

**Principal's Message** ~ Sept 11<sup>th</sup> – Sept 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023

## **This Week at Lord Tweedsmuir**

**Thursday September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

Good morning Panthers!

I hope that all students and staff have had an enjoyable week and are beginning to establish the routines and structures of the school year. Life at Lord Tweedsmuir Secondary is busy, very dynamic, and full. We are still in the process of finalizing and balancing our timetable and class lists. We hope to have our students' schedules finalized by end of day tomorrow. We are also in the process of hiring additional staff and hope to have this completed by the end of next week.



Our enrollment is now at approximately 1830 students and we expect this will climb by a few more students over the next week. Starting a new school year for a large Secondary school is a monumental task that requires the hard work and flexibility of both students and staff. Great

thanks to all Panthers for your patience and positivity as we all adjust from our summer days to our school year routines... 😊

Students in our Art class were enjoying their first assignment... sketching the front of our school. We have some very talented artists at Lord Tweedsmuir!



Last Friday I had my first opportunity to watch our Football team in action! I was so impressed with the level of enthusiasm, commitment and professionalism of our coaches and players. The Varsity team was playing against Sullivan, and the boys looked very strong. I wish all members of the team an excellent season, and I look forward to cheering you on!



Also on Friday, we had the opportunity to bring all of our new teachers together for an orientation lunch meeting. This was an important chance to share the vision of our school, and help support our new staff with details about systems and structures that allow us to operate. Lord Tweedsmuir Secondary enjoys such a strong and vibrant culture... I know that our new staff will enjoy their time as Panthers. Welcome to the family!

On Monday afternoon, we had a similar opportunity to bring our Department Heads together. Again, we were able to share our appreciation for the leadership and hard work of this group of teachers. In addition to sharing some of our start-up procedures, it was very helpful for me to hear the feedback about our first week's structures and ideas for next year. All staff are reminded that if you have any suggestions/feedback regarding next year's opening days, please let us know.

This week we hosted our grade-wide Welcome/Orientation assemblies for our Grade 9-12 students. I really enjoyed the chance to introduce myself, share a few thoughts about the

strengths of our school, and describe a couple of “pillars of success” that I will be focussed on throughout the school year. The assemblies also allowed our Vice Principals to review many of the systems that support our students and school culture. We were able to cover many important topics that will allow our students to feel safe, included, welcome and cared for... and that will foster excellence in all forms of learning.



On Wednesday, our Indigenous student Advocacy Committee held our first meeting of the year. Our caring support and advocacy for the success of our Indigenous students is a critical component of our school’s identity. We look forward to highlighting the importance of Truth and Reconciliation and working with our Indigenous students. I would like to recognize and thank all of our staff for your support and caring professionalism in addressing this important goal. We look forward to recognizing the importance of Orange Shirt Day on September 29<sup>th</sup>. Students and staff are reminded to please drop by the office if you would like to purchase an orange shirt.

This morning we really enjoyed the chance to meet with and recognize our school’s Integrated Educational Support Workers (IESW’s). Our IESW’s support our most complex learners... and

make a direct difference in the lives of our students every day. We are very grateful for their care and support of our Panthers, and recognize the crucial role they have within our school community. We wish all of our IESW's a wonderful year of success and celebration.

I'm looking forward to Friday morning's Breakfast Social with our PHE Department. Great thanks to the PHE Team for organizing! Bringing staff together within such a large and diverse community is very important. All staff are encouraged to drop by and say "hello" and meet your colleagues.

The weeks move past us very quickly... it is almost Friday already. Have an enjoyable weekend, and we will see you all back at school on Monday 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.