

**PDPS Update January 12, 2024**  
Happy New Year, Panther Families!

**Skating at Plattsville Arena**

As part of their physical education programs, all students K-8 will have the opportunity over the next few weeks to go skating at the Plattsville arena with their classes. Teachers will be sharing the schedule for their individual classes. Both students and adults on the ice are required to wear helmets as well. If you have extra skates or helmets that we might borrow for some of our students without, please send them to the office, labelled with your family name so they can be returned. For our younger students especially, we could use extra volunteers to help with getting skates on and laced up. All volunteers will need to have a current Police Check or Offence Declaration on file with the school. To obtain the necessary agency letter or paperwork, please contact Ms. Elcombe directly as soon as possible ([t.elcombe@tvdsb.ca](mailto:t.elcombe@tvdsb.ca)). For questions specific to skating, please contact Mrs. Finnie at [e.finnie@tvdsb.ca](mailto:e.finnie@tvdsb.ca).

**School Council Meeting**

All members of the PDPS School Community are invited to attend the virtual School Council meeting on Monday, January 15, from 7:00 – 8:30 pm. The attached agenda contains the TEAMS link to attend. We hope to see you there!

**Kindergarten Registration for September 2024**

Thames Valley District School Board is excited to welcome children to Kindergarten in September 2024. Throughout each day in Kindergarten, your child will be involved in spontaneous play as well as more structured play-based learning both indoors and outside. Kindergarten Educator teams provide children with a safe learning environment that meets each child's individual needs and interests. **Registration will take place from Monday, January 15, 2024, to Friday, February 2, 2024.** To be eligible for registration for the Kindergarten program, children must be four years of age by December 31, 2024. To register for Kindergarten, please complete the on-line pre-registration form found on TVDSB'S main webpage via a link ([www.tvdsb.ca](http://www.tvdsb.ca)) OR on each school's main webpage via a link (<https://plattsville.tvdsb.ca/en/our-school/kindergarten.aspx?mid=15326>). Complete the on-line registration for the Kindergarten program at the designated home English school for the 2024-2025 school year. If you do not have access to technology, please contact the school to complete the paper registration form at the school. We are also excited to share that TVDSB will be hosting a **virtual Kindergarten information night for Kindergarten families on January 29, 2024**. Stay tuned for further details.

**English Kindergarten in French Immersion Registration for September 2024**

English Kindergarten Programming is offered as space permits in several French Immersion (FI) Schools. **Registration for English Kindergarten in French Immersion will take place during the Kindergarten Registration period of Monday, January 15, 2024, to Friday, February 2, 2024.** Parents/caregivers wishing to register their Kindergarten Year 1 (JK) child for French Immersion English Kindergarten will preregister at their designated home English school online via TVDSB's website. Parents will indicate their intent to enroll their child in English Kindergarten at their designated French Immersion Public School K 1 (check box) and enter any relevant information to support their request. Please note that siblings are not guaranteed a place in the English Kindergarten in French Immersion program. If a child was on the wait list during the 2023-2024 school year, a new Designated French Immersion School English Kindergarten Application Form needs to be completed for Kindergarten Year 2 (SK) by February 2, 2024. English Kindergarten Year (2) Programming is also offered as space permits in designated French Immersion Schools. If your child is already attending Kindergarten Year 1 (K1) at the designated home English school, and is interested in applying, please contact the school to obtain an application form. Intent to register for English Kindergarten in French Immersion schools must be completed and documentation verified by Friday, February 2, 2024 in order to be considered. Should applications for English Kindergarten in French Immersion exceed the number of available spaces, a random selection process will be implemented to determine which children may attend with K1 or K2. We are also excited to share that TVDSB will be hosting virtual Kindergarten information night for Kindergarten families on January 29, 2024. Stay tuned for further details. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your designated home English school.

**Lost & Found**

Please see the attached photos for this week's lost and found items as well as the January 'Last Chance' items which have been on the table since November and will be donated at the end of the month if not claimed. Please let us know what belongs in your home and we'll make sure it gets back to your child!

**Milk & Popcorn**

Milk and popcorn tickets may be purchased through SchoolCash online. Daily milk sales have resumed, and popcorn sales will start again this coming Wednesday, January 17.

**Ongoing Fundraisers & Collections**

School Council receives a small percentage of all sales back from [Mabel's Labels](#) when our school is selected before checkout. We are collecting **pop tabs** to support Thames Valley Children's Centre in purchasing a new wheelchair for a needy child in our greater TVDSB community.

We continue to collect **dead batteries** for e-waste. The collection bins are located in the main office.

**Playground Before and After School**

Now that the snow is back, 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.

## **TVDSB Family Well-Being Community Workshop Series**

The new year often brings forward a lot of conversations related to "diets" and body image, which we know can be challenging for children, youth, and their families. In partnership with Southwestern Public Health and Middlesex-London Health Unit, we are excited to offer [Supporting Children and Youth and Their Relationship with Food and Body](#).

*"Navigating diet culture as a parent/caregiver can be challenging. Tune in for strategies that help children and teens develop a positive relationship with food and their bodies. Learn how to encourage open and non-judgmental conversations around food and bodies and practical tips for how to model your own positive relationship with food and body."*

- o Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024- 6:30-7:30pm (virtual) Register at: <https://bit.ly/fwbcws23>

We have also attached the posters for these events, and ask that you share the information with others. We know that when we come together as a community, we can support everyone's well-being. For more information about the series in general, please visit <https://bit.ly/FWBCWS> and feel free to reach out should you have any questions or concerns.

## **Community Events**

### **Artshine® at the Plattsville Library Branch**

Artshine® Winter 2024 programming will be available at the Plattsville Library Branch starting in February! Registration is now open online at <https://www.artshine.ca/collections/london-and-oxford-county>. Please see the attached flyer for additional information. Spaces are limited. A paper flyer was sent home with the youngest/only student for each family earlier this week.

### **Western Engineering Girls Club**

Girls Club is an exciting opportunity for grade 3-8 girls, including all youth who identify as girls and non-binary, to learn about the wonderful world of engineering. Participants explore different strands of engineering through hands-on activities. Girls Club will run for three consecutive Saturdays from January 13 to January 27. **Registration is open and bursaries are still available.**

If you have any questions about Girl's Club, or to inquire about bursary options, please email us at [discover@uwo.ca](mailto:discover@uwo.ca).

### **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. Registration dates for elementary camps and camp themes will be released in their January newsletter, which we have not yet received.

## **Thoughts of the Day**

Be the reason someone smiles today.

The more you practice the art of thankfulness, the more you have to be thankful for.

A healthy attitude is contagious, but don't wait to catch it from others....be a carrier!

A person who has never made a mistake is a person who has never tried anything new!

What musical instrument is found in the bathroom?.....a TUBA toothpaste!

## **Important Upcoming Dates**

Jan. 15	Kindergarten Registration begins, School Council meeting (virtual)
Jan. 17	Girls Volleyball at Plattsville vs. Blenheim, Boys Volleyball at Blenheim
Jan. 18	Skating sessions begin
Jan. 19	PA Day
Jan. 25	Bell "Let's Talk" Day, Gr. 5/6 to Vansittart Woods, Skating
Jan. 26	Term 2 begins (Term 1 reports sent home in February)
Jan. 27	Family Literacy Day

Have an amazing weekend, Panther families! Contact Us at [plattsville@tvdsb.ca](mailto:plattsville@tvdsb.ca) or 519-684-7436.