



Iroquois Falls Public School

September 2019 Newsletter

Principal's Message

Dear Iroquois Falls Public School Families:

On behalf of the staff of IFPS, I am happy to report that we are off to a wonderful start! With September now behind us, we continue to look forward to a productive partnership with you to ensure our children can achieve their highest potential. With this in mind, all signs point to another incredible and productive school year. Our skilled and devoted staff is well underway in their planning and preparing your child's success!

Our school year has started off very positively with students and staff working hard to establish classroom and school routines. At IFPS, we value our learning environment and the respect that we have for each other. Our staff and students show that every day in all that they do. With this in mind, please don't hesitate to contact us, should you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you to everyone who attended our school's Welcome Back BBQ and Meet the Staff Night. The halls and classrooms were filled with excitement as the hard work of our students was on display for all to enjoy. During the event, we had a variety of activities and competitions, with the winners posted on the blog and in this newsletter.

If you haven't done so already, please join the IFPS Principal Blog at <https://ifpsprincipal.wordpress.com/> by either by going to the site and clicking follow, and/or by emailing me at rodger.mineault@dsb1.ca requesting you be added to the list. By doing so, you will receive additional information about upcoming events, snapshots of the various learning occurring at IFPS, pictures and videos, and additional sneak peeks into "What's Happening at IFPS".

Sincerely,

Mr. Mineault
Principal

CHECKLIST AND REMINDERS

Please:

- ◇ Send only nut free items with your children and encourage them not to share their food and drinks.
- ◇ Review fire drill/lockdown procedures with your child(ren) and the importance of taking these drills seriously
- ◇ Update the student admission and information form and return it to the school
- ◇ Review bus and playground safety rules with your child
- ◇ Return signed, Blanket Release of Information forms
- ◇ Inform the office immediately if your child has a life-threatening allergy

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

Did you know that regular attendance and punctuality are a strong indicator of school success? Regular attendance and punctuality are a vital part of learning and are directly linked to student success. Students who attend school regularly have better grades and are more engaged with school. You can support your child by ensuring they are at school every day and on time for class. School begins at 8:50 a.m. Please ensure your child(ren) is/are on time every day.

STUDENT SAFETY – PICK-UP AND DROP-OFF

We would like to remind parents that all visitors to the school during the day need to enter the building through the front door in order to check in at the office.

Please call the office before 8:45a.m. if your child is going to be absent from school. Voice mail is available 24 hours a day. When calling, let us know:

- The name of your child;
- Your child's class and teacher; and,
- The reason for the absence.

If students are being picked up during the day, parents will need to come to the office to sign out their child. If you are picking up your child at the end of the day, and your child would normally take the school bus home, please inform the office before 2:15.

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

With the goal of reducing waste and additional costs, newsletters and calendars will be sent home with the youngest child or the only child in the school. If you only want to receive the newsletter electronically, please ensure that the office has your correct email address or sign-up to the IFPS Principal Blog at <https://ifpsprincipal.wordpress.com/> to receive this digital communication. Please ensure that the office has your correct email address if you would like to receive notification once the newsletter has been posted for the month.

EQAO MESSAGE

In late May 2019, 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 will be forwarded to you the first week of October. For more information, you can visit www.eqao.com.



HEALTH AND SAFETY / MEDICATIONS

In our school, we have multiple students who experience severe allergic reactions to nuts, peanuts, latex or other products. If these children/adults are exposed to even a small amount of a nut product or through hand contact on desks etc., they may have a severe reaction which could be life-threatening. As a result, we need to take necessary precautions to avoid such risk as well as provide yearly training for staff on how to deal with such an emergency and administer EPI-pens.

We ask for community cooperation in providing an environment at IFPS that is free of nut and peanut products. Please discuss the reason with your child(ren) and avoid sending any items containing nuts/peanuts to school.

If your child has a life-threatening allergy or condition, his/her Life-threatening Management Plan needs to be updated yearly so that we have the most current information. Please ensure that you inform the office of any changes or if you are new to the school, ensure forms are returned promptly.

Medical forms are required to be filled out every year by those students who are on prescription medications. Also ensure that the medication is labeled, in the original container and is accompanied by clear instructions for administering.



APPROPRIATE CLOTHING

Weather can be unpredictable in October and November. Unless there is heavy rain, extreme cold or an electrical storm, students go outside for recess. All children should come to school with a sweater or jacket in their backpacks in case the weather becomes unseasonably cold. Two sets of footwear or a dry pair of socks is recommended (especially for students in grades JK-1). Running shoes are the safest choice for footwear. For safety reasons, flip flops and shoes without backs are strongly discouraged.

Volunteers and Casual Lunch Monitors – 2019/2020

Iroquois Falls Public School is always looking for volunteers to help with school functions. If you would like to volunteer please contact Mr. 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.

OUR BREAKFAST CLUB



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

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE FOR VOLUNTEERING DURING OUR PROGRAM

Monday: Brenda Giguere / Victor Lachance (Community Living)

Tuesday: Ms. Stephanie Proulx (School CYW)

Wednesday: Ms. Fox

Thursday: Mrs. Fike

Friday: Mrs. Forsythe

There is no cost to attend thanks to the following organizations' generous support: *Breakfast Clubs of Canada *Food for Learning * The Grocery Foundation * Local Farmers* Red Cross* Porcupine Health Unit*

HEALTHY SNACKS/LUNCHES/BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

R.L. Graham is a nut/peanut safe school. To support a safe and positive school for all, parents are asked NOT to send food containing peanuts and peanut related products to school with your child. Parents are asked to please consider healthy, nutritious snacks and birthday treats such as fruit, veggies and dip, cheese and crackers instead of donuts, cakes and candy.

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 four inch sub and a drink (JK/SK students) and \$6.00 for a 6 inch sub and drink (Gr. 1 – 60). Students will be able to preorder and select the bread, meat, toppings and sauce of their choice as well as a drink.



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 10 items they read and have them give it to Mr. Mineault or Mrs. Charlebois on or before October 28th, 2019 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.

HALLOWEEN FAMILY DANCE

As a way of promoting school community, we will be having a Family Halloween Dance on Thursday, October 24th, 2019 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 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!



HALLOWEEN CELEBRATIONS

Hallowe'en activities will take place on Thursday, October 31st. Students will be able to wear their costumes, take part in fun activities in their classrooms and have snacks. Simple rules to follow for Halloween costumes:

- Under the Province Safe Schools Legislation students may not bring toy guns or replica weapons of any kind.
- Guns, knives or fake blood cannot be worn as accessories on your child's Halloween costumes at school. Such items may cause fear, anxiety or misunderstanding and must be kept away from the school. This applies to students at all grade levels.
- Students cannot wear masks to school as these interfere with clear sight lines.
- Students cannot wear capes while outside at recess as these have the potential for choking.
- Only nut-free/peanut free treats can come to school for snacks. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or the administration.

SCHOOL COUNCIL – 1st Meeting

Our first meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 8th at 6 p.m. All parents are welcomed to attend.

CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNING MEETS



Congratulations to all who participated in the 10th Annual Iroquois Falls Ski Cross-Country Meet which was held in September. A special thank-you goes out to Mrs. Forsythe and Mrs. Fike for coaching our students!



Book Fair

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



TERRY FOX WALK

On Tuesday, September 24th, we joined other schools in our community for the Terry Fox Walk. IFPS had yet another successful campaign as we raised over \$2277.15 for cancer research. A big thank-you goes out to Mrs. Forsythe for organizing the two events, and to all the staff at IFPS for helping in the smooth delivery of these wonderful donation campaigns.

Thank you for your generous pledges and the effort you put into collecting the donations for the Terry Fox Foundation!

Please view the IFPS principal blog at <https://ifpsprincipal.wordpress.com/> for more pictures of the events!



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT IFPS

Franco-Ontario Day



Welcome Back BBQ and Meet the Staff Night



Contest Winners from Meet the Staff Night

Bingo Card Scavenger Hunt: Taylor and Lincoln (Prize: Dance Package)

Selfie Competition: The Bond Family (Prize: Dinner for 4 at the Silver Grill)

Blog Comment Challenge: Kyle Lund (\$50 Shopping Card)

Outdoor Learning



OCTOBER EVENTS:

- October 4th - World Step and Sound Daily Physical Activity Presentation
- October 5th - Last Day of Cereal Drive - all cereal goes to our breakfast program
- October 5th - World Teacher Day (Recognized on October 4th)
- October 8th - Children's Theatre Presentation - 2-3 p.m. Families Invited
- October 8th - School Council Meeting (6 p.m.) - Parents Welcomed!
- October 10th - Subway Day (12:50 p.m. for those who pre-ordered)
- October 14th - NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving
- October 17th - Pizza Day at 12:50 p.m. for those who pre-ordered
- October 18th - Free Hot Lunch for all students - Beef Macaroni
- October 20th - Spirit Day - Crazy Hair Day
- October 24th - Picture Day
- October 24th - Subway Day (12:50 p.m. for those who pre-order)
- October 24th - Halloween Family Dance at the school 6-7:30 pm
- October 30th - Spirit Assembly 12 noon - Families Invited
- Spirit Assembly Theme and Activities to be announced
- October 31st - Halloween Parade and Activities - Families Invited (9 am)

