Feb. 19	Family Day
Feb. 22	Skating
Feb. 28	Pink Shirt Day
Feb. 29	Skating, Leap Day

Have an amazing weekend, Panther families! Contact Us at plattsville@tvdsb.ca or 519-684-7436.