

Staffing Changes

We are saying goodbye today to Ms. Snider who has been teaching our Grade 2 virtual class this year and supporting some of our Kindergarten students in-person. We wish her all the best as she begins her full-time contract position at Central PS in Woodstock on March 21. We will be welcoming Ms. Vanderwyst to fill the virtual vacancy from her home school in London. We are hopeful to have our new Office Administrator in place for Monday, March 21.

Covid-19 Updates

While many of our protocols and mandates will no longer be in place starting on March 21, we will ask that students and staff continue to complete the daily Covid-19 school screener tool before coming to school. The screener may be updated regularly by the Ministry without notice to schools (<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>). There is no longer a need to complete the online confirmation. We will continue to encourage the use of proper hand hygiene and our isolation room and enhanced cleaning protocols for the school will not change at this time.

As of March 21, vaccinations will no longer be required for students to participate in extra-curricular activities including sports, clubs and monitoring for other classes. Cohorting and social distancing protocols will also be lifted. While masking will no longer be required in the school, there may be staff and students who will continue to choose to wear them.

We would encourage everyone to be respectful of one another's decisions on masking or other previous Covid-19 protocols they wish to continue to follow when we return to classes on March 21.

Police Record Checks for School Volunteers

This is just a reminder that if you wish to volunteer in the building or on a class field trip, you must have a copy of a Police Record Check (Vulnerable Screening) on file at the school and have completed an Offence Declaration for 2021-2022. As of March 21, Volunteers will no longer need to show proof of double vaccination. If you do not currently have a Police Check on file at PDPS, you can obtain one from the Tillsonburg or Ingersoll OPP detachments with an appointment. You will need to take with you a letter from Ms. Elcombe (contact the school and this can be sent home – one per volunteer) as well as 2 pieces of identification (e.g., Drivers' License, Birth Certificate, Valid Passport, etc.). The wait time is approximately 2 weeks to have these completed. If you have a Police Check on file but have not completed an Offence Declaration for this year, please contact the school and we will send a copy home for you to complete.

The Great Gulp

World Water Day is a global event celebrated each year on March 22nd. On this day, people around the world take action to conserve water, educate others, and celebrate this vital resource. This year, Plattsville District Public School will be participating in "The Great Gulp" on Tuesday, March 22nd. We will have an organized school-wide drink of tap water from a reusable water bottle. Through this simple action, we hope to raise awareness about drinking water, access to safe and healthy tap water, and the importance of reducing single-use plastic waste. To support this initiative, we are asking students to bring in a **filled reusable water bottle** and join in on taking a Great Gulp. Our goal is to transition Plattsville District Public School to a single-use plastic free school. Simple actions at home, such as using a reusable water bottle, can have a big impact on the environment. We encourage you to also join in! Thank you for your support. The Green Team

Pop-Up Vaccination Clinics – from Southwestern Public Health

Pop-up COVID-19 vaccination clinics are currently being offered by Southwestern Public Health. These clinics are available on a walk-in or appointment basis and are open to all who are eligible. Please feel free to share this information with your school community.

Any questions regarding eligibility can be directed to our [website](#) or our COVID-19 response centre at 1-800-922-0096 x 9.

Southwestern Public Health – COVID-19 Pop-Up & Weekend Vaccination Clinics

Walk-ins welcomed. Prefer to book? Visit www.covidvaccineLM.ca Gate 4 or call 1-800-922-0096 ext. 9

- Tuesday March 22, 12PM to 4PM, Unifor Local 88 (364 Victoria St., Ingersoll)
- Thursday March 24, 1PM to 4PM, East Elgin Community Complex (531 Talbot St. W., Aylmer)

<https://www.swpublichealth.ca/en/my-health/covid-19-vaccine.aspx#popup>

Lost & Found

Please see the attached photos of our current Lost and Found collection at PDPS. If you recognize anything that may belong in your home, please let Ms. Elcombe know directly (t.elcombe@tvdsb.ca) and we will make sure that your child gets them back on Monday.

Private School Facebook Page

If you are on Facebook, we would encourage you to join our 'Plattsville & District PS PDPS' private Facebook group. Please feel free to invite families who attend PDPS who are not yet part of the group, as well as any community members or businesses from Plattsville who support our school. We re-post all messages that go out from School Messenger both on this page, as well as on our school website at plattsville.tvdsb.ca. **Please email t.elcombe@tvdsb.ca rather than using Facebook Messenger** if you wish to get hold of the Principal/Facebook Group administrator directly as messages may be missed otherwise (Ms. Elcombe does not use FB Messenger and only sees messages if in the administration section of the school's Facebook page).

Important Upcoming Dates

Sunday, March 13	Daylight Savings Time begins
March 14 – 18	March Break
Sunday, March 20	Spring Begins
Monday, March 21	'Green' Day
Tuesday, March 22	Water Day – "The Great Gulp" event
Friday, March 25	Earth Hour Dress up and Activities day
Saturday, March 26	Earth Hour 8:30 – 9:30 pm

Have an amazing March Break, Panthers! See you all on Monday, March 21!