



Islington Junior Middle School

December 2017



Monthly Newsletter December Edition



Kindness/Caring

**THE SMALLEST
ACT OF
KINDNESS IS
WORTH MORE
THAN THE
GRANDEST
INTENTION.**
- OSCAR WILDE

Principal's Message



I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our staff and students for rendering November such an amazing, memorable month at Islington JMS. We all celebrated Indigenous Education month with many teachers centering Indigenous perspectives in their daily lessons. Some students also delved into relevant inquiries around Indigenous experiences. Their findings will be shared and celebrated in upcoming assemblies. We observed the character trait of Empathy which many of our students embody as they connect with their teachers and peers in and outside the classroom. We had an amazing Remembrance Day assembly that included the diverse perspectives of all those who sacrificed for our rights and freedoms. Our staff and



students worked exceptionally hard to ensure that we honoured those who gave their lives for us.

December promises to be a great month as well! Our upcoming Winter Concert on December 7, 2017 sets out to bring some holiday cheer to our IJMS community and I cordially invite you all to participate. Our students are full of artistic talent and this is one way for them to showcase and be proud of who they are. The details of the evening are included in this newsletter. December is also Kindness and Caring month, during which we explicitly teach, talk about and point out how and when students are demonstrating these important character traits.

Our last day of school for this calendar year is on December 22, during which we will hold our Student of the Month assembly. I wish you all a safe and peaceful holiday with friends and loved ones and a wonderful start to the 2018 new year!



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.**

TDSB NEWS: KICK-START YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION SAVINGS!

The TDSB has partnered with SmartSAVER on a board-wide campaign to help families access free money for their children's future education.

What FREE money? It's the Canada Learning Bond, available now through

www.tdsb.on.ca/SmartSAVER.

This is a Government of Canada contribution to a child's

Registered Education Savings Plan. It provides up to \$2,000 in savings for the post-secondary education of eligible children.

Who can get it? You are eligible if your child was born in 2004 or later and you have ever been eligible for the National Child Benefit Supplement as part of the Canada Child Tax Benefit. All eligible children receive at least \$500 and will receive \$100 more for each year they're eligible up to age 15 or a maximum of \$2,000.

How do I get the Canada Learning Bond?

SmartSAVER can help you apply for the Canada Learning Bond and start an RESP with \$0 when you use the Start My RESP online tool at

www.tdsb.on.ca/SmartSAVER

You'll need a Social Insurance Number for yourself and your child to complete the application

There is no cost and you don't need to contribute any money to get the Canada Learning Bond

Don't wait! Get started at www.tdsb.on.ca/SmartSAVER

EQUITY AND WELL BEING



PARENT WORKSHOPS AT OUR SCHOOL!

Our first parent workshop held on November 30th at 9:15am in our music room was a great success! Parents identified the topic, "supporting our children with stress and worry" as an area of need. Our Toronto Public Health nurse and social worker co-facilitated a great discussion centred around strategies parents can use at home to support their children with stress and to build resiliency. Our parents have asked for another workshop before the holiday break and we want to accommodate their request. Our next workshop will happen on **December 14, 2017 at 9:15am**. You are welcome to attend. Coffee and refreshments will be served.

MINDFUL AND QUIET RECESS

Our Health and Wellness Committee at the school has identified a number of programs and strategies to help our students attend to their mental and emotional health. As such, we will be piloting a new project in the new year for our Grade 3 -6 students, called the "quiet, mindful recess". For students who prefer a quiet, peaceful environment during recess time, they will be provided with a space to read, quietly draw, colour, breathe, listen to light music and practice mindfulness with a staff member. We are looking forward to launching this soon!

Grade 8 GIRLS LEADERSHIP GROUP

Our GLG went to Copper-wood Trails on November 29, 2017. In their work with horses and other animals on the farm, they learned significant messages about the importance of self-awareness, self-confidence and love of self. We look forward to offering our students similar opportunities throughout the year.

ACHIEVEMENT

Our **Achievement** goal is once again centred around Mathematics but it also includes other disciplines and subject areas. Our goal is to deepen student THINKING by designing learning opportunities and creating learning environments that foster critical thought. Our teachers are engaging in extensive professional dialogue and learning, in order to refine their programming so they can meet the diverse needs of all our learners. We will begin by asking deeper questions that require more than just a recollection of facts. We will also provide opportunities for students to engage in problem-solving that is relevant and that requires them to develop their communication, collaboration, innovation and entrepreneurship skills. Below are some suggested “thinking” questions that you might wish to ask your children at the end of the school day.

- What is one thing you did today that was helpful?
- When did you feel most proud of yourself today?
- What rule was the hardest to follow today?
- What is one thing you hope to learn before the school year is over?
- Which area of your school is the most fun?
- What questions did you ask today?
- Tell me something you learned about a friend today.



December 2017



PARENT COUNCIL NEWS

Our **School Council Executive** has been elected and the members are as follows:

Treasurer: Noor Nafisa

Secretary: Courtney McCann

Co-Chair: Surer Osoble

Co-Chair: Alex Song

Community Liaison Rep: Melanie Amadasun

We invite you all to attend our SAC meetings held in the school library at 6:30pm on the following dates:

December 4, 2017

February 5, 2018

April 9, 2018

June 4, 2018

Come out and share your ideas and insights and help us build a school vision that is inclusive and that promotes the learning and success of all our students!

Kinder Korner



KINDERGARTEN MATH: Top 10 Parent Tips...

1. Give your child many opportunities to count (e.g., count only the blue cars on the road; count the number of apples you need to buy; ask your child to set the table and count how many plates, forks, or cups are needed, etc.).
2. Look for shapes in real life (e.g., a table might be a rectangle).
3. Look for patterns in real life (e.g., stripes on clothing).

4. Have your child measure ingredients for a recipe you are making together.
5. Play structured, turn-taking games with your child (i.e., age-appropriate board games using dice).
6. Help your child to count out his or her money when making a small purchase (e.g., toy or book).
7. Use language that compares objects (e.g., tall/taller/tallest, heavy/heavier/heaviest, long/longer/longest, small/smaller/smallest, etc.).
8. Have tools such as a ruler, scale, calculator, or measuring tape at home for your child to experiment with and explore.
9. Encourage your child to help you sort laundry (e.g., separate light and dark clothing, match socks).
10. Check out <http://www.dreambox.com/parent-tips-kindergarten> for more fun ideas to support math concept development at home.

ECO NEWS

The Eco-club this past month has been active around the school through a wide range of activities. Our first contest this year took place in early November. It was called the "ECO Door Challenge". The contest was about using a wide variety of different recycled materials to create a fall-themed door. Through our judging, we found lots of creative doors, but one that surpassed the criteria of creativity, theme, design and material, was Ms. Koneri's kindergarten class. Congratulations to them! The ECO-Club also started learning about plastic pollution and is trying to reduce the use of plastic bottles at Islington. Parents are encouraged to send their children to school with re-usable containers! We have also started our vertical garden using recycled pop bottles to bring the gardening indoors! The ECO-Club has proudly branched out this year with a "sub" club known as the ECO Arts club. Their purpose is to expand students' creative potential while promoting ECO friendly actions and perspectives. We look forward to finding new, innovative ways for our entire school to engage in eco-friendliness throughout the year. Remember to Reuse, Reduce, Recycle!

WINTER CONCERT!

Islington JMS is proud to invite you all to our WINTER CONCERT!! The evening will showcase the musical talent of our students from Kindergarten to Grade 8. Musical pieces will be performed by our choirs, our band and our string orchestras. We look forward to having you all there to share in the excitement and fun.

When: Thursday December 7, 2017

Time: 6:30pm

Location: School gym

Doors will open at 6:15pm. All are welcome to attend.



Athletics

November has been a busy month for Islington athletes. While the junior girls practised with Ms. Porteous and Ms. Grossi on teamwork and skills, Mr. Ellerker had the senior girls running through many drills, all in preparation for their basketball tournaments. The boys were busy as well. The junior boys, although a little hesitant at first joined together to form a volleyball team. After many practices with Mr. Trigiani the boys developed some excellent skills that they displayed in their tournaments. The senior boys volleyball team also had a successful volleyball season with Ms. Watters, finishing first in their pool, advancing to the playoffs. Good luck boys! Coming in the January the girls will now have the opportunity to play volleyball while the boys will compete in basketball. Stay tuned for a link to a new IJMS Athletics and PE page.



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

UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS

Event	Date
December 4, 2017	Parent Council at 6:30pm
December 5, 2017	Grades 6-8 at Raptors 905 Game at ACC
December 6, 2017	Grade 8s visit Etobicoke Collegiate
December 7, 2017	Winter Concert at 6:30pm
December 9, 2017	Lego Robotics team competes at Runnymede Collegiate
December 14 -15, 18-19	Dental Screening
December 6, 13, 20	Pizza Lunches remaining
December 14, 2017	Parent Workshop at 9:15am
December 21, 2017	Winter Carnival for students
December 22, 2017	Student of Month and Last Day



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