

**Principal's Message** ~ Sept 18<sup>th</sup> – Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

## **This Week at Lord Tweedsmuir**

**Thursday September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023**

Good morning to the Lord Tweedsmuir Secondary community,



We are now completing Week #3 of the new year and our school is gradually settling into our Autumn routines and traditions. Our timetable is now set with approximately 1830 students, and our staffing for the year is almost complete. We have a couple of additional positions to fill and are hopeful that these will be finalized very soon. There is a sense of optimism and positivity across our school community... 2023 – 2024 is going to be a great year for us all! 😊



Great thanks to all students and staff for your assistance and hard work in establishing engaging classroom environments and powerful learning opportunities. It has become very obvious to me that our Lord Tweedsmuir Panthers are very fortunate to belong to our “caring community of excellence”!

I've been enjoying the chance to cheer on our Football teams over the past few weeks. Both the Junior Varsity and Varsity teams are looking very strong at the beginning of their seasons. Way to go Panthers.



Our Intramural program is also underway for the year. Last week our students were enjoying the chance to play volleyball at lunchtime. All students are reminded that intramural games/sports are available at lunch in the large gym. Come on down and join in the fun!



Last week our Teaching Kitchen had a “soft start” to the year with the initiation of lunch service. Our students were excited to be able to access this service, and our Cafeteria students are working hard and learning quickly. Great thanks to Chef Buist and Cafeteria Assistant Elliott for all your efforts with this year’s kitchen start-up and training our future chefs.



This week we had the opportunity to attend the first Parent Advisory Council (PAC) meeting of the year. Great thanks to Ms. Kermode, Career Ed., Mr. Thornton, Counselling, Ms. Calla, LST, Mr. Gemmell, Athletics, and Ms. Miller, VP, Ms. Garbe, VP, and Mr. Kirincic, VP for your informative presentations. We are very grateful for the Executive of this year’s PAC, under the leadership of PAC Chair Ms. Beardall. Your work, collaboration and influence with our school community are very important. All parents/guardians are invited to join us at our next meeting on October 17<sup>th</sup>.

Another very important parent volunteer group is our Dry Grad Committee. This is such a significant initiative for our Graduating class of 2024. Lord Tweedsmuir has a strong and highly successful history of Dry Grad celebrations over the years; and I am confident that this year's Dry Grad will also be a wonderful, safe, fun and memorable evening of celebration for our graduates. All parents/guardians of senior students are highly encouraged to join this group of committed volunteers. Many hands make light work... and we greatly appreciate the partnerships we develop with our parent community. Thank you in advance for all of your assistance in organizing Dry Grad 2024. Please watch for regular updates on our Dry Grad fundraising efforts and how you can get involved.

The Lord Tweedsmuir Secondary Health and Safety Committee also met for the first time this week. All staff have an open invitation to join us for these important conversations. The health and safety of our staff and students is our top priority. Our committee will continue to monitor all systems across our school and respond to ensure the safety of all Panthers. Thank you to all members of this year's committee. All staff are encouraged to reach out to a committee member if you have any suggestions and/or concerns related to health and safety.

Thursday was another busy day for us as we initiated several structures for this year and celebrated the accomplishments of last year. School Based Team held their first meeting and reviewed the educational support plans of our most vulnerable learners. At lunch time it was "Karnival Kick-off" and the hosting of this year's Clubs Fair. We have many extra-curricular clubs for our students... and all students are highly encouraged to get involved in the life of the school. As a large comprehensive school, we offer so many opportunities for our students outside the classroom. (And so many opportunities within our classrooms!)... Great thanks to all of our staff who are sponsoring a club this year. Your commitment to our students and our school community is appreciated by us all!







The first Staff Committee meeting was also held on Thursday at lunch. This is also another very important committee for staff to engage in school life, provide input and recommendations and help shape the school environment. I look forward to working with this year's committee. Thank you in advance for your leadership.

On Thursday evening, we will hold our annual Lord Tweedsmuir Awards Ceremony. This is an evening of celebration of excellence and success. I look forward to recognizing the hard work, talents and dedication of our students from across the curriculum. We are very proud of our Panthers, both students and staff. It is very important to recognize the efforts of our students in front of family members, friends and staff. Congratulations Panthers!

Tomorrow morning will bring another special event with our annual Grade 8 breakfast. This will be a fun and welcoming celebration for our newest Panthers. Great thanks to our Cafeteria Program students for your assistance in preparing breakfast. I highly encourage all grade 8 students to join us early Friday morning! It will be a great way to end your week.

Monday is a Professional Development day across the Surrey school district. School will not be in session. Our staff will be focussed on Truth and Reconciliation, Indigenous learning and culture. It promises to be a highly meaningful day for us. Enjoy your Friday, have a happy weekend, and we will see you back at school on Tuesday morning.

Ken

Traffic Safety





As I have quickly noticed, 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.