

Island Public/Natural Science School

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GRADE RANGE: JK to 6

Interesting Feature

A Unique Outdoor Education Environment

Island Public/Natural Science School is situated on Centre Island which is part of the Toronto Islands Park system. The school is surrounded by natural grasses, trees, Lake Ontario and ponds. This

The Island Public/Natural Science School dates back to 1888. It is located a short ferry ride from the city on the Toronto Islands at 30 Centre Island Park.

Three programs are run from the school: a day program that services the Island and Harbourfront community, a residential Science Program for 68 students in Grades 5 and 6 and a Nursery school. Students attending the Science Program are from city schools and spend a 1/2 week at the Island School. The students study natural science and outdoor education. Day students, Grade JK - 6 are transported to the school by ferry and school bus. We have 7 classes including our Junior Kindergarten and Senior Kindergarten program supported by music and art, core French and Special Education.

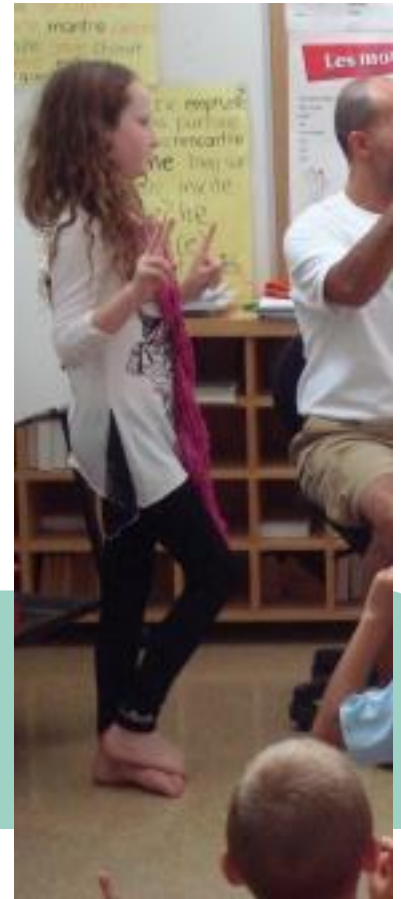
unique outdoor setting
lends itself to students
Interesting Feature

being closely in touch
with the nature. It is very
common for students
to view deer, eagles,
ducks, swans and
raccoons, to name a
few.

This setting makes it an
ideal environment for
children to learn. For
this reason, it is also
home to the only TDSB
residential Outdoor
Education Centre in the
city.

Building a Respectful School Climate

At the Island Public/Natural Science
School we strive to meet the
individual needs of students by
creating a learning environment that
fosters a feeling of self worth and
security, a love of learning, and a
format for conflict resolution. This is
achieved by continuously striving to
strengthen our partnership between
parents and the community. We also
develop respect and responsibility
through team building and
cooperation in house leagues, teams,
clubs and awards assemblies. Our
Code of Conduct and Bullying
Prevention Plan through the
implementation of PALS and
Peacemakers are a foundation for
student appreciation for the needs of
others.





EcoSchools

As socially responsible citizens it is our task to find solutions to today's environmental concerns. We are committed to continuing our EcoSchools program where students play an integral role in educating their peers and adults within the school community. Our students demonstrate leadership through student-led assemblies, visiting classrooms and making announcements.



Youth Action Committee

Student leadership is a big proponent at the Island Public School. Under the direction of staff, Grade 5 and 6 students form our 'Youth Action Committee'. These students work in conjunction with 'Free the Children' and undertake a yearly project that will benefit children locally and globally. This years project is focussed on 'Alternative Income' programs in India.



Extra Curricular Activities

The Island Public School prides themselves on the great number of extra curricular activities that we offer our students. As a teaching and support staff of 15, a number of options are offered to students: literacy club, choirs, athletics, intramurals, arts and crafts and chess club to name a few. These support students in developing team work and skill development.



Technology

The use of technology is prevalent within and outside of our school lives. The Island School has a computer lab and 3 Smartboards. Two of the Smartboards are located in a Primary and Junior classroom. The third is centrally located in the library where it is accessible, to all students where students can be engaged in whole class learning, or in small interactive groups.



Additional Features

- Warm and Engaging Classrooms
- Art Room
- Integrated Technology
- Dedicated Teachers
- Hot Lunch Program
- Active School Council



Student Life - Where You Belong

Island Public/Natural Science School is an exciting and engaging place to be. It's size, geographic location and setting provide a unique opportunity to foster environmental ethics and global awareness using curriculum and the natural resources at hand. These three factors are also what makes us such a close-knit and inclusive community. A typical day in the life of a student at the Island Public/Natural Science School begins one of two ways. Those students who live on the Island are picked up from Ward's Island at 8:40 a.m. and bussed to the school. Students who live on the city side begin their day by taking the ferry across at 8:30 a.m. from the Ferry Docks, they are then met by two busses to bring them to the school. Students return the same way, but those living in the city do not arrive back until 4:25 p.m.

Throughout the day, students are engaged in active learning and participate in a myriad of extra-curricular activities. Students are sure to find a place where they can learn a new skill, or share their passion with like minded individuals. Staff and students have a shared sense of responsibility for the welfare and well-being of all our students.



What Sets Us Apart

We are a small community that prides itself on creating an inclusive, positive and caring atmosphere. We are fortunate to have a dedicated and supportive School Council who help to facilitate many of our cherished traditions. Our students, staff, support staff and our School Council shared the points that 'Set Us Apart'. Here is what our community thinks you should know about us:

- We take a ferry and a bus to school;
- We aren't surrounded by buildings; we are surrounded by nature;
- We have no fences;
- We know everyone's name;
- We have very few cars, and no dangers;
- We have a HUGE playground;
- We support 'Free the Children';
- We have great teachers and students;
- We have animals visit us and sometimes take our lunch bags;
- We have a very peaceful environment;
- We take nature walks in the woods;
- We are very safe;
- We have a great community;
- We have a spectacular view of the beach and the lake.



The Island Public/Natural Science School is a very inclusive community.



Parent and Community Engagement

We have an engaged parent community who are encouraged to be actively involved in the school. Our School Council provides a vehicle for parents to provide input into the school. They also play an active role in fundraising for the school. This provides extended opportunities for our students such as Scientists in the School and school-wide performances. Many of our parents also volunteer on a regular basis for programs and events that are school based, or for various excursions.



We collaborate with: Community and social agencies, including Police, Public Health, and Ferry Service. Parks and Recreation are a key partner in supporting our school by providing leadership and guidance in the ongoing naturalization of the school area. Also, we work in partnership with Parks and Public Health with regards to the One-on-One Mentoring program that supports students.



TDSB - Better Schools. Brighter Futures

Imagine a TDSB where all schools share a common core set of characteristics. They are community-driven and focused on teaching and learning. Students and parents have a wide variety of opportunities and there are enough students in every school to increase program choices.

Imagine there is a clear focus on achieving student success and every student is engaged, has a voice, access to a caring adult and the opportunity to develop their full potential.

Here at the TDSB our focus is on student achievement, parent and community engagement and financial stability.



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