



Iroquois Falls Public School

**February 2018
Newsletter**

From the Principal's Desk:

Soon your child (ren) will be bringing home their Term 1 report card. This is an important milestone in the school year as it gauges the learning trajectory your child is on and the success and areas of need which are required to complete the 2017-2018 school year. When you receive this report card, please remember that every child is unique and every child acquires knowledge and various skillsets in the way that is uniquely "their own." The respect that is given to the learning process and the praise given to your child's individual efforts sends an important message to your child regarding your appreciation of their individual strengths, their learning goals, and our support for them as they move ahead to Term 2.

Parents, grandparents, educators, and support staff all act as adult role models for children. Our actions, the learning opportunities we provide, and the way we respond to the outcomes of our students achievements (both positively and negatively) teach our children powerful lessons that will be ingrained in them, perhaps for the rest of their lives. Do we take an interest in their learning?, Do we make time to answer even the most repetitive questions? Are we patient with our children despite the length it takes for them to acquire a new skill (whether it is math, literacy or a social skill)? A few additional key questions we must ask ourselves during the learning process of a child are: "Are we ourselves OK with making mistakes?", "Do we display enthusiasm and excitement to try again?", and "Do we accept feedback in a positive manner?"

Mistakes can be great opportunities for learning! Perseverance or "grit" is such an important quality to have. Children look to adults, be it educators or family to see if we are proud or disappointed; happy or angry. These emotions that we share with our children play a big part in how they come to see themselves and embrace the messy part of learning. We want our children to feel confident, capable, and accepted with a world of possibilities ahead. It is tempting to jump in and "fix" mistakes, but far more valuable to coach our kids through them, teaching them the value of persevering. It is a time to celebrate learning and to celebrate each and every student!

Sincerely,

*Mr. Mineault
Principal*



Supporting Your Child – Tips to Help Your Child Be Even More Successful in 2018

Parents are integral partners in this process and we need you to join us in frequently monitoring your child's learning. Here are some ways you can help:

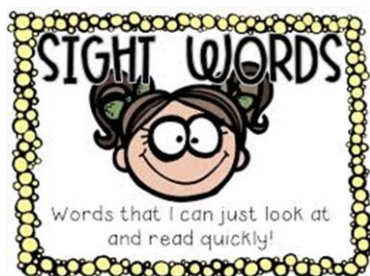
1. Go through their backpack each night, checking for homework to be completed, notes from the teacher, reading material or important papers/communications to be read.



2. Review with your child their agenda and/or homework list checking for assignments due or long-term projects to begin.



3. Help them review subject vocabulary or sight words.



4. Read to or with them every day. A high level of independent reading is one of the key indicators of school success—plus it is fun!



5. **Reward your child's efforts.**
Rewarding students for high grades is not as effective as rewarding them for their effort. Students are always trying and want to make you proud. Therefore, the best way to motivate further effort is to notice it, to praise it, and to reward it.



6. Talk with them about the importance of school and getting a solid foundation for learning. The good habits they establish during elementary school will prove to be key skills that will benefit them for years to come.

Attendance and Instruction

Attendance is a critical component of student success. Ensuring that your child arrives at school on time each day provides them with an important ingredient which will support their academic success by providing your child the opportunity to learn and grow in multiple areas such as: academic, behavioural, physical and social/emotional. When possible, please schedule appointments outside of the school day. If you do need to take your child out of school for an appointment, thank you for minimizing the time away from school. Students not in class at the time of morning announcements will be marked late. Those students who arrive over an hour late will be recorded for a half-day.

Safe Arrival

A reminder if your child is going to be late or absent, please call the safe arrival line at 705-232-6651 before 8:30 a.m. Please leave a message.

Visitor Check-In

All visitors to the school MUST check in at the office immediately upon arrival and proper identification must be visible.



STAY INFORMED!!!!

SIGN-UP OR FOLLOW US AT:

IFPS's Principal Blog

<https://ifpsprincipal.wordpress.com/>

IFPS Twitter Account

<https://twitter.com/IFPS900>



TERM 1 REPORT CARD – February 12th, 2018

Problem-Solving Skills

Work Habits

Learning Skills

On Monday, February 12th, students will be bringing home their Term 1 Report Card. For each subject that was taught in Term 1, your child will be receiving a letter grade (Grades 1-6). JK/SK students will receive comments. If a subject is only being taught in Term 2, the teacher will check NA for not applicable to this report card. A comment will also be given for each subject that describes your child's strength and some next steps to support learning in Term 2.

Teachers look at a variety of sources such as assignments, day-to-day observations, tests, student-teacher conversations or conferences, demonstrations and projects for evidence that your child is learning the curriculum. This learning means more than just knowing the facts. Students must also show an understanding of what they are learning by communicating and applying what they have learned. They must also demonstrate critical thinking skills and problem-solving skills. All work is reviewed with special attention being given to the quality of the work at the end of the unit of study or term. As well as looking at tests or assignments, teachers talk to and observe your child in the classroom to gather as much information and evidence before making a decision on the final grade.

Teachers will also report on the development of learning skills and work habits which are very important for student success. These six skills (Responsibility, Organization, Independent Work, Collaboration, Initiative and Self-regulation) can be demonstrated by the student in all subjects as well as during daily routines and activities at school. They are evaluated using a four-point scale (E-Excellent, G-Good, S-Satisfactory, N-Needs Improvement) and teachers also include a comment about your child's strength and some next steps for continued growth.





School Council Corner

In anticipation of Valentine's Day this month, and some classes exchanging Valentine's, let's not forget to show caring and compassion all year round. Let's make humility an everyday decision!

If you celebrate something other than Valentine's Day make sure to share with your friends so that they can learn all about you and what you celebrate. Happy Family Day as well to all our students and their families. Family Day is a special day to celebrate and spend time with those that love and care for us. From our family to yours.....Happy Family Day.

Lynne Lachapelle
School Council Chair



Spirit Days: Supporting Your Child

School Spirit means many different things to many different people, and in most cases, is very difficult to define. For us at IFPS the answer is simple.....it is about instilling a pride and respect for everything that is IFPS! From our building, to the playground, to the students and staff that attend our school, we want the same pride and respect given to all.

In preparation for Spirit Days, teachers often look for ways to incorporate these days into the daily curriculum; when and where possible. At IFPS, we believe that although School Spirit Days are about bringing a school together, our hope for these days is more than just that! We hope it brings families together in the following ways:

1. By speaking to your child and suggesting to us days and themes that we can recognize as a school, which is important to your child and your family.
2. Contacting the school to share your ideas for future Spirit Days.
3. To engage as a family during days, weeks, and even the night before; as you create, problem-solve, explore and discuss the theme.

TIPS for Preparing for Spirit Days:

1. Review the monthly calendar with your child so they are aware of the events.
2. Prepare in advance for theme days by brainstorming with your child and problem-solving how you will use the resources you have to prepare for the day.
3. Google / research ideas with your child that you can create for the day.
4. Keep it simple.
5. Be creative and cost effective. There is no need to go purchase items. Rather use what you have in your home to create the theme.
6. If needed, contact the school for ideas.
7. MOST IMPORTANT – HAVE FUN WITH YOUR CHILD!

PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED FOR CREATIVITY VERSUS COMMERCIAL GENERATED THEMES

STOP BULLYING

TAKE A STAND. NOW! LEND A HAND.

The basic elements of bullying are:

Unequal Power: One person has more power than the other person (or at least it seems that way to the people involved)

- ***Hurtful Actions:*** Physically or psychologically harmful behaviour takes place
- ***Direct and Indirect Actions:*** The behaviour may be face-to-face or behind one's back
- ***Repetitive Behaviour:*** The hurtful actions keep happening so the person being hurt finds it more and more difficult to escape

If a person is being bullied:

- "Stay calm and try not to show you are upset. Try to respond to the person bullying you without anger. Anger can make things worse."
- "Look the person in the eye and say you don't like what they are doing."
- "As soon as you can, find an adult you trust and tell the adult what happened. It is your right to be safe."
- "Stay close to peers you can count on to stick up for you."
- "Stay away from places where you know bullying happens."
- "If the bullying continues, walk away, join other teens or ask someone else for help."

If a person sees someone being bullied, you can suggest:

- "Speak out and help the person being hurt. Nobody deserves to be bullied. You can help by telling the person who is bullying to stop."
- "Comfort the person who was hurt and make it known that what happened was not fair or deserved."
- "If this does not work right away or if you are afraid to say or do something on your own, find an adult you trust to help you."
- "Help a person who is being bullied by being a friend. Invite that person to participate in your school activities. This will reduce the feeling of being alone."

**ALWAYS REPORT BULLYING TO A PARENT, TEACHER,
PRINCIPAL OR CARING ADULT!**

SSSSSSoupy Tuesdays

Beginning February 6th until March 30th, Iroquois Falls Public School is proud to offer SSSSSSSoupy Tuesdays!

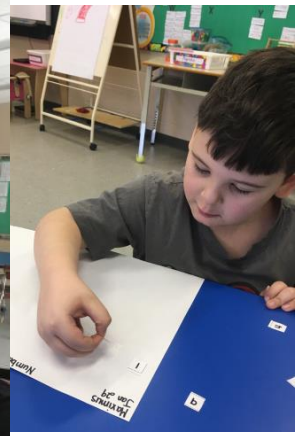
SSSSSSoupy Tuesdays is a day when your child has the opportunity to purchase a bowl of soup for a \$1.00. All we ask is you send your child to school with a plastic or wooden bowl, a spoon and a dollar and your child will be able to purchase a bowl of homemade soup.

For the first week, we will send home an order form to gauge the interest level (see attached). However, each week thereafter, all you will be required to do is send a bowl, a spoon and a buck and your child will receive a bowl of soup during 2nd Nutrition Break (12:50 p.m.). If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

A soup list will be sent home effective

February 6th's Soup – Macaroni Vegetable Soup

LOOK WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT IFPS!!



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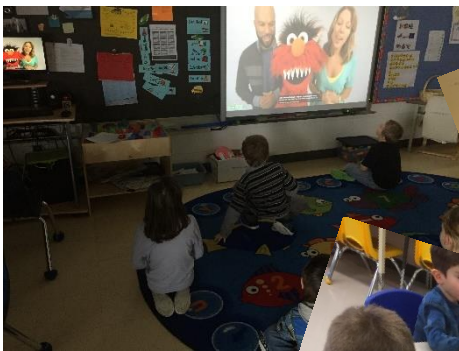
BELL LET'S TALK DAY

IROQUOIS FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOL took part in “**BELL LETS TALK**” January 31st! The kids worked together to talk about their emotions, stress, and were giving different strategies on how to keep calm. Students came together to create gratitude journals, “name that emotion” story books, yoga, book readings and so much more.



Practicing the belly breathing

Strategy 😊



Enjoying the relaxation

station!!



Students are enjoying colouring their buckets full of kindness



WAYS TO SUPPORT WELL-BEING IN A CHILD – FOR HOME AND SCHOOL

- offering many opportunities for physical activity
- engaging students in conversations and activities that develop a growth mindset when it comes to learning
- building mindfulness activities into the school day such as taking a moment each day to do some deep breathing to slow down our mind and focus on the moment
- providing students with equipment that assist them in remaining calm and focused during learning

100th DAY



the small gym or main foyer.

The 100th day of school will be celebrated on Thursday, February 8th. In the morning, students from JK-3 and the UP Classroom will rotate through various activities. Students in grades 1-3 are asked to bring in a collection of 100 things (nothing expensive) and collections should be arranged in groups of 10. JK and SK students are welcome to bring an activity if they desire. Collections are due Wednesday, Feb. 6th. They will be displayed in

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Children need 60 minutes a day of physical activity. Keep your children active through winter by getting outside. Try skating, skiing, playing boot hockey, building a snowman or go tobogganing. Check out this website for great winter games ideas:

<http://www.participation.com/get-moving/bring-back-winter-play/>



NORTHERN FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROGRAM

Once again this year, the Porcupine Health Unit is offering a Fruit and Vegetable Program in our school. Students will be receiving fruits and vegetables once per week to consume at snack time. The PHU should be informing us shortly of the start date for this program. Thank you to Mrs. Forsythe's UP Class for distributing the fruits and vegetables to the classes.



FEBRUARY 2nd and 26th PD DAYS - NO SCHOOL

A reminder to all families that there is 2 professional development days in February, one on February 2nd and the other on Feb. 26th. There is **NO SCHOOL on these days.**

FAMILY DAY – MONDAY FEB. 19TH – NO SCHOOL

We wish all families an enjoyable family day on Monday, Feb. 20th.



No School!

UPCOMING EVENTS AT IFPS

FEBRUARY 2018

Feb. 2nd - PD Day – NO SCHOOL

Feb. 6th – 1st Soupy Tuesday for those who ordered

Feb. 8th – 100th Day (JK-3 Activities)

Feb. 9th – Spirit Day: Neon Colours

Feb. 12th – Report Cards Sent Home

Feb. 12th – Olympics Begin – Wear the colours supporting a country of your choice

Feb. 14 – Spirit Day – Wear Red/Pink

Feb. 15th – Subway Day

Feb. 16th – Wacky Socks Day

Feb. 19th – Family Day: NO SCHOOL

Feb. 22 – Pizza Lunch

Feb. 26th – NO SCHOOL PD DAY

Mar. 1st – February's Spirit
Assembly
Families Welcomed

**SPIRIT WEEK
DRESS-UP
THEME IDEAS**

A message from the Council of Ontario Directors of Education

When students understand mathematics, they are equipped with knowledge they can bring to every aspect of their lives. *Inspiring Your Child to Learn and Love Math* is a tool kit for parents. It provides modules with simple, but effective methods and materials for parents. It shows you how to get involved in your children's learning, and offers guidance for working with students of different ages.

This *Parent Tool Kit* was developed by experts in mathematics education, with input and advice from parents and students. When families and educators join forces, students of all ages can experience greater success in their learning.

Take the time to view or download the videos and documentation that applies to the age group you are interested in. Share with colleagues, friends and family. If you are preparing a parent engagement workshop, you will find everything you need right here!

Source: Council of Ontario Directors of Education website

Please review the above at:

http://www.ontariodirectors.ca/parent_engagement-math/en/

Dress for the Weather

A reminder to please be sure that your child is dressed for the cold weather (snow pants, coat, hat, boots, mittens, etc.). It's always a good idea to pack extra socks and/or mittens this time of year as students will be going outside most days at recess and lunch.

