

PDPS Update Sept. 8, 2023

What a fantastic 'return to school' we've had here at PDPS! Thanks to all the staff, students and families for your support, flexibility and cooperation as we welcome our students back and our new students and families to Plattsville & District PS. We have an amazing school Community and want everyone to be 'connected' to what's happening at the school throughout this school year! We strive for our students to be successful, productive, and compassionate citizens, and trust that the behaviour of all members of our school community will be guided by these principles.

Communication Between School and Home

Messages from the school will be sent using SchoolMessenger. They will also be posted to our school website (plattsville.tvdsb.ca) and to our private Facebook page (search Plattsville & District Public School PDPS to join) as appropriate. Your child's educators will let you know the best way to contact them, and there is a contact list with emails found on the school website (Contact Us link near the top of the home page). To contact the office, please use the plattsville@tvdsb.ca email.

School Hours

School Office Hours are 8:30 am to 4:00 pm Monday through Friday. Office staff can be reached at the email address above, or at 519-684-7436 ext.2.

8:50 am	Supervision of students, arrival of buses	12:25 pm	Period 6
9:00 am	Period 1	1:05 pm	Nutrition Break (K-Gr.3), Recess (Gr.4-8)
9:20 am	Period 2	1:30 pm	Nutrition Break (Gr.4-8), Recess (K-Gr.3)
10:00 am	Period 3	1:50 pm	Period 7
10:40 am	Nutrition Break (K-Gr.3), Recess (Gr.4-8)	2:30 pm	Period 8
11:00 am	Nutrition Break (Gr.4-8), Recess (K-Gr.3)	3:10 pm	Period 9
11:25 am	Period 4	3:20 pm	Bus Student Dismissal
11:45 am	Period 5	3:30 pm	Dismissal

Student Information Verification

A reminder to make sure to verify the student information forms and privacy form in the Parent Portal as soon as possible. If you have any changes (e.g., emergency contact, cell #, etc.), please print a copy of the form, write out the changes and return the form to Ms. Charlton, or email them to plattsville@tvdsb.ca. If you have any questions or issues with the portal, please contact plattsville@tvdsb.ca as well. You will not be able to make changes to the student information in the portal – they must be received by the school in writing. Please note that there are some other important documents to be completed but will not be accessible until the student information has been verified online.

Individual Plan of Care (IPOC)

If your child has any health conditions requiring an Individual Plan of Care (asthma, anaphylactic allergy, diabetes, epilepsy, or other potentially life-threatening health condition, please complete the IPOC notification to the school in the Parent Portal. **The IPOC must be updated each year, or whenever changes to the plan are made.** Once you have indicated your child's need for an IPOC, you should immediately receive back an email stating the school has been notified that a condition exists. You will then need to go into the IPOC section again to complete and submit the forms. If **prescription** medication is to be administered **DAILY by staff** at the school, you will need to complete the "Authorization for Daily Administration of Prescription Medication" form; if **prescription** medication is to be administered **AS NEEDED by staff** at the school, you will need to complete the "Authorization for Administration of PRN Prescription Medication" form. These two forms will need to be signed by a medical professional. If your child can take their medication on their own without staff support (e.g., asthma inhaler), you will need to complete the appropriate section of the "Authorization for Administration of PRN Prescription Medication" form. Please note that staff will not be able to administer non-prescription medications to students. Please provide paper copies of these forms to the school as soon as possible. If you have any questions concerning IPOCs, please contact Ms. Elcombe directly at t.elcombe@tvdsb.ca or 519-684-7436 ext. 4.

Lost & Found

We have done a good job at taking care of our clothing this first week. There are just a couple of items this week, but several items left over from last year. If you recognize anything belonging to your household, please contact your child's teacher to let them know and we'll get the item(s) back to your homes! Please have a look at the [Lost & Found Photos June 30, 2023](#), also posted in the 'Our School' section of the PDPS website under the PDPS Weekly Update tab and on our Facebook page. Items not claimed from the June posting by the end of September will be donated locally.



PDPS Cell Phone Policy and Contract

We believe that effective education and a respectful learning environment are paramount at PDPS. To ensure the best possible educational experience, we have established the following Cell Phone Policy and Contract for Junior and Intermediate students, and their parents/guardians. This policy aims to strike a balance between utilizing technology for educational purposes and maintaining a focused, distraction-free classroom atmosphere.

Device Use in Classrooms:

Students may use their phones in class only when explicitly permitted by the teacher for educational purposes. The use of phones for non-academic activities is strictly prohibited during instructional time.

Students should seek permission from the teacher before using their cell phones for educational purposes, and they must follow the teacher's guidelines.

Students agree to keep their cell phones turned off or in silent mode (no notifications) during class hours, unless permitted by the teacher.

Communication During School Hours:

Students are not allowed to send or receive text messages to/from home during school hours.

In cases of emergency, parents/guardians should contact the school office, and school staff will relay the message to the student.

Social Media and Non-Educational Apps:

The use of social media apps and non-educational applications on cell phones during school hours is prohibited. Students should refrain from accessing or using these apps while on school premises.

Cell Phones Outside the Classroom:

Students must not take their cell phones outside of the classroom during the school day unless they have received special permission from a teacher or staff member for a specific purpose, such as using the phone for a school-related project or event.

Cell Phones in Washrooms:

Cell phones are not permitted in washrooms. Students should leave their phones in their backpacks or classrooms when using the facilities.

Use of Headphones:

When using cell phones for educational purposes, students should use headphones to minimize disruption to others.

Safety and Responsibility:

Students are responsible for the security and proper handling of their cell phones. The school is not liable for any lost, damaged, or stolen devices.

School Council

Learning thrives in a collaborative, team-oriented culture, where students, staff and parents feel safe to take risks and problem solve together. We benefit greatly from the tremendous support provided by Plattsville's school community, and eagerly anticipate the on-going involvement of our parents and other community members as the year proceeds. Please consider contributing to our school community by joining our School Council, which meets monthly throughout the year. Our first meeting will be for election purposes on **Monday, September 25 at 6:30 pm**. We encourage all families to participate as Executive or Members. Sub-committees of the Plattsville School Council include Fundraising, Safe Schools, and the Welcome Committee, to name a few. Parents and community members interested in elected executive positions should review the Roles and Responsibilities and complete the appropriate Nomination form attached. Nominations should be sent to Ms. Elcombe by email (t.elcombe@tvdsb.ca) no later than Friday, September 22.

[Election Bylaws](#), [Roles & Responsibilities](#), [Nomination Forms](#) can also be found in the 'Parents' section under the School Council tab and the 'Files' section on our Facebook page.

School Council's Hot Lunch Program & Ontario Student Nutrition Program

The Hot Lunch Program will begin the week of September 18th, and online orders are now open on "school cash online".

<https://www.schoolcashionline.com/Home/SignIn>

We are currently seeking volunteers for the last Friday of each month, and as an occasional sub to help fill in if volunteers need time away. If interested, please reach out to Samantha Burns samantha@themonkeyworx.com.

This year we have chosen a different pizza vendor based on family feedback collected last year. We will try Dominos from New Hamburg as it allowed us to bring the cost down for families significantly- and we know this means slices will be smaller (typical sliced pizza). We were also able to implement a NEW hot lunch for the last Friday of each month of pasta or chicken options. We will be sure to take some photos of the new options and selections so families can see what is being delivered (after the first delivery). If you have questions about this program, please be sure to connect with me.

Please know that every hot lunch ordered provides a small contribution to our School Council Fundraising initiatives for the academic year that will be set at the first official council meeting. As always, thank you for your support!

We will send out messaging when our Ontario Student Nutrition Program is ready to begin early next month.

Mental Health and Well-Being

Thames Valley District School Board is committed to the mental health and well-being of all students and staff, recognizing the importance of strengthening the sense of community within every school by establishing the [Essential Conditions for Learning](#). Throughout the school year, we will be working on prioritizing the strengthening of relationships so that students feel safe, connected, and regulated in order to be ready to learn. More information can be found on our TVDSB website. <https://www.tvdsb.ca/en/parents/safe-schools-families-and-caregivers.aspx>



Mabel's Labels Fundraiser

School Council is once again running an ongoing fundraiser throughout the year. With the new year upon us, now is a great time to LABEL, LABEL, LABEL everything! This really does help the school to get everyone's belongings home, and not on the Lost & Found table. School Council receives a small percentage of all sales when our school is selected before checkout. https://mabelslabels.ca/en_CA/

School Accident Insurance

If you are interested in student accident insurance, for the 2022-23 school year TVDSB is pleased to offer families the option of two student accident insurance providers to choose from to purchase insurance for your children. <https://www.studyinsuredstudentaccident.com/> <https://insuremykids.com/>

Drumbo Fair

The coordinators from the Drumbo Fall Fair (September 24-25) have dropped off School Fair flyers and entry tickets to the school. If your child is interested in entering items by September 18, please let their classroom teacher know, and can pick some up from our office. For more details, please visit www.drumbofair.com. There will be some artwork from our PDPS students on display at this year's fair as well...we hope you'll check it out!

Community Opportunities for Students

Please see <https://mailchi.mp/uwo/western-engineering-outreach-september-2023-newsletter?e=30cbbc7f78> for Western Engineering's Fall Outreach programs for students Grades 3 – 8.

Important Upcoming Dates

Sun., Sept. 10	Firefighters' National Memorial Day – school flag at half-mast
Mon., Sept. 11	Peer Power begins – Gr. 5/6, Gr. 6/7, Gr. 7/8
Fri., Sept. 15	Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown
Tues., Sept. 19	Hot Lunch Program begins, Fire Drill #1, *Toonie Treat Tuesday for Terry Fox Foundation
Thurs., Sept. 21	High Winds Drill
Fri., Sept. 22	Terry Fox Run (pm), Gr. 7 Immunization Consent Forms due
Sat., Sept. 23	Drumbo Fair (entry booklets and tags available at Office), Fall begins
Sun., Sept. 24	Drumbo Fair, Yom Kippu begins at sundown
Mon., Sept. 25	School Council Elections meeting 6:30 pm
Tue., Sept. 26	Fire Drill #2, *Toonie Treat Tuesday for United Way
Wed., Sept. 27	Rowan's Law Day – wear purple
Thurs., Sept. 28	Code Red Drill
Fri., Sept. 29	Orange Shirt Day
Sat., Sept. 30	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
Tues., Oct. 3	Individual School Photos
Fri., Oct. 6	PA Day
Mon., Oct. 9	Thanksgiving Monday
Fri., Oct. 13	Gr. 7 Immunizations

Have a wonderful weekend, Panther families!

Contact Us at plattsville@tvdsb.ca or 519-684-7436.