



Iroquois Falls Public School

**November 2019
Newsletter**

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Iroquois Falls Public School Families:

We are now into the last week of November and it is evident that IFPS is an active and dynamic place of learning and playing. The teaching and support staff are working hard to provide students with a quality educational program each day. I am particularly impressed with the work the staff are doing around supporting our students' acquisition of self-regulatory skills; which is a key focus of our school improvement planning for the 2019-2020 school year. Currently, staff are working on mindfulness, calming strategies, morning check-in circles, in addition to each classroom having a calming corner located within where students are able to go to practice self-regulation techniques. Please feel free to discuss this initiative with your child's teacher, or myself, with the goals of supporting your child at home.

Parent-Teacher conferences took place on November 19th, 2019. It was nice seeing so many of our families in attendance! During this evening, many teachers held a format in which students led the sessions by presenting and describing their learning samples since the start of the school year. Teachers are regularly assessing (gathering information) and evaluating (making judgments on products and activities) student progress and formal report cards are (summative) snapshots of lessons and units over a period of time. Regular and continued communication between the home and school is important in supporting student learning and achievement. If there are any suggestions which would help us make this experience more beneficial to you, our families, please feel free to email me.

With numerous special presentations, field trips, learning opportunities, and invites to our special events planned between now and the Winter Break, clear communication is vital. Staff will be sending informed consent/ permission forms home for all off-site classroom and school activities. As always, we are greatly appreciative of parent volunteers for helping supervise our students during these events.

If you haven't yet had the opportunity, I once again invite you to send me your email so I can invite you to follow us on twitter or receive notification about What's Happening at IFPS, via the Iroquois Falls Public School Principal Blog. Both the twitter and blog sites provide additional information, including pictures and videos to keep you up-to-date with what is going on at IFPS. Please email me at rodger.mineault@dsb1.ca to have your name added to the mailing list.

Sincerely,

Mr. Mineault
IFPS Principal



CIRCLE OF COURAGE MODEL: A FOUNDATION FOR LEARNING AT IFPS



The Circle of Courage is a model of positive youth development first described in the book *Reclaiming Youth at Risk*, co-authored by Larry Brendtro, Martin Brokenleg, and Steve Van Bockern. The model integrates Native American philosophies of child-rearing, the heritage of early pioneers in education and youth work, and contemporary resilience research. The Circle of Courage is based in four universal growth needs of all children: belonging, mastery, independence, and generosity.

As part of our school Self-Regulation and Well-being work, IFPS will use this model to instill these four growth traits into our students by providing them with learning opportunities around this needs.

If you have any questions about this work, or any of the work around our school improvement planning, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

BREAKFAST CLUB

Start the day right!

The Breakfast Club runs every Monday through Friday morning at 8:30 a.m. until 8:50 a.m.

The “Breakfast Club” at IFPS has been in operation since the school opened and provide breakfast for many children on a daily basis. The program is one that is offered nationwide in various schools.

The Breakfast Club continues to be a wonderful place for children socialize and start their day with a little ‘extra’ something first thing in the morning. Over the years, the program has been helped through our in school volunteer program. If you have any questions, or would like some more information about how to contribute, please feel free to call the Mr. Mineault for more information.

Volunteers are always needed, so if you are looking at doing some volunteering, please call the school at 705-232-6651.



CRIMINAL RECORD CHECK FOR VOLUNTEERS

All volunteers working in the school, joining a field trip, or volunteer to drive students must complete a criminal record check in order to be permitted to work with students. If you wish to volunteer, now or in the future, please contact the school for more information. This process is free if accompanied by a volunteer letter from the school.

BUS CANCELLATIONS DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER

Periodically, buses are cancelled due to icy roads, potential weather warnings, or heavy snowfall. Decisions are usually made no later than 6:45 a.m. and are often based on the ability of school buses to cover their routes safely. If you are wondering if the buses are cancelled you can check one of the three options:

1. The IFPS Principal Blog always posts bus cancellations. Follow us at <https://ifpsprincipal.wordpress.com/>
2. Subscribe to transportation notifications at <https://netribus.ca/>
3. www.dsb1.ca website – approximately midway down the page
4. The local radio stations



REPORTING ABSENCES

EARLY DETECTION - PHONING IN ABSENCES - The early detection system is for the safety of all students at Iroquois Falls Public School. The answering machine is turned on 24/7 so families can call before 8 am, or the evening prior, to report students who will be absent or late. This feature is for the safety of your child. All absences and lates should be called in.

When leaving a message please state your child's name, grade, teacher, and if they are: ill, at an appointment, or on vacation.

Please call 705-232-6651 to leave a message

SCHOOL HOURS

8:30 - Welcome Bell / Bus and Welcome Supervisors on Duty for Arrival
8:50 - 10:30 – First Instructional Bloc
10:30 – 10:50 - Recess
10:50 – 11:10 – First Nutrition Break
11:10 – 12:50 – Second Instructional Block1
12:50 – 1:10 – Second Nutrition Break
1:10 – 1:30 – Second Recess
1:30 – 3:10 - Third Instructional Block
3:10 - Dismissal

SCIENCE NORTH VISIT



We were delighted to have Science North attend our school on Monday, November 18th, 2019 as our students engaged in a variety of activities.

REMEMBRANCE DAY ASSEMBLY

Thank you to all families for attending our annual Remembrance Day assembly on November 8th. A special note of appreciation to each of our student leaders, Karson Magnuson-Dumas and Emma-Shay Denault, for hosting the event and also to every student performer. We would also like to recognize our teachers for their leadership and guidance with our students during the ceremony- Mrs. Fike, Mme Lachance, Mme Desrochers, Mme Lambert, Mrs. Fox-Demers, and Mr. Takayesu for his overall organizing of the assembly and the performing of the Last Post and Rouse.

For video clips and addition pictures, please view

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



A REMINDER TO VISIT THE IFPS PRINCIPAL BLOG OR TWITTER ACCOUNT FOR INFORMATION ON EVENTS HAPPENING AT IFPS at <https://ifpsprincipal.wordpress.com/> or <https://twitter.com/IFPS900>

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION LITERACY COMPETITION

Each year the Royal Canadian Legion runs their annual “Youth Remembrance Contest”. According to the Legion’s website, “Fostering Remembrance is a part of everything we do. Through The Royal Canadian Legion’s longstanding Annual Poster and Literary Contests, Canadian school children honour Canada’s Veterans through creative art and writing, and help perpetuate Remembrance.”

We are excited to say that Ashlee Murray placed second her division! Congratulations to all students from IFPS who participated in this event!

Below is a picture of Mme Rita Lepage (Ladies Legion Axillary representative) presenting Ashley with her award.



SCHOOL COUNCIL CORNER

Dear IFPS families,

School Council is up and running as we are excited to work on behalf of our students and their families! As we head into the holiday season, we would like to wish you all Happy Holidays. The month of December is always so busy; so now is the perfect time to begin making plans to look forward to spending time with those you love. School Council is busy planning a few events for the month of December which include: an upcoming Holiday Dance, Caroling at the Manor, as well as having our Food Bank donations and our newest effort, a food drive for NOAWS.

Thank you to all our students, staff and parents/volunteers for helping through these wonderful events. Please take this time to reflect on the times spent with family and friends and may your Holiday season be filled with new memories.

Happy Holidays
IFPS School Council

PLAYGROUND SAFETY REMINDER

Playgrounds are a fun place. Daily physical activity is important for all our students. Although our playgrounds are supervised, accidents can happen. We want to minimize risk of injury by requesting that you take some time to discuss, with your child, the need to play safe.

Playground Safety Pointers to Discuss with your Child:

1. students are to remain in their designated play area
2. avoid pushing, hitting or rough play
3. leave the stones / snow on the ground
4. take turns on play structures (when open)
5. respect others and the supervisors on duty
6. dress appropriately for the weather
7. immediately report any concerns to the teacher on duty
8. include others in all activities

Please ensure your child has warm clothing for outdoor play. We will be outside most days, unless weather conditions are extreme so it is important for children to 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.

Book Fair

“Books give a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything.”

A big thank you to all the parents, students, and staff who supported our school book program by purchasing items at our Scholastic Book Fair last week! We exceeded our goal with a grand total of \$2522.70 in sales! Since we surpassed the \$1500 mark, Scholastic gives the school 50% of the sales; which means \$1261.35. This money will be given back to the teachers to purchase new books for their classroom libraries.

A very special thanks to all of the hard working volunteers who offered their time to help out, especially Mme Lachance and her mother, as we couldn't have done it without you!

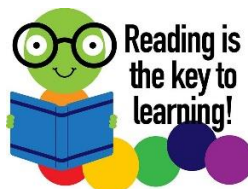
During each book fair, staff and students are able to put their name into a variety of draws, with the chance to win free books.

2019 Draw Winners:

\$25 Worth of Books – Lincoln Alford and Mrs. Fike

\$10 Worth of Books – Lexi Andrews, Aiyannah Purdy, Madison Larivee, Georgia Leblanc, Kalora Shields, and Paisely Bouchard

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT DURING THIS YEAR'S BOOK FAIR.



DECEMBER EVENTS: MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- Dec 2nd
 - Food Drive Begins
 - School Council NOPAWS Donation Challenge

A flyer will be sent home to explain this event

During our Food Drive, our goal is to educate our students with the learning need of "generosity"
- Dec 4th
 - Deadline to RSVP for Our IFPS Turkey Lunch
- Dec 5th
 - Subway Day
- Dec 6th
 - Spirit Day - Cartoon / Storybook Character Day

Dress as your favourite character!
- Dec 12th
 - Turkey Lunch - Families Invited 12:00 pm start
- Dec 13th
 - School Council Family Dance - 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm
- Dec 16th
 - Spirit Day - Any Hat or Antlers Day

Wear any choice of hat you wish, or a set of Antlers
- Dec 16th
 - Dress Rehearsal for Students
- Dec 17th
 - Winter/Christmas Concert and Semi-Formal Dress Day
- Dec 19th
 - IFPS Caroling at South Centennial Manor

Families invited - 4 classes from IFPS will attend TBA
- Dec 20th
 - Last Day of School in 2019
- Dec 20th
 - Spirit Day - PJ Day

Wear Your Favourite PJs!



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