

2019-2020 School Year General Family Information

1) Safety

Our first priority as the school year begins is to establish the routines that provide for a safe and orderly environment that is vital to school success. At the Island Public School we use a variety of programs to create a respectful school climate. Please review our Island Public School Code of Conduct that is posted on website.

2) Severe Allergies

We strive to maintain an environment that is **safe from nuts**. Several of our students have a severe allergy to a range of 'nut products'. We ask parents to check ingredient lists when purchasing prepared products for lunches and snacks, and when sending treats to school. **Please notify the office if you child has any severe allergies.**

3) School hours

Grades 1 to 6	Morning Entry 9:00am	Lunch 11:50am to 12:45pm	Dismissal 3:30pm
Kindergarten	Morning Entry 9:20am	Lunch 11:55am to 12:55pm	Dismissal 3:25pm

4) Transportation - Pick up and drop off information is attached (Fall Schedule begins Monday, Sept. 23rd)

City-side Families

For our new City-side parents, if you are driving please park your car in the visitor parking area of the Harbour Square Buildings just over the hill from where you meet your children. Please note that this is a courtesy, so please only park for pick up and drop off. Please note that this is a courtesy, so please only park for pick up and drop off. Pedestrian and motor vehicles are not allowed along the lane to the east of the docks. **Students will be escorted onto the ferry by our Travel Safety Assistant Supervisors. They will be identifiable by brightly coloured cross-guard vests.** In the Fall, Spring and Summer on the Island, the docks are very busy with visitors. Please be on time to meet your children when the boat docks in the City (Kindergarten Students arrive @ 4:00pm and Grade 1 to 6 Students by arrive @ 4:30pm). Young children become very anxious if they cannot see their parents, especially with so many tourists disembarking from the ferry.

Please note: The ferry dock staff have asked to **remind parents that they are not to board the ferry with their children.** We have Travel Safety Supervisors that escort and accompany your children.

Island-side Families

Students may board the school bus beginning at 8:30am at Ward's Island Ferry Dock which leaves for the school at 8:45am. Pick-up at the end of the day will be @ approximately 3:50pm at Ward's Island.

5) Bicycle or Run to school (Gr. 3-6 students)

Permission forms must be signed and handed into the office before students can participate in either of these activities. Students must also have a buddy to travel with while biking or running and most importantly, wear a helmet if they are biking. **When signing the permission form, please be aware that the TDSB does not provide supervision nor is responsible for children while cycling (Gr. 3-6) or running (Gr. 4-6).** The form is provided in this package.

6) Ferry Admittance & IPS Parent Access Card

IPS Students do not require a ferry ticket as the school provides the Marine Supervisor with accumulated attendance records at this time. Parents/Guardians will be granted temporary access to the ferry compound provide the IPS Parent Access Card is shown at time of entry.

7) School Council

School Council is very active at the school and we urge you to become involved. It is a great way to meet other parents and learn more about your child's school. School Council meetings are regular and we encourage you to check the website for updates: <http://www.ipsschoolcouncil.com/>

8) Safe Arrival

We ask your cooperation in helping us with Safe Arrival. Please telephone the school at 393-1910 and leave a message on the "Student Absences/Safe Arrival" voicemail box if your child is not attending, or will be late due to an appointment. It is also important for you to telephone the school if you need to change your child's transportation arrangements. Please do not email us.

Lates

If your child is late and must travel across independent of the supervised times, please contact the school to make arrangements for a bus pick up. **Children MUST be 10 years of age to travel alone on the ferry (Grade 5).** We understand that children have to return to the city for appointments and we will do our best to accommodate these occasions. The safety of our children is critical.

9) Lice

This can be an ongoing challenge each year during the fall and spring months. We ask that parents discourage their children from wearing their peers' hats. Lice are most easily transferred from the sharing of hats. Parents can also help us by checking their children prior to sending them to school. This will alleviate further spreading within the school. We will conduct a school-wide lice check within the first month of school - info to follow!

10) Volunteers

We welcome all volunteers to help out in the school. It is truly an asset for us to have another adult working with our children. For the benefit of all students, parents are asked to volunteer in a class other than their child's if coming on a regular basis. This does not include special events within the classroom. **Please contact the office for information regarding the Police Reference check procedures as no parent/guardian will be able to volunteer for classroom/field trips until the police reference check is cleared.** If you have already received your Police Reference check, please come in to the office to process your yearly declaration.

11) IPS Nutrition Programs

We offer a nutritious Hot Lunch and Mid-Morning Meal Snack program for all interested students. Nutrition Services also provides meals for the students in our Natural Science program. Both programs will commence on Monday, September 9th. If you are interested please see the attached form for further information and the sample menu. Payment and signed forms must be received prior to starting. Thanks!

12) Communication - IPS Website, Twitter & Email

Island Public School Website <http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/island/> - This is a wonderful tool to keep IPS families apprised of events and activities in the school and the classrooms. It is also a link to other useful educational sites. The site is regularly updated. We have significantly decreased the amount of paper consumption by sending Newsletters, letters to parents and updates via the website, twitter and email. Please let the office know if you cannot receive email notifications.

13) Key Dates for the Month of September

- September 3 First day of school
- September 4 Grade 1 to 6 Families Meet & Greet Teachers at the Ferry Docks (4pm)
- September 13 IPS School Council Family BBQ Fundraiser @ 4pm located at Sherbourne Commons
- September 26 Island Public School Family Welcome Event (1:00pm) which includes: The Terry Fox Run, Aussie X Movement 2.0 Experience, Family Dinner & Meet the Teacher/Curriculum Info