

BLAKE BEAT



In this issue:

| | |
|--|--------|
| Upcoming events | Page 3 |
| Notices | Page 4 |
| Morning Meal Calendar for December | Page 5 |
| Recipe of the Month | Page 5 |
| Halloween Dance | Page 6 |
| Constable Jen's Visit | Page 6 |
| Character Trait of the Month - Kindness and Caring | Page 7 |

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Interview with Sue Reashore | Page 8 |
| The Importance of Reading | Page 9 |
| Council Co-chair | Page 10 |
| Council News | Page 11 |
| Breakfast Club | Page 12 |
| Clothing Swap | Page 12 |
| Kid Craft and Outing | Page 13 |
| Movie Night..... | Page 14 |

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

November Contributors

Melissa Jenkins-Gray, Valerie Foussias, Alan Lyons, Jeanette Rees, Judith Prince, Kelly Dymont, Sue Yahouda, Kate Green, Jill Jamieson, 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 25th 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

Co-chairs Jeanette Rees and Alan Lyons
BlakeSchoolCouncil.tdsb@gmail.com

Treasurer Jamie Gillingham

Newsletter Editors Alexandra Knowles and Keri Williams
blakeschoolnewsletter@gmail.com

Volunteer Coordinator Volunteer Team
VolunteerAtBlake@gmail.com

Blake Street Public School

21 Boulton Ave, Toronto, ON, M4J 1A7

Phone #: 416 393 9415

Fax #: 416 393 9414

www.BlakeStreetPublicSchool.com

Upcoming Events at Blake St School

Clothing and Book Swap

The Clothing and Book Swap will take place **FRIDAY, 4 DECEMBER** in the gymnasium, from **3.15 till 8.30pm**

THIS IS A FREE SWAP - NO MONEY OR DONATION REQUIRED

Bring any clothing donations to the school office. Volunteers needed to help sort donations. See ad later in the newsletter.

Final Day for French Immersion Registration

The final day for registration in the 2016/17 French Immersion program will be **THURSDAY, 3 DECEMBER**

Movie Night

The next movie night will be on **FRIDAY, 4 DECEMBER**. The movie will be Disney's Home



Report Cards

Report cards for Grades 1-6 will be sent home on **THURSDAY, 10 DECEMBER**

Dental Screening

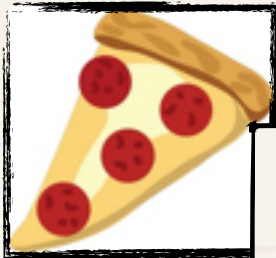
Dental Screening of Blake students will happen from **MONDAY, 14 DECEMBER to THURSDAY, 17 DECEMBER**. Any issues will be identified to parents and caregivers, but repair work won't be made.

Parent Council Meeting

The next meeting of the Parent Council will be **TUESDAY, 15 DECEMBER** in the library. Dinner and childcare will be provided.

Pizza Lunch

Pizza lunch will be held the last day before the winter break, **FRIDAY, 18 DECEMBER**.



Spirit Day

FRIDAY, 18 DECEMBER

RED AND GREEN DAY

School Closures

The last day of school will be **18 DECEMBER**. The first day back at school will be **4 JANUARY, 2016**
See you then!

Notices

Leaving Messages at the Office

Any messages for students or teachers regarding, for example, changes to pick up arrangements or messages for students should be left with our Office Administrator Sue Reashore before **2PM**.

The office is very busy at the end of the day, and it is very difficult to get messages out at that time of day.

Thank you for your help with this!

Chopped 55 Competition

6 students will be competing against Bruce Public School on **TUESDAY, 8 DECEMBER** at the President Choice Cooking School at Victoria Park and Gerrard. This is the first of 4 competitions. The winners of these preliminary rounds will be going through to the championship round in 2016.

OPERATION Kids

OPERATION Kids will be starting **WEDNESDAY, 3 FEBRUARY**. The cost is \$20 for 10 weeks

Are You on our Mailing List?

Occasionally we have notices that need to be sent out before the next edition of the newsletter. Are you on our mailing list? If not, please send an email to blakeschoolcouncil.tdsb@gmail.com

Morning Meal - December 2015

| | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|---|
| Monday Nov 30 | Tuesday Dec 1 | Wednesday Dec 2 | Thursday Dec 3 | Friday Dec 4 |
| Nut-free low-fat Cereal Strawberry Yogourt Carrots | English Muffin/Bagel Cream Cheese Banana | Pita Hummous Peppers & Cucumbers | 1 slice baked goods Chocolate Milk Apple | Crackers Marble & Mozzarella Cheese Carrots |
| Monday Dec 7 | Tuesday Dec 8 | Wednesday Dec 9 | Thursday Dec 10 | Friday Dec 11 |
| Bread/Buns Yogourt Tube Oranges | Crackers Marble & Mozzarella Cheese Red & Yellow Peppers | 1 sliced baked goods White Milk Pears | Pita Hummous Carrots | Nut-free low-fat Cereal Vanilla Yogourt Melon |
| Monday Dec 14 | Tuesday Dec 15 | Wednesday Dec 16 | Thursday Dec 17 | Friday Dec 18 |
| Pita Hummous Red & Yellow Peppers | English Muffin/Bagel Cream Cheese Apples | Crackers Marble & Mozzarella Cheese Carrots & Cucumbers | Nut-free low-fast Cereal Strawberry Yogourt Banana | 1 slice baked goods Chocolate Milk Carrots |

*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/>

Easy Lentil Soup

Ingredients:

- 2 cups dry lentils
- 2 quarts chicken broth
- 1 onion, diced
- 1/4 cup tomato paste
- 2 cloves garlic, minced,
- 1 tablespoon ground cumin

Directions:

In a large saucepan combine lentils, broth, onion, tomato paste, garlic and cumin. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat, cover and simmer until lentils are soft, 30 to 45 minutes. Serve with a squeeze of lemon.

Courtesy:

<http://allrecipes.com/recipe/26434/>



Our First Halloween Dance

The Dance Committee would like to give heartfelt Thanks to all the Volunteers, as we could not have done it without your help and support!!

Thanking the students for dressing up in your fabulous costumes and for bringing your parents too, to our 1st ever Halloween Dance!!



What a super fun night dancing to ghoulish tunes and dance favourites, and for posing with those great costumes in the Photo Booth!!

And as an appreciation for such a successful night, ALL the fantastic photos from the Photo Booth will be given as a GIFT to all the students!!

See you at the 2016 Valentine's Dance ~ Friday February 19th....Mark your calendars!!



Shout out to Christine Prednichuck who made these fabulous capes for the Halloween photo booth! Look for them at the Valentine's Dance in February!

COTTON CANDY FACTS:

- Cotton Candy was first made popular at the 1904 World Fair in St. Louis, USA.
- Fairy Floss (UK), Candy Floss (AUS), Cotton Candy, *Barbe à papa* (Papa's beard), *zucchero filato* (sugar thread in Italy) are popular names for the treat.

Officer Jen Visits School

On The 23rd and 24th of November Officer Jen Germaine, from 55 Division, visited the school to discuss age-appropriate safety issues with students, ranging from street crossing safety to cyber bullying. It was great to have her here!



This Month's Character Trait: Kindness and Caring

Each month, students at Blake Street P.S. are given opportunities to learn about important character traits and ways in which they can improve their good character. At the end of each month, students who have demonstrated excellent character, or excellent efforts to improve character, are rewarded at an assembly. **December's character trait is kindness and caring.**



KINDNESS
Pass it on!

Give a flower Eat lunch with someone new
Listen with your heart Visit a sick friend
Clean a neighbor's walk Offer a hug
Give an unexpected gift Make a new friend
Pick up litter Say "hello" Call a lonely person
Open a door Help carry a load Plant a tree
Pass a kindness on Buy someone's meal
Cheer up a friend Thank a teacher Give blood
Read to a child Do one kind act every day
Leave a thank you note Offer your seat
Tip generously BE TOLERANT Let another go first
Bake cookies for emergency workers Tutor a student
Give a compliment Pay the next driver's toll
Lend a hand Give a balloon to a child
Offer a ride Celebrate the day Respect others
Encourage a child Walk a dog Do a favor
Forgive mistakes Drive courteously Share a smile

www.actsofkindness.org 

the random acts
of kindness foundation

Everyone can show kindness in many ways each and every day. Being kind costs you nothing and it makes YOU feel better too!



Kindness
Is Contagious.
So Pass It On!

Challenge your child to do one kind thing every day. Have a daily conversation at dinner to see who found a way to be kind.

Visit

www.randomactsofkindness.org

for some amazing ideas.

Interview with Sue Reashore

The *Proust Questionnaire* is said to reveal one's innermost thoughts. In this edition, we interview Blake Office Administrator **Mrs. Sue Reashore**....

What is your idea of a perfect day?

Getting up on a Saturday morning and sharing in the job of making homemade waffles, topped with fresh blueberries, strawberries, and bananas with a dollop of whipped cream for breakfast with my daughter. After that, we would go to Scarborough Town Centre and go shopping for a few hours and then usually go visit my sister and her family until later in the day.

What is your greatest fear?

Public speaking--just like last year at the Volunteer Tea, where I was presented with a gift card from the Parent Council. While I really appreciated the thought, speaking terrified me so I shook hands with Emma Brejak and gave her a hug. Later on, I sent the Parent Council an email thanking them for their generous gift.

What talent would you most like to have?

I would love to be as talented as Ginger Rogers was back in the day. I love ballroom dancing and would like to participate in World Ballroom Competitions.

Where would you most like to live?

Somewhere where it's sunny and warm with white sandy beaches and turquoise waters.

Who are your heroes in real life?

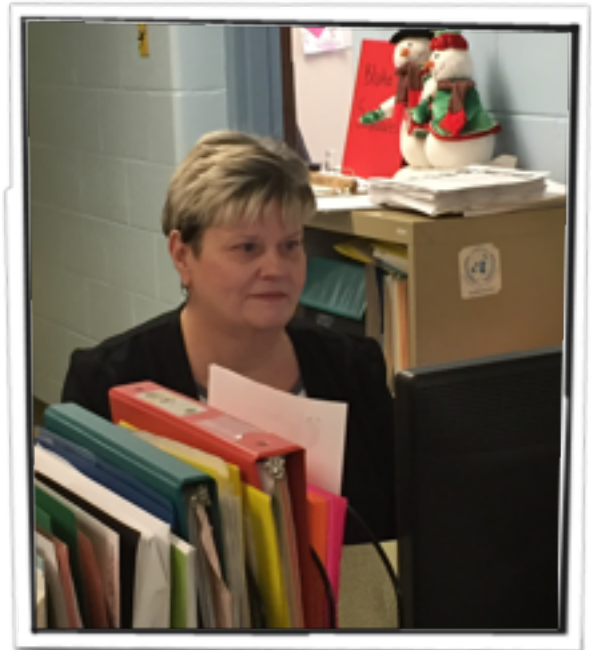
Dr. William Dixon is my hero. He is the Chief Ophthalmologist at Sunnybrook Hospital. I went to see him back in 2008 and he booked me for surgery right away. I had an eye disease called Fuchs Dystrophy. It meant that I would need a cornea transplant from a donor that had recently died and had donated their eyes to science at the Eye Bank. Within a month a donor was found and I had the surgery. Two years after that, I went through the same thing with my other eye. If they had not found a donor in time, I would have been totally blind in both eyes.

What is your motto?

Shop 'til you drop!

What is the trait you most admire in students?

I admire them for their honesty, their innocence, and the ability to learn everything and anything given by teachers and parents. I am truly amazed by them every day.



Why Can't I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?

Student "A"
reads **20 minutes**
each day

3600 minutes in
a school year

1,800,000 words



90th percentile

Student "B"
reads **5 minutes**
each day

900 minutes in
a school year

282,000 words



50th percentile

Student "C"
reads **1 minute**
each day

180 minutes in
a school year

8,000 words



10th percentile

By the end of 6th grade Student "A" will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Student "B" will have read only 12 school days. Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary? Which student would you expect to be more successful in school...and in life?

(Nagy & Herman, 1987)

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

Hello Blake Street Students and Parents

The Blake Parent Council is rolling along really well. All of our sub-committees are buzzing with activity and creating amazing results, while having a blast doing it.

The Halloween Dance was SO MUCH FUN! The gym was converted into a cool nightclub with amazing music, food, dancing and fun all night long.

Congrats and a big thank you to the School Dance Team for putting on such an outstanding event. We can't wait for the Valentine's Dance. Bring on February!

Big steps are being made toward realizing our Legacy Project goal of transforming our outdoor space into an amazing space for our students and the greater community. We'll know in early December if we are going to be awarded more



money through the Aviva Community Fund in addition to the \$5,000 we've already secured. Stay tuned!

Our Magazine and Cookie Dough drive were huge successes and have allowed the Parent Council to make another big investment in Blake's library

Our Magazine and Cookie Dough drive were huge successes and have allowed the Parent Council to make

another big investment in Blake's Library. Thanks to Danielle Stamatiou for doing such a great job with these initiatives every year!

With the teacher's union job action coming to an end, we are able to help put on even more activities for the kids. One of the most exciting events that is coming back is Pizza Lunch!

Movie Night and the Clothing/Book Swap have been

combined into one big, awesome event, which makes a lot of sense.

There is so much going on that it's impossible to list everything and thank everyone for putting in such an incredible effort! The best way to get a handle on all the activities that the Parent Council is spearheading is to come to the next meeting! It will be held on December 15th and we'd love to see everyone come out. Every meeting we're seeing more and more new faces, which is really exciting!

In order to serve the school properly, we need EVERY Blake family represented on the Parent Council and on our sub-committees, groups and teams. Please come out and join the fun!

Thanks very much,
Jeanette Rees & Alan Lyons
BlakeSchoolCouncil.tdsb@gmail.com

Next Parent Council Meeting: Tuesday 15 December at 6pm

The Blake Parent Council needs YOU!

Having kids in elementary school is a busy time for parents. There never seems enough time for everything you need to do in a day! What about stuff you WANT to do? Even more difficult to find that time!

However, one thing we should make time for is participating in the Blake Parent Council. Getting involved with the Parent Council is an easy way to get a sense of what is happening at the school. Considering our kids spend more time at school than they do with their parents at home, this is a worthwhile thing to do!

There are so many great teams working on so many important initiatives for Blake Street.

Joining one of the Parent Council groups, such as the Fun Fair committee, is a lot of fun. The teams are made up of your neighbours and friends who are putting in as much time as is feasible for them. No job is too big or too small on our committees!

After putting in some hard work, when the Fun Fair or our other activities is over, there is a great sense

of pride and comradeship that you feel with your teammates. It's hard to put into words!

But the first step is just to come out to a meeting! December 15th at 6PM. We'll see you there!



NEW INITIATIVES VOTED ON AT THE LAST PARENT COUNCIL

The following new initiatives were voted on at the last parent Council

Parent Council Dinners

Funding was required to pay a parent to make the dinners at the start of the Parent Council meetings. The \$200 budget is offset by a donations box at the meetings.

Status: **PASSED**

Adventures in Acting

The Parent Council was asked to fund a series of acting classes for grades 1-6.

Status: **NOT PASSED**

Breakfast Club - Under New Management!

Ms. Valerie is the new Coordinator for Blake's Breakfast Club!

Come on in, from out of the cold and into the warmth with us!!

Served daily in the Gymnasium (enter The Breakfast Club though the outside doors by the library on the west side of the school) from 8 am until 840 am. A free and nutritious breakfast meal is served to start the day off right, for all the students at Blake! Play some board games too, whether you are eating or not, with your fellow peers!!



At 8.15am, our Volunteer Chefs from Bosley Real Estate, serves up a hot and yummy breakfast for you to enjoy!

Please remember to thank them!!

See you next time at The Breakfast Club!!!



3rd Annual Family Clothing & Book Swap

Friday December 4th Is quickly approaching!!

Please remember to bring your clean but gently used items to school before Wednesday December 2nd and drop off in the office.

We are still looking for volunteers to help with sorting and organizing during the week and for set up on Thursday evening from 330 pm and on. Kid helpers are welcome too for set up!

Our FREE event runs from 9 am – 8 pm in the Gymnasium!

Look forward to seeing all the families taking advantage of FREE CLOTHES AND BOOKS!!

Did You Know...

- Italian pastry chefs in the 1400's made *spun sugar designs*, beautiful handmade threads of cotton candy that decorated plates of food for the wealthy. Sugar and time were extremely valuable in those days.
- Jump to 1899 and we have a candy maker, John C. Wharton, and a dentist (!), William J. Morrison, working together to design a machine used to spin sugar into a fluffy ball.
- Cotton candy is a pure sugar treat made by heating sugar until it melts into a liquid, a process called *caramelization*, then spinning it so that fine threads form when it has cooled down.

A Yummy Craft for Feathered Friends

Make these birdseed treats to hang from the trees

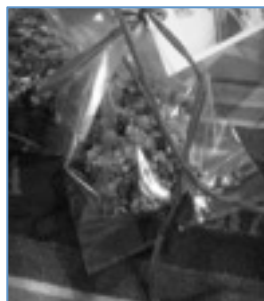
For 6 birdseed cupcakes, you'll need:

- 2 cups of birdseed
- 1 packet unflavored gelatin
- 2 tablespoons cold water
- 1/3 cup boiling water
- Cupcake liners
- Spatula
- Twine/string
- **Optional:** Ice cream scoop, straws to thread a string through the cupcakes for hanging outdoors or vegetable oil spray to grease the cupcake liners.



Instructions:

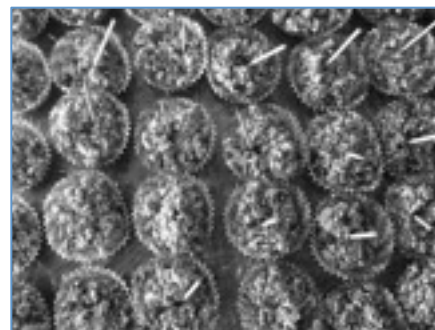
1. Empty 1 package of unflavored gelatin into a bowl with 2 tablespoons of cold water. Let this sit for 1 minute.
2. **Your parent or guardian** will add 1/3 cup of boiling water to the gelatin and stir a few minutes until the gelatin is dissolved.



3. Add 2 cups of birdseed to the gelatin and mix it thoroughly. Now you've made the batter for the birdseed cupcakes!

4. Scoop the birdseed batter into each cupcake liner then add a straw through the middle of each one. Now you'll need to put them aside for up to 4 hours while each cupcake dries completely.

5. Once dry, remove the straw and thread a string through the hole so you can hang it outside on a branch for the birds. (Or even store them in see-through bags to gift friends.)



Discover Nature and History with Evergreen Brickworks Family Scavenger Hunts

The Brickworks have 2 scavenger hunts that are designed for families with children ages 3-6 and 7-10. The scavenger hunt will help you enjoy the amazing urban/rural place while using your imagination to think about the Brick Works in past, present and future!

Times: Monday–Friday | 9am–5pm

Saturday | 8am–5pm

Sunday | 10am–5pm

Location: Family Scavenger Hunts can be picked up at the Welcome Desk inside the Young Welcome Centre

Cost: Suggested donation of \$2 (optional)

Location: Evergreen Brick Works, 550 Bayview Ave, Toronto ON, M4W 3X8

Getting there: There is a **FREE** bus every half an hour that runs from Broadview Station. Go to <http://www.evergreen.ca> for bus timetable and more events at the Evergreen Brickworks.

Popcorn Pizza Hotdogs Samosas
Tirpitas Juice Boxes Bake Sale
Keep the fun and food rolling!

BLAKE'S FAMILY

★ MOVIE NIGHT ★

6:30 pm

Friday, December 4th

Doors open at 6:10

DREAMWORKS
HOME



Please bring
non-perishable food items
for Blake's Food Drive!

