



Blake's Garden Page 8



'Free the Children' Update Page 5



Children's Book Bank Visit Page 6



Stone Soup Page 10

Also in this issue:

A Note From The Blake Street School Council Chairs	2
Parenting and Family Literacy Centre	2
Response to the Globe and Mail Article.....	3
Usborne Children's Book Fair.....	4
Shopping Locally.....	5
Have Some Wool Sweaters?.....	5
Two Fundraisers on the Go.....	6
Movie Night Flyer.....	7
Family Clothing & Book Swap.....	9
Winter Fun.....	9,12
Morning Meal Calendar.....	10
December Calendar	11



A Note From Our Blake Street School Council Chairs

Hello Blake Street Students and Parents,

It's hard to believe that December is upon us, and with it the changing of seasons and cold weather. The little blast of 'winter' we experienced in November was likely a sign of what to expect over the coming months!

As we enter the holiday season, we would like to thank you for making the 2014-2015 School Council all that it can be. We have a lot to be thankful for, including a school with a great culture and community, and parents that are dedicated to enriching our children's lives. During the first three months of the school year, the School Council has helped to lead the Blake Beat Newsletter, Pizza Lunches, Spirit Days, a Family Fitness event, a Clothing/ Book Swap, and a Teacher Appreciation Potluck Dinner for school administration, teachers and support staff. And during the month of December there will be a Movie Night!

As you can see, our fundraising and special events for 2014-2015 are taking great shape. But, we still need your support to make our children's experience as amazing as possible. School Council will reconvene again on Thursday, January 16, from 6:00pm to 7:30pm in the school library. As always, School Council meetings provide dinner and child care. Feel free to come out and connect with your school administration and fellow parents!

We wish everyone a safe and happy holidays. We hope that you have an opportunity to connect with loved ones, rest and recharge. Here's to a happy, safe and successful 2015... we look forward to seeing you on January 16th!

Emma & Sean



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 Karailiadis

School Council Chair(s): 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.

Articles should be sent in Microsoft Word format.

December Newsletter Team

Erin Barr

Emma Brejak

Mirit Cohen Essel

Ms. Dymont

Valerie Foussias

Jamie Gillingham

Ms. Kiil's Class

Sean Neeb

Eric Novakovics

Nicole Novakovics

Jin-Yi Pao

Danielle Stamatiou

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 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Monday to Thursday, 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!



**BLAKE BEAT
ISSUE # 3, VOLUME 03**

Response to Globe and Mail Article



Dear Blake Beat Reader,

On Saturday, November 8, the article 'The Great Divide' appeared in the Globe T.O. section. The article was one-dimensional, and spoke about the fundraising efforts of school councils, noting discrepancies between schools and the creation of 'haves' and 'have-nots' based solely on fundraising abilities. Additionally, the article highlighted the generosity of school councils in donating to other school councils deemed less fortunate. In the article, the reporters recount how Jackman School Council donated \$2,000 to Blake Street Public School for our garden.

Unfortunately, there were a number of misrepresentations in the article, including the amount that had been donated and the purpose of the donation. Most troubling was that Blake and Jackman had requested that Blake not be included in the article. The reporters chose not to listen to these requests and published the article as planned.

Immediately after publishing of the article, we met with Ms. Karailiadis to discuss the situation and respond. Below is our Letter to the Editor that was submitted to the Globe and Mail on Thursday, November 13. While it is upsetting that Blake was misrepresented, we have chosen to see the positives. Among other things, the article provides an opportunity to bring attention to what matters most within a school environment: culture and community.

Sincerely,

Emma and Sean

Letter to the Editor: Emma and Sean's Response to 'The Great Divide'

We are writing in response to the aforementioned article that appeared in the Globe T.O. section of Saturday, November 8 which focused on the fundraising gap in Toronto's schools. To begin, there are a number of misrepresentations in the article that we would like to clarify:

The impression was that the reporters spoke to our principal. While our principal was quoted in the article, neither she, nor anyone else at Blake, was contacted by or met with either of the reporters.

The relationship between Blake and Jackman Public was described as a "rare partnership" whereby Jackman "set aside close to \$2000 last year for Blake helping [to] create a food garden." While Blake appreciates the financial support received from Jackman, the reality is that Jackman has provided less than \$2000 to Blake over the course of six years. Further, the word "partnership" implies a committed and connected working relationship. This is not the relationship that Blake and Jackman share. There is certainly no animosity between the schools – again, we are appreciative of the financial support – but to characterize this as a "rare partnership" is untrue as we have not met with Jackman to determine how best to work collectively for the greater good of all students.

The overall average raised by Toronto public schools. During the 2012-2013 academic year, this was \$149.53 a student. While the article positions Blake as a "have-not," the reality is that during this academic year Blake neared the 50th percentile. We feel this is something to be proud of especially considering not only three years ago we had a limited parent council and parent involvement, with few fundraising initiatives.

While these misrepresentations are unfortunate, it is disappointing that Blake Public School administrators, teachers, parents and students were not part of the discussion.

However, what is most troubling is the focus of the article. There is so much more to a school than what it is able to fundraise or where it falls on a graph. At Blake, our diversity of community and culture is something of which we are very proud. The opportunities for learning and growth are numerous and enriching for both the students and their families. From Elin our garden educator – who comes to the school each Wednesday to teach students about cultivating a garden and the joy of working outside – to our Family Fitness nights designed for all age groups to get kids and their families excited about and participating in physical fitness, our efforts at Blake are focused on bringing together our diverse community. We have partnerships with local organizations like Eastview Community Centre with whom we work to provide kids with after school learning opportunities and homework clubs. This relationship is dynamic and ongoing.

Fundraising is only one small part of the big picture which we feel the reporters of this article in their lack of communication with Blake failed to represent. We have so much to share and be proud of at Blake and it is important for us to express that. We are very lucky to be part of this community, and know that our school is a "have." It is our hope that future articles and arguments are not as one-dimensional in nature and focus on what matters most to our schools: building and celebrating a diverse community and culture.

Sincerely, Emma Brejak and Sean Neeb, Co-Chairs, Blake School Council

'Free The Children' Update

By Ms. Dymont

Our Free The Children Club has been working hard on our "Scare Hunger" Food Drive this month. At the end of our second week of the campaign, we weighed the seven boxes of donations that we had received so far – they added up to 84.5kg!! In our 3rd week we have only collected one more box of donations, so we need to keep going! Originally we were going to end on November 28th, but we've decided to go an extra week and end on December 4th. Maybe if everyone who's coming to Movie Night could bring one thing, we could reach our goal!

On Friday, November 21st, we were visited by Francois Sealey, the Community Food Services Worker at Eastview Neighbourhood Community Centre. Francois shared lots of information with us about the use of food banks in Canada, such as the many reasons the demand for food banks continues to rise, statistics like that 34% of food bank users have college or university degrees, and many other interesting facts. We definitely learned a lot – thanks Francois!

To finish up our "Scare Hunger" campaign, Francois will be coming back to Blake on Wednesday, December 10th, with the Eastview van. The Free The Children Club will load up the van, and then walk up to Eastview to pack boxes for the food bank recipients who come on Thursdays. We are very excited that we get to be hands-on with our project!

Don't forget to bring in your donations, and thanks for all your support!



Usborne Children's Book Fair

By Ms. Dymont



We are very excited to have Lucy Ann Stoop from Usborne Children's books come in to help out with our annual book fair. Originally we were going to have a Scholastic Book Fair as has been done in the past, but with so many classrooms ordering from the Scholastic book clubs this year, we thought it might be nice to showcase something different.

Our school library has many Usborne books already in it, and the kids tend to gravitate toward them as they are very accessible content-wise and colourful too. They are also very durable, so with the 25% that the school earns from sales, they will be books that

can be housed in the library for many years to come.

Our Usborne Book Fair will be held all day on Wednesday, December 17th and Thursday, December 18th. On Thursday evening, the book fair will also re-open after the winter concert. We recognize that some of the morning kindergarten concerts happen before the book fair is available and for this we apologize. That said, typically the book fair only has one or two copies of a selection of their entire catalogue. If you are interested, please feel free to look at their online catalogue in advance, and if there is anything you'd like to order, e-mail Ms. Dymont (our teacher-librarian) and she can order it for you to arrive during the book fair. Her e-mail is kelly.dymont@tdsb.on.ca

To view the entire Usborne catalogue, go to: www.usborneonline.ca/readtolearn

Have fun browsing, and hope to see you and your family at the Book Fair!



Why Shop Locally?

By Mirit Cohen Essel

The holiday season is almost here, which means that for many, the shopping season is also upon us. For artisans, crafters, and small business owners, this means a busy time and an opportunity to make a better living.

Shopping is a great tool to support your neighborhood and community. Making a conscious decision to purchase from a local artisan, crafter, or small business owner is a positive action with amazing effects:

- It strengthens our economy; your money stays in your neighborhood, city, and country.
- It helps someone close, someone you might know, make a living.
- It makes a more vibrant, happy, desirable neighborhood/community to live in.
- It's also the eco-friendly choice by leaving a smaller carbon footprint.



We all enjoy independent stores, coffee shops, and restaurants, and we all want to live in close proximity to them. These businesses cannot survive without the support of their community.

I asked two small business owners that carry my dolls to tell their side of what it means to be a small business owner in the city:

Carol Chandran (Co-Owner of "Little House in the City")

Shopping at local small businesses is a great way to find one-of-a-kind products and services while showing commitment to your community. Independent shops help create the distinctive character of a neighbourhood - there's no place like home! One of the best ways to ensure that your community remains vibrant and unique is to support the local small businesses that have just as much invested in it as you do. Shopping at local stores also keeps revenue within the local economy, which enriches the whole community.

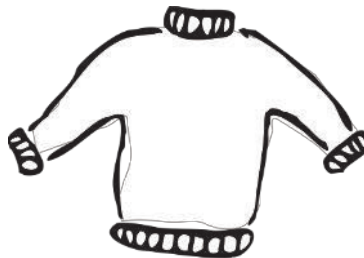
www.littlehouseinthecity.ca

Cherie Lunau-Jokisch (Owner of "Beadle")

Shopping along a city street is something very different from shopping at a mall, or even driving around the suburbs shopping at strip malls, as was my experience growing up. By walking down a city street to shop, people gain a sense of community, a sense of place and belonging, a human experience with personal connections that you just don't often get when shopping in malls or dragging yourself from big box to big box shop. I'm not anti-big chain stores – they all have their uses. But when we choose to slow down, take a stroll, and discover something new, it's good for our minds, bodies, and souls.

www.beadlestore.com

Have Some Wool Sweaters To Give Away?



Local artist and Blake parent Mirit is looking for wool clothing to craft her handmade toys.

Shrunken, ugly, and/or damaged sweaters, and other wool clothing, are very welcome!

For every 50 items donated, Mirit will donate \$50.00 worth of items to Blake School fundraising.

Please leave your donations in the box marked "Wool Sweaters" in Blake's main office.

Thank you!

Ms. Barr's Class Goes To The Book Bank

By Jamie Gillingham

On November 5th, Ms. Barr's class took the streetcar to the Children's Book Bank, a registered charity whose mission is to distribute books to children. It is just a short ride west on Gerrard to this wonderful building that feels more like a bookstore... with the one exception that every person who visits gets to choose one book to take home for free every time they visit!

Families can enter the book bank whenever they wish during opening hours, but classes must book a time slot. On this particular day we were a bit early and the previous class hadn't yet left so our class spent some time in the sun in the enclosed courtyard next to the book bank. Half the class promptly started a discussion about unicorns and the other half immediately began to run back and forth, back and forth, from one end of the courtyard to the other.

The trip began with story time, and a volunteer at the book bank read two stories to our class, after which each child (and adult!) chose a book to take home. There are books for every age of child, and although the selections from our class included Magic School Bus and Fairy books, there are books for the elementary and older youth readers as well. The book bank gives out over 200 books every day that it is open for business!

For more information on the book bank, go check it out for yourselves, or visit: www.childrensbookbank.com.



Two Fundraisers On The Go!



There is only ONE WEEK LEFT to support our 2014 QSP Magazine Fundraiser Campaign! If you wish to purchase magazines for gifts, please consider renewing or buying new subscriptions online at www.qsp.ca. Our school ID is: 3958253 or just type in "Blake Street Public School". The deadline to order is Friday December 5th, 2014.

In an effort to keep all your winter clothes labelled and not in the lost and found, we are also fundraising with Mabel's Labels, a company with all types of labels that are colourful, indestructible, easy-to-use and fun! Order your labels online at <https://www.mabelsfundraising.com/campaigns/18713-blake-street-public-school>.

These campaigns will raise funds for Blake Street Public School that will allow us to support student programs and learning initiatives.



HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON 2

Popcorn
Pizza
Samosas
Tiropitas

Juice Boxes will be available for purchase.



Free Admission

For extra comfort, bring
pillows, blankets
and even come in PJs!

BLAKE'S FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

An event organized by Blake School Council

A great chance to bring
non-perishable food items
for Blake's Food Drive!



**Dec 4th, 2014
Thurs. at 6:30 pm**

doors open at 6:00 pm

Blake's Garden



Shared Writing by Room 106

These are the people that plant the seeds.
This is the sun that helps the plants grow.
This is the nest that helps the birds.
This is the rabbit that runs in the garden.
This is the carrot that grows in the garden.
These are the carrots that grow under the ground.
These are the rabbits that eat the carrots.
This is the potato that we harvest.
These are the apples and pears that give us food.
These are the carrots to eat.
This is the bee that flies.
These are the leaves that fall.
These are the insects that eat the leaves.
These are the people that scrape the leaves.
These are the people that take out the dead plants.
These are the clouds that cry the rain.
These are the squirrels that find nuts in the soil.
This is the garden, at Blake Street School.



By Valerie Foussias

The 2nd Annual Clothing and Book Swap was a huge success!

Thanks to all the families who sorted, washed, folded, and gifted their gently used items, as it couldn't have happened without your support and caring!

Thanks to my wonderful team who helped with set up and tear down, to Eastview Community Centre for 11 tables (20 in total), Starbucks (Gerrard/Jones) for donating tea and coffee, and to Value Village (Queen E) for accepting our donation!



S-N-O-W-F-L-A-K-E

How many words can you make from the word SNOWFLAKE ?
Print one word on each line. You can use letters more than once.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____
16. _____
17. _____
18. _____
19. _____
20. _____

ZiggityZoom.com

LES VACANCES D'HIVER

VEREUXU

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

MEARGN					
	4	10	11		

NERSDA

--	--	--	--	--	--

OJERU

--	--	--	--	--

STEER

--	--	--	--	--

SEROURI

13				3		

REPTAAGR

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

TIRLEBE

6			12			



Created by **Puzzlemaker** at DiscoveryEducation.com

Stone Soup

By Ms. Barr

During the past month, the students in Rooms 106 and 206 worked with Elin, our garden educator, to make some delicious "Stone Soup." Stone Soup is a story about a community that learns to come together and share their food so that they will all have enough. Students each brought in one vegetable to share (carrots, zucchini, sweet potato, cauliflower...) The class worked together to wash, peel and chop the vegetables before cooking it all up in a big pot. Everyone tried the soup, and most loved it and asked for seconds (and even thirds!)




Morning Meal – December 2014*

Monday Dec 1	Tuesday Dec 2	Wednesday Dec 3	Thursday Dec 4	Friday Dec 5
Bagel/Bun Yogourt tube Tomatoes	Crackers/Bread Marble & Mozzarella Cheese Apple	Pita/Tortilla Hummous/Dip Peppers & Snap Peas	1 slice baked goods 2% White Milk Pear	PA Day Federation Day No School
Monday Dec 8	Tuesday Dec 9	Wednesday Dec 10	Thursday Dec 11	Friday Dec 12
Nut-free low-fat Cereal Strawberry Yogourt Orange	Pita/Tortilla Hummous/Dip Carrots & Cucumbers	Crackers/Bread Marble & Mozzarella Cheese Melon	1 pc rice square 2% Chocolate Milk Red & Green Peppers	Bagel/Bun Cream Cheese Apple
Monday Dec 15	Tuesday Dec 16	Wednesday Dec 17	Thursday Dec 18	Friday Dec 19
Pita/Tortilla Hummous/Dip Carrots	Nut-free low-fat Cereal Yogourt Tube Pear	1 slice baked goods Vanilla Yogourt Cucumbers & Tomatoes	Crackers/Bread Marble & Mozzarella Cheese Melon	Oatmeal Cookies 2% White Milk Clementine & Carrots

*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

December 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Boys' Volleyball Practice	3 Volleyball Tournament at Blake Eco Club Operation Kids	4 Basketball Tournament Karate Kids Hip Hop Literacy (201 & 310) "Free the Children" Club Movie Night @ 6:30pm	5 PA Day	6
7	8	9	10 Eco Club "Free the Children" Club	11 Hip Hop Literacy (201 & 310) "Free the Children" Club	12	13
14	15	16 Kindergarten Concert (100)	17 Usborne Children's Book Fair Character Trait Assembly Eco Club	18 Usborne Children's Book Fair Hip Hop Literacy (201 & 310) Kindergarten Concert (102) "Free the Children" Club Winter Concert	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	Jan 1 	2	3

Winter Fun



L'Hiver!

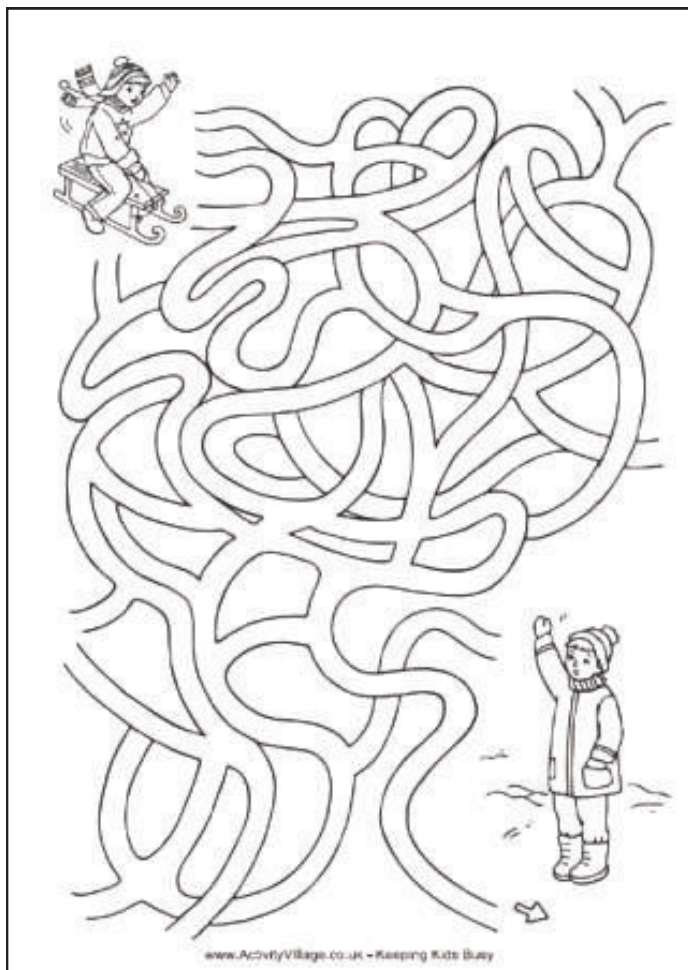
T O N A N D R U C E W H S F M
G N B O I Z A X H G G L E D P
C T E O S E B K A I E D N K G
K E R M N I D P P E K R I L P
O F V I E H A Y E N G I A I A
R P A E U S O S A M T C T E V
V R S K I S U M U P O V I B S
T S E T T O B M M N V U M R O
P A T I N A G E A E N H O W U
Z L X B G M H N K M E R W T S

AMUSEMENT
CHAPEAU
MITAINES
SAISON

BONHOMME
FROID
NEIGE
SKI

BOTTES
GLACON
PATINAGE
TRAINEAU

Created by Puzzlemaker at DiscoveryEducation.com



Find the matching mitten pairs and color them in.

