

Islington Junior Middle School

Newsletter – March 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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tdsb_islington**

Website:

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

March

**Character Trait /Grandfather
Teaching:**

**Honesty & Integrity / Humility
L'intégrité / L'humilité**



Pink Shirt Day February 27, Students and staff at Islington gave a united anti-bullying message by wearing pink. Read more inside...

Principal's Message

February has been a great month and March promises to be even better with a number of exciting things on the go!

We celebrated African and Chinese Heritage Month with student-led announcements and a school-wide assembly. We at Islington had a most successful Scholastic Book Fair. We are pleased to share that we raised over \$2974. Way to Go Islington and congratulations to Ms. Grossi, who with the help of students and parent volunteers, ran her first Scholastic Book Fair! All these initiatives were largely student-generated and led.

We had a very successful Kindergarten Registration in mid-February, during which we met our future students and families and gathered relevant information that will help us plan for a successful start in September. If you have children or know of children who will start school in September of 2020 and have not yet been registered, please take an opportunity to visit our school office as soon as possible.

Our students are all very excited about the upcoming March Break! This year, March Break spans from March 16 – March 20.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe break that includes fun, rest and relaxation. For great ideas on fun activities around the city, visit:
<http://www.toronto4kids.com/Calendar/>

Full STEAM Ahead



City of Toronto planners worked with students on a special project connected to our local community. We were invited to participate on gathering our students' views on the proposed Bloor-Islington and Bloor-Kipling (Six Points). They looked at what a complete community needs. We were then invited to present at a City Community Feedback Forum with Councilor Grimes.



ECO NEWS

With the help of our amazing caretaker our ECO team did an audit of our lunchtime waste and found that there is room for improvement. Our team is now inspired to model their stewardship by helping students at lunchtime monitor where they put their waste. We have introduced a liquid waste bucket where students can place leftover drinks. We can already see a difference!

ATHLETICS & WELL-BEING

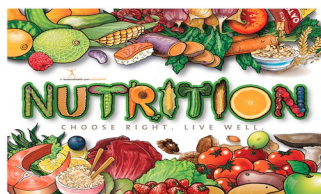


In February, we were happy to start offering free yoga programs to students during lunch hour! Thanks to our partnership with the Yoga Outreach Project, we are able to offer yoga instruction for students in Grades 4 – 8. WE will reassess how the program is running to determine if we add other grades.

The Yoga Outreach Project, which provides yoga programs through a network of qualified yoga teachers, will provide the mats and instruction.



Health Matters - Nourishing our Children



It's simple: when children are hungry, they can't focus, and if they can't focus, they can't learn. That's why more than 750 school-based Student Nutrition Programs (SNPs) provide over 170,000 nutritious meals every school day. Here, students eat a healthy breakfast, lunch, or a snack so that they can focus on learning rather than hunger.

Islington JMS offers the Morning Meal Program to all of our students. The Morning meal is distributed before morning recess. The morning meal program consists of the three food groups recommended by the Canada Food Guide.

- a serving of vegetables or fruit
- a serving of a whole wheat grain
- a serving of milk or alternative

Although we receive funding from provincial and municipal grants, these funds cover only a small percentage of the cost of running the program. **ALL donations are welcome and greatly appreciated. To make a donation, please use the form we've sent home with this newsletter. If you need a donation form, please stop by the office. Your donation is appreciated!**



needed!

Do you have some time one (or more) mornings for 1-2 hours (8 – 10am)? We are looking for parents to help prepare snack bins for classes. Please consider volunteering to help deliver our Nutrition Program.

March is Greek Heritage Month



TDSB celebrates Greek heritage in March. It is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the many achievements and contributions of Greek Canadians to Canada and an occasion to mark and enjoy the history of Greek culture.

The theme for this year is **"Inquire, Innovate, Inspire - Σπουδή, Καινοτομία, Έμπνευση"**. Let's reflect: How have Greeks of the past and present demonstrated inquiry, inspiration and innovation?



Toronto District School Board Parent Conference 2020

Join us for the Parents as Partners Conference on Saturday, March 28, 2020!

This all-inclusive conference is organized by TDSB parents for TDSB parents, guardians and caregivers. Participate in workshops, network with parents and community agencies and learn new strategies to support your child's success.

Registration opens in 2020! Register early as there is limited space in each workshop!

Who:

- ALL parents/guardians/caregivers of TDSB students are invited and welcome to attend.

What:

- Parents as Partners Conference 2020 is a FREE conference. Whether your child is just beginning on their educational journey in elementary school or closer to graduation and planning for the future, there are informative and empowering sessions for parents/guardians/caregivers of students of all ages and stages of education.

Where:

- Toronto Congress Centre, 650 Dixon Rd, Etobicoke, Ontario

Why:

- The Parents as Partners Conference 2020 is planned by parents, for parents and we are so pleased to be able to offer a selection of sessions that cover a broad range of topics to provide parents with useful information and resources to help your child improve their achievement and well-being at school and at home.



Changes to Islington's Hours Starting September 2020

Following communication sent to all families last week, please note that the hours of the instructional day will be different starting September 2020.

As of September 2020, the start and end times will change to:

- Start time (morning bell): 9:15 a.m.
- End time (afternoon bell): 3:40 p.m.

Please note that supervision will continue to be provided 15 minutes before the morning bell and 15 minutes after the afternoon bell.

[Public Meetings and Webinars](#)

We will be holding in-person and online information meetings to answer questions and provide any additional information parents/guardians may need in order to assist with this transition.

In-person Information Meetings:

- Thursday, March 5 at 7 p.m. at Richview CI (1738 Islington Ave., Etobicoke)
- Thursday, March 12 at 7 p.m. at David and Mary Thomson CI (125 Brockley Dr., Scarborough)

Child-minding and interpretation services will be available upon request for the in-person meetings. Please email belltimes@tdsb.on.ca to request these services.

Virtual Information Meetings – Online Webchat:

- Thursday, March 26 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
- Thursday, March 26 from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Please visit www.tdsb.on.ca at the dates and times listed above to connect to the Virtual Information Meeting (online webchat).

Your School Council

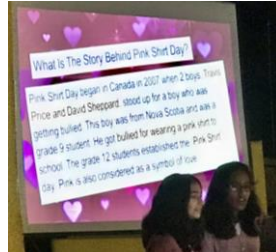
Parents, join your Parent Council to find out what is happening at Islington and how parents can be involved in initiatives that help our children! We will have a Principal's Update, hear from parent council and discuss what initiatives you want to see this year. Meet your School Advisory Council, school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

Students Show They Care About Well-Being:

Pink Shirt Day February 27, 2020



Kindness comes in many forms at Islington. Wearing Pink on Pink Day was one way to spread the word that bullying is not acceptable.

At our monthly assembly, a group of Grade 8 students presented a self-initiated skit with a strong anti-bullying message that students could relate to...from students – for students!

"You call yourself human but you treat others lower than yourself," shared Haybah, who participated in the presentation.

Alexia was inspired by the lyrics of a song, *"I'm flesh and blood. Accept me please."*

"We wanted to show awareness of bullying in a friendly way that students could enjoy and understand the true meaning behind Pink Shirt Day," explained Anisa and Naima

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



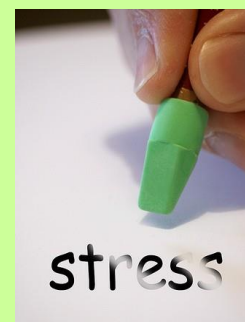
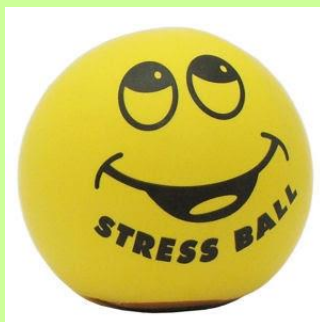
We will continue our pizza lunches up to March Break. New pizza order forms will be coming home after March Break.

The remaining dates are as follows:

MARCH 4, 2020
MARCH 11, 2020

Parent Snack and Chat Session

Our topic this month: **Stress and Coping**



ALL PARENTS ARE WELCOME!

On February 27 parents joined with our Public Health Dietician, our Public Health Nurse and our school's Social Worker to discuss Healthy Eating. Parents shared concerns over picky eaters, the new Food Guide, sugar content, shopping on a budget, and other practical issues that come up around nutrition.

Join us this month for a session on Stress and Coping in our children.

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 March 26, 2020 at 10am!

If you have a topic that would be of interest, please contact the office.



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
Pizza Day	Wednesday, March 4
Pizza Day	Wednesday, March 11
March Break – NO SCHOOL	Mon March 16 – Fri March 20
SOTM Assembly 9:15am Parent Snack and Chat 10am	Thurs March 26
Good Friday - NO SCHOOL	Fri April 10
Easter Monday – NO SCHOOL	Mon April 13