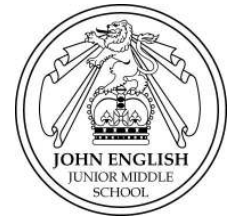




Les nouvelles John English News



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

Principal: E. Dick Vice-Principals: K. McInnes, S. Woolford
Superintendent: J. Spyropoulos Trustee, Ward 3: B. Davis

April 2010 avril

NOTE

Yard Supervision for Grades 1 to 8 begins at 8:35 AM and ends at 3:30 PM. Parents are responsible for their children's safety and conduct in the yard before and after these times.

VISITOR SIGN-IN BOOK

Visitors are requested to sign in at the main office and wear a 'visitor sticker'. This is a safety measure to ensure that visiting adults are recognized and encouraged to feel welcome in our school.

Thank you!

ceremony inviting the participating students and parents to visit the exhibition on May 3rd in morning.

Culminating Exhibition at the AGO

The Administration from John English will select three photos from the school exhibition to be part of the Culminating Exhibition at the AGO. The show will be held in the Gallery School Studio in the lower level of the building. The photo exhibition of student work will be held on Friday May 14th, 2010 from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm for selected students and invited guests.

- the class size guidelines set by the Ministry of Education
- a balance in total students if there will be more than one class at that grade level
- the range of academic ability of the children in each class
- the range of behaviour challenges of the children in each class
- students who have special needs e.g., emotional, medical, academic, etc.
- spreading the leaders around

Additionally, the following questions must be asked for each student:

- If the student has had the teacher in the past, did this combination work well for the student? – the teacher?
- How can the talents of the available teachers best meet the needs of this student?
- Is there another child from whom this student should be separated because they create a disruptive influence in the class when together?

This creates a number of variables for each child and when the number of variables is multiplied by the number of children in the school who need to be placed, the job becomes a very complex one indeed. Once the classes have

Will Your Child Be Absent from School? Call Our Safe Arrival Number 416-394-4710!

John English JMS Photo Exhibition

Our school will be holding a photographic exhibition from May 3rd to May 31st. The theme of the exhibition will be the environment and the photos will be displayed in the hallway outside the school office/staffroom. The official launch of the show will be an opening

September Class Placements

Each year some parents make special requests of the school concerning the September placement of their children. In order to clarify our practices, we wish to explain the process involved in placing students and to make parents aware of the types of requests that will be considered.

Criteria for Placing Students:

When placing students in their new classes the school must consider:

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been set, moving a student from one class to another upsets the balance in the class and tends to have a “snowball effect”. For this reason, once placements have been decided, changes will not be made.

Class placements are decided by the teaching and administrative staff. Although some teachers may not have taught your child, they have had multiple opportunities to observe your child’s interactions in the playground, in the halls, during assemblies etc.

We recognize that some students will have special needs that parents would like to bring to the school’s attention before these decisions are made.

Parents can make a request knowing that it will be considered, but that there can be no guarantee that it will be met.

Policy for Handling Parent Requests:

All parents have been advised in advance of the opportunity to make a request via this newsletter. Those who wish to make a request must fill in and return the request form which is available from the school office. Only this form will be accepted.

Requests must be received by the deadline specified on the form.

All requests must be based on the special needs of the student.

Requests for a specific teacher or to keep a student in the same class as another student will not be accepted.

All requests received by the deadline will be given equal consideration.

All requests will be read by the teacher and administration and considered at the placement meetings. The final decisions will be made by those committees.

There may be circumstances that are beyond the school’s control. As an example, over the summer we may admit or demit enough students in a grade to require restructuring the classes within that grade. For this reason we may need to reassign students to other classes.

If a student registers after school starts in September they will be assigned a class based on the best place available at the time of registration.

It is always possible that reorganization may happen in the fall. Placements are tentative until enrolment stabilizes in October.

Class placement information will not be available until the beginning of the school year.

Request forms will be available from the school office after May 3, 2010.

Due Date: Friday May 14th, 2010

Student Attendance and Punctuality

Regular student attendance and punctuality are important in order for students to be successful at school. The Education Act states that it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to ensure that their children attend school regularly. A student’s academic progress depends on regular class attendance.

TDSB elementary schools practise the Safe Arrival Program that requires schools to perform a school-home attendance check. Please notify the school when your child will be absent. Students are expected to fully participate in learning opportunities and complete all homework assignments and tests when they are absent, so please make sure your child is getting this work when they are absent.

You can help ensure that your child is in school and on time for classes by:

- being involved in your child’s education
- knowing the school’s schedule
- communicating regularly with classroom teachers (use your child’s planner to send notes to the teacher)
- calling the school if your child is going to be absent
- writing a note if your child is late due to an appointment
- ensuring that your child gets a good night’s sleep so that they have the energy they need for the next day

Memorial Park Reminder Grades 6-8 Student Behaviour

From time to time, we have had complaints from our neighbours living near Memorial Park about the conduct of our middle school students who go off school property at lunch and visit there. We typically get complaints about littering and sometimes about unruly behaviour.

First of all, I want to positively comment on the vast majority of our students at John English who demonstrate exemplary behaviour. We often receive compliments from persons at events our students

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attend attesting to their respectful behaviour. Consequently, we are very proud of them.

We will continue to discuss appropriate behaviour in our community with our students but we would appreciate your support by reinforcing this with your children. You may wish to discuss with them how they are spending their time when they are off school property and your expectations for their behaviour in this situation.

When students are off school property they are unsupervised as supervision is only provided on school property. If you wish to change your child's lunch arrangements, we require written notification from you.

EcoKids Club

The EcoKids have been working hard recycling and gardening. With our new sashes, courtesy of Mrs. Raymond, we can now be identified when participating in all of our activities and adventures.

Summer 2010 Music Camps

Summer Sounds, a thirteen day camp, is an enrichment music program for students currently in grades 5-10.

DownTown Summer Strings, a ten day camp, is for string students in grades 3–8.

Toronto Summer Music Camps offers Grades 5 - 8 instrumental music students the opportunity to attend a band or orchestra residential music camp held at our Outdoor Education Centres.

For more information about these

music camps, please visit www.tdsbsummercamps.ca

Recognizing Children's Mental Health Week

During Children's Mental Health Week from May 3 to 9, mental health awareness events and activities will take place around the province. School staffs, parents, government agencies, Children's Mental Health Centres and where appropriate, students themselves, can take the opportunity to talk about the impact of mental health issues on learning and personal wellness.

This year, the TDSB has arranged an in-service for new teachers focusing on Children's Mental Health. We have also partnered with the Lorraine Kimsa Theatre for Young People who will be delivering theatrical workshops on the topic. In addition, an innovative Dance group will be presenting performances on Mental Health in some secondary schools, and our Director of Education Dr. Chris Spence will be concluding the week with "A Walk for Mental Health" at 5050 Yonge. As part of our efforts to recognize Children's Mental Health Week at the TDSB, all schools are encouraged to engage in some sort of awareness activities. This could range from some information presented during morning announcements, arranging for a "brown bag luncheon" for staff on a mental health issue, to organizing a forum for parents on "Raising Mentally Healthy Children". In addition, on Friday May 7, schools are encouraged to promote wellness and mental health as part of daily physical activity by organizing a school or neighbourhood walk. During the walk, all participants should wear green to signify awareness for Children's Mental Health Week.

EQAO Assessments for Grades 3 & 6

The Ministry of Education conducts a province-wide assessment of all students in Grade 3 and Grade 6. Students are assessed in the areas of math, reading and writing. The assessments are to take place during the first week of June. Please make every effort not to book appointments for your children in these grades during the testing days, which we will announce in our May newsletter. Thank you and more information will come home to the parents of students in these grades as we move closer to the testing date.

Lights, Camera, Action! TDSB Now Live on the Web

Toronto District School Board trustees are ready for their close up thanks to a new pilot project. The Board recently launched a pilot project to webcast its regular monthly Board meetings, LIVE.

Committed to exploring opportunities for our wider school community to connect and engage in conversations about education issues, the project started with the webcasting of the February, 3rd 2010 public session of the Board meeting.

"We wanted to test the webcasting capabilities of our Board meetings so that parents, community members and staff could follow our deliberations online if they aren't able to attend the meeting in person." said Board Chair Bruce Davis.

The pilot project will run until June 2010, the end of the current school year at which time a report on the

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project will be delivered to the Planning and Priorities Committee.

With only three more webcasts left this year, Davis hopes this experiment will encourage people to get more involved in public education and have a voice.

"Webcasting our board meetings can open up many more doors for civic engagement and involvement in the process and to connect with each other in real time as we debate the issues. We want people to tune in."

For more information about upcoming Board meetings and the agenda, visit the TDSB public website at www.tdsb.on.ca and click on Boardroom.

China 2010 Summer Tour for Families with Adopted Children from China

This camp gives families with children adopted from China a first-hand experience of Chinese culture and history. It offers adopted children a connection to their ancestral roots and an experience of China that will likely resonate deeply for the rest of their lives. They will explore the country of their birth, taste the food, visit an elementary school, learn Mandarin, participate in a variety of cultural activities, see wondrous sites and meet the people. No classroom experience can compare with the immersion experience this trip provides.

This Heritage Summer Camp is a 14 day tour of China which includes trips to Beijing, Chengdu and Shanghai. It is offered in partnership with Qiaoban (Department of Culture and Education) China Overseas

Exchange Association, People's Republic of China.

If you have more questions and wish to speak to someone please call Jolly Yang at 416-209-7459 or by email at jolly.yang@tdsb.on.ca

From School Advisory Council

School Advisory Council

The SAC is a group of John English Parents that meet monthly. The Principal, Vice Principals and a teacher representative also attend these meetings. SAC meetings are a great opportunity to participate in decisions that affect your children's school experience. Come out and meet other parents. Everyone is welcome. The next SAC meeting will take place on Thursday, April 22nd at 7:00 pm in the library. Childcare is available. If needed please contact sacinfo@johnenglish.ca. As well, if you would like to join the John English parent email network, please drop us a line at enews@johnenglish.ca. Minutes from the SAC meetings and other information can be found on the website www.johnenglish.ca and on the bulletin board in the school lobby.

Dance-a-thon A Huge Success!

Friday, April 9th brought great music, fantastic dancing and loads of fun to our school. Our second annual dance-a-thon also raised **\$7031!** That's way beyond our goal of \$6000. These funds will be used to purchase a new smartboard and student cameras. Thank you to all

of our students for their effort in collecting pledges. As well, we thank all the family and friends who supported our students with their generous donations. Congratulations to Mme. Gitto's grade 3 students for winning the class prize of an all expense paid photo field trip. This class of 16 raised \$711. Bravo to all of you! Honorable mentions go to the classes of Mme. Kamnik, Mme Trudeau and Mme Cosgrove for their high pledges as well.

"John English Rocks - A Family Friendly Rock Concert featuring the hottest bi-lingual Rock band, "See Spot Run"!"

Friday, June 11th. The show will begin at 6:30 pm. This fundraising event is raising money for technology equipment for the school. Tickets are \$20.00 for adults, \$10.00 for children and \$50.00 for a family pass. Visit our website at www.johnenglish.ca to hear the band! Stay tuned for more details!

Coffee n Chat

Coffee n Chat is held on the 1st Friday of every month. This is a great opportunity to come and meet staff and other parents at John English in an informal setting. Everyone is welcome. **The next Coffee n Chat is on Friday, May 7th.** Drop in between 8:15 am and 10:00 am in the teacher's lounge near the cafeteria.

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