



Islington

Junior Middle School

January 2018

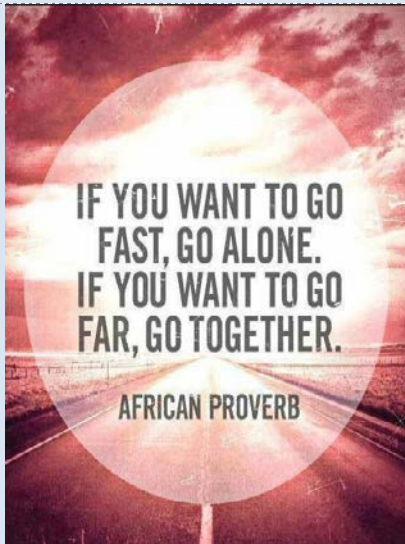


Monthly Newsletter

January Edition

Be the better version of yourself
this new year.
Fall, learn, carry on, repeat.
Happy new year.

Teamwork



Principal's Message



Welcome back, everyone, and for those who celebrated the New Year on January 1, we wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous 2018! We are very much looking forward to this coming term, with many exciting initiatives at the school. Please take a moment to read through our newsletter carefully and feel free to call us at the school if you have any questions. January is the month that celebrates the character trait of teamwork at the TDSB and as such, we will be focusing on how to develop effective teamwork skills and attitudes (eg., respect, listening to others' ideas, offering own ideas, staying engaged, doing your part, communicating, maintaining a positive attitude). We will celebrate students who demonstrated exceptional teamwork skills



at our Student of the Month assembly which falls on January 26 this month.

Among other EXCITING events at our school, Islington JMS has been offered a unique and very inspiring opportunity! Maple Leafs Sports and Entertainment (MLSE) will be kicking off their Anti-bullying campaign this month and they chose Islington JMS as the site to do it! Anti-bullying and bullying awareness are an integral part of the work we do at our school to help kids understand the impact of bullying. It is also something that MLSE is committed to promoting in support of child and youth wellbeing. On January 30, 2018 at 1:45pm in our school gym, we will be hosting the kick off assembly. Since athletes and sports figures will be in attendance, please be aware that there will also be media involvement on this day. We look forward to a great month and an even better 2018 and we continue to value our partnership with our parents and community in the education of our students.



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.**

ROOTS OF EMPATHY AT ISLINGTON JMS

Two of our junior and intermediate classes at the school are taking part in a program called Roots of Empathy.

At the heart of the program are an infant from our community and a parent who visit the classroom every three weeks over the school year. A trained Roots of Empathy Instructor coaches students to observe the baby's development and to label the baby's feelings. In this experiential learning, the baby is the "Teacher" and a lever, which the instructor uses to help children identify and reflect on their own feelings and the feelings of others. This "emotional literacy" taught in the program lays the foundation for safer and more caring classrooms, where children are the "Changers".



EQUITY AND WELL BEING



EXPLORING POWER, PRIVILEGE AND ANTI-OPPRESSION

As part of our school's Equity goal, our staff, students and community are engaging in frequent and ongoing discussions around power, privilege and anti-oppression. These discussions propel us all to look inward and identify existing biases that might pose barriers for some students. By identifying these biases, we can begin to challenge them in ways that change outcomes for kids. Some of this work includes looking critically at our school and board data, examining different forms of oppression, conducting walk-about of our school to assess whether student voice is evident in our environment and reflecting on our classroom practices (the books we use, the strategies we deploy, the themes/contexts we choose to use/not use etc.). This is not easy work but we are committed to engaging in it for the success and wellbeing of all our students.

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!

ACHIEVEMENT

We continue to explore programs and strategies that promote critical thinking in our students. Some classes engaged in an inquiry project focused on issues of social justice in Canadian Indigenous communities, that harness students' thinking and creativity as tools to promote social change and action. Visit our Twitter feed for up-to-date, live information on some of these projects - @TDSB_Islington. In other classes, we are exploring the power of asking strong, critical questions about the texts we read (questions that go beyond just retelling the story but that actually get students to think about the author's intent and message). We are also continuing to support co-teaching between teachers so that teachers can critically reflect on each other's practice and help each other enrich and refine their methods to meet the needs of all learners.



January 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

At the last SAC meeting, we worked together to help shape the school goals in the areas of **Achievement, Equity and Wellbeing**.

We invite you all to attend our parent council meetings held in the school library at 6:00pm on the following dates:

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



Growth Mindset in Kindergarten

In our classes, we have been promoting and talking about growth mindsets. Growth mindset is a concept which believes that a person's abilities and intelligence can be developed through practice, hard work, motivation and dedication. Children who have a growth mindset are more likely to:

- Learn from their mistakes
- Be motivated to succeed
- Take on challenges
- Put forth more effort

What to say to your child to promote a Growth Mindset

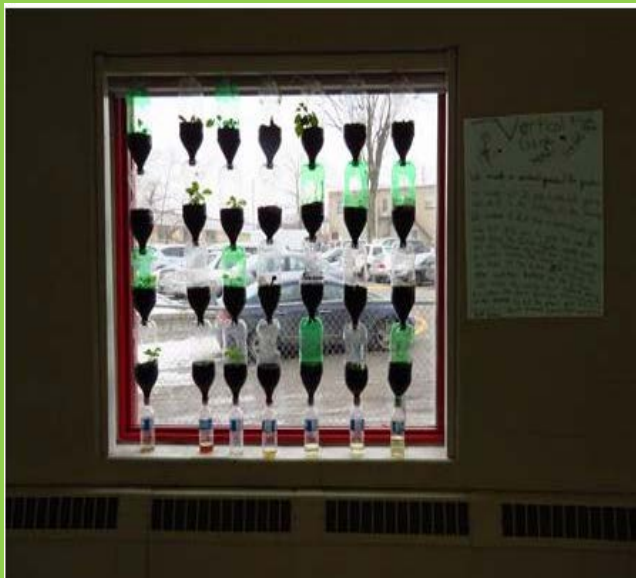
- You tried really hard!
- You can do hard things!
- You never gave up, even when it was hard!
- The mistakes that you are making are helping you to grow your brain!
- I noticed that you didn't give up, even when you were frustrated



ECO NEWS

Vertical Garden

Ms. Tanvir's grade 3/4 class collected 2L pop bottles and made a vertical vegetable garden! They connected the bottles together and drilled holes in the caps so the water could rip through and be reused. We hope to have a lush garden of lettuce, tomato, beans, basil and radishes in the new year!



ECO NEWS

Bag2School Program

Did you know....

- ✓ The average North American discards over 65 pounds of clothing and textiles each year
- ✓ The textiles thrown away in one year in Canada could fill Toronto's Rogers Centre (formerly Sky Dome) three times over
- ✓ The vast majority (89%) of discarded textiles still have 75% wear left
- ✓ Extending the average life of clothes by just three months of active use would lead to a 5-10% reduction in each of the carbon, water and waste footprints

What can we do as a school?

Islington JMS will be taking part in this fundraiser called **Bag2School** in January. The school will collect textiles (clothing, linens, shoes, towels, etc) that are donated by staff and families. You can drop off your bagged clothes in the school foyer at any time. The funds raised will go to Survival Gifts from Unicef, supporting clean water initiatives. Your child will be bringing home information about this on the first week back at school. We look forward to collecting many clothes!

Thank you in advance for your support!

LEGO LEAGUE



First Lego League

On Saturday December the 9th Islington's Pixel Panthers competed in the First Lego League qualifying tournament at Runnymede Collegiate.

They worked very hard in the last few weeks to prepare for their project presentation on filtering Rwandan water and the always-intense robot competition. Kevin Wang led the coding team and managed to complete 3 missions in only a week!

The team worked very hard and spoke well during judging and we were awarded a teamwork award!

Congratulations Pixel Panthers!

UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS

Event	Date
January 8, 2018	Pizza forms come home
January 15, 2018	Pizza forms returned to the school
January 19, 2018	PA day – no school
January 26, 2018	Student of the Month Assembly
January 30, 2018	Maple Leaf Sports Entertainment Event in the gym at 1:45pm

Pizza lunches for January – March 2018

January 24, 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

