

mjlslington Junior Middle School

Newsletter - November 2019 Edition



Principal:
Rocco Coluccio
Vice Principal:
Alessandra Faraone

Superintendent:
Sandra Tondat
Trustee:
Patrick Nunziata

School Council Co-Chairs:
Alex Song & Lauren Tedesco

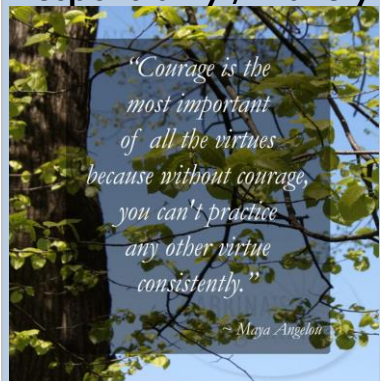


**Follow us on
Twitter:**
tdsb_islington

Website:

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

NOVEMBER
Character Trait and
Grandfather Teaching:
Responsibility / Bravery



Celebrating Diwali and Somali Heritage Month at Islington

Principal's Message

We have had a wonderful October at Islington JMS, filled with amazing learning opportunities, both in and outside the classroom. Take a moment to read this newsletter and learn about all the exciting programs and initiatives happening at the school. If you would like to contribute ideas and insights, please feel free to contact your child's teacher, the office and/or attend our parent council meetings.

This past month, we celebrated Islamic Heritage Month and Somali Heritage Month at the TDSB. Our students participated actively in these important celebrations. We look forward to November as it is Aboriginal Education month when we can centre Indigenous perspectives, histories and contemporary realities across the curricula. In our classrooms, we focus on treaties, the legacy of residential schools, as well as the achievements and accomplishments of Indigenous peoples in Canada. Over the course of this month, students, staff and community members will be recognizing a number of important days to deepen knowledge and learn together about our shared history, building stronger relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

We invite you to our annual Remembrance Day assembly on November 11 at 10:00am in our school gym.

We are continuing to shape our school goals in Equity, Achievement and Wellbeing and we are embarking on a number of initiatives, including professional learning for our teachers in order to achieve those goals. We have begun the process of unpacking a variety of data sets that shed light on "where we are" as a school, where we "need to go" and "what we need to learn" in order to get there. We encourage you to ask your children about what they are learning, what questions they are asking and what mindset they are using. Wishing everyone a wonderful November!



Full STEAM Ahead

Lego league

The Lego league is hard at work trying to learn to build and code our robot to compete on November 30th with other schools at a tournament at Western Tech. This year they are focusing their efforts on finding a way to code the robot to follow a black line using a colour sensor. They are also researching ways to alleviate flooding issues in our city due to climate change! Go Lego Panthers Go!



ECO News

The Eco Club kicked off the year with a recycling and waste sorting game at this month's character trait assembly.

We are rooting for Islington to improve on last year's waste audit results! Let's go for another platinum Islington!

ATHLETICS

The Co-Ed flag football team coached by Mr. Trigiani and Ms. Grossi had a successful tournament on October 22nd. Despite the heavy rain and extreme wind, the students worked together as a team finishing in third.

Our Boys Senior Soccer did very well this season. We reached the Finals and showed great sportsmanship throughout the season.
Go, Panthers!



FRENCH IMMERSION

French Team learns together how to bring the French speaking world to the classroom... and soon...to your home!

IDELLO workshop for core French and French Immersion teaching staff this month, shows how free resources online can help students develop listening skills, and link activities to curriculum learning, all while opening their eyes to French around the world.



French Programs Application Deadline

For families interested in the Toronto District School Board's French Immersion or Extended French programs, we offer an online process for applying to:
Early French Immersion (EFI) which begins in Senior Kindergarten;
Junior Extended French (JEF) which begins in Grade 4

At this time, we guarantee an offer of placement in the program (not a specific school) to all

on-time applicants. The timelines for applying for these programs for September 2020 are:

Applications for **Early French Immersion (for a Junior Kindergarten aged child)**, must be completed online **between November 4, 2019 and November 29, 2019**.

Applications for Junior Extended French must be completed online between January 6, 2020 and January 31, 2020.

Offers of placement within your chosen program will be made to all on-time applicants in the weeks following the close of the application window.

Please note: families with an older sibling currently in a French program are still required to complete an online application for the new student.

For further information about French as a Second Language programs, the application process and important dates, please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/french.

Kinder Corner

Learning In Mrs. Malloy and Mrs. Ieriti's Room 3

Children in Room 3 are exploring the changing colours in our community and school yard. Children are researchers and demonstrate their wonder and curiosity during daily outdoor play. During our outdoor play they notice the leaves have changed yellow, orange, red, green and even black! They have been bringing in bags of leaves from home to explore in the classroom. The children are wondering, do all leaves turn black before the winter? They also wonder if leaves "crush" or break, because the water inside dries up. Looking ahead in our learning, the children want to know, do leaves turn the colour of the rainbow? They also want to know, do leaves get thirsty? What do they eat to grow?



Children have been finding math in leaves in our Kindergarten yard. One child collected leaves and placed them in order; one, two, three. **What math do you see outside?**



Reading in Kindergarten

What does reading look like in Kindergarten? How can I help my child at home?

Children in Kindergarten are introduced to books daily. Children listen to books read to them each day related to interests in the classroom. Books are made accessible to children throughout the classroom to inspire them to read in English, as well as their home language. We are helping children develop skills on holding books, what is the front and back of the book, the author, and illustrator. In the month of November several classrooms will visit our local Brentwood Library to further inspire children's love of reading. Children will receive a library card application so that they visit with loved ones to explore books. Library cards have no cost for Toronto residents. We are looking forward to exploring our community and meeting the local Librarian!

Parent Snack and Chat Sessions are starting again!

ALL PARENTS WELCOME!!

- 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 in the Library, after the Student of the Month Assemblies.
- Drop in for a coffee and snack to meet your Public Health Nurses (Joanne and Iolanda) and your school Social Worker (Rachel).

We are open to have monthly topic focused discussions to help you support your child(ren). The foundation of healthy development means having healthy, caring and responsible children. How do we get there? Let's Talk!!

Join us starting **November 28 10 AM**, after the morning assembly and we can start the conversation.

**Relationships are the heart of what children need
to learn, grow and thrive**



TERRY FOX WALK

Terry Fox Walk on October 10 was a great success! Thank you, Islington for supporting our Walk for Terry!



IN THE LIBRARY...

The theme this year in the library is, "reading will take you on the greatest adventure."

Students in kindergarten to grade 2 travelled to Mexico, learning about the rich culture and the famous festival The Day of the Dead. Students engaged in activities where they created their own luchador and luchadora masks, and even created their very own alebrijes!

What adventure are we off to next?



November is Aboriginal Education Month in the TDSB "Aboriginal Education for ALL: Building Alliances"

This year's theme highlights that Aboriginal education is not just for Aboriginal students but for all students. When non-Aboriginal students learn about the rich histories, cultures, and contemporary contexts of diverse Aboriginal peoples, cross-cultural coalitions and alliances are more likely to occur. Non-Aboriginal students learn about themselves in relationship to the experiences and lives of Aboriginal peoples. These experiences create possibilities for a common commitment to social justice that leads to an equitable and more inclusive society. There is also a need for educators and policy makers to deepen knowledge about Aboriginal education in supporting Aboriginal student success and well-being as a whole. (Senk, 2011)

ABORIGINAL EDUCATION MONTH is an occasion for all our schools and workplaces to improve our knowledge and understanding of the diverse histories, cultures, achievements, experiences and world views of First Nation, Métis and Inuit peoples in Canada.

In designating November as Aboriginal Education Month, we acknowledge Aboriginal peoples as the original peoples of this land. Within our classrooms, Aboriginal Education Month provides an occasion to honour the historic and contemporary accomplishments of Aboriginal peoples, and to re-examine conventional understandings (past and present) which often overlook the perspectives of First Nation, Métis and Inuit peoples. The histories of First Nation, Inuit and Métis peoples are an integral part of Canada's history, yet the contributions of Aboriginal peoples, their rich and diverse cultures, as well as their rights and perspectives have traditionally been marginalized.

These activities in recognition of ABORIGINAL EDUCATION MONTH are designed to improve our awareness of the achievements of Aboriginal peoples, their struggles, their successes and their perspectives, both historically, and within in a contemporary context. These teaching and learning experiences serve to foster authentic student engagement and enhanced student success as well as to reinforce pride and self-esteem among First Nation, Métis and Inuit students as they see themselves positively reflected in the curriculum.

We respect the enduring place that First Nation, Métis and Inuit peoples hold in contemporary Canadian society. Additionally, infusing Aboriginal realities and perspectives across curriculum areas creates inclusive spaces for students to see themselves reflected as individuals and validated within the school community. Dr. Susan Dion's report, *Decolonizing Our Schools: Aboriginal Education in the Toronto District School Board* (2010), outlines how such an inclusive environment positively impacts Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students' feelings and beliefs about Aboriginal identities, which in turn positively affects their attitudes toward school.

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/0/Community/docs/Decolonizing%20Our%20Schools%203.pdf>

Throughout the month of November, the Aboriginal Education Centre will be implementing and supporting various teaching and learning experiences.

Remembrance Day

On Monday, November 11th, students and staff at our schools and across the city will mark Remembrance Day with classroom activities and school assemblies. For Remembrance Day, teachers make connections between global events and students' lives by promoting peace within our school community. On this solemn occasion, staff, students, parents, and the wider community all join together in a call for peace.

As a point of interest, TDSB's Danforth Collegiate and Technical Institute has the recognized distinction of having the greatest number of students, graduates, teachers, and other staff enlist in the military during the Second World War than any other school in the British Commonwealth.

John McCrae

**In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.**

**We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders Fields.**

**Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.**



PIAC

Join us for the annual Parent Involvement Advisory Committee conference on Saturday, November 16, 2019

Registration is free and includes bussing, childcare and lunch. This year's focus is on school councils, so whether you're on one, want to be on one or want to learn more about how to get involved, join us for a day of workshops and networking.

Registration is open at
www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/HowtoGetInvolved/PIAC2019Event

Your School Council

Congratulations to the newly elected 2019-2020 School Council Executive Members:

Co-Chairs: Alex Song and Lauren Tedesco

Secretary: Devon Pool

Treasurer: Nicole Tran

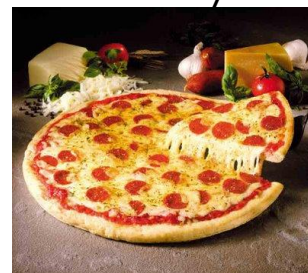
Parents - join us for a meet and greet now that school is in full swing! We will have a Principal's Update, hear from parent council and discuss what initiatives you want to see this year. Meet your School Advisory Council, school staff and other parents. Refreshments and light snacks will be provided. Next meeting: **Monday Nov 4 at 6:30 in the Library**

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

Pizza Days will be on the following WEDNESDAYS:

Nov 6, 13, 20, 27
 Dec 4, 11, 18

EQAO

Every May/June our Grade 3 and Grade 6 students write EQAO, a provincial standardized test.

EQAO assesses how well Ontario's public education system is developing students' reading, writing and math skills. EQAO provides reliable and useful information that is used to help improve student achievement and ensure the accountability of school boards.

Parents are welcome to visit <http://www.eqao.com/en> for more information regarding research, results and practice materials.



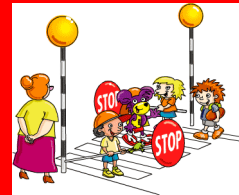
TDSB Recognizes Hindu Heritage Month

In 2016, the Government of Ontario declared the month of November each year as Hindu Heritage Month. Canadians of Hindu faith have greatly contributed to civic life in Canada for decades, and are a vibrant part of the growth and prosperity of Toronto, Ontario and Canada. On April 18, 2018, the TDSB Trustees voted to recognize the month of November as Hindu Heritage Month.

The theme chosen for the inaugural year is Namaste. Namaste is a way of showing respect and that you are equal to one another. It means, the divine in me bows to the divine in you. It is used with all people one meets, from young and old to friends and strangers. The bowing down of the head is a gracious form of extending friendship in love, respect, and humility.

Please follow us at @tdsb_HHM.

Keeping Kids Safe



Drivers are reminded to do their part to keep children safe near school buses.

Drivers should follow these tips:

- Stop and never pass a school bus when its red lights are flashing.
- Leave space around school buses and avoid blocking school bus loading zones so children can enter and exit safely.
- Be prepared to stop for a school bus at any time, not just during school hours.
- Always obey the rules of the road and watch for children, especially in school zones.
- Stop for pedestrians at crosswalks and school crossings.

Parents can also help keep their children safe by reminding them to be aware of their surroundings when they are on or near school buses.

News from our Student Parliament

This past month, Student Parliament members and Heritage Ministry recognised and Celebrated Diwali at Islington.

Students read announcements explaining the significance of Diwali, created beautiful Rangoli, colourful designed Patterns. They lighted Diyas, lamps, to spread light over darkness signifying conquering evil and ignorance with the light of knowledge and wisdom.

In October Student Parliament also recognized Somalian Heritage Month. Somalian students wore traditional clothing and created a wonderful presentation highlighting the history, tradition and culture of Somalia

Primary Junior Ministry members organized a fun-filled Carnival for K-5 students with various games and activities including a Pumpkin Carving Contest.



Students in Grade 7 Experience Learning at Ground Level

From October 23 - 25, Grade 7 students travelled to the Etobicoke Outdoor Education Centre.

There they had the opportunity to be involved in a number of S.T.E.A.M activities including: Digital Photography, GPS Orienteering, Fat Tire Biking and Nature Studies. Learning and healthy outdoor fun was had by all!





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 |
|---------------|--|
| Tues Nov 5 | Photo Retake Day |
| Tues Nov 5 | Ward 3 Forum at Etobicoke Collegiate 7pm |
| Wed Nov 6 | Pizza Day |
| Fri Nov 8 | Parent-Teacher Conference request slips due |
| Mon Nov 11 | Remembrance Day Assembly 10am |
| Wed Nov 13 | Progress Report Cards go home |
| Wed Nov 13 | Pizza Day |
| Thurs Nov 14 | Parent-Teacher Interviews evening |
| Friday Nov 15 | Parent-Teacher Interviews morning PA DAY |
| Wed Nov 20 | Me to WE Team's "WE are Silent" fundraiser |
| Wed Nov 20 | Pizza Day |
| Wed Nov 27 | Pizza Day |
| Thurs Nov 28 | Student of the Month Assembly 9:15 Parent Snack and Chat 10am |