



Islington Junior Middle School

February 2018



Monthly Newsletter February Edition



FAIRNESS

Fair doesn't mean
giving every child the
same thing, it means
giving every child
what they need.
- Rick Lavoie

Principal's Message



From left to right: Superintendent Sandra Tondat, Superintendent Tracy Hayhurst, Trustee Pamela Gough, Principal Rocco Coluccio

I would like to welcome us all into the month of February. As always, our school is a bustling place full of new initiatives, ideas and programs that we share with you via this monthly newsletter. We welcome additional ideas from you about how to make this newsletter as useful as possible to our parents and community. Our teachers are now in the process of finalizing your children's report cards and we look forward to seeing many of you at the February 15 and



February 16 parent-teacher interviews. I would like to extend a Thank You to the many families who contributed to our **Bag 2 School Eco** program, donating unused textiles for proper disposal. We appreciate your partnership as we teach our kids the importance of environmental stewardship and how they can impact change with small, daily actions. I also invite you all to our annual Winter Walk on February 7 at 1:00pm. Let's take this opportunity to promote walking as a better and safer means of transportation, both for the health of the environment and for our own personal, physical health and wellbeing. The most exciting part of February is Kindergarten Registration! If you have a child starting school in September of 2018, we welcome you to make an appointment with our school office for a time slot on February 20 and 21 to come visit our kindergarten program and to register your child. Please read the details of registration in this newsletter. Have a wonderful February!



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.**

SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL HEALTH

As part of our Wellbeing goal at the school, we have partnered with Toronto Public Health nurses and our social worker, Rachel Achtman to offer workshops for parents on how to support your children with mental and emotional health. This arose from a need expressed by parents when surveyed about what supports the school can offer them, in our partnership toward the success of every child. We welcome all parents to attend. Please see the details below regarding times and location:

DATE: Monday February 5, 2018

TIME: 9:15am

LOCATION: School Music Room

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: Please sign in at the office

Coffee will be served. Feel free to drop off your child and come join us for some networking, conversation and learning with and from other parents.

EQUITY AND WELL BEING



RE-DESIGNING CLASSROOM SPACES!

Our Grade 8 students identified a need to make our classrooms more inclusive of different learning styles and learning preferences. Their vision was to redesign one classroom with alternative seating and to see whether this would increase student engagement in learning. With the support of their teachers, they designed the spaces, gathered the materials needed and put it all together! The alternate spaces include comfy carpeting, sofas, mats and standing desks to promote greater mobility. We are proud of our students for recognizing their own ability to "take action" and to address a need among them. Our teachers also report greater engagement and focus during lessons.

MINDFUL AND QUIET RECESS

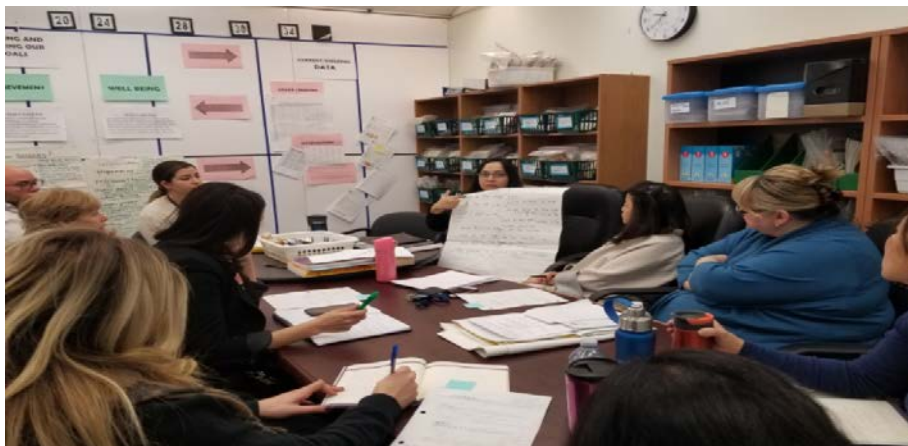
Our Mindful Recess project is up and running! Our Health and Wellness Committee at the school has identified a number of programs and strategies to help our students attend to their mental and emotional health. As such, we are piloting a new project for our Grade 3-6 students, called the "quiet, mindful 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. Thus far, the program is full. It is offered twice weekly during the lunch hour. We look forward to continuing this into the spring!

ACHIEVEMENT

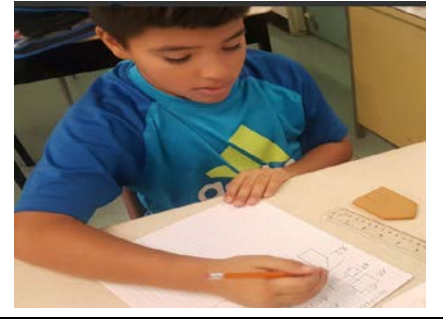
As educators at Islington JMS, we strongly believe that, in order to inspire our students to become life-long learners and to help them discover their talents and abilities, we have to share best practices among us. As such, we have been meeting regularly as a staff to research current best practices, to implement them collaboratively and to assess their effectiveness by looking at student data. This helps us continuously reflect on how to better our approach to teaching and learning.

By visiting one another's classrooms, teaching together and planning together, we hope to enhance our practice, to strengthen student voice in the learning process and to meet the needs of all our learners.

Our kindergarten teachers are working very closely with our Grade 1 teachers to develop a consistent set of reading/writing developmental indicators, so that we can get closer to our goal of ensuring that all our Senior Kindergarten students enter grade 1 reading at age-appropriate levels. We know that if children learn reading and writing skills in the early years, they are much more likely to experience success in future academic years. As such, we encourage you to continue reading with your children daily, to ask them questions about what they read and to connect with your child's teachers about how else you can support strong literacy development at home.



February 2018



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 parent council meetings held in the school library at 6:30pm on the following dates:

February 5, 2018

April 9, 2018

June 4, 2018

FEBRUARY IS KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION MONTH!!

BOOK AN APPOINTMENT WITH OUR OFFICE AND COME VISIT US ON FEBRUARY 20TH AND 21ST TO REGISTER YOUR CHILD

Starting school is an exciting time for your child. Our school provides a rich learning environment for all children to learn and grow. In the Kindergarten program, your child will develop their skills and abilities through inquiry and intentional play-based learning that includes math, science and literacy. Teachers and early childhood educators plan learning experiences where children are actively engaged in learning and thinking creatively. For more information, visit <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/EarlyYears/KindergartenMonth>



In Person Registration

Step 1

- Find your [local school](#).

Step 2

- Contact your [local school](#) and make sure you have the following documents:
 - Proof of age (birth certificate, Canadian passport, Canadian Citizenship card or certificate or baptismal record)
 - Proof of address, including any two of the following [current](#) documents: lease or deed, car registration, utility bill, residential telephone bill, moving bill, property tax bill, health card, bank statement, credit card statement, or correspondence from a government agency.
 - Proof of immunization (the card that shows a list of needles your child has received)
 - Verification of date of arrival, if your child was not born in Canada. Families who are permanent residents and refugee claimants may register directly at the school. Children without immigration status are welcome in our schools and information about them or their families will not be shared with immigration authorities. To register, please visit the International Programs and Admissions Office at 5050 Yonge Street, on the main floor, for a TDSB school admission letter.

Learn more about [Admission Eligibility Requirements](#).

You may wish to print and complete the [Student Registration Form](#) before visiting the school. However, all required forms are also available from the school office.

Online Registration

Step 1

- Access the online registration system (system will go live on February 1) to create an account, find your local school and complete a registration form.
- Please note:** Once you have completed the online portion of the registration process, you will receive a confirmation e-mail, including information about next steps (e.g. when to visit the school). Please be sure to check your Inbox and Junk Mail folder to avoid missing the e-mail.

Step 2

- The following documents are required when you visit the school to complete the registration:
 - Proof of age (birth certificate, Canadian passport, Canadian Citizenship card or certificate or baptismal record)
 - Proof of address, including any two of the following [current](#) documents: lease or deed, car registration, utility bill, residential telephone bill, moving bill, property tax bill, health card, bank statement, credit card statement, or correspondence from a government agency.
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ECO NEWS

Islington Junior Middle School had their interim audit and we are on our way to earning Platinum for another year!

We have been impressed with our school families' response to **Bag2School**. The money raised from this textile donation campaign will go to drinking water initiatives through UNICEF.

Our winter walk will be held on February 7 in the afternoon. All our school families are welcome to participate and/or watch. The purpose of this walk is to encourage kids and parents to walk to school instead of driving. It's healthier and cleaner and way more fun!

We continue to try to keep our school yard clean. Please remember to send reusable containers to school for your kids' lunches and snacks to reduce the waste that goes into our landfill.



UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS

Event	Date
February 5, 2018	Parent Workshop at 9:15am
February 7, 2018	Winter Walk at 1:00pm
February 14, 2018	Report Cards go home
February 15, 2018	Evening interviews with parents
February 16, 2018	NO SCHOOL - parent interviews in the morning
February 19, 2018	Family Day – NO SCHOOL
February 20, 21, 2018	Kindergarten Registration
February 23, 2018	Student of the Month Assembly
March 1, 2018	Gr. 8 Grad Photos

Pizza Lunches for this term: January 31, February 7, February 14, February 21, February 28, March 7



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

