

# Island Breeze



The Newsletter of  
Island Public School



**Island Public/Natural Science School**  
30 Centre Island Park, Toronto, ON M5J 2E9

**Gary Pieters**, Principal

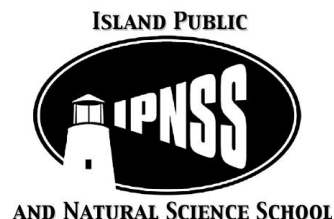
**Mary Linton**, Superintendent of Education

**Stephanie Donaldson**, School Trustee

**Phone:** 416-393-1910

**Website:** <https://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/island/>

**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/IslandPublicNSS>



## October 2022

October was a busy month for staff, students, parents and families at Island Public/Natural Science School. From photo day, to curriculum night, to days of Significance including Thanksgiving, Women's History Month, Islamic Heritage Month, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Diwali, and Halloween, the strength of our diversity is visible within the school and the society in which we live. We are on the cusp of progress report cards, and in the near future, there will be opportunities to discuss your child(ren) learning over the past months. As the season continues to change, please be sure to visit our school's website or Twitter for updates on any communications that must be shared at short notice. A SchoolMessenger communication to your email inbox will be sent when its feasible to do so.

Please visit the school website accessible online at <https://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/island/> for school updates, our digitalized Google calendar, Twitter Feed and general information.

Gary Pieters  
Principal

### 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)

In the morning, city-side students in grades 1-6 leave for school from Jack Layton Ferry Terminal at 8:15; and Kindergarten Students at 9:00. In the afternoon, students leave for home from Ward's Island at 3:45 pm, arriving at Jack Layton Ferry Terminal at 4:00 pm.

### 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.

### Dates to Remember

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

- October 31 – Halloween at School \*Spirit Day\*
- October 31-November 25 – Early French Immersion Application Process. Info: <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Elementary-School/School-Choices/French-Programs/Application-Process/Early-French-Immersion>
- November – TDSB Student Census Month
- November 1 – Photo Retake Day
- November 6 – Clocks Fall Back (1 Hour)
- November 7-November 25 – Elementary Central Interest Student Programs Applications. Info: <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Elementary-School/School-Choices/Elementary-Central-Student-Interest-Programs>
- November is Indigenous Education Month in the TDSB
- November 7 – Treaties Recognition Week
- November 11 – Remembrance Day - School Assembly and Classroom Activities
- November 15 – Progress Reports Will Be Sent Home
- November 17 (PM) - 18 (AM Only) – Parent Teacher Conferences to discuss your child's progress
- November 18 – PA Day (No School for Students)
- November 20 – National Child Day

### **Cold and Flu Season**

Flu season is here again. In Canada, flu season tends to run between October and April. The primary concern is for the health and safety of all students and staff. As parents, you can also assist by:

- Reminding children to wash their hands often (or use hand sanitizer) especially after using the washroom and before and after eating;
- Reminding children to cover their sneeze and cough;
- Watching for symptoms of vomiting, diarrhea, dizziness, and/or high fever;
- Informing the school if your child is ill;
- Keeping your child at home when he/she is ill.

For more information, please visit the Toronto Public Health website [www.toronto.ca/health](http://www.toronto.ca/health), contact your family doctor, or Telehealth Ontario. [1-866-797-0000](tel:1-866-797-0000).

### **Halloween at School**

Halloween at school provides opportunities for costume parades, parties, stories, creative activities, art programs and impromptu history lessons. Halloween is also a time for students, parents, and schools to take extra care to ensure school and student safety during this event. Many students enjoy participating in Halloween activities at school. For students who do not participate in Halloween, we will provide an appropriate space for other activities that are not related to Halloween. Please be on the lookout for a letter arriving in your email inbox pertaining to Halloween at School events at Island Public/Natural Science School on Monday, October 31, 2022.

#### **Trick or Treat Safety Tips (After School/Outside of the Regular School Day)**

If parents are concerned about trick or treating, here are some basic safety rules to follow:

- Children should never eat any treats until parents have had a chance to go through them and inspect them. Parents should look for tampering of packages and discard any that they believe to be unsafe or unknown.
- Trick or treat only at locations you know.
- Children should always stay in groups if no parent is present.
- Younger children should be accompanied and supervised by an older person.
- Accompany your child when trick or treating.
- If you cannot accompany your child, then know the route your child will take.
- Flame resistant (retardant) costumes are in order. Keep costumes short and remind children to stay away from pumpkins with candles in them.
- Remind children to stay away from pets they do not know.
- Remind children be observant and follow road safety rules. Cross only at cross walks. Do not jay walk.
- Children should wear their own shoes when trick or treating. Wearing costume shoes/boots can be dangerous and uncomfortable.
- Remind children that not everyone celebrates Halloween, and to avoid any locations that have no lights on. With older children, be sure to know what other events (such as parties) they plan on attending.
- Set time limits when children should return home.

### **Photo Retakes**

Photo retakes have been scheduled for Tuesday, November 1, 2022. Please let us know if your child is participating in individual photo retakes. During photo retake day, it is likely that class group photos, staff group photos and individual photos for students who were away may take place. The permission form for photo retakes (optional) is accessible online at <https://bit.ly/3W2ApYw>

### **Parent Teacher Conferencing**

Regular parent-teacher communication is an important part of student learning, achievement and well-being. Parent-teacher interviews are scheduled when progress reports are sent home. Parent Teacher Conferences to discuss your child's progress will take place on November 17 (pm) and November 18 (am). Please check with your child's teacher for interview times/dates. These interviews are your opportunity to ask questions about your child's progress and to discuss any issues, concerns or opportunities to improve student achievement and well-being. In addition to regular scheduled parent-teacher interviews, you can request a meeting at any time during the school year by contacting the school or your child's teacher directly.