

# Island Breeze



The Newsletter of  
Island Public School



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

**Gary Pieters**, Principal  
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## March 2023

March Break is from March 13-17. I am sure that your child(ren) excitedly look forward to spending time either relaxing, engaging in arts, culture, recreation, sports, travel or family activities. My best wishes for a safe and enjoyable March Break! We have a Caring, Safe and Accepting Schools Committee, which have met twice since January 2023. The agenda and minutes of previous meetings are publicly accessible on the landing page of the school's website. In February, due to severe weather conditions which resulted in bus cancelations, there were 2-days of online learning. Please see our severe weather and contingency plans accessible online at <https://bit.ly/3JOSINb>. Please visit the school website regularly for live updates and information 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.

#### Student Attendance, Safe Arrival and Safe Departure

<https://ppf.tdsb.on.ca/uploads/files/live/98/1887.pdf>

Updates have recently been made to TDSB Safe Arrival Automated Call Out. The school's number is displayed when families receive an automated call to report that a student is absent from school. To report a student absence, families may call the school phone number directly or call 1-833-250-2290 and will receive the same options.

### Mark Your Calendars | March 2023

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

- March – TDSB Character Trait of the month is Honesty; Greek Heritage Month; International Francophonie Month
- March 6 – Grades 1/2 Hour of Code Session, Rm 101 & 102
- March 6-10 – Spirit Week
- March 7 – Holi – Phagwah
- March 7-8 – IPS students to engage in Maple Syrup Program with Outdoor Ed at Island Natural Science School (INSS)
- March 8 – International Women's Day; Families Informed of Status of Out of Area Admissions Status – Round 1
- March 9 – In-School Team Meetings (IST)
- March 10 – Grade 5/6 Ottawa Trip (Revised) First Payment Date (2<sup>nd</sup> payment due on April 28)
- March 12 – Clocks Spring Forward - Daylight Savings Time
- March 13- 17 March Break
- March 15 – St. Patrick's Day
- March 20 – Nowruz (also known as Persian New Year); International Day of Happiness
- March 21 – International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; School Council Fundraiser at RBC Waterpark Place (Oxford Properties) – Cheese Cake Orders and Information Available Soon
- March 22 – Ramadan; Families Informed of Status of Out of Area Admissions Status – Round 2
- March 29 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Fundraiser at Charlotte's Room (rescheduled from March 2)
- March 30 – School-wide Field Trip to Young People's Theatre
- March 31 – International Transgender Day of Visibility
- April 7 – The Spring Season Ferry Schedule Begins

## For Your Information

### **Spirit Week – March 6-10**

Students have contributed and voted on the following daily themes for Spirit Week at Island from March 6-10:

- Monday March 6: Fancy Day
- Tuesday March 7: Rainbow Colours Day
- Wednesday March 8: Yes Day
- Thursday March 9: Movie Day
- Friday March 10: PJ and Stuffy Day

### **Student Voice and Participation**

The bulletin boards in the hallways provide strong insight into student voice. The main entrance hallway includes a student responsibility board (morning announcers, student ambassadors etc...); a heart shaped collaborative display on “what do we love about IPNSS; a pink shirt day display focusses on kindness and anti-bullying; and so much more. Please feel free to drop by and take a gallery walk through the hallways.

### **Lost and Found**

The lost and found bin at the front entrance of the school is filled and overflowing with various pieces of attire, and other items including water bottles and more. Similarly, there are many valuable items sitting in the main office including keys, collector cards, jewelry, prescription eye glasses and more. Please encourage your child(ren) to take a look if they have lost items at school.

### **Island Public School Annual Barbecue and Fun Fair**

Discussions are taking place pertaining to the venue and format for this year’s Family Fun Fair and Barbecue to be held on Thursday, June 1, 2023. I was made to understand that in recent years, it has been held at the Sherbourne Common and on the Island. I am interested in your views to inform decision making on the location, and focus for this event, given the TDSB’s priorities on ‘joy, engagement and belonging’; and eliminating disproportionate outcomes ...”

### **Ottawa Trip – Grades 5 and 6 – June 5-7, 2023**

On February 23, I provided an update by Zoom conferencing on the Ottawa trip, along with an email follow-up to grades 5 and 6 parents on Tuesday, February 28. These included the revised trip itinerary, summary of changes, and a survey. The staff participating in the trip and I will continue to maintain open lines of communications with parents of the students attending the trip, and the tour provider. The end of year Ottawa trip is an excursion organized by the teaching staff of the grades 5 and 6 students. The students also held fundraising efforts for their trip to Ottawa. I am pleased to share that the students raised \$3000. through various ventures including a Chili and Hot Chocolate Sale at the Island Christmas Boutique; A Candy Cane Holiday Sale during the festive season; A Hot Chocolate and Candy Cane Sale at the Holiday Hoopla in-person event at school; and a chocolate dipped fruit Kebob event held on Valentine’s Day by the grade 1/2 class. The \$3000. will be provided by cheque directly to Brightspark and it will contribute to offsetting the additional \$57. added to the cost of the trip due to the hotel upgrade to the Holiday Inn – Downtown Ottawa – Parliament Hill. Future funds raised will be directed towards the trip, and parents may either opt in or out of other funds as indicated through the survey in which we asked whether or not you would like to pay the full cost for your child’s trip on your own?

### **School-wide Field Trip – Young People’s Theatre**

We are so excited to announce that we are currently finalizing arrangements for a school-wide field trip to **Young People's Theatre** to see the play **The Darkest Dark**, based on the book by Chris Hadfield, on March 30th. This will be a wonderful opportunity for our school to come together, venture out into the community, and to develop our audience skills. Since the students will be leaving school in time for the 10:45 am ferry, the hot lunch program will provide a bag lunch for students in the hot lunch program. All other students are to bring their own bagged lunch. We are estimating our return from YPT to the Jack Layton Ferry terminal around 3:30 pm. We encourage Families to pick up their children by 3:45pm. If you are delayed, please inform your child's teacher ahead of time. Island students will commute on the 3:30 pm ferry from Jack Layton Ferry Terminal, for 3:45 pm pick up at Ward’s Island. Please stay tuned for more details including cost for the trip. Info on the event is accessible online at

<https://www.youngpeoplestheatre.org/shows-tickets/the-darkest-dark/>

## Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration continues for the upcoming 2023-24 school year. Families are encouraged to contact the school to book an appointment to register eligible child(ren) and/or to validate registration documents.

The find out more about the Kindergarten program and to register, please visit the following URL

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/EarlyYears/KindergartenMonth>

## Parent Access Card – Toronto Island Ferry

Please show your Parent Access Card to ferry staff at all times when entering the passenger area of Jack Layton Ferry Terminal during morning and afternoon entry, to drop off your child(ren) prior to the start of the school day or to receive them at the end of the school day. If you do not have a Parent Access Card, please contact the school and we can send you a digital copy.

## Guest Parking Closure – 33 Harbour Square

The guest parking lot used by parents for drop off and pick up will be closed and inaccessible for drop off and pick up until June 30.

## Excursion Management System

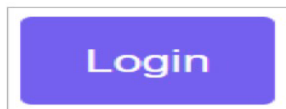
The TDSB has implemented a digitalized Excursion Management System for in-person and virtual field trips. This replaces the paper permission forms. Parents are encouraged to register and use this application to provide consent for field trips, excursions and extra-curricular activities that require a digitalized parental consent for your child(ren) participation.



### EMA Account Login | Parent/Guardian Reference Guide

The Excursion Management Application (EMA) is a web-based application which will allow Parents/Guardians to complete field trip (or excursion) permission (or information - as it's in the video), athletic forms and Medical Information forms online. This step-by-step Reference Guide will assist Parents/Guardians on how to successfully Login to EMA.

#### Access to the Excursions Management Application (EMA)



To start the login process, open a browser and navigate to:

URL: <https://parent.ema.tdsb.on.ca/>

Click the purple "Login" button at the bottom of the page to access the Login page.

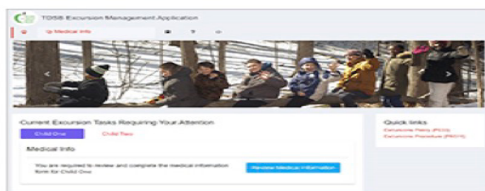
#### Access the Login Page

Enter the email address that is registered on file at your child's school and was used during the account creation process.

Enter the "Password" which you created during the account creation process.

Click the "Sign In" button.

#### Login to EMA



Once logged into the Excursion Management Application, you will have access to all children associated with that email address.

## **Greek Heritage Month**

The Toronto District School Board is proud to recognize Greek Heritage Month (GHM) during the month of March. During the month of March, several activities will be shared to mark GHM. A poster contest was held and all students from the Toronto District School Board were invited to submit images that best reflected this year's theme. The selected images are posted on the TDSB website accessible online at

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/home/ctl/Details/mid/43823/itemId/76> and  
<https://sites.google.com/a/tdsb.on.ca/greekheritagemonth/?pli=1>

## **Summer Music and Arts Camps**

The TDSB Summer Music and Art Camps are open to young artists and musicians of all skill levels and offers a variety of programs including band, orchestra, strings and individual instruction. Campers will have the opportunity to improve their skills, make new friends, and perform in a final concert at the end of the camp. Don't miss this chance to spend your summer making music and having fun!

Programs Include:

- Downtown Summer Strings (The Bickford Centre)
- Toronto Summer Arts & Music Camp (Mono Cliffs Outdoor Education Centre)
- Summer Sounds (York Mills Collegiate Institute)
- Scarborough Arts Camp (Wexford Collegiate Institute)

Registration is now open online at <https://bit.ly/3KQPyJq>

## **Special Education – Guide for Families**

This year, Special Education and Inclusion has created 3 new guides for families.

Guide to The Referral Process for Parents/Guardians/Caregivers

[Guide to The Referral Process for Parents/Guardians/Caregivers](#) (w/ Audio)

[Guide to The Referral Process](#) (MS Word Download)

Guide to IEPs for Parents/Guardians/Caregivers

[Guide to IEPs for Parents/Guardians/Caregivers](#) (w/ Audio)

[Guide to IEPs for Parents/Guardians/Caregivers](#) (MS Word Download)

Guide to Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRCs) for Parents/Guardians/Caregivers

[Guide to the Identification, Placement and Review Committees \(IPRCs\) for Parents/Guardians/Caregivers](#) (w/ Audio)

[Guide to Identification Placement and Review Committee](#) (MS Word Download)

## **Volunteers**

We value parent and community involvement, and extend an invitation to participate as a volunteer in the school-setting for activities such as extra-curricular, school clubs and intramurals; as well as outside of school events, class related excursions/field trips, and athletic activities. If interested, please be sure to contact the office to complete a volunteer application form and police reference check form. Once the process is complete, we will provide information on volunteer-led activities that align with your interests and time commitment.

## **Trustee Update – Ward 9 Davenport and Spadina-Fort York**

Please see updates from our Ward's Trustee Alexis Dawson accessible online at

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/ward9/Ward-9/Trustee-Updates>

## **Trustee Update**

Alexis Dawson

Ward 9: Davenport & Spadina - Fort York

Toronto District School Board

416-395-8787 • [Alexis.Dawson@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Alexis.Dawson@tdsb.on.ca)





## Emergency and Crisis Response Plan (ECR) - Lockdown Drill – March 10

Schools are required to schedule and complete 6 practice Fire Drills (3 in the Fall, and 3 in the Spring) and 2 practice Lockdown Drills each year. We are having a lockdown drill on March 10, and have invited our Neighbourhood Community Officers from the Toronto Police Service – 52 Division to join us onsite for the lockdown drill. These are emergency management and preparedness events that enable staff, students and community partners to know what to do in case of emergency.

Info: Hold and Secure, and Lockdowns <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Elementary-School/Caring-Safe-Schools/Hold-and-Secure-Lockdown> and Procedure 695 Threats to School Safety <https://ppf.tdsb.on.ca/uploads/files/live/98/1155.pdf>

Planning is also in progress for bus evacuation drills and ferry safety drills in the coming weeks following March Break. Once the dates are confirmed, I will be sure to share them with you on the school's website and calendar.

Image Source: PR 695 Document – Appendix F

# EMERGENCY AND CRISIS RESPONSE PLAN

## THREAT TO SCHOOL SAFETY RESPONSE PROCEDURES

*Follow these steps when you have been informed of a Threat to School Safety*

LOCKDOWN	HOLD & SECURE	SHELTER IN PLACE	BOMB THREAT
<p><b>A major incident or threat of school violence within the school or on school premises</b></p> <p>Any Staff Member can initiate a Lockdown:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>PA Announcement, or</li><li>3 Consecutive Bells, or</li><li>Verbal (Lockdown, Lockdown, Lockdown)</li></ul> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Enter nearest room. <b>*If outside building</b>, consider proceeding to the Emergency Evacuation Site if unsafe to enter building.</li><li>Lock classroom/room doors. Do not open door once secured. <b>*Unlocked exterior doors remain unlocked for police access.</b></li><li>Consider barricading classroom/room door (where possible and safe to do so). [e.g. use doorstops]</li><li>Close and cover windows (where possible and safe to do so).</li><li>Turn off lights.</li><li>Move away from classroom/room doors and windows and be aware of sightlines.</li><li>Studentsturn off cell phones and electronic devices. Staff cell phones should be set to silent.</li><li>Staff can call 911 with any helpful information (if safe to do so).</li><li>Maintain silence. Do not contact the office.</li><li>Lie on floor if gunshots are heard.</li><li>Evacuate building or relocate to another space if your security is compromised.</li><li>Remain in place until released. The Police or Principal/Designate will lift a Lockdown room by room.</li></ol>	<p><b>Possible danger in the school neighbourhood</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Return indoors.</li><li>Close and lock exterior doors.</li><li>Assigned designated staff monitor Exits/Entrances.</li><li>Close windows and window coverings (where possible and safe to do so).</li><li>Studentsturn off cell phones and/or personal electronic devices.</li><li>Staff contacts the office <b>only</b> to provide relevant updates to the current situation.</li><li>Continue regular indoor routines if safe to do so. All outside activities are cancelled.</li><li>Remain in place until Principal/ Designate announce Hold and Secure has been lifted.</li></ol>	<p><b>Possible environmental danger in the school neighbourhood</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Return indoors.</li><li>Assigned designated staff monitor Exits/Entrances.</li><li>Shut off air exchange system.</li><li>Close windows and window coverings (where possible and safe to do so).</li><li>Staff contacts the office <b>only</b> to provide relevant updates to the current situation.</li><li>Continue regular indoor routines if safe to do so. All outside activities are cancelled.</li><li>Remain in place until the Principal/Designate announces Shelter in Place has been lifted.</li></ol>	<p><b>Any conveyance of a message that is designed to warn and/or alarm people to an impending detonation of an explosive or incendiary device to cause damage, death, or injuries, whether or not such a device actually exists</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) If you receive a Bomb Threat, document details and report to Principal/Designate. Principal/Designate will contact police for direction. b) If you discover a suspicious item, do not touch and notify Principal/Designate immediately. Principal/Designate will contact police for direction.</li><li>Principal/Designate will initiate a visual scan and/or determine if relocation or evacuation is necessary.</li><li>If a suspicious package is found, do not use any electronic device, cell phone or walkie talkie in close proximity.</li><li>If ordered to evacuate, remain at the evacuation site until Principal/Designate and/or the Police provide further instruction.</li><li>If instructed to evacuate be aware of your evacuation route and continually scan your surroundings until safely at the evacuation site.</li><li>If an explosive incident occurs, follow established school evacuation procedures. Contact police.</li></ol>

## TDSB Combatting Hate and Racism Strategy

On March 21, International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed in Canada and around the world. As such, it is apt and fitting for us to take a look at the TDSB Anti-Hate and Anti-Racism Strategy. I look forward to hearing more from our Caring, Safe and Accepting Schools Committee, as well as your views, on the ways that we can centre equity and anti-racism in our School Improvement Plan, as essential to a positive school climate that works for everyone in our school and school community. The anti-hate and anti-racism strategy, and related information is accessible online at <https://bit.ly/3y1N8jx> and <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Equity-Anti-Racism-and-Anti-Oppression/Student-Learning-Strategy>

## COMBATTING HATE AND RACISM: STUDENT LEARNING STRATEGY

### Appendix B

The Student Learning Strategy for Combatting Hate and Racism is a proactive and student-centred approach to creating respectful and culturally safe learning environments for all students. Students and staff deserve to learn and work in an environment that is safe, inclusive and centres Truth and Reconciliation, Anti-Oppression, and Anti-Racism. We are a collective community that must do everything in our ability to ensure all students, staff, families, and communities feel respected and welcomed.

### CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION

Engage in ongoing professional learning with staff to build understanding, develop critical consciousness, and implement strategies through curriculum. This will better support students and families in confronting hate, racism, and discrimination.

### CAREGIVER ENGAGEMENT AND LEARNING

Establish a district and local school learning plan to support combatting hate and racism with parent/caregiver communities utilizing system and school based data.

### CYBER SAFETY AND DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

Cultivate strategies that support cyber safety, digital citizenship and critical awareness of hate and racism in social media and other online environments.



### STUDENT LEADERSHIP

The development of a student equity leadership collective that will make positive changes system wide and at the school level to address racism, hate and discrimination in the TDSB.

### TOOLS FOR RESPONSE TAKING ACTION

The creation of student equity collectives in each school committed to addressing and combatting hate and racism.

### EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS FOR LEARNING

Building partnerships with community agencies and educators whose voices are often not heard to support extending learning opportunities in dismantling hate and racism.

