

# Island Breeze



The Newsletter of  
Island Public School



**Island Public/Natural Science School**  
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AND NATURAL SCIENCE SCHOOL

## January 2023

Time is passing by quickly as we move towards the end of January. There have and continue to be remarkable in-class, virtual (author visits), and outdoor/experiential learning experiences in your child's classrooms. In mid-February, term 1 reports cards will be sent home, and parents/caregivers will be conferencing with teachers. Staff Notes: Grade 2/3 Long Term Occasional Teacher, Jessica Duncan have taken a leave, and Omar Tahiri will be teaching the grade 2/3 class. Grade 1/2 teacher Peggy Slegers have taken a part-time leave, and will be teaching in the mornings, while James Webster will be teaching the grade 1/2 class in the afternoons. February and March will be busy with many joyful events, activities and fundraisers. Be sure to check the calendar, and updates by SchoolMessenger to your email inbox for details. The school website includes our digitalized Google calendar, twitter feed, and weather widget and is accessible online at <https://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/island/>

### School Information

#### School Office Hours

8:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday to Thursday (4:00 p.m. on Fridays)

#### Recess and Lunch Times

10:25 am (Recess); 11:50 am (Lunch); 2:05 pm (Recess)

#### Winter Ferry Schedule – Until April 6, 2023 (to Ward's Island)

8:15 am - Grades 1-6 students commute to Ward's Island

9:00 am – Kindergarten students commute to Ward's Island 3:45 pm - K-6 Students commute to city-side

#### Alternative Arrangements for Pick-up

If there are alternative arrangements for your child's dismissal or pick up, please inform our office administrator by email or phone at 416-393-1910.

#### Safe Arrival Program

One measure of keeping students safe is ensuring students have safely arrived at school. If your child is going to be late or absent for any reason, it is important that you contact the office immediately and report the reason for the absence or late arrival by email or phone at 416-393-1910.

#### Commuting

Please ensure that students are attired for changing weather conditions.

### Mark Your Calendars

#### Calendar: <https://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/island/Calendar>

- January 26 – Ice Skating at Union Station Skating Rink (cancelled).
- January 25 – Bell Let's Talk Day (Centering Mental Health)
- January 27 – International Holocaust Remembrance Day
- February – TDSB Character Trait of the month is Fairness; African Heritage/Black History Month; Chinese Heritage Month; Kindergarten Registration Month
- February 1 – World Hijab Day; Winter Walk to School Day
- February 2 – Ground Hog Day; National Sweater Day
- February 3 – Application Deadline - Middle French Immersion. Info: <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/pars>
- February 10 – Application Deadline – Out of Area Admissions. Info: <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Find-your/School/Out-of-Area-Admissions/Elementary>
- February 14 – Valentine's Day
- February 15 – Report Cards and IEPs Go Home
- February 16 – Valentine's Dance-a-Thon (tentative date)
- February 16 (PM Only), 17 (AM Only) – Parent-Teacher Conferencing – Term 1 Report Card
- February 17 – PA Day (No School for Students)
- February 20 – Family Day – Holiday
- February 21 – Losar – Tibetan New Year; Shrove Tuesday
- March 7 – Holi – Phagwah
- March 12 – Daylight Savings Time
- March 13- 17 March Break

# **Information and Resources**

## **TDSB Tutoring Supports**

Island Public/Natural Science School is not offering school-based tutoring at this time. There are several service providers who are offering tutoring supports for TDSB students and there programming information is accessible online at [https://www.tdsb.on.ca/portals/0/docs/Winter%202022-23%20Tutoring%20Update%20-%20Students Parents Guardians Caregivers.pdf](https://www.tdsb.on.ca/portals/0/docs/Winter%202022-23%20Tutoring%20Update%20-%20Students%20Parents%20Guardians%20Caregivers.pdf)

## **The TDSB's Mental Health & Well-Being Guide**

The TDSB's Mental Health & Well-Being Guide contains a variety of information and resources and can be accessed online at the following link

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/0/docs/Winter%202022-2023%20Well%20Being%20Guide.pdf>

## **Elementary Alternative Schools Online Application Update**

The online application for admission for September 2023 will be open from Monday, January 16 at 4 p.m. to Thursday, February 16, 2023 at 4 p.m. Info (including open houses accessible online at):

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Elementary-School/School-Choices/Open-Houses-and-Information-Nights>

## **Out-of-Area Admissions Applications**

The application for Out-of-Area admissions Application is currently open and closes on Friday, February 10 at 4 p.m. (Elementary). Late applications will not be accepted. Info: <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Find-your/School/Out-of-Area-Admissions/Elementary>

## **Kindergarten Registration Month**

February is Kindergarten Registration Month for English Kindergarten programs. Island Public/Natural Science School Kindergarten enrolment is open to families living within the school's catchment area. The online registration portal is accessible online at <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/EarlyYears/KindergartenMonth> or in person at the school. To Find Your School go to the below link and type in either your postal code or home address <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Find-your/School>. With both options, families will be invited to come to the school to validate registration information and participate in a Welcome to Kindergarten event hosted by the school.

## **Tamil Heritage Month at the TDSB**

Tamil Heritage Month is proudly recognized during the month of January at the Toronto District School Board. This year's theme is: *Community. Belonging. Joy* - சமூகம் சார்ந்த சந்தோசம். This theme was selected intentionally to align with one of the TDSB's priorities - Joy, Engagement and Belonging. only be sent to individuals interested in joining this committee.

## **Damaged Tree on City Property (Update)**

One of the larger trees on the City of Toronto property next to the children's playground is heavily damaged by fire and hollowed out. We have contacted the City of Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation administration to bring this concerning situation to their attention. The City of Toronto staff have responded, and they have assured us that they are planning for the necessary equipment and staff to be deployed to the site to evaluate and determine course of action, once the ground becomes dry and is able to accommodate the heavy equipment. The tree has been marked, cautioned taped and the area is supervised during recess. We have also communicated to our students to not play in the area adjacent to the damaged tree.

## **Grade 1/2 Letter Writing – Community Gratitude for Cookie Donation in December (Excerpted)**

We are students from Room 102, and we are called 'The Artists'. We are in Grades 1 and 2 and we would like to thank you for baking all of the cookies for the Cookie Delivery Day.

It was wonderful. You helped to put smiles on our faces and the faces of the elderly people who live on The Island. You made everyone have a better day. All of the seniors loved the cookies. The cookies allowed us to spread holiday cheer to the island community. We love you! Thank you everyone!

## **Addressing School Safety**

The TDSB has provided updated information in its document 'Addressing School Safety' which is accessible online at

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/High-School/Caring-Safe-Schools/Addressing-School-Safety>

At Island Public/Natural Science School, safety matters. That is why we are calling for parents to join our Caring and Safe Schools Committee. This committee which includes staff, students and community members will be meeting on January 31<sup>st</sup> at 11:50 am by Zoom. Please let us know of your interest by emailing the Principal. The link will only be sent to individuals interested in joining this committee.