

Islington Junior Middle School

Newsletter - September 2019 Edition



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



Principal's Message

It is with great pleasure that we welcome back to school all of our returning students/staff, as well as new students/staff who will be joining our Islington JMS family this year. We are looking forward to an exciting year, filled with opportunities for learning, both in and outside of the classrooms. I would like to thank our teachers, caretakers, support staff and administration, who have worked throughout the summer to prepare our office and classrooms for receiving students. It is important to us all that our environment be a welcoming, safe and inclusive one for each student. This is why we will all be working hard during this month to get to know the needs, interests and strengths of each individual student and to offer programming and supports that are reflective of such. If you have information regarding your child's learning needs, please feel free to contact his/her teacher to share this information.

We value the partnership between our families and the school and we know that the stronger that partnership, the better the chances of success for our students. I encourage you to take an active part in our school life. This issue of our monthly newsletter will offer ideas around how to do that. One useful communication tool is your child's daily agenda. Ask him/her to share this with you and feel free to use it to write to his/her teacher. If your child's teacher uses electronic portfolios of student learning, be sure to subscribe.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns throughout the year. We wish you all a fantastic start to the 2019-2020 school year!



**Follow us on
Twitter:
tdsb_islington**

Website:

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

September: Respect

*Respect yourself and others
will respect you.
(Gracian)*



Road Safety in School Zones

A message from Toronto Police Services

Walking To School

- Practice good role modeling by walking with your child and showing them road safety rules so that they can develop good habits.
- Wear bright, reflective clothing or accessories in cloudy or dark conditions so drivers can see you better.
- Teach your child to use their eyes and ears. Always stop, look and listen, even if there is a crossing guard, or traffic signals.
- Stop and check that cars in every lane can see you and make eye contact with the drivers. Wait until drivers have stopped before crossing the road.
- Look left, right and left again. Teach your child to cross the road only when the way is clear, or all the cars at the crosswalk or intersection have come to a full stop. Children shouldn't cross the road between parked cars or mid-block.
- Listen for oncoming traffic and be alert. Pedestrians shouldn't use headphones or cellphones when walking, especially when they are crossing the road. Distractions, even talking while walking, can put children in danger.
- Walk, don't run, while crossing the street. By running, you risk tripping and falling in the middle of the road.

Cycling To School

According to the Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO), bikes are considered vehicles. Therefore, cyclists must follow the same rules and laws as drivers do.

To ensure a safe trip when riding a bike, consider some of the following tips from MTO:

- Wear a helmet every time you ride – it is the law for anyone under the age of 18.
- Wear bright clothing so drivers can see you better.
- Ride in the same direction as traffic.
- Ride beside parked cars as if all the car doors were open. As long as you are riding in a straight line, motorists coming from behind will see you and give you enough space.
- Use hand signals early when turning or stopping – this lets drivers know what you are going to do next.

Always stop:

- At stop signs and red lights.
- At the edge of the road. Look all ways to see if the road is clear before entering a road.
- For stopped school buses when their red lights are flashing.
- For pedestrians at crosswalks.
- Two metres behind bus and streetcar doors and wait until the passengers have got on/off or reached the curb.

In Toronto, children 13 and under are allowed to ride on sidewalks; however, it is illegal for older cyclists to do the same. When riding on sidewalks, children must still exercise caution and follow traffic rules.

Driving To School

A child struck by a car travelling at 50 km/hr is eight times more likely to be killed than a child struck at 30 km/hr. Children 10 and under are most at risk for pedestrian related injuries. Therefore, if you are driving your child to or from school, it is important to be alert and slow down as children are smaller and harder to see. In addition, it might be difficult for children to determine the direction of sound and judging distance or speed.

Here are some safety tips from Toronto Public Health:

- Follow the school zones safety traffic rules.
- When possible, park legally on a side street or in school designated areas and walk your child to school to avoid adding to the traffic in front of or near the school.
- Stop at crosswalks and intersections. Allow children and other pedestrians to fully cross the road before continuing on.
- Enter and exit school zones and driveways slowly and carefully. Watch for children on and near the road, particularly in the morning and after school hours.
- Have your child exit the car on the right side nearest to the sidewalk.
- Do not speed.

Driving/Parking Complaints

Visit <http://www.torontopolice.on.ca/>

- Click on “Services” tab
- From the drop down box click on “Citizen Online Report Entry”

Scroll down and click on “Driving Complaint” or “Immediate Parking Complaint” and report

Important Safety Reminder

All visitors must report to and sign in at the office when arriving at Islington JMS.

Please do not walk the halls without a visitor's badge.

Lunches and other items are to be left in the appropriate drop off bins by the main office.

Lockdown and Fire Drills

At the beginning of each school year, our students and staff prepare for the year ahead by establishing the foundations for a successful year. One of the ways we know we can help students be successful is to create a safe environment in which to learn. Though no one ever wants to see an emergency happen at a school, it's important for school staff to be equipped to deal with those situations, should these occur.

The safety of students and staff is a top priority at our school and to that end, as with all emergency drills, it is essential that we are prepared and understand the importance of procedures that will help ensure the safety of everyone in our school.

The TDSB has taken steps to ensure your child's safety while in school. Each school has developed emergency preparedness plans that include steps staff will take in the event of an emergency, how staff will get students away from possible dangers, and how students' families will be contacted.

One aspect of emergency preparedness is the lockdown and fire drill. All schools are required to conduct a minimum of two lockdown drills and six fire drills each school year. Lockdown drills, like fire drills, are an essential component to ensuring student and staff safety. It is important that all staff and students are prepared and know how to respond in cases of emergencies. The drills last approximately 5 minutes and ensure plans are effective and can also systematically identify any safety concerns.

Communication is also very important in any emergency situation. The emergency contact information kept on file is important in helping this happen. It lists the people who can pick up a student from the school. If you have not yet provided this information to the office or have updates to the information on file, please make sure our office staff have that information as soon as possible.

CREATING AN INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT WHERE ALL STUDENTS FEEL THEY BELONG AND HAVE A VOICE

Our mission and our purpose is to create a school environment in which everyone is welcomed. It will foster critical THINKING and learning that also values the diverse identity of EACH student. This begins with our classroom environments, designed so that students feel that the classroom belongs to them and that they have a voice in the decisions and learning that happen in each class. We are also committed to using resources and approaches that are reflective of our students and that incorporate different ways of knowing, doing and being (eg., learning through Aboriginal perspectives). We plan on teaching about different points of view in our lessons so that students are more understanding of one another and our different lived experiences. We believe these are proactive ways to decrease bullying and to respect one another, our environment and ourselves. The programs and initiatives that we will offer this year will not only address the academic and physical needs of our students (eg., robotics clubs, nutrition programs) but also the emotional/social wellbeing of each student. If you have ideas and/or suggestions for how to make our school more inclusive and a positive environment for each student, please do not hesitate to contact the main office or your child's teacher.

Anaphylaxis - Taking the Necessary Precautions

Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that can be life threatening. This medical condition can cause a severe reaction to specific foods or other materials, and can result in death within minutes. Although foods such as peanuts, milk, eggs, and sesame seeds are the most common cause of anaphylaxis, insect stings, medicine, or latex can also cause a reaction. In recent years, anaphylaxis has increased dramatically among students. The TDSB is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy learning environment for all students and works with Toronto Public Health and other partners to ensure student safety.

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. The TDSB has procedures for the prevention and management of anaphylactic reactions.

Although this may or may not affect your child's class directly, we want to raise awareness about this life-threatening condition. Students who have severe allergies to such food substances are exposed to a severe health risk when such products are consumed in their environment or shared with them. As prevention is the best approach, we ask that you speak with your child about not sharing their snacks or lunches with other students and please do not send any snacks or lunches with your child that contain peanuts.

If your child has health problems of any kind, please inform your child's teacher or office staff immediately so that the necessary health protection steps may be taken and to ensure everyone's co-operation for a safe learning environment.

Whether you are living with the allergy yourself, caring for someone who is, or concerned about people in your community, more information about life threatening allergies is available on Food Allergy Canada's web site at <http://foodallergycanada.ca>.

HELP US KEEP AN ECO-FRIENDLY SCHOOL!

Three ways that you can help the school to achieve PLATINUM Eco School certification again in 2019-2020:

Pack a Litterless Lunch!

Aim to pack a lunch that produces no garbage. Why?

- It is healthier
- It costs less
- It helps the Earth by reducing waste

Food for Thought: The average student lunch generates 30 kg of waste each year. That adds about 8500 kg of waste per school!

Walk or cycle to school...

... and if you do drive, carpool and do not let your car idle! Why?

- It is better for you
- It is better for the environment

Food for Thought: Many experts recommend that children spend at least one hour outside each day to ensure that they adopt active, healthy lifestyles.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

Why? Reducing, reusing and recycling are simple actions that students, parents, and staff can participate in to make a difference.

Food for Thought: Every step in a product's "life cycle" requires energy, from extracting the raw materials, to manufacturing, shipping and disposing of it.

When you reduce your use of materials, you also avoid energy use along the way.

Fossil-fuel energy not used somewhere in that cycle - due to your reducing, reusing or recycling - means fewer climate change gases are produced!

SCHOOL MAKE-OVER



As you have noticed, our school Master Plan continues to move along! We are so excited to have recently introduced brand new painted games, entry lines and games table out back and in our kinder area. These are only a FEW of the many other "physical make-over" plans for our school. A number of our second floor classrooms now feature acoustically improved learning spaces. If you would like to see and learn more about the plan, please visit the office and book an appointment with administration. We would love to share about it!

Islington JMS invites you to **Curriculum Night** **Thursday, September 26, 2019**

4:30 to 5:45 Community BBQ and info booths

6:00 to 6:25 Meet and Greet - Administration, Faculty and Parent Council will be welcoming families in the Large Gym

6:30 - 6:55

Session 1 – visit your child's classroom, meet the teacher and hear about the program for the year

7:05 - 7:30

Session 2 – repeat of session 1 for families with more than one child

The evening's program is geared towards parents and will provide an opportunity to:

- Meet the administrative staff, teachers and Parent Council representatives
- Visit your child's classroom and hear from their teacher about this year's program (note: two identical sessions will be offered in each classroom)
- Learn more about the Parent Council and how you can get involved

Note: One-on-one discussions with teachers will not be available on Curriculum Night, but can be arranged on another date.

HOW CAN I GET MORE INVOLVED IN THE SCHOOL?

1) Get your volunteer clearance done RIGHT AWAY.

We welcome volunteers in our classes and in our school. Their work is integral to the success of the school and the wellbeing of our students. In order for parents to volunteer in the school (including attending field trips), they require a police reference check. This is policy and exceptions cannot be made. You can apply for the police reference check through our office at any time. The forms are processed within 3-6 weeks. As such, we strongly recommend that you apply early in the year to avoid the possibility of missing a school trip/event.

Volunteer opportunities:

- Helping in the nutrition program
- Helping in your child's classroom
- Helping supervise on a field trip
- Helping with school events (e.g., Community Clean Up, International Food Fair)

2) Get involved in the School Advisory Council.

The School Advisory Council (SAC) meets formally about four times a year to discuss how they can be of support to the school. It is a great way to learn more about our school vision and to help us shape it. It is also a great opportunity to learn more about the system at large and network with other parents in the community. You can choose to candidate yourself as a voting member or you can simply attend meetings according to your schedule and convenience. Most meetings take place in the evening (between 6:00pm – 8:00pm) in the school library.

3) Look out for flyers regarding events, programs and initiatives.

Our school prides itself on offering an array of diverse programs/initiatives and events that meet the holistic needs of students....and that you are invited to! Your first "go to" for all school upcoming events is our monthly newsletter and our school website. The newsletter is distributed every first of the month. Some of the events include, STEAM/Literacy nights, Student of the Month Assemblies, Bike Week, Eco Initiatives, Community Clean Up, Curriculum Night, School Concerts, Poetry Cafe etc



TDSB Dress Policy P042

We would like to share some important information with you about new changes to the TDSB policy regarding student dress, effective September 1, 2019.

[The Student Dress Policy \(P042\)](#) recognizes that dress plays a fundamental role in students' lives and that students come from many diverse backgrounds, identities and experiences and ultimately their right to decide their dress resides with their family. The policy therefore provides choices for students dress and does not encourage any one choice but rather only directs students on what are inappropriate choices for dress at school.

What are students allowed to wear?

All students:

- Will wear a top and bottom layer of clothing of opaque material;
- May wear tops that expose arms, shoulders, stomachs, midriff, neck lines, cleavage and straps but will cover the nipples;
- May wear bottoms that expose legs, thighs and hips and expose straps and waistbands, but will cover the groin and buttocks;
- May wear any headwear that does not obscure the face;
- May wear dress requirements to support a creed practices and similar human rights accommodations;
- May not wear tops that expose nipples;
- May not wear bottoms that expose the groin and buttocks;
- May not wear any headwear that obscures the face;
- May not wear undergarments as outerwear;
- May not wear anything that promotes or symbolizes drugs, alcohol, illegal activity, hate or discrimination, profanity, pornography; or that incites violence or harassment; or threatens health and safety.

Policing students' bodies is neither a positive, nor effective method to encourage respectful behaviours, ensure safety and discourage harassing behaviour. However, educating students about topics of diversity, healthy relationships, sexism and discrimination, boundaries and consent is a fundamental requirement of creating a safe and positive school climate and effective strategy to ensure healthy and shared respectful spaces for everyone.

To find out more information and review our frequently asked questions please visit: <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/High-School/Your-School-Day/Student-Dress/Questions-and-Answers>

Islington Junior Middle School Staff 2019-20

Principal – Rocco Coluccio		Vice Principal – Alessandra Faraone
Office Administrator – Jean Christou		Secretary – Geeta Dharamraj
JK/SK-A	Room 2	Tanya Galluzzo/ Kamila Seredocha
JK/SK-B	Room 4	Ana Jimenez/ Christine Abdel Messih
JK/SK-C	Room 3	Kristine Malloy/ Sue Ieriti
JK/SK-D	Room 7	Varsha Koneri
FI-SK	Room 1	Lisa Yaroski/ Pascal Fulginiti
FI-1	Room 5-1	Xuan Hue Vuong
FI-1/2	Room 8	Mamadou Sanogo
FI-2/3	Room 9-4	Nadia Bravo
FI-3	Room 9-3	Maria Sindile
FI-4/5	Room 10	Mayoro Gueye
1	Room 5-4	Lata Iyer
1/2	Room 5-3	Julie Capone
2/3	Room 5-2	Althea Brown
3	Room 9-2	Joan Kim
3/4	Room 9-1	John Morris
4	Room 19-3	Deborah Welsh
4/5	Room 19-1	Lidia Trelle – AM
5	Room 18	Alison Baker
5/6	Room 19-2	Angela Sakkalis
6	Room 17	Tsetan Dolma
7	Room 16	Phil Trigiani
7/8	Room 15	Tracie Babiy
8	Room 20	Dalia Mukherjee
ISP-Autism	Room 19-5	Stephanie Porteous/ Brandi Horvat
Jr.Sr. HSP/Resource	Rm 19-6	Netta Stambolic
ESL/Special Ed. Resource/ PREP		Gurjit Jhuty, Jaclyn Sena, Lidia Trelle (PM)
ESL Congregated/PREP	Rm 19-4	Veronica Vernon
LEAP-A - Gr 4 to 6	Rm.9-5	Janet McCarrol-Spiers
LEAP/ ESL – Gr 7 & 8	Rm.5-6	Fil Grossi
STEAM - Junior/ Inter.	Rm 11	Greg Karout
STEAM – Primary/Junior	Multi-purpose rm.	Heather Henning
French	Rm 14	Maria Giannantonio
Phys. Ed Primary	Phys Ed Office	Monika Watters
Special Needs Assistant		Vashtie DaCosta
Music/IMI Band/Strings		tbd
LibraryPM	Library	Fil Grossi
Guidance	Rm 6-1	Leigh Doucet
Social Worker		Rachel Achtman
Educational Assistant		Sujata Bhatia
Caretakers		Alex Grech, Gladys Fleet, Elizabeta Malkowsua,
Lunchroom		Fadwa Ghanem, Surer Osoble, Bipasha Roy, Michelle Deschamps, Sobia Salman, Jesmin Ara, Suraya Parvin, Kogilam Ramasamy, Sabeen Tahir
Settlement Worker		Dareen Fatimah
Parenting Centre		Beth Hunter

Start-of-Year Forms Can Now Be Completed Online

School start up forms can now be completed online! This new model is easy, simple and secure and will help streamline the process of a number of standard forms as well as save paper and resources.

How does it work?

After your child's first day of school, an email will automatically be sent to the parent/guardian that is the primary or secondary contact with an email address on file with the school. The email will come from TDSB Online Form (noreply@tdsb.on.ca) and will take you to a secure site to complete and submit your child's forms.

[Watch the online tutorial!](#)

What forms can I complete?

The forms available online now, include:

- Consent Form Package
 - Permission to participate in off-site walking excursions
 - Student media release consent
 - Permission to leave school in severe weather conditions
 - Use of parent/guardian email address
- Medical Information Form
- Acknowledgement and Declaration of:
 - Digital Learning Tool Consent
 - Code of Conduct
 - Code of Online Conduct

Am I required to complete an online form?

Completing the form online streamlines the process not only for parents/guardians, it also helps save resources in schools. While you're not required to complete it online, we hope as many parents/guardians as possible use this opportunity.

How safe is it to submit this information online?

The tool TDSB selected for the online forms, Permission Click, has undergone a detailed security assessment by our IT Services staff. TDSB is confident Permission Click is a safe and secure method for completing online forms.

The Toronto District School Board privacy obligations originate from the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA), which permits the Toronto District School Board to collect, use and disclose personal information necessary for the purposes of planning, administering, and delivering its educational programs and services. Under its regulations, MFIPPA requires the Toronto District School Board to ensure that reasonable measures are in place to prevent unauthorized access to the records are defined, documented and put in place, taking into account the nature of the records to be protected.

I have multiple children in the TDSB; will I receive more than one link?

Yes. Please complete a form for each child.

Continuing Education - International Languages Elementary and African Heritage Programs

As the world continues to move towards connectivity, learning languages becomes critically important. Encourage your child’s natural curiosity and enroll them in our JK to Grade 8 International Languages and African Heritage program. Online registration is now available.
Visit www.ILEprograms.ca for more information. @TDSB_ConEd



Islington Junior Middle School partners with CPF (Canadian Parents for French) Ontario to support our parents and families in promoting the French language and cultures through community activities, workshops, conferences, and events.

CPF Ontario has partnered with Brentwood Public Library (Royal York & Bloor) to offer a free French Homework Help & Activities Program. There are some spaces available at 3:30 – 4:20pm. For more information, please go to <https://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/detail.jsp> There will also be a program offered from January to April.



Orange Shirt Day - Monday, September 30, 2019

Orange Shirt Day is a legacy of the St. Joseph Mission (SJM) residential school commemoration event held in Williams Lake, BC, Canada, in the spring of 2013. It grew out of *Phyllis' story* of having her shiny new orange shirt taken away on her first day of school at the Mission, and it has become an opportunity to keep the discussion on all aspects of residential schools happening annually.

The date was chosen because it is the time of year in which children were taken from their homes to residential schools, and because it is an opportunity to set the stage for anti-racism and anti-bullying policies for the coming school year. At Islington JMS we are encouraging all students and staff to wear an orange shirt. **Orange Shirt Day is also an opportunity for First Nations, local governments, schools and communities to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come.**

Pizza Days

We are happy to be able to offer Pizza Days once again this year. Order forms and payment are due back to school **by Monday September 23**. The 12 Pizza Days for this first part of the year are on the following **Wednesdays**:

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

Please arrive at school 8:35 – 8:50 to be on time for entry at 8:55.
Class begins at 8:55.

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 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
Thurs Sept 26	Student of the Month Assembly 9:15am
Thurs Sept 26	Meet the Teach/ Curriculum Night BBQ 5-7pm
Mon Sept 30	Orange Shirt Day
Sept 30-Oct 4	Grade 3 CCAT Assessment for all Grade 3's
Wed Oct 2	School Photo Day
Thurs Oct 10	Terry Fox Day