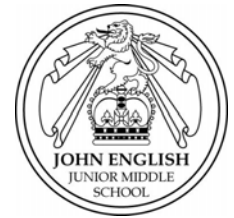




# Les nouvelles John English News



ÉCOLE JOHN ENGLISH JUNIOR MIDDLE SCHOOL

95 Mimico Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M8V 1R4 Telephone: 416.394.7660 Safe Arrival: 416.394.4710

Website: [www.johnenglish.ca](http://www.johnenglish.ca)

Principal: C. Howe Vice-Principals: A. San Vicente, T. Gentile  
Superintendent: J. Phillips-Long Trustee, Ward 3: P. Gough

## December 2011 Decembre

### Principal's Message

It was wonderful to see so many parents in the school during our parent teacher interviews on November 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. Home and school communication continues to be a strong indicator of success for our students. Thank you to all the parents who volunteered their time to assist with our Scholastic Book Sale during our interview week. Without your help, we would not have been able to hold such a successful sale. Your efforts helped our school raise over \$2500.00 for the purchase of new books for the library.

Our grade 8 students continue to explore their options for Secondary school. Over the past few weeks, our Grade 8 students have had the opportunity to gain further information about our surrounding Grade 9 schools and what they have to offer. I continue to urge students and parents to contact the guidance departments of schools in which they have an interest in order to have your questions answered and your concerns clarified.

Mr. Samborsky has been at John English due to Ms. San Vicente's leave. We thank Mr. Samborsky for his time and energy working with our students. His efforts have aided with the smooth running of the school on a day to day basis. As Mr. Samborsky will be returning to retirement at the end of November, we welcome Ms. Bunga to John English for the month of December.

Our Winter Concert will be taking place on December 15<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:30 p.m. We know all the performances will be enjoyable. Our Grade 8 students will be selling raffle tickets for a gift basket to support their year end trip. The student council is also asking that you bring a non-perishable food item to be used to support those in need.

C. Howe  
Principal

### Online Tutoring For Grade 7 – 10

We know that our students benefit from being taught through a variety of strategies and methods. Each classroom teacher and parent has their own teaching style. The Internet also provides learning opportunities for our students. In the October newsletter, information was provided about [www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org) as a valuable online resource for all students.

Another valuable online resource is available as result of a partnership between the Toronto District School Board and the Ministry of Education, [www.homeworkhelp.ilc.org](http://www.homeworkhelp.ilc.org). The goal of this partnership is to provide **Free** Online Math Tutoring to students in grades 7 to 10.

Every grade 7 to 10 TDSB student will be able to access **free online math tutoring** provided by Ontario certified teachers Sunday to Thursday evenings from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. through a website called Homework Help that is run by the Independent Learning Centre, through TV Ontario.

Information about this resource was sent home with all Grade 7 and 8 students in the past week. Please take the time to review this website with your children and if you have questions, please email them to [homeworkhelpaccess@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:homeworkhelpaccess@tdsb.on.ca).

**Winter Concert**  
**December 15<sup>th</sup> - 6:30 p.m.**

Featuring many of our K-5 students, our Grade 5 – 8 choir and our Grade 8 band and strings performers.

**Winter Break**  
**Dec. 26 – Jan. 6**  
Return to School on Jan. 9th

**P.A. Day**  
**December 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**No School**

## Grade 6 Students Launch into Space



Early in November, our John English cafeteria was filled with excitement and anticipation as all 116 Grade 6 students gathered together to showcase the space research projects which they had completed in class. Each student had researched a component of space and created a poster as well as a 3D model. The results were amazing! Who would have thought the Milky Way could be represented by puff balls in the shape of the spiral arms and flashing lights emulating the appearance of the stars? Imagine the planets reconstructed to depict every minute detail of their surfaces. Equally as interesting were the different interpretations of what a Black Hole would look like close up and in miniature form.

The students demonstrated creativity and initiative in building their models to show what they had learned. It was an exciting time for the grade 6 students as they were able to see how their peers had interpreted the same topic in a unique and different manner. It was also inspiring for the classes who came to visit and see *space come alive*. Congratulations to the Grade Six classes for presenting an educational "Launch into Space" exposition for the second year in a row.

## Prom Night in Mississippi

The Director and Co-Producer of Prom Night in Mississippi will be screening this award winning film on December 7<sup>th</sup> at Lakeshore C.I. at 6:30 p.m. The screening of this award winning documentary involving Morgan Freeman will be followed by a one hour question and answer session with the director. We hope that you will be able to attend. For further information, please contact L.C.I. [cherilyn.scobie@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:cherilyn.scobie@tdsb.on.ca)



## Book Fair Report



The French and English Scholastic book fair was a tremendous success. Many parents volunteered their time to help supervise the fair so that classes were able to browse and buy the books. Thanks to all your enthusiasm for reading, the fair raised over \$2500.00 in book coupons for the library. Last year we bought the TEN series in French for our library. This event would not have been possible without all the parent volunteers. Thank you for making this an amazing event that is eagerly anticipated by our students every year.



## Young Women on the Move Team Up With Quiznos – December 16th

Our Young Women on the Move have decided to make your life just a little bit easier along with helping a worthy organization. The grade 7 and 8 girls' group is excited to announce that our school will be helping to support our local woman's shelter with the special Quiznos' luncheon planned for December 16<sup>th</sup>. Students will be able to purchase a delicious 6" Quiznos sandwich, a beverage and a snack for only \$5.00 including taxes. \$1.00 of all the proceeds will be donated to a local woman's shelter. All forms are due by Monday December 5<sup>th</sup> to your child's homeroom teacher.

## Assembly Hall Art Show Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> to Dec. 20th

On Wednesday, November 23rd, the following students had their work on display at the official opening of the 'Tis the Season Art Show at the Assembly Hall (on Lakeshore and Kipling): Matylda Schwartz, Mio Reynolds, Jacob Fleming, Ruxy Holera, Sara Jackson, Karthik Mishra, Violet Collier, Emily Belasis and Jennifer Wilson. The theme of the show had to do with what aspect of the winter holidays or winter season has special meaning for students. The evening was a huge success, with lots of singing and holiday cheer to go along with all the great artwork! If you haven't had a chance to see the work, the show continues until December 20th. Gallery hours are Monday to Friday from 12pm - 5pm and Saturday from 10am - 1pm. Hope everyone gets a chance to check it out!



## John English School Spirit

John English students and staff showed their school spirit on Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>. Many students were seen wearing a moustache in support the Movember campaign to raise awareness and money for prostate cancer initiatives. Thank you to those who were able to donate and to the student council for organizing this event.

## From the Gym

The boys' volleyball season is underway. The senior team, coached by Mrs. Smith did very well in both of their tournaments. The junior team, coached by Ms. Laruccia, has been practicing diligently and look great! The junior and senior girls' basketball teams have been working hard with Mr. Poyser. We wish all of our teams luck in their upcoming tournaments! The junior and senior hockey teams have been selected. The senior team will play in the Bruce Davis Cup January 11th at the MasterCard Centre. The regular season for both teams will start shortly after that. Coming up, the boys' basketball teams and the girls' volleyball teams will be starting. Please listen to the announcements for dates and times for the tryouts.

## Immunizations

Grade 7 or 8 students who missed the vaccination for Hepatitis B, Meningitis C or HPV should note there is a make-up clinic taking place on Thursday December 15th at the Etobicoke Civic Centre from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. The clinic will take place on the lower level, in meeting rooms 1, 2 and 3. The vaccination is free but students must be accompanied by their parent or guardian. It will be a first come, first serve basis.

## Kindness and Caring

This is the time of year when we tend to pay added attention to the idea of showing kindness and caring toward others. In the hustle and bustle of the upcoming holidays we make the extra effort to be generous, nice and thoughtful. However, being kind is more than just being nice or thoughtful. It involves action. Kindness, at its core, is love, peace, patience, goodness, gentleness, and self-control. Kindness is easy to do, it hardly takes any time, it costs nothing and it feels good!

Kindness is natural and genuine in most children and is a sincere response. It does not happen because of adult expectations. Instead of expecting kindness in our children, it is more important to demonstrate kindness and guide goodwill. Parents can help to do this by:

- Offering and encouraging the opportunity to care for pets, plants, and gardens. This provides practice in caring, nurturing, and comforting (as well as being responsible for something).
- Add positive commentary while observing kind actions. "You shared your game with John. Look how happy you both are."
- Celebrate others' accomplishments, share materials and ideas, offer assistance, or simply share a smile and kind word.
- Do something together that shows kindness and caring for someone less fortunate.
- Show your child the importance of being kind and caring by displaying kindness and caring in your own actions

## From School Council

- **Poinsettia Sale:** Add a festive touch to your home or office this holiday season with a beautiful Poinsettia! Included in your newsletter is an order form for a Poinsettia fundraiser brought to you by the John English School Advisory Council. Choose from three different sizes and three colours to match your holiday decor! Proceeds from the sale will come back to John English to help fund its many great programs and initiatives. Please see the order form for details. The order form will also be available for download on the John English E-news website, and is due on or before December 7th.
- **Volunteers are Needed: Healthy Bites,** our healthy lunchtime program needs a volunteer for just 2 or 3 hours a month. Contact Lisa Truant-Tan via [healthybites@johnenglish.ca](mailto:healthybites@johnenglish.ca). **Parent Safety Program,** which keeps our children safe at drop off and pick up in the parking lot, needs a few more volunteers. It only takes 20 minutes once a week (8:25 - 8:50 am or 3:10 - 3:30 pm). Contact Kathleen Eyman via [sacinfo@johnenglish.ca](mailto:sacinfo@johnenglish.ca) if you can help.
- Thank you to all the parents who volunteered at the **Scholastic Book Fair**. Your time and energy allowed our students the opportunity to purchase a number of books which means more books for our school!
- **QSP Magazine Sales: CONGRATULATIONS** to all the students who helped to make the QSP Magazine fundraiser a great success. This year, our total magazine sales were \$18,773. Don't forget that you can order and renew magazines all year round at the QSP website: [www.qsp.ca](http://www.qsp.ca). Magazines make great holiday gifts for family and friend, and you'll be supporting the school at the same time. Our group number is 9311. (Please note, if ordered now, magazines may not arrive before Christmas Day.)
- **Coffee 'n' Chat** is Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Drop in between 8:15 and 10 am to meet other parents, in the teacher's lounge next to the cafeteria.
- Debbie Wagdin, the Constituency Assistant from Trustee Pamela Gough's office, came to the most recent SAC meeting to update John English parents on Trustee Gough's activities and involvement in the Ward 3. Please visit her website at <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/site/viewitem.asp?siteid=167&pageid=167&menuid=167> for constituency news.
- Our next meeting is **Thursday, January 19** at 7pm in the school library. Babysitting is provided, please email [sacinfo@johnenglish.ca](mailto:sacinfo@johnenglish.ca).