



Iroquois Falls Public School

January / February 2017
Newsletter

From the Principal's Desk:

Thank You!

Happy New Year and best wishes to all the IFPS families for a prosperous and healthy 2017! Thank you to all the families who joined us for our Holiday Concert. It was a great opportunity for our students to showcase their talents. Also, a big thank you to all the families who donated canned goods for the annual food drive. Two hundred and twenty-five food items were donated to our local food bank.

January has been a busy month and we are nearing the end of the first academic term. On Friday, February 10th, students will be bringing home a Term 1 Report Card. We encourage all parents to discuss the report card with their child. Communication between parents and teachers is also an important support for student success. **All parents who would like to discuss their child's progress with the teacher and next steps for learning are invited to call the school to schedule an appointment.**

During the second academic term, we will continue to incorporate technology into our classrooms by introducing students to various applications available on their iPads. Students are using these APPS to create rich multi-media projects, to explain and share their thinking and to receive feedback from their teachers to revise and improve their work. Students have also been working on developing the basic skills of programming/coding using robotic devices such as Sphero robots and BeeBots.

Another school goal in the second semester is to continue to develop our students' spatial reasoning skills. Our curriculum is filled with opportunities to engage students in activities that require spatial thinking. It is very important to build these skills because many careers in the sciences, technology, engineering, math and trades require strong spatial skills. As well, our children have to navigate their way around in a three-dimensional physical world which is increasingly complex.

A third goal this semester is to continue to nurture students' mental health by:

- offering many opportunities for physical activity
- engaging students in conversations and activities that develop a growth mindset when it comes to learning
- building mindfulness activities into the school day such as taking a moment each day to do some deep breathing to slow down our mind and focus on the moment
- providing students with equipment that assist them in remaining calm and focused during learning

Danielle Delaurier



Children's Mental Health Matters!

JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION



We are still accepting registration at the main office for children born in 2013 (JK) and children born in 2012 (SK)

Registration Requirements:

- Proof of child's age (Birth Certificate) – *Junior Kindergarten*: Born in 2013
Senior Kindergarten: Born in 2012
- Court order for custody/access (if applicable)

TERM 1 REPORT CARD – Feb. 10th

Learning Skills

On Monday, February 10th, students will be bringing home a Term 1 Report Card. For each subject that was taught in Term 1, your child will be receiving a letter grade (Grades 1-6). JK/SK students will receive comments. If a subject is only being taught in Term 2, the teacher will check NA for not applicable to this report card. A comment will also be given for each subject that describes your child's strength and some next steps to support learning in Term 2.

Work Habits

Teachers look at a variety of sources such as assignments, day-to-day observations, tests, student-teacher conversations or conferences, demonstrations and projects for evidence that your child is learning the curriculum. This learning means more than just knowing the facts. Students must also show an understanding of what they are learning by communicating and applying what they have learned. They must also demonstrate critical thinking skills and problem-solving skills. All work is reviewed with special attention being given to the quality of the work at the end of the unit of study or term. As well as looking at tests or assignments, teachers talk to and observe your child in the classroom to gather as much information and evidence before making a decision on the final grade.

Problem-Solving Skills

Teachers will also report on the development of learning skills and work habits which are very important for student success. These six skills (Responsibility, Organization, Independent Work, Collaboration, Initiative and Self-regulation) can be demonstrated by the student in all subjects as well as during daily routines and activities at school. They are evaluated using a four-point scale (E-Excellent, G-Good, S-Satisfactory, N-Needs Improvement) and teachers also include a comment about your child's strength and some next steps for continued growth.

DSBONE and IFPS on FACEBOOK

District School Board Ontario North East now has a presence on Facebook. If you have a Facebook account, please 'like' our official page.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/District-School-Board-Ontario-North-East/1533911660193542>

Please also check the IFPS Facebook page for information on upcoming activities and pictures of school activities.



WINTER SAFETY

-40

A few reminders to our families about winter safety:

-35

- it gets cold during our winter months and your children are outside for at least 50 minutes a day. Please ensure that they are dressed warmly.
- if it gets too cold and there is a risk for frostbite, we will have indoor recess.
- there is no throwing or kicking of snow or ice. Every year, children in Ontario are seriously injured (i.e. loss of eyesight) from accidents with snowballs and ice chunks. Please remind your children why it is important to play safely.



IFSS TRANSITION ACTIVITIES

On January 19th, the grade 4-6 students visited IFSS Elementary and participated in various workshops. These activity days are meant to familiarize the students with the school that they will be attending from grade 7-12 and to introduce them to some of the programs available. The grade 6 students and their parents will be invited to another evening visit in the spring where more information will be shared with families.

BELL LET'S TALK DAY

To promote good mental health habits, on Bell Let's Talk Day, January 25th, all students participate in a nature walk on the trails surrounding the school

100th DAY



The 100th day of school will be celebrated on

Thursday, February 9th. In the morning, students from JK-3 will rotate through various activities with grade 4/5/6 helpers. Students in Grade 1-5 are asked to bring in a collection of 100 things (nothing expensive) and collections should be arranged in groups of 10. Collections are due

Wednesday, Feb. 8th. They will be displayed in the small gym.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Children need 60 minutes a day of physical activity. Keep your children active through winter by getting outside. Try skating, skiing, playing boot hockey, building a snowman or go tobogganing. Check out this website for great winter games ideas:

<http://www.participaction.com/get-moving/bring-back-winter-play/>



NORTHERN FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROGRAM

Once again this year, the Porcupine Health Unit is offering a Fruit and Vegetable Program in our school. Students will be receiving fruits and vegetables once per week to consume at snack time. The PHU should be informing us shortly of the start date for this program. Thank you to Mr. Van Cleef's class for distributing the fruits and vegetables to the classes.



SKATING, SKIING AND SNOWSHOEING

As part of the physical education curriculum, the grade 4-6 students will be receiving four sessions of skating instruction and four sessions of skiing and snowshoeing instruction during the winter months. Members of the Eski Hockey Team will be assisting with the skating instruction and skiing instructors from the Iroquois Falls Cross-Country Ski Club will be on hand to teach our students the basic skills and techniques of Nordic skiing.



FEBRUARY 3rd and 27th PD DAYS

No School!

A reminder to all families that there is 2 professional development days in February, one on February 3rd and the other on Feb. 27th.

FAMILY DAY – MONDAY FEB. 20TH

We wish all families an enjoyable family day on Monday, Feb. 20th.



FEBRUARY EVENTS:

- Feb. 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd - Cross-Country Skiing and Snowshoeing
- Feb. 3rd - PD Day
- Feb. 9th - 100th Day Activities
- Feb. 10th - Report Cards
- Feb. 14th - Valentine's Day Activities in classrooms
- Feb. 16th - Subway Lunch
- Feb. 20th - Family Day
- Feb. 24th - Spirit Assembly - 1:30 p.m.
- Feb. 27th - PD Day

