

Principal's Message ~ December 16th – 20th

This Week at Lord Tweedsmuir

Thursday December 19th, 2024

Good morning students, staff, parents/guardians and friends of Lord Tweedsmuir Secondary.

Welcome to the final week of classes before our Winter Break! I hope your week has been enjoyable and your time at school productive and meaningful. Our entire community has been hard at work and focussed on learning since the end of August – we have accomplished so much. All Panthers are to be congratulated for your success and your dedication to your learning. It is now time for a very well-deserved break.

It has been a blustery week of wind, rain, grey skies and darkness... with our shortest day of the year just around the corner. Thank you to all Panthers for your care and attention around the school and roads in protecting the safety of our students.



As always, at this time of year, the school has been full of special events, celebration and school spirit. Last Friday morning, we hosted our annual Pancake Breakfast for our Grade 12 students. Great thanks to Chef Buist and the staff who helped prepare and serve. We had a great turnout of students and I know they appreciated this delicious meal to begin their day!

It is Winter Spirit Week at Lord Tweedsmuir! It has been fun to see the numerous Christmas sweaters, hats, socks, PJ's... and even a Grinch, throughout our school. Our students and staff are in the spirit! Thank you to the Student Council for hosting the week. 😊

On Tuesday evening, the Lord Tweedsmuir Secondary Music Department hosted their Winter Concert at the Bell Centre for the Performing Arts. Congratulations to Mr. De La Pena and all of our student-musicians on the evening. The show was a wonderful success, our students made us very proud, and the opportunity to perform in the beautiful Bell Theatre was very special. Way to go Panthers!





On Wednesday morning, students in our Dance class showcased their love of dance and music! Great thanks to Ms. Okrainetz and our BASES Dept staff for your caring support and guidance. It was wonderful to see the joy and pride of our students as they performed and demonstrated their talent and hard work. This was a very special moment for our students, staff and school. Thank you for the invitation! 🤝



Lunch breaks at Lord Tweedsmuir Secondary are filled with fun! This week I had the chance to drop by our “Board Games Club” in the library. Groups of students were playing Dungeons and Dragons and another group was enjoying a game of Uno. Our Games Club has lots of different games... students are encouraged to join in on the fun, learn a new game and make some new friends in the process.





I also had the chance to drop by the Gymnasium and catch some action with our Intramural program. Teams were playing handball in front of a crowd of students cheering them on. Students are also encouraged to join in on the Intramural fun, create a team and get active at lunchtime! Thank you to Mr. Jones and his Leadership students for coordinating this important program.



This Friday is our final day of classes before the holidays. Our Multi-Cultural Club will be hosting their Cultural Wonderland games at the Panther Post. Students are invited to drop by for games and fun at lunchtime.

I wish all Panthers a happy Christmas, Yalda, Winter Solstice, Kwanzaa, and Hanukkah. I hope you enjoy a peaceful and relaxing Winter Break. Enjoy your time with family and friends and all that the holiday brings.



Christmas

December 25

Christmas is an important and time-honoured tradition in Canada. It is both spiritually and culturally significant for millions of people in this country, Christians, and non-Christians alike. Christmas is generally defined as the Christian celebration of the birth of Jesus.



The Christmas tree, along with the Nativity scene are common physical symbols of Christmas across Canada in homes, businesses or public spaces. This is a time when families join for a special meal and exchange gifts.



Many Christians in Canada celebrate the beginning of the Advent season on the first Sunday of **Advent (Dec. 3)**. It marks the start of the Christian year in western Christianity. Its length varies from 22 to 28 days, starting on the Sunday nearest **St Andrew's Day**, and encompassing the next three Sundays, ending on Christmas Day.

Jan. 6 - Epiphany

(also known as Three Kings' Day & El Dia de los Reyes)
It occurs on the 12th day after Christmas. This Christian feast day is a special date as it's when people celebrate how a star led the Magi (Three Kings or Wise Men) to visit the baby Jesus after he had been born.



Jan. 7 - Orthodox Christmas Day (It is based on the Julian calendar instead of the Gregorian calendar.)

Boxing Day - December 26, 2023

With origins in England and the UK, Boxing Day is often linked to the opening of alms boxes in churches for collection of donations to those in need as well as gifts for employees of households on the day after Christmas. Today, many Canadians will look to their favourite stores for sales and shopping.



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December 25 - January 2

Hanukkah



Jewish people around the world celebrate Hanukkah (or Chanukah) to commemorate the victory of the Maccabees, a small rebel Jewish group, over the Greek-Syrian army in 165 BCE.



The word Hanukkah means dedication in Hebrew.



Following a fierce battle, the Maccabees reclaimed the Holy Temple in Jerusalem. They found it destroyed and desecrated. They discovered there was only enough oil to light the menorah (lamp) for one day. The oil lasted for eight days. Jewish people considered it a miracle!



Today, the Jewish celebration of Hanukkah lasts eight days in honor of this miracle. Jewish people light eight candles on the menorah or hanukkiah (one candle the first night, two the second night, and so on), say blessings and sing songs.



Jewish people eat foods fried in oil such as latkes (potato pancakes) and sufganiyot (doughnuts) to celebrate this miracle.



With every Hanukkah candle Jewish people light, they remember the importance of bringing light into the world. They think about the resilience and perseverance of the Maccabees, and the freedom they have today to celebrate Jewish culture and traditions.



Kwanzaa is a cultural festival that celebrates African communities, family and values. It takes place over 7 days.



The 7 principles (Nguzo Saba) are: unity (umoja), self-determination (kujichagulia), community work and responsibility (ujima), building and supporting businesses within the community (ujamaa), purpose (nia), creativity (kuumba), and faith (imani).



The celebration was founded in 1966 in the United States, and Canada began to celebrate it in 1993.



A special feast, called karamu, is held on December 31st, the sixth day of Kwanzaa. Traditional African dishes are served. They can include items such as beans, rice, stew, chicken and countless sweet desserts.



The word Kwanzaa comes from the Swahili language and means "first fruits." There are seven central symbols of Kwanzaa.



On January 1st, the last day of Kwanzaa, families exchange gifts. The gifts are known as zawadi.



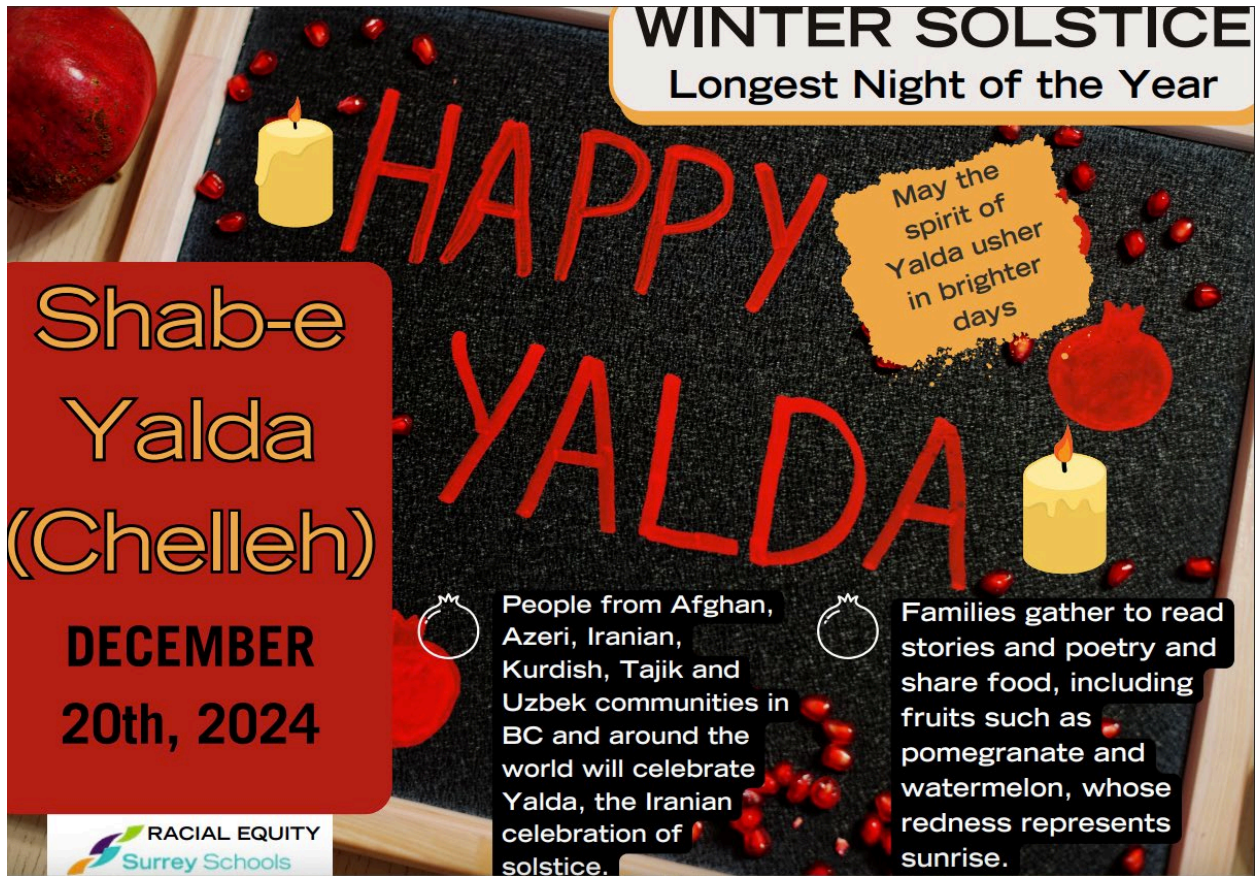
An important tradition in Kwanzaa has to do with a candleholder called the kinara. Every candle represents a different value of African culture.



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Racial Equity Department





We will see everyone back at school on Monday, January 6th.

Ken



Traffic and Student Parking

All Panthers are reminded that traffic around the school and parking on school property will be very busy with our increased enrollment and Extended Day schedule. All student drivers are reminded that it is very important to drive with care and attention while on or near school property. Safety is our first priority. Please drive safely and responsibly, be aware of pedestrians, and follow all traffic regulations.

If possible, all families are asked to consider alternative transportation options. Please walk or bike to school if possible. It would also be helpful if students are dropped off a couple of blocks away from the school and vehicles do not enter our school's parking lot.

Please note that this year, students are only permitted to park in the Student Lot on the right side of our parking lot near our Portable classrooms. Students are not permitted to park in the Staff Lot.

All students wishing to park on school property must apply for a Parking pass. Application forms may be picked up at the office. Students must park in their designated stall.

Parking passes must be displayed on your car's windshield at all times while on school property. Parking privileges will be revoked for any students not following our parking regulations or for unsafe driving.

Thank you for your help and cooperation in responding to our increased traffic challenges and protecting the safety of our community members.