

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 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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From the classroom - Ms Dymont, Room 312

Room 312 Goes to the Cadbury Chocolate Factory!

It's the trip that they've been waiting for all year! Ms. Dymont took her grade 5 students last year, and this year's grade 5 crew were anticipating the same trip. Booking almost a year in advance, they were good to go as well, and loaded their pockets with change and boarded the 506 Carlton westbound streetcar, all the way to this factory at the heart of Dufferin and College.

The thing that is super cool about the Cadbury Gladstone Factory (other than all that chocolate) is that it is a working factory that is situated smack in the middle of a very busy neighbourhood, and has been there for more than 100 years. The Neilson family purchased a farm on that location in 1904 and started an ice-cream business; the same Neilson brand that is on milk cartons today. Situated in the factory is a small museum that includes vintage pictures from those original days, as well as the actual office and accounting books with the names of employees and wages that they earned. The kids were awed by the wood paneling, but even more so when they learned that some of them were actually secret cupboards! Cool for the adults are all the different wrappers from previous decades.



The tour takes about 2 hours and has four components: the museum, the two factory floors (which is now owned by Cadbury, and makes all your favourite chocolate bar and sour candies, AND has copper pipes bringing chocolate to the 5th floor all the way from the basement), the 'where does chocolate come from?' station where kids get to taste the different stages of chocolate making – from bean to completed bar - and the store! The deals are awesome, and only available to people who take the tour.

Interested in taking your family? The only time you can is on Halloween, when they run a haunted house and hand out candies to the kids!

We're Adopted!

Blake Street Public School has been 'adopted' by The Eaton Centre branch of Chapters Indigo! This is a terrific opportunity to boost our library!

Report Cards

Report cards will be coming home June 28th!

We Still Need Cupcakes!

Can you make a yummy & delicious cupcake?

Then, we want you!

We are looking for cupcakes for the kindergarten and grade 6 graduations, which are both on Tuesday, June 28. (Kindie is in the morning, grade 6 in the evening...) If you are interested please email Erin Barr erin.barr@tdsb.on.ca as soon as possible.



Culture Shock!

Hip Hop troop Culture Shock visited the school, and got everyone up on their feet dancing!



Blake Art On Display

A new art installation at RC Harris Water Treatment Plant was made by our own kids! Many thanks to all who worked on this!

New Bike Racks

The school will be getting new bike racks next year. Waiting for details of the style, but hopefully this will help with the overflow we had during Bike To School Week!



Visit by Duffelbag Theatre

The Duffel Bag Theatre Group visited the school in June, and performed The Three Musketeers, with additional help from members of the audience!

Graffiti Artist at School

Bright little pieces of graffiti art are appearing at our school, thanks to a local graffiti artist Jeannie Priscilla of eskapereality. Look for more of her work around the playground and school!



The KM Club - All The Deets!

“Mom/Dad! Hurry! KM Club starts in 15 minutes!!” Often a popular refrain twice a year at Blake, so here are the things that you need to know, so when the 2016-2017 school year starts, you’ll know what they’re talking about!



KM Club was started at Blake in 2009 by Ms. Dymont, with the support of the rest of the Blake staff, and was inspired by another TDSB teacher who ran the club successfully at his school. The idea behind the club was to have something that all students could be a part of, since so many sports teams are limited to the junior grades, and to inspire the children to see themselves as runners (since Ms. Dymont was an avid runner herself).

KM Club runs twice a year typically in September/October (leading up to the cross-country meet), and in April/May (leading up to the Track & Field meet). Students, who run in KM Club consistently and are interested in either of these two teams, end up having a more successful event as they have built up their stamina over time.

KM Club runs four days a week (Monday – Thursday, with Friday serving as a rain date if needed), and twice a day (8:20-8:35 in the morning, and at morning recess 10:00-10:10). Four laps of our ‘track’ make up 1km. In the morning the teacher outside counts laps manually, and at morning recess students collect a Popsicle stick for each lap (which classroom teachers collect and record after recess). KM Club runs for 4 weeks (typically a total of 16 days, weather-dependent).



Participation is optional, though most teachers encourage their students to at least walk, as they have noticed that the extra exercise often has an impact on behaviours in the classroom (an added plus)! Students have an opportunity to earn certificates and special shoe tags for each 10km that they run, and they get recognition on the morning announcements each Monday of the KM Club period, and on the KM Club board on the 1st floor.



The final piece is the coveted “Golden Shoe”. The golden shoe is a trophy that is awarded each week to the class with the highest percentage of participation. Students only have to run/walk one lap to be included in the participation mark for their class, and both before school and morning recess are counted toward this goal. Students are not counted if they are absent, or if they have been asked to stay inside. See you in September out on the ‘track’!

Interview With a Teacher - Mme Jamieson, FSK

The *Proust Questionnaire* is said to reveal one's innermost thoughts. In this edition, we talk to Tara Jamieson, one of Blake's French Senior Kindergarten teachers.

What is your idea of a perfect day? A hot summer's day, paddling to Toronto Island and having a picnic.

What is the trait you most admire in students? A sense of excitement and curiosity of the world around them. 😊

What is your greatest extravagance? Popcorn. So. Much. Popcorn.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be? Maybe my hair colour again. 😊

Where would you most like to live? In a cabin on a lake!

What do you most value in your friends? Humour and non-judgement. We accept each other, flaws and all.

Interview With a Teacher - Ms Barr, Gr 1/2

The *Proust Questionnaire* is said to reveal one's innermost thoughts. In this edition, we talk to Erin Barr, one of Blake's Grade 1/2 teachers.

What is your idea of a perfect day? At a cottage with family and friends. No schedule or to-do lists. Good food, board games and a lot of laughs.

What is your greatest fear? Snakes. It is totally irrational, but they terrify me! I'm even afraid of the snakes behind the glass at the zoo.

What is the trait you most admire in students? Perseverance. I love to see students work hard, challenge themselves and stick with things even when they are difficult. I also greatly admire kindness and a willingness to put others first.

Which talent would you most like to have? Drawing! I need to draw something almost daily in my job and I'm terrible at it! The students often laugh or say, "What is that supposed to be?"

Where would you most like to live? Right where I'm living right now. I love my neighbourhood (and my neighbours!). I love how close I am to work, and how many of the things we need are within walking distance. I wouldn't want to live anywhere else.

Who are your favorite writers? There are a few books I read almost once a year: The "Harry Potter" series; the "Ramona" series by Beverly Cleary (my childhood favourite!) and John Irvings, *A Prayer for Owen Meany*.

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

Hello Blake Street Students and Parents,

We hope everyone had a wonderful time at the Fun Fair! What a great event to close off another amazing year at Blake Street!

This year's Fun Fair committee leads (Valerie Foussias, Eric Novakovics and Jamie Gillingham), along with the entire Fun Fair committee are to be commended for another phenomenal event. We also want to thank every single volunteer who helped put on this event. It was so great to see so many parents and Blake staff members helping out.

Every year, the Fun Fair is just getting better and better and has really become a signature event, not just for Blake Street families, but for the entire neighbourhood and nearby communities. We get countless comments from fun fair visitors from outside the immediate Blake community on how well-planned and fun the event is and what a great "vibe" Blake Street has.

The Fun Fair was again very financially successful. This infusion of funds is very important to our school as it helps fund many enriching activities for our

students. Playground improvements, gardening education, music programs, field trips, and art and science programs are just some of what is supported by the Parent Council.

We are so thankful for all the parents who put in so much of themselves into the Parent Council. It is really an incredible part of our growing Blake Street community. To those who were not involved with the Parent Council this year... We'll see you at our first meeting in September!

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

THE CO-CHAIRS



ALAN LYONS



JEANETTE REES

Gardeners Needed!

The Blake school garden needs the neighborhood's help this summer! With the school closed in July and August, assistance is needed from the Blake community to water and weed the garden. The garden committee will be looking to populate a calendar, with volunteers expected to spend a little time on maintenance once or twice a week, for only the weeks they are available during the summer. All supplies are provided and a brief training session will be offered closer to the end of the school year. Please email volunteeratblake@gmail.com if you can help!





Thank you to all the Fun Fair volunteers and participants - a great time was had by all!



Spring Clean Up Day

The results of the spring clean up day are all around us! Benches were painted at the front of the school, and in the kindergarten play area, and a wonderful mural was painted on the wall at the east end of the playing field. Sadly this was graffitied, and has since been painted over. But the Parent Council is looking at alternative ideas, so... watch this space!

Breakfast Club Continues!

The Breakfast Club will be open on the first day of the new school year. See you there!

Dance School Discount

The dance school This Way To Broadway at 211 Danforth Avenue is offering a special discount for Blake St students. Enter the code BLAKE15 when registering for a 15% discount on the class price!

TD Canada Donation

At the Fun Fair TD Canada made a generous donation of \$9,000 to our playground fund! Thanks so much!

Playground Developments

Blake Street public school has grown significantly in the last several years from 160 kids in 2009 to 341 expected in the fall of 2016!! Of that number for next year, more than half will be in junior and senior kindergarten. Our existing playground space on the east side of the school, which was designed for 40-50 kids, is not able to safely accommodate 150!

- Blake playground committee (consisting of the school principal, teachers, parents, and child care providers) has been working hard over the last year with representatives from the TDSB to come up with a plan for a new full day kindergarten (FDK) play area, which will be used in addition to the existing playground space. Input for the plan was received from students, parent council, teachers and the wonderful TDSB staff.
- The new proposed FDK space will be on the north and west sides of the school, fronting on Boulton Avenue and Kiswick Street.
- It is a great space with several existing mature trees, but needs some work to become a safe play area for kids. The idea is to produce a naturalized playground environment with fairly minimal interventions to the existing space.
- Current proposed plan includes: replaced fencing around the existing school garden which was recently damaged by a vehicle accident, new fencing around the entire proposed play area, armour stone and re-grading to address some of the erosion issues, several new natural play features, stencilling and art work within the existing hardscape area and some new plantings.
- Construction is anticipated to start in October/November 2016 and be completed by the end of the year; hopefully all work can be completed in one phase in order to minimize construction disturbance for the school.
- The \$95k project is being jointly funded by the TDSB and Blake Street Parent Council; Parent Council fundraising has occurred through movie nights, pizza lunches and the spring fun fair; we have also secured donations from Aviva Insurance, TD Canada, Morse Street Junior Public School and Jackman Avenue Junior Public School.
- We're still trying to raise funds for additional natural play structures and art work for the new FDK space; also trying to focus our fundraising and planning efforts on the existing school playground on the east side of the school, which needs help as well!
- Blake is also involved in a pilot project with the TDSB and Earth Day Canada to introduce the OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) concept from the UK into Toronto schools; this involves an audit of existing outdoor play and the introduction of new ideas and 'loose parts' into the play environment.

The new FDK space will be a tremendous asset for both Blake and the surrounding community; Parents and teachers are very excited to get started on this much-needed project!!

Super Sports Saturdays - For Families



What: An informal get together of families from the Blake Street community. We'll use our great green field space to play sports together for fun.

When: Every Saturday morning from 10:30am to noon (Saturdays in June & July, starting Saturday June 18th)

Where: The field of Blake Street Public School

Who: Families of Blake Street and our friends from the community

Cost?: Free - Just show up!

What to bring: No need to bring anything, but if you would like, bring a ball or a bat. Please just come out.

Why?:

- Keep up connections with school friends over the summer
- Exercise & health
- Come out and have fun!



Summer Lovin' - Cool food crafts for the hot summer days!

Turn your fruit salads into something special like these watermelon carvings below. Check out <http://www.watermelon.org/carvings> for ideas and instructions to some of your favourite movie characters and superheroes. Get your grown-ups to help and supervise the cutting and handling of skewers but have fun building your very own creations to share with friends and family!



(Above) Weber-Style BBQ with fruit kebobs on the grill

(Pictured left) Watermelon boat to hold the fruit salad complete with Lego toy, umbrella and masts made from the watermelon rind.

Summer Quinoa Salad

By Alexandra Knowles

This is a super hearty and protein packed summer salad, and many kids will go nuts over the feta cheese ... this recipe pleases even my three picky eaters!

1 cup quinoa
 1 red bell pepper, diced
 generous handful of spinach, roughly chopped
 1 cup corn (from fresh or frozen)
 1 cup feta cheese, crumbled
 juice from one lemon
 1TB olive oil

Bring two cups of salted water to a boil, add quinoa, cover and simmer for 12 minutes. Fluff with a fork, pour into large mixing bowl and set aside to cool.

Toss diced red bell pepper with olive oil. Roast in 400 degree oven for 10 minutes or until just starting to soften. Add to cooked quinoa. When quinoa is cooled significantly (you don't want it to be too warm or spinach will wilt) add corn, spinach and crumbled feta. Pour lemon juice over salad and mix to combine.

Enjoy warm or cold!