

BLAKE *BEAT*



KINDERGARTEN ART PROJECT—SUN MOSAIC

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A Note From Our Blake Street School Council Chairs

Hello Blake Street Students and Parents,

We hope that everyone had a restful March Break, and that you have returned with new energy and vigour. It is always encouraging to hear the spring song birds chirping – this cold and lengthy winter is nearly behind us!

Although the Fun Fair Committee was active in early March, for the most part the month was quiet from an activity perspective. School Council also took a break during the month to get ready for the last three months of the school year.

As noted in the March edition of the Blake Beat, we have a number of great activities planned for April, including a Movie Night, the “Blake Showcase Bollywood Dance” workshop, a Spirit Day, and a Pizza Lunch. Our Fun Fair Committee will also enter the final two months of planning and fundraising. It should be an amazing month.

Our next School Council meeting is on Thursday, April 16 from 6.00 to 7.30pm in the school library. At these meetings, dinner and child care is provided. Every parent or caregiver of a Blake student is welcome to come out and connect with your school administration and fellow parents and caregivers.

Thanks for your great support of Blake school, and for making it a great place for our children. We wish you the best for now, and look forward to seeing you soon!

Emma & Sean

Parenting and Family Literacy Centre

Looking for a place to hang out with your baby, toddler or pre-schooler? If so, the Blake Street Parenting Centre (in the kindergarten area) is just the place for you!

Open from 8:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Monday to Friday, we offer a safe, fun place for children ages 0 to 4 years to play with you and other children, while you enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and relax with other parents, grandparents and caregivers. No registration is required; stay for a long time or a short visit, whichever suits your schedule and your child's needs. For questions please drop by to talk to Margot in the Centre. Hope to see you soon!



Mission Statement and Philosophy

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.

Principal: Kiki Karailiadis

School Council Chairs: Sean Neeb and Emma Brejak

Superintendent: Mike Gallagher

Trustee: Jennifer Story

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.

Newsletter Team

Editing and Layout: Nicole Novakovics

April Contributors: Bilal Ahmed, Karla Barrera, Emma Brejak, Ms. Dymont, Alex Evers, Maria Foussias, Ahsan Hanifi, Marva Hanifi, Colleen Huggins, Elizabeth Lawrence, Jonah Losell, Marie MacEwen, Elin Marley, Sean Neeb, Jin-Yi Pao, Danielle Stamatou, Alima Tookhi, Mr. Tsai, Ms. Yoannou, and Ira Zheng.



BLAKE BEAT
ISSUE # 6, VOLUME 03

“Dear Mr. Tsai...”

Nominations for the Character Development Award for Honesty



Dear Mr. Tsai,

I think Daniel should be chosen as the most honest student because he tells the truth. For example, Daniel admits when he makes mistakes. He also tells people when he lost something that he borrowed. He is also respectful. For example, he will respect books that he borrowed. He also picks things up that he knocked down. He is also fair. For example, he follows rules. He also shows good sportsmanship. For example, he does not grab the balls from other people. He also says “good game” when he wins or loses so he is respectful and fair and that is why I think he should be chosen.

Sincerely,
Ira

Dear Mr. Tsai,

I think Ahmad should be chosen as the most honest student because he tells the truth. For example, he will return stuff that doesn't belong to him. He tells when there is a problem to a teacher and he always tells the truth! Ahmad has good sportsmanship. For example, he plays fairly in gym, soccer, and board games like *Trouble* and *Sorry*. He follows the rules. For example, when he walks in the hall he follows the rules and he listens in class. That's why I think Ahmad should be chosen as the most honest student of the month!

Sincerely,
Alima

Dear Mr. Tsai,

I think Tiffany should be chosen as the most honest student because she tells the truth. For example, Tiffany gives stuff back that's not hers. Also, I can count on her all the time when we are working in partners. Tiffany tells the truth like when there is a problem. When I'm doing my homework, she always gives me back my eraser. Tiffany always keeps promises. She always tells the truth when she doesn't finish her homework. That is why I think Tiffany should be chosen as the most honest student.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth

Dear Mr. Tsai,

I think Elizabeth should get the honesty award because she always tells the truth, she always does what is right, and she gives advice. Elizabeth also follows school rules, shows sportsmanship, and she is very respectful. I can count on her because she keeps promises, she listens to the teacher, she does her job, and she sets an example for the class, which helps me concentrate on my work. That's why Elizabeth should get the honesty award.

Sincerely,
Maria

What Makes the Children's Book Bank a Special Place?

The Children's Book Bank is a very special place because it's clean and organized. It feels warm inside. Everyone gets one new book. You could make your own library and donate books for free. The books are in good condition. Volunteers read two books to every class. You can get smarter when you read books and you learn things from books. People donate books to the Book Bank. Sometimes when you take out a book you can read it. They let anyone come in even if they're poor and even if they're rich they let anyone come in. They stamp your book and you write your name on the line where it says “This book belongs to”. The Book Bank is a nice quiet place to read and borrow books. Parents can come to the Book Bank and borrow books for their children and for themselves. The Book Bank is a really special place.

Marva Hanifi

The Children's Book Bank is a very special place. It is special because when you walk into the Children's Book Bank you feel warm and safe. The Children's Book Bank is clean and organized. Anyone can go to the Children's Book Bank. You get one free book to keep forever. Some books teach you things, some books are about adventures and the sea and the land and fairy tales. Everybody is nice and kind to everybody. The books are in good condition at the Children's Book Bank, they're nice and clean. You can donate books to the Children's Book Bank that you don't use anymore. The Children's Book Bank is a special place.

Alex Evers

I love the Children's Book Bank for lots of reasons. The first reason is that one volunteer reads two books to every class. The other reason is that the Children's Book Bank volunteers keep the Children's Book Bank clean and organized. The last reason is everyone gets a free book!

Jonah Losell

The Children's Book Bank is a very special place. You donate a book you don't need. The book teaches us about things and you get smarter. It's clean and organized. You could feel safe and warm.

Bilal Ahmed

The Children's Book Bank is a special place because everyone can get one free book. Anyone can go! And it's free! All of the books are in 10/10 condition. The books are organized and very clean.

Ahsan Hanifi



BLAKE'S FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

AN EVENT ORGANIZED BY BLAKE SCHOOL COUNCIL

COME TO JOIN US FOR
AN AMAZING ADVENTURE!

DOORS OPEN

AT 6:10PM

MINI DANCE PARTY BEFORE MOVIE

APRIL 2ND, 2015

THURS. AT 6:30PM

POPCORN, PIZZA, SAMOSAS,
TIROPITAS, NACHOS,
COOKIES, JUICE
BOXES AND WATER ARE
AVAILABLE FOR
PURCHASE

FREE
ADMISSION!

FOR EXTRA COMFORT, BRING
PILLOWS, BLANKETS
AND EVEN COME IN PJS!

**NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 3
SECRET OF THE TOMB**

Blake Food Garden Update

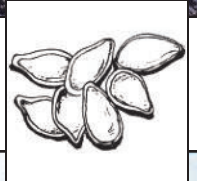
By Elin Marley

While the Blake food garden was sleeping under a blanket of snow this winter, we were still busy learning about it and planning for this year's growing season. Like in previous winters, we learned about the plant parts we eat and where our food comes from, and we explored seeds, met the earthworms that live in Mr Tsai's class' vermicompost bin, and did some winter scavenger hunts out in the garden. Ms. Paton's class also had a chance to grow some food right in their classroom. We used the growlights which we use every spring for starting seedlings, and planted a few different types of seeds: sunflower, pea, radish and clover. A couple of weeks later, we got to harvest and taste the little shoots that had grown! Pea shoots were definitely the most popular, though some students liked the spiciness of radish shoots. Hopefully next winter, more classes can take part in this.

Students in a few classes (Ms. Barr, Ms. Yoannou, Mr. Tsai, and Ms. Leoni) also started to learn about what is involved in planning and mapping a food garden. We started by brainstorming some of our favourite fruits and vegetables. We then narrowed down our list for the garden, removing plants like bananas and oranges which cannot grow in our climate, and we also decided we wouldn't have enough space for apple or peach trees in our little garden. With our long lists of remaining plants, we learned that some need a lot of sun while others can handle some shade. We observed that the end of the garden by the huge maple trees would be shadier than the other end. Taking into account those different criteria, students worked on creating their own garden maps, where they could decide what they would like to plant and how to arrange the plants in their dream school food garden. You can check out their wonderful work on the bulletin board by the library. The students really put a lot of thought and work into their maps!

I'm working on putting together this year's garden map using some of the students' ideas, some input from parents on the garden committee, and continuing to grow some of the plants which we use for classroom cooking or which are useful for specific garden lessons. If you would like to get involved with the garden during the school year or the summer, please get in touch with the School Council.

To read more about the work I do with school gardens at Blake and at other schools, check out my blog: seedlingstories.wordpress.com or follow me on Twitter @seedlingstories.



SPRING FUNDRAISER—FLOWER BULBS!

Who loves seeing beautiful lilies and daffodils in the spring? With the warm weather here, it's time to start thinking about gardening.

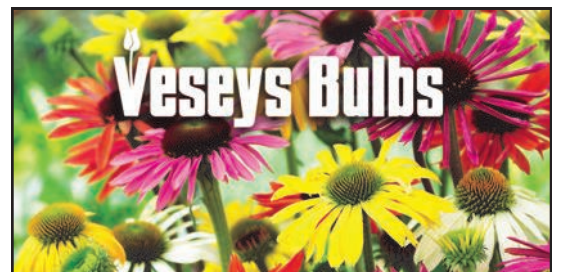
Blake Street Public School has partnered with Vesey's Bulbs to offer bulbs and seeds for your spring garden. Vesey's is a Canadian company that sells bulbs, plants and seeds. Students will be receiving a fundraising order sheet & catalogue where you can choose from a wide variety of bulbs to plant this spring.

All information will be coming home in this Friday's folder and **orders are due by Friday, April 17th, 2015**. Please make cheques payable to **Blake School Council** and hand your order form in to your classroom teacher. Our school will receive 50% profit from all the sales, and shipping & taxes are included in the price. Bonus: Order \$40 or more and receive 25 anemone bulbs free! If you did not receive an order form and would like one, please contact the office. Bulbs will be delivered by the end of May to our school.

If you don't have a green thumb, please consider purchasing items from the Blake's Garden Wish List that Elin, our Garden Educator, has put together to attract pollinators. Contact Danielle at daniellestamatiou@hotmail.com if you would like to order something for Blake's Garden. Children will love to see what they plant this spring come to full bloom before the end of the school year!

Please help us welcome spring by purchasing some bulbs and don't forget to show the flyer to family and friends too. They can peruse the catalogue, or visit: <https://www.veseys.com/assets/images/articles/fundraising/15SpringFRBrochure.pdf>

As always, we appreciate your continued support.





2015 Parent Academy Conference

By Parents For Parents

Education, Empowerment and Employment



Education

Workshops for parents/caregivers to effectively support their children's success and well-being



Empowerment

Workshops for parents/caregivers to impact positive change on a personal, school and community level



Employment

Workshops for parents/caregivers to enhance their workforce development



East

Saturday April 18th, 2015

10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Cedarbrae C.I.

550 Markham Rd, Scarborough, ON, M1H2A2

West

Saturday April 25th, 2015

10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Thistletown C.I.

20 Fordwich Cres, Etobicoke, ON, M9W2T4

Both locations will offer:

- ✓ light breakfast
- ✓ lunch
- ✓ transportation
- ✓ childminding
- ✓ interpreters

Visit your school office to register
or register online at tdsb.on.ca/modelschools



Recipe! Apple Snack Cake

By Karla Barrera

Ingredients:

Wet: ¼ cup canola oil or butter

¾ cup apple sauce (*)

½ cup buttermilk (**)

1 egg

Dry: 1 cup all-purpose flour

¾ cup sugar or honey

¾ tsp baking powder

¾ tsp baking soda

¾ tsp cinnamon



Directions:

1. Grease a loaf pan and preheat your oven to 350°F.
2. Mix all wet ingredients together.
3. In a separate bowl, mix all dry ingredients together.
4. Mix all wet and dry ingredients until they are just combined—do not over-mix.
5. Fill the loaf pan and bake for 45 min or until done.
6. Let cool in the pan for 10 minutes before slicing.

Makes 1 loaf (12 slices)

(*) Applesauce

Although you can use any store-bought applesauce, I like and quite enjoy making my own puree, rich, thick, and full of all the goodness of just apples. You can use any kind of apples, however, I favour red, juicy and crispy apples (i.e. McIntosh, Gala, Spartan, Fuji) as they yield a beautiful red, sweet and tangy sauce, it is so delicious that you can use it for baking, cooking or eat it on its own. It is easy to make and freezes well. This is how...

- Wash your apples thoroughly
- Core and cut them in quarters, and yes!!! you are leaving the peel on.
- Put them in a pot and pour enough water to prevent burning and to create steam.
- Cover them with a tight lid.
- Bring the water to a boil and then bring the heat down to medium-low for about 15 minutes until the apples bloom.
- Turn off the heat and let them cool.
- Blend the apples and all the liquid either with a hand blender, blender or a food processor. until you hardly see any of the peel floating around.
- If you are not too keen on the texture strain the sauce and enjoy.

(**) Buttermilk substitutes

- Stir ¼ cup milk into ¾ cup plain yogurt (this is my favorite) or,
- Mix 1 cup of milk, add 1 Tablespoon of fresh lemon juice or vinegar, stir and let sit for two minutes.

Happy cooking and happy eating!!!

Still A Few Spirit Wear Items Available...

Including lots of baseball hats (\$15), water bottles (\$6) and some youth t-shirts (\$10). Please see Ms. Reashore in the office if you would like to purchase a spirit wear item. (You can pay with cash, or a cheque payable to "Blake School Council").




Morning Meal – April 2015*

Monday Mar 30	Tuesday Mar 31	Wednesday Apr 1	Thursday Apr 2	Friday Apr 3
Crackers/Bread Marble & Mozzarella Cheese Cucumbers	Nut-free low-fat Cereal Vanilla Yogourt Grapes	Pita/Tortilla Hummous/Dip Peppers & Carrots	1 slice baked goods 2% Chocolate Milk Melon	Good Friday No school
Monday Apr 6	Tuesday Apr 7	Wednesday Apr 8	Thursday Apr 9	Friday Apr 10
Easter Monday No school	Bagel/Bun Yogourt Tubes Carrots & Cucumbers	English Muffin Cream Cheese Bananas	Pita/Tortilla Hummous/Dip Peppers & Carrots	1 slice baked goods 2% White Milk Apples
Monday Apr 13	Tuesday Apr 14	Wednesday Apr 15	Thursday Apr 16	Friday Apr 17
Nut-free low-fat Cereal Strawberry Yogourt Snow Peas	Crackers/Bread Marble & Mozzarella Cheese Strawberries	English Muffins Vanilla Yogourt Cucumbers	1 slice baked goods 2% Chocolate Milk Blueberries	Pita/Tortilla Hummous/Dip Peppers & Carrots
Monday Apr 20	Tuesday Apr 21	Wednesday Apr 22	Thursday Apr 23	Friday Apr 24
Crackers/Bread Marble & Mozzarella Cheese Strawberries	Pita/Tortilla Hummous/Dip Carrots	1 slice baked goods 2% White Milk Grapes	Nut-free low-fat Cereal Vanilla Yogourt Cucumbers & Peppers	English Muffin Cream Cheese Bananas
Monday Apr 27	Tuesday Apr 28	Wednesday Apr 29	Thursday Apr 30	Friday May 1
Pita/Tortilla Hummous/Dip Cucumbers & Carrots	English Muffins Yogourt Tubes Apples	Crackers/Bread Marble & Mozzarella Cheese Peppers	1 slice baked goods 2% Chocolate Milk Grapes	Nut-free low-fat Cereal Strawberry Yogourt Cucumbers & Peppers

*Fruits/vegetables subject to change due to supply – check the Blake website under "Nutrition Programs" for the most up-to-date menu

**all bread products are whole wheat with a minimum of 3g fibre

April 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30 Character Trait Assembly Honesty—Mr. Tsai's Class 10:10am—10:50am Folkdancing Practice (201) 12:00pm—12:30pm After School Activities (Gym) 3:15pm—4:15pm	31 Blue and White Day	1 Eco Club (106) 11:30am—12:15pm OPERATION KIDS 3:45pm—5:45pm	2 "Free The Children" Club (LC) 11:30am—12:15pm After School Activities (Gym) 3:15pm—4:15pm MOVIE NIGHT! 6:30pm	3	4
5 	6	7	8 Eco Club (106) 11:30am—12:15pm OPERATION KIDS 3:45pm—5:45pm	9 Aboriginal Workshop (Ms. Paton) "Free The Children" Club (LC) 11:30am—12:15pm Boys Soccer Practice (Gr. 4—6) 3:15pm—4:00pm	10	11
12	13 Folkdancing Practice (201) 12:00pm—12:30pm Boys Soccer Practice (Gr. 4—6) 3:15pm—4:00pm	14	15 Trip to the Ontario Science Centre (Ms. Paton/Ms. Davey) 9:00am—3:00pm Eco Club (106) 11:30am—12:15pm OPERATION KIDS 3:45pm—5:45pm	16 "Free The Children" Club (LC) 11:30am—12:15pm Boys Soccer Practice (Gr. 4—6) 3:15pm—4:00pm BLAKE SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING 6:00pm—7:30pm	17	18
19	20 Folkdancing Practice (201) 12:00pm—12:30pm Boys Soccer Practice (Gr. 4—6) 3:15pm—4:00pm	21 Author Visit (Gr. 3-6) (9:00am—11:30am) Trip to Roy Thomson Hall (Ms. Paton/Ms. Davey/Ms. Dymment) 10:30am—1:00pm	22 Eco Club (106) 11:30am—12:15pm	23 "Free The Children" Club (LC) 11:30am—12:15pm Boys Soccer Practice (Gr. 4—6) 3:15pm—4:00pm	24 SPIRIT DAY PIZZA LUNCH	25
26	27 Folkdancing Practice (201) 12:00pm—12:30pm Boys Soccer Practice (Gr. 4—6) 3:15pm—4:00pm	28	29 Character Trait Assembly Cooperation—Mrs. Kil's Class 10:10am—10:50am Eco Club (106) 11:30am—12:15pm	30 "Free The Children" Club (LC) 11:30am—12:15pm Boys Soccer Practice (Gr. 4—6) 3:15pm—4:00pm BOLLYWOOD DANCE WORKSHOP 6:00pm—7:00pm	1 All Day Boys Soccer Tournament @ Blake (Gr. 4—6)	2