



Iroquois Falls Public School

**December 2019
Newsletter**

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Iroquois Falls Public School Families,

December is here and bringing with it all the excitement of the coming Holiday Season. It is a wonderful time for family, friends and giving. December promises to be a busy month and we definitely do not want you to miss out on any opportunities! **December's Character Traits are Generosity and Diversity** – which fits well with our Food Drive and Drive for Pet Supplies, our Caroling at the South Centennial Manor, and the learning about various cultures and special occasions during this time of year. Through the learning and reinforcing these two traits, our students will be given the opportunity to learn about giving thanks, celebrating differences which make us unique, and about giving back without expecting anything in return.

The Tree of Generosity will be in our front lobby for the month of December. The tree will be a place for children and families to drop off non-perishable food items and unwrapped new toys for those in need; all part of our food and animal supply drives. All donations will be taken to the Iroquois Falls Food Bank or Northern Ontario Animal Welfare Society who will distribute the items accordingly. Your donations are appreciated!

As we approach winter break, I wanted to share with our IFPS families how grateful I am to serve our students and how appreciative I am to work in such a supportive community. Students and staff at IFPS have continued to strive for excellence in all aspects of school life. With parents/guardians and staff working in partnership to enhance the educational and social opportunities for our students, we will continue to create a positive and inclusive environment as well as a high quality educational experience for each of our students. Please ensure that you communicate with your child's teacher any time that you have questions or concerns. I thank all of you for your continued support of our students and staff. We, at Stephen Central, are so fortunate to have such a supportive community.

On behalf of the staff of Iroquois Falls Public School, we wish you all a joyous, safe, relaxing and memorable month of December, and holiday season.

Sincerely,

Mr. Mineault

Literacy Tips for Families

Building Reading Stamina Reading stamina is a child's ability to focus and read independently for long-ish periods of time without being distracted or without distracting others.

Find out how you can help your child develop reading stamina by visiting this online site:

<http://www.readingrockets.org/article/building-reading-stamina>

Give the Gift of Reading

Fuel their imagination by giving the gift of reading during this wonderful time of year. Choose a book for your child that they will remember forever. Perhaps it was one of your favorites when you were growing up.

The below resources will help you find the perfect book for your child.

1. Reading Rockets: <http://www.readingrockets.org/books/booksbytheme>
2. <http://www.scholastic.ca/>
3. CBC Books: <http://www.cbcbooks.org/>
4. Publishers Weekly: <https://goo.gl/pRkIQY>

“A book is a gift you can open again and again!”

How to Help Your Child be Successful in School

1. Talk about school with your child. Discuss the happy experiences that are awaiting him/her.
2. Listen to your child. Discuss concerns that he/she expresses. Encourage and be reassuring.
3. Establish good routines for eating, sleeping, and doing school work.
4. Provide a work/study time and area for your child. This area should be away from distractions.
5. Read to your child every day.

October's Newsletter Challenge

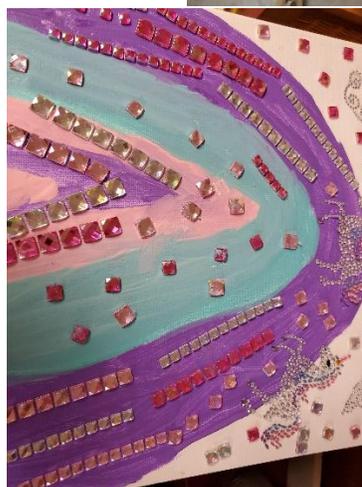
THE CHALLENGE REMINDER: From October's newsletter

Family Challenge to be Eligible to Receive a Prize

On or before November 26th have yourself or your child email me at rodger.mineault@dsb1.ca explaining how you incorporated some of the above Happiness Daily Challenges into your lives. Your name(s) will be entered into a draw, which will occur during November's Monthly Assembly.

WINNER: Kennedy Brazeau – She will receive a collection of books.

This is Kennedy's entry into the newsletter draw. This weekend was spent with just Kennedy and her mom at home for the most part. They spent time together reading, painting, cooking and baking. All things that are good for the soul and promote wellness!



Pictures of Kennedy cooking, the pie she made, and the craft she completed!

STAY TUNED FOR DECEMBER'S CHALLENGE WHICH WILL BE SENT HOME THE LAST WEEK OF SCHOOL!

Kindergarten Registration 2020/2021

Planning is underway for next year and Kindergarten registration day will be January 28th, 2020. If you have or know a family with a child eligible to attend Year 1 Kindergarten (JK) in September 2020, please stop by the school on January 28th, 2019 to get an early start on the registration process.

SCHOOL TOURS ARE AVAILABLE

Dates for the children to attend the annual Welcome to Kindergarten sessions will be announced in the spring of 2019. Please note we offer both French Immersion and English programming.



Holiday Hot Chocolate on December 20th!



Principal Mineault and IFPS Administration
will be serving
Students **FREE** hot chocolate
in the Gymnasium on the morning of Friday, December 20th, from
8:30 – 9:00!

Families dropping their child off that day, stop in and have a cup!

The Gift of Attendance

As the holiday break approaches and you may be thinking about traveling plans, we want to stress the importance of sending your student to school every day possible. Every year, absences spike in the weeks before and after the winter holiday as families squeeze in a few more vacation days. It's time to break that cycle. We know that just a few missed days here and there, even if they're excused absences, can add up to too much lost learning time and put your student behind in school. This is as true in high school as it is in kindergarten. Put simply, too many absences at any age can affect a student's chances for academic success and eventually for graduation.

We recognize that holidays are an important time for reconnecting with families far away. We understand traveling costs influence when families decide to get away. But keep in mind the costs to your student's education if they miss too much school - and the message you will be sending about the importance of attendance. Even if you have assignments from the teacher, it doesn't make up for the interaction and learning that happens in the classroom. Our teachers will be teaching, and our students will be learning, right up until vacation starts after school on December 20th. Our first day back is on January 6th. This holiday season, give your student the priceless gift of an education and the habit of attendance.

BUNDLE UP!

Please make sure that children are dressed adequately for outside play. We go outside during both nutritional breaks every day except in extreme temperatures (-25 Celsius or colder)



When Time is Ticking

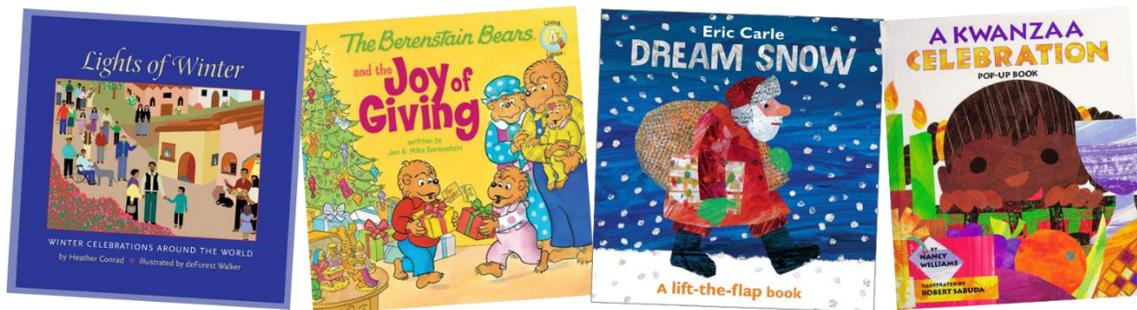
Few homes run like clockwork. The morning routine, especially, can be a mad scramble. But there are effective strategies for getting your little one up and out the door on time.

- Get your child to bed at a reasonable hour.
- Set realistic and consistent schedules and rules at home. Getting ready for school should be part of the child's overall routine, something that's expected of him every day.
- The night before school, do whatever is necessary to shave time in the morning, such as setting out clothes, packing lunch, and setting schoolbags at the door.
- Have a set morning routine that the child can easily follow, i.e. washing hands and face, going to the bathroom, dressing, making the bed, brushing teeth, and eating a healthy breakfast.
- Avoid any distractions that can slow the child down, like TV or games.
- If you're running late regularly, set your alarm to get up earlier.

December is Celebrating Diversity Month at IFPS 8 Multicultural Holiday Books for Children

The holiday season is a time when we celebrate community, diversity, and the universal joy of giving. In the classroom, we introduce children to holiday traditions observed around the world by singing songs, making art, and tasting favorite local seasonal foods, as well as those from other countries.

You can continue the learning at home by engaging in shared reading experiences with your child. Below are some of our all-time favorite multicultural holiday books.



1. *Lights of Winter: Winter Celebrations Around the World* by Heather Conrad

Your child might be familiar with Christmas, Kwanzaa or Hanukkah, but what about Soyal or Los Posadas? This book introduces children to 10 winter holidays celebrated around the world.

2. *The Berenstain Bears and the Joy of Giving* by Jan and Mike Berenstain

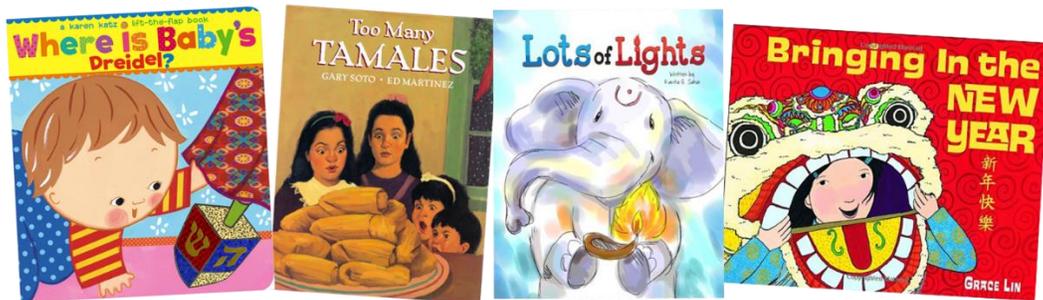
This story does a wonderful job reinforcing the importance of showing gratitude and giving back to others. After reading, encourage your child to think of ways he can spread holiday cheer this year.

3. *Dream Snow* by Eric Carle

This book tells the story of a farmer who falls asleep on Christmas Eve wondering if Christmas will come without snow. He then dreams about a magical snowstorm that covers him and his animals. Infants and toddlers will love the lift-the-flap version of *Dream Snow*, which is designed to help stimulate their growing sensory awareness.

4. *A Kwanzaa Celebration* by Nancy Williams

Your child will enjoy learning about the traditions and principles of Kwanzaa as he delves into this pop-up book by Nancy Williams. He'll even be introduced to African words and pronunciations!



5. *Where is Baby's Dreidel: A Lift the Flap Book* by Karen Katz

Your little one will embark on a reading adventure as he lifts the flaps to reveal dreidels, menorahs, potato pancakes and other symbols of Hanukkah.

6. *Too Many Tamales* by Gary Soto

This book tells the story of a little girl who misplaces her mother's diamond ring while making tamales. Not only will your child enjoy the story's humor, but she'll also learn the names of foods enjoyed by Hispanic families during the holiday season.

7. *Lots of Lights* by Kavita Sahai

Although the Indian holiday of Diwali already occurred this year, it's never a bad time to reintroduce some of the traditions your child learned in the classroom. This fun story includes catchy rhymes and adorable characters to keep your child fully engaged.

8. *Bringing in the New Year* by Grace Lin

Bringing in the New Year is a heartwarming story about a Chinese-American family as they prepare for and celebrate the Chinese New Year. The book introduces food and festivities, such as a dragon parade, dumplings, lion dancers, lanterns and fireworks.

| Cold & Illness | Inclement Weather and Bussing Update |
|--|--|
| <p>Many thanks for keeping your child(ren) home when they are sick. It is very easy to pass on colds and flu in a school environment. Children who do not feel well, do not learn well, and learning is definitely our goal!</p> <p>If students are well enough to be at school, then the expectation is that they go outside for recess as we do not have additional indoor supervision available during the recess breaks.</p>  | <p>On mornings of heavy snowfall, freezing rain, or extreme cold weather, please listen to your radio or check the school board site at https://geoquery.netribus.ca/Cancellations.aspx for reports of bus cancellations and school closures.</p> <p>IFPS is not necessarily closed when bus transportation is cancelled. Decisions regarding bus cancellations are usually made before 7:00 a. m.</p>  |

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH: NOVEMBER

The students below displayed acts of Courage, Responsibility, Caring, and Initiative throughout the month of November, earning them a student of the month award.



Awarded to
Nickolaus McCombe
for



Awarded to
Preston Huggard
for



Awarded to
Thea Trotter
for



Awarded to
Alivia Purdy
for



Awarded to
Nathaniel Purdy
for



Awarded to
Serena Chandler
for



Awarded to
Skye Ellis-Desrochers
for



Awarded to
Lilly Dussault
for



Awarded to
Aiyannah Purdy
for



Awarded to
Trenton Plante
for



Awarded to
Silas Premo
for



Awarded to
Ashlee Murray
for



A group of 14 children, including Trenton Plante, Silas Premo, and Ashlee Murray, are shown holding their respective certificates. The certificates are white with a yellow star and the text "Star of the Month".