

# Islington Junior Middle School

Newsletter - May 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



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Website:

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

## May: Integrity

*"The time is always right to  
do what is right."  
Martin Luther King Jr.*



Figure 1 Trustee Patrick Nunziata speaks to students during our April assembly, during a visit to IJMS with our Superintendent Tracy Hayhurst



Islington embraces Earth Hour and expands it into learning about our natural world with Loretta Penny from Down to Earth Education. Students made pledges to the Earth as a commitment to future action. Pink Day at Islington reminds students to say NO to bullying. Students co-created a mural recognizing our commitment to student learning.



## Principal's Message

As the school year winds down to the last few months, our school gets busier and busier! Before outlining all the exciting events for May, I want to reflect on the successes of April! On April 2nd students and staff celebrated World Autism Day and pledged to stand up not only on that day but every day, to share and honour our diversities.

Trustee Nunziata and SOE Hayhurst visited our school to speak to staff and students about all the amazing things happening in the way of teaching and learning. This is called a learning walk: students articulated the purpose for learning and where they are in the process.

On April 10<sup>th</sup> students hit the airwaves and wore pink to raise awareness and stand up against discrimination, Homophobia, Transphobia and Transmisogyny. Our students worked hard to transform one of our stairwells into a welcoming space with a student-designed and -created mural....stay tuned for more murals popping up throughout the school.

#studentvoice

May promises to be a busy and exciting month at Islington JMS. On May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019, we invite you all to our annual STEAM night at the school. You will find more information in this newsletter. We are also celebrating the Character Education Trait of Integrity and we will recognize students who demonstrate integrity

at our Student of the Month Assembly Thursday May 30, 9:15am in the gym. As many of you know, EQAO will begin for our Grade 3 and 6 students on May 21<sup>st</sup>. This is an opportunity for students to demonstrate their learning NOT only in grade 3 and 6 but UP UNTIL those grades. We will ensure that students are provided with a quiet environment, snacks and opportunities to take breaks during the writing of the test. Please ensure that your children understand that this test DOES NOT determine their future NOR their level of intelligence. It provides the school and the system with relevant data to help us make decisions that support greater student learning. Here are some helpful tips on how to prepare your children for a positive EQAO experience.

Why do students write EQAO?

- To identify trends in student learning and target resources where they are needed
  - To identify curriculum areas that need more attention
  - To give indication of how each child is learning
  - To strengthen accountability
- Remember...
- EQAO is ONE indicator, among many of achievement

How can I help my child during the writing period?

- Ensure your child is well nourished and rested
- Talk to them about the test, letting them know that this is not a reflection of intelligence or ability

Finally, I would like to wish you all a wonderful and safe month of May!



## Full STEAM Ahead

On Thursday April 25th the fluids team competed amongst dozens of other schools in the Canadian Fluid Power Challenge. After a month of research, design and building preparation, they spent the morning re-creating the hydraulic-powered machine that they hoped could lift and move as many cylinders as possible on the challenge board. They worked tirelessly and came up with some excellent mechanical concepts. Special thanks to Kevin Wang who jumped into the team with only two days to go.



## ECO News

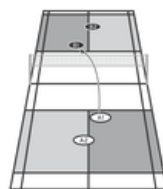
April is all about recognizing the importance of keeping our Earth and environment clean. During this month, at Islington, we participated in Earth Hour. We powered down for 1 hour and used natural light. We also celebrated Earth Day by inviting Loretta Penny to do some environmental slide shows to educate about sustainability and environments around the world. Students were engaged and we were able to interact with her display. School clean-up day was on April 29th. All students participated in cleaning the school grounds and upper grades cleaned up Tom Riley Park. For up-coming events, bike week will be May 27th to May 31st. Get ready to enjoy the beautiful weather ahead by biking to school.



## ATHLETICS

The grade 6 badminton team has had a great season. They practised hard at lunch and after school. On April 8, the team went to the tournament at James S. Bell JMS. They played very well. They came second and advanced to the playoffs. The team had some challenging matches, but they kept their cool and collaborated remarkably with their partners. More importantly, they demonstrated excellent sportsmanship. The team finished in second place which earned them a blue banner! WAY TO GO TEAM!!!

The Spring season is very busy with Junior and Senior Ultimate Frisbee teams being coached by Mr. Karout and Mr. Trigiani. Cricket is being coached by Mrs. Mukherjee. As well, we have Track and Field season underway. Good luck to all teams!



The coed volleyball team had a terrific season. After finishing first at their tournament they moved into the quarterfinals where they won their match in straight sets. At Lakeshore CI they continued to display great teamwork and determination, unfortunately losing in the semifinals. Great work athletes and thanks for a wonderful season! Ms. Watters





## De la classe de Madame Yaroski et Monsieur Pascal Students work on STEAM in SK French Immersion class



Before building their marble run designs, students had a chance to draw a sketch of what their finished product would look like.

Avant de construire leurs piste de bille, les élèves ont eu l'occasion de dessiner un plan.

**Figure 1** En regardant son dessin, Audrey a déclaré, « Je veux que mon marbre descende! »  
While drawing her sketch, Audrey said, "I want my marble to do down."

**Figure 2** Après la construction, Yacqub a dit, « J'ai oublié de mettre plus de colle ici! ».  
When building with the tubes, Yacqoub said, "I need more glue here."

**Figure 3** The finished products! Voici les chefs d'œuvres!

## WELL-BEING: Islington's Zen Zone helps meet important need for students' mental health



Over the course of a school day, there are instances when students may need a mental health break to help them cope with issues that may be standing in the way of having a safe, successful day at school. Schoolwork, social conflict, anxiety, home concerns, difficulty with self-regulation are examples of why a student may need to visit our Zen Zone with a staff member. We offer the room for conflict resolution among schoolmates, journal writing to set goals, quiet music and dimmed lighting, mindfulness activities and it's even used for staff yoga sessions after school!



# Kinder Corner



## Why Promoting Art and Creativity at Home is Important

(excerpted from: <https://www.parents.com/toddlers-preschoolers/development/intellectual/why-art-and-creativity-are-important/>)

When young children engage in art, it stimulates their brains and bodies in meaningful ways. Art utilizes the senses and is an especially tactile experience. It can increase your child's ability to analyze and problem-solve, develop fine motor skills, take risks in learning, and boost self-confidence.

### Six Ways to Inspire Creativity (at home)...

(from Leslie Bushara, deputy director for education at the Children's Museum of Manhattan)

1. **Prepare for a mess.** Set up an art space where your kid can be free to experiment (and get messy!), advises Bushara. Throw a drop cloth or a newspaper on top of your kitchen table or in the garage. If weather permits, let kids paint outside.
2. **Avoid giving direction.** Don't tell your kid what to make or how to make it. Instead of saying, "Paint a rainbow," encourage her to "experiment with mixing colors using different types of brushes and paper," suggests Bushara.
3. **Speak specifically about art.** When talking to your child about his artwork, try to be precise in your comments. For instance, instead of giving a generic compliment, such as, "Wow, that's nice", Bushara recommends saying, "I see you used a lot of purple. Why did you choose that color?"
4. **Explore your child's process.** Often the best way to encourage conversation about your child's art is simply to say, "Tell me about what you made," or ask, "How did you make it?"
5. **Don't draw with your child.** When parents draw something representational while a younger child is sketching, it can frustrate him, warns Bushara. "It's better to be near him and let him know that you're interested and supportive of his art-making," she says.
6. **Let it be.** When a child finishes a piece, don't suggest additions or changes, advises Bushara. It's important for a child to feel that what she's created is enough -- even if it's just a dot on the page.



On **May 10<sup>th</sup>**, Islington JMS is participating in the WE Walk for Water event, a global fundraising event to walk and raise money to improve access to clean water for developing communities around the world. The walk will be occurring during school time and on school grounds. It takes \$25 for one person to access clean water for life. Donations are asked to be returned to the classroom teacher by **Monday May 13<sup>th</sup>**. Let's turn clean water on for all! Every cent counts, and thank you for all of your support.

Thanks, ME to WE IJMS Team

## Student Achievement: Earth Day Essays

The students in Ms. Dolma's class connected Earth Day to curriculum expectations and wrote reports about why Earth is important to us all. Here are some excerpts:

*Our Mother Earth is important because without it, we wouldn't have a planet to live. Earth is currently the only planet we can live on with no difficulties with water, food, or temperature. Mother Earth is plagued with problems like pollution, deforestation, habitat loss, and global warming. Despite the many things that we do to harm our planet, we still can do many helpful things to nurture it. For example, harming our earth will start a negative chain reaction, and instead we need a positive chain reaction. Also, we should start raising awareness of what is happening to Earth currently and why it's important to take action now before it's too late to fix it. Our Earth is important to everyone's survival. I think it's important that everyone should take their own roles to preserve our natural resources.*  
Amal Gure, Grade 6.

*Earth is home to billions of lives and plants. Sadly that is something we cannot say anymore. We are destroying Earth piece by piece and it is not getting any better. It is scary to think that humans single-handedly ended numerous animal species and habitats too. Humans need this planet as we are still very far away from colonizing another planet. The role we play is large as we can cause so much damage environmentally and to all life, so likely we can undo that if we don't stop the rates of overusing our resources, our Earth will not be fit for our future generations and all living beings. Therefore there is so much importance in our Earth that we should cherish it, not harm it.*  
Miles Manlangit, Grade 6

*Landfills are a big problem for Earth. When we put organic materials into landfills, it breaks down and produces methane, which is 25 times stronger than carbon dioxide. This also contributes to climate change and global warming. Instead, we can reuse it to enrich our soil in gardens and parks. In Ontario, one person makes 1 tonne of garbage per year. And we only recycle 15% of this waste and send 6.7 million tonnes of waste to landfill sites. Canada used to send all our garbage to China for three decades so they can reuse it. Since December 31st 2017, they stopped taking our trash so we had to send it to Asia but at lower prices, meaning lost revenue for Canadian municipalities. Together, we can stop all these harm to our planet by using recyclable materials and by taking responsibility to learn how to use proper ways to recycle.*  
Benazir Khan Khattak, Grade 6.

*I think it's important to take care of our Earth because we don't see the harm we do daily and now it's time to admit it. There are three main factors that harm our planet, fossil fuels, deforestation and climate change. Fossil fuels are oil, coal and gas. They all have a costly effect on our environment like polluting our water and ground. Deforestation is when trees are cut down to make room for homes, mining and making paper. It also affects the habitats of animals. Climate change is when the Earth gets hotter and the water levels we've had for so long change. With all these problems, you have to wonder how we can help. We can use windmills and solar panels as forms of electricity that are cleaner. Also, instead of cutting down trees, we could use Hemp paper which is a material that is a lot less harmful and way more effective for making paper. Finally, we could stand up and get the government to do something about companies with a large carbon footprint and limit the production of fossil fuels. Therefore, I think it's time to say NO to Fossil Fuels, Deforestation, Pollution. Now is the time to take action on solving these problems.*  
Joshua Baldeo-Thachuk, Grade 6.

## 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](http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/islington/School-Council). Next meeting date: Mon May 13.



### News from the Community

Islington United Band Camp runs from July 22 to August 2, 2019

This full-day, 2 week camp is for students ages 5 to Grade 8. Before and after care is available. For more information: [bit.ly/bandcamp2019](http://bit.ly/bandcamp2019)



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:

May 1  
8  
15  
22  
29

June 5  
12  
19  
26



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.**

<b>8:35 AM</b>	Supervision in main schoolyard provided
<b>8:50 AM</b>	Entry Bell
<b>8:55 AM</b>	Classes begin
<b>10:05 - 10:15 AM</b>	Recess
<b>11:35 AM</b>	Lunch
<b>12:35 PM</b>	Entry Bell
<b>2:00 - 2:10 PM</b>	Recess
<b>3:10 PM</b>	End of Instructional Day (Grade 6-8)
<b>3:15 PM</b>	End of Instructional Day (Kindergarten)
<b>3:20 PM</b>	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
Pizza Day	Wed May 1
We Walk for Water and bake sale SEE DONATION SHEET (attached) due May 13	Thurs May 2 and Fri May 3
Pizza Day	Wed May 8
STEAM Family Night 5:45 doors open, 6pm address	Thurs May 9
Grade 4- 8 Track and Field	Tues May 14
Pizza Day	Wed May 15
Victoria Day – No School	Mon May 20
Pizza Day	Wed May 22
Grade 3 EQAO	Tues May 21 – Tues May 28
Grade 6 EQAO	Mon May 27 – Mon June 3
Bike to School Week	May 27 - 31
Pizza Day	Wed May 29
SOTM Assembly 9:15 and Parent Snack and Chat with Toronto Public Health and Social Worker 10:05	Thurs May 30
Theme Day – Celebrate your Heritage	Fri May 31





**Please print clearly. Full name and mailing address are required for tax receipt.**

Participant name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov/State: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal code/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Walk location: \_\_\_\_\_

Team/School name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make check payable to WE Charity. WE Charity can issue charitable tax receipts for all donations \$10 or more.**

Donor information			Amount donated*	Cash or check
Donor name:	Tel:		\$	<input type="checkbox"/> Cash
Address:	Apt:	Postal code/ZIP:		<input type="checkbox"/> Check
Email address:				
Donor name:	Tel:		\$	<input type="checkbox"/> Cash
Address:	Apt:	Postal code/ZIP:		<input type="checkbox"/> Check
Email address:				
Donor name:	Tel:		\$	<input type="checkbox"/> Cash
Address:	Apt:	Postal code/ZIP:		<input type="checkbox"/> Check
Email address:				
Donor name:	Tel:		\$	<input type="checkbox"/> Cash
Address:	Apt:	Postal code/ZIP:		<input type="checkbox"/> Check
Email address:				
Donor name:	Tel:		\$	<input type="checkbox"/> Cash
Address:	Apt:	Postal code/ZIP:		<input type="checkbox"/> Check
Email address:				

Remember: WE Charity strongly discourages youth from going door-to-door to collect pledges, unless accompanied by a parent or guardian.

WE Charity Headquarters  
339 Queen Street East  
Toronto, ON M5A 1S9

WE Charity Chicago  
300 W. Adams St. Suite 1000  
Chicago, IL 60606

\*We are not currently accepting donations for Sierra Leone and Nicaragua 2019 water projects.