



Iroquois Falls Public School

**November 2017
Newsletter**

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Iroquois Falls Public School Families:

Our school year is well underway, the leaves have fallen, and the “white stuff” as officially covered the ground! As I reflect back on the year to date, it is safe to say the thrill of new beginnings is over, our students have officially settled into routines, and the normalcy of the school year is upon us. As I walk the halls and visit the classrooms, it was very evident that the first six weeks of school provided us time to analyze students’ strengths. It also served as time we teach and practice classroom and school expectations. Assignments the first six weeks were designed to clear out the cobwebs that built up over the summer, as well as prepare students for a more rigorous grade level. The communication lines between teachers and parents should be well established and one of our goals at Iroquois Falls Public School was; for the most part met; as we know our students and you should know us.

The second six weeks, from the middle of October to now, started our trek into new and challenging curriculum. More teacher and class time is devoted to learning and practicing new material; with the goal that less time is devoted to management and class routines. Students know what is expected of them, and teachers are moving forward “full throttle”. This is when we tend to see the first decline in grades. Communication is crucial during this time of transition.

As we look forward to colder weather and snow, we wish to remind families that we value children spending time outdoors. At IFPS we believe each child deserve time to play outside, to build peer relationships, to connect with friends, to discover, to receive fresh air, to be physically active, and most importantly, to have fun! In order for their time outdoors to continue to be enjoyable, children must dress properly for the weather conditions. Please send your child dressed appropriately for the outdoors as we only stay indoors during rainy days or when the weather is colder than -25 degrees Celsius.

Each month the staff at Iroquois Falls Public School hope to engage the students in a variety of Character Education tasks based around the “Seven Grandfather Teachings”. Research from the book *11 Principles of Effective Character* states “**To be effective in schools, character education must involve everyone—school staff, parents, students, and community members—and be part of every school day.** It must be integrated into the curriculum as well as school culture.

When the above occurs and when school communities unite around developing character, schools see amazing results. Character education includes and complements a broad range of educational approaches such as whole child education, service learning, social-emotional learning, and civic education. All share a commitment to helping young people become responsible, caring, and contributing citizens.” Throughout the month of November, the character education focus for Iroquois Falls Public school is looked at the act of “Bravery”, including how this directly reflects to Digital Citizenship as it relates to District School Board Ontario North East’s i-Pad initiatives.

On Friday, November 17th students from JK - 6 will bring home a progress report. The purpose of this report is to give families an indication on how your child is settling in to the academic and learning skills expectations of their classroom. The progress report is an early communication tool, along with school conferences to help plan for your child's success. Parent interviews will be held after school on Tuesday, November 21st. If you have any questions about your child's progress, please contact your child's teacher to schedule a meeting.

If you haven't yet had the opportunity, I once again invite you to send me your email so I can invite you to follow us on twitter or receive notification about What's Happening at IFPS via the Iroquois Falls Public School Principal Blog. Both the twitter and blog sites provide additional information, including pictures and videos to keep you up-to-date with what is going on at IFPS. Please email me at rodger.mineault@dsb1.ca to have your name added to the mailing list.

Sincerely,

Mr. Mineault
IFPS Principal



BREAKFAST CLUB

Start the day right!

The Breakfast Club runs every Monday through Friday morning at 8:30 a.m. until 8:50 a.m.

The "Breakfast Club" at IFPS has been in operation since the school opened and provide breakfast for many children on a daily basis. The program is one that is offered nationwide in various schools.

The Breakfast Club continues to be a wonderful place for children socialize and start their day with a little 'extra' something first thing in the morning. Over the years, the program has been helped through our in school volunteer program. If you have any questions, or would like some more information about how to contribute, please feel free to call the Mr. Mineault for more information.

Volunteers are needed, so if you are looking at doing some volunteering, please call!!



PARENT INTERVIEWS

Parent interviews will be held on Tuesday, November 21st, from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. We will be sending home more information regarding this next week with a form to return to the school to request a time for an interview. We encourage all parents to come and discuss their child's progress with their teacher.

BOOK FAIR AND NUTRITION DISPLAY

During the week of November 21st, including on the night of our Parent Interviews, there will be a Book Fair and Nutrition Display between the office and the entrance to the library and into our school library. There will be information on healthy and litterless lunches, sugar, recipes, and more. If you miss it, hand-outs will be available on the table inside the office. Meals go best when parents maintain a division of responsibility in feeding their children: - Parents do the what, when, and where of feeding - Children do the how much and whether of eating from what the parents offer. - www.ellynsatter.com

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

On behalf of this year's School Council we would like to thank the volunteers, faculty, Council and especially the students, for making this Halloween Dance a great success! We would like to invite our school's parents to join us at our council meetings to offer ideas and voice any concerns they might have. We would also love to hear any ideas, suggestions or concerns our students may have. We welcome an open communication forum and look forward to working with all of you this coming year. Great things are coming....stay tuned !!!!

Lynne Lachapelle
School Council Chair



***We invite you to join our 2nd Parent Council Meeting on Tuesday, November 21st, 2017
at 6 p.m. in the library.***

PLAYGROUND SAFETY

Playgrounds are a fun place. Daily physical activity is important for all our students. Although our playgrounds are supervised, accidents can happen. We want to minimize risk of injury by requesting that you take some time to discuss, with your child, the need to play safe.

Playground Safety Pointers to Discuss with your Child:

1. students are to remain in their designated play area
2. avoid pushing, hitting or rough play
3. leave the stones / snow on the ground
4. take turns on play structures (when open)
5. respect others and the supervisors on duty
6. dress appropriately for the weather
7. immediately report any concerns to the teacher on duty
8. include others in all activities

A large, stylized blue cloud graphic with a white outline, containing text about outdoor play safety.

Please ensure your child has warm clothing for outdoor play. We will be outside most days, unless weather conditions are extreme so it is important for children to be dressed in warm, dry outdoor clothing. Sending extra clothing including extra socks to school would also be a good idea this time of year.

FRENCH CONNECTION!

TIP! What's the most important thing I can do to learn French?

Talk, talk, talk!

So much of learning builds on what you already know and can do, and French is no exception. You can benefit from the rich language learned at home and the literacy and language lessons taught in French at school. Having strong oral language skills provides the foundation for you to develop better literacy skills.

Parents! - Reading and writing skills are built on listening and speaking skills. Here are some ideas to help build these skills for both French and English:

- Read aloud in the language you speak at home – or any other language – and talk about what you are reading.
- Provide encouragement and set aside time for reading in French and in English to help your child develop a broad vocabulary in both languages.
- If you don't know any French, have your child practice reading to you in French and tell you what it means.
- Talk with your child about his or her interests, and help find books or websites about them in English and French – and discuss them!
- Encourage your child to express opinions about the world and explain the reasons behind them.

The Seven Grandfather Teachings: November's Focus



BRAVERY



To be brave is to do something right, even if you know it is going to hurt you.

Bravery is to face the foe with integrity.

STAND UP FOR WHAT IS RIGHT!

SNACK & LUNCH REMINDERS

A reminder to please include utensils in lunches when those are needed. As well, since we have a snack in the morning and lunch at 1:10 p.m., we recommend that students have at least 2 drinks in their snack/lunch boxes or a water bottle that can be filled at home or school.

REMEMBRANCE DAY ASSEMBLY

On Friday, November 10th, 2017 IFPS will be recognizing Remembrance Day by hosting an assembly. A note will go home closer to the date reminding families.

POPPIES

The Royal Canadian Legion has provided poppies available at the office. These will be distributed on November 10th, 2017 at 9 a.m. All donations made by parents and students will be forwarded to the local Legion Branch.



ROCK YOUR MOCS DAY

We will be celebrating National 'Rock Your Mocs' day on Wednesday, November 15th. If you have moccasins at home please wear them this day. If you don't, we will be making classroom sets for the students! Rock Your Mocs is celebrated to spark pride in and bring awareness of First Nations cultures.

Book Fair

Our annual Scholastic Book Fair is scheduled for November 21st to November 24th. The fair will be open to parents in the school library during the following times:

Tuesday, November 21st from 11:00 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Wednesday, November 22nd from 10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 23rd from 10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Friday, November from 10:00 a.m. – noon

Students who bring money for the book fair will also be given the opportunity to go down with their class to purchase books.

NICKELS FOR FUEL

For the month of November, we are participating in Access Transit's **Nickels for Fuel Fundraiser**. *Students are encouraged to bring nickels to fill the jars in their classroom to raise money for fuel for the Access Transit Bus.*

A REMINDER TO VISIT THE IFPS PRINCIPAL BLOG OR TWITTER ACCOUNT FOR INFORMATION ON EVENTS HAPPENING AT IFPS at <https://ifpsprincipal.wordpress.com/> or <https://twitter.com/IFPS900>

NOVEMBER EVENTS:

- Nov. 1st - Professional Development Day - NO SCHOOL
- Nov. 3rd - PJ Day (Short week recognition)
- Nov. 9th - Picture Retakes & Subway Lunch
- Nov. 10th - Remembrance Day Recognition / Assembly - Families Invited

- Nov. 15th - Rock your Mocs Day
- Nov. 16th - Cartoon Character Day - Dress Like your favourite cartoon character

- Nov. 17th - Progress Reports Sent Home
- Nov. 21st - Parent Interviews - 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.
- Nov. 22nd - School Council Meeting
- Nov. 23rd - Subway Lunch
- Nov. 21st - 24th - Book Fair
- Nov. 28th - Science North Visits IFPS - parents welcome
- Nov. 28th - Science North Extravaganza - 5 p.m. 7 p.m. for all families (FREE ADMISSION)

- Nov. 29th - Spirit Assembly

