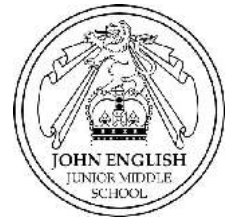




Les nouvelles John English News



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

February 2010 février

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!

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

Congratulations

We are happy to announce that Mr. Lanis has been promoted to the position of Vice Principal at Lambton Kingsway Junior Middle School. We would like to thank Mr. Lanis for all his dedicated work with John English students and wish

him well in his new assignment. He will be missed by the John English school community.

Kindergarten Registration Day Tuesday, Feb. 23

John English Junior Middle School will be holding a Kindergarten Registration Day on Tuesday February 23 to register children who are eligible (born in 2006 to attend Junior Kindergarten in 2010-2011). Please call 416-394-7660 at your earliest convenience to arrange a time for your visit.

TDSB –Relief for Haiti

We are all one race – that is the human race. That's why we are asking you, our TDSB community, to pull together to support the Haiti earthquake aid and recovery effort in any way you can. No donation is too small or insignificant. A majority of the homes in Port-au-Prince have been destroyed, leaving thousands upon thousands of people in the streets. Please turn your sympathy and compassion for the survivors into action by ensuring those devastated by the

earthquake receive the most basic of human needs: water, food, medical care and shelter.

The TDSB is supporting Free The Children and the Canadian Red Cross in their relief efforts. To contribute to these agencies online, connect to them directly by using the following links: www.redcross.ca/tdsb and www.freethechildren.com/tdsb.

In addition, a collection process has been set up in each of our schools for donations in cash or by cheque. For all donations in excess of \$10, made either online or by cheque, tax receipts will be issued by the respective charities. The need is great and so we ask students and staff, parents and area residents to do what they can.

JEJMS - Relief for Haiti - Our Support is Saving Lives in Haiti

Thank you to students, staff and community members for participating in our *Change for Change* fundraising event in January. John English showed their support of those in need by emptying their piggy banks,

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contributing their birthday money and emptying their pockets. As a school, we raised \$1070.40 for the Red Cross. Also thank you to Mr. Fils-Aime's class who held a two day bake sale. They raised an additional \$522.00. Well done John English!!!

Students Leaving School During the Day

In certain situations a child may need to leave the school at a time other than the regular dismissal time. Parents are to come to the office, ask for their child to come to the office and sign out their child in the book provided. Children are **not** to wait outside the school for their parents to pick them up.

February is African Heritage Month

African Heritage Month is a time to learn about and pay tribute to the many ways in which Black Canadians and people of the African Diaspora have helped shape our society, and to recognize the invaluable contributions they have made to our province, country and world. TDSB schools will engage in local initiatives, and participate in a variety of community events that reflect this history of a people and the countless triumphs and struggles they have experienced over hundreds of years. TDSB's Equitable and Inclusive Schools site will provide many opportunities to reflect, celebrate and bring to life the rich legacy of the African Diaspora for our diverse local school communities.

To find out more, please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/equity

The Winter Olympics Come to John English

Hooray! Canada is hosting the 2010 Winter Games and John English continues to celebrate. To get our students ready for the games, students will meet once again with their countries on February 17th in the afternoon. As a team, they will check on their country's Olympic status and prepare a country cheer and banner. On Wednesday, February 24th, all 1-8 students will be participating in our outdoor Winter Olympics Fun Day! In their countries, teams will participate in events organized by Mr. Rainey's Grade 12 Leadership class at Lakeshore, with support and supervision being provided by John English teachers. Please ensure your child wears appropriate clothing in the afternoon as all events will be held outside. It promises to be an exciting couple of weeks....Go Canada Go!

Helping Make Schools Safer New Legislation Outlines Reporting Requirements

Even one incident of bullying or harassment in school is one too many.

Schools must be places where everyone feels welcome, safe and respected. The Keeping Our Kids Safe at School Act that comes into effect February 1, 2010, is the latest step in our strategy to help make Ontario's schools safer. It will affect how all school boards handle incidents at school.

This new law requires that all

school staff report serious incidents that could lead to suspension or expulsion to their principal and that principals notify parents of victims when a student has been harmed. In addition, all staff who work directly with students, for example teachers or educational assistants, must respond not only to serious incidents but also to inappropriate or disrespectful behaviour among students. This could include racist or sexist comments, graffiti or vandalism, behaviours and activities that are unacceptable in Ontario schools.

Students need a safe and positive learning and teaching environment to succeed at school. But it isn't just the school's responsibility to make that happen. All of us have a part to play in making and keeping schools safe.

Ontario's Code of Conduct sets out clear standards for behaviour for everyone involved in the publicly funded school system. This includes students, parents/guardians, teachers, other staff members, volunteers and community partners. The code applies on school property, on school buses, at school-authorized events or activities or in other circumstances that could have an impact on the school climate.

Find out more about Ontario's strategy to help make schools safer. Check out the Safe School section of the Ministry of Education's website at <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/safeschools> for more information on the Keeping our Kids Safe at School Act and what it means for you and your child. You'll also find information on the code of conduct, bullying prevention and other

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programs designed to help build a positive school climate.

Immunizing Your Child

Ontario children are required by law to be immunized against measles, mumps, rubella, diphtheria, tetanus, and polio, as well as for pertussis (whooping cough) before age 6. Students between the ages of 14 to 16 years require one needle for diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis.

Schools are required to collect immunization information for the Toronto Public Health unit when students are admitted to school. To make record-keeping easier, parents/guardians can get a yellow immunization card from a doctor. The card is updated each time an inoculation is given. The updated card can be copied by the school or, parents/guardians can send the immunization information to the program directly by phone, fax, or mail.

You may decide for medical, religious, or philosophical reasons not to immunize your child. You must file an exemption with Toronto Public Health. However, if a disease appears in the child's school and the child has not been immunized, he or she may have to stay out of school until the disease is gone.

No student may be denied admission to school if the immunization information is unavailable. After admission to school, Toronto Public Health will assess the child's records. If the records are incomplete, parents/guardians will be notified by the department and requested to update them. If they are not updated after proper notification,

Toronto Public Health has the authority to direct the school to suspend the student until immunization information is obtained.

For more information, please contact Toronto Public Health at 416-392-1250. Translators are available or visit the web site at www.toronto.ca/health clinics, call 416-392-1250 or visit www.toronto.ca/health.

February - Fairness

Our character trait for the month of February is fairness. Students will be exploring many aspects of fairness and participating in activities designed to strengthen each student's understanding of fairness.

You can help your child to learn more about the concept of fairness in several ways:

- Praise your child when he or she acts in a way that demonstrates an understanding of fairness.
- Model fairness as you interact with others.
- Tell or read stories that show how people demonstrate fairness through their actions and deeds.
- Discuss the ways family members are fair to each other in your home. Talk about your own family's experiences involving fairness.
- Help your child to understand that fairness does not mean that everyone is treated exactly the same way. Instead, fairness means

that broad principals are enforced in consistent, equitable ways.

These activities will empower your child to make positive choices and experience the positive impact of acting with fairness. Your cooperation and assistance in reinforcing your child's education in good character is much appreciated.

Tips for Helping Your Child Develop Confidence

Tell them never to fear asking questions:

Questions lead to knowledge and knowledge leads to confidence. When children question, they learn.

Share your stories about trials to triumph:

When they hear your struggles and how you overcame them, they will learn that they can overcome their struggles as well. You can be a role model in action as well as in discussion.

Highlight that persistence leads to success:

We've heard it before. It doesn't matter how many times you fall but rather, how many times you get up. Let them know that perseverance is more important than getting it right the first few times.

Encourage them in the areas in which they excel:

Focus on the children when they are doing something right and when they can be a positive example to others. Nothing breeds confidence like feeling successful.

Let them know it's safe to make mistakes:

Everyone makes mistakes. Many children are afraid to try because they're afraid to make mistakes.

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Make sure that these children know that they will never be judged negatively when they do their best and try their hardest—even if it doesn't lead to success right away. Encourage them to "try, try again!"

Praise appropriately:

If they do not succeed, don't tell them they did well. They know what empty praise is by now. Help them to figure out what they can do to improve. Let them know that you believe in them and with persistence, they will be successful.

Help them to balance their goals with realistic expectations:

Goals may take a while to achieve. We need to help these children understand that they move forward in benchmarks not leaps and bounds. By assisting them in mapping out their benchmarks, they will see that they are making progress.

Don't compare them with other children:

Each child is an individual and when comparing you are not honoring your child's individual needs.

Celebrate successes before moving on:

Often, when a goal is achieved, we're already onto the next goal before celebrating the success of the current one. Let your child take credit for those successes and talk about the qualities in your child that lead to that success. "You were courageous and persistent—you did it! Congratulations for sticking it out!"

Accept your child unconditionally:

Some children are shy or nervous while others are outgoing. Your child needs to know that

whatever way they are, you accept them and you're not trying to change them.

~Adapted from Dr. Robyn Silverman

School Advisory Council

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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, March 25th 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 can be found on the website www.johnenglish.ca.

SAC's Attitude of Gratitude

The John English community greets the promotion announcement of Chris Lanis to Vice Principal at Lambton Kingsway School with mixed emotions. As parents, we are thrilled that the hard work, dedication, leadership, extra effort and concern for our kids that Mr. Lanis exhibits, has being recognized by the Toronto District School Board.

It is for the same reasons that our school community will miss Chris Lanis. Particularly effective with the older students at John English, he motivated our senior students to do their best, to exceed expectations and to prepare for their next education stage in high school. Additionally, Mr. Lanis coached Boy's Softball, the Junior and Senior hockey teams and provided escort for our Grade 8 students on their graduation trip, among other things

As one of the school's Elementary Chairs he provided leadership and mentoring to his fellow John English teachers as they strive to create an exceptional learning environment for our children.

Mr. Lanis – thank you for your work at John English; the Lambton Kingsway community is richer with your promotion. Best of Luck!!!

French Movie Night

The John English French Movie & Dinner Night was a huge success! A record breaking attendance of ~ 225 people enjoyed meatball sandwiches and healthy veggies! Many enjoyed the Silent Auction and Healthy Bites Bake Sale, all enjoyed the movie & popcorn. It was a great opportunity to see families from our neighboring French language schools. A huge thank you goes out to all the volunteers who donated their time prior to the event and the night of. The event would not have been a success without you! Thank you to the students from the Health Action

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Committee, the STA, and JEL teams, as well as Mrs. Dick, Mrs. McInnes & Mr. Woolford for your support.

Chapters Night

Thanks to all the families and staff that came out to support John English at the Chapters Fundraising Night on November 26th. Our school community raised \$425! Based on the success of this event, we will be hosting another Chapters night on **May 13th, 2010**. More details to follow soon.

Coffee n Chat

Coffee n Chat is held on the 1st Friday of every month. This is a great opportunity to come and meet other parents at John English in an informal setting. Everyone is welcome. The next Coffee n Chat is on Friday, March 5th, 2009. Drop in between 8:15 am and 10:00 am in the teachers lounge near the cafeteria.

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