

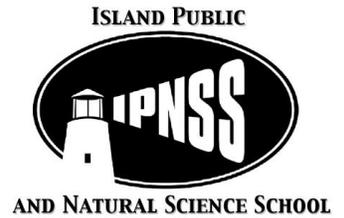


Island Public / Natural Science School

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Principal: Gary Pieters

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Friday, October 20, 2022

Dear Kindergarten Parents/Guardians/Caregivers,

We want to take this opportunity to update you on the challenges we continue to have with the new Ferry Schedule and Kindergarten students starting later at 9 a.m. We know that the Ferry Schedule changes have impacted families, and we are working to come up with a solution that meets parents' needs while ensuring the safety of all students.

If parents have children in Kindergarten, as well as children in the other grades at our school, we are encouraging parents to send their Kindergarten children on the earlier ferry at 8:15 a.m. We want to be as accommodating as possible so that parents do not have to come to the Ferry terminal twice.

However, this poses a challenge in terms of adequate supervision. There are 48 kindergarten students, and 19 of these students have a sibling at our school. If only 6–10 Kindergarten students arrive for the early Ferry, they will have to stay in the warm room on the city side as there would be too many students in the second group to take the 9 a.m. Ferry with only one supervisor.

Safety and supervision is our priority. We have two Early Childhood Educators who are able to supervise the entire group together. If we split the group based on earlier and later Ferry departure, we have to ensure one group is not too large so that it remains safe.

We continue to work with the TDSB and the Port Authority to express our safety and supervision concerns and the impact of these changes on our school, staff and families. We are committed to working with all parties to find a solution that best meets student, staff and family needs, and ensures the safety of students.

Thank you for your patience and understanding,

Gary Pieters

Principal