

# 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

**Editing and Layout** Keri Williams

**September Contributors**

## 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](mailto: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.

## PARENT COUNCIL CONTACTS

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## From the Vice Principal

Hello Blake Street Students, Parents, and Community. I just want to write a short note to introduce myself as the new Vice-Principal at Blake Street. My name is Tina Weinberg and I am so excited and honoured to be part of the Blake Street School staff and community. What a fantastic and vibrant place to be!

I look forward to growing and learning and collaborating with the entire Blake Street school community in the weeks and months ahead. If you ever have any questions or concerns, or just want to introduce yourself, please feel free to call my office, stop me in the school yard, or drop in for a chat.

Here's looking forward to a wonderful school year together!

*Tina Weinberg*

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## From the Editor

Hello Blake Street family! Welcome to the 2016/17 school year! I'd like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to last year's contributors, especially the parent members of the Newsletter Committee Alexandra Knowles, Melissa Jenkins-Gray, Judith Prince, Sue Yahoda-Drewery, Kate Green, and Andrea Gusen. I would also like to say thank you so much to all the teachers who supplied content for and helped distribute the newsletter. And finally a huge thank you to

Office Administrator Sue Reashore for showing me the ropes, and for her huge contribution to the task of printing this newsletter.

This is the first newsletter of the 2016/17 year, and our new committee of volunteers has yet to meet. So watch this space for additions to content, as our new committee members add their voice to our monthly newsletter.

Keri Williams

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## NOTICE: No Parking In Front of the School

Please do not park in front of the school between 3.15 and 3.30pm. We have a number of school busses that arrive during this time that are on a tight schedule, and any delay causes problems with getting our kids home on time.

Thank you.



## Grade 4 / 5, Room 308, Ms. Davey and Ms. Theed

The class has been debating whether Graffiti is considered art, vandalism, or something in between. We have been discussing Urban Art and how it can both positively and negatively impact a community. In doing this we have discovered that some graffiti, like the artwork showcased on the walls surrounding our playground take skill and craft to execute, while others, like tags do not take as much skill and can be damaging to our community.



In creating our own "Graffiti Name Art", the class also wrote pieces to express their opinions on graffiti to accompany their projects. In researching the history of Graffiti, we viewed a short PBS video about the history of American graffiti. In the film, graffiti was described as, "illegal art on a wall." The class, then used that definition to write their own opinion pieces. This has led to some interesting discussions about Respect, which ties into this month's character trait. The students all agreed that having permission, or showing respect for other's property, is very important.



"I think graffiti is art because it tells stories, for example the artist's life."- Maria

"I think that graffiti is vandalism because it is when people's names go on walls without permission." – Daniel

"It is illegal art that uses spray paint." – Yeabsera

"The colours are beautiful in graffiti." – Ismacil

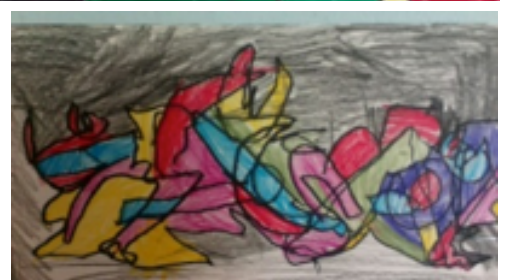
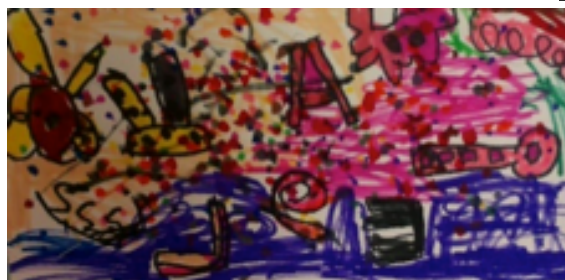
"Graffiti is art because it expresses feelings." – Rain

"I think that graffiti is art because our community is very colourful because of the graffiti." – Nadia

"Graffiti is an art form because it can be beautiful or tell a story."- Shorna

"I think that graffiti is vandalism because sometimes it can be illegal and you could get arrested by the police." - Sam

*(Examples of the "Graffiti Name Art" created by students in Room 308)*



# OPAL Comes to Blake

By Jodie Church

Our school has been chosen as one of only 6 schools in all of the TDSB to participate in an Outdoor Play and Learning program (OPAL) in partnership with Earth Day Canada. OPAL recognizes the value of unstructured play in an outdoor environment. Earth Day Canada believes that "nature education begins when kids connect to their own natural desire to discover the world through play".

The OPAL lead team has met several times already to begin the planning process of bringing OPAL to Blake Street. We have been encouraged as educators to reflect on our own childhood experiences with outdoor play. For most of us, we remember being outside with kids of all different ages. We remember being free to create our own play. We remember that grown ups didn't dictate what we should do while we were outside playing. We remember this type of play because it was *memorable*, it came from our own imaginations. It was real and free and honest. It taught us to problem solve and be resilient. It taught us to work as a team when needed and allowed us the time and space for a bit of alone time if we craved it. This is the type of play that is quickly disappearing from the lives of our children. This is the type of play that we would like to bring to Blake Street!

Please visit: [outdoorplayandlearning.org.uk](http://outdoorplayandlearning.org.uk) for more information

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## Playground Development News

By Andrea Strauss Maceck

We are thrilled to announce that we are getting closer and closer to getting a new kindie playground! Shovels will be in the ground in 2017, transforming the entire west schoolyard into a nature-focused playscape, for year-round enjoyment by our students and the greater Blake community.

We'll see new play features added, including a sandbox, log climber, and slide, which will enhance this already rich play space. Log benches and a bed of wood chips will replace the asphalt and bench currently constricting the large maple at the north end, making it the centre of a new outdoor classroom, in the age-old tradition of gathering at a tree to learn. A new fence, replacement of deteriorating wood walls and new ramps are some of the safety and access improvements. A new storage unit will provide space for some of the 'loose parts' that are part of our coming Outdoor Play and Learning program.

The current kindie playstructure and yard at the east side of the school will remain. The new space provides relief to the overcrowding that would occur if all five kindergarten classes were out in the existing yard together.

Looking forward to sharing a great new space in which to play and explore!

# Morning Meal - October 2016

Monday Oct 3	Tuesday Oct 4	Wednesday Oct 5	Thursday Oct 6	Friday Oct 7
Nut-free low-fat Cereal Strawberry Yogourt Tomatoes & Carrots	Crackers/Bread Marble & Mozzarella Cheese Apples	Pita/Tortilla Hummous Peppers & Cucumbers	1 slice baked goods White Milk Melon	PA DAY
Monday Oct 10	Tuesday Oct 11	Wednesday Oct 12	Thursday Oct 13	Friday Oct 14
<b>Thanksgiving No School</b>	Nut-free low-fat Cereal Vanilla Yogourt Tomatoes & Carrots	Crackers/Bread Yogourt Tube Oranges	Pita/Tortilla Hummous Peppers & Cucumbers	1 slice baked goods Chocolate Milk Bananas
Monday Oct 17	Tuesday Oct 18	Wednesday Oct 19	Thursday Oct 20	Friday Oct 21
Pita/Tortilla Hummous Yellow & Red Peppers	Crackers/Bread Marble & Mozzarella Cheese Pear	Nut-free low-fat Cereal Strawberry Yogourt Cucumbers & Carrots	1 slice baked goods White Milk Banana	English Muffin/Bagel Cream Cheese Broccoli, Cauliflower & Dip
Monday Oct 24	Tuesday Oct 25	Wednesday Oct 26	Thursday Oct 27	Friday Oct 28
Nut-free low-fat Cereal Vanilla Yogourt Apples	Pita/Tortilla Hummous Peppers & Tomatoes	Bagel/Bun Yogourt Tube Melon	Crackers/Bread Marble & Mozzarella Cheese Carrots & Cucumbers	1 slice baked goods 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/>

## Clubs Clubs Clubs

**Ukelele Club** will be starting soon. This is a great chance to pick up an instrument, and begin an activity that will continue at Earl Grey school. Grades 4, 5, and 6.

**Chess Club** has started in Ms Davey and Ms Paton's class. Students get 1 hour of tuition per week for 10 weeks.

**Swimming at Earl Grey** is now available to grades 4, 5, and 6. Students will get 45 mins per week.

**Karate Kids** will run from October 17 to December as a 40 minute class at lunchtime for grades 1, 2 and 3.

**Strings Club** has begun. Strings is starting next week. It will take place on Day 1 & 3 from 10:10-10:55. Grades 4, 5 and 6.

### Fun Fact: School Enrolment

Our school enrolment currently stands at 325 students. We have doubled our student population from 2007!

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

Hello Blake Street Students and Parents,

Welcome to the new school year! Jeanette and myself are thrilled to once again be your Parent Council Co-Chairs.

The Parent Council is already buzzing with activities thanks to our incredible parent volunteers. This newsletter is a great example! Pizza day, spirit day, movie night, QSP fundraising, the Indigo adopt-a-school project and many other initiatives have already launched or are underway right now.

Our first parent council meeting of the year was a huge success with a large turnout and we were so pleased to see so many parents signed up to volunteer for one of our many, many groups and sub-committees.



Of course, we still need many more volunteers to hit all of our goals this year. Please get involved with the Parent Council this year! It's really fun and it's a great opportunity to "give back" to the children and the community.

We have accomplished so much in the last couple years... It's amazing to think where we can go from here. Of course, if we don't get enough active parent volunteers, we simply will not be able to deliver the fun Blake Street events the kids all love. Also, without enough volunteers, we will not be able to

raise the funds that make such a huge difference for our kids in the classroom.

So, if you have never been to a Parent Council meeting before, we challenge you to come out to the October meeting. If you are a new parent at Blake Street, this is the best way to get involved and become part of the amazing Blake community. Why wait?

Thanks very much,

Jeanette Rees & Alan Lyons  
[BlakeSchoolCouncil.tdsb@gmail.com](mailto:BlakeSchoolCouncil.tdsb@gmail.com)

## School Fundraising

While the Fun Fair is our major fundraising event of the year, the fundraising continues all year.

**QSP** folders went home last week, offering a range of products including magazines, cookie dough, and more. The school receives 37% to 45% of all purchases, a valuable addition to our fundraising efforts.

**Mabel's Labels** gives our school 10% of all orders, if you select our school from the Support a Fundraiser list. It's an alphabetical list, but fortunately being Blake we are near the top!

**Coffee, tea and hot chocolate** will be ordered monthly. Watch for the order sheet - it's good stuff!

**Next Parent Council Meeting:  
 TUESDAY  
 18 October  
 at 6pm**



Clothes don't grow.

**Kids do.**



## WELCOME FAMILIES OF BLAKE STREET PUBLIC SCHOOL

Parent Council is pleased to hold our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual

**FREE**

### **FAMILY CLOTHING AND BOOK SWAP**

**On THURSDAY NOVEMBER 17<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 8 pm**

A SWAP means to **exchange** your valued but no longer *used* clothing and books, for clothing and books you *will* use. It's FREE!! EVERYTHING IS FREE!!

There is no exchange of money at this event.

It is time to *declutter* and *refill* your and your children's wardrobes and swap some good books and sporting equipment. Parents this includes your clothing along with the Children's clothing and Books and sporting equipment. Some examples are: JEANS, T-SHIRTS, PARTY DRESSES, SWEATERS, BUSINESS ATTIRE, MITTENS, HATS, SCARVES, BOOTS, SHOES, SNOW PANTS, WINTER COATS, LONG JOHNS, SKATES, HOCKEY STICKS, and HELMET'S AND OF COURSE BOOKS!!!

How it Works: PLEASE GO THROUGH YOUR DRESSERS, CLOSETS AND BOOK SHELVES AT HOME AND BRING **ALL** THE CLEAN, *WASHED*, GENTLY USED, ITEMS TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE BEFORE: **MONDAY NOV 14TH BY 330pm.**

We are holding this on the same day and evening as the **PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEW night**, so please stop by the gym and take what you need. See you there!!!



# Upcoming Events at Blake St School

## PA Day/Thanksgiving

The school will be closed **FRIDAY, 7 OCTOBER** for a PA Day, and **MONDAY, 10 OCTOBER** for Thanksgiving.  
Have a great break everyone!



## Photo Day

School photos will be on **THURSDAY, 13 OCTOBER**.  
Smile your best smile!



## Parent Council Meeting

The next meeting of the Parent Council will be **TUESDAY, 18 OCTOBER** at 6 pm in the library.  
Dinner and childcare will be provided.

## Dental Screening

Free dental screening will be running from **TUESDAY, 25 OCTOBER** to **FRIDAY, 28 OCTOBER** for everyone in the school. Please contact the office if you have any questions

## Pizza Lunch

Pizza lunch will be held on **FRIDAY, 28 OCTOBER**.



## Spirit Day/Halloween



Spirit Day will be taking a short vacation this month. Instead, everyone is invited to wear their Halloween costumes on **MONDAY, 31**

