

BLAKE BEAT



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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

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NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

This newsletter is not possible without the hard work of the many hands who volunteer 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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Field Rejuvenation

The TDSB has donated \$12,000 to renovate the large soccer field over the summer months. While this means the fields will be closed off over the summer holidays, it will mean we return to an evened out field in the new school year.

Calling all Blake kids interested in learning to code!

Coder Dojo TO is a **free** coding workshop for kids. It takes place on one Sunday every month, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (In May it will be on May 14), at "Bitmaker" on King Street West just west of Spadina. You get a starter kit and you can start off with a beginner's coding software called Scratch, or work on any coding language you want, with help from some adult mentors/coaches. You have to bring a parent. If you want to attend, your parent has to register you in advance, at [www.http://toronto.coderdojo.ca](http://www.toronto.coderdojo.ca).

Tumblebooks membership

Blake school has purchased a membership with Tumblebooks, an online library of children's books in English and French. To access the library go to http://www.tumblebooklibrary.com/auto_login.aspx?u=blakestreet&p=reads

The user name is: blakestreet
and the password is: reads

Blake Co-ed Volleyball Team 2017

Congratulations to the Blake Co-ed Volleyball team of 2017 who was entered in the Grade 6, Division 2 this year!

Our team of thirteen played hard against Garden Jr PS and Leslieville PS in an away, morning tournament hosted by Leslieville.

Both teams presented strong challenges and even without winning the matches, we walked away a better and prouder team than we went as. Our kids showed a great sense of sportsmanship and should be congratulated for the team effort.

Way to represent Blake, Bobcats!

Special Thanks to our Parent Coaches, Andrew Rees and Valerie Foussias for taking the time and to the teacher reps support, Mr. Stoch and Ms. Psarologos.

Also to Parent Council, Jamie Gillingham for supplying the delicious oranges and granola bars!



From the Classroom: Ms Church, Room 101

On Tuesday April 18th all five of the Kindergarten classes at Blake Street boarded three school buses and made the short trek downtown to Young People's Theatre. We saw the production of Munschtime! Munschtime pays tribute to the prolific and beloved children's author Robert Munsch. Five of Munsch's classic stories are featured in the play; Mummel Mummel Mummel, Love You Forever, A Promise Is a Promise, Too Much Stuff and Pigs!

Here is what some of the Kindergarten Kids from Room 101 had to say about the play:

"I liked all the plays we saw but my favourite was Love You Forever because I liked the baby. In the book, my favourite part was when the baby flushed his mom's watch down the toilet." *Noel*

"I like when the pigs got out of the gate and went into the house and had coffee and peed in the shoe. Pee in the shoe was so funny!" *Kayla*

"I liked when the baby got nine years old and chewed bubble gum, and put his hat on backwards. That was my favourite part, but I liked all of the stories." *Elius*

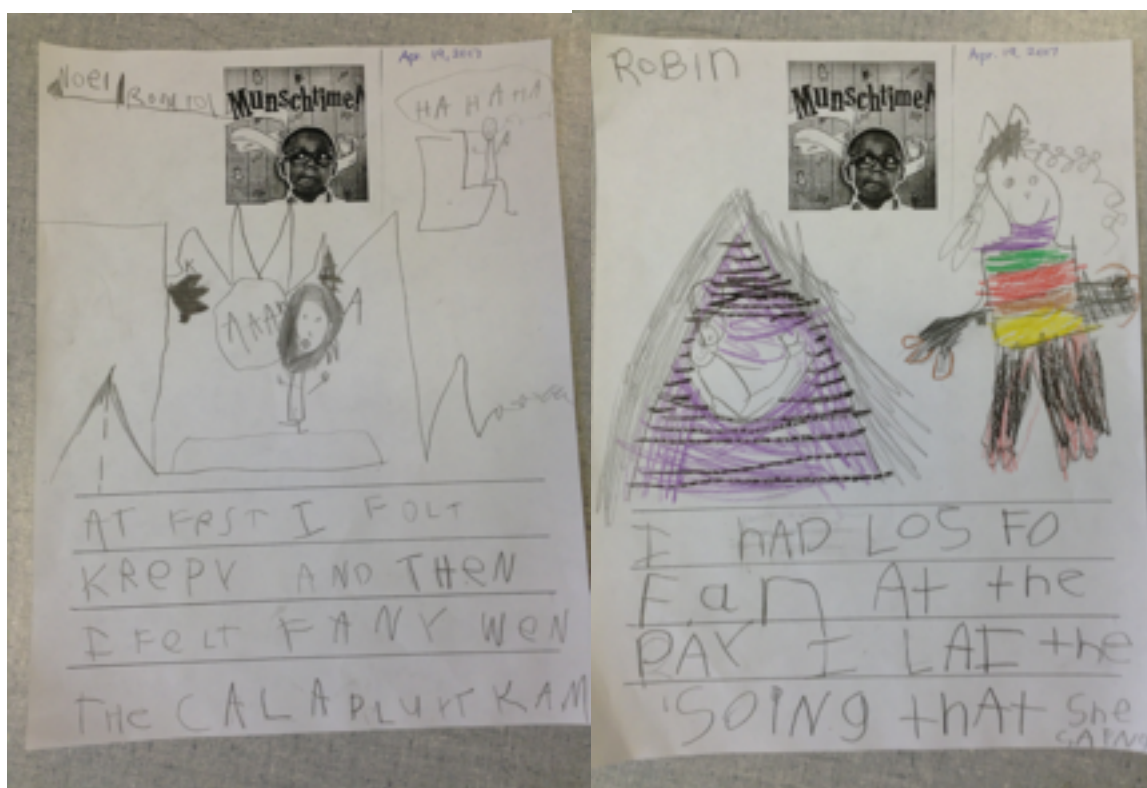
"I liked getting to the play! The bus was going so fast! It was so speedy. The seats were very comfortable and I was not squished at all." *Cortez*

"I liked Love You Forever. I liked when the mom sang a song to her baby." *Jahlyle*

"My favourite part was when the Qallupilluit came out 'cause I didn't think it was scary. I thought it was kind of funny 'cause of the way she was moving." *Asha*

"I liked when Megan opened the gate and the pigs were running around eating the people's newspapers!" *Henry*

We are also very excited to announce a new partnership between Blake Street and YPT. Blake has been designated as a Member School and will receive discounted tickets and special workshops as part of a new three year agreement. Thank you YPT!



From the Classroom: Ms Barr, Room 206

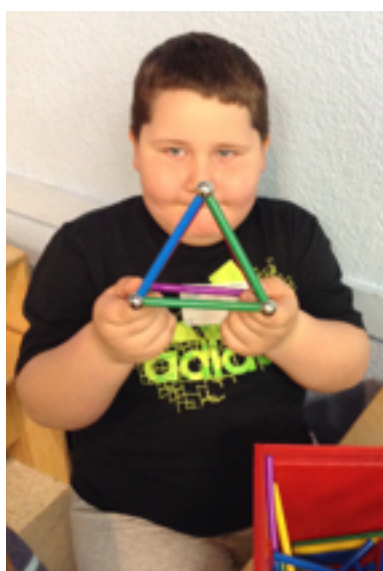
Chess:

This term, our class is really excited to be working with Mr. Jen, a chess instructor. Mr. Jen is teaching our class the fundamentals of chess. These lessons will culminate in a class tournament, where a "gold medal" champion and a "citizenship" award will be given. We've had a great time learning the skills so far!



Science Centre Trip:

On Thursday, April 20, our class had a fun field trip to the Science Centre. We did a workshop called "Fun with Geometry," where students had a chance to make 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional shapes with magnets and rods. We also explored symmetry and shapes using mirrors. After the workshop, students had the opportunity to tour the Science Centre in small groups. A special thank to our amazing volunteers who made it possible for the students to have such a rich experience!



Forest of Reading at Blake

Hello all!

Thank you for your support of the Forest of Reading program! As most of you know, the Parent Council generously supports this program by purchasing a copy of each of the 10 books in each category that we choose to run. Many thanks to all the teachers and staff who read books over the winter break for the Silver Birch Express and Silver Birch Fiction programs.

The Forest of Reading awards are one of only a few children's book awards where the winners are determined by children's votes. Our votes have now been submitted to the Ontario Library Association (OLA), and winners will be officially announced May 15-17. Here were the winners at Blake.

In the "Prix Peuplier" category (equivalent of Blue Spruce in English), we had 22 students participate, with 21 casting votes:

#1 "Aux Toiletttes" **Texte de André Marois**

#2 "Comme ci, Comme ca" Texte et Illustrations de Caroline Merola

In the "Blue Spruce" category we had 220 students participate, with 190 casting votes.

#1 "The Night Gardener" by The Fan Brothers

#2 "The Good Little Book" by Kyo Maclear

#3 "Stanley at School" by Linda Bailey

In the "Silver Birch Express" category, we had 12 students participate, with 2 casting votes (you have to read at least 5 of the 10 books in order to vote):

#1 "The Enchanted Egg" by Kallie George

In the "Silver Birch Fiction" category, we had 12 students participate, with 7 casting votes:

#1 "OCDaniel" by Wesley King

We had a wonderful celebration with the Silver Birch voters today, and the 9 students casting votes will be attending the "Silver Birch Fiction" awards and the Forest of Reading celebration with me at Harbourfront on Wednesday, May 17th. Thanks again to the Parent Council for purchasing the tickets to attend.

Hope to have even more readers reading next year!

Cheers,

Kelly



Spring update from The Parent and Family Literacy Centre in room 103

The winter saw the children bringing the indoors out, converting the water table to an ice and snow table and even making igloos inside. But like all of us, after a long winter and lots of time inside the children in room 103 are very happy to have the nice weather upon us and enjoy some outside time!

Even the youngest ones in the Blake community are excited to be able to participate in the OPAL program. We have age appropriate "loose parts" in the kindie playground that the children are able to use. Foam noodles, pots, pans, tires and old computer parts are among the favorites. These household items really spark the little ones imaginations and we have lots of creative play and laughter outdoors. We look forward to lots more outdoor time playing with loose parts this spring.

See you in Room 103.



Please Note: The Parenting Family and

Literacy Centre is open to children 0-4 and their parents and caregivers every school day from 8.45am to 12.45pm.





Recipe for a Waste-free Lunch

Not only is a waste-free lunch better for the environment, it can save you money as well. When packing a lunch for or with your child, consider the following ideas.

Here are some packing tips to MUNCH on

Yes Please	No Thank You
REUSABLE lunch carrier	AVOID paper or plastic bags
REUSABLE container	AVOID plastic wrap, foil, or Styrofoam [®]
REUSABLE drink bottle or thermos	AVOID single-use cans, bottles, or cartons
CLOTH NAPKIN to wash and re-use	AVOID paper napkins
CUTLERY to wash and re-use	AVOID plastic forks/spoons
HEALTHY snacks!	AVOID over-packaged snacks

Why pack a waste-free lunch?

It's waste-free
It costs less
It's healthier

Food for thought

The average student lunch generates 30 kg of waste per school year. That adds, on average, about 8500 kg of waste per school, per year!!!

Here are some costs to MUNCH on

Waste-free lunch

\$2.65/an average day
\$13.25/week
\$477.00/school year

Regular lunch

\$4.02/an average day
\$20.10/week
\$723.60/school year



Care for
your child
and care
for
the Earth!

ecoSCHOOLS.ca

Morning Meal - May 2017

Monday May 1	Tuesday May 2	Wednesday May 3	Thursday May 4	Friday May 5
Nut-free low-fat Cereal Strawberry Yogourt Apple	Pita Hummous Tomatoes & Carrots	Crackers Marble & Mozzarella Cheese Melon	English Muffin/Bagel Cream Cheese Cauliflower & Broccoli w dip	1 slice baked good (Pumpkin) Chocolate Milk Banana
Monday May 8	Tuesday May 9	Wednesday May 10	Thursday May 11	Friday May 12
Pita Hummous Carrots & Tomatoes	Nut-free low-fat Cereal Vanilla Yogourt Strawberries	Bun/bagel/crackers Yogourt Tubes Peppers & Cucumbers	1 slice baked good (Zucchini) White Milk Melon	Bread/bun/crackers Marble & Mozzarella Cheese Snow peas & Carrots
Monday May 15	Tuesday May 16	Wednesday May 17	Thursday May 18	Friday May 19
Nut-free low-fat Cereal Strawberry Yogourt Pear	Crackers Marble & Mozzarella Cheese Cucumbers & Carrots	English Muffin/Bagel Cream Cheese Apple	Pita Hummous Tomatoes & Peppers	1 slice baked good (Banana) Chocolate Milk Melon
Monday May 22	Tuesday May 23	Wednesday May 24	Thursday May 25	Friday May 26
Victoria Day No School	Pita Hummous Tomatoes & Carrots	Nut-free low-fat Cereal Vanilla Yogourt Strawberries	Crackers Marble & Mozzarella Cheese Cucumbers & Peppers	1 slice baked good (Pumpkin) White Milk Orange
Monday May 29	Tuesday May 30	Wednesday May 31	Thursday June 1	Friday June 2
Pita Hummous Carrots & Tomatoes	Nut-free low-fat Cereal Strawberry Yogourt Apple	Bun/bagels/crackers Yogourt Tubes Cucumbers & Carrots	1 slice baked good (Zucchini) Chocolate Milk Pineapple	Bread/bun/crackers Marble & Mozzarella Cheese Peppers & Broccoli

*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/>

Quinoa with Curried Apple and Nuts

Ingredients

- ¼ cup raw whole almonds
- 1 cup uncooked quinoa
- 2 tbsp. raisins
- 1 granny smith apple diced
- 1/4 cup loosely packed fresh mint leaves,
coarsely chopped

Dressing

- 2 tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 tbsp. lemon juice
- 1 tsp. honey
- 1 tbsp. finely chopped shallot
- 1 tsp. curry powder
- ¼ tsp. sea salt, and pepper to taste

Method

1. Cook the quinoa (add quinoa to 2 cups of boiling water, bring back to boil and simmer with lid on for approx. 15 min or until fluffy.) Once it is cooked set aside and let it cool down
2. While quinoa is cooking preheat oven to 375 degrees. Spread almonds on a baking sheet and toast for about 7 minutes (should be lightly toasted and fragrant). Once cooled coarsely chop and set aside
3. Whisk together olive oil, lemon juice, honey, shallot, curry powder, salt and pepper in a bowl until dressing is emulsified.
4. Add cooled quinoa, raisins, apple, mint and chopped almonds; mix together well.
5. Best served refrigerated

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

Hello Blake Street Students and Parents,

This month's words are an editorial from Keri Williams, the newsletter editor.

This year's Fun Fair is right around the corner, and we are in real need of a few items.

We are still looking for items for the Silent Auction.

- Anything in its original wrapping can be used for this.
- Gift cards you have lying around can be combined to buy one larger item for the auction.



- Wine or alcohol donations are not only welcome but they are legal and delicious!

We are also in strong need of volunteers for both before the day and the day itself. Please contact

volunteeratblake@gmail.com if you can spare a couple of hours to help make the day that much better for us all.

Speaking of volunteers, our intrepid Co-Chairs are

stepping down this year, and we are in need for new volunteers to take over. Mentorship is provided, and we are assured it doesn't take nearly as much time as you might think!

Thanks all, and see you at the Fun Fair!

Keri Williams

BlakeSchoolCouncil.tdsb@gmail.com

Keeping in touch

If you want to keep in touch with events at Blake on a more frequent basis there are two ways you can do this:

Sign up on the Blake Street Blog, which will send push notifications of important notices when needed. Go to <https://blakestreetparents.wordpress.com> and enter your email address.

Kiki sends out a weekly summary of upcoming events. Send an email to blakeschoolcouncil.tdsb@gmail.com to be included on this list

**Next Parent Council Meeting:
TUESDAY
16th
MAY at
6pm**

Parent Council News

Motions To Be Voted On

At the last parent council meeting the following motions were proposed. They will be voted on at the next Parent Council Meeting

Garden Program

A request was received from Erin the school garden program co-ordinator for a sum of \$4000 to re-fund the garden program for the 2017-2018 school year. This is a repeat of the request received and granted last year.

The money will go towards Erin's salary and to re-supplying the garden program.

It was noted that the garden program is participated in by all students at the school, including the French Immersion students, whom Erin teaches in French.

Some proceeds can be recouped from the Garden Table sales at the Fun Fair.

Ukulele Program

A request was received to refund the Ukulele program for the 2017-2018 school year. Very little information was available at the time of writing, but this is a follow-up request for a funding request we agreed to for the current school year.

The students involved in the ukulele club are required to purchase their own ukulele for \$60, which is then theirs to keep. The ukulele program is also running at Wilkinson school, and continues at Earl Grey school, giving students a familiar foothold at their new school in Grade 7.

Storytelling Workshop with Rukhsana Khan

Children's author and storyteller Rukhsana Khan delighted us with folk tales and stories inspired by her childhood. There were 30 in attendance, and the children were amazing listeners and contributors! To find out more about this award-winning author, visit rukhsanakhan.com.



We Need Jars for the Fun Fair!

We need jars and small toys to go in the Jar Room at the Fun Fair!

Here's ways you can help:

1. Drop off clean empty jars like canning jars or pasta sauce jars at the office.
2. Drop off small amounts of small toys, craft materials, crayons, or anything you can think of that might entertain someone like your child.
3. Do both! Drop off a jar filled with small toys to the office
4. Come to the Fun Fair and see all the happy children!



Thanks for your help!

Upcoming Events at Blake St School

Parent Council Meeting

The next meeting of the Parent Council will be **TUESDAY, 16 MAY** at 6 pm in the library.
Dinner and childcare will be provided.

Pizza Lunch

Pizza lunch will be held on **FRIDAY, 26 MAY.**



Spirit Day

Spirit Day will be **FRIDAY, 26 MAY**
It's Beach Day - what do you wear to play in the sand?

Bike to School Week

Bike to school week will be **MONDAY 29 MAY TO FRIDAY 2 JUNE**
Bring your bike to join in all the fun!

Blake Fun Fair

Blake Street Fun Fair will be **SATURDAY, 10 JUNE**
Come one come all for fun in the sun!