

Islington Junior Middle School

Newsletter – January 2020 Edition



Principal:
Rocco Coluccio
Vice Principal:
Alessandra Faraone

Superintendent:
Sandra Tondat
Trustee:
Patrick Nunziata

School Council Co-Chairs:
Alex Song & Lauren Tedesco

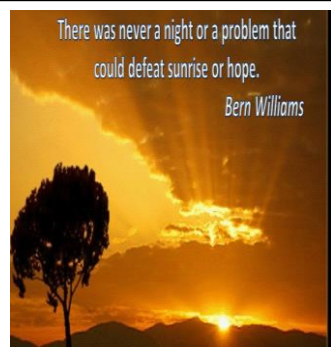


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<http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/islington/Home.aspx>

JANUARY
Character Trait:
Hope/ L'esperance



Principal's Message

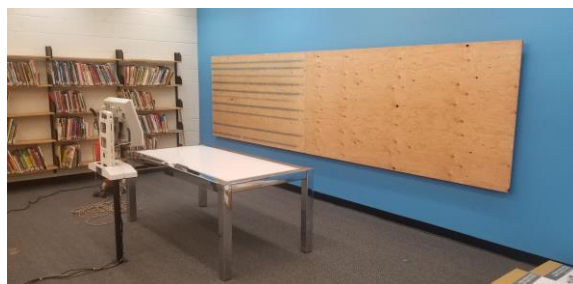
Welcome back, everyone, and for those who celebrated the New Year on January 1, we wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous 2020! We are very much looking forward to this coming term, with many exciting initiatives at the school. Please take a moment to read through our newsletter carefully and feel free to call us at the school if you have any questions. January is the month that celebrates the character trait of hope at the TDSB and as such, we will be focusing on actions and mindsets that help us demonstrate the hope we have to make our own lives, our school and the world a better place. We will focus on goal-setting and mindfulness through activities such as our Wellness Wednesdays this month. We will celebrate students who demonstrated remarkable hope at our Student of the Month assembly which falls on January 30th this month. We are happy to continue to offer our weekly pizza lunch and the forms should be returned by Monday January 13th with your order.

We look forward to continuing our toque sales this month! Parents and students have expressed an interest in purchasing these toques made for our Islington students that can promote school spirit and can be worn. As such, we are welcoming all orders at the main office as well we will have sales at lunch recess once a week for this month. Students are welcome to purchase these toques for \$12. This month, our teachers will be hard at work compiling all of their assessments from the first term and continuing to assess students' learning in order to report on the February report card. Please help us support your child by checking his/her agenda regularly for updates, homework, projects and any other communication.

We look forward to a great month and an even better 2020. We continue to value our partnership with our parents and community in the education of our students.

Full STEAM Ahead

The STEAM team is hard at work creating a GIANT LEGO wall in the Library! Construction is well underway and it will be unveiled in the new year once our custom tiles have been shipped and installed. The logo for the wall will be the Islington Circle Panther logo which was designed by our alumnus Nicolle Lima. Directly in front of the wall will be our custom fabricated multi-touch projection table which was created with the help of our welder, Harry and Lego League member Nikita Savevski and LEAP student Gaith Al Saleh. The table will support up to four users at once and should be an incredible addition to technological explorations for students at IJMS!



Islington was lucky enough to once again have the Canadian Space Resource Centre's **Starlab** come to visit earlier this month. Eight classes entered the giant black star dome to see incredible projections of stars and planets and learn about space travel, our Earth and the Milky Way, and the universe!



ECO NEWS

Eco club was successful this fall! We rallied for climate action, diverted textile from landfill, and monitored the use of lights in the school.

Next term we look forward to our winter walk, more fundraisers and our interim audit.

Here is a picture of Ms Sakkalis' class, winners of the Bag2School competition, bringing in a total of 20 bags of textiles!

Happy new year from Eco Club!

FRENCH IMMERSION

Learning in Madame Bravo's Grade 2/3 Class La gentillesse et l'attention

(Kindness and Caring)

In the spirit of kindness and caring, our class is working on "filling our buckets" with positive words and caring deeds. In December, we tried to lead by example by spreading kindness at school and at home. The students have done a great job trying to make our classroom a warm and cozy place.



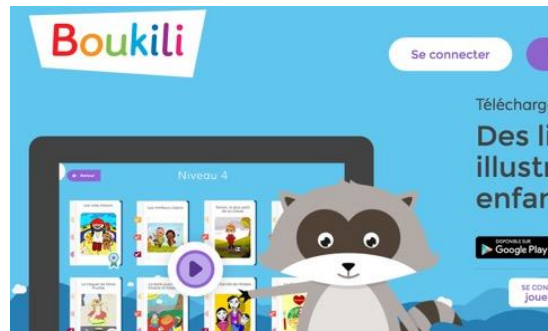
Dans la classe, je suis très gentil envers les autres. Je suis responsable pour mes actions. Je ne jette pas les choses par terre et ça montre la gentillesse et la responsabilité. Par Talib

La gentillesse veut dire quand tu ne touches pas les autres personnes pour les faire mal. Il faut être gentil, pas méchant. Nous avons fait des activités tout le mois pour remplir le seau. Par Daniel

Dans la classe, je suis gentille avec mes amis et les autres personnes. Il faut être gentil parce que ça remplit la vie des autres avec la gentillesse. La gentillesse est importante quand on joue et quand on travaille avec les autres. Par Marya

Parent Snack and Chat Session

Our topic this month: Helping My Child with French at Home



ALL PARENTS ARE WELCOME!

- Learn about BOUKILI, and other online FREE tools to practice reading and listening to French at home
- Meet our representative from Canadian Parents for French
- Sessions are informal, drop-in opportunities for parents.
- Come connect with other parents.
- Learn about services and supports for parents and students.
- Sessions start at 10:00 after the Student of the Month Assembly.
- Drop in for a coffee and snack

See you Thursday January 30 at 10am!



Kinder Corner

Kinder Winter Wonder at Del Manor

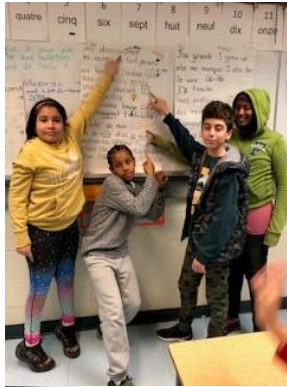
Our kindergarten students visited Del Manor, retirement residence in our Islington community. They regaled the residents with glorious voices and gifted them with artwork made with care.



A Tea Cart that does Good for Many

The students in Ms. Porteous and Ms. Horvat's class want to thank all staff for participating each week in our "Teacher Tea Cart"! Our class was able to raise \$150 over the last few months to donate to Community Living Toronto - Creative Village Studio in our community. The boys truly love to visit the classes each week and really enjoyed bringing our donation over to the studio at the end of December. A huge thank you to the teachers who have donated their baked goods to the cart as well! We look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year!





Madame Giannantonio Brings the World Into French Class!

The Junior and Intermediate Core French students have been very excited about the Idello website they have been using. In this month's featured video, Naesha, a 12-year old girl from Haiti who speaks French, takes us for a walk through her village and house giving the students an opportunity to make connections with her and her lifestyle.

One of our Islington students noted, "She is so lucky to be close to the seaside. I hope her dream is fulfilled and she has a chance to go back to her hometown!" What an amazing tool to help improve students' French listening skills!



Islington Cheers with 17,000 Students

After travelling on the subway we had reached **Scotiabank arena** to watch the basketball game between the 905 **Raptors** (our home team) against the **Long Island Nets**. We all entered the Scotiabank arena and then went to the rows that our classes were supposed to sit in. In my opinion, when I looked down from our seats, it made me feel like I was on top of a mountain. Our class came early so we watched the basketball players warm up. Our teachers even let us sit in any seat we wanted as long as it was in the same row.

The game started sometime later with the Nets taking the lead. The Raptors did not give up. After the first two quarters all hope was almost lost for **Raptors 905** to win but they came back to make it a really close game. The Raptors took it from **105-115** at a point near the very end to just **115-116**. The Raptors had one last chance at the last 5 milliseconds to get 2 points but sadly they couldn't. Raptors had lost to the Nets by 1 point (**115-116**). Even though most of us were a bit sad about the loss, the **Raptors** did something nobody expected. Although nobody likes to lose, losing can bring more success. 'You have no choices about how to lose, but you have a choice about how you come back and prepare to win again'.

By Sahir Serhan, Grade 7



Grade 5's and 6's Share Their Ideas

December's Character Trait: Kindness & Caring

Grandfather Teaching: Respect

Hello everyone, today I will share with you what kindness is, and what it means to me. You might have heard people say that if everyone on Earth was kind, the world would be a better place. **This is absolutely true!** If every human being on Earth thought about their actions and the ones around them, there would be less arguments and no wars. Less frowns and more smiles. The world would be a better place. You might be wondering, "Why?" as in "Why should I help this person?" Try to think positively and turn all the "Whys?" and "Why not?" as in "Why not be kind? It can't hurt."

Kindness is not just donating money, food or clothing to poor or homeless people, or holding the door and saying please and thank you. There are so many other ways to show kindness, sometimes a simple smile is enough to make someone's day. Kindness means being nice and respectful to all living things and their habitat, but we often forget that we're sharing this world with a lot of other living things. Maybe they can't talk like us or tell us how we are hurting them and their habitat but they do need to be treated kindly.

Making somebody feel good is usually kind, remember, it's not hard to show kindness. Some of you might be doing it without even noticing, but some of you may need to practise. Look around and help the first person in need you see. You'll be surprised by how good it feels when you've done something kind to someone else. Kindness is free, unlike many other things in this world. Changing your mindset from negative to positive is not only good for the world and everyone around you but it's also good for you.

Thank you, I hope I have convinced you to do a simple act of kindness in your daily life.

Kindness Speech by Grade 6 student Iva Vivic

I Don't want a Million Dollars

I don't want a million dollars
I just want a little hug
I don't need gold or diamonds
Just a small coffee mug
Friends are better than fortune
No matter who you ask
Kindness might seem hard
But it's an easy task
I don't want a million dollars
I just want a little hug
I don't need gold or diamonds
Just a small coffee mug
Your words heal my wounds
Your smile gives me flight
In this dark gloomy world
Let kindness shine bright
I don't want a million dollars
I just want a little hug
I don't need gold or diamonds
Just a small coffee mug

By: Eden Khawaja

A Simple Act of Kindness

A simple act of kindness
Can go a long way
Putting a smile on someone's face
Can make for a greater day
They say whatever you do
Comes back to you
So I choose to love and care
Spreading joy across the universe
Teaching others how to share...
There are people in this world
That are not as fortunate as you
Some don't have any money, shelter,
clothing, nor food
So let's get together and help out
Those who are in need
Because "unity" means "you and me"
Together we can be "One"

By: Senny Daoud

News from our Student Parliament



The ministry members did a great job putting on a winter carnival and yummy bake sale for the kids. Everyone had a blast and we were able to raise over \$500. There were over 15 games all created by them.

We also had a surprise visit from Santa, some parent volunteers and a police officer attend the event to help spread the holiday spirit. It was a successful event and we look forward to the next one. Thank you to everyone for supporting our efforts. We hope everyone had a happy and healthy holiday season.

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: January 30 10:30am
(after the Student of the month assembly)

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

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:

JANUARY 22, 2020
JANUARY 29, 2020
FEBRUARY 5, 2020
FEBRUARY 12, 2020
FEBRUARY 19, 2020
FEBRUARY 26, 2020
MARCH 4, 2020
MARCH 11, 2020

Horticultural Society visits Ms. Baker's Grade 5 Gardeners



Justin and Richard in Ms. Baker's class share their experience making winter centrepieces with the Horticultural Society...

On Wednesday December 11, the Horticultural Society came into our class to help us make centrepieces. We liked how great they looked when we were done! They really looked nice. We liked that they had parts of nature that we have never seen before.

One thing we found challenging was that the centrepieces were a little bit hard to make because sometimes we had to put the greenery on an angle.

Islington's Food Drive

In the month of January, Islington Junior Middle School is focusing on giving back to the Islington Community by collecting canned goods to give to our local shelters.

Hunger has a negative impact on people's ability to thrive and lead healthier lives. After the hustle and bustle of the holidays, it is hard for many people to afford to feed their families. We ask that each IJMS family can contribute by donating at least one canned/ perishable food item. This is the stepping stone to raise awareness on the issues of food insecurity, and to ensure that no one goes hungry.

All proceeds will be going to the Islington United food bank.



The Book Fair is Coming in February!!



***Help us build enthusiasm for literacy
by supporting this year's Scholastic Book 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. Now more than ever, reading is vital to leading a better life. Knowing how to read is just the beginning. Motivating young people to *keep reading*, comprehend what they read and develop the ability to think creatively are the end goals.

Scholastic Book Fairs has the books to motivate more reading. With your involvement, we can inspire children to practice reading and read more often. Together, we can make a difference in their lives that will last a lifetime.

Event: Scholastic Book Fair
Date: The week of February 10 - 14, 2020
Place: Islington's Library
Time: Lunchtime - 12:00 and Afterschool
For: All Students and Parents

ATHLETICS



This past year IJMS was fortunate to be part of "The Hockey Academy", which is a 6 week Hockey Program offered to Learning Network 19 and 20 Schools in the Toronto District School Board. 4 students had the opportunity to play and learn about Ice Hockey at the Ford Centre for Hockey Excellence. It was truly an amazing experience and opportunity.



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
Mon Jan 6	School Reopens for First day of 2020
Mon Jan 13	Pizza Order forms due
Fri Jan 17	PA Day – No School
Wed Jan 22	First Pizza Day of 2020
Wed Jan 29	Pizza Day
Thurs Jan 30	Student of the Month assembly 9am Parent Snack and Chat: Helping my Child in French 10am