

Islington Junior Middle School

Newsletter – February 2020 Edition



Principal:

Rocco Coluccio

Vice Principal:

Alessandra Faraone

Superintendent:

Sandra Tondat

Trustee:

Patrick Nunziata

School Council Co-Chairs:

Alex Song & Lauren Tedesco



**Follow us on
Twitter:
tdsb_islington**

Website:

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

FEBRUARY

Character Trait

/Grandfather Teaching:

Perseverance / Love
La persévérance / L'amour



Students engaged in Bell Let's Talk Day as one of several well-being activities this month!

Principal's Message

Happy February! I invite you to read our newsletter carefully this month so you are abreast of all the great initiatives happening at the school.

This month we have many items planned, spanning from parent workshops/presentations, African Heritage/Chinese Heritage celebrations, to our mural work with Stefano, our Artist from Afresco Murals. We would like to thank all of the students, parents and staff who give of their time and commitment to make such initiatives happen for our school. I would like to extend a Thank You to the many families who contributed to our Bag 2 School Eco program, donating unused textiles for proper disposal. We appreciate your partnership as we teach our kids the importance of environmental stewardship and how they can impact change with small, daily actions. I also invite you all to our annual Winter Walk stay tuned for the details of this event. Let's take this opportunity to promote walking as a better and safer means of transportation, both for the health of the environment and for our own personal, physical health and wellbeing. The most exciting part of February is Kindergarten Registration! If you have a child starting school in September of 2020, we welcome you to make an appointment with our school office for a time slot on February 19 and 20 to come visit our kindergarten program and to register your child. Please read the details of registration in this newsletter. Have a wonderful February!

From all of us at Islington, have a wonderful February!
Mr. Coluccio

Important Safety Reminder!

All visitors must report to and sign in at the office when arriving at Islington.

Please do not walk the halls without a visitor's badge.

Lunches and other items are to be left in the office.

Labeled lunches can be placed in the lunch bins in front of the 'Knowledge Tree'.



ECO NEWS

In January, we had our ECO audit. The ECO auditor was impressed with our additions to the Zen Zone which contributes to a healthy environment for students, teachers, and their mental well-being.

We have also started the weekly trivia on our interactive ECO board. Each week a question is displayed. Students submit their answer for a chance to win a prize. This week our winners were Daniel (Madame Bravo's class) and Mariam (Ms. Dolma's class). Next week's question: how can we save water at home? Please stay tuned regarding our Winter Walk!

Full STEAM Ahead

Eco-House Construction

Grade 7 students have been working hard over the last term to design a model of a sustainable house. Drawing on inspiration from Mike Reynold's Earthships and Toronto's Humber Arboretum, students studied renewable energy sources and modern insulation and thermal mass construction principles to design their own off the grid dream house.

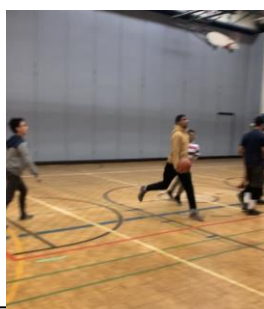
Here, Michael from Ms. Porteous' class is putting the final touches on his creation:

"The coolest thing about my house is that the solar panel collects the sun when it comes overhead and turns on the light. The rain is also collected into big pipes so that there can be water in the faucets."

ATHLETICS

As the cold winter continues students are staying warm in the gym with basketball and volleyball. The junior and senior boys came out in great numbers for the basketball teams. Ms. Jimenez and Ms. Kim have had the boys practising their skills during lunchtime in hopes of playing in their tournament later in February. The grades 6, 7 and 8 girls have come together to make a volleyball team and have also been practising hard with Ms. Watters in preparation for their tournament in late February as well. Good luck teams!

The Junior and Senior boys Basketball teams have continued to practice their plays and skills to be better prepared for future tournaments. We were so honoured to have a past Islington student come volunteer to share his basketball knowledge with the two teams. Thanks, Mathen!



FRENCH IMMERSION

Learning in Madame Yaroski and Monsieur Pascal's SK Class



As children progress through the Kindergarten programme, they will investigate strategies and materials used when measuring with non-standard units of measure.

(The Kindergarten Program 2016.
Page 227. 16.2)

Au fur et à mesure de sa progression dans le programme, l'enfant utilise les stratégies appropriées pour mesurer avec des unités de mesure non conventionnelles.

(Programme de la maternelle et
du jardin d'enfants. 2016. Page 225.
18.2)

As children progress through kindergarten program, they respond to a variety of materials that have been read aloud to them.

(The Kindergarten Program. 2016.
Page 205. 11.4)

Au fur et à mesure de sa progression dans le programme, l'enfant réagit à divers textes après la lecture à voix haute (p. ex., peint, dessine ou construit des modèles représentant des personnage.

(Programme de la maternelle et
du jardin d'enfants. 2016. Page
233. 13.4)



Parent Snack and Chat Session

Our topic this month: **Healthy Eating**



ALL PARENTS ARE WELCOME!

Meet our Toronto Public Health (TPH) Nurse, our TPH dietician and our school social worker to discuss healthy eating, picky eaters, shopping within a budget and more! Sessions are informal, drop-in opportunities for parents.

Come connect with other parents.

Learn about services and supports for parents and students.

Drop in for a coffee and snack

See you Thursday February 27, 2020 at 10am!

Secondary Program Review

The Toronto District School Board (TDSB) is undertaking a review of secondary schools to ensure all students have equitable access to programs and opportunities, as close to home as possible. The vision of the Secondary Program Review, which will address both under and over-utilized schools, includes fewer schools with strong programming and increased access to courses that support all pathways. In order to achieve that, the Board will consider potential consolidation and/or relocation of schools, re-purposing secondary school buildings to address other system needs, and different models of school organization (e.g. full-year programming).

Key Facts

- The secondary panel has declined from a high of 140,433 students in 1976 to approximately 72,600 students today
- As of October 2019, the average utilization rate at the 111 secondary schools in the system was 78 percent; 25 of them were operating below 50 percent of their capacity
- The average age of our secondary school buildings is 64
- Just over 50 percent of secondary students attend their home school by address (compared to 76 percent of elementary students)
- Secondary students are choosing programs and schools in higher income areas and fleeing from those in lower income areas
- Secondary schools are competing for a shrinking secondary school-aged population
- The existing structure of secondary schools across the Board is not in sync with the TDSB's Multi-Year Strategic Plan.

In addition, the Optional Attendance draft policy has been posted on the TDSB public site. To provide feedback, please visit the Policy Consultation page.

Kinder Corner

Now that the COLD WEATHER IS REALLY HERE...



LAYERS, LAYERS, LAYERS! As the temperature continues to dip, we want to encourage our Kindergarten students to dress in layers for school. A T-shirt underneath a long-sleeved shirt provides all-day comfort, as our classrooms vary widely in temperature. It is important for your child to wear a warm jacket that may be put on and zipped independently and appropriate accessories for the weather each day, as we spend at least 45 minutes outside per day, unless the temperature is below -20 degrees with the wind chill.

LABELS! Please ensure all clothing items, including accessories (hat, neck warmer, mittens), are labeled with your child's first name and last initial.



CHOICES! Get your child involved in picking out new outerwear. Have your child try on a new jacket before buying it, to ensure that your child is able to zip it easily. Dressing independently gives young learners feelings of pride and responsibility. It also encourages them to take care and keep track of their personal belongings. **MITTENS vs GLOVES...** Mittens are much warmer than gloves and are far easier for young children to put on independently.

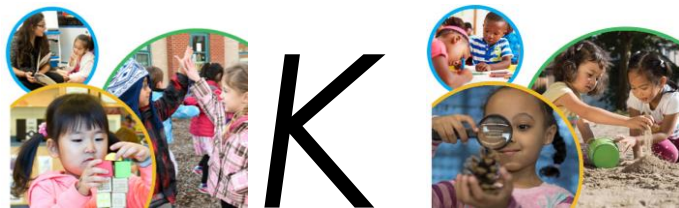
Parents at Islington



We were pleased to have parents attend our session on 'How to Help our Students with French at Home' for this month's Snack and Chat. We welcomed Rosemary Sutherland from Canadian Parents for French and Annie Bourdeau to engage parents in free online resources to provide practice in reading, listening and speaking in French. Thanks, too, to our very own Ms. Christou for baking some fabulous treats to accompany the good learning!

FEBRUARY IS KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION MONTH!!

BOOK AN APPOINTMENT WITH OUR OFFICE TO
COME VISIT US ON FEBRUARY 19TH AND 20TH TO REGISTER YOUR CHILD



In Person Registration

Step 1 Find your [local school](#).

Step 2 Contact your [local school](#) and make sure you have the following documents:

- Proof of age (birth certificate, Canadian passport, Canadian Citizenship card or certificate or baptismal record)
- Proof of address, including any two of the following current documents: lease or deed, car registration, utility bill, residential telephone bill, moving bill, property tax bill, bank statement, credit card statement, or correspondence from a government agency.
- Proof of immunization (the card that shows a list of needles your child has received):
 1. Report online www.toronto.ca/studentvaccines.
 2. If unable to report online, parents can provide immunization information to the school and the school will mail a copy to Toronto Public Health. Toronto Public Health accepts and translates foreign immunization records.
 3. If requesting an exemption, call 416-392-1250.
- Verification of date of arrival, if your child was not born in Canada. Children without immigration status are welcome in our schools and information about them or their families will not be shared with immigration authorities. To register, please visit the International Programs and Admissions Office at 5050 Yonge Street, on the main floor, for a TDSB school admission letter.

Online Registration

Kindergarten Registration for the 2020-2021 school year will open on **Monday, February 3, 2020 at 9 a.m.**

Step 1

- Need help? View the [Online Registration System Video Tutorial](#) for more information.
- Once you have completed the online portion of the registration process, you will receive a confirmation e-mail, including information about next steps (e.g. when to visit the school). Please be sure to check your Inbox and Junk Mail folder to avoid missing the e-mail.
- You will also receive an e-mail with a link to complete a *Developmental History Form* for your child online. Need help? View the [Developmental History Form Video Tutorial](#).

Step 2

- The following documents are required when you visit the school to complete the registration:
 - Proof of age (birth certificate, Canadian passport, Canadian Citizenship card or certificate or baptismal record)
 - Proof of address, including any two of the following current documents: lease or deed, car registration, utility bill, residential telephone bill, moving bill, property tax bill, bank statement, credit card statement, or correspondence from a government agency.
 - Proof of immunization (the card that shows a list of needles your child has received):
 1. Report online www.toronto.ca/studentvaccines.
 2. If unable to report online, parents can provide immunization information to the school and the school will mail a copy to Toronto Public Health. Toronto Public Health accepts and translates foreign immunization records.
 3. If requesting an exemption, call 416-392-1250.
 - Verification of date of arrival, if your child was not born in Canada. Families who are permanent residents and refugee claimants may register directly at the school.

Learn more about [Admission Eligibility Requirements](#)

The Book Fair is Coming in February!!



Bookmark Contest

Winners will win \$10.00 off of a book from the fair

The Scholastic Book Fair is coming to our school and you are invited to come and share in this celebration of literacy with us! Books are available in French and English.

Date: February 10 - 14, 2020

Place: Islington's Library

Time: Monday – Thursday 12 – 3:30pm, 9am – 2:00 on Friday February 14 PA Day

For: All Students and Parents

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

As you are aware, report cards and official grades will not be issued this term. Teachers have and will continue to assess and evaluate students on an ongoing basis.

Friday, February 14, from 9:00am to 3:20pm, is a day available for parent-teacher interviews. Evening interviews, originally planned for Thursday February 13, will not be taking place. Teachers will be in contact to schedule an interview with parents of students whose academic progress would benefit from a conversation at this time. If you have not been contacted by your child's teacher and you would still like an opportunity to discuss progress, please feel free to contact the teacher/s to set up a time. Communication between home and school are paramount to the development of our students. We are always happy to talk to parents/caregivers when they have questions and/or concerns.

Your School Council

Parents, join your Parent Council to find out what is happening at Islington and how parents can be involved in initiatives that help our children! We will have a Principal's Update, hear from parent council and discuss what initiatives you want to see this year. Meet your School Advisory Council, school staff and other parents. Refreshments and light snacks will be provided.

Next meeting: Monday, March 9, 2020

No child care? Bring your children - of any age! They can play alongside us and activities will be provided.

Student Parliament Focuses on Well-Being in January

Bell Let's Talk on January 29, along with Wellness Wednesdays spread the message of support to all members of our school. Wellness Wednesdays featured calming music played throughout the school for 15 minutes – to help us all remember to take time to be mindful. Our hallways feature messages composed by students to tell one another that mental health is valuable and worth talking about.



Early ON Centre

Families and caregivers are invited to come to the EarlyOn Centre with your **babies and preschoolers**. It is a **free** program from Monday to Friday at our school. Drop in (come and go) between 12 noon and 4 pm.

Both adults and children can learn and make new friends while having fun together. Come to the main office and ask for the EarlyOn room.

Pizza Days



We will continue our pizza lunches into the new year and the dates have already been determined. The pizza order forms will be coming home on Tuesday January 7, 2020 and they are to be returned on Monday January 13, 2020. We will be holding eight pizza lunches this term, from January until the March break.

The dates are below:

FEBRUARY 5, 2020
FEBRUARY 12, 2020
FEBRUARY 19, 2020
FEBRUARY 26, 2020
MARCH 4, 2020
MARCH 11, 2020

African Heritage Month

February is African Heritage Month at the Toronto District School Board. It is an occasion to recognize and celebrate the many achievements and contributions of Peoples of African Descent to Canada and the world. The chosen theme for 2019-2020 is "UBUNTU: I am because we are" which is derived from the Nguni Bantu term in Southern Africa. UBUNTU is a South African term used by the Zulu community that represents an ethic of African traditional life. The philosophy of UBUNTU realizes that everything is interconnected; "everything that I do has an effect on you and your well-being and everything that you do has an effect on me and my well-being."

A poster to reflect the theme, "UBUNTU: I am because we are" was created by students from Downsview Secondary School under the leadership of their teacher, Matthew Chapman. It was shared with all schools across the Toronto District School Board. You will find ours on the front bulletin board, next to the office, along with MANY other displays!

WHAT ELSE IS ISLINGTON DOING TO CELEBRATE African Heritage Month?

Partnering with Islington community School/members and SAC to help plan initiatives

Daily trivia on announcements

Daily music on announcements

Classrooms will be exploring themes, people, stories

Performance by Prologue

Chinese Heritage Month



"A child's life is like a piece of paper on which every person leaves a mark."
~ Chinese proverb

The Toronto District School Board is proud to recognize Chinese Heritage Month (CHM) during the month of February and the theme of TDSB's Chinese Heritage Month is Year of the Rat: Intelligent, Wise, Charming, Social, & Ambitious.

Chinese-Canadians recognize Lunar New year on Saturday, January 25. Lunar New Year is also known as the Spring Festival and begins with the first moon of the lunar calendar and ends on the first full moon of the lunar calendar 15 days later.

During this month, we celebrate the energetic culture and traditions of the Chinese community with students, staff and community members of the Toronto District School Board and the City of Toronto.



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

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 schoolyard is supervised from 8:35a.m. - 8:55 a.m., each recess, over the lunch hour, and after school. The schoolyard is not supervised before 8:35, or after 3:35 p.m.

Children should not be in the schoolyard beyond the supervised times unless with a parent/guardian.

UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS

Event	Date
Kindergarten Registration for the 2020-2021 school year opens	Monday, February 3 at 9 a.m.
Winter Walk Day - tentative date	Wednesday, February 5
Pizza Day	Wednesday, February 5
Book Fair	Monday, February 10 - 14
Pizza Day	Wednesday, February 12
PA Day - No School (Parent-Teacher Interviews) Please contact teachers directly to book an appointment	Friday, February 14
Family Day - No School	Monday, February 17
Pizza Day	Wednesday, February 19
Kindergarten Registration appointments at Islington. Call ahead to make your appointment!	Wednesday, February 19 & Thursday, February 20
Grade 8 Graduation Photo Day	Wednesday, February 26
Pizza Day	Wednesday, February 26
Student of the Month Assembly 9:15 am Parent Snack and Chat - Healthy Eating 10am	Thursday, February 27