



Island Lake Public School



September 2015

<http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/islandlake/>

50 Oak Ridge Drive, Orangeville ON, L9W 5J6 519 941-3292

Fairness, Honesty, Respect, Compassion and Responsibility.

Principal & Vice-Principal's Message ***Welcome Back and Happy New (School) Year!***

Dear Students, Parents and Guardians,

We hope that you have had a wonderful summer and are looking forward to a brand new year at the Island! A special welcome to families of our new students. We look forward to working with you and trust that you will enjoy Island Lake Public School. Drop by the office and introduce yourselves. Let us know if you have any questions or concerns. We want to ensure that your transition to a new school is a smooth one. I am thrilled to be at ILPS as your new Principal. Mrs. Dampier and I are excited to meet you all. Please drop in and say hello!

We would like to take a moment to thank our parents and guardians for enthusiastically supporting school programs and initiatives and for working so hard with your children at home, reinforcing foundational skills that will allow them to succeed academically and socially.

Classroom reorganization, prompted by Ministry-mandated caps on primary class sizes and more than expected late-August registrations, is a possibility. Student placements in all classes are tentative during the first two weeks of school. To meet Ministry guidelines pertaining to fixed class sizes, all schools in the Board will be reviewed by a central committee and decisions regarding specific class sizes will be made. Rest assured that we will let families know of any changes as soon as they become known to us. *Please see the note on page 5 for more info.

We would like to thank Candace Allen and our hard-working custodial team who cleaned ILPS from top to bottom. We thank them for their efforts in making our school shine both during the summer and every day during the year.

Our Teachers, Early Childhood Educators and Educational Assistants have put a lot of effort into organizing classrooms and planning programs for the upcoming year. We are all eager to start off the 2015-16 school year here at Island Lake.

As parents and guardians, you are our partners in ensuring the success of your children. Please feel free to email, call or set up a meeting if you have questions, compliments or concerns.

Sincerely,

Mr. Sean Singh (x223)
Principal

Mrs. Janice Dampier (x 224)
Vice-Principal

Welcoming Students on the first day of school...

- All students will be asked to report to the PHYSICAL classroom they were in last year. Beginning with Grade 8, our Resource and Planning teachers will collect their new students from those classrooms and take them to their new rooms.
- New students, who **have not registered**, should come to the office with their Parent/Guardian.
- New students who have registered, but have not been assigned a classroom, will report to the library and they will be escorted to their classroom. Parents are welcome to stay with their child in the library.



Important Dates:

A school calendar will be distributed in the first week of school after we have confirmed some classroom events. Below are some important dates to remember in the meantime:

Sept 8—First day of school grades SK to 8

Sept 10– 16 Staggered Entry for JK's

Sept 22—School Council Elections and meeting



More dates to follow on the September School Calendar sent out next week.



Health & Safety

In our school, we have multiple students who experience severe allergic reactions to nuts, peanuts, latex or other products. If these children/adults are exposed to even a small amount of a nut product or through hand contact on desks etc., they may have a severe reaction which could be life-threatening. As a result, we need to take necessary precautions to avoid such risk as well as provide yearly training for staff on how to deal with such an emergency and administer EPI-pens.

We ask for community cooperation in providing an environment at ILPS that is **free of nut and peanut products**. Please discuss the reason with your child(ren) and avoid sending any items containing nuts/peanuts to school.

If your child has a life-threatening allergy or condition, his/her **Life-threatening Management Plan** needs to be updated yearly so that we have the most current information. Please ensure that you inform the office of any changes or if you are new to the school, ensure forms are returned promptly.

Medical forms are required to be filled out *every* year by those students who are on prescription medications. It is the policy of the UGDSB that a form be completed for students requiring medication at school. Also ensure that the medication is labeled, in the original container and is accompanied by clear instructions for administering.

Milk & Food Days

We will be offering a variety of Food Days and the Milk program again this year at Island Lake. Forms and information will be sent home soon so be sure to check backpacks on a regular basis. Milk Tokens are sold for \$1.00/carton on a daily basis.



Students leaving for lunch

Students must remain on site during the school day unless a parent or guardian comes to pick them up or if they have written permission in advance to leave the grounds. Students will not be permitted to use the phone to get permission to leave the school grounds at lunch. We do caution parents against granting permission for their children to leave the school during the noon hour to go to unsupervised situations (the mall, other homes, etc.). Please ask your child to finish their lunch prior to returning to school if they have gone out to a store or restaurant. Hopefully this will minimize garbage in the school yard. Those going home for lunch will need to bring a signed note, whether for one day or the whole year.



Volunteers & Paid Positions

Volunteers are always a valuable resource in the school. We appreciate the many, many hours that parents and volunteers provide in order to work with students and assist with the many events that occur at the school. We also ask that all volunteers report to the office to sign in upon arrival, pick up a volunteer badge and to sign out when leaving the building. We are also always on the lookout for Back-Up Lunch Supervisors as well as Emergency Occasional Teachers and Educational Assistants. Please check in the office if you are interested in these paid positions.

Currently, we have a few openings for lunch supervisors. If you would like to supervise students during eating time and outside on the playground, please contact Mrs. Dampier in the office at 519 941 3292, extension 224. We need people who are available on short notice to cover for absences. As well, we are looking for one or two supervisors to join the regular schedule for both breaks on Fridays and Day 3, and Wednesdays, first break only.

Be On Time!!

It is always a bit of an adjustment to move from relaxed summer schedules to responding to bells.

One of our school goals every year is to reduce the number of students arriving late in the morning. Being on time minimizes interruptions to instructional time and helps everyone have a positive start to the day.

We ask for family support with this continuing goal for the 2015/2016 school year and that you establish routines that allow for your children to arrive on time for the 8:45 entry bell. Staff are on duty at 8:30am.

If there are concerns in this area, we will be contacting you to discuss them early in the school year.



Student Accident Insurance

As a parent or guardian, you are responsible for expenses related to student injuries on school premises or during school activities. Accidents can and do happen, and the costs involved may not be fully covered by Provincial health care or employer group insurance plans.

The Upper Grand District School Board is empowered under the Education Act to offer Accident and Life Insurance for students. A brochure will be sent home the second week of school.

Information on plans offered by the Board through Old Republic Insurance Company will be available. A variety of options, including family rates, are available at affordable prices. The cost must be paid by the parent or guardian.

For today's active children who participate in field trips, co-curricular and other school activities outside the school day, Student Accident Insurance is valuable. You can subscribe by mail or apply online. Questions should be directed to Old Republic Insurance Company at 1-800-463-KIDS (5347) or www.insuremykids.com.

Electronic Distribution of Newsletters

Parents will receive School Council newsletters, monthly newsletters and other school-related information electronically. This method of communication is designed to reduce our impact on the environment and to reduce photocopying costs.

Please ensure we have your up-to-date email contacts.



School Security

We would like to remind parents that all visitors to the school during the day need to enter the building through the front door in order to **check in at the office**. Children entering and leaving the school property during the school day must do so via the office. If you are picking your child up or returning your child to school during the day, we ask that you sign out and in. We thank you for your cooperation as we continue to ensure that all children are safe at ILPS.

Bikes, Skateboards, Rollerblades, Scooters and Wheel Shoes

Skateboards, scooters and rollerblades can be used as transportation to and from school. For safety, we ask that students carry them when they are on school property. Students should walk their bicycles when on school property. We ask that students do not wear wheel shoes at school unless the wheels have been removed. We thank you for helping to keep the playground and school building safe for our students.

Homework

Students will likely be assigned homework over the course of the year. Homework should focus on reviewing concepts taught in class and will not be part of a final grade on the report card.

School Agendas

Some classes have ordered agendas for student use. The cost of the agendas is \$5.00. This can be paid online, if you are sending in cash, **please send the**



exact amount of money in an envelope clearly labelled with your child's name and class. Please remember to check the agenda daily for homework and important reminders.



Backpack Check:

Please look out for these items coming home the second week of school.

- **Freedom of Information Letter**-for your information. Please complete and return.
- **Student Accident Insurance** (send directly to insurer).
- **Classroom newsletters**
- **School year calendar**—is available in the school agendas and on the UGDSB website— www.ugdsb.on.ca
- **Student Admission/Information Form** - coming soon, please check for accuracy, update, sign & return.

Staffing Message from the Elementary Superintendents of Education

Island Lake has built class lists based on the tentative organizations that were provided to the school by the Upper Grand District Staffing Committee. Changes may be necessary at ILPS in order that the school remain compliant with the Ministry parameters (see below). Any changes would be implemented by Monday, September 21st at the latest. Principals do not have the option of changing the school organization that is set by the District Staffing Committee of the Board. If changes affect your child(ren), you will be informed by the school sometime this week.

Ministry Parameters:

- 90% of the Board's primary classes with 20 or fewer students
- 10% of the Board's primary classes up to a maximum of 23 students
- Grade 3/4 classes have a cap of 23 students
- Junior/Intermediate class size average is 25.2:1

Thank you in advance for your patience as we work through the staffing, and possible reorganization for September, 2015. Information will be coming home this week to the classes affected.

Labeling Clothes/Belongings

Please use a permanent marker to identify your child's clothing/belongings. This will help keep the number of items in the "lost and found" bin to a minimum. And, it will make it easier for your child to get ready to go outside during breaks and to go home at the end of the day.

Physical Education Classes

Students enjoy our wonderful gymnasium, excellent sports equipment, and large outdoor playing field.

To ensure safety and to keep our gymnasium floor free from outdoor debris, we ask that students wear proper footwear (running shoes with adequate foot support) and clothing (shorts or track pants and T-shirts) during gym classes. Boots, Crocs, sandals and slip-on shoes are not safe to wear during gym class. Thank you for attending to this request.

School Council Corner

The first meeting of our School Council will be on Tuesday, September 22th, at 7pm in the library. Elections for the Council's executive will occur at this meeting. Childcare and snacks are always provided.

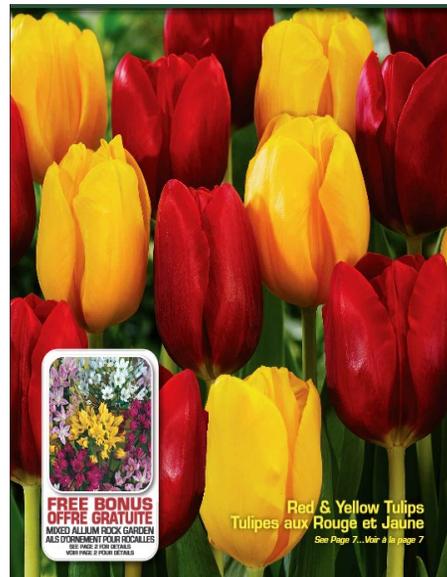


Fall is for Planting!!!

Back by popular demand, Island Lake P.S is selling Vesey's Bulbs! We hope you enjoy the wonderful variety of Tulip, Daffodil, Iris and other 'Spring bloomers' available from Vesey's Bulbs.

Please share with friends and family!

Order forms are due back to school by Sept 28th* Bulbs will arrive Mid-October... just in time for Fall planting!



Additional Brochures and Order Forms are available on the Island Lake Website under School Council.

All Proceeds toward ILPS Outdoor Learning Space.

*Please make checks payable to: Island Lake Public School.

Thank you!

From the Island Lake Public School Council

Student Absences and Pick Ups

Please call the office (519-941-3292) before 8:45am if your child is going to be absent from school. Voice mail is available 24 hours a day. When calling, let us know:

- The name of your child;
- Your child's class and teacher; and,
- The reason for the absence.

If students are being picked up during the day, parents will need to come to the office to sign out their child.

If you are picking up your child at the end of the day, and your child would normally take the school bus home, please inform the office before 2:15.

Parents of kindergarten students who ride busses, please make sure to inform the office (not just the teacher) of pick ups as we need to account for all students.

Playground Safety

Rest assured that our playgrounds are fully supervised. Nonetheless, accidents do happen. To minimize risk, discuss the following precautions with your child:

- Tie back long hair;
- Zip up jackets;
- Remove drawstrings on hoods and jackets;
- Wear a neckwarmer, rather than a scarf, in cold weather;
- Do not tie skipping ropes to slides and climbers;
- Do not throw stones or other objects on the playground;
- Do not play tag on or around climbing equipment;
- Respect the rights of others by taking turns on the equipment;
- Wear running shoes.

Appropriate Clothing

Weather can be unpredictable in September. Unless there is heavy rain, extreme cold or an electrical storm, students go outside for recess. All children should come to school with a sweater or jacket in their backpacks in case the weather becomes unseasonably cold.

Two sets of footwear are also required—one for indoor use and the other to wear outside. Running shoes are the safest choice for footwear. For safety reasons, flip flops and shoes without backs are strongly discouraged.



Checklist and Reminders:

Please:

- ◇ Send only nut free items with your children and encourage them not to share their food and drinks with other students.
- ◇ Update the student admission and information form and return it to the school as soon as possible (form will be coming home very soon).
- ◇ Mail student accident insurance package directly to Old Republic Insurance Company.
- ◇ Review bus and playground safety rules with your child.
- ◇ Return signed, Freedom of Information sheets.
- ◇ Inform the office immediately if your child has a life-threatening allergy.