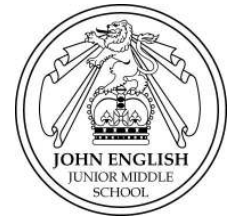




Les nouvelles John English News



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

March 2010 mars

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.

March Break

Parents are reminded that our March Winter Break will be from Monday, March 15 until Friday, March 19. Classes will resume on Monday, March 22.

Concours D'Art Oratoire 2010

Congratulations to all the students who participated in our annual Concours D'Art Oratoire. They worked very hard over several weeks to prepare for this public speaking event, which would not have been possible without the support of the French Immersion teachers. Every year it is a

challenge for our judges to select our school representatives, but we would like to congratulate Luke K. and Kathleen O., who will be representing École John English at the Board level Concours on March 24th, 2010 at Runnymede. Toutes nos félicitations et bonne chance!

French Spelling Contest, La Dictée PGL

Congratulations to all the Grade 5 and 6 students who accepted the challenge to write the French Spelling Contest, Dictée PGL. Luke Kwong obtained first place, followed by Claire McPhee in second place and Shannon McKenna in third place. As the winner at the school level, Luke Kwong represented John English in the Ontario finals and did very well.

EcoSchools Update

The EcoKids Klub is still in full swing with students from all ages signed up for recycling and composting. We currently have 14 active worm bins and have diverted over 600 pounds of food waste into these bins. Other activities EcoKids have been involved in are as follows:

Worm workshop with Cathy of

Cathy's Composters
Field to Table workshop with FoodShare

The Big Crunch - March 11th at 2:30pm

We are also gearing up for outdoor composters to be put into place after March Break. Ms. Laruccia would like to thank the caretaking staff for their support as it couldn't happen without them!

Grade 8 Graduation Trip to Ottawa/Montreal

Permission and medical forms (green in colour) were sent home this week. Please ensure that these mandatory forms are completely filled out and signed as needed. Please return them to school on, or before the deadline of March 26th. In order to finalize your son/daughter's registration for the year end trip, this information is required on file. The yellow draft itineraries are for your information to keep and need not be returned. A reminder that the second payment, if not already paid, is due by March 11th as outlined in the payment schedule provided in September.
Thank you.
Grade 8 Graduation Trip Committee

If there are any changes in your home or business phone numbers, please inform us as soon as possible!

Girls' Volleyball

The Grade 8 Girls' Volleyball Team had a very successful season! The team really worked well together because each player was extremely coachable and very smart! We came in first place in our tournament and ended up winning a banner for being Conference Finalists. Congratulations to Brianna, Alex H., Sia, Katherine, Maryn, Kathleen, Johvonna, Mackenzie, Alex F. and Naché for a fun and exciting season! Best wishes to all of you next year in your high school sport programs!
Mme Smith

CINEFRANCO JEUNESSE 2010

Students from the classes of Mme Zamin, Mr. Morris, Mrs. Rome and Ms. Roberts enjoyed viewing the French comedy film «Le Petit Nicolas» in early March at the historic Bloor Cinema. Thank you to the teachers and parent chaperones who assisted with this trip. Our students were, as usual, on their best behaviour and a good time was had by all. Five stars to this charming film recently released on DVD. For more information on the annual Cinéfranco Film Festival refer online to www.cinefranco.ca.

March - Honesty

Our character trait for the month of March is honesty. Students will be exploring the behaviours associated with being truthful, honest, trustworthy and demonstrating integrity. We invite you to continue the focus on honesty at home. Please:

- Discuss the benefits of being trustworthy
- Challenge your child to tell even difficult truths

- Discuss characters in books or on television shows that demonstrate honest or dishonest behaviour and the outcome of their behaviour
- Demonstrate honesty yourself
- Invite your child to share with you the ways that they demonstrate integrity in their dealings with friends, teachers and family

Being honest will empower your child to make good decisions. Thank you for reinforcing this valuable character trait at home.

Psychology Corner

Provided by your school's Psychological Services staff

The goal of doing a psychological assessment is to find out why a student is having problems in school and then come up with ways to use strengths, build up weaknesses, and get around weaknesses. A pretty common finding in kids who are assessed is difficulty remembering some kinds of information. Sometimes knowing a little trick can help. Here's a neat strategy to help anyone who has trouble with the nine times tables.

Hold out your hands palms up, with the thumbs on the outside. In your head, number each finger from left to right:

To find out what nine times a number is, hold down the finger with that number. For example, to find out what nine times four is, hold down "finger number four".

How many fingers are on the left of the finger you held down? Three.

How many fingers are on the right? Six. (Always count both

hands.)

So what is nine times four? Three and six: thirty-six!

It works every time!!

General Interest Classes for Adults

Registration for the spring term has begun! Parents/guardians are invited to join a Toronto District School Board Continuing Education general interest class. Classes begin the week of March 29, 2010. The general interest program offers you an opportunity to relax after a busy day, get fit, create a work of art, or learn a new skill or language. It's a great way to have fun and meet new people. Visit: www.learn4life.ca or call 416-338-4111. The TDSB is Toronto's original provider of life-long learning opportunities.

Accommodation Review Committees Continue their Work

The Toronto District School Board (TDSB) is facing some hard decisions about how to deal with continued declining enrolment.

It costs a lot to maintain many schools that are only partially full but the government formula that determines how much money is received is based on the number of students in schools. When enrolment drops, the board receives less money.

Since last Fall, the TDSB has been reviewing this problem at 10 groups of schools across the city. Accommodation Review Committees, or ARCs, were created to study possible solutions for each group, which could include closing some schools.

Much progress has been made. Over 50 meetings have been

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held, many of them public, to discuss options and obtain feedback from parents and neighbours. Closing a school is never an easy decision, and the Board has heard many passionate arguments from all sides.

At a February board meeting, trustees asked TDSB staff to prepare a report on whether money saved through an ARC could be put back into schools in that community.

The next stage will see ARCs reporting their recommendations in a final round of public meetings. TDSB staff will then prepare recommendations, which will be submitted to trustees for a final decision.

The TDSB thanks all ARC members for their ongoing contribution to this important work, and to all the parents and neighbours who came forward to provide information. The upside to the ARC process is that schools with higher enrolment have more money to spend on programs, music, sports and many other things that benefit students.

More information on ARCs is available at www.tdsb.on.ca.

High Water Levels Bring Increased Risks

The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority monitors hazardous ice conditions as thaw begins and are reminding everyone to be very careful around all bodies of water. The first hint of warming weather and the promise of spring thaw can bring extreme danger to the shores and surfaces of streams, rivers, ponds and lakes, according to the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority.

As warmer temperatures arrive, stream banks become

increasingly slippery and unstable. Lake and river ice weakens, becoming thinner or with higher flows breaking with little or no warning. During this time, the potential for flooding and ice jamming is high.

Higher, faster-flowing water and extreme cold temperatures combine to create increased dangers on or near rivers, streams and ponds for people wishing to enjoy the seasonal changes. Parents and caregivers are being asked to keep children away from stream banks, ponds and lakes.

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, 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.

John English is Dancing With the Stars

Our Dance-a-thon fundraiser scheduled for Friday April 9th, promises to be fun for all who participate. Hosted by Presswood Entertainment ([\[thon.ca\]\(http://www.dance-a-thon.ca\)\), this event boasts a real DJ, colourful disco lighting and even the option to customize the music through student requests.](http://www.dance-a-</p>
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Our School Advisory Council has chosen to host this Dance-a-thon for a number of reasons: Firstly, it is inclusive and allows everybody to participate. Secondly, it gets our kids moving. Finally, it will support the purchase of new technology for our classrooms. Our goal is to raise at least \$6000 for the purchase of another interactive smartboard, digital cameras and video cameras for student projects and programming. The class that raises the most funds for this event wins a fabulous class prize!

Our kick-off rally will take place on Wed. March 24th. Please watch for pledge envelopes to come home on that day. Thanks for your support.

John English Wins Gold!

The Canadian National Anthem could be heard far and wide coming from the backyard of John English on Wednesday February 24th. What a wonderful sound! The singing of the anthem was the culmination of an afternoon of Olympic activities, organized by the John English In-School Olympic Committee (IOC) and Mr. Rainey's Grade 12 Leadership class from Lakeshore Collegiate.

Special thanks must go out to the committee for their extensive planning, that began back in June 2009, as well as the creativity and energy the group dedicated to this project. The IOC included the following teachers: Ms. Hayward, Ms. Bryer, Mr. Hyatt, Mme. Kamnik, Mr. Poyser, Mme. Salama, Mme. Lauziere, Mrs. Keenlside, Ms. McInnes and Mme. Smith.

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The goal was “to develop a sense of global citizenship in our students, to teach them to respect differences of opinion, overcome stereotypes, think critically and empathize with others: skills that will allow them to become well-rounded individuals. In addition, learning about other cultures provides an excellent opportunity to reflect on Canadian identity and examine Canada’s place in the world.”

It is when the staff at our school step outside of the box in teaching styles that such lofty goals are achieved, and for that we give the staff at John English a Gold Medal – Congratulations!

Health and Safety Update

On Wednesday Feb. 17th the School Advisory Council (SAC) had guest speakers from the Toronto Police 22 Division – Community Police Liaison Committee (CPLC). This was in response to several high profile incidents that have taken place in the John English community. There was good discussion about a variety of topics. Bart Evans is the Sergeant assigned to the CPLC. To summarize:

- there are four officers from the Community Street Program dedicated to the Mimico area
- most prevalent crime issue in Mimico at present is break and enters
- street “gangs” were not identified as an issue in the Mimico area
- police are aware of prostitute issue but noted enforcement is difficult, timely and expensive
- for ongoing issues of concern (e.g. drinking in park, destruction etc.) call **(416) 808-2222** or send an email: 22Division@torontopolice.on.ca to 22 Division. Crime Stoppers is also an option **(416) 222- 8477**
- do not use 911 for these non emergency issues

To receive regular Community Bulletins via email from Toronto Police you can register at crimeprevention22div@sympati.co.ca or contact Cons. Allan Benson at 22 Division (416) 808-2208. There is also a new service called TPSlinks Community Automated Notification System. This is a system for individuals that do not have a computer and want updates by voicemail or text. Cons. Benson can provide further information on this and registration forms can be obtained from 22 Division.

HealthyBites™

We’ve been having a great year so far and have been watching everyone’s repertoires of foods grow and change. This is wonderful, and a very positive aspect of the nutrition program. Often a child will need to see a new food as many as 10 to 20 times before they’ll even try it, and then it may take many more tries before their taste buds warm up to the food. Often children are positively influenced by their peers in this manner as well, and may be more likely to try something a friend is eating. Unfortunately, this can also work the other way too if a friend is refusing a particular food!

Over the last couple of months we have served perogies, soups, baked pastas, quiches, vegetable curry, breaded fish with baked French fries, vegetable and/or chicken stir fry, vegetarian chili, whole wheat pita pizzas, sandwiches, wraps and burritos. All of our meals are served with a salad, a choice of 4-5 raw vegetables and a choice of fruits.

Finally, Healthy Bites regrets that we cannot provide your child(ren) with lunches for class trips.

Unfortunately, timing and packaging are issues that we can’t overcome. Please send your child(ren) to school with a lunch on these days. Thank-you!

Save the Date for Our Spring Fundraiser – Friday June 11, 7 pm!

“**John English Rocks**” A Family Friendly Rock Concert featuring the hottest bi-lingual Rock Band “**See Spot Run**”! - Friday, June 11th 7-9pm! Visit our website at 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 other parents at John English in an informal setting. Everyone is welcome. The next Coffee n Chat is on Friday, April 9th, 2010. Drop in between 8:15 am and 10:00 am in the Teacher’s Lounge near the Cafeteria.

Hockey

Congratulations to the Junior Hockey Team for winning the West Conference Championship. The team played hard and had fun in a very tough Division 1 grouping. Their next challenge comes in the City Finals on March 11th, to determine the City Championship. Great job and good luck team!

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