

BLAKE BEAT

Giving Back During the Holidays
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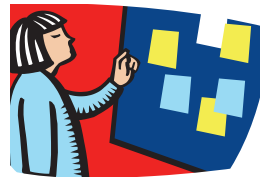
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CHARACTER TRAITS



KINDNESS AND CARING month

Everyone can show kindness in many ways each and every day. The good news? It's not hard to give away a kind deed and, unlike most things, it will almost always come straight back to you! Here are some simple ways you can help create a culture of kindness and caring at school, at home and all your communities.

Three things in human life are important: the first is to be kind; the second is to be kind; and the third is to be kind.

Henry James (1843-1916)

Here are some ideas for parents to encourage kindness and caring in their children.

- Share stories in the news. For example, on National news in November was the story of a teenage girl who had worked to buy herself a bicycle that was stolen. She put up a sign about the thief, and in response, a complete stranger bought her a brand new bike!
- Challenge your child to do one kind thing every day. Have a daily conversation at dinner and take it in turns to talk about each member of the family's act of kindness.
- Teach your child to be kind to himself.
- Visit www.randomactsofkindness.org for some great ideas.

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

One of the most difficult things to give away is kindness; usually it comes back to you.

Anonymous

What is RED, WHITE & GREEN? (and doesn't melt) YOU, SILLY!

- ✓ Here is your chance to show your holiday spirit
- ✓ Dress in all RED, WHITE and GREEN

TUESDAY DECEMBER 17TH is...

RED, WHITE & GREEN DAY



THE BOOK REPORT

By Kelly Dymont, Teacher-Librarian (kelly.dymont@tdsb.on.ca)

Helping Your Child Find Things On-line

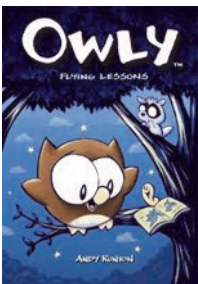
When you look for something on-line, do you automatically go to www.google.com? As you've probably learned, you usually get millions of hits, and most of it what it shows you will be over your child's head. There are a number of good options for you. The first option is to use the Blake Virtual Library site, accessible from home. Simply go to www.tdsb.on.ca and click on the "Find Your School" icon. Locate "Blake Street Junior Public School" and when you click on the school, look down the menu on the left to find the "Virtual Library" link.

In this site you have access to many tools to help your child navigate information. Sites that have passwords are available from me, so just send a note in your child's agenda, and I will send a bookmark home with the passwords.

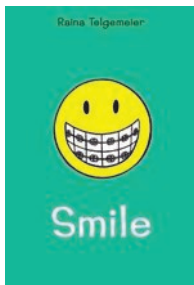
The second option is www.sweetsearch.com (you will also see sweetsearch4me for younger readers on the homepage). The articles on this website have been researched by a team of educators to ensure that the content is accurate and approachable. Have fun exploring!

My favourite series (this month)

No doubt that many of you are becoming more familiar with the "graphic novel" genre – it is definitely one of the fastest growing areas in the library, and our students are voracious consumers of it! While this genre has historically been geared more toward boys, that is definitely changing. There are also many more titles coming out for our primary students. Don't turn your nose up on this genre, it actually requires a lot of inferencing on the part of your child since the dialogue is often quite limited, or non-existent. While it's typically not a good 'shared reading' experience to have with your child, your child will probably get quite animated in their retelling of it!



JK-3



Grade 3-6 Girls



Grade 3-6
Boys & Girls

Volunteers wanted!

If you have an hour to spare every week, or every once in awhile, please consider becoming a library volunteer! Our students love our library and are voracious readers! As a result we need to shelve and repair books on a constant basis. Please contact me if you are interested in coming in to help. Training provided!

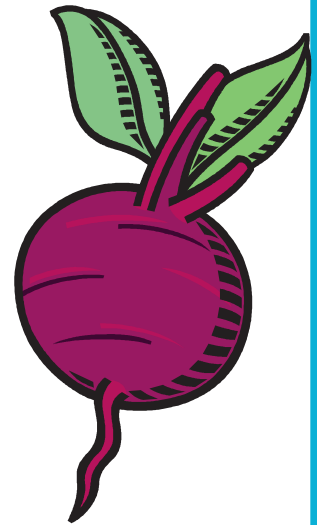
RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Roasted Beet and Quinoa Salad

This is wonderfully colorful dish that will look spectacular on any holiday table

Ingredients

- 3-4 medium beets, washed and trimmed (do not peel)
- 1 cup dry quinoa
- 2 cups water
- 1/2 cup walnuts, lightly toasted
- 3 cloves garlic, minced or grated
- Juice and zest of one large lemon
- 2 Tbsp balsamic vinegar
- 3 Tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 tsp Dijon mustard
- 2 Tbsp honey
- 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp ground coriander
- 1/2 tsp ground cumin
- 1/4 cup each chopped cilantro & parsley
- Salt & pepper to taste



Method:

1. Preheat oven to 400 F. Wrap beets in foil and bake until extremely tender, about 45 minutes to 1 hour. Let cool, then slip off the skins (do this while holding the beets in a damp paper towel to avoid staining hands). Dice into 1-inch cubes and set aside.
2. Rinse quinoa well and add to 2 cups of boiling water. Cover and simmer for approx 15 minutes or until water has been absorbed and quinoa is fluffy; uncover and allow to cool.
3. In a pan, heat oil and add garlic, lemon rind and ground spices. Cook and stir for 2 minutes, then add balsamic vinegar and lemon juice. Remove from heat. After cooling for a few minutes, stir in Dijon and honey.
4. Add beets to cooled quinoa. Break walnuts into pieces and add to the bowl. Pour dressing over and toss well until quinoa becomes pink. Add cilantro and parsley and combine well. Season to taste with a bit of salt and pepper.

(This dish can be eaten slightly warm but I prefer it after it has been refrigerated for a couple of hours...allows for co-mingling of flavors.)

-Lucy Frankel

WHAT'S ON - DECEMBER

EVENTS AT THE BRICKWORKS

1. **Free Skating** Saturday December 21, 11am-4pm.
2. **Children's Garden** Saturdays and Sundays 10am – 4pm.
Suggested \$5 donation. Free activities with eco-theme in the outdoor play area.

FREE EVENTS AT THE PAPE / DANFORTH LIBRARY

1. **Holiday Stories and Crafts** January 3, 2014. 2-2:45pm. Stories and a winter break craft. Drop-in program for ages 3 and up.
2. **Family Carolling in the Morning** Friday December 20, 10:30am – 11:00am. All ages welcome.

DISTILLERY CHRISTMAS MARKET

1. **Christmas Market (Free Entry)** Runs thru to Sunday December 16.
Includes free Santa's elves sing-along stage show every day at 5pm, concerts on Wednesdays at 7pm, storytelling and of course, photos with Santa.
More info: www.torontochristmasmarket.com/events2013.html

CHOIR

By: Jamie Gillingham

The choir has begun rehearsals in preparation for the winter concert. Children from a full spectrum of grades have signed up and are eager to participate in this special opportunity to perform as a group for the school community. Ms. Church is organizing the group and leading rehearsals - thank you, Ms. Church, for this extracurricular activity! The parents and students appreciate it so much. Here are some opinions of participants in the choir:



- "I really like the idea of singing on stage and mixing singing with choreography." Killian L (Grade 4)
- "I am looking forward to being on stage. It will help me get used to performing and being in front of people. I want to take music lessons soon and I will need to be comfortable with doing this." Ben G (Grade 4)
- "It is very gratifying to have all the children who have chosen to participate in this activity excited about the work involved in learning the songs and choreography. What is not to love about having a group of students dancing and singing together???" - Ms. Church
- "I really, really like to sing and the songs we will be performing are a lot of fun. I like being in choir a lot." Mackenzie G (Grade 1)
- "Choir is so much fun. It is great to sing as a group and I can follow along with the words on the board!" Nadia G (Grade 1):

HARBOURFRONT EVENTS

1. **Free Skating on the Rink.** Most scenic rink in Toronto... Sundays in December from 10am to 10pm.
2. **Fleck Dance Theatre.** WinterSong returns to warm the hearts of family audiences with its breathtaking tapestry of seasonal dance for the solstice. \$22.50 - \$38.

KORTRIGHT CENTRE

1. **Christmas at Kortright** 13, 14, 20, 21 December
Kortright Centre, 9550 Pine Valley Dr, 416-667-6295

YOUNG CENTRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

1. **Alligator Pie!**
50 Tank House Lane, distillery District. Family packages available.

A STORY BEFORE TIME



THE GRADE ONES AND A STORY BEFORE TIME...

By Erin Barr and Anna Kiil

On Thursday, October 17, Ms. Barr and Ms. Kiil's classes went to see "A Story Before Time" at Young People's Theatre. "A Story Before Time" is an Onkewehonwe creation story explained through movement, dance and storytelling. Everyone really enjoyed the show. Here are some of the things the students had to say:

- "I liked it when the two brothers were fighting. It was so cool because they were doing flips and stuff on the stage." – Lucas
- "My favourite character was Holder of the Heavens because he was smart." - Ismacil
- "I liked it when they were dancing. I liked the music and the happy parts. But I didn't like the character called The Bent One." – Jonah
- "My favourite character was The Bent One because he was funny. He was copying the people when they were dancing." -Yeabsersa
- "I liked how raccoon moved across the floor. He had wheels on his costume." – Sam
- "I liked Holder of the Heavens. He is good. He picked up his mom." - Antony
- "I liked it when the brothers were wrestling. I liked it because there was some cool moves." – Fisher
- "Holder of the Heavens was responsible. He made balance." - Sara
- "I liked it when Hanging Flower got twins. But I didn't like it when the Bent One blamed his brother for hurting their mother." – Molly

JOB SEEKING FOR PARENTS

'Tis the seasonal:

Job searching during the Holidays

By Darcy Losell, Employment Advisor and Parent

To be honest, this next three month cycle (Dec-Feb) is not exactly a great time for job seeking. The market is saturated with temporary work and many companies are slowing down to accommodate for staff vacations and winter hours. What I have heard from various job developers/recruiters is that employers will still post jobs and receive applications but may hold off till the New Year to start reviewing and calling back candidates.

If you haven't landed a position by now, the most logical sectors to keep applying/looking into are the big three: **1) Restaurant/Food service, 2) Retail and 3) Arts/Entertainment**, as festive shoppers, diners and audiences bring a boost to those markets. What if you're not interested in a 'Mc-Job' or temp/seasonal work? Here are some simple things you can do during the break to rejuvenate your search and get ready for the New Year.

1: Stay Active - Keep looking

Just because it's the holidays doesn't mean you stop searching for employment opportunities. Strive to remain pro-active and disciplined about your continued search efforts. It may sound over-simplified but keep things moving forward every day. I have worked with thousands of unemployed people and the most successful are the ones who are consistently doing something every single day to get ahead. It's not about luck, it's about taking action.

Things to consider: Borrow employment books/resources from the Toronto Public Library, attend free job search workshops or seminars at local Employment Centre, research companies/organizations that interest you, get out and network at social/community events.

2. Find that Life/No-work Balance

Just because you don't have a job right now, doesn't mean you can't enjoy yourself and live your life. Sure you're on a budget and money is tight, but there are many free things you can do to develop your employability skills and professional knowledge. While being a job seeker can lead to people to feel depressed, hopeless or angry, attempt to recycle that energy and take advantage of the holiday cheer and spirit of good will around you and in your community. Don't get carried away though, looking for work should be your full-time commitment.

Things to consider: Focus on family and friends, take a night course, participate in a training program, become a volunteer, pursue a hobby or passion, get involved in sports or recreational activities.

3. Un-pack your 'gifts'-and stay in the present

I couldn't resist connecting this month's advice to the holiday tradition of giving and receiving gifts. Do yourself a favour and start with giving yourself the gift of time and reflection. When it comes to job seeking, sometimes you need to slow down and take stock. Ease up on your job search or relentless 'hunt' on the internet and retreat to a journal to reflect on the Fall Season and where you have come with your goals and objectives. Since the market will be slower anyway, why not try on some of those larger tasks that take more time to get started or follow-through on.

Things to consider: Build a skill/strength inventory or list of the expertise and personal qualities that make you employable, practice your Interview skills, create a LinkedIn profile or review any of the advice I've given over the past two articles.

Questions, comments, need help or a free resume critique?

Email: dlosell@gmail.com or ldarcy@sschto.ca

ROOM 208's FIELD TRIP

By: Lily

The day we went was November 7, 2013. Our class went to the Ontario Science Center. We went with Mr. Tsai (our teacher) and Mr. Marten. We waited for at least 15 minutes until we got on the bus. It took 20 minutes to arrive at the Science Center. We put our jackets and bags in the lockers. We went to the Science Arcade. We played for at least 30 minutes there. Then we went to a Science Workshop. I forgot what the scientist's name was. She taught us about carnivores, herbivores, omnivores and animal bones. Then we had lunch. After we played again for 15 minutes, then we went back to school.

That was a great field trip!



MOVIE NIGHT

By: Azka Azmi & Natalie Thorne

Movie Night was so much fun! The movie was "Monsters University" it was a nice movie. It was a really cheesy with all the pizza, but we still had fun! The younger kids totally had fun every 5 minutes they were all screaming "YAAAY GO MIKE YAAAY GO SULLY YAAAY!"

We think the Parent Council did a great job putting the mats down so we could sit on them. They had an excellent choice for serving pizza, it was delicious! We would recommend this movie to anyone who has a taste for nice kid movies, like kid humor and animated movies!

"Monsters University" teach you about perseverance.

Also we really liked how people bought their PJ's, pillows and were dancing during the movie! We really liked the movie and had lots of fun!



PARENT COUNCIL UPDATE

By: Willie Macrae

Blake Parent Council Update from Nov 21 meeting:

- There were more than 20 parents in attendance!
- **Teacher's Update:** Ms. Barr indicated that the teachers were very appreciative of the delicious home-cooked food that parent council volunteers provided for them on Parent/Teacher night.
- **EQAO:** Miss Karalaidis presented the results of the Education Quality and Accountability Office Grade 3 and Grade 6 test scores; scores were much improved (for example, grade 6 writing was up to 86%) but we still need work on Grade 3 reading and Grade 6 math!
- **Movie Night:** pajama day and movie night (Monster's University) were a great success!
- **Spirit Days:** A great suggestion was made by Zoolnad - a grade six student - to have one of the Spirit Days be a celebration of Blake's cultural mosaic with traditional clothes and food; stay tuned!
- **PRO Grant:** Parent Council has voted on 5 themes for the upcoming fitness workshops: self-defence, dancing, ball sports, yoga and outdoor activities. Look for scheduling details in January!
- **Parent Council spending:** funds raised from the 2013 Blake Fun Fair will be going towards Elin and her garden program and creating a Blake Parent Council website.
- **Playground update:** The TDSB has agreed to expand the kindergarten play area and hopefully include another play structure - stay tuned for more updates
- **Parent Council meeting structure:** Council voted to continue with the provision of food and child minding at all future meetings, with compensation for the food and chef to be provided by donation only.

Council wants to invite all Blake parents to get involved with Parent Council and help make a difference with your school!! Meetings are held the third Thursday of every month in the school library at 6pm. No meeting is scheduled for December, so the next meeting will be on Thursday January 16th, 2014. Food and child minding is provided and the meetings are actually a lot of fun!

Mission Statement and Philosophy

At Blake, our mission is to provide a caring, safe and bully-free environment, which 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 support our students and lead 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 have the responsibility to follow staff directions.

Principal: Kiki Karaliadis

School Council Chair(s): Lori Ross, Nicole Novakovics

Superintendent: Mike Gallagher

Trustee: Cathy Dandy

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, please send an email addressed to Blake School Council : blakeschoolcouncil.tdsb@gmail.com, with the subject line 'For the newsletter' before the 20th of the month.

Articles should be sent in Microsoft Word format.

THE NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER TEAM

Azka Azmi

Erin Barr

Kelly Dymont

Kate Green

Lucy Frankel

Jamie Gillingham

Zoolnad Haque

Kim Hoang

Anna Kiil

Yukina Kuo

Brennel Lewis

Lilly

Darcy Losell

Eric Novakovics

Jeanette Rees

Natalie Thorne

Sammie Woldegebreal

BLAKE BEAT

ISSUE # 3, VOLUME 02

BLAKE KIDS LOVE TO READ!

Hello Friends and Family of Blake!

We've launched Blake Kids Love to Read!, a fundraising campaign, and we need your help. **Our goal is to raise \$500 between Nov. 25, 2013 and Dec. 25 2013.**

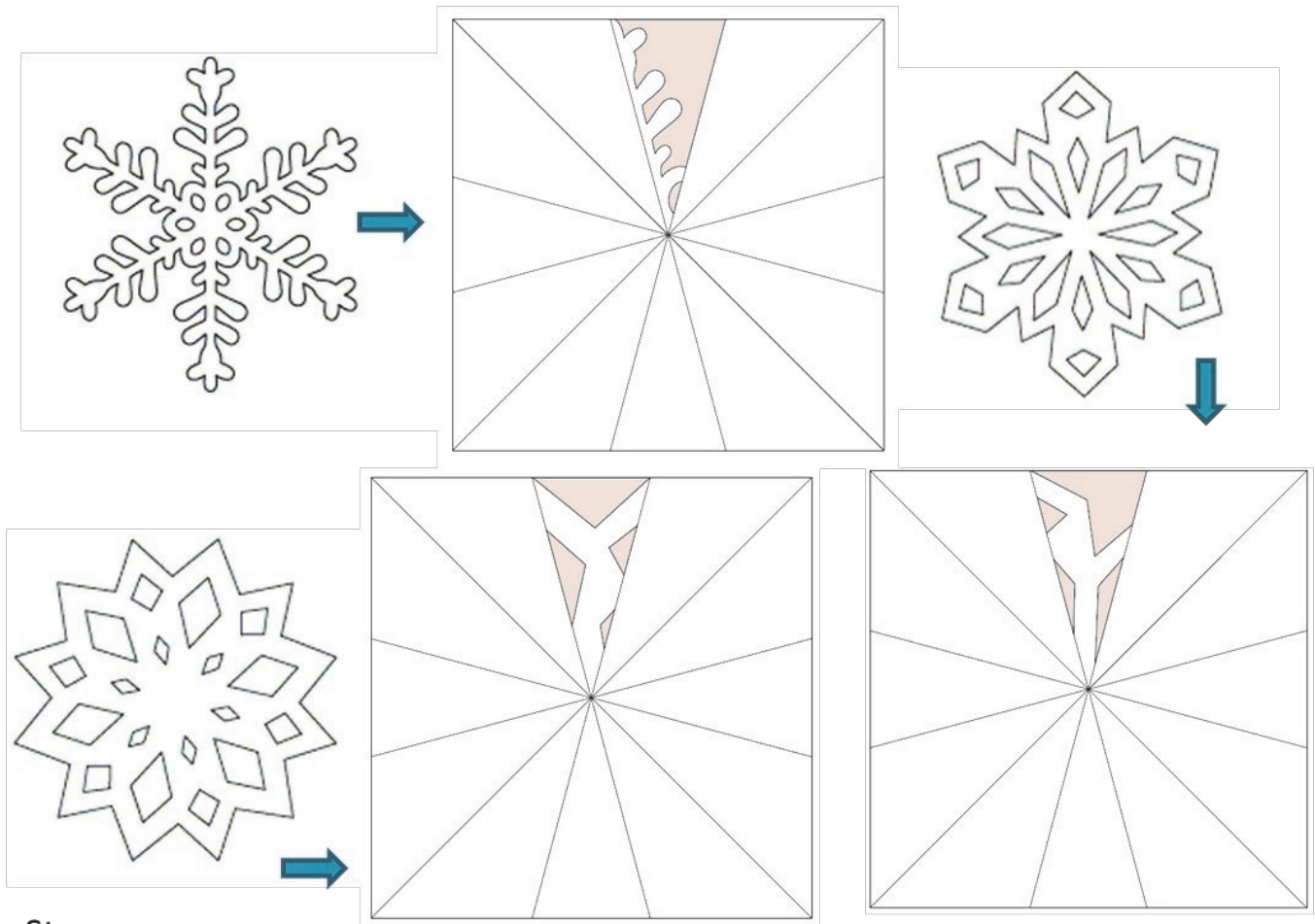
Check out our campaign page and support us by buying an Indigo offer. For every purchase, Indigo will give in support of our campaign. You'll get something from Indigo and support our campaign at the same time - it's a win-win!

Here's a link to our campaign: <http://indigo.flipgive.com/campaigns/5762-blake-kids-love-to-read>



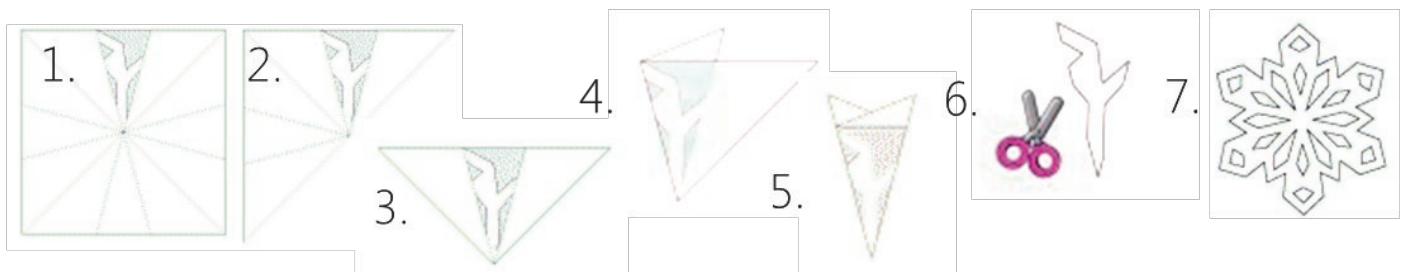
Thanks for your support,
Ms. Dymont

HOW TO MAKE THE PERFECT SNOWFLAKE



Steps:

- 1) Cut out the Square
- 2) Fold the Square diagonally in the middle to make a triangle
- 3) Fold the Triangle in the Middle to make a smaller triangle
- 4) Fold the left section of the triangle towards the back
- 5) Fold the right section towards the back as well
- 6) Cut away the shaded area
- 7) Carefully unfold the paper the reveal your snowflake



GIVING BACK DURING THE HOLIDAYS

The holiday season is here and amid all the hustle and bustle we may sometimes forget the meaning of the season. This is after all, a time to give, not to receive! It is especially easy for children to overlook the joy of giving because they are anxiously planning for the gifts they wish to receive.

Donations and Toy Drives

Toy drives and donation banks have been set up all over the city to help less-fortunate children and families. Remind your child that there are lots of children in need and reinforce the fact that they are helping someone less fortunate.



Volunteering

If your budget is extremely tight this year, donate your time instead! Perhaps you and your kids can help serve holiday meals at a local shelter or help hand out gifts at area hospitals. The point is to give them the chance to see less-fortunate people in person, to have the chance to talk to them and experience the gift of giving back firsthand.

Where you can give back or volunteer in Toronto

Food Banks Canada is the national charitable organization representing the food banks in Canada

UNICEF the world's leader for children, working to save, protect, and enhance the lives of girls and boys.

Children's Wish Foundation Making a difference in lives of children diagnosed with a life-threatening illness.

The Covenant House Canada's largest youth shelter.

Ontario Association of Food Banks A hunger relief prgm that serve nearly 400,000 ppl, inc. 148,000 kids

The Good Sheppard Helps homeless individuals and others in need find essential services.

The Children's Aid Society 2nd largest child welfare agency in GTA, protects children from abuse & neglect.

Second Harvest Helps feed the hungry by preparing and delivering food to social service agencies

Big Brothers Big Sisters Toronto Canada's leading child and youth mentoring charity that facilitates life-changing relationships that inspire and empower children and youth to reach their potential.

Toronto Distress Centre response to those in need of crisis intervention & suicide prevention.

Kids Help Phone Line Improves the well-being of children and youth in Canada by providing them anonymous and confidential professional counselling, referrals, and information.

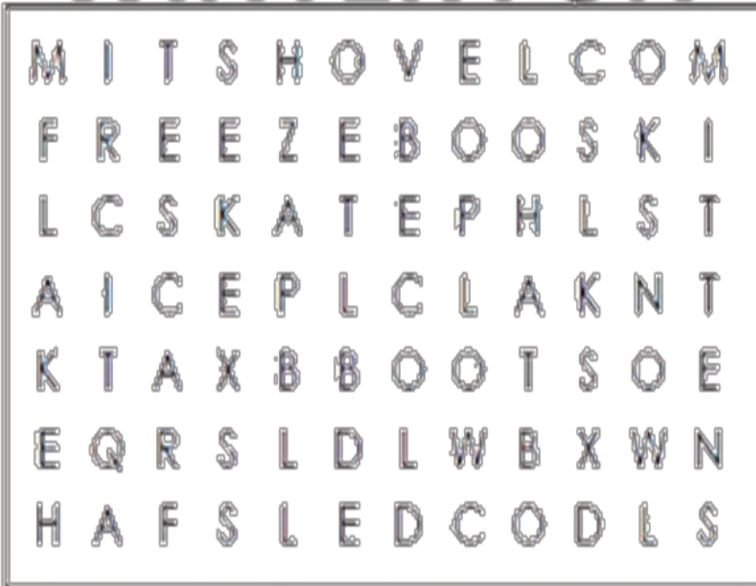
Volunteer Toronto Resources to volunteer in Toronto and make a difference in your community today!

Toronto Humane Society The day to day operations emphasize the shelter and return of lost pets, care for abused and abandoned animals, adoptions to good homes.

KIDS CORNER



WINTER FUN



Q. What does Jack Frost like best about school?

A. Snow and tell

Santa: Knock, knock.

Elf: Who's there?

Santa: Olive.

Elf: Olive, who?

Santa: Olive the other reindeer

Q: What did one snowman say to the other snowman?

A: Do you smell carrots?

Find these words in the puzzle.

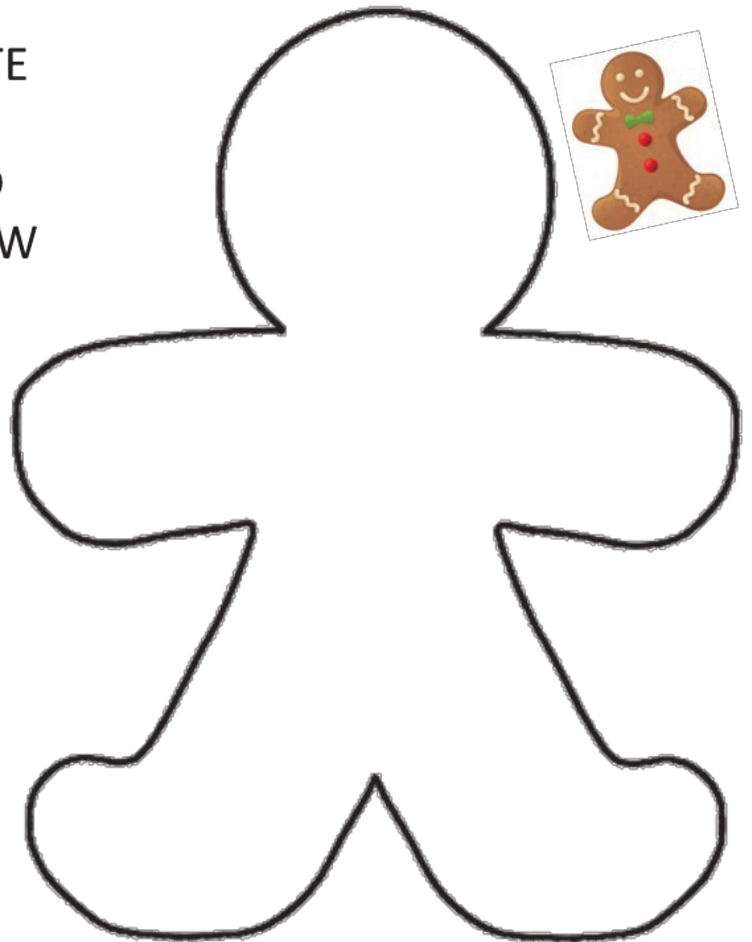
Words are hidden → and ↓

- | | | |
|--------|---------|-------|
| BOOTS | ICE | SKATE |
| COLD | MITTENS | SKI |
| FLAKE | PLOW | SLED |
| FREEZE | SCARF | SNOW |
| HAT | SHOVEL | |

ON THE ICE

Match the two sides of the column to make words:

- | | |
|--------|--------|
| woolly | rf |
| flip | hat |
| ice | ves |
| sca | pers |
| glo | skates |



Decorate your own Ginger Bread Man!

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS



By Sammie Woldegebreal

Special events for this month are...

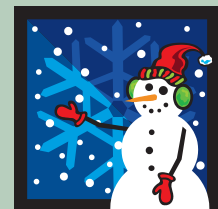
- ⇒ Mr. Milburn's class is going to City Hall!
- ⇒ Boy's volley ball tournament!
- ⇒ Eastview Boys and Girls club annual Holiday Party!

And... **WINTER BREAK IS FINALLY COMING UP!!**



December 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 After school club in library Riverdale students volunteer in our library Choir	3 Quarter Finals—Boys Volleyball Tournament Chess instruction: Mr. Milburn & Ms. Ho Homework Club run by Eastview C.C. Choir	4 Eco Club Choir	5 Homework Club: Eastview	6 Munsch Performance at George Brown College: Tsue & Ho & Yoannou	7
8	9 After school club in library Riverdale students volunteer in our library Choir	10 Chess instruction: Mr. Milburn & Ms. Ho Homework Club run by Eastview C.C. After school club in library Choir	11 Eco Club Choir	12 Homework Club: Eastview	13	14
15	16 After school club in library Riverdale students volunteer in our library Dress Rehearsal at 12:45 Choir	17 Chess: Milburn & Ho Homework Club: Eastview After school club: Library Choir Winter Concert: Grades 1-6 Kindergarten Concert: Vlahos	18 Eco Club Kindergarten Concert: Stoch	19 Homework Club: Eastview Kindergarten Concert: Church Maple Leaf Sports and En- ertainment skating party for junior students at Ted Reeve Arena	20	21



Character Trait for December:

Kindness & Caring

CHARACTER TRAITS BY MONTH

September: **Respect**
October: **Responsibility**
November: **Empathy**
December: **Kindness & Caring**
January: **Teamwork**

February: **Fairness**
March: **Honesty**
April: **Co-operation**
May: **Integrity**
June: **Perseverance**