

Islington Junior Middle School

Newsletter - April 2019 Edition



Principal: Rocco Coluccio
Vice Principal: Alessandra Faraone
Superintendent: Tracy Hayhurst
Trustee: Patrick Nunziata

School Council:
Co-Chair: Alex Song
Co-Chair: Daman Thable



**Follow us on
Twitter:
tdsb_islington**

Website:
<http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/islington/Home.aspx>

April: Co-operation

*"Now join your hand, and
with your hands you
hearts."*

William Shakespeare



IJMS presents cheque to Operation Smile thanks to funds raised through Bag2School and Bake Sales



Islington enters the TDSB Technology Skills Challenge on March 6. The team won the championship in our Learning Centre, representing a quarter of the TDSB. The team goes on to compete at the Ontario Skills Challenge on Monday May 6, 2019.

Principal's Message

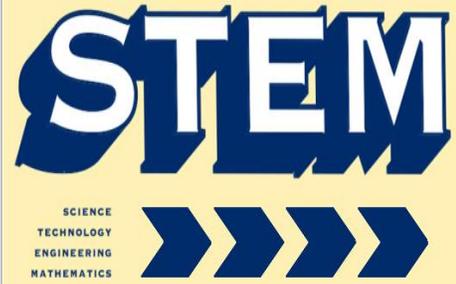
We are excited to welcome April and we hope that spring weather will soon be upon us.

To add to the amazing events happening at the school, we have the Family Breakfast on April 3 at 8am! As well, on April 26th, we will be participating in Clean Toronto Together, the City's annual spring cleanup that brings together thousands of Toronto residents, students, businesses, organizations and community groups to remove litter and keep our city clean and green! We continue to host visitors and teacher candidates, both from local and international institutions, with whom we exchange best practices, learn and find innovative ways to meet our students' needs. We are in the midst of

preparing for a very exciting STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) evening in May. This will be a school-wide event and we invite all of our parents/community to partake in 21st century learning with us! More details regarding this event will follow. We look forward to continued excitement and learning during the spring months!

2019-2020 School Year Student class placement is a process during which we strive to achieve a good fit for all students. Careful time and consideration are given by staff and administration when considering the best learning environment for each child. Classrooms are organized based on a

balance of the following factors: academic levels, social emotional needs, program needs, gender, learning styles, group dynamics and Ministry guidelines. If you wish to make us aware of any program and/or special needs that may impact your child's learning, please submit this to the main office in writing no later than April 26, 2019. We will take your note into consideration, however, we cannot guarantee a specific placement. Please note that last minute requests will not be considered because classes are organized during the month of May. Also note that requests for a particular teacher cannot be accepted as teacher assignments are tentative until September.



Full STEAM Ahead

Islington is full of STEAM activities in the coming months including our Grade 8 Fluids competition on April 25th, with a workshop on March 28th. Islington is also looking forward to the The Let's Talk Science

competition on May 2nd, We are excited for the Junior Skills Finals on May 6th. Good luck to the team!

Finally, we look forward to opening our doors to all families as we host STEAM Night

on May 9th. During the course of the evening, we will showcase the ingenuity of students' work that combines in science, technology, engineering, arts and math. Doors open at 5:45. See you in the gym for a 6pm start!

ECO News

The winter walk was very successful and everyone enjoyed the fresh air. We had hot chocolate after the walk to warm up. Thanks to the grade 8 students who helped make and deliver the hot chocolate.

On March 29 the school will participate in Earth Hour. The school will shut down the lights and computers and everything that needs electricity. Families can participate in the International Earth Hour campaign by turning off your lights and screens on Saturday March 30 from 8:30-9:30. Coming up on April 22 we have Earth Day. We are looking forward to some outdoor activities and environmental presentations.

ATHLETICS

Spring is in the air! If you are in grades 5 or 6 and are interested in joining the Junior Ultimate team than stay tuned! Tryouts will start in early April depending on weather and the field conditions. Start practicing your throws and catches!



Figure 1 Congratulations to the Junior Boys Basketball team for bringing a banner to Islington! They were division 2 finalist and we are so proud of their hard work and dedication. Next year will be our year! Go Panthers!



De la classe de Madame Gonzalez

THE MOON, THE EARTH AND THE SUN

Some students are curious about the moon's recent daytime appearances, asking questions like, "Why is the moon sticking out in the middle of the day?" To help answer that question, we viewed *Paxi – Le système solaire* (on YouTube). Students are creating mobiles that demonstrate the relationship between our planet and moon to the sun. At our Art Centre, each student painted the moon, the Earth and the sun, as well as the axes on which to hang these. At our Math Centre, students are selecting appropriate non-standard units to measure the length of the strings on which their moon, Earth and sun will hang. In the process of creating their mobiles, students are making predictions and observations.



LA LUNE, LA TERRE ET LE SOLEIL

Récemment, certains élèves ont posé des questions au sujet de la lune quand ils l'ont vu pendant la journée. Ils ont demandé : " Pourquoi la lune est-elle sortie pendant la journée ? " Pour répondre à cette question, nous avons visionné *Paxi – Le système solaire* (sur YouTube). Maintenant, les élèves sont en train de créer des mobiles qui démontrent la relation entre notre planète et lune au soleil. Au Centre des arts plastiques, chaque élève a peint la lune, la Terre et le soleil, ainsi que les axes pour les accrocher. Au Centre de mathématiques, les élèves choisissent des unités non-standardisées pour mesurer les longueurs des ficelles sur lesquelles leurs lune, Terre et soleil vont s'accrocher. En faisant leurs mobiles, les élèves font des prédictions et des observations.

EQUITY AND WELL-BEING



Autism Awareness Day

April is Autism Awareness Month

Autism awareness month brings to light the struggles and triumphs of people on the autism spectrum and unites families, schools, communities, government and professionals to make Ontario a better place for people living with ASD. It is really important that schools and communities like ours are able to support the needs of students on the spectrum so they can live productive meaningful lives.

Light It Up Blue takes place on April 02, 2019, which is the same day World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD) is observed. To celebrate Light it Up Blue, iconic landmarks, skyscrapers, schools, businesses and homes around the world unite by shining blue lights. In this way, all people affected by autism are honored. People around the globe also wear blue on this day. Please show your support for autism awareness by wearing blue on April 2, 2019.



Kinder Corner

"How do I help my child to learn how to read?"

As kindergarten teachers this is one of the most frequently asked questions. First and foremost we want learning to read, to be fun! Luckily as a society we are immersed in literacy and print. Reading print that can be found in your child's everyday life and environment will help to make reading meaningful. Reading what they see on the cereal box you are serving, at the subway stops they see when on the train or the name of the toothpaste they are using, are all things that are relevant to your child. The following are some ideas and suggestions on how to help your child learn to read.

1) **Letter Recognition**

Sing the alphabet song with your child. Play a game of 'I spy' going through the various letters of the alphabet. When identifying the letters, help your child distinguish between uppercase and lowercase letters. For example, "I spy with my little eye the letter O on the juice box." When they have identified the letter, read them the word in which they found the letter. For example, "You found the letter O in the word box."

2) **Sound symbol Association/Phonetic Awareness:** Each letter of the alphabet has a sound. There are many songs on youtube that help teach the sounds of the alphabet. Listen to them together and sing them with your child. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hq3yfQnllfQ> , <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BELIZKpi1Zs>

Play a game of 'I spy' starting with the letter A through to Z. For example, "I Spy with my little eye a ball. Ball starts with B, B say 'B'."

3) **Help your child recognize high frequency/site words:** Have a list of high frequency words in a visible spot at **your child's** eye level. Write notes to your child using these words and put the notes in places where they will find them, such as in their lunch box or on the bathroom mirror. Place magnetic letters on the fridge and see what words they can make and have your child read the words to you.

4) **READ, READ, READ, READ, READ and....READ with and to your child!**

When reading to your child, point to each word you are reading to show directionality. Choose books that are of interest to your child. Ask them to 'spy' high frequency words. For example, "Can you find the word 'you'?" Have your child read to you and ask them to retell the story or information. Encourage them to use picture cues to help with comprehension. The following website offers additional strategies in helping your child learn to read.

<https://www.noodle.com/articles/how-to-improve-reading-comprehension-for-elementary-schoolers>

5) **Visit the Public Library.** Our neighbourhood library is **Brentwood Public Library**, located at 36 Brentwood Road North, Toronto, M8X 2B5, ON, 416-394-5240. Aside from an incredible selection of books, it offers a fabulous (free) program for Kindergarten aged children.

As a parent, watching your child exclaim "I can read!" is an incredible experience. As your child's teacher our goal is to develop the necessary skills to initiate an enthusiasm for reading as your child embarks on their journey as lifelong readers.

Written by V. Koneri-Grant and submitted on behalf of the FDK Team

Student Achievement – Introducing our Student-Created Newspaper

The students at Islington Junior Middle School have been working hard to create a newspaper that is completely student- driven. As a school, we take pride in ensuring that our students are able to share their own voices not only within the school, but also within the larger community. With all of the wonderful things that are always happening at IJMS and in the community, the students have decided to start the very first IJMS newspaper. The paper is called, "The Islington Circle" and it paints a big picture of who we are, and what we represent; covering all aspects of our community, from student voice, clubs, sports, art, the French corner, games and comics. The Islington Circle has created a space for students to share their own voices and take pride in their own work.

A special thanks for all those who have contributed, from our student editor who has edited the articles and created the logo design, Nicolle Lima, our student writers: Eza Amaro, Waeys Ibrahim, Eden Khawaja, Amal Mohamoud, Sara Moliyam, Hrishieka Nigram, Kevin Wang and other student contributors throughout the school. Thank you to Mr. Trigiani who took part in our brainstorming session and came up with the name, The Islington Circle. Our goal is to continuously create content that is created by the students and for the students.

As part of our initiative of being an ECO- friendly school and community, our newspaper will be accessible through our school's website. Each issue will be posted on our website, and can be accessed by clicking on The Islington Circle.



Pizza Days



We are happy to be able to offer pizza days once again.

Pizza Days for the remainder of the year are on the following WEDNESDAYS:

April 3
10
17
24

May 1
8
15
22
29

June 5
12
19
26

Students in Gr 5 Show Learning Creatively



"Hi our names are Sedra, Anh and Sham. In Social Studies, we learned about the seigneurial system and how land was divided between the early French settlers in New France. We made a diorama to show how we would develop the land with our family. Our project was fun and successful. We put lots of effort into it."



"Hi my name is Jeanna and this is my diorama. My diorama is made out of popsicle sticks, paint, fake moss, clay, shells, rocks, miniature dolls and plastic barn animals. I did this project all by myself. It took me about 2 days and 5 school sessions to finish. In my diorama, we are collecting food, we have a healthy garden."



"My diorama is made out of Styrofoam, Popsicle sticks, cardboard, rocks, paint and crayons. In my diorama we are doing chores around the yard. I have a pitchfork." -Parthiv



"Hi my name is Ella and this is my diorama. What you see here is made with cardboard, matches, clay, paint and fake grass. My mom helped a little bit. It took me 2 days to finish. In my diorama my family is gathering food to eat."



"Hi my name is Ahmed and this is my diorama. My diorama is made with wood, sticks, crops, animals, grass, and houses. My dad helped me with the land for example the grass and farm. My diorama tells about the seigneurial system."

Your School Council Please join other parents/guardians in our Islington community to discuss ways to support our children. No childcare? Children can come to the library where we meet. More information at schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/islington/School-Council. Next meeting dates: Mon April 15 and Monday April 13.



Islington JMS is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy learning environment for all students. Sabrina's Law requires every school board to establish and maintain an anaphylactic policy that includes strategies to reduce the risk of exposure to anaphylactic causative agents in classrooms and common school areas.

We all must do our best to keep nuts out of the school and yard during the school day. There are children AND staff in the school who have life-threatening allergies to nut products. **For this reason, we will remain Food Sharing Free. We ask that parents do NOT send baked goods for parties.**



Follow us on Twitter: [tdsb_islington](https://twitter.com/tdsb_islington)

Website: <http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/islington/Home.aspx>

Main Office - 416-394-7870

Student Absent Line (24 hours) - 416-394-7874

SCHOOL HOURS AND SUPERVISION

Please arrive at school 8:35 – 8:50 to be on time for entry at 8:55.

Class begins at 8:55.

8:35 AM	Supervision in main schoolyard provided
8:50 AM	Entry Bell
8:55 AM	Classes begin
10:05 - 10:15 AM	Recess
11:35 AM	Lunch
12:35 PM	Entry Bell
2:00 - 2:10 PM	Recess
3:10 PM	End of Instructional Day (Grade 6-8)
3:15 PM	End of Instructional Day (Kindergarten)
3:20 PM	End of Instructional Day (Grades 1 - 5)

The main schoolyard is supervised from 8:35a.m. - 8:55 a.m., each recess, and over the lunch hour each school day. The schoolyard is not supervised before 8:35, or after 3:35 p.m. **We recommend that children not be in the schoolyard beyond the supervised times unless with a parent/guardian.**

UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS

Event	Date
Family Breakfast AND Pizza Day!	Wed April 3
International Day of Pink	Wed April 10
Pizza Day	Wed April 10
Pizza Day	Wed April 17
Kindergarten 'Grad' Photos	Thurs April 18
Good Friday – No School	Fri April 19
Easter Monday – No School	Mon April 22
Pizza Day	Wed April 24
Pizza Day	Wed May 1
Pizza Day	Wed May 8
STEAM Family Night 5:45 doors open, 6pm address	Thurs May 9
Pizza Day	Wed May 15
Victoria Day – No School	Mon May 20