

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES IN ACTION

Learning opportunities and initiatives demonstrating commitment to
Thames Valley's Strategic Priorities and Operational Goals

Minister of Education visits Masonville PS project



Education Minister Stephen Lecce visited Masonville PS in London on September 16 to review a recently completed \$8.4 million addition and renovation that included significant upgrades to the school's ventilation system. From left to right: Superintendents Geoff Vogt and Sheila Builder, Education Director Mark Fisher, Principal Laura Barr, Minister Stephen Lecce, Board Chair Lori-Ann Pizzolatto, Trustees Peter Cuddy and Corrine Rahman.

Muslim students offered virtual support groups

In response to the Islamophobic attack that took place on June 6 in London, Thames Valley invited Muslim students from across the district to connect with peers and staff members through virtual support meetings over the summer.

The meetings allowed students to engage with educators and clinical staff about their experiences with Islamophobia. Support group members were also asked to suggest resources and supports that Thames Valley can provide to Muslim students.

"Asma Bagajati, Sasha Fiddes, Michelle

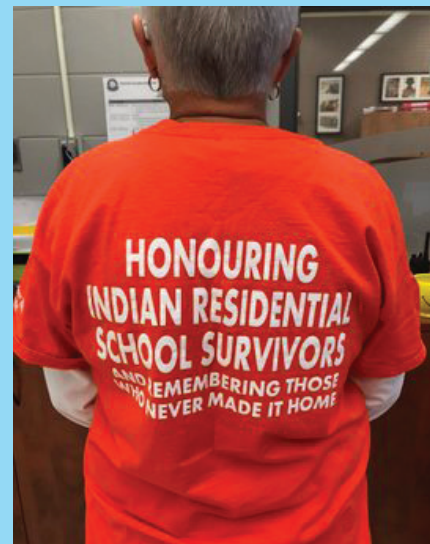
Trampleasure, Ahmed Chams, Tricia Pocock, Rima Chahbar, Mona Abusharkh, Dora Chams, Mazna Kamal and Kristi Darnell have all been instrumental in the creation of this support group for Muslim students," said Superintendent Purveen Skinner.

"TVDSB thanks them for their dedication and involvement with this important initiative," added Superintendent Skinner, noting that Muslim student support meetings will continue during the 2021-22 school year.

COVID-19 daily screening an important start to the school day

Students, parents/guardians and staff are reminded that daily screening is required before accessing school transportation, attending school or going to work. [The screening tool can be found on Ontario's website.](#)

The screener can also be used to assist families in determining when students can return to school if they are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms at school.



A Montcalm SS staff member shows her support for Orange Shirt Day (twitter.com/@MrsJMcCabe).

Orange Shirt Day in Thames Valley

All Thames Valley schools will participate in Orange Shirt Day on Thursday, September 30 – when people across Canada and beyond will honour Residential School Survivors, their families, and remember those children who didn't make it home.

Canada is on a journey toward Truth and Reconciliation and Thames Valley cannot let this moment pass without committing to change. The work moving forward is critically important for Thames Valley staff and students.

A commitment from all staff to include Indigenous voices, perspectives, experiences, and role models throughout the school year can contribute to a sense of belonging for Indigenous staff and students, as well as create further understanding for non-Indigenous staff and students.

Northdale PS celebrates improvements

Students at Northdale PS in Woodstock returned to school to find many exciting improvements in their outdoor play area, including newly planted trees and an additional basketball court.

The school community is also pleased with a new parking lot and “kiss and drop” area, where parents and guardians can safely drop off and pick up students.



“This work has added to the safety of the school community,” says Vice-Principal Julie Pulley. “A big thank you to Facilities Services for their hard work over the summer creating these new and improved spaces.”

Online Summer Learning programs a success

More than 7,000 students enrolled in summer programs at Thames Valley schools for new, improvement and recovery credits, co-op, Indigenous programming and a pilot course focused on Anti-Black Racism.

Although face-to-face learning is the preferred format for learning for both educators and students, many courses for students in Grades 7-12 were offered online due to public health restrictions.

By providing opportunities for students to work on key skills of literacy and numeracy, as well as building their proficiency in online learning platforms, students will be better equipped to succeed as they progress through school.



Best First Day backpack program a great success

The Thames Valley Education Foundation’s Best First Day backpack program distributed an incredible 3,260 backpacks this year, ensuring students in need received school supplies in time for the start of classes.

Best First Day started in 2001 as “Supplies for Students”, by two moms, Natalie Trimble and Chantal McLaughlin.

The program has grown exponentially over the years and now serves students

across Thames Valley, London District Catholic School Board, and local Indigenous communities.

With support of dedicated volunteers, donors, and local businesses, so many students across Thames Valley were able to have their Best First Day.

Photos of this program can be viewed on TVEF Instagram or Twitter @tveducationfdn #BestFirstDay.



Innerkip PS school community plants Canoe Garden

Students at Innerkip Central PS were busy during the summer months planting perennials in the school’s new Canoe Garden.

This unique garden was launched with the help of Sara McCreery, a community member who donated a canoe to encourage the participation in the David Suzuki Foundation’s Butterflyway Project — a program designed to promote the growth of habitats for bees and butterflies.

In addition to the benefits the Canoe Garden provides local wildlife, it also serves to reinforce classroom learning in a variety of subjects.

“Thank you to the Innerkip Central school council, school staff and community members, as well as the TVDSB Environmental portfolio and Upper Thames Conservation Authority,” says Principal Lynne Ross.