



We are environmental stewards working hard to learn, practice, and teach habits for the betterment of our environment and our world for the future . . .



island public school

January 2018

## IPS is now a Platinum Status ecoschool!

In case you haven't yet heard our exciting news, we're happy to share it again - the Island School is now a **Platinum ecoschool** - the *highest status possible*, and one that only 1/5 of all Toronto schools have achieved! Thank-you to every student, parent and staff member who helped contribute to this worthy goal.

## Waste Reduction: Glows and Grows

As you know, one of our big initiatives at IPS is Waste Reduction, and specifically, to get food waste out of the landfill stream. Compost in landfill wreaks a surprising amount of havoc - contributing to toxic leachate in the soil, and toxic gas (methane) into the atmosphere. Here's a short video that explains this concept in kid-friendly language.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qHYzRaepeMw>

**The Good News** (the GLOW) is that in two waste audits, done in November 2016 and November 2017, our waste reduction was significant - from 8kg to 2 kg.

**The Challenge** (the GROW) is that almost 75% of our waste stream was still composed of FOOD WASTE. We still have a little way to grow. The Ecolids would love to see our Waste Stream with 0% food waste by June, 2018. **Does that seem like a goal we can achieve?**

## Stay tuned for...Waste-Free Lunches!

**Mark your Calendar!** The Parent-Eco-Team will be presenting for the FIRST TIME at the February School Council Meeting: **Tuesday, February 13th at LONGO's**. Please attend as we present a school-wide-super-cool initiative to support Suzuki's Buyerarchy of Needs.

## How can I help?

>**Please continue** to use (or increase your use of) REUSABLE containers in your child's lunch. Here's one source, [www.ukonserve.com](http://www.ukonserve.com) but there are many, many more.

>**Please continue** to pack reusable water bottles - *Just Say No* to single use plastic drink containers, and if you haven't yet, buy an IPS-water bottle for your child, . . . and yourself!

>**Please consider** joining the Summer Watering Team - to help us water our trees, our pollinator garden, and the 3 Sisters Garden planned for Spring.



>**Please consider** this *Buyerarchy of Needs* from David Suzuki's *Queen of Green*

**Together - we are definitely better!**