



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

September 2009 septembre

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!

Welcome! Bienvenue!

As we begin another school year at John English JMS we would like to welcome students to a new and exciting school year full of challenges and learning. We would especially like to welcome our Junior Kindergarten students who are attending school for the first time, students and families from David Hornell, George R. Gault and Sir Adam Beck and to all families who have chosen the John English school community as home.

At John English JMS, we value the diversity and traditions of our school and look forward to the

contributions of our new students and their parents as well as those of returning families. We recognize that achieving success can only be accomplished when parents actively participate in their child's learning. Your input, support and involvement in setting and maintaining high academic and behavioural standards and goals are valued and welcomed.

At John English JMS your child will receive excellent instruction from professional teachers delivering the Ontario Curriculum. The John English staff has worked hard over the summer preparing curriculum and getting their rooms ready so that John English students will have every opportunity to do their personal best.

On Thursday September 24th, John English will be holding our Meet the Teacher/Curriculum Evening. We, and the staff, are looking forward to meeting you at that time. If you have specific concerns about your child, please do not hesitate to arrange an appointment to discuss these concerns with your child's teacher.

We look forward to working with you in the coming year.

Welcome to new staff.

I am pleased to welcome new staff members to our school:

- Ms. Gitto, who is teaching our Grade 3 FI
- Ms. Groh who is teaching our Grade 3 /4
- Ms. Sarkissian who is teaching Grade 7/8 FI

We also wish to welcome Long Term Occasional Teachers, Mr. Beck, Ms. Petrowski and Ms. Kalogris who are replacing teachers on maternity or medical leaves.

We wish all new and returning staff every success in their new assignments!

'Meet the Teacher' and Curriculum Evening Thursday, September 24 5:30-7:30 PM

Our first community meeting will be held on Thursday, September 24th from 5:30 PM until 7:30 PM at our "Meet the Teacher and Curriculum Evening". This event will give you the opportunity to meet our administrative team as well as your child's teacher in an informal setting. We will start off the evening with a hot dog BBQ at 5:30 PM. Afterwards, the

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teachers will meet with you in their classrooms to present important aspects of your child's curriculum. We have set up different meeting times to accommodate parents with children in different grades. The teachers will discuss general classroom expectations and routines to help you support your child's education. We will send home a reminder letter a few days ahead of time.

"Kiss n' Ride" Student Pick up/Drop Off and Parent Parking Procedures

It is critical that all parents observe the **NO PARKING** bus-loading zone on George Street in front of the school. Also, please note that a **No Stopping Zone** is now in place on Central Street off Hillside Avenue and on Mimico Avenue. Parents dropping off students in Grades 1-8 are requested to use the "Kiss n' Ride" Area in the parking lot. Volunteers will escort children safely from the parking lot to the playground. Parents of Kindergarten students are requested to park in a designated legal parking area near the school and escort children to the kindergarten doors. Please note that there is no parking on George Street or Mimico Avenue close to the school. Students walking to and from school are NOT to walk through the parking lot. Please discuss drop-off and pick-up routines with your children. We appreciate your assistance in ensuring the safety of our children.

Breakfast Program Begins at 7:30 AM!

'Equally Healthy Kids' is a project of Lakeshore Area Multi-Service Project L.A.M.P. The Breakfast

Program which runs from 7:30 to 8:35 AM is open to all children who attend John English. Children socialize and participate in morning activities, while having a healthy breakfast. 'Equally Healthy Kids' needs all kinds of parental involvement including donations of money or food, as well as volunteering your time. Everyone is welcome!

For Our Office Records...And Your Child's Safety!

It is very important for the safety of our students that we have up-to-date records. **Our Safe Arrival Program** and emergency procedures only work if our student database is accurate and up to date.

We will shortly send out the following forms for you to sign:

- ✓ a medical information form
 - ✓ permission form for Physical Education and Intramural participation
 - ✓ information about our **Safe Arrival Program**
 - ✓ permission form for local walking tour excursions and explanation of parental responsibilities re school excursions
 - ✓ permission form for student **Internet** usage
 - ✓ information about our textbook policy
 - ✓ confirm the lunch arrangements for your child(ren)
 - ✓ Severe Winter Weather Form (for Grades 6-8 only)
 - ✓ **Student Trillium Information**
- Please return your child's updated and signed forms to your child's teacher. Thank you!

John English Strives to Be Peanut-Free

We have a number of children who are severely allergic to peanuts and other allergens. We continue to try to create a peanut-free environment for our students and staff. As a first step, we are requesting that children not bring food items to school containing peanut products.

John English JMS Safe Arrival Program Call: 416-394-4710

Our **Safe Arrival Program**, together with our attendance procedures, is set up so that parents/guardians and schools can account for any pupil's unexplained failure to arrive at school. We encourage our students to take their responsibilities of regular attendance and punctuality seriously. Students are to be in class on time on a regular basis.

- Parents/Guardians are expected to notify the school when their child is absent or late.
- For your convenience, a telephone answering machine will take your call **before or after** regular school hours. Please use this number:

416-394-4710

- until 9:15 AM or after 4:30 PM to inform us.
- As soon as a child is identified as "unaccounted for" our attendance check person will attempt to contact the parent/guardian of each child. Three attempts will be made to the parent/guardian at home and work telephone numbers, and if the parent/guardian cannot be reached, the childcare provider or relative will be contacted.

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

- Should you have prior knowledge of an approaching absence (appointments, etc.) please inform your child's teacher by a note a day or two before the absence. Your co-operation in notifying the school in these ways will make it easier for us to verify that your child is indeed absent and not lost or truant from school.

Student Agendas

All students from Grades 1 to 8 will be using agendas this year. We want to ensure that the best possible use of the agenda is made. The agenda MUST be with the student in each class so that notes, test dates and deadlines for each subject can be added. Please encourage your daughter or son to use the agenda to include not only school-related information, but also social activities, appointments and other commitments. We also want the agenda to be used as a means of communicating with you. We ask you therefore to sign the agenda at least once a week and encourage you to write notes to the teacher in it.

Agendas will also be used to monitor student entry and their presence in the hallways. If a student is late, the time of their arrival will be noted in their agenda and this will act as a late slip. Teachers will indicate in the agenda if the student is to come in early i.e. prior to 8:45 AM or 12:29 PM. Also, Grade 4-8 students will be expected to carry their agendas if they leave the classroom between periods, as the agenda acts as their 'hall pass'. In this way, we can better monitor safety in the hallways and ensure that students are not out of the classroom unnecessarily.

There is no cost for an agenda but if it is lost or damaged the replacement cost is \$6.00.

School Photos

School photos are taken each year in the fall. This year, picture days will be on Wednesday September 30th (J.K. To Grade 5) and Friday October 2nd (Grades 6 to 8). An individual photo package of different sized pictures will be offered at a reasonable price. A notice will come home reminding you of photo day.

T.T.C. Student Photo ID Cards

The Toronto Transit Commission sends a team to issue identification cards. This year the date is October 8th. If your child is turning thirteen during the school year, you are well advised to purchase the TTC Student ID Card at this time. The card contains the student's photo and signature and is issued at the time of purchase. More info to come.

Students Using Cell Phones and the Office Telephone

Students are not allowed to use cell phones during the school day; the office phone may be used but only in an emergency.

Special Thanks!

A great deal of hard work has gone into preparing John English for our learners and staff. Thank you to Eugene Mucha and our custodial staff for doing a magnificent job! The school sparkles! Our challenge will be to keep it that way for as long as possible.

The office has also been very

busy with many new registrations. All of the forms, papers and lists have been typed, sorted, filed and organized for the beginning of a new year. Many thanks to Elaine Chowns, Karen Bianchini and Rebecca Demsyn for their tremendous work!

I know that students and parents alike appreciate the care that teachers have taken in preparing their classrooms to welcome their students. Teachers have ensured that programs and materials are all ready for another great year of learning together at John English!

TDSB is Prepared for H1N1 for Start of School Year

Over the summer the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) has continued to monitor the H1N1 situation to prepare for the start of the new school year.

Information on the TDSB's H1N1 preparedness is available on the Board's website which also includes an updated Pandemic Response Plan. This plan outlines measures the TDSB will take to ensure ongoing communication and reassure parents and community members of our ability to respond should there be a new wave of an H1N1 outbreak.

In June 2009, a new cleaning protocol was added to the daily cleaning duties of TDSB caretakers which ensures they wipe down and disinfect major points of hand contact such as door knobs, handrails, taps and drinking fountains. This proactive measure was adopted to try and slow down the spread of the virus and will continue to be done in all schools in the fall.

Parents and/or guardians are encouraged to follow the directions of Toronto Public

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Health and to remind their children to be vigilant in their personal hygiene practices. If anyone (child or parent) shows any signs of flu-like symptoms, they should stay home and follow up with a medical practitioner as one normally would for professional advice.

The TDSB is committed to protecting the health and well being of all our students and staff and will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates on new developments to students and parents when necessary.

If parents have any questions or concerns they should contact their school principal directly or visit the Board website at www.tdsb.on.ca for additional information.

From School Advisory Council

Student Advisory Council

The SAC is a group of John English Parents that meets 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, October 15th, 2009 at 7:00 pm in the library. Childcare is available. If needed please contact jan@johnenglish.ca. As well, if you would like to join the John English parent email network, please drop us a line at SACinfo@johnenglish.ca. Minutes from the SAC meetings can be found on the website www.johnenglish.ca.

Healthy Bites

Welcome back students and parents! The Healthy Bites Nutrition Program is back and running for three lunches per week in the cafeteria. If you already signed up for the program back in June we're glad you did.....and we bet your children are too! So far they've enjoyed whole wheat pizza roll-ups, perogies, pita pockets stuffed with chicken-salad or guacamole and veggies, assorted fruits and vegetables and salads.

If you're new to the school or just a little late getting organized, we still have some space left in the program. But don't delay.....we're filling fast! Just pick-up a registration form at the office or in the cafeteria during a Healthy Bites lunch.

Are you interested in getting involved in this great program? We're always glad to see new faces in the kitchen. It's a great opportunity to brush up on your culinary skills, meet and network with other parents in the school, and say hello to your kids at lunchtime! Just indicate on your child's registration form that you'd like to help out or e-mail: healthybites@johnenglish.ca

Save your Soup Labels

Please continue to save your labels from Campbells soup, Pace Salsa, Prego Sauces, Goldfish snacks and V8 Drinks. Place the labels in the Campbells Labels for Education Bin at the Office. Labels dropped off in bundles of 20 would be wonderful. These labels will help us purchase more school instruments. Thanks for your support!!

QSP

Once again we will be asking you to renew your magazine subscriptions through the QSP fundraising event at John English. This is a great opportunity to promote reading to your children, to do some holiday gift shopping and to support our school with funds that help provide such things as field trips and added programs for our students. There will be great daily and weekly prizes to be won. Please wait to renew your subscriptions until we launch this program. Campaign runs from September 23 - October 13. Thanks for your support!

Class Rep Program

Parents who want to connect with their child's class are strongly encouraged to sign up for the class rep program. Each teacher will have a representative to help promote communication amongst class parents. This is a great way to stay informed and to stay connected. Please sign up in your child's classroom on Meet the Teacher Night. Consider becoming a rep for your child's class. To do so, speak to their teacher directly or contact the class rep network at info@johnenglish.ca.

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, October 2, 2009. Drop in between 8:15 am and 10:00 am in the teachers lounge near the cafeteria.

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