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# Iroquois Falls Public School

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## Principal's Message

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April has arrived! However, one would never know with the snow and cool weather that continues to plague us and linger on! The next three months have the potential to be fast and furious, perhaps often in a blur, as we quickly move toward the finish line the 2017-2018 school year! We still have a lot of learning to occur, including several activities planned including Earth Day (April), Jump Rope for Heart (April), Education Week (2<sup>nd</sup> week of May), and Grade 3 and Grade 6 EQAO Testing (late May / early June); just to name a few.

As we head into the "home stretch", parents are encouraged to connect with your child's teachers to follow-up on any goals that were set to help your child be successful during our final reporting term. As always, our staff or myself are pleased to meet with parents who wish to discuss their child's academic, social, or emotional progress. Parents will be provided with the opportunity to visit our school on **Monday, April 9<sup>th</sup> 2018 from 2:00 p.m. until 3:20 p.m. for our Parent-Teacher interviews.** During this time you are welcome to discuss your child's progress with the classroom teacher. Please view a more detailed section of this newsletter for more information about the day we have planned.

With spring attempting to surface, and with the warmer temperatures soon to be upon us, keeping students focused on their academics can be challenging. Ways that parents can help support their child's success during this time is as follows: contacting teachers as necessary, reviewing the blog weekly, monitoring any classroom websites that your teacher has active, reading the agenda or teacher notes on a nightly basis, and perhaps most important, asking your child about assignments and topics that are being covered making sure your child is dedicating some time each evening for homework or review of concepts. We continue to encourage parents to ensure that their son or daughter are attending each day as every day counts.

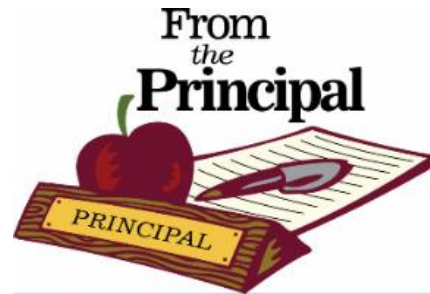
With all the wet weather that we are likely to have this month combined with the mud and puddles that begin to surface in the school yard, you are reminded to send extra socks and dry clothing in your child's backpacks. Please send them in a plastic bag so the wet clothing can make it home without soaking other items in your child's bag. Please show your children where the extra clothes are, and explain to them that the wet clothes go back in the bag for home (to reinforce what we talk about at school).

I want to once again draw your attention to online access that is available to you. As mentioned in previous newsletters, to maximize your communication with Iroquois Falls Public School I encourage you to follow the blog at <https://ifpsprincipal.wordpress.com/> by clicking FOLLOW on the right-middle portion of the page. You can also follow us on twitter at <https://twitter.com/IFPS900> by also clicking FOLLOW.

Sincerely,

Mr. Mineault

Principal



## School Council Corner

On Easter Day, millions of people will tuck into delicious chocolate eggs some of us will head to Church, participate in egg hunts and be thankful for the arrival of spring. Whatever your plans were on this occasion the hope is that it brought you peace and love. Keep in mind we have a school dance coming this May and we hope to see everyone there as it will be our last dance of the year. A few more little surprises will be in store for the rest of the upcoming school year. Keep an eye on the school calendar. You're off to great places and today is your day your mountain is waiting so get on your way!

Happy Easter

Lynne Lachapelle  
School Council Chair

A stylized logo for 'School Council' with colorful, multi-colored letters.

# EQAO ASSESSMENT 2018

Between May 21<sup>st</sup> and June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 students in grades 3 and 6 will be taking part in the provincial Assessment of Reading, Writing and Mathematics. This assessment is administered to all Grade 3 and 6 students in Ontario's publicly funded school system by the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO), an independent agency of the Government of Ontario.

This assessment consists of two booklets assessing language and a third booklet assessing mathematics. Each booklet is made up of two sections, for a total of six sections. Each section will take about one hour to complete. The administration of the six sections will be spread out across 3 days, but students will be able to write during the two week window for any absences. EQAO assessment questions are directly based on the expectations set out in The Ontario Curriculum, which is what teachers teach in the classroom every day. Therefore, your child does not need to prepare in any special way. Students will write the test in their regular classrooms with their regular teachers and are simply encouraged to do their best and show what they know.

In the fall of 2018, EQAO will send our school a report on your child's achievement on the assessment, and we will send it home at that time. Your child's results are private and will give you an indication of his or her achievement in relation to Ontario's high provincial standard. The standard, or Level 3, represents the range from B- to B+. Meeting the standard means your child has a solid grasp of the required knowledge and skills, which is a good indication that he or she will be ready for Grade 4.

The results of the assessment do not affect your child's grades or report card in any way. They do, however, give you information about your child's progress to add to the overall picture. You can use the information that EQAO assessment results provide about your child's strengths and areas needing improvement to celebrate his or her progress. It can help you in discussions with teachers. We can use it as a school community, along with other information, to guide our school improvement initiatives for reading, writing and mathematics. This benefits not only your child but all the students in our school. The results are also used by our school board and the Ministry of Education to direct attention and resources where they are needed. For more information about EQAO and to view a sample of its assessments, you are encouraged to visit [www.eqao.com](http://www.eqao.com).

**Please visit: [www.eqao.com](http://www.eqao.com) for more information.**

Education Quality and  
Accountability Office



# EDUCATION WEEK 2018

Each year, in May, schools across Ontario participate in a variety of activities which are geared toward recognizing and celebrating the wonderful accomplishments in education. This year is no different as the Ministry of Education's theme for this week is "**Equity in Education.**" This is a wonderful time to highlight what schools are doing, share our successes, and learn from a variety of educational institutions across the province; in addition to showcasing a variety of equity opportunities that are occurring in our classrooms and schools.

To support Education Week, the staff at Iroquois Falls Public School are planning several activities which focus on challenging our students thinking while providing them the opportunity to showcase all the wonderful learning opportunities that are occurring within our school.

**Please stay tuned for our calendar of events for Education Week and the several opportunities we have for families to join us!**

## Education Week and Mental Health Week

Both Education Week and Mental Health Week coincide with the scheduled date of May 7<sup>th</sup> to May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

With May being Mental Health Awareness Month, as we look ahead and prepare for this month, it is a great time to revisit the ongoing issue of social media/internet and our children. The internet and social media can be powerful tools, however, the problem is that not everything on the internet is appropriate for children. It is very important to have conversations with your children about what is and isn't acceptable content for them to be viewing, and teach them how to use this tool appropriately.



# PARENT/GUARDIAN – TEACHER INTERVIEWS

On **Monday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018** Iroquois Falls Public School will be hosting Parent/Guardian-Teacher interviews. There is **NO SCHOOL** on this day. The event will take place between 2:00 p.m. and 3:20 p.m. During your visit you will have the opportunity to visit your child's classroom, view your child's work and portfolios, in addition to receiving the opportunity to speak to your child's classroom teacher(s).

This is an important event which allows you, your child and the classroom teacher to discuss your child's progress as we move into the final three months of the 2017-2018 school-year.

## Some Questions You May Ask:

- What does my child do well?
- What skills does she or he still need to develop?
- What learning skills does my child need to further develop in your course to progress academically and/or socially?
- What are some of the ways that you collect achievement data?
- Is my child receiving extra help? In what subject?
- What is the grading scheme used for your class? Do you weigh assignments differently?
- How do you provide feedback to my child to support their learning? How do you monitor their learning?
- Is there a way my child can use feedback to monitor their own progress?
- What is your homework policy?
- How much time should my child be spending on homework?
- How does my child get along with the other students?
- How can I help my child at home?
- What is the best way to contact you if I have more questions?



## JK-1 Music Opportunity

Over the next several weeks, Mrs. McKinlay and Madame Lachance's classes will be participating in a "Sing Song" program with Mrs. Cornthwaite, a music teacher from the Iroquois Falls Secondary School. Mrs. Cornthwaite has volunteered to give her time to partner with our students to provide an interactive music program with the goal of supporting love for music and learning through song.

On Day 1 of this program, the students sang many interactive, action songs (some accompanied by the guitar). Mrs. Cornthwaite also incorporated rhythm and beat while clapping hands. It was fun had by all.



SchoolCashOnline is an easy to use, safe way to pay for your children's school fees. With a few clicks, you can pay for your child's yearbook, class trips and so much more from anywhere. All you have to do is create an online payment account, attach your children and in no time you will be able to make payments online.

## Picture Day

Tuesday, April 17th, 2018 is Spring/Sibling Picture Day! Please send your child in appropriate attire if you wish to take advantage of either photo opportunity.

# IFPS Basketball Teams

Congratulations to Mrs. Forsythe, Ms. Stephanie, and the 2018 Junior Basketball teams. On March 27th, they competed in the Cochrane Elementary Basketball Tournament. They represented the school with heart and effort with our boys team going 3-1, 2-2, and 0-4 respectfully.



## SPRING WEATHER REMINDER

Although Spring is officially here, please ensure your child has warm clothing for outdoor play. There is still melting snow on the ground in the playyard, which leaves your children in need of wearing their boots and other appropriate clothing. We will be outside most days, unless weather conditions are extreme so it is important for children to still 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.

Thank you!



## AFRICAN / BLACK HISTORY MONTH AT IFPS

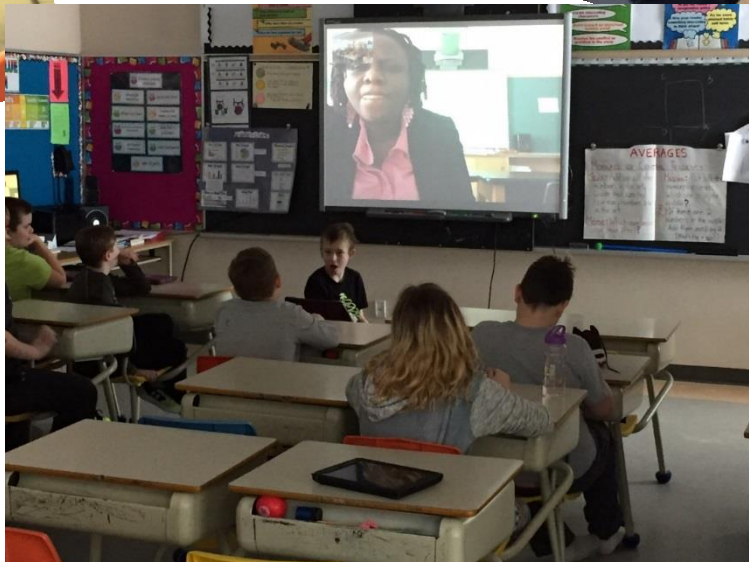
Throughout the month of February, the students at IFPS were exposed to a wide variation of learning opportunities which celebrated African History Month / Black History Month. Classes watched biographies, read stories, and heard about all the wonderful accomplished made throughout history; including hearing a few inspirational stories about such people as Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, and Jackie Robinson; just to name a few. In addition to this material, the students were treated to two special guest presentations; one delivered by Yvonne Odai and the other delivered by Chief Coker.

Yvonne's presentation focused on her childhood experiences in Africa, and her journey to Canada. This presentation was delivered to the grades 4-6 classes via electronic communication with Yvonne, as she was not able to attend in person due to her teaching position at Kapuskasing District High School.

The other presentation provided by Chief Coker, was delivered in person, as she visited the JK/SK Immersion class, the ½ Immersion class and the grades 4-6 classes. During Chief's presentations, the students were provided with a very interactive opportunity which included: storytelling about specific contributions made by the African culture, the amazing accomplishments of Africans who impacted civilization, and a hands-on drumming session. During this drumming session students had the opportunity to look at, touch, and play a variety of instruments.

In a quote from Chief, "It was my pleasure to come to Iroquois Falls Public School on February 27<sup>th</sup> and sit with the JK to Grade 6 students for classroom visits and offer part of my TOVACO curriculum for African History/Black History Month. It was a solid day offering storytelling, drumming, music making, conversations and a safe space for students to engage, discuss, learn and discover."

A huge thank-you goes out to our special guests for providing our students with the learning opportunity which was enjoyed by all.





# WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT IFPS



