



# Iroquois Falls Public School

## MARCH 2019 NEWSLETTER

*From the Principal's Desk:*

It has been our pleasure to welcome back students and their families from the annual March Break. We hope that everyone is refreshed and ready for a busy Spring season. There are many exciting events planned for the weeks ahead, which include: Autism Awareness Day activities, the Grade 4-6 participation in the Music Festival, a variety of spirit days and challenges, and various other activities aimed toward recognizing the month of April as Earth Month (i.e. Litterless Lunch Challenge).

As we continue to progress in the final term for this academic school year, I challenge each and every student to make the most of every day and really take the time to enjoy the learning process, take risks, and try something new every day! Parents are encouraged to connect with your child's teachers, including being invited to our up-and-coming **Interview Hour which will be hosted on April 8<sup>th</sup> from 2 p.m. until 3 p.m.**

We ask that you follow-up on any goals that are set for you child during these interviews. As always, the teachers at Iroquois Falls Public School are more than pleased to meet with families who wish to discuss their child's academic, social, or emotional progress, either on April 8<sup>th</sup> or during any other mutually agreed up day that best suits your busy schedule.

We are all looking forward to the warm, and sunny weather which is on the way. We remind families to send extra clothing for their children, especially for our primary students, as the playground areas often become saturated with water and/or mud during the spring thaw. If needed, we will relocate the students to various areas of the yard to prevent them from getting wet, but as you can imagine, we are often confronted with a challenge of keeping our younger students away from these puddles or mud! If I didn't know any better, it's almost as if the wind is calling out to our youngsters, pleading and tempting them to, "Come and have some fun as you splash in this wonderful mud!"

As always, we "THANK YOU" for being our partner in the important work of helping your child grow, learn, and have fun in the process.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's classroom teacher, myself at 705-232-6651 extension 1, or by email at [rodger.mineault@dsb1.ca](mailto:rodger.mineault@dsb1.ca) or to discuss your child's success. Remember to follow us on twitter at <https://twitter.com/IFPS900> or the school blog at <https://ifpsprincipal.wordpress.com/> to receive up-to-date communication.

Sincerely,

Mr. Mineault  
Principal

## Family Involvement Opportunities: A Critical Component of School Success

**Breakfast Club:** Volunteers are always needed and appreciated from 8:20 am – 9:00 am daily. During this time, you can help make, serve or supervise our Breakfast Club, which services about 30 students daily.



### Tour Thursdays Reminder (Student lead classroom and/or school tour):

Although this hasn't been on the monthly calendars, every last Thursday of the month continues to be Tour Thursdays. Beginning at 3:05 pm – approximately 3:30 p.m, families are welcomed to enter the school and visit the classroom or walk the halls of the school. The goal of these visits are to have your child(ren) show you: samples of their work and their learning spaces, or to simply gather your child at the classroom door. Please remember, before entering the classroom, all students must have been dismissed. Also, please remember that these are not the venue to have one to one talks with the classroom teacher. However, if you see the teacher in the hallway or classroom, please mention to them that you would like to book a future appointment to discuss your child's progress.



**Classroom Volunteer:** Contact your child's classroom teacher to discover how you could support the classroom. Some suggestions are: Reading Mentor to a student, chaperone on a local tour around the community, Show and Tell in the classroom, assist or support extra-curricular activities, or participate in School Council and school fundraising events.



**Attend Upcoming Special Events:** Where possible, attend events planned, including:

Autism Awareness Activities: April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 with the walk commencing at 9:30 a.m.

Parent/Teacher Interviews: April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Tour Thursday: April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019

School Assembly: April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019

# AUTISM

**a w a r e n e s s**

Tuesday April 2, 2019

## Activities

9:30 – Walk Immediately followed by activities

Each student will fill out a puzzle piece (I can make a difference by...)

Autism Awareness Ribbon Colouring

Buddy Reading (teacher choice)

A small gathering in the gym with a short video and brief presentation to close

**CAKE!**

The students at IFPS will participate in wearing blue to promote awareness.

*The things that make me **DIFFERENT**  
are the things that make **ME***

***FAMILIES ARE INVITED***

# Parenting Corner

## Got Grit?

When you think of the word, “grit”, what comes to mind? For some, it might be the old western “True Grit.” Unfortunately, this is a term often not fully understood by today’s child. **Grit** refers to our perseverance, resilience, and ability to keep to keep going and stick with something even if it’s difficult.

In the world of education, especially at the elementary level, the words, “grit”, “perseverance” and “resiliency” are frequently explored as we look for ways to help students be successful. With that in mind, one should not be surprised that many families often ask the same question(s) of their child’s teacher, “How can I support the development of grit in my child?”

To answer this age old question, one first has to come to an agreeance that it is “ok” for our children to struggle, and to even fail or suffer some sort of disappointment when attempting to complete a task. When developing grit in a child, one has to genuinely ask themselves, “Am I allowing my child the opportunity to fail?, or perhaps more important, “Am I ok with allowing my child to fail, or struggle through a process?” Before continuing, I ask that you take a moment to reflect on those questions because the answers will have a direct impact on how you approach the process of instilling “grit” in your child, or what you will view as acceptable when others support your child during this learning.

When examining the concept of “grit” in a deeper fashion, I think one must take in account the term “helicopter parent”. Although this concept has been around since 1969 by Dr. Haim, it is a relatively new concept for me. The term helicopter parent refers to a parent who takes an overprotective or excessive interest in the life of their child or children. The key concept here is the **overprotective interest**, which in my opinion, is counterproductive to your child’s ability to persevere. Please view the following link for more information on helicopter parenting:

<https://www.parents.com/parenting/better-parenting/what-is-helicopter-parenting/>

Now don’t get me wrong, it is important that you support your child through this process, but the support should come in the form of encouraging words that help motivate them to push forward so the child is their own success. Praising children for their efforts to achieve a goal is a great way to support the development of grit. We have to be careful to focus our praise on the child’s willingness to persevere rather than on the finished product, for if we don’t do this, we run the risk of hindering this process. A tip once given to myself is to have your child tell you how they feel after accomplishing the challenging task. Further, let them identify how great it feels when they complete something difficult.

Another way to help your child develop his/her grit is to let them see you work through challenging tasks, sticking with it even when things aren’t going your way. Allow them to hear the positive self-talk you do when working through a tough task. For example, “This isn’t really going the way I had hoped, but I know I can do this.”, or “Let’s see, what else can I try so I can be successful.” or finally, “If I just keep trying, I will get this to work.” When we model our own perseverance for our child(ren), they see what can be accomplished when you use your grit. Things don’t always go our way and our children need to see that we can be okay, even when things are difficult.

I am sure we can all agree that it feels “GGGRRREAT” when we complete a challenging task. So isn’t it just as equally important to allow our children or students experience this exact feeling. If we do allow this struggles, coupled by a consistent and processes building approach, we will be well on our way for instilling “GRIT” in our children!

Please email me at [rodger.mineault@dsb1.ca](mailto:rodger.mineault@dsb1.ca) indicating the following: 1. That you read this article (1 ballot) and a short story or a few sentences how you supported your child in the learning the skill of perseverance and grit (1 ballot), and your name and your child’s name will be put into a draw that will be held during our April monthly assembly. Here’s to working on developing “GRIT”!


# Math in Everyday Life

It is important to help children recognize that everyone uses math all the time. Here are tips to help your child have a positive attitude about mathematics.

- Make learning math a positive experience. Don't talk negatively about math to your child—it can lead to “math anxiety” (a proven cause of low achievement).
- Schedule math homework at the same time in a quiet location every day.

Be available during this period to talk with your child. Create a math homework toolkit with pencils, erasers, ruler, protractor, graph paper, counters (beads or beans) and a calculator.

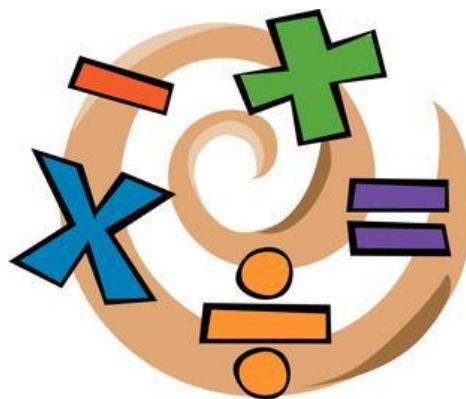
- When helping with homework, follow the method being taught. Don't teach short cuts that could confuse your child. Do not say, “Let me show you my way – it's simpler and faster.”
- Be relaxed and positive. You are not expected to be an expert. You are there to encourage learning.
- If your child becomes frustrated, stop. Remind your child of the things they have already learned how to do successfully, such as riding a bicycle, writing a paragraph or speaking a second language.
- Ask your child's teacher for strategies to use at home that reflect your child's learning style. If your child asks for help and you do not know the answer, be honest and say, “I don't know, but let's figure it out together.” If you continue to be unsuccessful, you can also ask your child's teacher for help. This gives your child permission to ask for help as well.

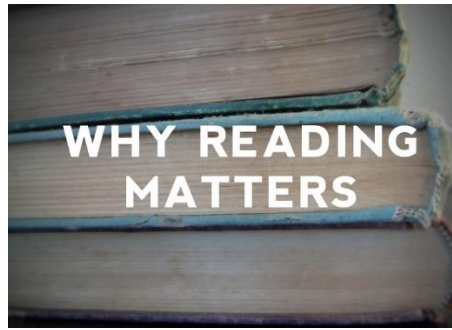


**Parent Pointers** Providing Homework Support

- ▶ Set a regular time each day for doing homework. That time should be free of distractions such as TV and phone calls.
- ▶ Be sure your child has a place to do homework that is quiet and well lit. Make sure all the appropriate materials -- such as paper and pencils -- are available.
- ▶ Let your child know that homework is important and valuable. Consistently review your child's homework during homework time.

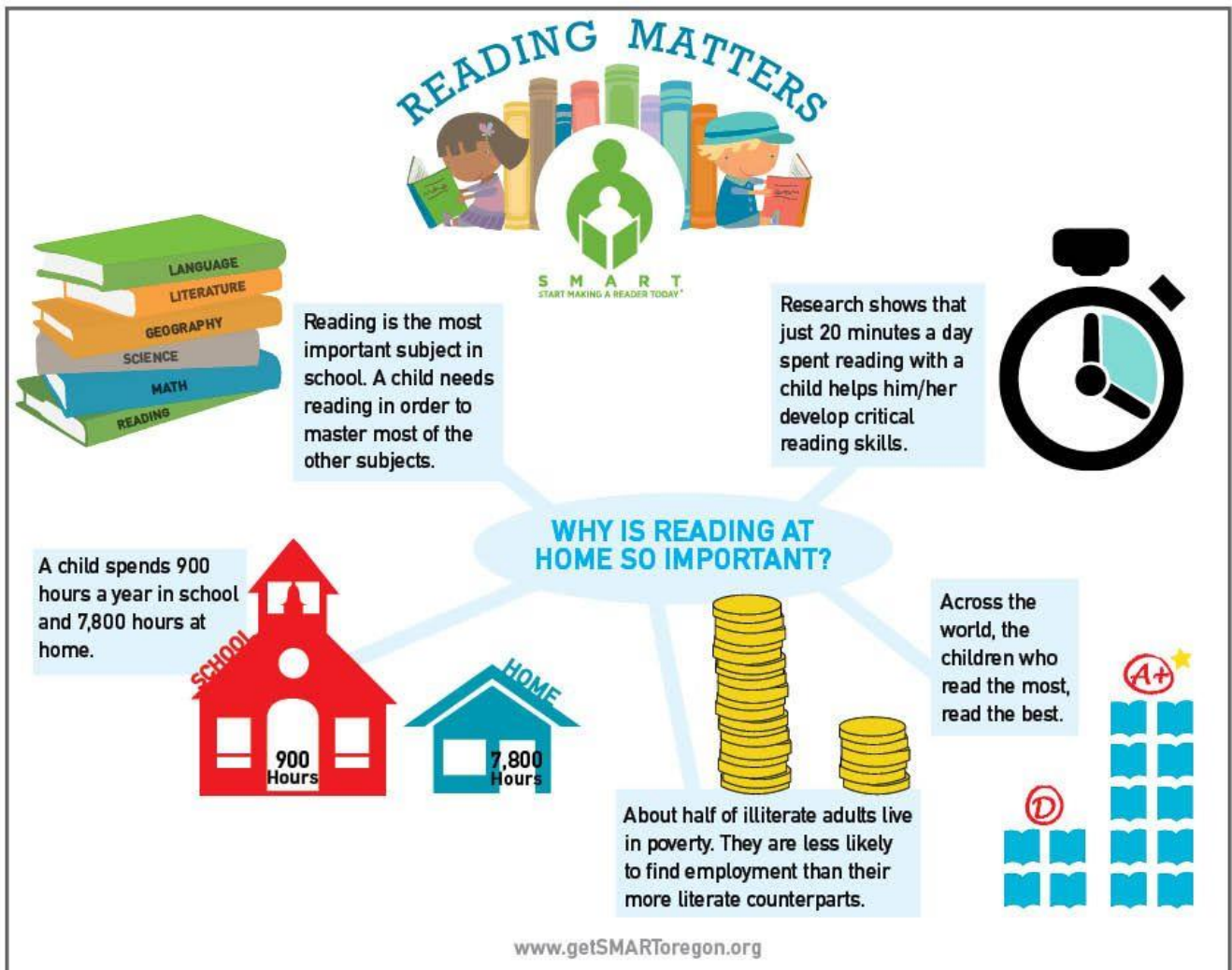
**The above “Math Tips for Parents” was written by Lynda Colgan, Associate Professor and Director, Queen's Community Outreach Centre, Faculty of Education, Queen's University**





## Reading Matters:

Although the life of a parent can be hectic, you should try to read with your child at least once a day at a regularly scheduled time. However, do not be discouraged if you skip a day or do not always keep to your schedule. Just read to your child as often as you possibly can. **Reading with your child not only supports his/her reading skills but also language development, problem solving skills, self-regulation, and a LOVE of reading.**



# Farewell Madame Boucher

As most of you are aware, it was with a sad heart that we said “good-bye and happy retirement” to Madame Boucher. As per her wishes, we held a small school farewell celebration, where students from all grades presented her with cards and various gifts. We want to thank you for the care, commitment, energy, and love that she brought to our Iroquois Falls Public School family. Although you will be missed Mme Boucher, you will remain in our thoughts! Happy Retirement and all the best!

~Love the Students and Staff at IFPS



## **SSSSoupy Tuesdays a Success!**

In partnership with parent and teacher volunteers, Iroquois Falls Public School’s SSSSoupy Tuesdays program was another success. On average, we served 25 bowls of each Tuesday, with our highest count reaching 44. Our goal continues to be to provide your child(ren) with a healthy lunch alternative, for a minimal cost.

We are always looking for volunteers to operate this program! If you are interested, please contact the school at 705-232-6651 as we are gathering names for next year.

# NEWS FLASH.....

## UPCOMING EVENTS!!!

### April 2<sup>nd</sup> – Autism Awareness Day

- Wear Blue. There will be a variety of activities during 2<sup>nd</sup> Block.

### April 5<sup>th</sup> – Subway order due

### April 8<sup>th</sup> – Professional Development Day

- NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

### April 10<sup>th</sup> – Grades 4-6 Music Festival

- Families are invited. They perform at 9:30 a.m.

### April 10<sup>th</sup> – Day of Pink

- Wear Pink to support anti-bullying

### April 12<sup>th</sup> – Class Trash Free Lunch Challenge

- The classroom with the highest percentage of litterless lunches will receive a pizza party.

### April 18<sup>th</sup> – Wacky Clothes Day

- Prizes for the “Wacky Clothing”

### April 19<sup>th</sup> – Good Friday

- NO SCHOOL

### April 22 – Easter Monday

- No School

### April 23<sup>rd</sup> - Earth Day

- Wear Green

### April 30<sup>th</sup> – School Assembly

- 12 p.m. Families Invited



Please view the monthly calendar for upcoming events. Students and classes who participate are often eligible for prizes. We are asking you to support our school community by encouraging your child to participate in these activities.

## Breakfast Club / Snack Program / Fruit and Vegetable Program

Iroquois Falls Public School is thankful to our community partners such as the Porcupine Health Unit, for funding the Northern Fruit and Vegetable Project. In addition, we further thank the Breakfast For Learning Program, and our local sponsors for supporting the Breakfast for Learning Program and the Canadian Red Cross as they are all valuable assets to our nutrition programs.

If you are interested in donating to our school nutrition programs, please contact the principal at 705-232-6651 for further information.





## March's Students of the Month



**Left to Right:** Maximus Madden, Molly Steudle, Maverick Diamond-Singer, Madelynn Sauve, Leah Kenny, and Madison Larivee  
**Absent from the picture:** Nickolaus McCombe



**Left to Right:** Michael Chandler, River Rese, Sydney Morin, Jordanna Brazeau, Taven Merier, Myles Pascoe, and Zachary Robinson



**Left to Right Back Row:** Riley Lutz, Hannah Leroux, Tyson Hopkins, Justin Santerre, and Lexie Andrews

**Left to Right Front Row:** Sophia Latti, Xavier Shields, Jacob Santerre, and Keegan Wlad

## School Council Corner

On behalf of School Council, we hope you had a wonderful March Break! At this time we would like to express our warmest thanks to Mme Boucher, for all she has done for our children, the staff, and the school community of Iroquois Falls Public School. You will be missed. Best wishes.

There's still lots of snow out there but Spring is around the corner. Parents and students are always welcome to come to us with any comments, suggestions or ideas and parents/guardians are always welcome at our meetings.

Lynne Lachapelle  
School Council Chair

