

Island Breeze



The Newsletter of
Island Public School
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Island Public/Natural Science School
30 Centre Island Park, Toronto, ON M5J 2E9
Scott Woolford, Principal
Mary Linton, Superintendent of Education
Stephanie Donaldson, School Trustee



School Website: <http://schools.tdsb.on.ca/island>

Middle-of-September 2021

Dear Island Public School Families:

As we move into the middle of September, I wanted to **thank** all the IPS Staff and Families for the dedication to support the safe return to school. Please continue to reach out to offer your insights, helpful suggestions, and supportive ways. We will continue to work together to create a warm, welcoming place where students feel included and valued.

Regards,

Scott Woolford, Principal

School Office Hours

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Monday to Thursday (4:00 p.m. on Fridays)

Safe Arrival

If your child is absent, please leave a voice message on our Safe Arrival line (code 1). Please do not email your child's absence as staff may not be available to access or pass on the information to the office. There is more detailed information regarding Safe Arrival within this newsletter.

Alternative Arrangements for Pick-up

If there are alternative arrangements for your child's dismissal or pick up, please send a note.

A Glance Ahead

- Sept. 20, 21 & 22 – Terry Fox Run Days
- Sept. 30 – [Orange Shirt Day & National Day of Truth & Reconciliation](#)
- Oct. 5 – World Teacher's Day
- Oct. 6 – TDSB Walk To School Day
- Oct. 10 – World Mental Health Day
- Oct. 11 – Thanksgiving Holiday – No School



Follow the Principal, Mr. Woolford on Twitter @IPS_Mr_Woolford

The purpose of the account is to not only provide timely and accurate information of school events and activities but also to provide families with an opportunity to become further engaged in the school community.

Terry Fox Run/Walk – September 20, 21 & 22

Island Public School classes will be participating in the Annual Terry Fox Run over 3-days to ensure class cohorts are maintained. We will run an approximate 1 km loop around the playground area and run for 14 minutes (1 minute for every 10 days Terry ran). We run to acknowledge Terry Fox and his efforts to bring awareness to cancer research. We are asking students to donate a "Toonie for Terry"! They can bring that to school any of the three days. All proceeds will be donated back to the Terry Fox foundation. In previous years we have raised over \$400! Our goal this year is to raise \$450!



At Island Public School we look for ways to develop a positive space for learning! Our “glad you are here” attitude engages students at IPS!!!



What do all students need to ensure they attend school?

- A warm welcome
- A smile
- A connection to a caring adult, every day
- A chance to learn
- A safe place to take risks
- Someone who notices when something is wrong
- Someone who reaches out when they notice
- Someone who listens, and tries to find help for them
- Someone who believes in them, and instills hope

Students engaged at school are:

- Physically well, nourished, and active
- Physically and psychologically safe
- Loved, included, valued and supported at home, school and in the community
- Able to participate in productive activities including being academically successful
- Able to form and sustain healthy relationships with adults and peers
- Able to cope with adversity – and are resilient
- Know that adults care about their well-being

Character Education & Equitable Schools
September: Respect

With a new school year ahead, we continue to develop character and teach equity in all aspects of our school practices. This is a shared responsibility between home and school. There is a need for family, community, and schools to work cooperatively to encourage student learning as they mature into caring and responsible citizens. Each month we will celebrate one of the 10 attributes identified by the TDSB and equity themes by the school as they link with each trait and events/holidays/observances that occur locally and globally. One class or teacher will take the lead to promote that month’s character trait through announcements, activities and leading the month-end assembly. We encourage parents to reinforce the following attributes at home whenever possible: Respect, Responsibility, Empathy, Kindness and Caring, Teamwork, Fairness, Honesty, Co-operation, Integrity and Perseverance.



Parent /Guardian
Ferry Card Access

As you know the Toronto Ferry Service requests that all IPS Parents accessing the paid-fare zone of the ferry docks during drop-off & pick-up show the Parent Access Card. Please continue to show this card/pass when requested to the ferry dock personnel.
Thank You!

Ensuring the health and safety of our students and staff is a priority and everyone plays a role. Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we conduct the health screening at the entrance of the ferry docks for City-side Students and at Centre Island ferry docks for Island-side Students.



Before coming to school each day, all students must conduct an active student health screening self-assessment:

- [COVID-19 Screening Questionnaire for Children & Students](#)

Recording this information is required on either the [TDSB Student Health Pass \(paper\)](#) or by using the [Daily Health Screening App](#).

Learn more at [Safe Return to School: Daily Health Screening](#):

Learn more about next steps at:

- [Toronto Public Health COVID-19 Decision Guide for Schools](#)

Anaphylaxis: Taking the Necessary Precautions

Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that can be life threatening. This medical condition can cause a severe reaction to specific foods or materials and can result in death within minutes. Although foods such as peanuts, milk, eggs, and sesame seeds (including humus) are the most common cause of anaphylaxis, insect stings, medicine, or latex can also cause a reaction. In recent years, anaphylaxis has increased dramatically among students. The TDSB, in partnership with Toronto Public Health, is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy learning environment for all students and staff.

As required by Sabrina's Law, the TDSB has established policies and procedures to prevent and manage anaphylactic reactions and to reduce the risk of exposure to anaphylactic causative agents in classrooms and common school areas.

Although this may or may not affect your child's class directly, we want to raise awareness about this life-threatening condition. Students who have severe allergies to such food substances are exposed to a severe health risk when such products are consumed in their environment or shared with them. *As prevention is the best approach, we ask that you speak to your child about not sharing their snacks or lunches with other students and please do not send any snacks or lunches with your child that contain peanuts.*

If your child has health problems of any kind, please inform your child's teacher or office staff immediately so that the necessary health protection steps may be taken and to ensure everyone's co-operation for a safe learning environment. Whether you are living with an allergy yourself, caring for someone who is, or concerned about people in your community, more information about life threatening allergies is available at <https://foodallergycanada.ca/>

FOOD SAFETY – Class Celebrations

We recognize that students are excited and love to celebrate their birthday. However, as shared above, prevention is the best approach to an allergy-free environment as some students and staff at IPS do have life-threatening allergies to food. As a result, students will not be able to bring food products into the classroom that have been prepared at home to celebrate their birthday. Parents and students are welcome to bring in non-food items (i.e. pencils, erasers, stickers, temporary tattoos, etc.) to celebrate their birthday.



When it comes to holiday class parties (i.e. Hallowe'en, Winter Holidays, end of year, etc.) we will continue to allow only pre-packaged nut-free individually wrapped items accepted into the classroom for students to consume individually. Unfortunately, we are unable to accept any home-made goods as we cannot ensure that they are completely nut-free.

Prescribed Medication

If your child requires prescribed medication during school hours, please inform the office immediately. We have very specific procedures that need to be followed prior to the administration of medications.

Please inform the office immediately of any medication that is housed in students' bags or classrooms as some inhalers and medications can be dangerous, especially if ingested by another students.

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. At the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) we have an automated call-out system that will attempt to contact you if your child is late or absent on the day where the school was not previously informed.

The system call-out will work as follows:

- Parents/guardians identified in TDSB's Student Information Systems who has access to student records, and emergency contact with priority 1 or 2 will receive a call.
- When you receive the call, you are required to listen to the entire message and follow the prompts accordingly.
- You will be asked if you are aware or unaware of your child's absence.
- **If unaware, you will be asked to call the school immediately.**
- If you are aware of the absence, you will be asked to enter the reason for your child's absence. The following options will be provided for you:
 - 1) Illness
 - 2) Doctor Appointment
 - 3) Dentist Appointment
 - 4) Family Matter
 - 5) Weather
 - 6) Other.
- At the end of the message, you will have to press 2 to confirm you received the message. If you do not confirm receipt, you will receive a call on your mobile phone.
- If there is no response from a Priority 1 contact, this same process will be followed for Priority 2 contacts.
- If there is no contact with either Priority 1 or Priority 2, this entire process will be repeated 3 times in 10 minute intervals.

With this in mind, it is important that your contact information on file at the office is current and up-to-date. Please let the office know immediately if your contact information changes at any time throughout the school year. We recognize that regular attendance is essential to the safety, academic success, and well-being of all students. Thank you for your continued cooperation to keep your child safe and accounted for. For more information please visit www.tdsb.on.ca and search safe arrival program.

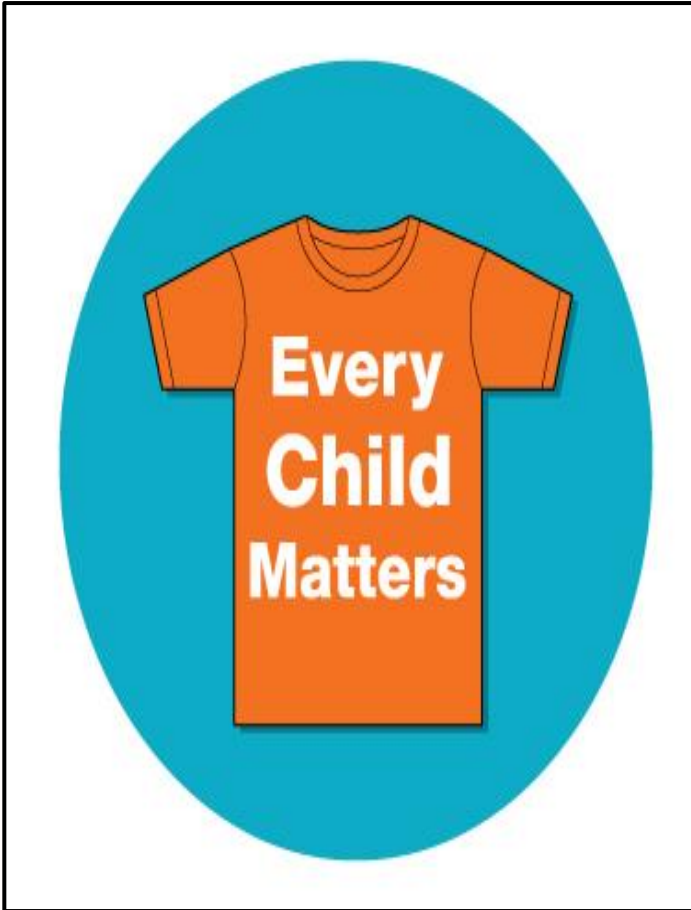
Lockdown and Fire Drills

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 these situations, should they 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 you contact the office.

September 30th marks Orange Shirt Day & the First National Day of Truth and Reconciliation



Thursday, September 30th is Orange Shirt Day, it also marks the first annual National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, which was passed by legislation this summer to become a federal statutory holiday.

Established in 2013, Orange Shirt Day was inspired by Phyllis Webstad, who was excited to wear her new orange shirt to her first day of school in 1973. However, when she arrived at St. Joseph Mission Residential School, her shirt was taken and never returned. From that day forward, the colour orange, for Phyllis, reminded her of that moment, how her feelings didn't matter, how she felt like she wasn't worth anything and that no one cared for the children who were crying about it that day.

Now, on this day, we recognize the legacy and impact of the residential schools system on First Nations, Métis and Inuit families and communities. We acknowledge the legacy of residential schools in Canada by wearing orange and we honour the survivors. We remember the thousands of children who were murdered and buried in unmarked graves.

IPS Students and Families are encouraged to wear something orange that day!

Follow @UIEC_tdsb and @tdsb on Twitter to see how students and staff from across the Toronto District School Board recognize Orange Shirt Day.

For more information, visit the [Urban Indigenous Education Centre](http://www.urbanindigenouseducationcentre.com) website.

To learn more about Phyllis' story and Orange Shirt Day visit:

- <http://www.orangeshirtday.org>