

World Autism Day

World Autism Day is **Tuesday, April 2, 2024**, the day we return from our Easter break. To celebrate all of our PDPS students and community members living with autism and other neurodivergent qualities, we will be having a dress-up day to acknowledge that thinking differently is a superpower! Dress as your favourite superhero, or share your own superpower – we all have them! Whether it's higher energy levels, an ability to hyper-focus on a task, increased productivity and performance, analytical thinking, memory, attention to detail, pattern recognition, creativity or another superpower, let's celebrate our individuality with kindness and inclusion.

School Council Fundraiser

The PDPS School Council will be selling products from The Butcher Barn to raise funds to purchase materials and items for special education for the school (e.g., noise-cancelling headphones, flexible seating, sensory and visual supports, etc.), with any remaining funds going towards special art resources for classrooms (e.g., plasticine, charcoal, special paints or papers, etc.). The order forms are being sent home TODAY with your youngest/only child in paper form. We will be using SchoolCash Online to collect all orders and payments but 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 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 from Thursday, March 28th to Thursday, April 11th.** If you have any questions about the SchoolCash Online process, please contact the school (plattsville@tvdsb.ca). Questions directly related to the orders should be sent to Dawn at boomer_dawn@hotmail.com. Orders need to be in by Thursday, April 11, and pick-up for orders will be on Monday, May 13 from 3:30 - 4:30 pm (items come frozen). Thanks in advance for your support. **Master Copy**

TVDSB Attendance Matters

Our school staff are excited to welcome your child(ren) to school each day, filled with opportunities to learn and engage! As we head into the final months of the school year, we want to make sure you know that getting into the habit of daily attendance is more important than ever.

Good attendance helps to:

- Build routines that help reduce stress.
- Make new friends or reconnect with their friends and teachers.
- Engage in learning.
- Gain access to fun activities and extracurriculars

Missing 10%, or more than two days a month, can impact a child's learning, social development and take them off track for developing attendance habits critical to success in school. Attending school every day means success for your child. We are working to make our school environment a place where everyone can be safe, healthy, and learning. We will do our best to listen and partner with you so that our children have a successful year. Please contact your teacher or Principal with questions or concerns. **logo**

Everyone Belongs Survey

Thames Valley District School Board is launching the **Everyone Belongs Survey** this April. This survey will be used to gather important information about students and staff to help Thames Valley make the best decisions to support them.

All school boards in Ontario are required by the Ministry of Education to offer this voluntary and confidential survey which collects information about student and staff identities (for example, ethnicities, racial identities, Indigenous identities, languages, religions, genders, sexual orientations for students grades 7-12 and staff, and disabilities).

Parents and caregivers of students in kindergarten to grade 6 will be invited to complete the survey on behalf of their children. Students in grades 7-12 will be given time during the school day to complete the survey themselves.

A letter with more detailed information about the survey will be sent directly to families, followed by email invitations to complete the survey.

Please take 10 minutes to participate in this important initiative!

For more information, please visit: www.tvdsb.ca/everyonebelongs. **Survey poster**

Lost & Found

Please see this week's lost and found items, as well as the January 'Last Chance' items and let us know if anything belongs to your household.

This week is the last opportunity to claim 'Last Chance' items before they are donated. If you are missing a particular item, please let your child's teacher know and we can keep an eye out for it. **Photos**

EQAO Webinars for Parents and Caregivers of Grade 3 and 6 Students

Parents and caregivers of Grade 3 and 6 students who are interested in learning more about this spring's EQAO Provincial assessments are invited to register for this free live webinar. The sessions are 45 minutes in length and include a live question-and-answer period with EQAO staff. The sessions will run on the following dates and times:

- April 3, 2024 12:00 p.m.
- April 10, 2024 6:00 p.m.

Parents and caregivers can register their interest at this [Registration link](#). These short sessions will allow families to learn about the primary and junior Assessments of Reading, Writing and Mathematics students will complete this spring. Participants will also learn about Ontario's large-scale assessment's purpose and how it relates to the Ontario curriculum taught and assessed in classrooms in Thames Valley.

Family Well-Being Community Workshop Series

1. **Supporting Your 2SLGBTQIA+ Youth**

- Tuesday April 9, 6:30-7:30pm Register at - <https://bit.ly/fwbcws27>
- *“Research shows that queer and trans* students face disproportionate levels of risk for mental illness and mental health struggles, which often greatly impacts their academic performance, school participation, self-worth, and general wellbeing. In this presentation, we will discuss the lived experiences of 2SLGBTQIA+ students, and explore how to equip queer and gender diverse youth to be prepared to navigate discrimination and marginalization. Finally, we’ll outline steps for caregivers to serve as advocates and allies for their students, within the school system and beyond.”*

2. **Families are Talking: Relationships for Elementary School Children**

- Thursday April 11, 6:30-7:30pm Register at - <https://bit.ly/fwbcws28>
- This presentation aims to support parents and caregivers to gain the confidence and skills to talk to their children about relationships. This webinar will consider:
 - Being an approachable caregiver
 - Healthy friendships and relationships, including respect, equality, and consent
 - Differences between healthy, unhealthy, and abusive behaviours
 - Warning signs of intimate partner violence or exploitation
 - Family values and rules
 - Keeping safe
 - Building self-esteem"

We have also attached the posters for these webinars. As always, we greatly appreciate your support in sharing these webinars with other community members. Thank you for your ongoing support of the Family Well-Being Community Workshop Series <https://bit.ly/FWBCWS>
2 posters

Helmets on Kids

We have now received information for the ‘Helmets on Kids’ program. Attached is the registration for the virtual Family Trivia Night event, as well as sponsorship opportunities to support the program. **3 flyers**

Spring Artshine at Plattsville

We are all so excited to begin Artshine **Spring 2024** programming at **Oxford County Library!** Registration is now open online (due Mon., Apr. 1) and parents will be able to register and pay for the Artshine programs via our website. Please see the attached flyer for more information. Spaces are limited. **Flyer**

From Southwestern Public Health

A [Solar Eclipse](#) will occur on Monday, April 8, 2024: A solar eclipse occurs when the moon moves between the sun and the Earth. Between 2:00 PM and 4:29 PM, most of Elgin County and Oxford County will experience a near-total eclipse, while [select regions near Lake Erie](#) will experience a total eclipse. Peak time will be approximately 3:17 PM. [Click here](#) and [here](#) to learn more about this rare event.

Measles in the Community

Measles cases are being reported in the news and you may have questions. Public health is closely monitoring the situation locally and will provide additional information to school administrators as needed. Here is information about measles to help you understand risks for you and your family

- Measles is a highly contagious infectious disease. Read this [fact sheet](#) to learn more about measles.
- Measles cases are on the rise in Canada.
- There is no treatment for a measles infection. Most infections self-resolve but in some may require hospitalization and can cause deafness, brain damage or death.
- Vaccination is up to 99% effective at preventing measles infections. Currently, children attending school in Ontario are provided 2 doses of measles-containing vaccine to prevent infection as part of their routine immunizations.
- Know your immunization history. You can review your own or your child’s immunization records through your local public health unit:
 - Residents of St. Thomas, Elgin, and Oxford Counties, visit www.swpublichealth.ca/vaccineswork
 - Residents of London and Middlesex County, visit www.healthunit.com/immunization-records
 - Contact your healthcare provider if you can't find your record or it is incomplete.
- Update vaccinations if you need them. To receive a vaccination, book an appointment with your health care provider, a walk-in clinic, or Travel Medicine Clinic. If you do not have a health care provider or Ontario Health Card, visit your local public health unit’s website.
 - Residents (up to age 18) of St. Thomas, Elgin, and Oxford Counties, visit www.swpublichealth.ca/booking
 - Residents of London and Middlesex County, visit www.healthunit.com/immunization-clinic

If you would like to monitor the Measles situation in Canada please refer to: [Measles and Rubella Weekly Monitoring Report from the Government of Canada.](#)"

Thoughts of the Day

You don't have to see the whole staircase to just take the first step."

A warm smile is the universal language of kindness.

Have patience with all things, but mostly have patience with yourself.

Make someone smile everyday, but remember you are someone too!

Important Upcoming Dates

Mar. 29	Good Friday (no school)
Mar. 31	Easter Sunday
Apr. 1	Easter Monday (no school)
Apr. 2	World Autism Day, Superhero Dress Up Day, Gr. 3 Swim to Survive
Apr. 3	EQAO Webinar, Helmets on Kids Trivia Night
Apr. 4	Character Assembly, Jump Rope for Heart Kickoff
Apr. 8	PA Day (no school), Solar Eclipse
Apr. 9	Day 2 (see revised TVDSB calendar), (Eid) al Fitr begins at sundown, Family Well-Being Webinar
Apr. 10	EQAO Webinar
Apr. 11	Gr. 7 Immunizations, Everyone Belongs Survey consent due, Family Well-Being Webinar
Apr. 19	Day 10 (regular school day)
Apr. 22	Earth Day
Apr. 23	Passover
Apr. 26	Director of Education visit to PDPS
Week of May 6	Education Week, Open House Wednesday (more information to follow), Gr. 4-8 Track & Field Day Thursday

*Grade 3 and Grade 6 EQAO Dates – Tuesday, May 28 and Wednesday, May 29**

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