

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES IN ACTION

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



Excellence starts at Thames Valley

Olympic Gold medalist and world record holder, Damian Warner, along with his coach and retired TVDSB teacher, Gar Leyshon, delivered a live-streamed motivational presentation "Excellence Starts at Thames Valley" from Medway HS on October 25, 2021.

Damian attended Sir John A. Macdonald PS and Montcalm SS where he first showed his athleticism in Grade 10 on the football field and basketball courts under the guidance of his coaches Gar Leyshon and Dennis Nielsen.

The COVID-19 pandemic created training challenges for Team Warner in advance of

the 2021 Olympics held in Tokyo, Japan.

Damian and his team used Medway HS as a training facility, and he went on to win Gold in decathlon - breaking the Olympic record with a score of 9018 points.

Damian was named Canada's flag bearer for the closing ceremonies and hopes to compete at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris.

More than 500 classrooms across TVDSB joined the live event, where students were invited to submit questions for Damian and Gar.

[Click here to view the recorded presentation.](#)

Islamic History Month

Students and staff across Thames Valley were pleased to recognize Islamic History and Heritage Month this October using a school and educator resource guide that was provided by the Board's Equity team.

The Islamic History and Heritage Month School Resource Guide provided important information on cultural safety, as well as tips and strategies for affirming student identities in age and culturally appropriate ways.

The resource guide provided educators with curriculum connections and lesson plans for celebrating the Islamic faith and contributions of Muslims in Canada and from around the world.

Thames Valley's recognition of Islamic History and Heritage Month also saw staff engage in important professional learning opportunities related to supporting Muslim students.

Topics for these sessions included "The Effects of Islamophobia on Student Mental Health and Well-Being" and "A Teachable Moment About Islamophobia". The latter session was facilitated by the National Council of Canadian Muslims.

Thames Valley thanks its Muslim staff and community members that came together to develop these resources, especially Dr. Nosheen Ahmad, who is a parent of Thames Valley students.

Dr. Ahmad has been designing Islamic History and Heritage Month school displays at her children's schools for the past few years and this year worked with the Equity Team to make these displays and resources available to all schools in Thames Valley.

Dr. Ahmad and her daughters also developed voice over presentations on Notable Muslim Innovations that educators could share with students.

1

**Public input invited
on northwest London
accommodation issue**

2

**Dorchester childcare
expansion approved**

3

**London Trustee
Joyce Bennett
resigns**

L'école d'Immersion Jeanne Sauvé a bien célébré la journée des Franco-Ontariens

Le personnel et les élèves de Jeanne Sauvé FIPS ont tout récemment participé à plusieurs activités dans le but de rendre hommage au patrimoine des francophones de l'Ontario durant la célébration de la journée des Franco-Ontariens. La date annuelle pour la journée des Franco-Ontariens est le 25 septembre. Anuellement, ce jour reconnaît la contribution de la communauté francophone de l'Ontario à la vie culturelle, historique, sociale, économique et politique de la province.



Pendant la semaine du 20 septembre, les élèves ont eu la chance d'explorer les différentes communautés francophones de l'Ontario en touchant particulièrement sur les aspects culturels, historiques et sociaux. Les élèves ont bien aimé avoir la chance de célébrer la culture franco-ontarienne ainsi que d'apprendre de la persévérance requise pour maintenir une culture francophone en Ontario depuis presque 400 ans.

Les élèves ont étudié la chanson "Mon beau drapeau". Cette chanson raconte l'histoire des premiers Franco-Ontariens et comment l'arrivée du drapeau leur a permis de se créer une identité propre à eux. Les paroles ont été composées par M. Jean-Pierre Perreault et la musique par M. Brian St-Pierre.

La directrice adjointe, Lindsay Rycroft, a résumé la journée en disant que "Tout le monde à Jeanne Sauvé FIPS était fier d'avoir la chance de porter le vert et le blanc pour célébrer nos racines Franco-Ontariennes."



East Elgin students help brighten Aylmer

Students from East Elgin SSI had the opportunity to share ideas on how youth could be better represented in the Aylmer community. The students expressed a desire to be part of the change towards making downtown spaces feel warmer and more welcoming with an emphasis on equity and diversity.

In collaboration with the TVDSB Innovation and Experiential Learning programs, students connected with the team at Young and Free Press, the Aylmer-Malahide Museum and Archives, and artist Meaghan Claire Kehoe, to collaborate on a concept for a new mural. After several months of virtual meetings to share ideas and designs, production on the mural began in the summer of 2021.

The new mural in downtown Aylmer has since received a lot of positive attention. The buzz it has generated on the street and on social media has been extremely rewarding for students to witness.

"Working with Young and Free Press was a fantastic experience," said Grade 12 student Madalyn Obar. "It was amazing to be able to contribute to our community through this project."

Artist Meaghan Claire Kehoe shared, "It has been such a rewarding experience working with the East Elgin SS students to design a mural for the Aylmer community. They wanted to see diversity, kids they could relate to, and of course some local Easter eggs, like the Tundra Swans that migrate through the area each year."

[To learn more about the mural project in Aylmer, read Celebrating the Past, Present, and Future of Aylmer.](#)

School coding resources help local Girl Scout Troop

Emily Carr PS student Katie Stevens and her Girl Scout Troop successfully earned their Junior Coding Basics Badge with the help of resources posted at school.

The Junior Coding Basics Badge requires Scouts to find out how computer scientists write programs to solve problems and learn about the female pioneers in the world of computer science. Katie's troop was tasked to find fun coding websites they could practice with at home. Emily Carr's Coding Activities webpage led the troop to some great information.

Students at Emily Carr can access Katie's resource, along with other resources identified by the school, throughout the year as they learn more about coding and how they can create their own digital media.

ECE Appreciation Day

October 21, 2021 was the 21st annual Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day. TVDSB recognizes the commitment, hard work and dedication of Registered Early Childhood Educators (RECEs).

Their invaluable contributions in our Kindergarten classrooms are respected as they co-create welcoming and exciting learning environments for pupils and engage in meaningful relationships with children, families, and colleagues.



Chair's Corner

@lapizzolato

This year, Local Government Week was recognized from October 18 to 24. The role of the Board of Trustees during this week was to raise awareness about the role of Trustees and the Board within the Thames Valley community.

I am honoured to work with the other 15 community-minded citizens that help make important decisions that build on the foundation of our system today.

Lori-Ann Pizzolato,
Chair of the Board



Click the image above to watch Chair Pizzolato's video.