



THE GIBSON GAZETTE

DECEMBER 2018

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Administrator Message

"In order for students to achieve excellence in an area like mathematics, there must be a balance between understanding basic math concepts, practicing skills and developing the thinking skills needed for advanced problem solving. These fundamental skills remain a focus—and combined with creativity and critical thinking, innovative problem solving, effective communication and collaboration, they lead to excellence."

(Achieving Excellence: A Renewed Vision for Education in Ontario, 2014).

As we continue to support our School Improvement Plan for Student Achievement, parents are invited to visit the Math Page of the YRDSB website. It includes learning overviews by grade, resources for families and information on the **Comprehensive Math Program**. The math page is a good way to encourage families to engage in math together and to be more connected to the math learning happening at school. Check out page 5 in this month's newsletter for family math fun!

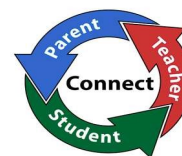
In an effort to increase family participation in the **Every Child Counts Survey**, YRDBS has extended the date to complete the survey to December 14, 2018. If your child is in Kindergarten to Grade 6, a letter was sent home with a code to fill out the survey online. If you can't find the letter, please contact the office and we can send another letter home with a new code.

Our holiday concerts will take place on two different nights this year. On **Wednesday, December 12th** our Junior and Intermediate Music Groups will perform along with some Kindergarten to Grade 3 classes. On **Thursday, December 13th**, all our French Immersion classes will be performing. Both concerts will take place in the gym and start at 6:30 pm. We will also be accepting donations for our **Outdoor Classroom** during the evening's concerts to help support its completion which is scheduled for Spring, 2019.

And finally, this December newsletter is the final edition of Gibson's monthly newsletters. In addition, our Gibson School Blog will be retired as we move to a more timely form of communication through Edsby. Starting in January, all school communication will be posted to the Edsby Newsfeed and through our regular email blast. Families will receive weekly/biweekly updates—so don't forget to register on Edsby and set up your notifications.

At this time of year, we have the privilege of celebrating diversity and recognizing different cultures as many of our families celebrate Chanukah, Christmas and Kwanzaa. On behalf of the Joseph A. Gibson staff, we would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a wonderful and safe holiday; and a very happy new year!

Claudia Fischer
Principal



Monday, Dec. 24—Friday, Jan. 5
Winter Holiday Break

Important Dates

- Dec. 6 Gr. 6 V. I. P. Presentation
- Dec. 6 Band Banquet and Ball
6:00—8:00 pm in the gym
- Dec. 10 Scientists in School—Gr. 2
- Dec. 12 Holiday Concert—6:30 pm
(Music Groups/K-3)
- Dec. 13 Holiday Concert—6:30 pm
(French Immersion)
- Dec. 17 Gr. 8 High School Musical
6:30-7:30 pm in Gym
- Dec. 17-19 Scientists in School—
French Immersion Classes
- Dec. 21 Pajama Spirit Day
- Dec. 21 Last day before Winter
Break
- Dec. 24-
Jan. 6 Christmas/Winter Holidays
- Jan. 7, 2019 School resumes
- Jan. 8—28 Dance with Justin Program
(whole school)



Dress for the Weather

All our students are expected to be outside before, during and after school in all weather conditions (i.e., rain or shine, snow or heat). Students need to come to school dressed to play outside during recesses. Boots (for rain or snow), rain jackets, hats, mitts, scarves and snow pants will help make recess an enjoyable time. It is advisable for children to keep extra pants and socks at school in case they get wet.

To avoid adding to our clothing collection in the Lost and Found Bin, please be sure to label all articles of clothing with your child's name.

Bus Cancellations and Weather

If the condition of the roads necessitates the cancellation of bus service, local radio stations will be informed as early as possible and will broadcast this information to the community. Please be advised that **if buses are cancelled in the morning they will not run after school—regardless of the weather.** Review your plans as to what your children will do in the event of late buses or cancellations. The following radio stations announce cancellations:



Parents, students and school staff are asked to access local radio and television stations after 6:00 a.m. to receive bus cancellation information. A bus cancellation message will also be available at www.schoolbuscity.com and 1-877-330-3001 or by following the YRDSB on Twitter.

Edsby Newsfeed

Don't miss out! With so many things happening inside Edsby, it is important to stay organized and up-to-date. Enabling various notifications can ensure you of being notified of any important things happening at the school.

You can set up your notifications by following the instructions on page 7 of the newsletter.



Spirit Days

Student Council has planned some fun Spirit Days for the 2018-19 school year. Mark these dates in your calendar!

- November 30—Sports Day
- December 21—Pajama Day
- January 25—Character Day
- February 22—Crazy Hair/Hat Day
- March 29— Backwards Day
- April 26—Earth Day
- May 31—Homeroom Rivalry Day
- June 27—Canada Day

Human Rights Commission Office

York Region District School Board is committed to creating safe, equitable and inclusive learning and working environments. As part of this commitment, the Board established a Human Rights Commissioner's Office (HRCO). The HRCO was created in response to a growing awareness that a space was needed within the school board environment to effectively address issues of discrimination and harassment specific to the Human Rights Code.

The HRCO is an arms-length office for Human Rights Code compliance under the Board's Human Rights Policy. The HRCO website provides the YRDSB community access to important information related to human rights, a confidential complaint reporting process and contact information for the office.

The website can be found at www.yrdsb.ca/hrco.

Gibson Gives!



Please help support our **food and clothing drive during the month of December!** Together with Mrs. Gallo and Mrs. Defulviis's Kindergarten class, our Student Council are collecting non-perishable food items for the local Food Bank; and new hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, socks, etc. for the Yellow Brick House. Donated items can be placed in the bins located in the front lobby.

Outdoor Recesses in Winter

All students from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8 are expected to go out for every recess unless the principal decides that weather conditions are so poor that it would be detrimental for them to be outdoors. Students are to come to school ready for winter and prepared to be outdoors up to 40 minutes during lunch. **We always monitor the weather and, in extreme conditions (e.g., wind chill), we keep the students indoors or shorten the time spent outside.**

We often receive requests from parents asking us to keep their children indoors during recess times because they are not feeling well. Unfortunately, we do not have the staff or facilities to supervise students who are sick or still recovering from an illness. Students who are ill enough to prevent them from participating in physical education, recesses or other outdoor activities, should remain at home until their condition improves. This will likely benefit the students concerned and prevent the spread of illness to others.

Lost and Found Items

Remaining Lost and Found items will be on display in the front hallway during the week of December 17th for any students and parents who would like to take a look. Any unclaimed items after December 21st will be donated to those in need.

Hour of Code in December

"Learning to write programs stretches your mind, and helps you think better, creates a way of thinking about things that .. is helpful in all domains." -Bill Gates

Technology is a vital part of our day to day life and is changing every industry on the planet. Learning coding or programming, is a skill set that students will use in all areas of the curriculum and their future career. Coding has many benefits such as encouraging problem-solving and critical thinking, creativity, persistence, risk taking and teamwork skills. Joseph A. Gibson has registered to participate in the Hour of Code during the month of December. During this time, classes will have the opportunity to come to the library to learn basic computer programming skills by completing challenges and solving puzzles using "code". To learn more and try some activities go to <https://hourofcode.com/ca/learn>, or go to other coding resources such as [Scratch](#), Scratch Jr App, [Tynker](#), [Blockly](#).

Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration will commence on January 18, 2019 for the 2019-20 school year. Children who turn four or five years old during 2019, live within the school boundary and whose parents are public school tax supporters will be eligible to register for kindergarten. A kindergarten information session for parents is being planned for this spring. For more information please visit the YRDSB website or contact your local school.

Cookie Days

Thank you for your continued support of our cookie sales which supports School Council's fundraising efforts!

Cookies will continue to be sold for \$1.50 every **Thursday at lunch time** by our parent volunteers—Ms. Gulyasik and Ms. Hunt.



French Immersion— Accommodations/Information/Registration

YRDSB's **French Immersion (FI) Accommodation Plan** provides long-term consistency and equity of access to all students in York Region and will enable YRDSB to continue to offer the FI program to all who wish to enrol. The FI program will be offered in Dual Track or Single Track settings, in a variety of configurations. In order to meet community needs and optimize available space in our schools, a community's Grade 1-8 FI program may be provided over more than one school during the course of a student's FI education. Space requirements at some schools may mean that siblings are in different schools for primary dual track French Immersion programs due to differing grade structures. Like any of our schools across the Board, changes to school boundaries, and/or the accommodation model for the French Immersion program may need to be considered when new schools open, a school experiences enrolment growth, and program changes occur. This will allow flexibility in addressing community needs and the opportunity to use existing space in schools. More information is available on the Board's website: www.yrdsb.ca. Please note: Some of the FI accommodation plans will require facility modifications or the development of new schools and will require short-term transition plans that might include overflow while we work toward the long-term vision. Overflow refers to situations in which the Board directs students to attend a school other than their community school or optional program for a specific period of time, as defined in Policy #108.

Information Sessions

Information sessions for Grade 1 entry into the French Immersion (FI) program will take place at French Immersion schools that have a Grade 1 program on **January 17, 2019 at 7 p.m.** Please visit YRDSB's website in January, 2019 <http://www.yrdsb.ca/Programs/fi/Pages/Program-Locations.aspx> to find the FI program location for your elementary school location.

Registration

FI registration will begin January 18, 2019. Parents or guardians of Senior Kindergarten students entering Grade 1 in 2019, and wishing to enrol in the FI Program, can visit or call the school office and request an *Office Index Card - short version*. The Office Index Card must be signed by the principal of the home school. Parents or guardians then take this form, along with one piece of identification showing their address to the designated FI program location to register between January 18 and February 8, 2019. Registration during this period is not first come, first served.

Late Registrations

Late registrations are those submitted after February 8, 2019. Late registrations will be treated on a first-come, first-served basis and will be considered subsequent to registrations received during the registration period should overflow be necessary.

Math is Everywhere!

Winter break is right around the corner! This is a great opportunity to take time with your child and connect math to the real world. Below are some ideas that will help get you started:

- Grocery shopping can involve money, budgeting, estimating, adding, subtracting, and measuring
 - Cooking can involve weighing, measuring, ordering, estimating, adding, and multiplying
 - Organizing for a party can mean matching numbers of people to plates, cutlery, area of tables, ordering food, and seating arrangements
 - Going on a trip by car or plane involves time, distance, budgeting, speed, comparing various routes, and shape scavenger hunts
 - Completing a half finished symmetrical design using playdough (e.g., half a butterfly, tree)
- Building a snowman can involve measuring, spatial reasoning, and estimating

These ideas will help your child see the importance of math in their everyday lives through fun and interactive ways. http://www.edugains.ca/newsite/math/schoolleader/ideas_for_school_leaders.html

The Ontario Ministry of Education recently released information for families about *Focusing on the Fundamentals of Math*. You can access this information at <https://math.thelearningexchange.ca/training/provincial-math-training-learning-modules/parents2/>

To find out what your child will learn in math this year or to find other fun activities that you can do together as a family, please visit <http://www.yrdsb.ca/Programs/Math/Pages/default.aspx>. Be sure to also try our [Problem of the Month](#)

Holiday Concerts— December 12 and 13 —SAVE THE DATE!



- On **Wed. December 12th at 6:30 pm**, our Music Groups and some Kindergarten to Grade 3 classes will be performing in a Holiday Concert.
- On **Thursday, December 13th at 6:30 pm**, our French Immersion classes will be performing in a Holiday Concert.

Our talented students are working hard to showcase their talents and we look forward to seeing you there!

School Council News

Thanks to the support of the Joseph A. Gibson families that contributed to our Invest-in-Student Donation Drive—we are close to raising \$4000 which would mean mini-prizes for each student! We will continue our campaign until Dec. 21st in the hopes reaching our \$5000 goal.

Donations can still be made on School Cash Online or by filling out the Donation Drive form that is available in the Parent Information Centre across from the office or on-line.



NEXT SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING:

Monday, January 14, 2019

7:00 pm in the library

NEW! Pathways Planning and Course Selection Platform: Grades 7 - 12

The York Region District School Board will be providing your child with an engaging and new interactive online education and career/life planning platform starting in November 2018.



Career Cruising will not be available to students after November 15, 2018. Students have been notified via their GAPPS account email of the steps required to save information (please see [instructions](#)), that has been stored in their Individual Pathway Plan (IPP), from Career Cruising into their GAPPS account.

This new platform will include a number of beneficial resources to support your child as they progress from grade 7 to 12, including:

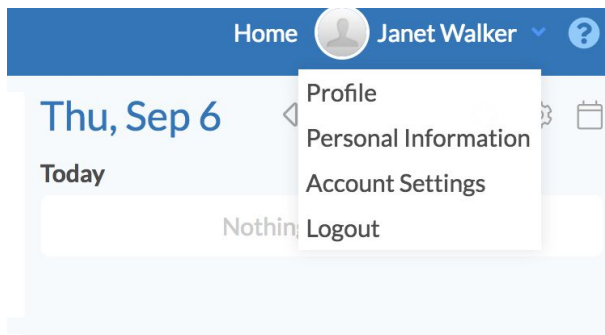
- ✓ **Who Am I** – 6 unique assessments for self-exploration and discovery (including Learning Styles, Myers-Briggs Personality, Holland Interests, Knowledge, Motivations, and Compatibility)
- ✓ **High School** – A tool to visually plan courses, track progress toward graduation, and instantly identify post-secondary eligibility for opportunities in all pathways
- ✓ **Post-Secondary** – A database to explore post-secondary opportunities and compare detailed information on apprenticeships, college programs, university programs and workplace sectors across Canada
- ✓ **Goals** – An interactive goal setting tool to set S.M.A.R.T. goals and action plans
- ✓ **Occupations** – A database of over 500 occupations to compare comprehensive information on jobs
- ✓ **Resumes & Cover Letters** – Interactive tools to record personal experiences, build resumes and write cover letters
- ✓ **Money** – An engaging budget-making tool to help students track income and expenses and develop financial literacy
- ✓ **Job Search** – A tool to explore real-world job postings that relate to occupations of interest
- ✓ **Portfolios** – A portfolio builder to create multiple portfolios and share it with parents, teachers, or future employers

Schools will be receiving more information regarding the transition to this new platform in the coming weeks and will continue to provide students and parents/guardians with updates.

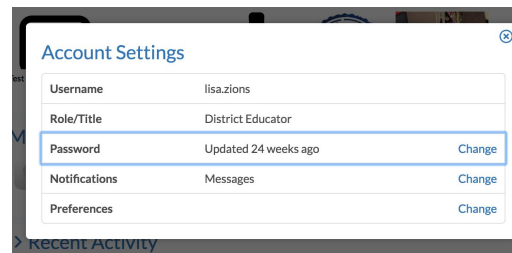
How to turn on/off Notifications in Edsby

With so many things happening inside Edsby, it is important to stay organized and up-to-date. Edsby makes this easy by enabling various notifications to ensure parents using Edsby are notified of the important things happening within their calendars, groups, and the schools their children attend.

1. From the Edsby HOME page go to your name that appears on the right side of the screen and click on it.



A menu of options will appear. Select "ACCOUNT SETTINGS".



2. Choose NOTIFICATIONS from the list.
3. Choose your school name to get NEWS from your school by either email or push notifications. As you click on the blue titles you may choose how you would like to receive the notifications.

Notifications		
Instant Notifications		
Personal Calendar		
Organization	Notify	Activity
EDU		
Johnny Lombardi Public School		
Richmond Green Secondary School		
William Berczy Public School		
YRDSB		
Class	Notify	Activity
English ENG1D1-05		
English ENG1D1-06		
English ENG2D1-09		
GR3B Homeroom-GR3B		
GR6A Homeroom-GR6A		
GR8A Homeroom-GR8A		
Health Education-02		

4. CHOOSE HOW YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE NOTIFIED BY CLICKING ON THE SMALL DOWN ARROW ON THE RIGHT BESIDE THE BOX. Choices include:

“Edsby”: Edsby app notifications (iOS/Android app)

“Push”: Browser notifications (Chrome/Safari/Firefox/Edge)

“Email”: Email notifications

IF YOU ARE A PARENT AND HAVE MORE THAN ONE CHILD IN YRDSB YOU MAY CLICK THE BOX THAT SAYS “APPLY CHANGES TO ALL MY CHILDREN”.

Notify: Joseph Lee
✕

Instant Notification

Notify activity via:

Edsby

email

push

Class Activity

Apply changes to all my children

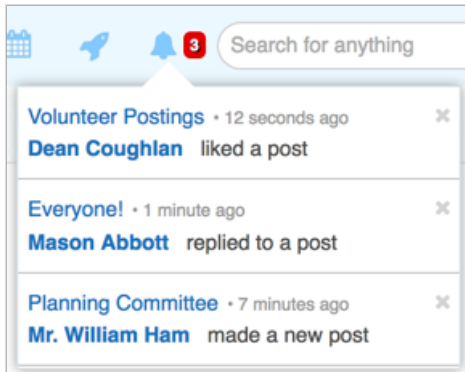
Cancel
Save

5. [Upon completion of notification setting changes scroll down and click Save.](#)

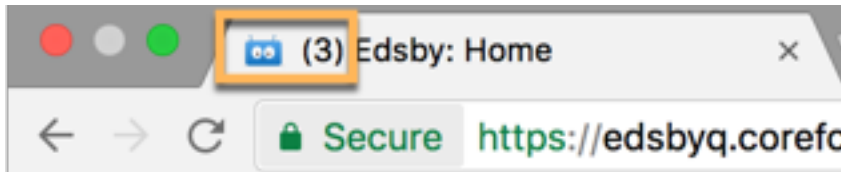
EDSBY MOBILE APP NOTIFICATIONS

6. Edsby Notifications

Edsby Notifications are notifications that occur directly in the Edsby interface. New notifications are visible as a red bubble counter next to the bell icon in the Navigation bar in both the web browser and Edsby app.



Click the X next to each notification to remove it from the list. The number of new items on the page will also appear in the tab of the browser Edsby is being accessed on.



Email Notifications

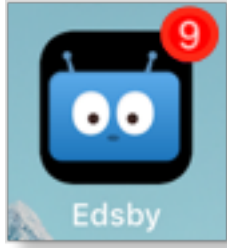
Email notifications are notifications sent to the email associated with the parent's Edsby account. For more information on Email Notifications and receiving daily Digest emails, click here. [- make link to the part of the article where this is talked about](#)

Push Notifications

Push Notifications are notifications that are sent to mobile devices. These can be sent at any time and parents with these turned on do not need to be in the Edsby app or on their device to receive them. Ensure Push Notifications are enabled for the Edsby App by enabling them in Settings of the mobile devices that Edsby is being accessed on.

Push Notifications can show up as:

- Red bubble counters next to the app on the device



- Banners that show up along the top of the devices screen when the parent is currently using the device

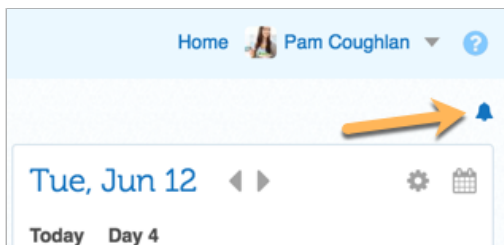


- Banners that are visible on the lock screen of the device when not in use and remain until the device is opened



From the School Feed

Parents can also update their Organization notification settings directly from the school feed. Navigate to the feed of a selected school. Click the bell icon in the top right corner of the screen.



Here, parents can choose to be notified about News Items being posted in the school feed.

Group

Parents have the option to customize notifications for their groups. These notifications can be altered by selecting Notifications from Account Settings or by selecting Notifications directly from the feed of a specific group.

From Account Settings

Click the name of a group from Account Settings to select notification settings for it.

Group	Notify	Activity
All Students + All Parents	Edsby email	Feed Reply Calendar
Everyone!	Edsby email	Feed Reply Calendar
Extracurriculars	Edsby email	Feed Reply Calendar
grade 10 parents	Edsby email	Feed Reply Calendar
New Test Group	Edsby email	Feed Reply Calendar
Parents	Edsby email	Feed Reply Calendar
Planning Committee	Edsby email	Feed Reply Calendar
Volunteer Postings	Edsby email	Feed Reply Calendar

Choose a mode of notification – email, Edsby, or push – by clicking the drop-down menu under Notify Activity Via. More than one mode can be used. Edsby can notify parents of three different activities regarding their groups.