



Iroquois Gazette

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Principal's Message

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Iroquois P.S. Administrative Staff:

Principal	A. Morgan
Office Administrator	A. Pratheese
Superintendent	D. Panagiotopoulos
Trustee	Y. Rajakulasingam

School Communication Methods

Please follow us on Twitter at:



@ TDSBiroquois

We also welcome you to check our website for up to date information at:
<http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/iroquois>

SAVE THE DATE!

Iroquois' Primary Concert
Thursday, December 12th at 6:30 pm

All classes in Kindergarten, Grades One and Two as well as our 3/4 classes will participate. See you there!

Snow is on the ground, and in a few weeks, school will be out and we will all be enjoying the Winter Break. It is hard to believe that the year 2020 is almost here.

As you read through this issue of our newsletter, there are a few items that I would like to highlight and bring to your attention:

- **School Advisory Council** – Our School Council has been working hard to develop different ways to engage parents. Currently, we are working to bring workshops of interest to our school community. The next workshop topic is being brought to us by Aisling Discoveries and is on bullying and how parents can help their children at home. If you are interested in the work of the council our next Parent Council meeting is on **February 4th, 2020**. The meetings begin at **6 pm** in the staffroom.
- **Inclement Weather** - Please ensure that on extremely cold days your children do not arrive at school too early. Arriving 5 to 10 minutes prior to the bell ringing (i.e., 8:40 a.m. or 12:25 p.m.) would be best. Always make sure that your child is dressed appropriately for the weather. For example, when it rains, a raincoat or an umbrella will help to keep your child dry until they are brought into the school. On days when cold weather is a factor, (when the temperature reaches -28 °C or colder), the children will be kept inside during recess.
- **Primary Concert and Holiday Food Drive** – Our Primary Concert for students in Kindergarten to grade 3/4 will be on **December 12th at 6:30 p.m.** We hope to see you then. Please also consider bring a non-perishable food item to donate to a local food bank. Food donations will be accepted until **December 16th**.
- **Winter Break** - Our school break begins on Monday, December 23rd. We look forward to seeing all of our students back on **Monday, January 6th, 2020**.

Holidays are special times for family bonding and the creation of treasured traditions. I hope that this holiday season offers you numerous opportunities to enjoy the company of your family and friends and you are able to enjoy and reflect on the positive messages of the season. On behalf of the Iroquois staff, I wish you and your family a safe, restful, and happy holiday season.

Sincerely,
Ms A. Morgan
Principal

Remembrance Day Assembly

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On **Monday, November 11th**, students and staff at our school marked Remembrance Day, with classroom activities and a large school assembly for our students in grades one to six. Prior to the assembly, our teachers discussed the significance of Remembrance Day and Aboriginal Veteran's Day on the 8th through the use of books, videos and making connections between global events and students' lives so as to promote peace within our community. As a school community we held our Remembrance Day assembly at **10:30 a.m.** in the gym.

Thank you to all of our students who participated in this school event (i.e., Primary Choir, Junior Band, Student Leadership Council). Even during a solemn occasion as this it was great to see all of us joining together to call for peace. We also thank the many parents who came to join us for the assembly. A special thank you to Mr. Kilbride, Ms Ward and Ms Farrow, for their dedication, time and commitment in supporting our students and organizing this assembly for the school.

Terry Fox Run

This year, on **September 26th**, our students here at Iroquois participated in our annual Terry Fox Walk. Our goal was to raise \$3000 towards cancer research. At the end of our fund-raising, we were able to beat our goal by donating **\$3021.50** to the Terry Fox Foundation! Since we beat our goal, Ms Morgan completed her pledge of singing "O Canada" on the PA system. The afternoon of walking to raise money was fun, and we learned a lot about the importance of cancer research as well. We look forward to next year's walk!

Field Trip - Let's Go Rock Climbing!

During the week of November 18th, five of our Junior classes got to go rock climbing at Rock Oasis! Rock Oasis is an indoor rock climbing facility where student learn how to safely climb rock walls and have great fun trying this novel way to have exercise.

We would like to thank the adults in charge who really took the time to make sure everyone got a chance to try this new experience and felt excited to do so as well. A special shout-out to Mr. Komar, Ms Ardelean, Ms Cumberbatch, Ms Villani, Ms Ally and Mr. Jesudiharasa for organizing this wonderful opportunity for the students. Back at the school, the students were able to apply this experience to lots of amazing activities related to Science (i.e., pulleys), Health (e.g., benefits of exercise), Language (e.g., narratives) and Media Literacy (i.e., ad campaigns). Rock Oasis looks forward to seeing how they should let the public know about this facility and we look forward to going again next year.

Holiday Food Drive

This month at Iroquois, we are focusing on "Kindness and Caring". During the next two weeks, as part of our Kindness and Caring initiatives, we are asking our Iroquois community to support the "Iroquois Food Drive." Non-perishable food donations can be brought to Iroquois Jr P.S., and dropped off in the front hallway, each day from: **Wednesday, December 4th to Monday, December 16th.** The purpose of our food drive is to support a local food bank in Scarborough, and help those in need.

We appreciate your kindness and caring as you support the "Iroquois Food Drive."

- The Student Leadership Council

Save the Date - Primary Concert

On **Thursday, December 12 at 6:30 pm**, Iroquois students from various classes will present an evening concert. All students in Kindergarten, Grades one and two, and Ms. Ardelean and Mr. Komar's Grade 3/4 classes will participate. The Primary Choir will also perform. Looking forward to seeing you for this musical event!

- Ms Ward



Field Trip - Iroquois at Legoland

What can you make with Lego? In case you did not know, quite a lot! On November 18th, the classes of Ms Subzwari's grade 4 and Mr. Tranter's grade 5/6 class got the chance to visit Legoland. All the students felt it was an awesome experience! Not only were there a lot of rides, but there were a ton of activities for the students to participate in, some involving robotics. All of the activities were related the STEM activities the teachers

are doing in their classrooms (i.e., robotics in grade 4, digital learning in grade 5 and 6). At the end of the day, most of the students said they would go back and they learned a lot! Thank you to both Mr. Tranter and Ms Subzwari for putting together this field trip for their students.



November is Indigenous Education Month

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In November, we honoured Indigenous Education Month at the TDSB. This month provided an opportunity to centre First Nations, Métis and Inuit perspectives, histories and contemporary realities into our classrooms. In classrooms across the TDSB, it is also an opportunity to learn about treaties, Indigenous leadership, achievements, and resistance.

Over the course of November, students, staff and community members recognized a number of important days to deepen knowledge and build stronger relationships between non-

Indigenous and Indigenous peoples in Canada. This includes Treaty Recognition Week (Nov. 4-8), Inuit Day (Nov. 7), Aboriginal Veterans' Day (Nov. 8), and Louis Riel Day (Nov. 16).

Learn more: bit.ly/2NuTBvq.



Fire Visits

On **November 27th and 29th**, we were lucky to have Ms Ballantyne, a public educator from Toronto Fire Services come to speak to the school about fire safety. During her 45 minute presentations, she talked to the students, in our classes, about some informative and interesting things such as:

- how complicated and safe the fireperson's uniform is to put on
- what to do if you are in a fire
- making sure you have smoke alarms in your house

Ms Ballantyne also showed us, as a school, how important it was to make a plan for escape routes at home to make sure everyone would get out safely in a fire. We also heard how quickly a kitchen fire could spread and how to cook safely in the kitchen.

At the end of the presentations, Ms Ballantyne gave the students some booklets to take home so that they could share their knowledge with their parents. We were lucky to have had this great opportunity to learn more about fire safety, found it really eye-opening, and look forward to hearing more about fire safety in the future!



National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women – December 6th

On December 6, TDSB students and staff mark the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. Established in 1991 by the Parliament of Canada, this day coincides with the anniversary of the death of 14 young women who were tragically killed on 6 December, 1989, at l'École Polytechnique in Montreal because of their gender.

On this national day of remembrance, we honour the memory of these women and reflect on the ways that gender violence continues to affect us. For more information, visit Status of Women Canada and participate in their #ActionsMatter campaign. To find out how you can help prevent violence against women visit www.ontario.ca/page/lets-stop-sexual-harassment-violence. Within the TDSB, please contact www.tdsb.on.ca/gbvp for further support or questions on any issues related to gender-based violence.



PALS program

Starting the week of **November 25th**, at lunch, students had the opportunity to be a part of the Playground Activity Leaders at School (PALS) program here at Iroquois. The PALS program is led by trained students in grades four to six and is geared to help students learn new games and play with each other in a fun, positive way, outside. Thank you to Ms Lai at Toronto Public Health and Mr. Kilbride for training the leaders. Our Primary and Junior students really enjoy this opportunity outside!

Our Next School Advisory Council is:

Tuesday, February 4th at 6:30 p.m. in the staffroom.

Babysitting is available.

The next ward meeting for Trustee Rajakulasingam is on **Monday December 16, 2019 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm at Brookside PS.** Please also check Trustee Rajakulasingam's website at <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Ward21> for current information from the TDSB.

Traffic Safety Tips For A Safe Winter

As winter approaches, we know that severe weather will be part of our daily lives for the next several months. While traffic safety is an important matter all year long, this is a particularly good time to review what we can do to keep students safe.

The need to be aware and alert at all times, on any road, and even in the most routine circumstances is key to traffic safety. This applies to students and drivers alike. Road conditions can be challenging in the winter months. So to those of us who drive, please take extra care on the roads and in parking lots, especially in areas where children might be present.

School staff periodically review street and traffic safety with students. Parents can help reinforce these safety messages with children at home. Below are some tips that might be helpful to review.

- Stop, look, and listen for traffic.
- Only cross at corners and crosswalks.
- Make eye contact with drivers.
- Walk on the right side of the crosswalk.
- Wear appropriate footwear to reduce the chances of slipping.
- Never run into the street.
- Obey crossing signals.
- Cross only if clear.
- Walk on sidewalks.
- Where there are no sidewalks, walk as far away from traffic as possible, facing traffic.

School Specific Information: Due to the large number of buses at our school, the following options are the safest ways to drop your child off and pick your child up before and after the school day.

1. Walk with your child to school.
2. A crosswalk guard is located at Briarcross and Chartland for student safety. Parents may find it convenient to park on Briarcross and then have their child cross Chartland safely with the crosswalk guard.
3. Park legally on the side of the street along Chartland and walk your child across the street at the crosswalk.

Please **do not** stop or park in our **bus loading zones** as it prevents our school buses from being able to drop off or pick up our students safely. The school parking lot is for staff only as well .

The safety of our students is always a top priority.

Keeping Kids Safe

Drivers are reminded to do their part to keep children safe near school buses. Drivers should follow these tips:

- Stop and never pass a school bus when its red lights are flashing.
- Leave space around school buses and avoid blocking school bus loading zones so children can enter and exit safely.
- Be prepared to stop for a school bus at any time, not just during school hours.
- Always obey the rules of the road and watch for children, especially in school zones.
- Stop for pedestrians at crosswalks and school crossings.

Parents can also help keep their children safe by reminding them to be aware of their surroundings when they are on or near school buses.



Winter Weather Transportation

From time to time, it may be necessary to cancel student transportation, classes and/or programs due to severe weather. On rare occasions, severe weather makes it necessary to close schools, administrative offices or sites.

With approximately 246,000 students in 582 schools, any decision to cancel buses, classes and/or programs or to close sites can have a significant impact on thousands of families across Toronto. This decision is not taken lightly. When schools remain open on days with inclement weather, parents/guardians make the final decision on whether to send their children to school and they can keep children home from school if they so choose.

Should a cancellation or closure be necessary, information will be posted on the TDSB web site, TDSB social media and provided to local media by 6 a.m. For more information, please see the TDSB's Procedure for Severe

Weather: <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Detail/docId/242>

Character Education Assemblies

Each month at Iroquois, we take the time to recognize students who have displayed the Character Education Trait of the month. So far, this year, we have recognized **Respect** (September) **Responsibility** (October) and **Empathy** (November). All of our assemblies are hosted by our Student Leadership Council under the direction of Ms Trentos, Mr. Tranter and Mr. Henry. Congratulations to the award winners listed below:

Respect – Character Trait for September

Primary Division:

Aiden K.	Saakshi P.
Matthew L.	Catherine Y.
Steven H.	Becky S.
Omarie W.	Steven Y.
Jessica Z.	Adalyn I.
Michelle C.	Anisha S.

Junior Division:

Saanvi S.	Harman D.
Thusiga P.	Aaron C.
Nilaa P.	Lucas C.
Risvitha K.	Ridalia L.
Shainthavi S.	Harishan A.
Anson H.	Gianna C.
Elizabeth W.	Aiden I.
Allen H.	Sarah W.
Diana K.	

Responsibility – Character Trait for October

Primary Division:

Jonah G.	Elizabeth Y.
Alvin L.	Anojaa B.
Sahana S.	Gordon W.
Gloria E.	Parthiv S.

Junior Division:

Zoey G.	Benita S.
Justin W.	Kaili M.
Uthaya N.	Kaylyn Z.
Ryan L.	Tarany S.
Alysia N.	Kaaviah
Amy Z.	Amsavi S.
Ellen Z.	Jasmine J.
Gautham G.	Steven S.
Yasin M.	Jimmt D.
Aarani B.	

September - Respect
October - Responsibility
November - Empathy
December - Kindness & Caring

January - Teamwork
February - Fairness
March - Honesty
April - Co-operation
May - Integrity
June - Perseverance

**BUILD CHARACTER
BUILD SUCCESS**

The Character Education traits for the school year in the TDSB are listed to the right. Each month focuses on a different trait.

Empathy – Character Trait for November

Primary Division:

Thusara P.	Katherine L.
Yuki Z.	Walter L.
Aarujan B.	Thananyea S.
Mark L.	Olivia N.
Karena T.	Taksajini K.
Ineeka E.	Ryan T.

Junior Division:

Swaathi S.	Grace G.
Lara R.	Nai Mei L.
Anusuga P.	Mattias B.
Nayanuga T.	Siyang W.
Benjamin L.	Meenusha M.
Harini A.	Gayathri R.
Eva W.	Raviesh J.
Davin L.	Tamkeet N.
Usaid T.	Louis E.

Congratulations to all of our award winners. Our character trait focus for December will be Kindness and Caring, and we look forward to honouring students showing this trait at our assembly at the end of this month.



Above: Our student recipients for Respect and Responsibility.



Eagle Corner



Ball Hockey

With the winter season here, our athletic program has now turned to that great Canadian pastime – hockey, or ball hockey to be precise. We have had a fabulous turnout for ball hockey this year and will be running intramurals two times per week, at lunch, in the gym. Thank you to Mr. Souray and Mr. Kilbride for supervising. Which house team will win the prize?

Girls' Soccer

This year, not only did we have talented boys on our boys soccer team, but we had talented girls as well! Congratulations to our Iroquois Girls soccer team for moving all the way to the Eastern Finals! We are very proud of the entire team and how well they worked together to achieve this goal with their coaches Mr. Souray and Mr. Kilbride! Way to go Eagles!

Right: Our Grade Six Girls Soccer Team with the Finalist pennant. Job well done ladies!



TDSB Social Media

Join the conversations happening on TDSB's social media communities. You'll find the most up-to-date information about us on our Twitter, Facebook and Instagram accounts.

Twitter @TDSB

<http://www.twitter.com/tdsb>



Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/toronto.dsb>

Instagram @Torontodsb

<https://www.instagram.com/torontodsb>



Upcoming School Dates

Dec. 4 - 16	Holiday Food Drive
Dec. 5	Officer Claudia to visit
Dec. 6	PA Day
Dec. 12	Primary Concert
Dec. 20	Last Day of School
Dec. 23 – Jan. 3	Winter Break

Boys' Soccer

Hello! My name is Seyon Satheesh. I was Captain of the Iroquois Junior Boys soccer team. This was a group of talented kids who came out twice a week to train and play. Mr. Souray and Mr. Kilbride were our coaches. They taught us a lot of tricks, techniques and skills. We had a great season. During our Division 1 Tournament, our team did very well enabling us to move on to the Eastern Quarter-Finals. Though the score was not in our favour, we lost to the eventual Champions during penalty shots. Our perseverance was a trademark of the team. This was an amazing experience for my team and I.

- Seyon Sateesh

Cross-Country

Congratulations to all of the students who participated in our cross-country team this year. Your fabulous commitment and dedication at practice really paid off. Our teams did exceptionally well, leading to over ten students advancing to the Toronto East finals and two of our students advancing to the All-City Finals. Well done Eagle Nation!

Iroquois Jr. Public School

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<http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/iroquois>