

BLAKE BEAT



In this issue:

News from TwitterPage 3
From the Classroom: Room 210.Page 4
From the Classroom: Room 106Page 5
Morning Meal, Recipe of the MonthPage 6
A Word from our Co-Chairs.....Page 7
Activities with KidsPage 8
Vietnamese Refugee FlightPage 9, 10

How to Talk with your Kids about ArtPage 11
Dealing with Head LicePage 12
Movie Night.....Page 13
Bollywood NightPage 14
April CalendarPage 15

BLAKE MISSION STATEMENT

At Blake our mission is to provide a caring, safe, and bully-free environment that meets the intellectual, physical, social, and emotional needs of our students.

With the assistance of our families and greater school community, we are committed to supporting our students and leading by example so that they reach their full potential.

Our Code of Conduct clearly states that all students have the right to be heard and valued, must respect themselves, and also have the responsibility to follow staff directions.

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Editing Alexandra Knowles and Keri Williams

Layout Keri Williams

January Contributors

Melissa Jenkins-Gray, Alan Lyons, Jeanette Rees, Judith Prince, Kelly Dymont, Jamie Gillingham, Alexandra Knowles, Keri Williams

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

This newsletter is not possible without the hard work of the many hands who volunteered their time. We'd love to hear from you! If you have a newsletter submission or idea, please e-mail it to blakeschoolnewsletter@gmail.com, or drop a copy in the School Council mailbox in the office, by the 20th of every month.

Items should be sent in Microsoft Word format if possible, but do not need to be formatted. Simply forward text and/or images. Please do not embed images.

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Mme Sinda and Blake students attending the TDSB Young Women conference. The attendees returned ready to run leadership courses for the Girls On the Move Club



Blake Boys Basketball team, playing at the Palmerston Tournament at Winchester P.S.



Rock 55 is coming! 10 grade 4, 5 and 6 students will have 1 hour per week with Constable Sean learning how to play guitar



The Duke Comedy raised \$250 at their East End Comedy Review for our breakfast program!



Right to Play workshop with Bruce P.S. Maurice Cody P.S. William Burgess P.S. and St Margaret's P.S. The day included planning our own "Today We Play" day!

There is no Karate for Kids this year, but the classes will run next fall for up to 25 Grade 1's

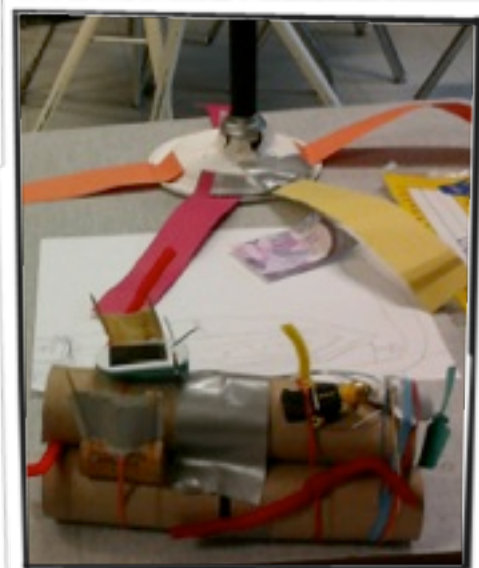
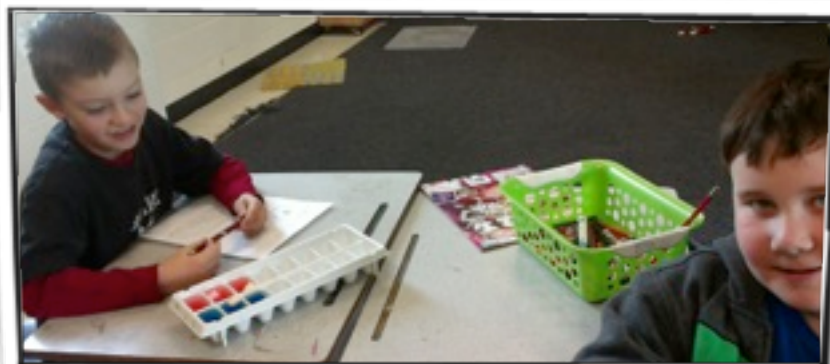


OPERation Kids is now running from the church at Donlands and Danforth, after school every Wednesday, and is now open to other schools as well as Blake

From the classroom - Ms Davey and Grade 1/2 Room 210

We have been very busy in Room 210! We visited Young People's Theatre to see their production of *Goodnight Moon* and created our own Reader's Theatre projects by making sock puppets and recording them on the i-Pads. In science, the students met design challenges involving alternative sources of energy (e.g., wind, sun and kinetic). We have been investigating the properties of liquids and solids and looking at what happens as water changes states. We are also working on how to be stewards for the environment. For the Honesty Assembly we have been exploring Jon Klassen's book, *I Want My Hat Back*. We have been using our "scheme" to infer meaning. We have discovered that the characters in this book are not always honest... In math we have been making "Blake Street Restaurant Menus" and enjoying buying imaginary snacks and making change. We are looking forward to visiting the Science Centre in April!

(In the Photos, Jadon and Conal melt snow using food colouring, Johann and KJ experiment with freezing water and gummy bears, a solar powered boat to transport a Lego person created by Johann, Elle, Anna, Trinity and Joshua also investigate what happens as snow melts.)



From the classroom - Ms Kiil Class Rm 106

Reading Buddies

This year, our grade 2/3 class has partnered with Ms. Yoannou and Ms. Byres' kindergarten class for reading buddies. Once each week, our buddies get together to work on their reading skills. For the first part of the session, the

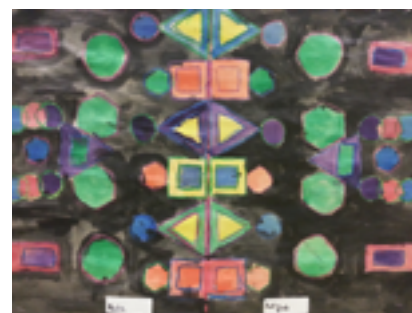
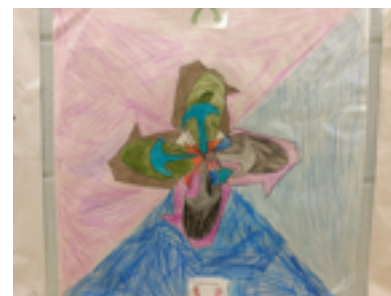
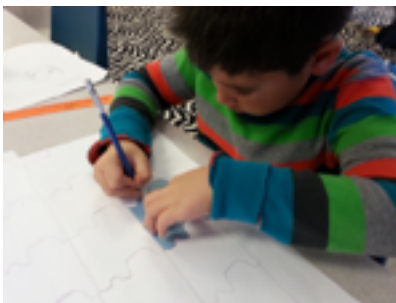


buddies work on the kindergarten letter sound of the week. They brainstorm and draw words that begin with that week's letter. For the second part of the session, the Grade 2s and 3s read aloud to their buddies. They role-model good reading behaviours, such as checking for understanding, asking questions as they read, and using the pictures and letters to help them read unfamiliar words. Most of all, the students just enjoy reading and being read to. As the Grade 2s and 3s know, the best way to improve your reading is to...read!



Learning Math Through Art

For our math unit on spatial sense, the students in Room 106 have been learning through the creation of several visual arts pieces. Since the concepts of position, direction, and movement are highly visual, art is an ideal way for students to explore these concepts and demonstrate their learning. Each art piece incorporated a key concept about movement: flips (reflections and symmetry), slides (translations) and turns (rotations). Working independently, with a partner, and in a group, students needed to use math vocabulary to describe the movement of shapes as they created their art pieces (e.g. across, left, clockwise, below). Check out our math art outside Room 106!



Morning Meal - April 2016

Monday Apr 4	Tuesday Apr 5	Wednesday Apr 6	Thursday Apr 7	Friday Apr 8
Nut-free low-fat Cereal Strawberry Yogourt Tomatoes	Crackers Marble & Mozzarella Cheese Apples	Pita Hummous Carrots & Cucumbers	Buns Yogourt Tubes Melons	1 slice baked good Chocolate Milk Peppers
Monday Apr 11	Tuesday Apr 12	Wednesday Apr 13	Thursday Apr 14	Friday Apr 15
Nut-free low-fat Cereal Vanilla Yogourt Oranges	Pita Hummous Carrots	English Muffin/Bagel Cream Cheese Strawberries	Crackers Marble & Mozzarella Cheese Cucumbers	P.A. Day No School
Monday Apr 18	Tuesday Apr 19	Wednesday Apr 20	Thursday Apr 21	Friday Apr 22
Pita Hummous Peppers	Nut-free low-fat Cereal Strawberry Yogourt Apples	Crackers Marble & Mozzarella Cheese Cauliflower & Broccoli	1 slice baked good White Milk Oranges	Buns Yogourt Tubes Cucumbers & Carrots
Monday Apr 25	Tuesday Apr 26	Wednesday Apr 27	Thursday Apr 28	Friday Apr 29
Nut-free low-fat Cereal Vanilla Yogourt Strawberries	Pita Hummous Carrots	English Muffin/Bagel Cream Cheese Bananas	Crackers Marble & Mozzarella Cheese Peppers	1 slice baked good Chocolate Milk Oranges

*Fruits/vegetables subject to change due to supply

**all grain products served meet a minimum of 2 stars (out of 3) of the Guiding Stars program. For more information see <http://guidingstars.ca/>

Frittata

By **Melissa Jenkins-Gray**, via thepioneerwoman.com

Recipe of the Month—Frittata

Frittata is an egg-based Italian dish similar to an omelette or a crustless quiche. (Think of it as an egg pizza.) It's great to make on a weekend and heat up for quick breakfasts during the school week! This version includes loads of veggies but you adjust as like!

Ingredients for 8 servings

12 whole Large Eggs, Salt And Black Pepper, 1/4 cup Grated Parmesan Or Romano Cheese, 1/2 cup Grated Cheddar Or Monterey Jack Cheese (more To Taste), 2 dashes Hot Sauce (Optional), 2 Tablespoons Butter, 1 whole Medium Onion(Halved And Sliced Thin), 1 whole Baked Potato (Cooled And Diced), 2 cups Torn Kale Leaves Or Whole Spinach Leaves, 2 whole Jarred Roasted Red Peppers (Sliced Thin), 1/4 cup Chopped Green Or Black Olives.



Directions:

Preheat the oven to 375 F. Beat together the eggs with the salt and pepper (do not over-beat; just mix until the eggs mostly come together.) Stir in the grated cheeses and set aside. (Stir in hot sauce if using.) In a large oven-proof non-stick skillet, melt butter over medium-high heat. Add the onions and cook for several minutes, stirring frequently, until the onions are soft and golden brown. Add diced potato, sprinkle with salt and pepper, and stir to cook with the onion for a couple of minutes. Add the kale and stir to cook about 1 minute. Finally, add the roasted red peppers and olives and stir until everything is hot. Make sure all the ingredients are evenly distributed across the bottom of the skillet, then pour in the egg mixture so that it evenly coats everything. Let it sit on the burner for 30-45 seconds to set the edges, then put the skillet in the oven. Watch the frittata as it cooks. Let it cook in the oven for 10-12 minutes until the eggs are set but remove it before the eggs brown very much on top. Slide the frittata out of the skillet and onto a cutting board. With a long serrated knife, slice it into wedges and serve warm with fresh fruit.

NOTE: Use any ingredients you want! Mushrooms, leeks, different cheeses, tomatoes, zucchini, squash, bell peppers. Have fun!

A Few Words from the Blake St School Parent Council Co-Chairs

Hello Blake Street Students and Parents,

We hope everyone had an amazing March Break! Now that the March Break is over, we are officially in the final stretch of the 2015/16 school year!

These next few months are going to be really busy, but really fun. We have the Spring Concert coming up, the garden will be coming to life and of course, the Blake Street Family Fun Fair!

You may have seen some emails asking everyone to ask around



about getting some donations for the Fun Fair. Please do not stop asking family, friends, neighbours, your employer... Basically, anyone and everyone in your social circle. You never know who will step up!

What we've found is the hardest thing is asking... but you'd be AMAZED at how enthusiastic the responses usually are!

Remember, what we really need are two things:

1. CASH DONATIONS
2. BIG TICKET ITEMS FOR OUR SILENT AUCTION.

The cash donations are ideal because they offset the costs of putting on the Fun Fair. The big ticket items will allow our silent auction to bring in significant funds. Big ticket items could be electronics, hotel stays, cottage weekends, spa packages, tickets to sporting and music events...

Remember, that these funds all go to a great place... the students of Blake Street Elementary!

Thanks very much,

Jeanette Rees & Alan Lyons
BlakeSchoolCouncil.tdsb@gmail.com



**Next Parent Council Meeting:
Thursday 21**

Spring Road Trip—Party & Playdate Idea!

By Melissa Jenkins-Gray

Here's a crafty idea that mixes food with fun. Create a tablescape that looks like a road and use it to house snacks for your guests.



Instructions:

1. Cover your table with a big green tablecloth (it will act as the grass for your road to lie on top of).
2. Cut out a long windy road on black construction paper that covers the length of the table.
3. Using white paper, cut out and glue 1-inch rectangles along the centre of the road to make lanes.

Let the fun begin!

- Decorate the road with fruit and vegetables to mimic vehicles and scenes. Use orange slices with little toothpicks and triangle flags glued on as cars. Or chop up broccoli florets and stagger them along the road to look like trees.
- For parties, use the table to house all your appetizers and snacks.
- Don't forget to incorporate your toys to help replicate scenes along the way (like the construction truck lifting bricks of cheddar and mozzarella cheese below).



FUN TREE FACTS FOR EARTH DAY APRIL 22:

By Judith Prince

- Trees clean the air, provide shade, increase wildlife habitat, help prevent flooding, store carbon and fight the impact of climate change.
- A single mature tree can release enough oxygen back into the atmosphere to support 2 human beings.
- Trees are the longest living organisms on earth.
- The Slowest Growing Tree is a White Cedar in the Great Lakes area. It has only grown to less than 4 inches tall during its 155 years.
- Studies have shown that trees can be a very important part of a person's healing process. Patients that can see trees from their hospital room windows tend to get better faster.
- To save one acre of trees, you have to recycle one ton of paper.
- Noise Pollution – Trees to the rescue! Planting trees and shrubs in noisy places can reduce noise five to ten decibels (reduces noise by about 50% to the human ear)."

Vietnamese Refugee Flight

By Jamie Gillingham

Refugees are talked about a lot in the news now, mainly because of the civil war in Syria and other fighting in Middle Eastern countries around Syria and in northern Africa that has driven people from their homes. Poverty and dangerous societies have made people in some Asian countries leave their countries too. While the biggest news is about the numbers of people entering Europe in order to get away from the danger in their home countries, Canada has started accepting refugees from Syria in large numbers and plans to take more.

This is not the first time that Canada has admitted refugees. In fact, our country has benefitted from taking in refugees and immigrants many times in the past. Everyone except

First Nations migrated to this country from somewhere else in the world. Even just in the past sixty years or so conflicts in other parts of the world have led to migrations of people to Canada with huge benefits to this country. There are many examples of many thousands of people coming to Canada from other parts of the world and the success of those people in their new country, Canada. World War II and the devastation in Europe, the civil war in Greece, communist repression in Eastern Europe (and the uprising in Hungary in particular) and the reunification of Hong Kong with mainland China are just some examples.

Paul Gauthier, who lives on Wroxeter Avenue in the Blake

district, was present during another large entry of refugees who were running from war, oppressive government and poverty – the Vietnamese refugees who came to Canada from 1975 through 1981. Over 50,000 Vietnamese refugees came to Canada during those years and have become an important part of this country. And when Paul says he was present, he really means it. He was the in-charge flight attendant on the first planeload of Vietnamese ever to enter Canada.

Vietnam is a country in southern Asia. For decades war raged in Vietnam causing deaths, disease and poverty. The war ended when the United States stopped supporting the government in the south and the communist northern government completed the invasion and takeover of the south. After the end of the war, the victorious communist government sealed the borders and prevented anyone from leaving. Desperate and fearful, many thousands of people escaped the trouble in Vietnam whichever way they could. Some of these ways sound familiar to us: travelling by foot many, many kilometers over mountains and by boat over dangerous ocean waters. Some countries, including Canada, began taking in refugees.

Paul was a flight attendant for 39 years with Air Canada and he still remembers this flight clearly, of all the thousands of flights he worked



Vientamese Refugee Flight (cont.)

on. He got on the flight in Hawaii after the plane had been loaded with around 180 refugees who had experienced incredible hardships in order to escape from Vietnam. The plane, carrying its crew of pilots and attendants, immigration officers from the Government of Canada, and refugees, then flew from Hawaii, with a refuelling stop in California, to Montreal, where the refugees were put through medical tests and then welcomed to Canada.

One of the refugees on the plane stands out in Paul's memory [see picture]. She was an old woman who had escaped from Vietnam on a boat and drifted in the Pacific Ocean for two months before being rescued and ending up in one of the refugee camps set up in Asian countries and Australia for these refugees. She had some of her adult children on this boat with her and at least two of her sons died before making it to safety. Once in the refugee camp, she treated all the people around her as her children and they repaid the

concern with respect for her. The plane had three seats on each side of the aisle, and the others made sure she had three seats to herself so she could lie down. When asked by the attendants if she would like to sleep, she replied that she could not sleep unless 'all her children', or all the other refugees, were also asleep.

Paul had been briefed by Air Canada management before the flight since no one really knew what such a flight would be like. What he was not prepared for was the overwhelming gratitude of the refugees on the flight as well as the strong determination by the refugees not to take handouts, but to settle in Canada and earn their way. This was clear because Paul could communicate with quite a number of the refugees, since Vietnam used to be a French colony and many of the people spoke some French.

When the plane landed no one would leave the plane until the old lady had left first. They made it clear

that 'their mother' would be the first to get off. Paul escorted her down the stairs and they were both taped for television because this woman was the first one to arrive in Canada. When she stepped off the steps onto the tarmac she, as old as she was, knelt down and kissed the ground.

The flight crew assured the refugees that May in Montreal was fairly warm, and whatever extra clothes they needed other than what they were wearing, would be supplied to them. The refugees were concerned that they should not be seen as taking handouts but insisted that they would work for their future in Canada. Paul understood that the refugees on the flight were proud and, though defeated in the war, they did not feel shame at their defeat. They were coming to Canada to become citizens and to work. They felt proud at surviving their suffering and very happy that they had finally arrived in Canada. They were also hopeful at the promise of this new country where they were welcomed.

Did You Know?

Before Toronto was a bustling city, many creeks flowed into the bigger rivers like the Don River or into Lake Ontario. By taking a closer look beyond the houses and buildings in your neighbourhood and into the shape of the land, you can just imagine a place where there were just ravines, creeks, trees and wildlife.

Hastings Creek had branches that flowed over Jones Ave and down the hill through The Pocket neighbourhood. A place called *Devil's Dip* was

that section south of the train tracks and east of Leslie St.

Brickmaking was a very big industry in our part of town? Brickyards and famous brick makers lived in our neighbourhoods and provided the materials to make the homes and buildings that are still standing today.

Other interesting historical facts about our area of Toronto can be found at:

<http://leslievillehistory.com/>

PARENT HOMEWORK: Please read this...

HOW TO TALK TO YOUR CHILD ABOUT THEIR ART

→ **PLEASE DO...** ←

1. Take your time to really look.

"Wow, let me take this in for a moment."

2. Ask them to tell you about their artwork.

"What was your inspiration?"

"What was your favorite part of the lesson?"

3. Give thoughtful and specific praise.

"These colors are beautiful."

"I'm impressed with your shading."

4. Acknowledge creativity and effort.

"What a unique idea. No one else has _____."

"I can tell you really took your time on _____."

← **PLEASE DON'T...** →

1. Belittle your own artistic abilities.

"You get your talent from your dad."

"I don't have a creative bone in my body."

(Kids can internalize the insecurities of their parents. Plus, remember, everybody is an artist in one way or another! ☺)

2. Only ask "yes or no" questions.

"Is that supposed to be an owl?"

"Did you like this project?"

3. Overpraise without backing it up.

"This is really good!"

"I love it!"

4. Focus only on skill or talent.

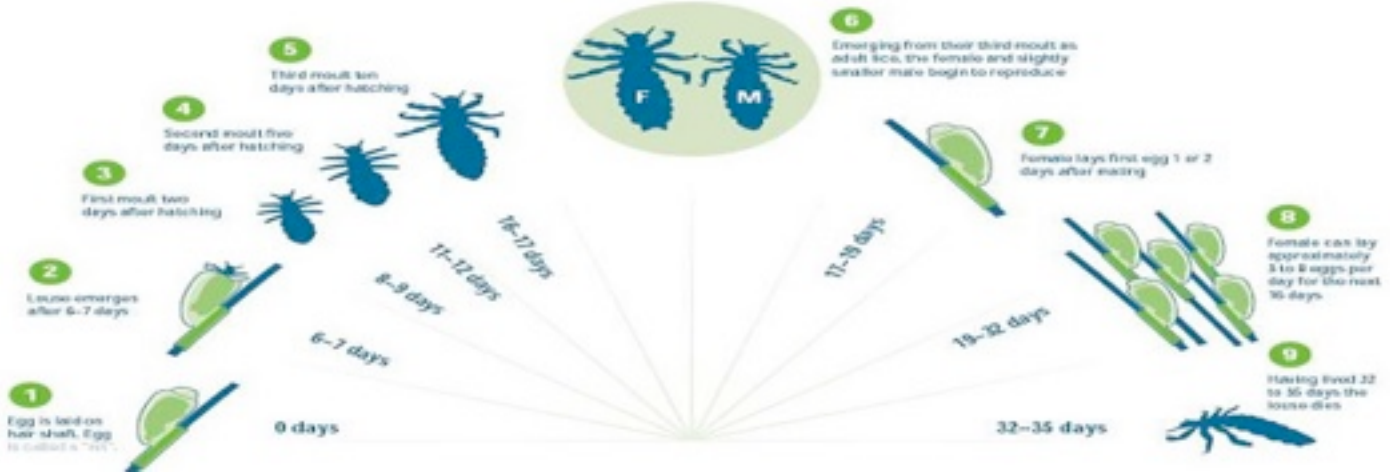
"You are a gifted artist."

"This comes naturally to you."

(Kids are more likely to grow and challenge themselves if you compliment their effort over their natural ability.)

HEAD LICE FACTS

By Valerie Foussias



Using sunlight, or a bright light, and a pair of magnifying glasses or magnifying visor, check the crown of the head and the hotspots. Which are the warmest parts of the head, the bangs, around the ears, and on the back (or nape) of the neck.

If you find something and you can flick it off, it's probably not a nit. Nits – or lice eggs are cemented (glued) to the hair with the bug's special bond.

- Lice eggs have colour; they're not white.
- Brownish in colour.
- Teardrop shaped.
- Attach to one side of the hair shaft. They are tiny – but visible.
- Lice bugs – lice (or in the singular, louse) – are unmistakable. They're about the size of a sesame seed, and light to dark brown in colour.

Treat the hair with either the chemical shampoo from the pharmacy (NIX) which will loosen the nits glue and kill the adults. You can use oil to smother the adults but it's important that each nit is removed from the hair shaft with either treatment. Or the cycle will start again.

Stop the Spread!!

- Avoid head to head contact, including selfies.
- Avoid sharing hair items, including brushes and hats.
- Check hair regularly.
- Watch for scratching.
- Notify close friends and the school if you find lice.

Wash sheets, hats, hoodies and soft toys in machine with detergent and hot water. Sterilize brushes with boiling hot water, letting it soak for 10 min.

Need Help?? Questions??

Lice Squad www.licessquad.com 850 Pape Ave., Unit 2A (at Sammon) 416-466-0261 (\$75hr (1-1.5hrs per person). Pricing varies on length, thickness and severity of infestation.)

Alvin

and the chipmunks

THE
ROAD CHIP®

NOW PLAY AT

BLAKE'S FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

APRIL 14TH

THURSDAY

6:30PM

DOORS OPEN AT 6:10

Popcorn Pizza Samosas

Juice Boxes Bake Sale

Keep the fun and food rolling!

★ Raffle ★

A chance to win
some great
family movies!





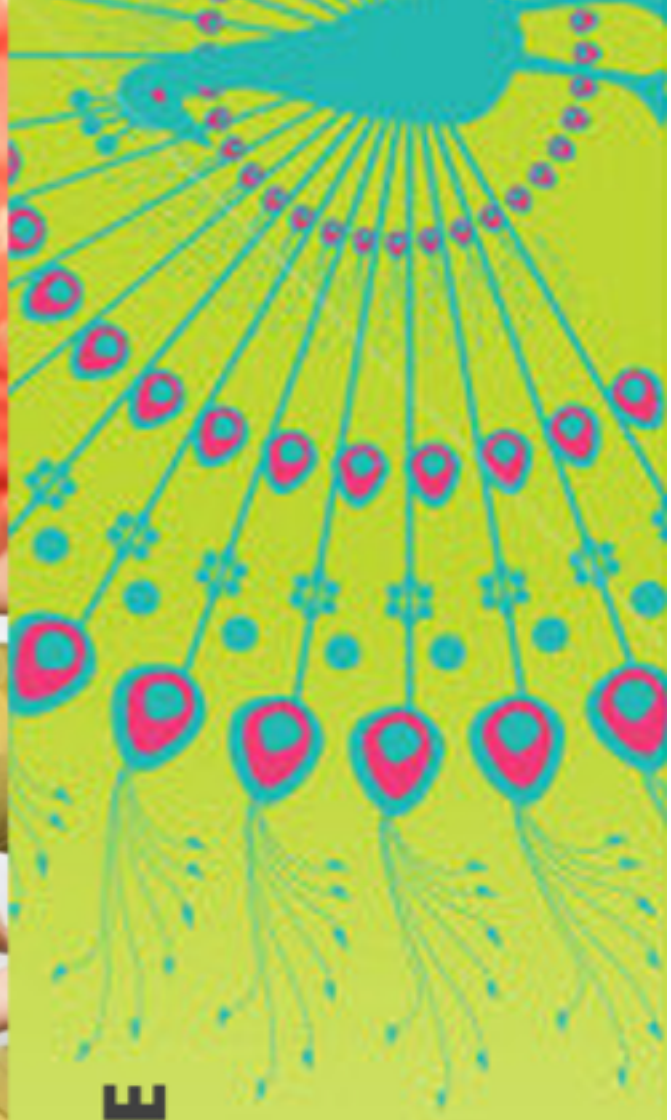
BOLLYWOOD DANCE

**BLAKE ST.
FAMILY FITNESS NIGHT**

Wednesday, April 27,
6:30-7:30pm

Blake Gymnasium

Please bring your own water bottle.
Snacks will be served.



Upcoming Events at Blake St School



Movie Night

Movie night will be
THURSDAY, 14 APRIL,
6.30pm
 Alvin and the
 Chipmunks

PA Day

The school will be closed
FRIDAY 15 APRIL.
 Have a great break
 everyone!

Parent Council Meeting

The next meeting of the Parent
 Council will be **THURSDAY,**
21 APRIL at 6 pm in the
 library. Dinner and childcare
 will be provided.

Bollywood Family Fitness

Family Fitness is back!
WEDNESDAY, 27
APRIL, come join in the
 fun and get moving!

Spring Concert

The G1-6 Spring Concert
 will be **Thursday, 28**
APRIL, Watch your
 folders for information

Spirit Day

FRIDAY, 29 APRIL
 Crazy Hair and Hat
 Day!

Pizza Lunch

Pizza lunch will be
 held on **FRIDAY, 29**
APRIL. \$5

