

## Principal's Message ~ January 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>

# This Week at Lord Tweedsmuir

**Thursday January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

Good morning Panthers,

It is a very crisp and clear, beautiful morning at Lord Tweedsmuir Secondary! 😊 I hope everyone has had a highly productive and meaningful week of learning and that your final weeks of Semester #1 are going well. We are now immersed in the semester-end completion assignments/assessments and evaluation activities. The next week will be key for the success of our students. Study - stay focussed – ask questions – and appreciate all that our school is able to provide in support of your education.



Last weekend our students were participating in a couple of very special events. Huge congratulations to Ms. Okrainetz and our Dance Program for your success at this year's Breakout Dance Competition at the Bell Centre. We are so proud of your talent, hard work and achievements!

This year 15 Surrey high schools participated, with 1200 SD36 dancers and 900 audience attendees at The Bell. It was an amazing day for our school! The following awards went to LTSS:

Advanced Class - Platinum, Student Choreography Award: Ahria M. Overall Highest Score, and Overall Student Choreography Award.

Grade 8 Class - Silver

Jazz Team - 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Student Choreography Award: Ahria M.

Contemporary Team - 1<sup>st</sup> Place

Sr. Hip Hop - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place (out of 15 and the competition is fierce!)

Jr. Hip Hop - 5<sup>th</sup> place (out of 13)

Bhangra Team - 3<sup>rd</sup> place

Amazing! Way to go Panthers!

# Bhangra Team

3<sup>RD</sup>



Lord Tweedsmuir

**BREAKOUT**  
DANCE COMPETITION

# Open Contemporary Team



Lord tweedsmuir  
#4 Crazy

# Open Jazz Team



Lord Tweedsmuir  
#10 Telephone



Also on the weekend, our Senior Girls Basketball team competed in the final round of the Surrey Firefighters Goodwill Classic Tournament. Our team finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place! Congratulations to all players and coaches. What a great start to the season.



Speaking of Basketball, this week our Boys teams are competing in the RCMP Classic tournament. Our teams are excited for the opportunity to compete against schools from across the city. Good luck Panthers!

On Monday afternoon, our Department Heads met to review several important topics for our school. We discussed our systems of support for our Indigenous students and how our community is supporting the Truth and Reconciliation process. This is a top priority for our school and district and will continue to inform our systems, structures and educational initiatives. Thank you to all members of our LTSS community for your leadership and participation in this important work.

We also started an initial discussion about the Surrey School District's upcoming pilot project with Hybrid Learning. Next year, each Secondary school in Surrey will be offering a small number of courses as a Hybrid Learning option. Some of the classes/assignments will be online, along with the traditional, in-person, face-to-face, in-class support. Over the next couple of months, we will determine which courses will be part of the pilot and finalize the structures of the instructional model. More detail will be shared as our planning develops.

This week, our school conducted the Provincial Literacy Assessments for grade 10 and 12 students who had missed the previous session. Students are again reminded that your completion of this assessment is a required graduation requirement. Thank you to students and staff for your help in hosting this important session.

It was Black Excellence Day on Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>! Our Student Council hosted a special lunchtime Awareness and Celebration event at lunchtime in our Cafeteria. It was very rewarding to see our students participating in the event and celebrating Black Excellence. Great thanks to Ms. Smith, Mr. Rai and all of our Leadership students for your work.





# Jan. 15 is Black Excellence Day and Black Shirt Day

January 15, 2025

The infographic is a 2x2 grid. The top-left quadrant is black with the text 'BLACK EXCELLENCE DAY' in yellow, where the 'A' in 'BLACK' has a raised fist icon. The top-right quadrant is yellow with a black rounded rectangle containing 'January 15' in white. Below this, it lists 'Black Shirt Day and Black Excellence Goals' with a bulleted list. The bottom-left quadrant is yellow with the heading 'What is Black Shirt Day?' and three paragraphs of text. The bottom-right quadrant is black with the heading 'What is Black Excellence Day?' and three paragraphs of text.

## BLACK EXCELLENCE DAY

### January 15

#### Black Shirt Day and Black Excellence Goals

- Raise awareness around struggles that #BIPOC faces here and worldwide.
- Speaking up and out against racism where ever it shows itself.
- Being actively anti-racist.
- Preparing for Black History Month.
- Fighting for our future generations.

#### What is Black Shirt Day?

Black Shirt Day began in 2021 and was started by the Anti-Racism Coalition in Vancouver, Canada.

Black Shirt Day commemorated the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. and was both a day of education and remembrance. It was an invitation to a necessary conversation about racial injustice.

Canadians were asked to wear black shirts and use #blackshirtday to commemorate the ongoing struggle for civil and human rights fought by Black and racialized Canadians.

#### What is Black Excellence Day?

As a lead up to Black History Month, Black Excellence Day is a day to rejoice Black history and learn about Black stories, Black art and Black people, and a day to stand in solidarity with Black Canadians.

Black Excellence Day was created by Ninandotoo Society in 2022 and takes place in honour of the great civil rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. who was born on January 15, 1929.

It is important to acknowledge the contributions of Black Canadians and the ongoing civil rights struggle of Black Canadians.

The term Black Excellence was born out of the civil rights movement in the 1960s.

“January 15<sup>th</sup> is a critically important day for racial equity in our schools and provides an opportunity to celebrate Black excellence through our students,” said JB Mahli, Director of Instruction for [Racial Equity](#). “In our ongoing efforts to offer culturally responsive resources, we continue to recognize the triumphs, tribulations, resilience and joy of Black Canadians and raise their voices today and throughout the whole school year.”

Thursday was another very special day for our school and our Dance Program. We invited all of our Associate schools into Lord Tweedsmuir Secondary in the afternoon to watch our amazing Dance Teams/students perform. In the evening, we held another recital for parents and friends. We were inspired by the incredible talent, creativity and dedication of our Panthers.

It looks like some more Winter weather is around the corner. Parents/guardians and students are reminded to please review the District’s Weather-related Procedures information Sheet.

# Weather-related closures, class cancellations and delayed school openings



In the event of inclement weather, we want to remind families, students and staff about where to find information and how we make decisions to cancel classes, delay school openings or alter bus service due to weather.

All schools in the Surrey School District will remain OPEN if at all possible, except under extreme circumstances.

## HOW ARE DECISIONS MADE?

The Surrey School District covers a large geographic area, so conditions at individual school sites may vary. A variety of factors are considered before a decision is made, including:

- Road, sidewalk, school and parking lot conditions;
- Issues such as power outages and other emergent matters.



Designated staff members travel predetermined routes to assess conditions, and a recommendation to close schools or cancel buses is discussed with key district personnel, as well as neighbouring school districts. Student and staff safety are always our top priority.

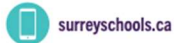
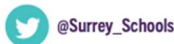
## WHEN WILL I KNOW?

A decision to close or delay opening schools districtwide will be made by 7 a.m. at the latest, based on the best information available at that time.



## HOW WILL I BE INFORMED?

Except under extreme circumstances, no announcement will be made that schools are open. Only cancellations, closures or delayed school openings will be announced. We will communicate this information as soon as it's available through:



Students and families are reminded that next week is the final week of regularly scheduled classes for Semester #1. January 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> will be Semester Completion Days. The school will be open on these days for students to schedule individual appointments with teachers to complete any missing assignments/assessments and/or tutorial support for successful completion of your courses. Please take advantage of this important learning structure. Semester #2 will begin on Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>. (Please note: Students should now have downloaded your 2<sup>nd</sup> semester timetable from your MyEdBC portal).

Have an excellent Friday and a happy weekend. We'll see you back at school on Monday. 😊

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.