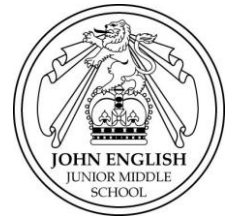




Les nouvelles John English News



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

November 2009 novembre

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.

Holiday Concert

Mark this date on your calendars – **Wednesday, December 9th at 7:00 p.m.** Bring your family for an evening of music and song! Admission will be a donation of non-perishable food items for our Holiday Food Drive.

Thank You

We would like to extend our thanks to a John English family who wish to remain anonymous. This family has generously donated money to purchase musical instruments, specifically two violins, an alto saxophone and a flute for our Instrumental

Music programme. We appreciate their generosity and commitment to the success of our students.

Exchange Trip to France 2010 / 2011

If your child is in grade six or seven this year and would like the opportunity to participate in an exchange to France in 2010 / 2011, there will be an information meeting on Wednesday January 14, 2010, in the Library at 7 p.m.

Keeping John English Safe!

As you are aware, we keep our exit doors locked throughout the day. Only the main front door and the Community School front door will be open during the day. This is being done as a security measure to prevent unwelcome visitors entering the school while classes are in session.

At student entry times, staff will ensure that Exit H is open during recess times and at lunch for student washroom use. They will also allow students in to open the other exits at the entry bell times. Please note:

- Should a student come late to school, he/she may come around to the front door and

go directly to the attendance office to get a late slip.

- Parents dropping off students for the breakfast program when there is no parent on the safety patrol, will need to drive around to let their child off to come in via the front door.
- Parents dropping off their children by Central Avenue need to instruct their children that if they are late and cannot get in by Exit H, they should come around to the front of the school.
- On inclement weather days, Grade 6 to 8 students returning from lunch may use the Mimico Exit to go into the auditorium; Grades 1-5 students may use Exit H to go into the Cafeteria.

2009/10 Report Card Timelines

Term 1

Report cards will be sent home on December 1st. Parents and students are asked to fill out Page 3 with their comments and bring it to the Parent/Teacher conference. After the conference, it will be included in the student's OSR. Conferences regarding this first report will take place on the evening of Thursday, December

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

3rd and the morning of Friday, December 4th. All parents are given an opportunity to meet with teachers. Note December 4th is a P.A. Day. No classes for students.

Term 2

Report cards will be sent home on March 2nd, 2010. Conferences will take place under the following conditions:

- ✓ parental request for a conference;
- ✓ students at risk for promotion to the next grade;
- ✓ students whose placement in an alternative (e.g., French Immersion or special education) program is being considered;
- ✓ students whose achievement has improved significantly.

Conferences regarding this report will take place on the evening of Thursday, March 4th and on the morning of Friday, March 5th. Note: March 5th is a P.A. Day. No classes for students.

Term 3

Report cards will be sent home on June 28th, 2010.

Successful Parent-Teacher Interviews

As parent teacher interviews are upon us, we encourage you to take this opportunity to find out about your child's progress. Below are some questions and tips that you may find useful for the interview. Interpreters are available. Please contact your child's teacher or indicate your requirements on the parent-teacher interview form.

Great Questions to Ask

- What skills does my child need to work on?
- What activities can we do at home to strengthen those skills?

- Does my child complete his/her work and assignments efficiently and conscientiously?
- Is my child facing any struggles in class not related to her/his schoolwork?

Interview Tips

- Talk to your child about school before the interview. Ask how they think they are doing and how the teacher can help them meet their goals.

- Get an idea of what the curriculum is like, the level your child is working at, and areas where they are struggling.

- Make a list of what you want to know before you go into the interview. You can even prepare questions ahead of time if it will make you feel more at ease. Knowing what you want to know and writing it down ensures that you don't forget anything, and that you get the information you need.

- Be open and honest. Feel free to add your own observations around your child's behaviour, strengths and weaknesses.

- Find out what they're learning. Ask curriculum questions; find out what your child has learned and what is coming up in the term ahead. Know the skills your child will need to be successful in the term ahead (i.e. knowing how to multiply and divide fractions).

- Ask about strengths and weaknesses and possible problems. Find out about problems before they happen. This information will allow students to get help before they fall behind.

- Find out how often and how much homework is being assigned as it relates to the new Homework Policy 2008. Also ask

if your child is completing his/her homework regularly, how long the work assigned should take to complete and does the teacher check the homework regularly and provide feedback. The answers to these questions will help you better monitor your child's work habits.

- Ask what you can do at home to help your child. Make a commitment to support your child's learning.

TDSB Parent Concern Protocol

The Toronto District School Board has established a procedure for principals and superintendents of education to follow in addressing individual parents' concerns. This procedure is called the Parent Concern Protocol. It is based on the best practices currently used in TDSB schools for addressing parents' concerns and provides a range of feasible options for principals and superintendents of education when parents bring individual concerns to them.

At our school parent concerns have always received a high priority and this procedure will support that priority. If the concern relates to the student or the classroom, we encourage parents to discuss the concern **first with the teacher** as they are the ones who deal directly with students and can help work out minor problems. The principal or vice principal are also available to assist parents with any concerns as well. Please feel free to make an appointment. The Parent Concern Protocol is presently posted on the TDSB website (www.tdsb.on.ca)

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

Making the Best of Winter Weather at our School

Principals are often asked how we decide whether it's too cold to allow our students out in the schoolyard for recess.

Fresh air and exercise are important for children. It keeps them physically fit, and helps them stay alert all through the school day. Parents can help by making sure their children come to school prepared to spend time outdoors. Hats, mitts, boots and a warm jacket are important to keep students comfortable during lunch and recess.

But extreme cold can be dangerous, and parents want to know that their children will be safe. When the temperature is predicted to drop below -15C, the City of Toronto may declare a cold weather alert. Schools are very sensitive to the needs of our students and pay close attention to the weather, especially when the windchill is below -20 C.

The TDSB Severe Weather Protocol is flexible, so that every principal can make a decision that meets the needs of his or her school. It sets guidelines for when to allow students outside for recess, when to make outdoor breaks shorter, and when to keep students inside altogether.

Canadian winters can be wonderful but when the weather is cold, school staff keep one eye on the thermometer and the other on the needs of our students - a perfect balance of fun and safety.

Find out more at www.tdsb.on.ca/communications/severeweather.htm

Grade 8 Parent Secondary Information Evenings

High school is a big step in a student's school life. For many elementary school students and their parents, it can seem like a big and scary place. TDSB staff can help ease any anxieties and show all of the exciting possibilities the transition has to offer. In high school, students have the opportunity to explore a variety of different programs and courses, participate in a wide-range of extracurricular activities, develop life-long friendships, and prepare for post-secondary life.

From November through to January, TDSB secondary schools across the city are hosting parent information evenings to help grade 8 students and parents make informed decisions about high school. Discover a wealth of information about our secondary schools, including programs, special characteristics, and diploma requirements. To find out when your neighbourhood school is offering an information night, visit www.tdsb.on.ca where you can also view a short movie about some of the great program opportunities available in TDSB secondary schools.

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/parents/infonight>

Engaging Boys in Learning: You're Invited

Join us for an exciting Town Hall presentation by Dr. Leonard Sax, the founder and executive director of the National Association for Single Sex Public Education and author of *Boys Adrift*.

A leading proponent of single-sex education, Dr. Sax will offer a provocative analysis of how

gender influences every aspect of our lives and provides practical suggestions to help break down gender stereotypes to help students reach their full potential.

All are welcome to this free event. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Presentation 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Childcare Available

Tuesday, November 24, 2009
Forest Hill Collegiate Institute
730 Eglinton Avenue West
Toronto, M5N1B9
(Eglinton East of Bathurst)

Thursday, November 26, 2009
David & Mary Thompson
Collegiate Institute
2740 Lawrence Avenue East
Scarborough, M1P2S7
(Lawrence East of Midland)

TDSB's Web Site Has a New Look

The Toronto District School Board (TDSB) has launched an exciting and dynamic new web site for the 2009-10 school year.

Visually, the design has a fresh and bold new look. Structurally, we've fully revised the site, refreshing the content and creating a more intuitive navigation system to help you find the information you want, faster. For those with screen readers, it's also more accessible for our users.

Two places to visit often are the Hot Topics and Success Stories tabs on the home page, next to Top Story. In Hot Topics, you'll find information and news about current issues that impact the TDSB, such as Better Schools. Brighter Futures. and contract negotiations. In Success Stories, you'll read about great things our students and staff are doing and remarkable programs that are

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

making a difference.

You'll also notice on the home page that you're asked to identify yourself as a student, parent, community member, media or staff. This new role-based approach allows for more targeted information that is specific to your needs. You can also explore the entire site though, so have a look around!

"Communication is vital to our success and I am personally committed to improving the way we connect with you, our community, and this refreshed website is an important step to do that," says Chris Spence, Director of Education. "I am excited to help launch this new site and encourage you to visit regularly to get the most up-to-date information about our programs, students and organization."

We'd love to hear what you think of our new site, so please send us your feedback so we can continue to make our site work for you.

Visit it at www.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, January 21, 2010 at 7:00 pm in the library. Childcare is available. If needed please contact sacinfo@johnenglish.ca.

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

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.

Chapters Bookstore Shopping Night

Thursday, November 26th has been designated as John English's Chapters Shopping Night at the Queensway/Sherway Gardens location. On that night, 10% of sales from our school community will be donated to the school. Be sure to tell the cashier that you are from John English JMS.

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, December 4th, 2009. Drop in between 8:15 am and 10:00 am in the teachers lounge near the cafeteria.

Double Point Offer for Campbell's For Education!!!

We are looking for as many Caps/UPC as possible before November 27th – Every product item gets our school closer to a new musical instrument!

The following products will receive 2 points if received by November 27th:

- The UPC For V8 Soup
- The CAPS for V8 Vfusion Beverages

- The UPC for Campbell's Creations Soup!

So, please save your labels and drop them off in an envelope/bag marked November 27th in the Campbell Soup Bin at the Office no later than November 27th. Please be sure to put the correct item representing the product in the bin as we want every point to count!!!!

QSP Fundraiser

Because of your support, Our QSP Magazine Fundraiser was a success! Thank you to all parents, students and teachers that participated!

You helped us raise about \$18,700, that's approximately \$6,592 in profit – Awesome! This is our largest fundraiser of the year, and the proceeds go to support student field trips, in-class programs like Scientists in the School, and our annual winter skating program at Mimico Arena. Many magazines will begin arriving over the next 2 months, but some subscriptions may take up to 16 weeks to start. If you have any questions, please contact QSP directly at 1-800-667-2536. They offer a 100% satisfaction guarantee.

Now you can support our children all year long by ordering on line! You may have ordered many subscriptions to support our campaign, but you might wish to renew other magazines, or order gift subscriptions later in the year. Now you can take advantage of QSP's great prices all year long – with the profit benefiting our children with each order! John English School's QSP Group Number is: 9311. Just go to: WWW.QSP.CA Thanks again for your ongoing support for John English!