

Islington Junior Middle School

Newsletter - October 2019 Edition



Curriculum Night was a well-attended event on September 26. Thank you to our community partners who came out to inform families of many opportunities available to the Islington community.

Principal's Message

Principal: Rocco Coluccio
Vice Principal: Alessandra Faraone
Superintendent: Sandra Tondat
Trustee: Patrick Nunziata
School Council: Co-Chair: Alex Song
Co-Chair: Daman Thable

Welcome to October!

We had a great start to our year, with many exciting initiatives under way!! We would like to thank ALL of our parents and community members who came to our Curriculum Night BBQ. We enjoyed meeting you all and we look forward to a continued partnership in the education of your child.

We continue to be committed to our three goals in the areas of Equity, Achievement and Wellbeing. In the coming weeks we will be unpacking a variety of data with our staff teams (eg., EQAO, Reading Assessments, survey data) in order to refine these goals and establish targeted actions for improving student learning as well as their experience in school. To learn more about these processes and offer your feedback/insights, feel free to attend parent council meetings. Your input on "school improvement" is very important to us.

Please encourage your child/ren to participate in the many school activities that happen outside of the classroom, during lunch or after school. We are fortunate to be able to offer a wide range of clubs, and sports among which: Robotics/First Lego League, Soccer, Flag Football, Cross Country, Student Parliament, School Ambassadors, Eco Club and many more. We are also excited to offer our Grade 7 students the opportunity to visit Albion Hills from October 23 - 25, for a great adventure in outdoor education and team-building.

Lastly, as you are aware, we are in the midst of Job Action, with our CUPE staff on a partial withdrawal of services. Student safety will continue to be our top priority during this time and we appreciate your patience and support as we navigate the current conditions.

We look forward to a wonderful October together at Islington.



**Follow us on
Twitter:
tdsb_islington**

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

October: Responsibility

I know that no one can really stop me but myself and that no one can help me but myself.
(Peter N. Zarlenga)





Full STEAM Ahead

The STEAM program at Islington is very excited to announce that we have printed our very first ever 3D creation!

Thanks to a parent of the school, David Neumann, we were able to borrow and test a 3D printer with the grade 8 class. Hava Bubayeva was the first to print a keychain she designed herself. She is excited to improve her design and we look forward to the incredible creations the students come up with this year!



ECO News

Eco club started with a bang this September, recognizing the Global Climate Strike with our own picnic on the front property on Friday September 27.

The community was involved, with many drivers honking in support of our action! We will continue this initiative with a letter writing campaign to city, provincial and federal leaders asking for action against greenhouse gas emissions.

ATHLETICS



Athletics is well underway already at Islington. Cross country members have been practicing 3 times a week with Ms. Henning, Ms. Sena and Ms. Baker and are hoping for a beautiful day at Centennial Park for their meet early this month.

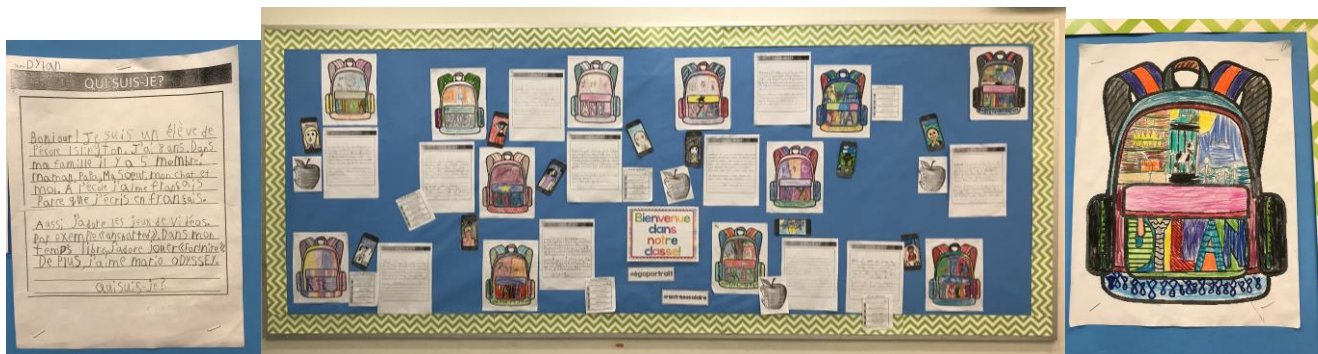
The senior boys soccer team, shown doing their stretches, has also started training with Mr. Sanogo while Ms. Grossi and Mr. Trigiani are getting their plays working with the Flag Football team. Good luck to all at their tournaments in October.

Coming up in late Fall is boys volleyball and girls basketball.

FRENCH IMMERSION

De la classe de Madame Bravo 2^e/3^e

In Mme. Bravo's grade 2/3 FL class, students are working on getting to know each other and building a sense of community. Each student was asked to write about themselves providing clues about what they like to do and who they are. These were read to the class and the other students tried to guess which friend was being described. We also created art pieces to go with our language "Qui suis-je?" activity in which each child identified their favorite things and what makes them special.



Free French Resources for Families at Home

We would like to share with families the digital platform [IDÉLLO](http://idello.org/en/), the Canadian reference in French educational content for teachers, educators, and parents. Thousands of certified resources in French can be found on IDÉLLO in a variety of media such as video series, apps, games, documentaries, as well as activities and quizzes. You can search the educational content by age groups, levels, subject, language, and other categories. If you don't know where to start with IDÉLLO, may we suggest À L'ÉCOUTE!

The resource À L'ÉCOUTE was conceived with your child's learning French as a Second Language in mind. Based on the Ontario curriculum and endorsed by Ontario's Ministry of Education, À L'ÉCOUTE provides parents with strategies to support their child's listening skills while improving their oral comprehension of French through a series of videos. Parents can access À L'ÉCOUTE videos and tools through IDÉLLO: <http://idello.org/en/>

Are you looking for French digital books? Try [BOUKILI.CA](http://Boukili.ca)* (also accessible through IDÉLLO) Find a variety of illustrated books to support your children's reading skills in French. Boukili's books allow children to read at their own pace and parents to keep track of their children's reading progress. It's FREE!

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 Miss Galluzzo and Miss Seredocha's Room 2

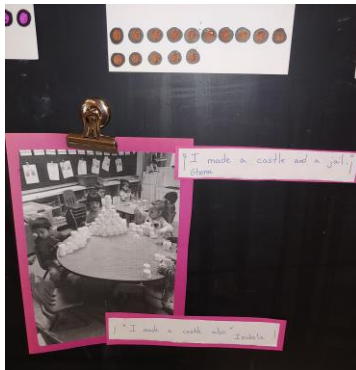


Photo 1

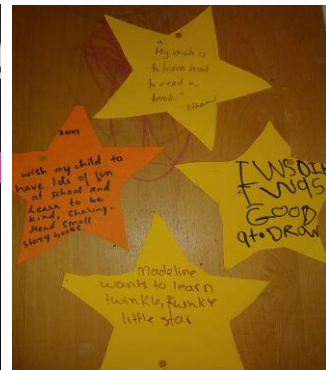


Photo 2

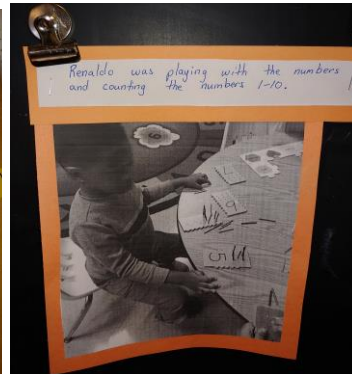
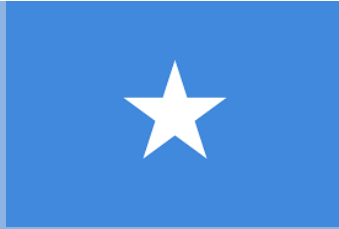


Photo 3

Photo 1 During self-directed inquiry, students use their imagination and exploratory skills to test, learn and discover patterns, and properties of items to form new learning. Teachers ask them to explain what they are doing, and to give a description of the process, with teacher support for vocabulary. In these pictures, the students were given cups and asked to build a structure. Photo 2 Goal setting is a great skill to develop early. Our kindergarten students shared their wishes for the year with their parents at our well-attended Curriculum/Meet the Teacher Night on September 26. Parents and students collaborated to write the wish on a star. Here's to a great start of the school year! Photo 3 Literacy and numeracy are developed in many ways. Here, one of our young mathematicians uses manipulatives to help make sense of written numbers.



Somali Heritage Month at the TDSB: October 2019

Every year, the TDSB recognizes Somali Heritage Month in October. The TDSB affirms our commitment to celebrating Somali Heritage Month, and encourages students and staff to take this opportunity to learn about the history, heritage and diversity of the Somali community.

This year's theme is "Educate. Elevate. Excel." This theme signifies the month's planning committee's ongoing mission for the Somali community to continue to educate students and the community at large, to elevate their student academic achievement and, to continue to excel.



Islamic Heritage Month at the TDSB: October 2019

The Government of Canada first established October as Islamic History Month (IHM) in 2007, recognizing, "the important contributions of Canadian Muslims to Canadian society, the cultural diversity of the Canadian Muslim community, and the importance of Canadians learning about each other to foster greater social cohesion." On 22 June 2016, TDSB Trustees voted to designate the month of October as Islamic Heritage Month (IHM). The following autumn, "Reflect. Celebrate. Learn." was chosen as the theme of our inaugural IHM 2017.

As our IHM journey continues, we encourage all members of the TDSB community to join us in continuing to learn about the heritage and history, culture and ongoing contributions of our Muslim fellow-Canadians. Follow @TDSB_IHM on Twitter throughout October for the latest IHM 2019 information and photos.

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.

EQAO results for students who wrote the assessment last Spring in Grade 3 and 6 will be sent home shortly.

Keeping Our 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.

High School Information Nights



To help you make an informed decision when choosing a high school, TDSB schools host information nights for parents and grade 8 students each year between October and January. Learn everything you need to know about our incredible variety of schools, programs and courses.

The dates and times for all High School Information Nights are available online at <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/High-School/Going-to-High-School/Open-Houses-and-Information-Nights>



International Walk to School Day - Wednesday, October 2nd, 2019

International Walk to School Day is a global event that involves communities from more than 40 countries walking and biking to school on the same day. It began in 1997 as a one-day event. Over time, this event has become part of a movement for year-round safe routes to school and a celebration – with record breaking participation – each October.

It's fun! Remember the thrill of riding a bike for the first time or walking to school that first day? There's a feeling of joy and independence—a sense of adventure—that doesn't fade. When walking or biking, parents and children get to appreciate things they don't notice while driving—listening to the sounds of the neighborhood, seeing friends and neighbors and feeling connected with their community. Parents, children and friends can enjoy one another's company without the usual distractions.

Walking and bicycling events celebrate these experiences and help make them possible for others. They bring schools and communities together for a common purpose. Most of all, they are fun!

Healthier Habits

Walking and bicycling to school enables children to incorporate the regular physical activity they need each day while also forming healthy habits that can last a lifetime. Regular physical activity helps children build strong bones, muscles and joints, and it decreases the risk of obesity. In contrast, insufficient physical activity can contribute to chronic diseases, such as diabetes, heart disease, cancer and stroke.

Cleaner Environment

When families decide to lace up their sneakers or strap on their bike helmets to get to school instead of riding in a car, they help reduce the amount of air pollutants emitted by automobiles.

Promoting Safety

To reduce the risk of injury:

Children and adults need to learn safe walking and bicycling skills.

Drivers need to watch for others using the road.

Safety problems along routes to school need to be fixed.

Community Benefits

The whole community benefits from efforts to enable and encourage more children to walk or bicycle to school safely. Benefits include:

Less traffic congestion

Stronger sense of community

Safer streets

Improved accessibility

For more information <http://www.walkbiketoschool.org/>

Student Voice: Islington Votes



With the help of Mrs. Mukherjee, our student elections took place this past week. Students in Grades 6-8 voted for their Prime Minister and Deputy Minister, and all candidates will serve in the different ministries that help organize events for all students throughout the year. Here are the speeches of 2019-20 Prime Minister and Deputy Minister.

Hey Islington Newsletter! My name is Jacob Yavorski, I'm in grade 8, and I was one of the Prime Minister candidates this Year. Prime minister has always been a goal of mine since I've known about it, and this year I was able to make that dream come true. I was signing up to be Prime Minister in a heartbeat! I really have some great ideas for this school year such as new programs which helps students in need and clubs that peak the interests of the kids who don't enjoy any of the current ones. My main interest is to be the voice for those who aren't brave enough to speak up, I believe everyone has great ideas but not everyone can speak up, I want to be there for them and listen to what they have to say. Even if I don't win, I know this ministry is one of the best ones yet and will make this one of the most spectacular years Islington has seen yet. Thank you for voting and enjoy your year!
Jacob is Islington's new Prime Minister

My name is Joan Sara Anish, I am a student from grade 8. I have been in this school for 2 years, and have been actively involved in various leadership programs. I have been involved in various volunteering opportunities in previous years. This year I wanted to run as a prime minister candidate because I want to take the initiative of making school fun for everyone by organizing multiple carnivals and fundraising events. Being a leader would also help me improve my leadership and public speaking skills. My goal for this year is to be a smart and sociable student and also be more engaged in school activities.
Joan Sara Anish
Joan is our new Deputy Minister

Your School Council

School Council's first meeting of the 2019-20 year is being held at school on Tuesday Oct 15 at 6:30pm. Come hear about ways to get involved and be informed of ways our parent community supports our students.



Islington Tshirts are a great way to show school spirit and to be easily recognized by teachers on field trips. Besides, they look great! Find out more about this and other initiatives at our first School Council Meeting on Tuesday Oct 15, 6:30pm.

See you there!

Pizza Days



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

Pizza Days will be on the following WEDNESDAYS:

Oct 2,9,16,23,30
Nov 6,13,20,27
Dec 4,11,18



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
Sept 30 – Oct 4	Grade 3 CCAT Assessment
Wed Oct 2	Pizza Day
Wed Oct 2	Photo Day
Thurs Oct 3	Cross Country Qualifying Meet
Wed Oct 9	Pizza Day
Thurs Oct 10	Terry Fox Walk
Fri Oct 11	PA Day - No School
Mon Oct 14	Thanksgiving – No School
Tues Oct 15	First School Council Meeting and elections
Wed Oct 16	Pizza Day
Wed Oct 23	Pizza Day
Oct 23 - 25	Grade 7 Outdoor Education Trip
Wed Oct 30	Pizza Day
Thurs Oct 31	SOTM Assembly and Halloween