

### **School Office Hours & Front Door**

The school office is open from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm for phone calls only as visitors are not yet permitted in the building. Mrs. Harvey will be away this coming week, and at this time, we have not been able to secure a supply for Wednesday, October 13 or Thursday, October 14. Please leave a message if the phone is not answered immediately, especially on those two days. Someone will get back to you as soon as possible. Our new camera and doorbell system have now been installed, but they have not yet been programmed for use. We will still need you to call the school phone number at 519-684-7436 if you are dropping off or picking up a student. Thank you for your patience!

### **Daily Covid School Screening**

The daily Covid-19 School Screening has been updated as of September 27. Please continue to use the Covid-19 School Screening tool daily to determine whether or not your child should be attending school. <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>

### **Clarification from Public Health**

We have been receiving a number of calls regarding one member of a household having Covid-19 symptoms and whether or not siblings may attend. The message from our Public Health Nurse is "If ANY child in the household has symptoms from the current Covid Screening tool, ALL siblings should stay home. Siblings can return when the 'sick' sibling gets a negative result on a Covid test or an alternate diagnosis from a medical professional UNLESS the sibling(s) has been double vaccinated – then the sibling(s) can come to school if they are symptom-free.

The following can be found on the Southwestern Public Health website (<https://www.swpublichealth.ca/en/my-health/covid-19-resources-for-schools-and-child-care-centres.aspx?mid=76642>)

#### ***If a household member has symptoms of COVID-19:***

*All household members of symptomatic individuals are required to self-isolate until the symptomatic individual receives a negative COVID-19 test result or is provided an alternative diagnosis by a healthcare professional. If the household member is asymptomatic (as no symptoms) and fully immunized or previously positive within 90 days, they do not need to self-isolate. They can leave the home for essential reasons (work, school, medical, pharmacy) while waiting for test results.*

- If the symptomatic individual does not get tested for COVID-19, all household members should self-isolate for 10 days from last exposure to that symptomatic individual. People who are vaccinated or recovered from COVID within the last 90 days can continue to leave the home for essential reasons only.*

### **Before and After School - Families on the Yard**

Although masks are not mandatory for parents on the yard, we thank you for modeling safe Covid-19 practices when you are unable to maintain the 2m distancing from others not from your household by wearing your mask while waiting to drop off and pick up your children. All staff are mandated to wear masks when outside with students. We also remind families that the outdoor school equipment is closed before school and after school until 4:00 pm.

### **World Mental Health Day Gratitude Initiative**

***"Viewing the world and relationships through a lens of gratitude can help us to notice and appreciate the positives in life, even when facing a challenge."*** (School Mental Health Ontario, 2021)

World Mental Health Day is to raise awareness of mental health issues around the world and to mobilize efforts in support of mental health. The day provides an opportunity for all stakeholders working on mental health issues to talk about their work, and what more needs to be done to make mental health care a reality for people worldwide.

In honour of World Mental Health Day 2021, the Safe Schools and Well-Being portfolio invites participants from across Thames Valley to join the Gratitude Challenge, taking part **Saturday, October 9th to Monday, October 11th**. As part of the challenge, participants are asked to use the attached bingo card poster. Over the weekend, participants are asked to complete the different acts of gratitude. When an act is completed, they are asked to post a photo or comment to the Twitter account (@TVDSBcares) or share this information by sending an email. For each act of gratitude that is submitted, the participant will be entered into a draw for a variety of family-friendly prizes. Winners will be contacted directly through the TVDSB Cares' Twitter account or via email regarding prize information and distribution.

***Why is gratitude important for our mental health? Research shows that expressing gratitude can help us feel happier, healthier, and more productive.*** (School Mental Health Ontario, 2021).

**Lost & Found**

Please see the attached photos of items that have accumulated during our first three weeks. If you see anything belonging to your household, please contact Ms. Elcombe directly ([t.elcombe@tvdsb.ca](mailto:t.elcombe@tvdsb.ca)) and we'll make sure they find their way home on Monday.

**Important Upcoming Dates**

Sunday, October 10	World Mental Health Day
Monday, October 11	Thanksgiving Day
Monday, October 25	Gr. 7 (and Gr. 8) Immunizations
Sunday, October 31	Halloween

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving weekend, Panther families!