



Islington

Junior Middle School

April 2018



Monthly Newsletter

April Edition



Co-operation

**"ALONE WE CAN
DO SO LITTLE;
TOGETHER WE
CAN DO SO MUCH."**

- Helen Keller

Principal's Message



We are excited to welcome April and we hope that spring weather will soon be upon us! We continue to thank you for your patience and cooperation with our roof project. We anticipate completion of the 71,000 square foot project soon! Please be sure to read the correspondence that we send home regarding the project and feel free to call or visit us if you have any questions or concerns. We have been working closely with our Health and Safety Department to ensure that the safety of our staff and students is at the forefront of all undertakings related to the project.



Summer school registration has begun. Elementary summer programs increase engagement and build self-confidence in our students. They are open to all students. This summer, from July 4 – 27, schools are opening across the city to help build reading, writing and math skills in students from Kindergarten to Grade 8. Visit www.tdsb.on.ca/summer for a complete list of participating schools. Also this summer, adults can build literacy and English language skills from July 9-31. There are a wide range of classes, from beginner to advanced, to help you improve your conversation skills, further your education, and prepare for citizenship and language proficiency tests. Adult ESL program is free for eligible learners. For more information, visit www.ESLtoronto.ca or call 416-338-4300.

On April 27th, we will be holding a fundraiser for our Nutrition Program. We will be selling hotdogs for \$2.00 and sambosa for \$1.00 at lunch time in the large lunchroom. We hope that many of our kids can participate in the fundraiser. We are excited to begin our pizza lunches this week and we wish all our staff, students and community a wonderful April!

2018-2019 School Year

Student class placement is always a complex process, during which we strive to achieve a good fit for all students. Careful time and consideration are given by staff and administration when considering the best learning environment for each child. Classrooms are organized based on a balance of the following factors: academic levels, social emotional needs, program needs, gender, learning styles, group dynamics. **If you wish to make us aware of any program and/or special needs that may impact your child's learning, please submit this to the main office in writing no later than April 25, 2018.** We will take your note into consideration, however, we cannot guarantee a specific placement. Please note that last minute requests will not be considered because classes are organized during the month of May. Also note that requests for a particular teacher cannot be accepted as teacher assignments are tentative until September.



Islington JMS is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy learning environment for all students. Sabrina's Law requires every school board to establish and maintain an anaphylactic policy that includes strategies to reduce the risk of exposure to anaphylactic causative agents in classrooms and common school areas.

We all must do our best to keep nuts out of the school and yard during the school day. There are children AND staff in the school who have life-threatening allergies to nut products. **For this reason, we will remain Food Sharing Free. We ask that parents do NOT send baked goods for parties.**

Whether you are living with an allergy yourself or are concerned about people in your community, more information about life threatening allergies is available on the Anaphylaxis Canada's website at <http://www.anaphylaxis.org/> or by calling 416-785-5666.

SCHOOL HOURS AND SUPERVISION

8:35 AM	Supervision in main schoolyard provided
8:50 AM	Entry Bell
10:05 - 10:15 AM	Recess
11:35 AM	Lunch
12:35 PM	Entry Bell
2:00 - 2:10 PM	Recess
3:10 PM	End of Instructional Day (Grade 6-8)
3:15 PM	End of Instructional Day (Kindergarten)
3:20 PM	End of Instructional Day (Grades 1 - 5)

The main schoolyard is supervised from 8:35a.m. - 8:55 a.m., each recess, and over the lunch hour each school day. The schoolyard is not supervised after 3:35 p.m. **We recommend that children not be in the schoolyard beyond the supervised times unless with a parent/guardian.**

Trustee Pamela Gough Ward 3 Council

Vision Zero: Traffic Safety in School Zones



Wednesday April 25, 2018, 6:30-8:00 pm
Norseman JMS, 105 Norseman St

Featuring:

- Roger Browne, Manager of Traffic Safety, City of Toronto
- Kristen Evers, TDSB EcoSchools Green Projects Leader
- Jill Cheyne, Toronto Public Health
- Tracy Hayhurst, Superintendent Learning Network 23
- TBC- Representative from the Toronto Police Services

A Toronto Public Health safe walking workshop and pizza dinner is available during the meeting for children age 4-10. Please

reserve space with araz.hasserjian@tdsb.on.ca

Light refreshments will be provided for adults

Equity and Wellbeing



Autism Awareness Day

On April 3rd, the TDSB will join together with Autism Ontario to Raise the Flag in recognition of World Autism Awareness Day.

You will see the flag at three central TDSB offices, 5050 Yonge Street, 140 Borough Drive and 1 Civic Centre.

Our students at Islington JMS are very excited to put together an information session at our upcoming assembly on April 26, 2018, regarding autism.

A series of announcements, resources and presentations will be shared throughout April to assist teachers, students and community members with greater awareness of the strengths and challenges of living with autism. We are encouraging all students, staff and community members to wear blue to school on April 26th in support of this important initiative.

For additional resources, visit:

<https://raisetheflagforautism.com/>

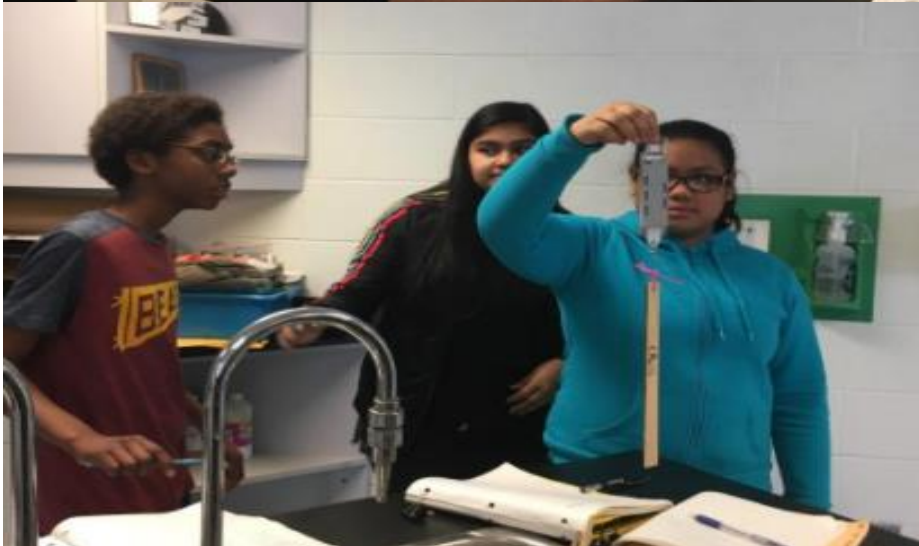
CELEBRATING WOMEN AND GIRLS AT OUR SCHOOL AND WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY

On March 29th, the Islington JMS Girls Leadership Groups from Grade 6 and 8 hosted an evening called *"Girls Night: A Night of Celebrating and Empowering One Another"*. Each student had the opportunity to invite a significant female figure in her life. With dinner served and two wonderful guest speakers, positive messages and calls to action were the outcome. Our girls learned about self-love, true beauty and about supporting each other as women. A memorable night indeed!



ACHIEVEMENT

With the help of our Parent Council, our school has been fortunate enough to offer Scientists in the School to ALL classes. These are actual scientists who visit classes for the day and work with students on various topics that support their in-class inquiries. The aim of this program is to engage students in “*real-world experiences that spark curiosity and nurture their inquisitive young minds, not only to help them discover the fascinating and fun side of science, technology, engineering, math (STEM), and the environment, but also to help them develop the 21st century global competencies that they will need to succeed not only in the careers of tomorrow, but in the world of tomorrow.*” Our intermediate students have already benefitted from the visits and our primary students are excitedly awaiting the next month for their *Scientists in School* opportunity. If you would like more information on the program and/or you would like to join your child’s class on the day of their program, please contact your child’s teacher.



April 2018



PARENT COUNCIL NEWS

Parents as Partners Conference

You're invited to our annual
Parents as Partners
Conference!

The Parents as Partners
Conference 2018 is on
Saturday, April 28 and all
parents are welcome!

This free conference – planned
by parents, for parents –
includes a variety of workshops
and resources that will help
any parent support their child in
their achievement and well-
being at school and at home.
This year's keynote speaker is
Unstoppable Tracy, an award-
winning educator and leader in
schools, business and in sport,
humanitarian, advocate,
decorated athlete and
international speaker.

Transportation, childcare, lunch
and translators are all
provided. Registration at

www.parentsaspartners.ca.

Kinder Korner

Learning Buddies is a wonderful opportunity for our youngest learners to get to know some of the 'big kids' in the school. It is also a fantastic leadership opportunity for our older students as they guide and support Kindergarten students on their learning journey. In Learning Buddies, the classes involved participate in a variety of planned learning opportunities together: art, music, dance, drama, mathematics, and literacy. The relationship the children build with one another often lasts throughout the years the children are at Islington JMS.

'Little' Buddy benefits

- increased social communication and conversational skills
- extension of vocabulary and oral language skills
- feeling 'special' (because they know some of the 'big kids')
- increased self-esteem (again, because they know some of the 'big kids')
- hearing stories read aloud (modeling of reading fluency, phrasing, and expression)
- regular opportunities to practice reading simple books with one-to-one assistance
- enjoying fun, positive experiences with a 'big kid' who has become a recognizable face in the school community
- peer support

'Big' Buddy Benefits

- increased self-esteem (from being looked up to by a younger student)
- fostering leadership skills
- development of mentoring skills
- authentic opportunities for problem-solving
- increased oral communication (conveying ideas in a clear, concise manner)
- furthering literacy skills (when reading and writing with their buddies)



Eco News

The Eco club is busy with many projects to make our school greener. We are continuing to monitor our recycling of some garbage items into the correct bins. During March, a Waste Audit was conducted to check waste being created by our school and find ways to minimize the waste. Every year millions of people, businesses and schools set aside an hour to celebrate Earth Hour by switching off their lights. At Islington, the lights were turned off from 2pm to 3pm. On a weekly basis, ECO Club members are continuing to monitor the lights being turned off when they are not in need. **School Clean-up day will be held on April 20th.** Islington students will help contribute to keeping our environment clean by picking up garbage around the school. This effort was part of a city wide clean up to help keep our city clean and green. Earth Day is coming on April 22nd. It's the perfect time for all of us to think about what we are doing or not doing that is making an impact on Mother Earth. Our School will make a difference by teaching students how to take care of the Earth. Some examples:

- * Reducing our Carbon Footprint (use bicycles more often or walk to school)
- * Help clean up our community by picking up garbage
- * Planting trees/plants
- * Using less paper
- * Getting outside to appreciate the beauty of nature

GIVING BACK TO OUR COMMUNITY!!

Students in the Jr. and Sr. LEAP classes are enjoying contributing to a community initiative while developing their character traits of Kindness and Co-operation. At the Giving Garden of Islington United Church in the fall, they helped to harvest, measure, and package fresh tomatoes and beans to be donated to two local community food banks. With April now upon us, the students will continue to partner with the garden committee by planting lettuce seeds indoors, in anticipation of outdoor planting in the late spring. In May and June, they will volunteer four mornings of work by watering, weeding, and cleaning the newly planted vegetable beds. We'll look forward to watching the plants flourish and later helping to harvest and share this year's coming crop of fresh spices and vegetables from the gardens!



Islington Junior Middle School

44 Cordova Avenue



Principal: Rocco Coluccio
Vice Principal: Simona Emiliani
Superintendent: Tracy Hayhurst
Trustee: Pamela Gough
Co-Chair: Alex Song
Co-Chair: Surer Osoble

Event	Date
April 4, 2018	First pizza lunch for this term
April 13, 2018	Spring Carnival K - 5
April 19, 2018	Kindergarten Grad Photos
April 20, 2018	School Clean-up day
April 26, 2018	SOTM Assembly Wear Blue for Autism Awareness
April 27, 2018	Hotdogs and <u>Sambosa</u> Fundraiser

Pizza Lunches for this term: April 4, 11, 18, 25, May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, June 6, 13, 20



Follow us on Twitter: [tdsb_islington](https://twitter.com/tdsb_islington)

Website: <http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/islington/Home.aspx>

Main Office - 416-394-7870

Student Absent Line (24 hours) - 416-394-7874