Thames Valley District School Board

ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local

MEMO TO: **Elementary Principals and Vice Principals**
ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local Members

FROM: **Lynne Griffith-Jones, Senior Superintendent of Human Resources**
Mike Thomas, President ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local

SUBJECT: **Supporting Strong Connections to Families and Caregivers**

DATE: **October 8, 2026**

The Thames Valley District School Board and ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local recognize the important work teachers do throughout the school year to build and maintain meaningful relationships with parents and caregivers. As you are aware, there is no designated Professional Activity Day for Parent/Caregiver-Teacher Interviews included in the 2026-2027 school year calendar. Accordingly, there will be no specific day for Parent/Caregiver-Teacher Interviews. Schools are not to recreate or replace the previously designated interview day with an interview evening or event. Communication between home and school is an important part of supporting student achievement and well-being.

The parties recognize that communication with families is ongoing and extends well beyond a designated day. Throughout the year, teachers and parents/caregivers connect in many different ways and at different stages in a student's learning. These conversations may occur through phone calls, emails, meetings, progress reports, informal conversations and other forms of communication to support learning and growth of all students.

Teachers are expected to use their professional judgment scheduling interviews and maintaining effective communication with families. The timing, method and nature of that communication will vary depending upon the circumstances, the needs of the student and family and the professional judgment of the teacher. To support ongoing communication, on the afternoon of the October 26 PD Day, teachers may use this time to communicate with families in advance of the Progress Reports being sent home or use this time for their own professional activities. While the afternoon of the October 26 is a workday, teachers may determine their own departure time based on their professionalism. This flexibility acknowledges the extended time and efforts made to communicate with families.

Thank you for your continued professionalism and commitment to fostering meaningful connections with families. Your efforts throughout the year strengthen relationships, support student learning, and showcase the very best of what Thames Valley schools offer.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Lynne Griffith-Jones, Senior Superintendent of Human Resources at l.griffith-jones@tvdsb.ca or at 519-452-2000, extension 20250. ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local Members should contact Mike Thomas, President ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local at 519-474-3150.