



# Iroquois Gazette

Volume 1 Issue 1

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## Principal's Message

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## Iroquois P.S. Administrative Staff:

Principal	A. Morgan
Office Administrator	A. Pratheese
Superintendent	R. Anastasakos
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>

## Calling all parents!

We invite you to be a part of our Parent Council this year. Please pick up a nomination form at Curriculum Night, or on our school website, or from the school office. Forms are due **September 27<sup>th</sup>**!

Welcome Parents and Students to the new school year! We are so excited to be back and, as a staff, look forward to working with you to help our students achieve to their fullest potential.

As the safety of our students is a priority, please see below for some ways to help things run smoothly at our school.

- **Student Drop-off** – Student safety is our number one priority, and, as such, we are asking for parent cooperation with the following. 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. Studies show that daily exercise such as walking to and from school can help with student self-regulation and overall well-being.
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. Police enforcement may occur at any time throughout the year. Thank you for your cooperation and support with the goal of student safety above convenience.

- **Contact Information** - Please be sure that we have the correct phone numbers for you and for any emergency contacts so that we can reach you in an emergency. Index cards were sent home last week for updating. Please return these to the school as soon as possible.
- **Student Agendas** – Agendas will not be available, system-wide, until **October**. Until then, please continue to send notes to the school via your child regarding any important information.
- **Valuables** – The staff cannot take responsibility for lost items so, we are encouraging students to leave valuables at home.
- Remember to use the **front doors** when visiting the school or if you are picking your child up for an appointment. All doors will be locked at approximately 9:00 am each day. We have an intercom and buzzer to allow us to control who is entering the building.
- **Student Attendance** – Student achievement improves when children attend school regularly. Please be sure that your child attends school regularly and on time and remember to call the safe arrival line at **1-833-250-2290** if your child will be away.
- **Dismissal** - Please ensure an adult is there to pick up your child promptly for the 3:15 dismissal at their regular exit doors. There is always a teacher on duty at the back of the school and the front of the school, after school, for 15 minutes. Please reinforce with your children that they can go to that teacher if the person who is to pick them up has not arrived. All students are encouraged to go straight home at dismissal.

I look forward to having an amazing year together! Ms A. Morgan, Principal

At the TDSB, busing service may be provided for elementary students (K-5) residing 1.6 km or more from their designated school. TTC tickets may be provided for middle school students (grades 6-8) residing 3.2 km or more from their designated school.

The safety and welfare of students is a shared responsibility and parents can help by stressing school bus safety with their children. Here is some useful information that will help make your child's journey a safe one.

### ***Boarding/Departing Bus***

Parents/guardians are encouraged to review their child's walking route to the bus stop. Students getting off a bus at a stop must have an adult there to pick them up. In order to change their normal bus and/or stop, parents must contact the school office.

Passengers should arrive at the bus stop no later than five minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive. Once bus doors are closed and the bus has departed, drivers cannot stop for late arriving students.

While waiting at the bus stop, students are expected to stand a safe distance from the street and are expected to respect private property. When the bus approaches, students must observe the instructions of the driver, especially in the winter when slick road conditions exist.

If students are required to cross the road, they should follow the driver's instructions and always cross in front of the bus with the aid of the flashing stop sign lights and crossing arm. Students dropped off at school loading zones where the bus lights are not activated, should wait until the bus departs before crossing the street.

### ***Accidents/Breakdowns/Delays***

School bus travel is extremely safe. Bus drivers are trained in defensive driving techniques and buses are carefully maintained. The size and bright yellow colour make school buses very visible. Yet, given the thousands of miles travelled annually, and the traffic conditions in our area, accidents, breakdowns and delays due to inclement weather can happen.

Parents can get the latest transportation information by signing up to the transportation portal to receive email notifications when bus companies report late buses at <https://busplannerweb.torontoschoolbus.org/Subscriptions/Login.aspx>. Delays will also be posted to <https://www.torontoschoolbus.org/>.

In addition, parents can contact the Toronto Student Transportation Group at 416-394-4287 or their local school in the case of delays of more than 15 minutes. Please note, however, that at the beginning of each new school year there is always a short adjustment period as drivers familiarize themselves with new routes and students so there may be short delays during this time.

### ***Severe Weather***

Occasionally, severe weather conditions may require the TDSB to cancel transportation. Visit the [www.tdsb.on.ca](http://www.tdsb.on.ca) or <https://www.torontoschoolbus.org/>, check Twitter @tdsb or listen to local radio or TV stations starting at 6 a.m. for bus cancellations.

### ***Passenger Safety***

The bus driver is responsible for ensuring each passenger arrives to and from school safely each day. Drivers receive special training and rigorous examinations and must maintain a good driving record. Safe, respectful conduct is expected of all passengers.

The TDSB reserves the right to suspend transportation privileges for any student who demonstrates behaviour unreasonably distracting to the driver which may contribute to unsafe operation.

Parents are requested keep the school and transportation company up-to-date on any changes to their children's medical health and contact information so that emergency contacts are accurate at all times throughout the year.

### ***Accessing Information***

Toronto Student Transportation Group:

Phone: 416-394-4287

Fax: 416-394-3806

Email: [transportation@torontoschoolbus.org](mailto:transportation@torontoschoolbus.org)

Web: [www.torontoschoolbus.org](http://www.torontoschoolbus.org)

Delay Notifications: [www.torontoschoolbus.org/school-bus-delays/](http://www.torontoschoolbus.org/school-bus-delays/)

## Our Next School Advisory Council is:

**Tuesday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m.**  
in our **library**.

Please fill in a nomination form by September 27<sup>th</sup> and return it to the office (see hyperlink [here](#) and on the “Parents” page of school website)

We hope to see you there!

Also please check Trustee Rajakulasingam’s website at <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Ward21> for current information from the TDSB.

## Lockdowns and Fire Drills

At the beginning of each school year, our students and staff prepare for the year ahead by establishing the foundations for a successful year. One of the ways we know we can help students be successful is to create a safe environment in which to learn. Though no one ever wants to see an emergency happen at a school, it's important for school staff to be equipped to deal with those situations, should these occur.

The safety of students and staff is a top priority at our school and to that end, as with all emergency drills, it is essential that we are prepared and understand the importance of procedures that will help ensure the safety of everyone in our school.

The TDSB has taken steps to ensure your child's safety while in school. Each school has developed emergency preparedness plans that include steps staff will take in the event of an emergency, how staff will get students away from possible dangers, and how students' families will be contacted.

One aspect of emergency preparedness is the lockdown and fire drill. All schools are required to conduct a minimum of two lockdown drills and six fire drills each school year. Lockdown drills, like fire drills, are an essential component to ensuring student and staff safety. It is important that all staff and students are prepared and know how to respond in cases of emergencies. The drills last approximately 5 minutes and ensure plans are effective and can also systematically identify any safety concerns.

Communication is also very important in any emergency situation. The emergency contact information kept on file is important in helping this happen. It lists the people who can pick up a student from the school. If you have not yet provided this information to the office or have updates to the information on file, please make sure our office staff have that information as soon as possible.

## Curriculum Night 2019

We will be having our annual Curriculum Night on **Thursday, September 19, 2019**. Our night will start at 5:15 p.m. with a Community Agency Marketplace and Pizza Night in our gym. At 6:00, the curricular portion of the night will start with a short introduction and welcome from our principal, Ms Morgan. After the brief address, parents will be welcomed into classrooms to meet with their child’s teachers. We will have two rotations of presentations, until 7:20, at which time the evening will end.

As a staff we value our partnerships with our parents and community and look forward to meeting you all on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Please look out for the flyer that was sent out earlier this week with the pizza order form at the bottom. Pizza orders are due back to the school by the 17<sup>th</sup>. Parents can pay for pizza either with cash or through our cash online system. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the school at 416-396-6355.

## International Languages

The International Languages Elementary Program at Henry Kelsey is starting soon! This program is designed to give students the opportunity to appreciate other cultures and learn additional languages of their choice. No previous knowledge of a language is required.

Parents can register ahead of line, online, at <https://ereg.tdsb.on.ca/public/ilelogin.aspx>. After creating the account, and registering, please print your form as proof of registration for the first day of class.

Classes start on **Saturday, September 21, 2019**. Parents can also manually register for the program ahead of time on **September 14, 2019** at **Henry Kelsey**. For further information about the program and registration please contact Rong Xue at 416-395-3252.

## Community Breakfast

Our first Community Breakfast for the school year will be on **Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup>** from **8:00-8:30 a.m.** We invite all of our parents to come out and meet our staff in a fun environment so we can continue to get to know each other. We hope to see you for breakfast on the 27<sup>th</sup>!



## Eagle Corner



### Cross-Country

During these last rays of summer our Iroquois Eagles are busy getting ready for our first sporting event of the school year – our Cross Country meet. Thank you to Mr. Souray, Ms Tai and Ms Lamba for their coaching support in getting ready for the big day on **October 8<sup>th</sup>**. Crossing fingers for you all as you “soar” across the field!



*Above: Students above, with Mr. Souray, getting ready to practice for our upcoming meets. Go Eagles!*

### 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 @Torontods**

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

### Upcoming School Dates

<b>Sept 19</b>	Curriculum Night
<b>Sept 20</b>	Photo Day
<b>Sept 26</b>	Terry Fox Walk (PM)
<b>Sept 27</b>	Community Breakfast (AM)
<b>Oct. 11</b>	PA Day
<b>Oct. 22</b>	Photo Retake Day

### Primary Choir

The Primary Choir had its first practice today! Students in grades 1-3 will meet **every Day 2 at lunch** to make beautiful music. If your child missed out on today's fun, next Friday will be their last chance to join. Students should speak to Ms Ward for further information.

### Concert Band

Playing music can be a great stress reliever and an awesome way to learn the value of teamwork while having a lot of fun! If these are all areas of interest to you, and you have not already, we encourage you to join our Concert Band. Our band will be rehearsing every **Day 1 and Day 3, at lunch**. Please see Ms Farrow if you would like more information.

### Grade 6 Soccer

If you are in Grade 6 we hope you have tried out for one of our soccer teams. Thanks to the dedication of Mr. Kilbride and Mr. Souray tryouts already started this week! Look for final team selections to be posted after the 17<sup>th</sup> and best of luck to everyone!

**Iroquois Jr. Public School**

265 Chartland Blvd. S.,

Scarborough, Ontario

416.396.6355

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