

A Parent's/Guardian's Guide When Joining the John Fraser Secondary School Community



John Fraser Secondary School

2665 Erin Centre Blvd., Mississauga, ON L5M 5H6

Phone: 905-858-5910

jfss.ca

Est. 1990; officially opened on May 16, 1991

Our School Motto: "Realizing Our Vision"

Our School Colours: Royal Blue, Silver and White

Our School Mascot: "JAG" the Royal Jaguar

Students Getting Involved

Welcome to John Fraser Secondary School.

There are many ways for your teen to get involved to hone his or her leadership skills, try new things, gain confidence, have fun and make new friends.

The Student Activity Council (SAC) is the student government, and helps students celebrate multiculturalism, show school spirit, help out the community (e.g. through Charity Week), and organize special school events.

Students also have dozens of clubs and organizations, including Minga (Free The Children), Cooking Club, Flute Army, French Conversation, Arts Council, DECA (marketing and business), ESL Conversation Club, Positive Space, Peer Coaching, Ski and Snowboard Club, Guitar Ensemble, Royal Treatment leaders (ambassadors for school-based events), Drama Club, Jazz Band, Photography Crew, and Math Senior Scholars. Any student can also propose a new club or organization. Students learn about their choices at club fairs every semester.

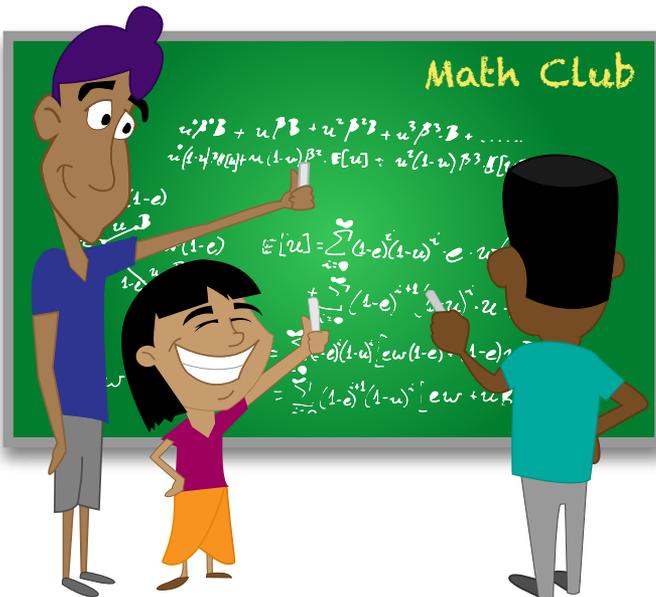


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Welcome to the John Fraser Secondary School Community

It is a privilege to serve this school as its Principal. At Fraser, we support academic excellence and want all students to be healthy, happy and involved in our well-rounded extra-curricular program. Parents are a key support in a student's academic journey and at Fraser, we value the involvement and support of our parent community.

We hope that this parent handbook provides helpful information to you as a parent/guardian of a John Fraser Secondary School student. Please do not hesitate to call the school (905-858-5910) to speak to a member of the school's administration if you have any questions.

Mary Nanavati, Principal
John Fraser Secondary School

This guide is meant to answer your most pressing questions about the safety, opportunities and the routine of your child as he/she enters John Fraser Secondary School. It will give you a sense of the culture of our school community. Students have their own Student Handbook that is posted on the school website, and the Peel District School Board offers more information about secondary school expectations, provided in several languages, at <http://goo.gl/gyEza3> as part of its website: peelschools.org.

Who We Are

Students attending John Fraser Secondary School are most often graduates of Thomas Street Middle School, but this isn't the only route to our doors. John Fraser SS embraces many new families to our area, and as of September 2015, welcomes students from across Peel Region who have earned spots in the Advanced Placement regional program.

When asked what is important to this school community, our parents/guardians consistently say respect, high academic standards, concern for the community and opportunities for all.

Respect: We count more than 40 different languages that are spoken in our students' homes, and diversity, respect and inclusion are highly valued by staff and educators, students and families. Students and staff celebrate the school's diversity through clubs and special events.

Academic Success: The school consistently scores extremely well on standardized tests (EQAO math testing for Grade 9 students, and Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test), and is a recipient of EQAO's Dr. Bette M. Stephenson Recognition of Achievement in mathematics. The school is also featured on www.eqao.com for its outstanding math instruction.

Concern for Community: Many school activities focus on global citizenship and contributing to others. From programs inspired by Me to We, to partnerships with Trillium Health Partners and the school's key role in the 2016 creation of the Erin Mills Connects community organization, this school supports the well-being of students, parents/guardians, and staff. All are invited to make a positive difference.

Opportunities for All: We want students to be happy and successful. In addition to routine academic support for student success, teens can be part of Senior Scholars, Counting On You for extra

assistance, Peer Coaching and more. The school has two Specialist High Skills Major programs (Arts & Culture, Health & Wellness), that allow students in all pathways to pursue areas of interest. The Advanced Placement regional program supports university bound students, preparing them for AP examinations. The school is also an English Language Learning centre and educational home for many teens requiring additional English language support.

Our Beginnings

In 2016, John Fraser SS celebrated 25 years of serving the Erin Mills Community. The founding school principal was Russ Jackson who started preparations for the school in 1989. The first students entering the school in September 1990 were in Grades 9 and 10. Those same Grade 10 students became the inaugural graduates of John Fraser SS in 1993 and later. They are now members of the JFSS Alumni Association, created in time for the school's 25th Anniversary celebrations in May 2016. The association also has many long-term educators who remain connected to the school, and some original teachers who are still proud members of the JFSS faculty.



John Fraser Secondary School Alumni Award

This award is to be presented to a resilient graduating student who has overcome a major obstacle or obstacles. The student is not receiving any other award.

Our Mission: John Fraser Secondary School is committed to developing and supporting a community of engaged learners who strive to achieve, improve, and contribute in a respectful, safe and inclusive learning environment.

Our Code of Conduct

The John Fraser Secondary School Code of Conduct applies to all members of the school community including students, parents, guardians, volunteers, visitors and school staff, whether they are on school property, on school buses, at school-authorized events or activities, or in any other situation that may impact the school climate.

All members of the school community have a responsibility to respect and honour the school Code of Conduct, to demonstrate age and developmentally appropriate social behaviour and to take responsibility for their own actions.

All members of the school community are expected to:

- Demonstrate honesty and integrity
- Treat one another with dignity, respect and fairness, regardless of their race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnicity, creed, citizenship, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, ability, socioeconomic status, or any other attribute
- Take appropriate action to help those in need, seeking assistance to resolve conflict constructively and respectfully
- Show proper care and regard for school property and the property of others

Parents'/guardians' responsibilities include:

- Taking an active role in their child's education by ensuring that he/she is prepared for learning, including punctual and regular attendance, promptly reporting authorized absences and late arrivals, and communicating regularly with the school
- Reviewing the school Code of Conduct with their son/daughter and helping him/her follow school rules
- Helping their child understand that it is not appropriate to tease or bully others
- Monitoring their child's internet use and taking responsibility for his/her behaviour when accessing electronic resources from home

Student responsibilities include:

- Demonstrating a commitment to learning through punctual and regular attendance, being prepared and ready to learn
- Practicing honesty and integrity including, but not limited to, not participating in or encouraging plagiarism, misrepresentation of original work, use of

unauthorized aids, theft of evaluation instruments, or false representation of identity

- Following school rules and taking responsibility for his/her own actions
- Refraining from bringing anything to school, or using anything inappropriately, that may risk the safety of themselves or others
- Showing proper care and regard for school and community property, as well as only visiting other schools for school-related and authorized activities

Staff responsibilities include:

- Helping students achieve to the best of their ability, developing self-worth, and being responsible citizens
- Maintaining order in the school and holding everyone to the highest standard of respectful and responsible behaviour
- Communicating regularly and meaningfully with parents/guardians
- Establishing a range of clear, fair and developmentally appropriate interventions, supports, direct skill instruction and consequences for unacceptable behaviour including but not limited to homophobia, gender-based violence, sexual harassment and inappropriate sexual behaviour
- Responding to and reporting behaviours which may have a negative impact on school climate

How to Get Involved

Many parents/guardians of JFSS students ask how they can help the school. High schools offer some opportunities for parents/guardians to assist with classroom activities, field trips and whole school special events. Your leadership is also welcome through the John Fraser Secondary School Council.

School Council

All are welcome to the John Fraser Secondary School Council meetings which are held at least four times a year. School Council acts as an advisory group for the school administration, allows parents/guardians to learn more about school activities and achievements, and to ask questions of the principal or other presenters.

The School Council is also your conduit to help the school. The Council routinely asks for volunteers to run special speaker events, complete the annual consultation, supervise students during school grounds beautification projects, supervise Advanced Placement assessments, and assist English Language Learners. You are also invited to participate in the Erin Mills Connects community

organization, a collaborative of area schools, youth and settlement agencies, working for the well-being of our children and youth. Elections for the Council executive are also held at the first meeting of the school year, and new leadership is always appreciated.

All are welcome at the School Council. It is your pathway to greater involvement in your child's school.

Dates for meetings and special events are posted at <http://s.coop/jfssblog>. You are also invited to email the chair at johnfraserss.council@peelsb.com with your questions or to request to be added to the JFSS Council email list for meeting and special event notices.

Staying in Touch

The school will use a number of ways to connect with you:

- Synrevoice is an automatic calling system to alert you to upcoming events, changes from the usual school routine, and student school absences.
- Parent Web provides access to information on your teen's attendance, credit history, diploma status, course selection and other information. Enrol through <https://gweb.peelschools.org>.
- Receive Critical Updates (by email and cell phone), What's New Articles (email), Calendar Events and Volunteer Postings (email) by clicking the Subscribe button on the home page of jfss.ca.
- The school will also use the opportunity to send communication home with your student through his/her progress, mid-term and semester reports.
- Parents' Nights are held each semester for parents/guardians to meet the school administration and speak with teachers. The dates for these are posted on the school's calendar at jfss.ca.
- You are always welcome to contact your student's teachers and school administrators by calling the school: 905-858-5910.

The Student Handbook: Your Child's Guide to Expectations

The Student Handbook is posted on the school home page: jfss.ca. It outlines the rights and responsibilities of students and what is expected of them. They will also find resources about course selection and course requirements, some tools for citing resources, links to sites for coursework assistance, and graduation prerequisites. The handbook also lists contact information for other support services in the community. Please take the time to review the Student Handbook with your son/daughter.

- **Activity Fee** —The school provides a wide range of extra-curricular activities offering students opportunities outside their academic classes. Extra-curricular involvement is key to student success. Often these experiences become the most memorable part of a student's school career. There are more than 60 clubs, teams and activities for students which meet a wide variety of interests including academic, athletic, artistic, technological and leadership development. The Annual Student Activity Fee is collected to support athletics, clubs, activities and special events such as school dances, the Athletic Banquet, the Awards Assembly and Commencement. This fee offsets the cost of some field trips, sporting events and guest speakers. All students will receive a yearbook and a photo identification card. Each student is also given a \$5.00 print credit for use on school printers. In addition, each student receives a lock and locker for use during the school year. Students also have the option of purchasing a Student Agenda book for an additional \$5.00. The Activity Fee is \$75.00 (no Agenda book) or \$80.00 (including an Agenda book).
- **Dress Code**—The standards for school dress at JFSS are based on common sense and are intended to support the comfort, safety and modesty of all students.
- **Excused During the Day**—You need to provide permission if your child must leave the school for any reason. Students have to sign in and out in the main office.

Students are permitted to leave school grounds during the
Common Lunch period, but are expected to arrive on time to
their next classes.

40 Hours of Community Service

Each Ontario high school student is required to complete 40 hours of volunteer service to receive his or her secondary school diploma. It is the student's responsibility, with assistance from you, to find volunteer placements. The school will not be directly involved in finding volunteer placements for students or monitoring students while they are completing their volunteer work. Your teen's community involvement might:

- support not-for-profit agencies, institutions or foundations,
- promote environmental awareness, or
- contribute to the health and well-being of any group.

The school offers some opportunities for students to earn volunteer hours including its Step into Spring/Fall school grounds beautification program. Community involvement hours are to be tracked on a form available from the Guidance Office. More information for students and parents/guardians is posted on jfss.ca under the Student Services tab.

A Routine Day at the School

8:00-8:10 a.m. - Students should arrive at school and go to their lockers.

8:20 a.m. - Students are to be heading toward their classes.

8:25 a.m. - Every student should be in his or her first class. The national anthem will be played, followed by silent meditation and announcements. Each period is 75 minutes with three minutes between to allow students to get to their next classes.

Common Lunch - The entire student body has a 75 minute lunch starting at 10:58. The format allows students to meet with friends, attend meetings, find extra help in subjects, and participate in

extra-curricular activities. The Common Lunch has proven to be an important contributor to school spirit.

2:46 p.m. - Students are dismissed. For some students, this means the start of extra-curricular activities, practices, or a chance to participate in extra learning through Counting On You, or appointments with classroom teachers.

Early Release Days

Occasionally, classes are shortened and students are dismissed just after 11 a.m. Dates are set in advance for early releases and are listed in the Student Handbook and on the calendar posted on jfss.ca.

What If Your Child Needs to Be Away From/Late to School?

Before the school day begins, please call the school's attendance line at the school number (905-858-5910) ext. 3, and leave the date, reason for absence and your child's student number.

Attendance and Punctuality

Attendance and punctuality are high priorities for all students. If there is an ongoing problem, you will be contacted to discuss it.

Emergency Closing of Schools

During winter months, inclement weather may cause the disruption of regular school operations. A decision to cancel school transportation and/or to close schools is usually made by 6:15 a.m. This information is available on Twitter (@PeelSchools), the PDSB Facebook page, peelschools.org, jfss.ca and will be announced on local television and radio stations.

The School Year

Classes start the day after Labour Day in September, but students are asked to come into the school a week earlier for identification photos, schedules and to pay their student activity fees. Students are given registration dates in June; if your student has missed his or her date, there is still time once classes start.

Check the school calendar at the top tab bar on jfss.ca for school Professional Activity Days (no classes), Early Release Days, and holidays.

The School Year at a Glance

- Day after Labour Day: Grades 9 - 12 attend all their classes for shortened periods until 11:02 a.m. All grades are dismissed and Grade 9 students have orientation until 2:46 p.m.
- Mid October - Early Progress Reports, Semester 1, are distributed
- Mid November - Mid-term Reports are distributed
- Weeks of Dec. 25 and Jan. 1 - No school
- Mid-January - Grade 9 EQAO, for Semester 1 math students
- End of January - Final exams for Semester 1
- Beginning of February - Semester 2 starts and final report cards for Semester 1 are distributed
- Preceding Spring Break Week (which starts the second Monday of March) - Early Progress Reports are distributed for Semester 2
- Mid April - Mid-term Reports are distributed
- End of April - Charity Week
- Early June - Grade 9 EQAO, for Semester 2 math students
- Third week of June - Final exams for Semester 2
- End of June - Final report cards for Semester 2 are distributed
- July and August - Summer Break

John Fraser SS 2016-2017 Calendar of Highlights

September 1st Semester

06	Classes Begin Gr. 9-12 9:00-11:02 Gr. 9 Orientation 11:02-2:46 Pick-up Course Change Responses at 7:45 am
07	Course Change Requests
12	SAC Homeform Rep Elections
15	School Council 7:00 pm
23	SAC Club Promo Lunch
26	Photo Retake Day
29	Terry Fox Run
30	Early Release

October

01	Step into Fall Gardening
03	College Applications Begin
05	World Teachers' Day
06	Gr. 8 Parents' Night 6:00-9:00 pm
07	Professional Learning Day
10	Thanksgiving Day
14	Early Progress Reports
14	SAC Oktoberfest BBQ
24-28	Halloween Spirit Week
27	Parents' Night 6:00 pm
31	SAC Haunted House (extended lunch)

November

02	Take Our Kids to Work Day/Post-Secondary Day
04	Commencement
7-8	Grad Photo sign up 10:00-2:00
09	Term 1 Ends
10	Term 2 Begins
11	Remembrance Day
16	Mid-Term Report Cards Distributed
17	School Council 7:00 pm
18	Professional Learning Day
20-26	Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week
22	Awards Assembly Period 1
25	SAC Mosaic Lunch
28-Dec. 9	Grad Photos

December

01	Arts Night
06	PD Early Release 11:02
12-20	SAC Food Drive
15	Co-op Career Fair
19-23	SAC Holiday Spirit Week
23	SAC Holiday Assembly
26	Winter Break, Dec. 26 - Jan. 6

January

09	First Day Back to School
16-17	Math EQAO
20	Locker Clean Out P1
25-27	Course Change Requests
25-31	Formal Exams

February 2nd Semester

02	Turn Around Day- Semester 1 Ends Pick up Course Change Responses
03	Semester 2 Begins (Regular Day)
06	SAC Homeform Rep Elections
07	Exam Review pm
08	Semester 1 Report Card Distribution
17	Professional Learning Day
20	Family Day
21-24	Healthy Active Living Week
23	School Council 7:00 pm
24	SAC Semi-Formal
24	Hoops for Heart (Lunch & P3)

March

6-11	Spirit Week
10	Semester 2 Progress Reports
10	SAC Spirit Assembly (Extended P1)
13-17	Spring Break
22	OSSLT Assembly P1
23	Parents' Night (Guidance Workshops for Parents)
29	Day of Purple
30	OSSLT

April

07	Early Release
12	Day of Pink
13	Term 1 Ends
13	SAC Charity Week Assembly (Extended P1)
14	Good Friday
17	Easter Monday
18	Term 2 Begins
19-20	Talent Takes Action
21	Mid-Term Report Card Distribution
21	FAC Buy-Out for Charity Week
24-28	SAC Charity Week
29	SAC Car Wash

May

11	Arts Night
11	Early Release
15-19	SAC Election Week
18	Co-op Career Fair
18	School Council 7:00 pm
19	SAC Election Assembly (Extended P1)
22	Victoria Day
24	Grad Brunch
25	SAC Carnival (Extended Lunch)
25	Athletic Banquet
27	Step Into Spring Gardening

June

8-9	EQAO Math
09	Prom
16	Locker Clean Out (During P1)
20-26	Formal Exams
29	Report Card Distribution
30	PA Day. Last Day of School

Safe Arrival at the School

- The school encourages healthy living, and walking or cycling to school is preferred. Racks are provided on the school property for students to secure their bikes.
- If you drive your student to school, please use the drop-off lane directly in front of the school. You may also let students out in the west parking lot or at the mall and they can cross Erin Centre Boulevard using the crosswalk leading to the school's front doors. By no means should anyone stop in the road or through lanes on the driveway to let anyone exit a vehicle.
- MiWay city buses also stop in front of the school. MiWay Ambassadors are students who are trained to help classmates find their way around using Mississauga transit. Fares and routes are found on m.miway.ca.
- Some students qualify for school bus transport to JFSS. Students may access transportation services if their primary address is within the school's attendance boundary, at a distance of more than 3.8 km. Visit www.stopr.ca for more information. Bus drop off/pick up areas are at the west end of the school.

Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) Opportunities: Grades 11 and 12

JFSS recently received approval to offer Specialist High Skills Major opportunities. If your student is joining JFSS in Grade 9, he or she might wish to enrol in the SHSM for Health & Wellness or Arts & Culture upon reaching Grade 11. SHSM students focus their education and receive work experience in Arts/Culture or Health/Wellness while completing core courses. In the end, students earn a red seal on their diploma signifying their specialization in their chosen areas. These programs are open to students looking at entering careers directly following high school or pursuing post-secondary education (college or university) or apprenticeships.

Partnerships in the Community

JFSS has forged relationships in the neighbourhood to foster character and skills development of students and to contribute to the well-being of our community.

Trillium Health Partners - The partnership includes nearby Credit Valley Hospital. Professionals of Trillium Health Partners have already held a career fair and provided guest speakers and a panel discussion to help our students and their families understand careers in healthcare. We look forward to our partnership growing.

Polycultural Immigrant and Community Services - Several settlement workers have helped students and their families acclimatize to life in Mississauga, learn English and find employment. We are grateful to the Polycultural centre for the support it provides to many of our families. Visit: www.polycultural.org

Erin Mills Connects community organization (EMC)- Founded in 2016, this group is a collaboration of close to 60 community leaders and parents/guardians. Its Steering Committee includes representatives of JFSS, St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School, Polycultural Immigrant and Community Services, JFSS Council, Peel Children's Aid Society, Regional Municipality of Peel, Erin Meadows Library, and Erin Mills Youth Centre. Working with its partners, the group proposes to host events that inform and connect students and parents to local resources and services that increase well-being in the "L5M" area. For more information, contact JFSS Council at johnfraser@peelsb.com.

Your School Trustees

Trustees are your elected representatives at the Peel District School Board. Among their many duties, they advocate for their school communities.

Nokha Dakroub, Ward 9/10, is our primary contact at John Fraser Secondary School. She welcomes parents'/guardians' comments and questions. She can be reached at:

nokha.dakroub@peelsb.com

Phone: 647-707-7320

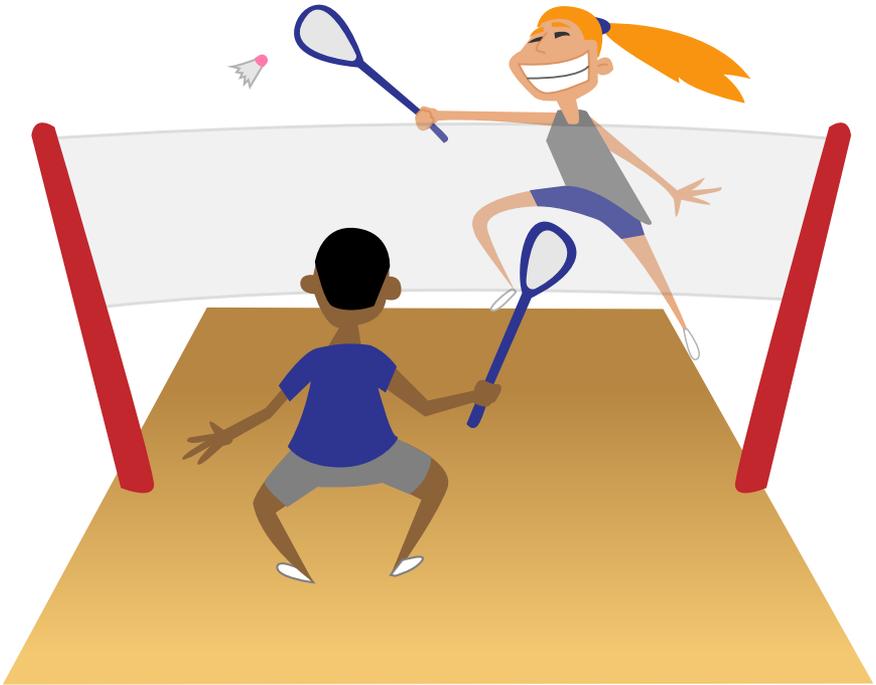
<https://www.facebook.com/TrusteeNokhaDakroub/>

Twitter: @TrusteeNokha

Students Getting Active

Students have the Fraser Athletic Council to represent their needs in teams and sports. Every year, student athletes have the opportunity to celebrate at the Athletic Banquet.

But whether your teen is a Most Valuable Player or just learning a new skill, he or she has many ways to show his or her talents and get active. Sports include swimming, basketball, volleyball, cross-country, field hockey, flag football, table tennis, cricket, ultimate frisbee, soccer, slo-pitch, track and field, rugby, hockey, and badminton!



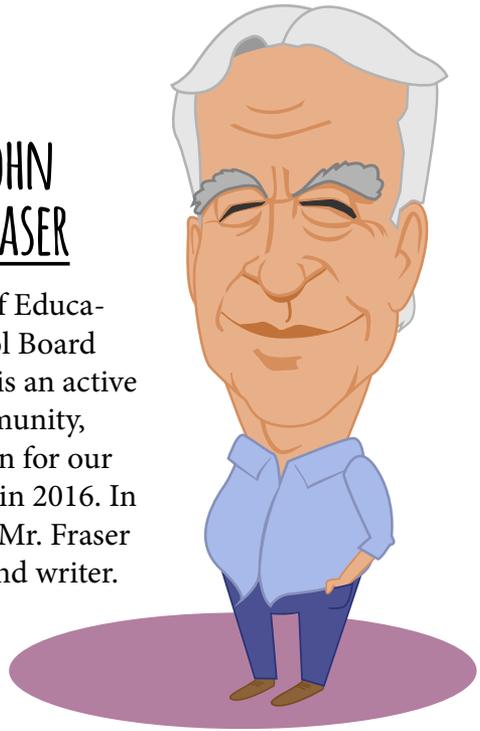
Parents are valuable partners, and are thanked for helping to get students to early morning practices and supporting their athletes' personal development in other ways.

Teachers are generous with their time to coach, teach and guide students' leadership growth through sports.

Who is John Fraser?

JOHN FRASER

John Fraser was the Director of Education for the Peel District School Board from 1973 to 1988. Mr. Fraser is an active participant in our school community, most recently as a spokesperson for our 25th Anniversary celebrations in 2016. In addition to being an educator, Mr. Fraser is a speaker, comedian, actor and writer.



Produced by John Fraser SS and the John Fraser Secondary School Council with the financial assistance of the Ontario Ministry of Education Parents Reaching Out Grant (2016)



For more information, contact the school at 905-858-5910, visit jfss.ca, or consult the Peel District School Board website at peelschools.org