

Principal's Message ~ November 6th – 10th, 2023

This Week at Lord Tweedsmuir

Thursday November 9th, 2023

Happy Thursday Panthers!

I hope that everyone has enjoyed your week of interesting challenges, supportive friendships, and celebrations of success in learning. 🙏 Here at Lord Tweedsmuir Secondary, our students and staff have been celebrating Diwali. The creation of an inclusive, welcoming and supportive community for all of our Panthers is such an important mission for us all. I'm very proud of our efforts so far this year to recognize, educate and celebrate equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) within our school. Way to go Panthers!

Speaking of cultural recognition and celebration, I had the wonderful opportunity to visit and take part in Ms. Mudge's Genocide Studies Cultural Celebration Walk on Monday afternoon. Students created beautiful and informative presentations on several countries and their amazing cultures and histories. Thanks so much for the invitation. I was very impressed with our students and their enthusiasm and knowledge.





We continued with the theme of EDI for our Department Head Meeting on Monday afternoon. Department Leaders were given the opportunity to learn, reflect and share their thoughts on Indigenous culture and history. Our “Did You Know?” roundtable conversations were excellent... and a highly recommended activity for our teachers and students. As always, great thanks to our Departmental leaders for your guidance and support in all areas across our school community.

Over the past couple of weeks, the Humanities House Cup committee of Senior Leadership students hosted their second event, with the Class Leads helping their Humanities classes design masks for Halloween. The students had fun creating their masks in groups and then voting on one to represent their class in the challenge. After much debate by the office staff this week, the finalists were named: The Crazy Goblins won first place with their lovely butterfly mask; the Phoenix came in second with their carefully designed black raven; and the McQueens earned third place with their fabulous horned mask. Congratulations!



As I previously mentioned, we have been celebrating Diwali, the festival of lights. This week our school has been decorated in that spirit! The Student Council Social Justice team worked with the Anti-Racism Alliance, the Bhangra Dance Team, and the newly-formed South Asian Students and Allies group to plan events for this week. There were diyas painted and placed around the school with tealights flickering to celebrate light over darkness, and Student Council hung

twinkling lights over the cafeteria. Students were getting their mehndi done all week, with all proceeds donated to the Bhangra team, in preparation for the final celebrations on Wednesday. Student Council continued with the mehndi, while the Anti-Racism Alliance had a Diwali photo booth going; the South Asian Students and Allies handed out diyas and pamphlets on Diwali; and the Bhangra team held a rangoli competition, sold samosas, and invited everyone to a Bhangra dance party in the gym. It was a great celebration!



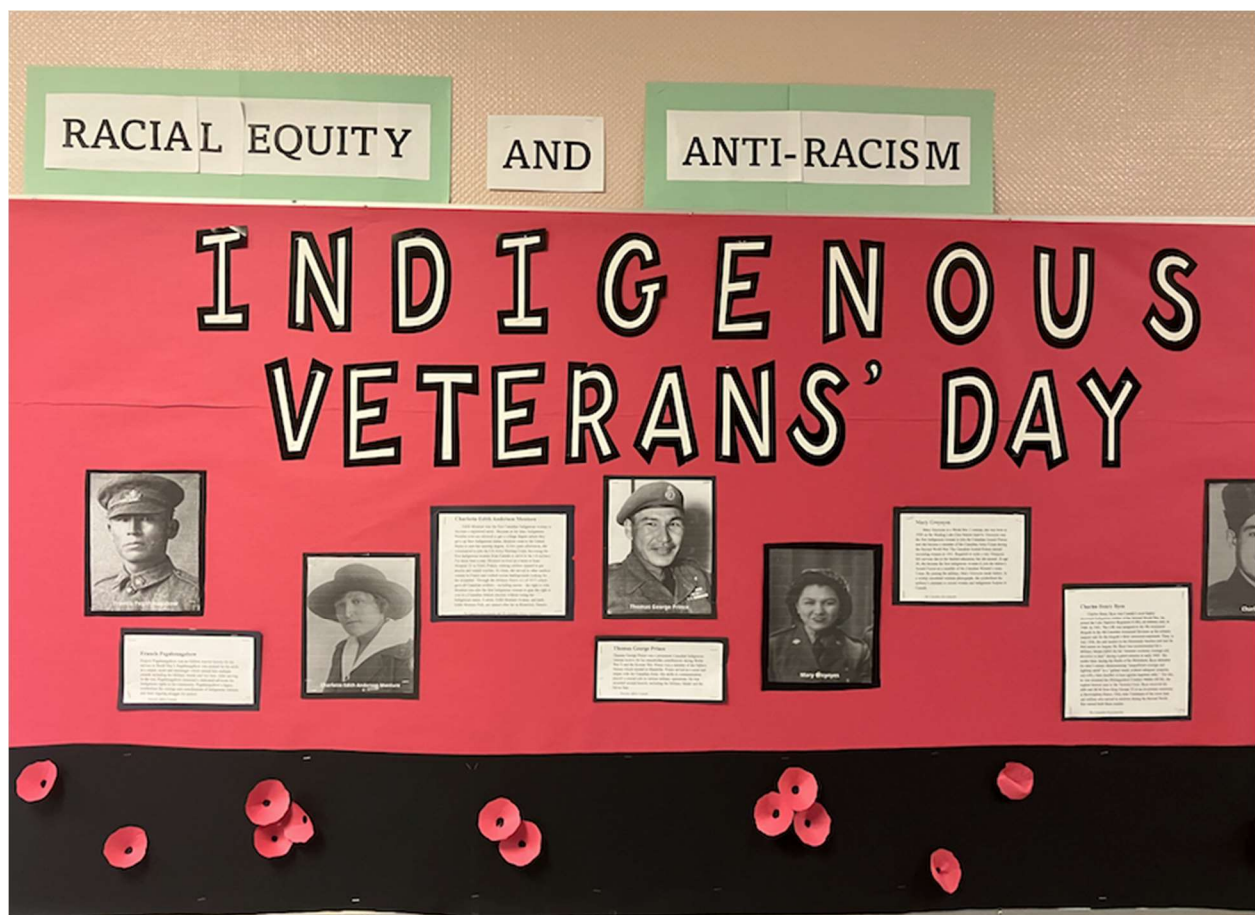






Wednesday was Indigenous Veterans Day in Canada and a time to remember and commemorate the stories and contributions of Indigenous veterans in wars and conflict past and present. More than 500 Indigenous soldiers died in World Wars I and II and more than 12,000 First Nations, along with a large number of Inuit and Métis, left their homes and families to serve Canada in those two conflicts. Our day at Lord Tweedsmuir Secondary began with a special announcement to help raise awareness and encourage our community to reflect on and honour the unique contributions and bravery of Canada's Indigenous Veterans today.

<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/people-and-stories/indigenous-veterans>



On Remembrance Day, Canadians pause in silence to remember the women and men who serve our country during times of war, conflict, and peace. The official end of World War I was 105 years ago, on November 11, 1918. Every year on November 11, people from different

backgrounds, countries, and spiritual beliefs pause and reflect on the sacrifices made for our civil safety. This year, as wars are fought in other parts of the world, may we also pause and hope for peace. On Thursday, we held our Lord Tweedsmuir Remembrance Day Assemblies. This year we held three assemblies over the course of the day. Special thanks to our organizing committee for your work and leadership in preparing these highly meaningful and poignant ceremonies for our community. I was so impressed with our students and their solemn and supportive participation. Thank you to all students and staff.







All students and parents/guardians are reminded that Friday, November 10th is a Non-Instructional Day – classes will not be in session. Everyone is also reminded that Monday, November 13th is the Remembrance Day Statutory Holiday.

I wish all Panthers a safe and meaningful long weekend. We will see you again on Tuesday morning.

Ken

Traffic Safety



Traffic safety around Lord Tweedsmuir Secondary is a critical priority for our community. With increased enrollment, the number of vehicles navigating around and within our school grounds also increases. It is essential that all drivers are very cautious while driving near the school and are aware of the many student pedestrians who are nearby.

All students and parents/guardians are requested to consider the following:

- If possible, students - please walk and/or bike to school. Fewer vehicles attempting to drop off and/or pick up students will be very helpful.
- Consider dropping off/picking up 2-3 blocks away from the school and avoid the traffic congestion around the school.
- Consider drop-off/pick up earlier and/or later in the morning/afternoons to avoid peak traffic times.

Thank you for your help in protecting the safety of our students.