



Louise Arbour F.I. Newsletter

April 2024

Principal: Mme. Blais
Vice Principal: Mme. Hart
Secretary: S.Earls & H. Weitzel
Superintendent:
L. Griffith-Jones

Important Dates Coming Up

Apr. 1 - Sikh Heritage
Month

Apr. 2 - World Autism Day

Apr. 4 - National School
Librarian Day

Apr. 8 - PD Day
(No School)

Apr. 9 - International Day
of Pink

Apr. 10 - Eid al-Fitr

Apr. 15 - School Council
Meeting

Apr. 22 - Passover
Earth Day

Apr. 24 - Administrative
Professionals Day

Apr. 28 - National Day of
Mourning

[Louise Arbour F.I.P.S.](http://louisearbour.fips.ca)

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Admin Message

Dear Louise Arbour Families,

Welcome to Spring! We hope that everyone enjoyed a fulfilling long weekend with friends and family and that you got a chance to get out and enjoy the sunshine.

Please continue to keep in mind that as 'spring has sprung' to ensure that your child arrives at school with appropriate outdoor clothing. You can include your child in this process by checking the weather the night before and have your child decide what outdoor clothing they will need for the following day. Please keep in mind that when it is wet there tends to be a lot of puddles and mud outside, therefore boots over running shoes would be preferred for these days.

There are a few events that are happening during the month of April for our students, including intermediate badminton, Dungeons and Dragons club, a gifted field trip to Westminster Ponds, and members of our Dance Club are participating at the TVDSB Dancefest. Our students are very excited to be participating in these activities while at school.

We have a School Council meeting that is taking place on Monday, April 15th from 6:30 - 7:30. Please use the following [link](#) to join the meeting virtually. This is a great opportunity to get involved in your child's school and interact with other parents from the area.

Merci,

Mme Blais and Mme Hart



APRIL 8, 2023 PD DAY & SOLAR ECLIPSE



A total solar eclipse will occur in our region on Monday April 8. The event will begin at approximately 2:00 PM, reach totality around 3:15 PM, and end at approximately 4:30 PM.

Staring directly at the sun can cause damage to the eyes.

Looking directly at a total solar eclipse can be dangerous because of the intense sunlight that is still present even when the moon is blocking part of or all the sun. The sun's rays can cause damage to the eyes. Regular sunglasses are not sufficient for looking at a solar eclipse because they do not block the harmful solar radiation.

Southwestern Public Health and the Middlesex-London Health Unit recommend following the advice of the [Canadian Association of Optometrists](#) to [safely enjoy a solar eclipse](#). For more information about on how to safely experience the total solar eclipse, please visit the [NASA website](#) for additional resources.

Do not stare at the sun without appropriate protection.

If you are viewing the eclipse, use approved solar eclipse eye protection that meets [international standard ISO 12312-2](#) for safe viewing. If you do not have approved eye protection and still wish to view the eclipse, view it indirectly through a [pinhole projector](#) or [watch it online](#).

If you are driving during the event and the sun is in view, make use of your automobile's sun visors to block the sun.

SAFELY observing **THE SUN**

WARNING! Never look directly at the sun without proper eye protection. You can **seriously** injure your eyes.

Check with local science museums, schools and astronomy clubs for eclipse glasses—or purchase an ISO 12312-2 compliant and CE certified pair of these special shades!

Credit: B. Habibi, M. Drummond and P. Aniel

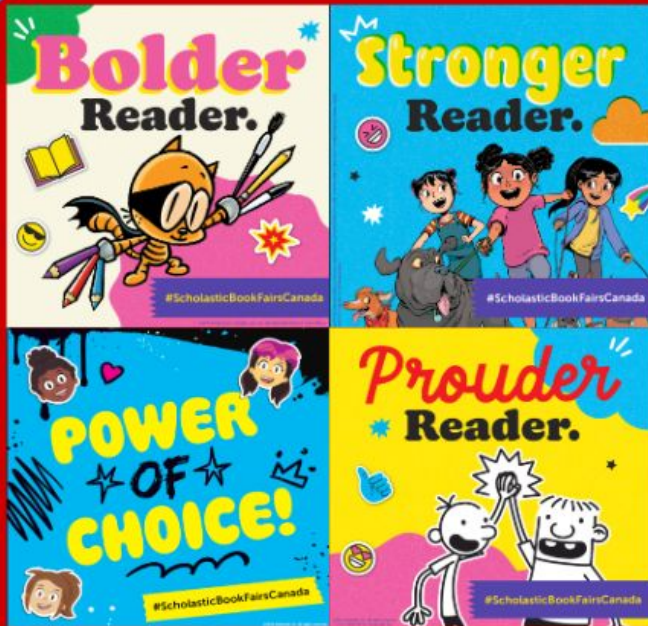
View the eclipse with special eclipse glasses. YES!

Regular sunglasses are not safe to view the eclipse. NO!

SUN FUNNEL

Inexpensive and easy to build, the sun funnel is a device that completely encloses the light coming from a telescope and projects a magnified image of the sun, large enough for many people to view at once.
<http://eclipse2017.nasa.gov/make-sun-funnel>

Scholastic Book Fair



This year, students are invited to preview and purchase books in-person during the week of **Monday, April 29th to Friday, May 3rd.**

All purchases benefit our school and earn rewards that can be redeemed for books and educational resources for our school's classrooms and library learning commons.



Gifted Field Trip

Students identified as gifted have been invited to participate in a TVDSB onsite learning opportunity.

Students across TVDSB will meet at an outdoor education centre to learn about geocaching. The outdoor education centre team has created an interactive enrichment session just for our gifted students!

Students will receive training and outdoor activities focused on using GPS technology.

Our students will be meeting neighbouring schools at Westminster Ponds on Tuesday, April 9 for a couple of hours of exploring this version of a treasure hunt!



Poetry Contest 2024

It is that time of year again...Poetry Month! Our annual poetry writing contests will run throughout the month of April. All students and staff are invited to take part in one or all of these creative writing activities. I know that we have some budding poets out there!

Poems can be written by individuals or in groups -class submissions are always welcome!

All entries must be edited, original works and must be submitted to Mme Allen by **Monday, April 29th. This year, entries may be submitted in-person (at the library) or online (via **Google Classrooms**).** Students will be allowed to submit a maximum of 3 individual/group poems; these are in addition to any class entries. Poems can be written in **English** or **French**. Please make sure that you include your name(s), grade and class on the bottom right corner of your submissions. Winning entries will be selected from every division: Primary (Grades 1-3), Junior (Grades 4-6) and Intermediate (Grades 7 & 8). A list of contest winners will be announced shortly thereafter.

All participants will earn **1 ballot** into the draw for a chance to win some **fantastic prizes!** **Contest winners will earn an additional ballot into the final draw.** Prize winners will be announced on **Wednesday, May 1st**.

Happy Writing Everyone...

Poetry Contest #1 -Tuesday, April 9th - Monday, April 29th

Foci: **Concrete (Shape) and Structured Poetry**

Alliterations and shorter (8 lines or less) poems written in Rhyming Couplets

Poetry Contest #2 -Tuesday, April 9th - Monday, April 29th

Focus: **Free Verse and longer (more than 8 lines) poems written in Rhyming Couplets**

***While students are welcome to submit any type of poem into the contest; they are encouraged to incorporate poetic structures and literary devices (i.e., similes, metaphors, onomatopoeia, personification) in their work.**

More specific information will be shared via VLEs -Google Classrooms and Brightspace.



Badminton Club



Throughout the month of April our grade 7 / 8 doubles badminton teams will be participating at qualifying tournaments at both Stoney Creek and Cedar Hollow. This will be followed by Regionals and hopefully Thames Valley finals! We thank everyone who tried out and wish our teams good luck!

Banting Wildcard



Banting's Wildcard event is a long standing tradition to build community and to ease the transition to highschool. Any of our grade 8 students who have registered for Banting have been invited to participate in this incredible and unique opportunity.

On May 3rd, students will spend the day at Banting taking part in community-building activities, games, tours, and a variety of guest speakers. We know that they will have an incredible day as they do every year!

What Does the Research Say?

Supporting Attendance at Thames Valley

Purpose: To help board and school staff understand attendance issues and address them using evidence-based strategies. Evidence-based strategies are supported by peer-reviewed research.

Why is it important to improve attendance?

Frequent absences are associated with **negative effects** on:



Interpersonal skills



Motivation



School belonging



School stress



End-of-year math and literacy assessments



Absent students miss out on the **benefits of school**.



Attendance issues can **negatively impact opportunity gaps**.



There are **cumulative effects** of school absences.



Attendance is an indicator for **school dropout risk**.



Widespread attendance issues can **impact entire classrooms**.

Attendance Explained

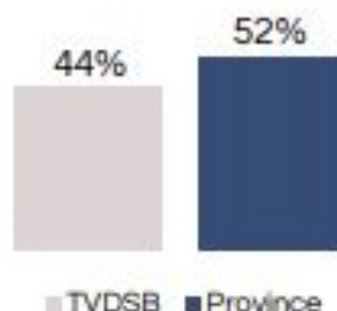
- Attendance means a student is **present at school**. In Ontario, absences where a student is not present are recorded as either General Absence Days ("G") or Regular Absence Days ("A").
- Definitions for "A" and "G" absences can be found in the Ontario Ministry of Education's *Enrolment Register Instructions for Elementary and Secondary Schools*: <https://files.ontario.ca/edu-enrolment-register-instructions-elementary-secondary-schools-en-2023-12-18.pdf>
- The Ontario Ministry of Education** classifies students as "persistently absent" if they miss 10 percent or more school days in a given school year. **This rate includes both "A" and "G" absences.**

Why is attendance a particular concern now?

A key indicator in the TVDSB Student Achievement Plan is the percentage of Grade 1-8 students whose individual attendance rate is at least 90 percent.

School attendance in many areas declined following the COVID-19 pandemic. In the 2021-22 school year, only 44% of TVDSB students in Grades 1 to 8 met the 90 percent attendance rate, compared to 52% in the province.

% of Grade 1-8 Students with an Attendance Rate At or Above 90 Percent in 2021-22



How can we improve attendance?

TIER 1: FOR ALL STUDENTS

Address Common Barriers, Communicate



Create a positive and supportive **school climate**.



Offer safe and reliable **transportation** to and from school.



Offer **breakfast** programs and **after-school** programs.



Promote **good health** through information, screenings, and a school nurse.



Use **positive framing**: improving attendance rather than reducing absenteeism.



Communicate with families and older students about the importance of attendance.



Focus on the **Essential Conditions for Learning** for a safe and caring learning environment.



Keep the indoor environment **clear of common triggers** for allergies or asthma.

TIER 2: FOR STUDENTS WITH A HISTORY OF OR BEGINNING TO SHOW ATTENDANCE ISSUES

Early Intervention



Meet regularly to review attendance records.



Intervene early before small issues become large issues.



Provide **personalized, early outreach** to identify barriers and potential supports.



Assign a staff member to **greet students** by name each day. Call home when students are absent.



Recognize **improved attendance**.



Work collaboratively to understand gaps and challenges for improving attendance.

TIER 3: FOR STUDENTS WITH SEVERE ATTENDANCE ISSUES

Personalized Intervention



More severe circumstances, e.g., missing 20% of school days, may require substantial **individualized supports**.



Work with school counsellors, social workers, psychologists, or other service agencies to **address individual student and family barriers**.



When attendance issues are expected to continue, e.g., in cases of severe or chronic health issues, work with students, families, and teachers to **prevent students from falling behind** as much as possible.

*Sikh students,
families and
community
members
invited.*



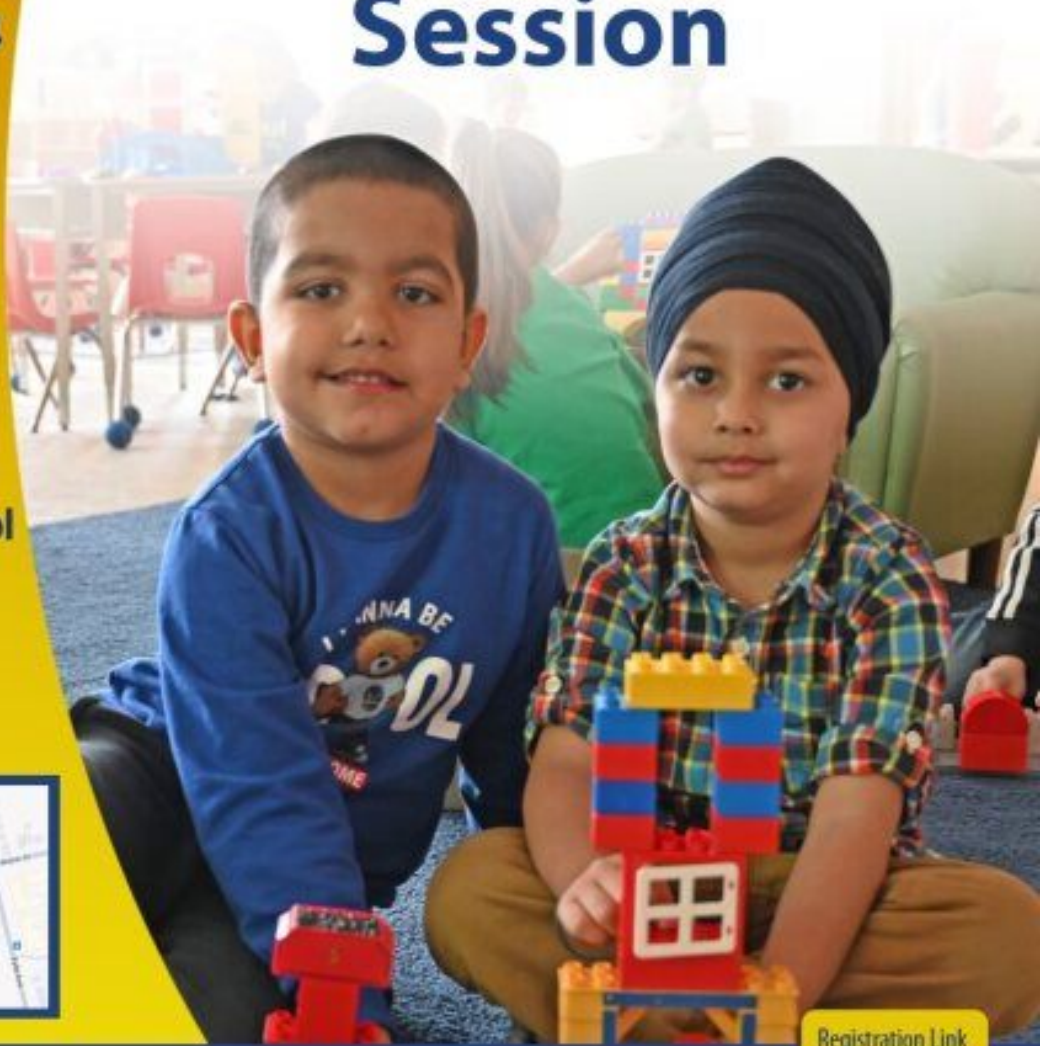
Sikh Community Engagement Session

**Wednesday,
April 17, 2024**

**5:00 p.m.
to 7:00 p.m.**

**FREE meal
provided**

**College Avenue
Secondary School
700 College Ave.,
Woodstock, ON**



[Registration Link](#)

**Build Relationships
on April 17!**



EQAO Webinars for Parents and Caregivers of Grade 3 and 6 Students

Parents and caregivers of Grade 3 and 6 students who are interested in learning more about this spring's EQAO Provincial assessments are invited to register for this free live webinar.

The sessions are 45 minutes in length and include a live question and answer period with EQAO staff.

The final session will run on the following date:

- April 10, 2024 6:00 p.m.

Parents and caregivers can register their interest at this [Registration link](#).

These short sessions will allow families to learn about the primary and junior Assessments of Reading, Writing and Mathematics students will complete this spring. Participants will also learn about Ontario's large-scale assessments' purpose and how it relates to the Ontario curriculum taught and assessed in classrooms in Thames Valley.

