



James S. Bell Junior Middle Sports and Wellness Academy

Principal's Newsletter

September, 2018

School Community Building

At James S. Bell we strive to build cohesion, collaboration and student leadership, in a safe, caring and equitable learning environment for all students. We will continue to learn about and discuss the TDSB character education traits including Respect, Responsibility, Empathy, Kindness and Caring, Teamwork, Fairness, Honesty, Co-operation, Integrity and Perseverance throughout the year to build community in our school and at home. We will have various activities, performances, discussions and school wide initiatives throughout the year. September's character trait is 'Respect' which is defined 'as the ability to act in a way that shows that you are aware of someone's rights, wishes and beliefs'. As we respect one another, we are also striving to respect our environment and we encourage everyone in our James S. Bell community to 'walk or wheel' to school in October! October is International Walk to School month and we celebrate all forms of active transportation including walking, cycling, scootering and/or travelling using a mobility device. As autumn arrives, the days begin to get shorter and increasing our visibility on city streets becomes especially important. The following are some safety tips from Toronto Public Health to keep in mind before heading outside:

- Carry identification, a cell phone and a whistle
- Bring water
- Wear comfortable walking shoes and bright, reflective clothing
- Dress for the weather
- Cross streets at traffic lights, stop signs or crosswalks-always walk facing traffic
- Avoid using headphones and cell phones while walking
- Tell someone where you are going
- Check the Air Quality Health Index and UV index before you go outside

"Show respect even to people who don't deserve it; not as a reflection of their character, but as a reflection of yours."

Dave Willis

If you have a few minutes during your evenings or weekends, we ask that you discuss with your children what respect means to them, its value and significance and how they may demonstrate respect among their friends, staff and family members both at home and at school.

We look forward to working closely together to support our students to learn, grow, build caring and positive relationships and foster confidence and independence in our students throughout the year.



Terrific Tigers (Student Recognition Presentations)

Our monthly Terrific Tigers Assemblies are a chance for students to be recognized for demonstrating our important character traits with their class mates, school mates and caring adults in the school. We hope all of our students will remember to strive for excellence not only in academic achievement, sports and the arts but also in positive leadership and responsible citizenship at JSB. Each student selected by their teacher received a certificate and JSB pencil or pen! Congratulations to the following students:

<u>Room</u>	<u>Name</u>
101 (Ms. Brake/Ms. Szpylma)	Jai G.
102 (Ms. McKnight/Mr. Morley)	Evelyn B.
103 (Ms. Leis/Ms. Clark-Barret)	MaKenna D.
104 (Ms. Baron)	Lana S.
105 (Mr. Barton)	Fiona V.
108 (Ms. Kostiuik)	Brooke B.
110 (Ms. Reaney/Ms. Baig)	Abdul-Rasheed B.
112 (Ms. Debowski)	Abigayle C.
107 (Mr. Michailidis)	Sebastian R.
203 (Ms. Chard)	Stephanie P.
201 (Ms. Cruikshank)	Hailee I.
202 (Mr. Cosic)	Julian B.
208 (Ms. Kis)	Claire H.
210 (Mr. Maxwell)	Hanna Z.
206 (Mr. Kobe/Ms. Pacheco)	G-One M.
213 (Ms. Enns)	Myra P.
211 (Ms. Morrison)	Jada L.
214 (Mr. Barnes)	Nya C.
215 (Ms. Karpatt)	Camille B.
207 (Mr. Harvie)	Faith C.

Parents will be invited by the classroom teacher to join the assembly presentations when their child is nominated for a certificate.



Eco-schools Certification

Gold Certification

We are so proud of maintaining our Eco-schools Gold Certification at JSB! Every school community member is doing their part to ensure a greener school community. Our kickoff assembly for 2018-2019 is on October 16 at John English. Ms. Youngs and Ms. Leis will be spear heading our Eco school certification efforts. Let's continue to help our environment for a better tomorrow.



Green Team

Join the Green Team! JSB endeavours to raise environmental awareness and promote conservation. Our Eco Green Team is made up of students from various grades and gathers weekly on Thursdays at lunch. They will be electing our Vice Chairs and Energy Conservation Leaders shortly. This team, under the care of Ms. Leis and Ms. Youngs collects recycling for our school and performs regular energy and consumption audits. This helps to ensure that we conserve energy by reducing the use of lights and electricity. They also will assist with litter collection around the school yard whenever necessary. We are also encouraging classrooms to keep their air vents clear of objects so that they may function efficiently and to make use of GOOS (Good On One Side) paper whenever possible.



Music Notes

Grade 7/8 - Music

In Music, the Grade 7 and 8's started the year with rhythm and percussion performances, focusing on a variety of musical elements such as tone, tempo, dynamics and creativity. The Grade 8's created Body Percussion performances, several of which were performed at this month's Terrific Tigers assembly (snippets can be seen on the JSB twitter account - https://twitter.com/tdsb_jsb2?lang=en). The Grade 7's created original "STOMP"-influenced performances, using a variety of sports equipment. A few of these will be shared at October's Terrific Tigers assembly.

Music Extracurriculars - Auditions for the JSB Rock Band will take place over the next two weeks. Interested students should speak to Mr. Mak and listen carefully to morning announcements for times. Mr. Mak is also recruiting students that are interested in performing a song at November's Remembrance Day assembly. Ukulele club will be back at some point in the winter months.



STEM Sports Design Challenge Grade 7/8 Science Update

The Grade 7 and 8's started the school year with a series of STEM challenges intended to build a collaborative and challenging environment in the Science room. STEM is an acronym for **S**cience **T**echnology **E**ngineering and **M**athematics and these hands-on tasks encouraged problem-solving, numeracy skills, creative thinking, co-operation and perseverance. All of these valuable life skills were on display as groupings of three students tackled each activity. STEM challenges encourage the use of a multi-step system known as the Engineering Design Process to accomplish a specific goal. The results, as you can see below were quite impressive!

See challenges and photos below!

Mr. Makowiecki

Challenge #1 (Height) - Using only 20 sheets of paper and one meter of tape, create the tallest, stable, free-standing structure you can. The tallest produced for this activity was nearly 3 meters tall (285cm to de exact!).



Challenge #2 (Strength) - Using only 20 sheet of paper and one meter of take create the strongest paper structure to rest textbooks on. The structure must be at least 14cm above ground level. In this challenge the strongest structure held 51 textbooks!



Challenge #3 (Paper "Stools") - Using only newspaper and tape create a structure, at least 45cm tall, that your teacher (Mr. Mak) can sit on for at least 10 seconds. Many groups managed to accomplish this task, using knowledge gain in challenges #1 and 2, and produced some incredibly strong structures. Several were quite stable, and a handful were even relatively comfortable!



Challenge #4 - Using only 15 straws, one meter of tape, a plastic cup and 30 x 40 cm rectangle of plastic wrap, create a structure that can support as many marbles as possible before sinking. In this challenge the top group's project held 101 marbles before capsizing.



Volunteers!

Parents and community members are encouraged to participate in volunteer activities in our school to support our programs and help our students to succeed. Thank you for offering your valuable time to support James S. Bell students, teachers and classrooms. Here are some ways you can help in your child's classroom or school:

- Reading with students who need extra help
- Serving as a skilled mentor to a student who needs extra support
- Preparing, organizing or facilitating arts and crafts activities
- Supporting school plays or concerts, extra-curricular clubs, activities or athletics including driving athletes to and from events
- Arranging materials in the library
- Supervising children on field trips
- Serving as a guest speaker on topics related to the curriculum or classroom program
- Collecting community materials for a classroom project
- Producing the school newsletter or handbook
- Participate in meetings and activities of the School Council

Parents and community members who wish to volunteer must complete:

1. A Police Reference Check Application (which will include a Vulnerable Sector Screening) and be cleared before they can tutor/mentor in any TDSB location or participate in activities with our students. The school must keep the original PRC clearance letter, please ask for a copy for your own records.
2. With your application, you must also provide a non-refundable money order or certified cheque for \$20.00 payable to TORONTO POLICE SERVICES. Please submit this payment to the school office with your application form.

3. Once you have your PRC/VSS volunteer clearance, you may complete a yearly online annual offence declaration to remain on our active parent volunteer roster in subsequent years. Contact Ms. Bellehumeur, our Vice-Principal with questions regarding your volunteer status if needed.

Please note you may also find further information about this PRC/VSS process at www.torontopolice.on.ca under the Police Reference Check Program.



Safety is #1 at JSB

At school, the safety of your child is our most important priority. We remind you to report to the office every time you come into the building and sign in and out of our visitors' log. Adults can obtain a visitor's tag if required. Please remember to sign out and drop off your tag at the end of your visit. If you need to drop something off for your child, please do this through the office and not by going to the class. Please help us protect student instructional time. If you need to speak to the teacher, please make an appointment. Thank you for your cooperation in ensuring the safety of our students. "Please remember that we are all strangers to someone."



Orange Shirt Day - September 30, 2018 (Declared annually across Canada)

Our school was a sea of orange as we recognized Orange Shirt day at JSB on Friday, Sept. 28 to recognize the harm that the Residential School System did to First Nations, Métis and Inuit children and to recognize that "Every Child Matters." Phyllis Webstad, a member of the Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation in British Columbia, was forced to attend St. Joseph's Mission Residential School, as her relatives before her. She entered the school in 1973 wearing a brand new orange shirt which was immediately confiscated by the staff and replaced with a uniform. She never saw the shirt again, and began to associate the colour with the traumatic experiences in the school and the loss of language and cultural identity she suffered. In 2013, Webstad transformed her negative experiences into something positive by creating a Nationally recognized Orange Shirt Day. Celebrated annually on September 30th, this day acknowledges the residential school system in Canada, honours those who survived, and remembers those who did not. It is a day to demonstrate, by wearing orange, that all students matter. Wearing orange shirts is a visual reminder of our shared past as Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples in Canada, and provides an opportunity for dialogue between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples in shaping our shared future.



Terry Fox Walk/ Run

On September 27th, thanks to Ms. Youngs, classes focused attention and learning to one of Canada's greatest heroes, Terry Fox. Students raised awareness within the community and participated in a walk in the neighbourhood to demonstrate a common determination to battle cancer and seek a cure. Thank-you for all of your generous donations to the Canadian Cancer Society and Terry Fox Foundation. See a photos below!





Cross Country

JSB students ran at the qualifying cross country meet on Oct. 4 at Centennial Park. We had 35 runners who qualified for the West Conference Finals on Oct. 17! Congratulations to all students who participated and especially to all those who qualified. For all those qualified to run next week remember to arrive at school as outlined in permission forms with a lunch, snacks, water, appropriate clothing (extra socks might be a good idea!), blanket, sunscreen, games and homework. Students should be prepared to stay outside for the day, rain or shine. Good luck to all of our runners! We hope many of you will be at Cities on Oct. 25!

The cross country team coaches-Mr. Barnes, Ms. Kis, Ms. Chard and Mr. Barton



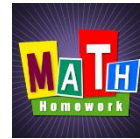
Boomerang Lunches

Please use recyclable containers to reduce waste and litter in and around the school and park. Any/all non-organic waste and litter (juice boxes, wrappers, bags, etc.) should return home for proper disposal. The school has compost bins for apple cores, orange or banana peels and other organics in the lunchroom. We encourage students to use BPA free water bottles and reusable containers to bring nutritious and "litterless" lunches and snacks to school.



GRADE 8 to 9 Parent Information Night – Oct. 24 (6:30-7:30 p.m.)

The transition to high school is near and we will be providing students with opportunities to learn about different high school programs. Please join us at James S. Bell (library) for a parent information night to better understand the transition process. If you have any questions please contact the school and we'd be happy to connect you with our Guidance Counsellor Ms. Sue Bryer. See flyer attached.



Need Help with MATH Homework?- Get free online math help for Grades 7 to 10 with Homework Help. Register for free at www.tvo.org/homeworkhelp. Math tutors are available from 5:30pm to 9:30pm Sunday to Thursday.



School Cash Online

The Toronto District School Board has launched School Cash Online, an easy to use, safe and convenient way for parents/guardians to pay for their children's school fees, including agendas, yearbooks and class trips. School Cash Online has been available to us for some time now.

All school fees, events and activities applicable to your child will be posted on School Cash Online. Once you register, you can choose to purchase the items or activities using a debit or credit card. You will be able to see when the school has a new item posted online for purchase and you will also have the option to be notified whenever your child has a new school event requiring payment.

To register for School Cash Online, please visit <https://tdsb.schoolcashonline.com> select "Get Started Today" and complete the three registration steps. For more information on the registration process, please see the handout attached to this letter. Once registered, you will receive an email notification when items become available online.

If you have questions about the registration process or using School Cash Online, please select the "Get Help" option on the top of School Cash Online web page. You can also contact the School Cash Online Parent Help Desk at 1-866-961-1803 and parenthelp@schoolcashonline.com. The Parent Help Desk is available to assist parents/guardians with the registration process, password recovery, accessing your account or payment issues.

Attached you will find a Step by Step guide to registering. We encourage you to sign up as soon as possible.



Calendar of Events

Oct. 12th - Subway lunch
Oct. 17th - 3-8 Cross Country West Finals
Oct. 25th - 4-8 Cross Country Cities
Oct. 25th - Terrific Tigers Assembly
Oct. 25th – School Council meeting in the staffroom at 7 p.m.
Oct. 26th - Photo Retake Day
Oct. 30th - Senior Boys Volleyball Tournament
Oct. 31st - Halloween Parade at 1:00 p.m. K-grade 6 (Friendly reminder that costumes that include guns, swords or other replicas of weaponry are not permitted. Please save those for trick or treating.)
Nov. 2nd - Gr. 7/8 at Royal Winter Fair
Nov. 5th – 8th - Fusion X Movement
Nov. 7th -Grade 8 visit to LCI at 1 p.m.
Nov. 9th - Remembrance Day Assembly 10:30am
Nov. 13th - Reports Go Home
Nov. 15th - Parent Teacher Interviews (PM)
Nov. 16th - PA day-Parent Teacher Interviews (AM)
Nov. 21st - Grade 7 – Immunization – am – in Library
Nov. 29th - Terrific Tigers Assembly



Principal's Message

We have had a wonderful start to the school year! Our students seem to have settled nicely into school routines and with all of the exciting learning opportunities both inside and outside of classrooms including strings, band, cross country, soccer, bordenball, volleyball and football (both junior and senior), Green Team meetings, field trips and pizza, subway and hot lunches that are well underway we hope your child is enjoying school and is enthusiastically participating in all aspects of their program each day. Our staff continues to plan and offer thoughtful and excellent programming for students at JSB. At our first school council meeting, I shared with the council our school wide initiatives/focuses that continue for this school year. They include:

1. Achievement and Equity for students
2. Mental Health and Well Being-mindfulness, learning coping and relaxation strategies, restorative circles, school wide initiatives, including School Community Building-working on building cohesion and student leadership in a safe, caring and equitable learning environment for all

students. We will be using the board character education traits you are familiar with: Respect, Responsibility, Empathy, Kindness and Caring, Teamwork, Fairness, Honesty, Co-operation, Integrity, Perseverance to drive our collaborative work.

3. Sports and Athletic opportunities
4. Technology in the learning environment to enhance all areas of learning
5. Social Justice and Environmental awareness and education

We welcome your feedback and input into our areas of focus at JSB!

Finally I'd like to inform you that our 2018-2019 JSB School Council executive members were elected at our first meeting on Sept. 27. Congratulations to the following individuals! Thank-you for stepping up to become involved on our School Council this year.

Chair - Tara Pryke
Treasurer - Shannon McKechnie
Secretary - Veronica Zeballos

Parent Reps: Morgen Young, Natasha Campbell, Nicole Sullivan, Tim Luu, Lilette Wiens, Hanna Tower

We look forward to working closely with our entire JSB school community over the course of the school year. If you have any questions or concerns please contact us at the school.

Don't forget to follow us on twitter @TDSB_JSB2.

Warmest Regards,
J. Petko and C. Bellehumeur

James S. Bell School Council News

Not sure what School Council is or what it does? We are a group of **parent volunteers** that work with JSB staff to provide input on school events and policies to improve student achievement and support student success. We also raise funds to provide enrichment opportunities for our children at school.

All parents/guardians of JSB students are automatically members of the School Council.

We meet one evening per month in the staff room, and **free child care is provided upon request**. Meetings are open to all parents/guardians and input from the school community is encouraged. We'd love to see you at the next meeting which is on Oct. 25 at 7 p.m. in the school staffroom.

There are several ways to keep up with the School Council:

Sign up for our weekly email blast: jsb.schoolcouncil@gmail.com

Like us on Facebook - www.facebook.com/jsbschoolcouncil/

Follow us on Twitter - www.twitter.com/JamesSBellSAC

Thanks,

JSB School Council