

# 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** Alexandra Knowles and Keri Williams

**Layout** Keri Williams

#### November Contributors

Melissa Jenkins-Gray, Tara Jamieson, Andrea Gusen, Alan Lyons, Jeanette Rees, Judith Prince, Kelly Dymont, Sue Yahoda, 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](mailto: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  
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### Blake Street Public School

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# Upcoming Events at Blake St School

## Vision Screening

Vision screening for children identified as possibly having problems will take place on **7 JANUARY, 2016**.

## Lockdown Practice

Officer J Germaine of Division 55 will be running a full lock down practice in **JANUARY of 2016**. Stay tuned!

## Lice Check

The school will have a lice check on **THURSDAY, 7 JANUARY**. Any issues will be reported home that day.

## Open House for E.A.S.T

The E.A.S.T. Open House will be on **28 JANUARY 2016**. Anyone wishing to apply must attend to pick up their application pack.

## Open House for Earl Grey

The Earl Grey Open House will be on **21 JANUARY 2016**. A very useful chance for Grade 6 to see your new school!

## Extended French Application

Applications for starting Extended French in Grades 4 and Grades 7 of 2016 must be in by **27 JANUARY, 2016**. Contact the office if you have any questions.

## Parent Council Meeting

The next meeting of the Parent Council will be **THURSDAY, 21 JANUARY** at 6 pm in the library. Dinner and childcare will be provided.

## PA Day

**FRIDAY, 22 JANUARY** is a PA Day. Maybe there will be some snow to play in?

## Spirit Day

**FRIDAY, 29 JANUARY**

Favourite Sports Team/Player

## Pizza Lunch

Pizza lunch will be held the last Friday of the month, **FRIDAY, 29 JANUARY**.



## Notices

### Indigo Adopt-A-School Donations

Thanks to everyone who voted for us during the Indigo Adopt-a-school program. We have been given \$3500 towards our library, including a bonus \$1000 on Giving Tuesday!

### Clothing Swap a Huge Success

The Clothing and Book swap was a huge success. Many thanks to everyone who volunteered, and especially to Valerie Foussias for organising and for putting in the extra hours needed to make this work.



### Artwork for Syrian Refugees

The office is collecting artwork for the Syrian refugees arriving in our country. If you have anything you would like to add to this collection please drop it off in the office by 8 January 2016. Time to do something over the holiday break!

### Eastview Boys and Girls Club After School Program

Registration continues for the free after school program offered to kids in Grades 1 to 6. The new year program contains a 6 week robotics program! Contact the office for further details.

### Snack Program Needs Help

Our morning snack program is a wonderful part of our school day, providing nutritious snacks to fuel the kids as they learn. But Donna, our coordinator, desperately needs help. If you can help for one hour in the morning or afternoon one day a week, please contact the office or the parent council [blakeschoolcouncil.tdsb@gmail.com](mailto:blakeschoolcouncil.tdsb@gmail.com)

### 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](mailto:blakeschoolcouncil.tdsb@gmail.com)

# Morning Meal - January 2016

<b>Monday Jan 4</b> Nut-free low-fat Cereal Strawberry Yogourt Apples	<b>Tuesday Jan 5</b> Pita Hummous Carrots & Cucumbers	<b>Wednesday Jan 6</b> 1 slice baked goods Chocolate Milk Oranges	<b>Thursday Jan 7</b> Crackers Marble & Mozzarella Cheese Red & Yellow Peppers	<b>Friday Jan 8</b> English Muffins Yogourt Tube Melon
<b>Monday Jan 11</b> Crackers Marble & Mozzarella Cheese Tomatoes & Peppers	<b>Tuesday Jan 12</b> Nut-free low-fat Cereal Vanilla Yogourt Pears	<b>Wednesday Jan 13</b> Pita Hummous Carrots	<b>Thursday Jan 14</b> 1 sliced baked goods White Milk Bananas	<b>Friday Jan 15</b> English Muffin/Bagel Cream Cheese Cucumbers
<b>Monday Jan 18</b> Nut-free low-fat Cereal Yogourt Tube Apples	<b>Tuesday Jan 19</b> Pita Hummous Carrots	<b>Wednesday Jan 20</b> 1 sliced baked goods White Milk Pears	<b>Thursday Jan 21</b> Crackers Marble & Mozzarella Cheese Tomatoes & Peppers	<b>Friday Jan 22</b> <b>PA Day</b> <b>No School</b>
<b>Monday Jan 25</b> Nut-free low-fat Cereal Strawberry Yogourt Apples	<b>Tuesday Jan 26</b> Crackers Marble & Mozzarella Cheese Peppers	<b>Wednesday Jan 27</b> English Muffin/Bagel Cream Cheese Bananas	<b>Thursday Jan 28</b> Pita Hummous Carrots & Cucumbers	<b>Friday Jan 29</b> 1 sliced baked goods Chocolate Milk Pears

\*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/>

## Broccoli Chicken Divan

By Melissa Jenkins-Gray

### You'll Need:

- 1 pound chopped fresh broccoli
- 1 1/2 cups cubed, cooked chicken meat
- 1 (10.75 ounce) can condensed cream of broccoli soup
- 1/3 cup milk
- 1/2 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
- 1 tablespoon butter, melted
- 2 tablespoons dried bread crumbs

### Instructions:

Preheat oven to 450 degrees F (230 degrees C). Place the broccoli in a saucepan with enough water to cover. Bring to a boil, and cook 5 minutes, or until tender. Drain.

Place the cooked broccoli in a 9 inch pie plate. Top with the chicken. In a bowl, mix the soup and milk, and pour over the chicken. Sprinkle with Cheddar cheese. Mix the melted butter with the bread crumbs, and sprinkle over the cheese.

Bake in the preheated oven for 15 minutes, or until bubbly and lightly brown.



Courtesy:

<http://allrecipes.com/recipe/8854/broccoli-chicken-divan/?internalSource=recipe%20hub&referringId=249&referringContentType=recipe%20hub>

## Forest of Reading Books Arrive



The Forest of Reading books, funded by the Parent Council, have arrived at Blake! This year we are participating in both English and French.

The Forest of Reading® is Canada's largest recreational reading program! This initiative offers eight reading programs to encourage a love of reading in people of all ages. The Forest helps celebrate Canadian books, publishers, authors and illustrators. More than 250,000 readers participate annually from their School and/or Public Library.

Children read the books, and then vote on which ones were their favourites. Different programs target different levels of reading, so all children are involved.

Ms Dymant, (on pyjama day!) holding some of the Forest of Reading books that have arrived for our library.

## Movie Night: Fun for All

By **Andrea Gusen**

A celebratory feeling took over the Blake school gym as families gathered for the first movie night of the year, on Friday December 4th.

People arrived hungry and the spread did not disappoint: pizza, samosas, hot dogs and popcorn were for sale along with an impressive array of sweet treats supplied by parent volunteers.

Blake students either got cozy with their friends on the gym mats at the front of the room, or shared snacks and cuddles with their parents and caregivers in the theatre-style seating.

Then... the lights dimmed, the kids quieted down (sort of), and the opening credits rolled. The movie *Home* was a great choice for students, younger siblings and even the adults! It's possible that certain grownups who hadn't seen it before may

even have shed a tear or two during the heartwarming final scenes.

Seven great kids DVDs were also raffled off, amidst fierce competition for the prizes.

Thanks to the parents who organized the event, set the gym up, worked the food and raffle stations, and handled the audiovisuals. Thanks as well to everyone who stayed for a few minutes after the movie to help tidy up! Holding the annual clothing swap on the same day in the other side of the gym was a stroke of genius. Many Blake families wandered over before and after the movie to check out what was available.

Looking forward to another movie night in the spring!

## Chopped 55 Competition Continues



The Blake Chopped 55 team competed against Bruce PS and had a wonderful time. The final food offering of quesadillas, a taco salad, and chocolate cookies was very well received. The team next competes against Leslieville PS on 5 January.



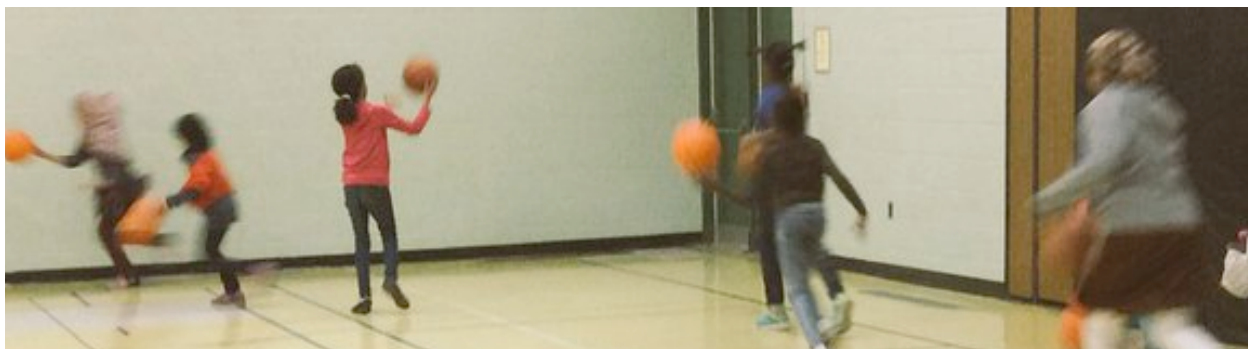
## Girls Grade 4, 5, & 6 Basketball Team Competes

The Girls Grades 4, 5, and 6 Basketball team had a short but awesome season this year. With only a handful of practices under their belt the team played at the Division 3 tournament here at Blake Street on Friday, 11 December, against teams from Niagara Street PS, Bruce PS and Oriole Park PS.

Congratulations on playing hard, and looking forward to a great season next year!



Missing from photo: Coach Stoch



# OPERATION Kids Perform at Blake

Operation Kids is a school-based program put together by the Canadian Children's Opera Company. For 7 weeks, Dean Burry from Operation Kids worked with Ms. Kiil's class to write an opera, including script (called a libretto) and three songs. The grade 2s and 3s performed their Egyptian Opera at the November assembly.

Dean also worked with a group of 15 grade 2 and 3 students after school for 8 weeks to plan and write an opera called Spaced Out. They too, had an amazing performance for families and teachers after school

at the conclusion of the program. The next after school program with Operation Kids will run in the new year for grade 2 and 3 students. Information will be provided to families in the New Year. Contact the office if you are interested.



## Fun Facts

By Judith Prince

- The Earth isn't perfectly round, it is slightly flattened at the north and south poles.
- The Earth's tilt angle is 23.5 degrees. This is the angle formed between the line around the equator the line the Earth moves along as it orbits the Sun.



## Did You Know?

- Between November 1 and January 15, there are more than 29 major holidays celebrated by 7 of the world's major religions. ***How many can you find out about?***
- In the northern hemisphere, a lot of celebrations (present time and historical) take place around the time of the winter *solstice\** on December 21 or 22. ***Can you find out what they are celebrating?***

**\*solstice:** an astronomical event that happens twice a year. On the winter solstice in the northern hemisphere, it's the shortest day and the longest night of the year.

<http://www.kidsgeo.com/geography-for-kids/0020-solstices-and-equinoxes.php>



# Interview with Alan Lyons

By Sue Yahoda

The *Proust Questionnaire* is said to reveal one's innermost thoughts. In this edition, we talk to **Alan Lyons**, co-chair of Blake School Council...

**What is your idea of a perfect day?** I'll try to keep it somewhat realistic, so no ocean views and room service. Just a bit of a sleep in... a greasy spoon breakfast... a bike ride with the family... Supper at Duff's Chicken Wings... Go to see a movie (NOT animated!!)

**What is your greatest extravagance?** I buy myself a hot lunch every day. I've tried to brown bag it so many times... but there's just no way. We also have Rowan and Poppy in really expensive private swimming lessons, but the rationale is that it is a "life skill". Yeah, right.

**Who are your heroes in real life?** I think about Terry Fox a lot. I still can't believe he did what he did.

**Which words or phrases do you most overuse?** "No problem!"

**Which talent would you most like to have?** I would like to be able to draw really, really well.

**What is your most treasured possession?** It's a depressing answer, but when I think I've misplaced my phone I FREAK OUT!! That tells me that it's pretty important to me.

**What do you most value in your friends?** Loyalty and a sense of humour.

## Additional responses

**What is your greatest fear?** Being in an enclosed space like a ship or submarine with water coming in fast.... and running out of space to breath. I don't like to think about my kids getting hurt, either.

**What is the trait you most admire in students?** I teach adults, so the most admirable trait in my students is actually showing up and not looking at their blackberries every 2 minutes.

**Which living person do you most admire?** Louis CK and Bill Maher... Two people who are smart, really honest and totally hilarious at the same time.

**What do you consider your greatest achievement?** I'm in the midst of raising kids, but I haven't "achieved" that yet. I would say travelling independently all over Europe and Turkey is something I've done that I'm proud of.

**Where would you most like to live?** Somewhere in Europe where you could take a train for a couple hours and be in a different country for the weekend! I'd like to have a place in the tropics, too.

**Who are your favorite writers?** I like to read so it's hard to decide. Jonathan Franzen, Dave Eggers, Philip Roth, John Updike, Kim Stanley Robinson, Connie Willis, Erik Larson, Neil Gaiman, Neal Stephenson, Stephen King, Joseph Boyden, Michael Chabon, China Mieville, Cormac McCarthy...

**What is your motto?** Road runner! If he catches you, you're through! (it's not really a motto. I just sing it all the time)



Stay tuned as we start interviewing the teachers in the new year!

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

Hello Blake Street Students and Parents

We'd like to wish everyone in the Blake Community happy holidays! We trust that you will have a fun and safe break and come back refreshed and ready to have a great winter!

While we did not win the grand prize from Aviva, we feel that we succeeded in so many ways. It was amazing to see how Carla Peacock and the entire Blake Community rallied together! The fact that we came in the top 5 in voting in our category shows what we are capable of when we all come together. By making it into the final, we were awarded \$5,000 which will go a long way to making our outdoor plans a reality. Another huge benefit is that the Challenge



kick-started the process with the TDSB. We are much further ahead in the Board's design & approval process than we ever would be if we didn't have to meet Aviva's submission timelines!

Pizza lunch, movie night and our book/clothing swap were amazing and fun. Our Blake spirit wear orders have been placed so we'll see so many more people proudly wearing red and black in the New Year!

Our Fun Fair committee is starting up already. This is

Blake's signature event and its biggest in terms of volunteers required and fundraising dollars. In order for Fun Fair to be a success again this year, we to start early and we need as many volunteers as possible for this team. So please, even if you can just volunteer to canvas for raffle donations, or take part on the day itself, please let us know!

Thanks very much,

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

## NOW is the time to join the Parent Council

2016 is going to be an incredibly exciting time at Blake Street! The best way to be a part of it is to come out to the Parent Council meetings and join up with one of our many, many teams, groups and sub-committees. We'll see you at our NEXT MEETING, Thursday 21 January at 6pm.



# Next Parent Council Meeting: Thursday 21 January at 6pm

## Missed Out On Spirit Wear? It's Not Too Late!

If you still want to order – but missed the December deadline don't worry!  
We are doing another order. So please get your order to your teacher by Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>  
If you need a new order form please ask in the office.



## PARENT COUNCIL NOTICES

### Committees Need Help

The following committees are looking for additional help. If you have as little as an hour to spare, please contact us at [blakeschoolcouncil.tdsb@gmail.com](mailto:blakeschoolcouncil.tdsb@gmail.com)

- The **Grant Writing committee** needs help with identifying places we could apply for funding, and writing the proposals. Often this is as little as filling in a form, but the funds make a big difference to the events available to our kids.
- The **Legacy Project committee** needs help with planning our new outdoor spaces.
- The **Dance committee** will begin planning in January 2016 for the Valentine's day dance. Our Halloween dance was such a hit we want to maintain the momentum!

### Parent's Pub Night

The School Council is planning a pub night for parents in the new year. To hear more about this please make sure we have your email address.

[BlakeSchoolCouncil.tdsb@gmail.com](mailto:BlakeSchoolCouncil.tdsb@gmail.com)

# Communications Team Survey

The Communications team is currently running a survey to find out how information is getting from the school out to the community, and if there are other ways that this information could be transmitted that might better suit our growing and developing community.

If you have already filled out the form that came in last week's Friday Folder - thank you! If you have not you can always fill in the form at [www.surveymonkey.com/N8DSNTF](http://www.surveymonkey.com/N8DSNTF)

## Instant Winter Arrangement

By Melissa Jenkins-Gray

Here's a super simple way to dress up a table or mantle space.

You can use vases or jars, add in salt or granulated sugar and place rocks, figurines, woodland toys, trees (these are all from Dollarama) to create whimsical winter vignettes!

The sky's the limit and kids of all ages can get involved.





# Free Dental Care

Our dental services are offered to children (0-17 years) , parents enrolled in selected Toronto Public Health programs and seniors ( 65 years and older).

## To be eligible:

- You must live in Toronto
- You cannot have dental insurance
- You are not able to pay for a dentist

## Services Include:

- Examinations
- Fillings
- Root canal treatment on selected teeth
- Extractions
- Partial and full dentures – a fee for dentures may be required
- Prevention and education
- Fluoride treatment
- Cleanings
- Sealants



## Toronto Public Health has many dental clinics:

### North

5100 Yonge St., Ground Floor, North York Civic Centre  
416-338-8399

12 Flemington Rd., Lawrence Heights Community Health Centre  
416-338-2025

1651 Keele St., York Community Centre  
416-338-1224

8 Taber Road, Rexdale Community Centre on Kipling north of Rexdale  
416-338-1790

2398 Yonge Street at Montgomery, 2 blocks north of Eglinton  
416-392-0907

### East

160 Borough Dr., Scarborough Civic Centre  
416-338-7442

2660 Eglinton Avenue East, The Hub  
416 -338-3764

### South

791 Queen St. East at Boulton, one block east of Broadview  
416-392-6683

235 Danforth Ave., east of Broadview  
416-392-0934

277 Victoria St., 2nd floor at Dundas St.  
416-392-6680

340 College St., suite #370 at Major St., west of Spadina  
416-392-1410

### West

2340 Dundas Street West at Bloor St. West  
416-392-0988

95 Lavinia Ave. near Runnymede and Bloor  
416-392-1777

399 The West Mall, Etobicoke Civic Centre  
416-338-1486

185 Fifth Street, L.A.M.P., north of Lakeshore Boulevard  
416-252-8576

**For further information, please contact us. Our staff speak many languages!**

Call **311**

[toronto.ca/health](http://toronto.ca/health) |  **TORONTO** Public Health