



Iroquois Falls Public School

October 2017 Newsletter

Principal's Message

Dear Iroquois Falls Public School Families:

I am delighted to say that we are off to a wonderful start as students are well aware of the school goals for success, in addition to settling into the school routines which have been set out for the 2017/2018 school year. As September fades in the rear view mirror and October quickly begins, we are proud to look back at our accomplishments so far.

During the month of October, we will continue to focus on leadership, building community, and learning through RESPECT. These skills will be building off the efforts and learning put forth by most classes as they showcased and continue to showcase their efforts.

September, as always, was an exciting and busy month for us with establishing new routines, our several Spirit Days, the annual Meet-the-Teacher BBQ and preparation for the Terry Fox Walk. Throughout the school, we have been considering the notion of "excellence." Students of all ages are making a point of showing excellence every day – with their classroom work, by being helpful and friendly in the hallways, by caring for others, by being respectful, and by greeting adults by name.

As we continue into the month of October, our school goal is to provide our students with a safe, positive, and enjoyable experience with their friends and classmates.

Sincerely,

Mr. Mineault
Principal

How to Support Your Child's Reading – Tips for Success

HELP FROM HOME

The greater the support that families provide for their children's learning and educational progress, the more likely that their children will do well in school and continue on with their education.

Karen Mapp and Anne Henderson, 2002

Nightly Book Reading

To support your child's growth, each week you can expect a book to be sent home accompanied by a list of concepts your child learned that week. Our hope is your child spends a few minutes reinforcing the reading strategies that were practised in class. At least once a week you are encouraged to spend time reading the book and talking about it with your son or daughter.

Some things you can discuss are:

Did you like the story? Why or why not?

Can you tell me the story again without using the words? Who was your favourite character and why?

Do any of the characters remind you of any of your friends or family and why? Were there any words you did not understand? What do you think it meant? Can you think of a different ending to the story?

From Our School Home to Yours

To support families on the home front, each month you will be provided with tips and/or activities which will help you support your child's reading development.

October's Tips:

1. Create a safe and welcoming environment which promotes reading risk-taking.
2. Praise them often to build confidence in their reading.
3. Read with your child nightly, even if only for 10 minutes.
4. Read anything! (cereal boxes, calendars, stop signs, t.v guide, pictures on the wall, or child's magazine)
6. Provide your child with choices as to what they read.

Monthly Reading Challenge

Have your child read and record as many different types of objects as possible. Place your child's name on a paper with a list of at least 20 items they read and have them give it to Mr. Mineault or Mrs. Boucher on or before October 27th, 2017 and their name will be entered in our monthly draw.

Each family member is eligible to enter. The draw will be during October's Spirit Assembly.

A Health Flyer for Parents

When students miss too many days of school, they fall behind and struggle to keep up with their classmates. Whether the days missed are due to illness, truancy or for any other reason, the end result for the student is the same — learning time is lost. Children and adolescents will get sick at times and may need to stay at home, but we want to work with you to help minimize the number of days your student misses school.

Missed Days Add Up Quickly!

- Just a few missed days a month adds up to several school weeks missed in a year.
- Both excused and unexcused absences can make it more difficult for your child to keep up with other students, especially in math and reading.
- Kindergarten and first grade are critical for your child. Missing school during these early years makes it more difficult for children to learn in later years and they often have trouble reading by the end of third grade.

Helpful Ideas:

- Make appointments with the doctor or dentist in the late afternoon so your child misses as little school as possible.
- If your child must miss school, make sure you get his or her homework assignments and follow up to see if the work is completed and turned in.
- Call the school as soon as you know your child will be absent and tell school staff why your child will be out and for how long.
- Be prepared to get a doctor's note when requested by school personnel.

To determine if you are reading this newsletter, I am adding a fun event. Once you read this line, either email me at rodger.mineault@dsb1.ca or bring a slip of paper with your name and your child's name to the office before October 13th. In the email or on the slip of paper, please state that you read the newsletter. You and your child's name will be entered into a draw held on October 27th, during the Spirit Assembly.

Information for parents from Canada's pediatricians is available at Caring for Kids – Illness & Infections: <http://www.caringforkids.cps.ca/handouts/illnesses-index>

If you need medical advice consult your **physician**, local **Public Health Unit office** or call **Telehealth Ontario**. Telehealth Ontario is a free service. A registered Nurse will take your call 24 hours a day, seven days a week **1-866-797-0000**.

HALLOWEEN FAMILY DANCE

As a way of promoting school community, we will be having a Family Halloween Dance on October 26th, 2017 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in one of our school gymnasiums. This event is open to all IFPS families and their children (JK-Grade 6). Stay tuned for more information! Hope to see you there!



EQAO MESSAGE

In May/June 2017, the students in Grade 3 and 6 completed a provincial assessment in Reading, Writing, and Mathematics. This assessment is known as EQAO. There are many different ways of measuring student achievement and the EQAO assessment is just one of them. The assessment is based directly on the reading, writing and mathematics expectations of The Ontario Curriculum. If your child wrote the test in the Spring, results were forwarded to you the last week of September. For more information, you can visit www.eqao.com.

IFPS is excited to welcome Ms. Erica Hurteau - our new Child and Youth Worker – to our team. Ms. Hurteau will be offering the following programs as a way of promoting well-being in our schools.

TUCKER THE TURTLE

All JK/SK students will be participating in Tucker the Turtle program. Through a scripted story, young children learn techniques to manage their feelings and calm themselves when they get angry or upset.



LET'S LEARN ABOUT STRESS

All Grade 4-5 students will be participating in the Let's Learn About Stress program. Even the most nurturing school and home environment can't completely protect children from a range of every day stressors that can be both challenging and motivating. While stress is a necessary part of development and learning, building emotional health and resiliency can help students deal with this important issue. This program will address the topic of stress with students in a way that is developmentally appropriate and validated by Canadian child psychologists, educators and parents.

KIDS HAVE STRESS TOO!

All Grade 1 students will participate in this program which teaches them that stress is a normal part of everyday life. It can help motivate us and add a positive challenge to life. However, too much stress can be overwhelming and learning to handle it is an important skill. Children will learn age-appropriate strategies that can help them relax and be resilient.

Class	Program	Length	Dates/Time
Jk/Sk - Madame.Lachance	KHST PreK/K	Nine weeks	Sept 20- Nov 15
Jk/SK/1 - Mrs. McKinlay	KSHT PreK/K	Nine weeks	Sept 20- Nov 15
Gr. 4/5 Mrs. Delaurier	Stress Lessons	Seven weeks	Sept 20- Nov 15 (11:10am)
Gr. 1 /2 Ms. Cousineau	KHST	Seven weeks	Jan 17- March 7



BREAKFAST CLUB

Our Breakfast Club is open each morning from 8:30 a.m. until 8:50 a.m. Thank you to Mme. Julien and the Grade 3-6 student volunteers for serving a nutritious breakfast to our students each morning.



MILK PROGRAM

Students are able to purchase white milk, chocolate milk and cheese strings at snack and lunch time for a cost of \$1.00 each.

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.

SUBWAY LUNCHES

Subway lunches are available for students twice every month. The cost will be \$5.00 for a six inch sub and a drink. Students will be able to preorder and select the bread, meat, toppings and sauce of their choice as well as a drink.





LOCAL BIG CRUNCH

The local Big Crunch is a special event sponsored by the Canadian Red Cross. On October 5th, all students at IFPS will be provided with a locally grown carrot with the goal of simultaneously “crunching” the carrot. Stay tuned for pictures. A huge “thank you” goes out to our local sponsors for providing this tasty treat to our students!

CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNING MEETS



Congratulations to all who participated in the 8th Annual Iroquois Falls Ski Cross-Country Meet which was held in September. A special thank-you goes out to Mrs. Desrochers and Mrs. Barrette for coaching our students!

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our first meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 19th at 6 p.m. All parents are welcomed to attend.



TERRY FOX WALK

On Thursday, September 28th, we joined other schools in our community for the Terry Fox Walk. IFPS had yet another successful campaign as we raised over \$1655 (donations are still due to come in this week) for cancer research. A big thank-you goes out to Mrs. Delaurier for organizing our school event.



Thank you for your generous pledges!

Book Fair

Our annual Scholastic Book Fair is scheduled for November. Please stay tuned for more information surrounding this event.

Volunteers and Casual Lunch Monitor Needed – 2017/2018

Iroquois Falls Public School is always looking for volunteers to help with school functions and fundraising events. If you would like to volunteer please contact Rodger Mineault (Principal) at rodger.mineault@dsb1.ca or by phone at 705-232-6651.

We are also in need of casual Lunch Monitors which is a paid position within the school.



ORANGE SHIRT DAY

On Friday, September 29th, 2017 the staff and students at IFPS recognized 'Orange Shirt Day.' On this day we reflect on the harm done to children and further generations of Indigenous people through the residential school system. Intergenerational impacts resulting from this harm continues to impact children and families. When we can talk about the past, address past harm, and work together to make sure we take the next steps, the process of reconciliation comes alive in our schools and communities.

We are all responsible for teaching children the 'next steps' after recognizing harm has been done, in historical and even present day contexts. District School Board Ontario North East schools will be engaging in various activities throughout the year to promote awareness and understanding in areas of reconciliation, starting with Orange Shirt Day.



LOCKDOWN DRILL COMING UP

At Iroquois Falls Public School, along with the rest of our district, we are committed to promoting safe schools for all students and staff. To ensure that we are adequately prepared to respond to any threat, minor or serious, we engage in a variety of practices. Throughout each school year we practice drills that prepare us for fires, and/or lockdowns. These drills happen regularly and provide students and staff with valuable practice in following safety routines. We already had three fire drills. We also prepare for other situations that might happen in or around our school neighborhood (such as a broken gas line) or within our school (such as an intruder). These situations would lead us to “lockdown” the school. For the broken gas line example, we would follow Code Yellow procedures—a perimeter lockdown. For an intruder, we would follow Code Red Procedures.

Classroom teachers will be discussing the steps involved in a school lockdown with their students. You know your child best and if you feel your child would benefit from some reassurance, please have a brief conversation with him or her before the drill. You may also want to follow up with your child after the drill takes place. This drill will be quite low-key in nature and students will be fully prepared that this is going to occur. As we practice these procedures on a more regular basis we are certain that students will respond in a routine manner just as with fire drills. We will be sure to stress that situations requiring lockdown procedures are very rare. We also have fire drills regularly at school. Below are some points that we’d like to remind parents about in case you are volunteering in the school or are picking your child up early:

- all individuals must evacuate the building even if you know it is a drill or believe it was a false alarm
- all students who are outside on school property must report to the wooded area
- no one is allowed to re-enter the school building until an announcement is made that it is safe to do so.

We will continue to practice our emergency evacuation procedures at a variety of times during the year in order to increase our efficiency with the process. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.



OCTOBER EVENTS:

- October 5th - Subway Lunch
- October 5th - Big Crunch Day! - Carrot donated by local farmer
- October 6th - Twin Day - your child can dress like anyone they wish real or fictional
- October 9th - NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving
- October 11th - Spirit Day - Sports Jersey Day - have your child wear a jersey
- October 19th - School Council Meeting (6 p.m.) - Parents Welcomed!
- October 19th - Subway Lunch
- October 20th - Spirit Day - Crazy Hair Day
- October 23rd - Spirit Assembly 12 noon
- October 26th - Halloween Family Dance at the school 6-8 pm
- October 31st - Halloween Parade and Activities - Families Invited (9 am)
- November 1st - NO SCHOOL - Professional Development Day

