

# BLAKE BEAT



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# A Note From Our Blake Street School Council Chairs

Hello Blake Street Students and Parents,

While the weather is cold, the School Council fundraising and special events are certainly heating up!

February has many great activities planned. On February 5th, we are excited to launch the Blake Showcase program. This inaugural event will focus on a night of Samba Drumming. Funded by the *Parents Reaching Out* grant, the Blake Showcase program will feature four separate activities that aim to highlight the diversity of the culture and spirit of our school community. The following week, Blake students will have the opportunity to party at the school disco, with its appropriate Valentine's Day theme. The month will also finish with a Spirit Day and pizza lunch.

The winter months are also busy for those council members who fundraise. A huge thank you to Danielle, who led the charge with a magazine drive and Mabel's Labels, both of which brought amazing financial results to the school. Also, the Fun Fair committee continues its march to the signature June 6th event, and will next convene on February 4th. If you're interested in participating, please speak to Eric Novakovics, Valerie Foussias or Jamie Gillingham.

Winter is cold, but we hope that there are enough activities and special events to keep you warm and excited about being part of and contributing to Blake. School Council will reconvene again on Thursday, February 19th from 6.00 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 well for now and look forward to seeing you soon!

Emma & Sean



## 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](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.

## Newsletter Team

**Editing and Layout:** Nicole Novakovics

**February Contributors:** Mohamed Ali, Ms. Barr, Afifah Bhaiyat, Pablo Bosch, Emma Brejak, Ms. Dymont, Ms. Ellis, Lucy Frankel, Kate Green, Colleen Huggins, Yumiko Kuo, Ms. Leoni, Darcy Losell, Anusha Lynch, Ahmed Moallim-Ahmed, Sean Neeb, Eric Novakovics, Mr. Pace, Emma Richardson, Danielle Stamatou, and Naomi Woldu.



**BLAKE BEAT**  
**ISSUE # 4, VOLUME 03**

## 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!



# Monthly Cooking Class at Eastview

This is a wonderful opportunity for the students to gain life skills outside the classroom. Laurette, our program leader, chooses a recipe for the students to follow and create, incorporating literacy and mathematics through a culinary experience. But with the holidays around the corner, we chose to do something with a craft element as well. Decorating sugar cookies was the perfect compromise! Afterwards, students were given individual gift bags full of art supplies to keep them busy over the holidays.



# Snow Day! December 12, 2014

With a fresh dump of the fluffy white stuff, students spent the afternoon sledding on the hills around the school! With the magic carpets available to the students, everyone got a chance to engage in gross motor play in the seasons' finest! The kids were thrilled!!



# Room 206 Gives Gifts of Hope

By Ms. Barr



The students in Room 206 have been learning about empathy and kindness and caring. They wanted to find a way to demonstrate these character traits in meaningful ways. Ms. Damer (a regular occasional teacher at Blake) came up with the idea of buying a "Gift of Hope" from Plan Canada. We decided that in order to raise the money needed, students would have a craft sale. They worked hard throughout the months of November and December to make bookmarks, greeting cards, friendship pins and paper bead necklaces, with supplies donated by Ms. Damer. To motivate students, Ms. Barr, Ms. H. and Ms. Karailiadis all said they would match the money amount that was raised at the sale.

**The sale raised an impressive \$100.45, which was matched to give us \$400 to spend on gifts of hope!** Students worked together to decide what to purchase, and settled on buying a mosquito net, a stack of books for a classroom, a water well, a goat, and a farm-load of animals. All of these gifts will be given to families in developing countries to help provide necessities and create opportunities for employment. This was a great opportunity for students to learn not only about empathy and kindness, but also about communities around the world. Here are some of the things the students had to say about this experience:

Conal - "I'm proud of the craft sale because of how much we raised and how many people we can help."

Elle - "I am surprised by how much money we raised and how much we were able to buy."

Fisher - "It was fun. I liked selling stuff and collecting the money."

Rowan - "I'm proud of the craft sale. I liked making the pins with my friends."



## Fundraiser Update

Congratulations to all the students, family and friends who made our fundraiser a success this year! We raised \$1,500 from our QSP magazine fundraiser and \$86 from our Mabel's Labels fundraiser. Thank you so much!

If you purchased magazines, they should be arriving in the next few weeks. You can continue to support the school anytime by ordering magazines at [www.qsp.ca](http://www.qsp.ca) (our school ID is: 3958253) or labels at [www.mabelsfundraising.com/campaigns/18713-blake-street-public-school](http://www.mabelsfundraising.com/campaigns/18713-blake-street-public-school). All profits will benefit our school.

## Eco Club News

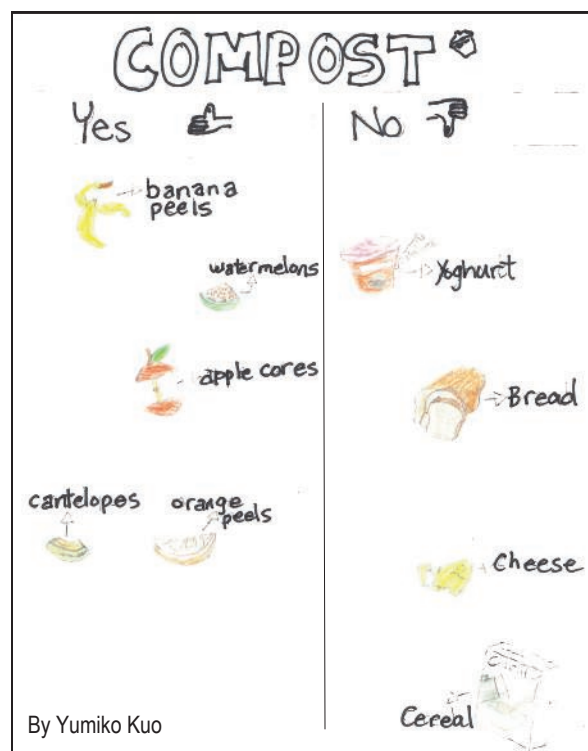
Blake's composting program began last year with our garden educator, Elin. This year, Yumiko, Farheen, Afifah, and Fawzah gave a presentation to Blake classes as a reminder about what goes in the compost. Fresh compost is emptied into the first outdoor garden compost. The compost breaks down into soil, which can be used in the garden in the spring.

## Eco Club Adventures

By Afifah Bhaiyat

How does Eco Club help the environment? It helps by letting people know what to put in the garbage and that littering is bad. It also brings green bins to our school. You may be wondering what goes in the green bins. Well, I'll tell you what goes in the green bins: only food and napkins. Last year we found out that people put too much garbage in the recycling...

You should join Eco Club. How do you join? Well you ask Ms. Kiil or Ms. Ellis. Eco Club is on Wednesdays at lunchtime from 11:30am to 12:15pm. You have to bring your lunch. Anyone in grade 4, 5 or 6 can join Eco Club. So join Eco Club! Hope to see you there.



BLAKE STREET P.S.

# VALENTINE'S DANCE

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 12, 2015  
6PM - 8PM IN BLAKE STREET P.S. GYM

FREE ENTRY DJ GLO-STICKS PIZZA POPCORN

TEMPORARY TATTOOS FACE & NAIL PAINTING DOOR PRIZES FOR BEST COSTUME & BEST DANCE

ALL GRADES ARE WELCOME! CHILDREN SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY A CAREGIVER.

# Family Fitness Night—November 2014

By Darcy Losell & Lucy Frankel



With over 19 Adults and 27 kids attending, **Culture Shock's** return to Blake St. for Family Fitness Night was a massive success! Those who joined the event were enthusiastically introduced to cool music and moves supplied by the energetic leader Alan and his crew of dancers, one of whom is a teacher at E.A.S.T.

From roaring along to Katy Perry or pretending to be celebrities on the red carpet, Culture Shock's unique approach to urban dance left nobody behind. It didn't matter if you knew the moves or not, Culture Shock made sure that everyone participated and had a great time. What was most impressive was the dizzying array of dance styles and music incorporated into the session. It made for an incredible night of fun and exercise.

Here's what some of the kids had to say about the night:

*"I liked it a lot."*

*"It was simply great."*

*"I think it was awesome."*

*"I loved the music and the moves."*

*"I wanted to stay all night."*

**Culture Shock Canada** serves to use hip hop dance as a tool to promote positive values amongst individuals through youth outreach, community classes, and social interactions. Blake School Council hopes to continue working with this exciting organization in 2015.

*Blake Showcase presents*

## Samba Kidz Just Drum Workshop

In celebration of *Black History Month*



**WHEN:** Thursday Feb 5, 2015

**TIME:** 6.30-7.30pm

**WHERE:** Blake Street Public School (Gymnasium)

**WHO:** Parents and kids of all ages

**In this energizing hands-on drumming workshop you will:**

- Learn to play Samba grooves on a variety of percussion instruments
- Learn to play as a group regardless of your musical background
- Make great music...**you won't want to sit down!**

Samba kidz is part of Drum Artz Canada (DAC). They are a non for profit committed to promoting cultural diversity and community through the arts.[www.drumartz.com](http://www.drumartz.com)

Blake School Council



## Hip Hop Literacy

By Mohamed Ali

In grade 6 we learned about Hip Hop Literacy, starting in early October. Nils and Dan Ross were our teachers. Stuntz was our dancing teacher and David was the spoken word artist. They came every Thursday.

We had a lot of fun. We learned about alliteration, similes and metaphor. A simile is a kind of description. If I say, "I am as hot as an evaporating volcano", that is a simile.

Hip Hop Literacy was entertaining and we learned a lot of rhyming words and new words.



## **February Family Fun & Fitness Month 2015**



***Come out and enjoy this FREE opportunity with your family in playing various sports and activities.***

We will have licensed coaches and instructors facilitating:

**Tuesday, February 3:** Family Soccer, Children active Games, Yoga, Tai Chi, Walking / Running the track

**Tuesday, February 10:** Family Football, Socacise/Tai Chi, Walking / Running the track, Right to Play Inclusive Games for kids

**Tuesday, February 17:** Family Soccer, Right to Play Inclusive Games for kids, Tai Chi, Walking / Running

**Tuesday, February 24:** Family Soccer, Right to Play Inclusive Games for kids, Yoga/ Walking / Running

*Every Tuesday, in February, from 3:45 – 5:20pm at Monarch Park Indoor Stadium, light snack and transportation provided. All children must have parent or guardian supervision and must pre-register to join.*

*To register and arrange transportation or for more information please call or email your community support worker at:*

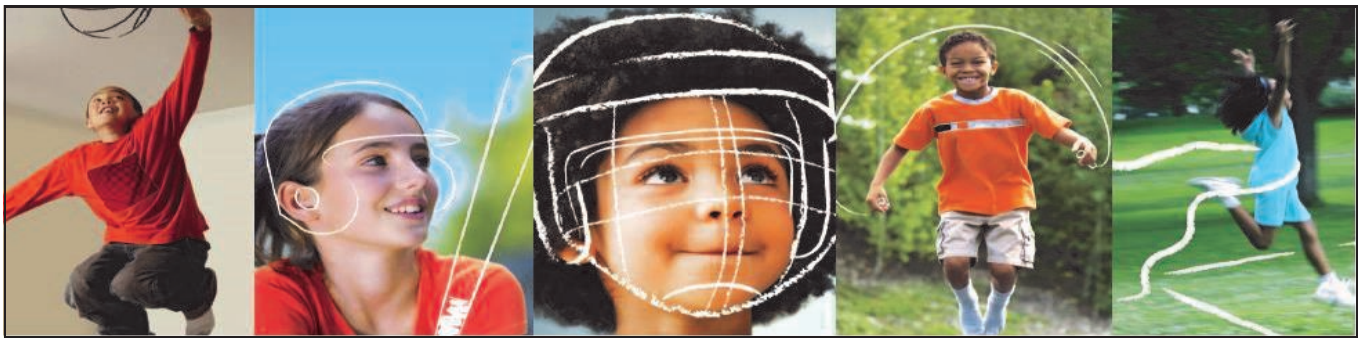
**Duane Spencer 416-884-2941 [duane.spencer@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:duane.spencer@tdsb.on.ca), Colleen Huggins 416-420-1647 [colleen.huggins@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:colleen.huggins@tdsb.on.ca) , Melissa James 416-573-9049 [melissa.james@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:melissa.james@tdsb.on.ca)**



**One block south of the Danforth on Coxwell Ave.**

**Behind the school**

**1 Hanson st**



# Life Skills Through Sport and Games

By Mr. Pace, Emma Richardson & Pablo Bosch

Participating in sports in our community is a great way to get exercise and stay healthy. Sports teach us:

1. To be respectful:
  - a) Fair – to take turns, no cheating
  - b) Polite
  - c) Encourage and teach
2. How to win nicely (thank opponent for playing).
3. How to lose nicely (congratulate winner).
4. To figure out strategies that work.
5. To be good sports.



There are many ways to get involved in sport and games in our community. Some nearby organizations where we can participate are listed in the table below:

Sport	Organization Website	Cost	Date to register
Ballet	<a href="http://www.monarchmovement.com">www.monarchmovement.com</a>	\$170-362	Now
Baseball	<a href="http://www.eastyorkbaseball.com">www.eastyorkbaseball.com</a>	\$185-240	Now
Baseball	<a href="http://www.leaguelineup.com/eastor">www.leaguelineup.com/eastor</a>	\$180-250	February 26, 2015
Basketball	<a href="http://www.eastyorkbasketball.com">www.eastyorkbasketball.com</a>	\$170	Before September
Gymnastics	<a href="http://www.eastyorkgym.com">www.eastyorkgym.com</a>	\$135-216	Now
Hockey	<a href="http://www.tedreevehockey.org">www.tedreevehockey.org</a>	\$395	April
Hockey	<a href="http://www.eastyorkhockey.org">www.eastyorkhockey.org</a>	\$325-350	April
Lacrosse	<a href="http://www.beacheslacrosse.com">www.beacheslacrosse.com</a>	\$160-200	Now
Soccer	<a href="http://www.eastyorksoccer.com">www.eastyorksoccer.com</a>	\$200	Now

*(This is an initial list – Please write to [emmazoelouise@gmail.com](mailto:emmazoelouise@gmail.com) with ideas about other organizations in the community and I can compile a more complete list for future issues of Blake Beat!)*

There are also subsidies to cover the cost of registering for these activities. Please contact Jumpstart.

Canadian Tire Jumpstart  
 2180 Yonge Street  
 P.O. Box 770, Station K  
 Toronto, ON, M4P 2V8  
 email: [jumpstart@cantire.com](mailto:jumpstart@cantire.com)  
 Telephone: 1-877-616-6600



How To Apply (copied from the Jumpstart website – [jumpstart.canadiantire.ca](http://jumpstart.canadiantire.ca)):

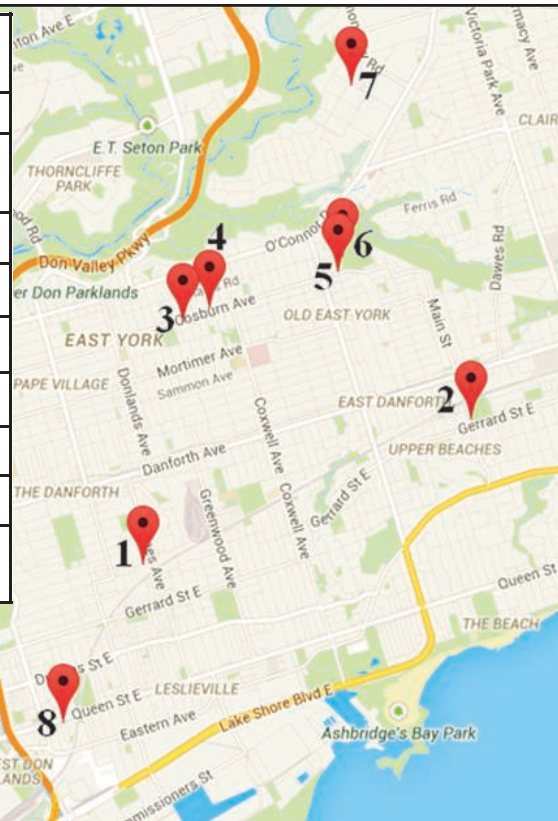
Applications for assistance can typically be submitted from January 15 to November 1, (varies by Chapter) with the goal to be equitably distributed over Spring/Summer and Fall/Winter activities. The funding is distributed with a focus on maximizing the cost and length of participation per activity per child.

- Call our toll free number, 1-877-616-6600, and based on your postal code a representative will provide a contact to the closest Canadian Tire Jumpstart Chapter.
- When calling your local Canadian Tire Jumpstart Chapter representative, be prepared to provide your contact information and the details of the sport or recreational activity your child would like to participate in. You may also be asked to provide financial information in order to prove eligibility for funding.
- All information will be kept confidential and you will be notified by the local Canadian Tire Jumpstart Chapter representative if you are approved or if further information is required. Please be patient as the local Chapter representatives respond to all submissions for the community.
- All information received is kept confidential.



# Life Skills Through Sport and Games continued...

#	Sport(s)	Address
1	Blake Street Junior Public School	21 Boulton Ave., Toronto
2	Ted Reeve Hockey Association and East Toronto Baseball	175 Main St., Toronto
3	East York Soccer Club	475 Cosburn Ave., East York
4	Cosburn Middle School – Basketball	520 Cosburn Avenue, East York
5	East York Memorial Arena – Hockey	888 Cosburn Avenue, East York
6	Stan Wadlow Clubhouse – Baseball	373 Cedarvale Avenue, East York
7	East York Gymnastics	6 Dohme Avenue, East York
8	Ralph Thornton Centre – Ballet	765 Queen Street East, Toronto
9	Toronto Beaches Lacrosse	Please visit <a href="http://beacheslacrosse.com">beacheslacrosse.com</a> for more information.



## Girls' Basketball at Blake

By Anusha Lynch

The girls' basketball team trained for a month before the tournament on December 4<sup>th</sup>. The team players were Rima, Aisha, Yukina, Yumiko, Yosan, Moneba, Hena, Kelly, and me. At the tournament we played the teams from General Mercer, Bruce, and Winchester. There were four teams but we only got to play against three of the teams because we did not get to the Finals. The coaches were Mr. Stoch, Ms. Barr, and Valerie Foussias.

Even though we didn't get to participate in the final match, we got to watch it and it was fun. It was between Bruce and Winchester. Winchester came in 1<sup>st</sup>, Bruce 2<sup>nd</sup>, and General Mercer was 3<sup>rd</sup>. Unfortunately we were 4<sup>th</sup>, but we tried our best and had a lot of fun.

Everyone on the team co-operated and no one argued. We did not hog the ball or argue with the opponents. The kids on the other team were polite and co-operative as well. If they won they didn't brag about it in our faces, and when they lost they didn't roll their eyes and complain. They shook our hands at the end of the game.

I learned the rules on how to play basketball, like what to do and what not to do, for example. I learned to pivot, which is used when you have the ball. Keep one foot on the ground and keep it steady because if you move, it would be called "travelling". I also learned that you can't check someone, which means to bump them aside.



# Strings: Improve Math Skills Or Make Them Worse?

By Naomi Woldu

Some of the kids here at Blake St. like to play music, so they join Strings. But is it helping their math skills or making them worse? Should Strings continue or should it be cut?

The Strings club starts at 9:15am to 9:50am, which means you're missing class time. Grades 4-6 can join Strings and get the chance to play an instrument until they graduate.

Some people say that learning how to read/play music can help you in math, can help you understand math more, but is this all true or just bogus?

I myself am in Strings, and the more I played and practiced the cello, the easier math has been for me. I joined in grade 5 and since then I have improved... a lot.

In my opinion, I think strings can have an effect on students to help them in math. I don't have much proof that it can help you, but you can always do some research on the subject. I encourage students to join in next year's Strings club.



## My Upcoming Graduation

by Ahmed Moallim-Ahmed

My name is Ahmed, and I am writing this article about my graduation from grade 6 this year. I am not sure about the exact graduation date yet, but it will be sometime in June 2015. I can't wait to dress up for that graduation.

This is the school I have been going to for the last seven years of my life. I have a lot of experiences to tell about this school, the teachers, and especially the students. Almost all of my best friends are from this school. My favourite teachers are also from this school.

My mom will be preparing a special cake and some sweets for the graduation party. I will bring my camera in order not to miss any special or interesting moments at the party. I will say goodbye to my teachers and friends who will remain at Blake School.

Finally, I know I will miss everything at Blake School that I used to enjoy, but I will not be far away. My home is just a few steps away from Blake School. I will keep visiting the school and say hi to my friends and teachers.

## valentine's day



### WORD SEARCH

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

FLOWERS  
HEARTS  
KISS  
LOVE  
VALENTINE

ARROW  
CANDY  
CARD  
CHOCOLATE  
CUPID



Be My Valentine

Coloring-Page.net

# Valentine Jokes!

Q: What did the stamp say to the envelope on Valentine's Day?

A: *I'm stuck on you!*

Q: What do squirrels give for Valentine's Day?

A: *Forget-me-nuts.*

Q: What did the caveman give his wife on Valentine's Day?

A: *Ughs and kisses!*

Q: What do you call a very small Valentine?

A: *A Valentiny!*

Q: What kind of flowers do you never give on Valentine's Day?

A: *Cauliflowers!*

Q: What do you call two birds in love?

A: *Tweethearts.*

Knock, knock.

*Who's there?*

Sherwood.

*Sherwood who?*

Sherwood like to be your valentine.

Knock, knock.

*Who's there?*

Olive.

*Olive who?*

Olive you!

Knock, knock.

*Who's there?*

Igloo.

*Igloo who?*

Igloo my fingers together when I make my valentines!



## Recipe! Apple Crumble Delight By Lucy Frankel

What better way to lift the spirits on a cold winter night than with a bowl of hot apple crumble and ice-cream?

**Serves 6 (or 3 in our family)**

### Ingredients:

- 2 cups blanched almond flour
- ½ teaspoon sea salt
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon ground nutmeg
- ⅓ cup grapeseed oil
- ¼ cup maple syrup or honey
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- 5 medium apples, peeled, sliced, then chopped in half width-wise



### Method

1. Preheat oven to 350°.
2. In a large bowl, combine almond flour, salt, cinnamon and nutmeg.
3. In a smaller bowl, combine oil, maple syrup and vanilla.
4. Stir wet ingredients into dry.
5. Place apples in a baking dish.
6. Crumble topping over the apples.
7. Cover and bake for 50 minutes.
8. When apples are soft and their juices bubble, remove cover and bake 10 more minutes to brown crisp.
9. Delicious served warm with vanilla ice-cream or yogurt.

### Morning Meal – February 2015\*

Monday Feb 2	Tuesday Feb 3	Wednesday Feb 4	Thursday Feb 5	Friday Feb 6
Crackers Marble & Mozzarella Cheese Snow Peas	Nut-free low-fat Cereal Strawberry Yogourt Oranges	English Muffin Marble & Mozzarella Cheese Peppers	1 slice baked goods 2% White Milk Apples	Pita/Tortilla Hummous/Dip Carrots & Cucumbers
Monday Feb 9	Tuesday Feb 10	Wednesday Feb 11	Thursday Feb 12	Friday Feb 13
Nut-free low-fat Cereal Yogourt tube Pears	Bagel/Bun Cream Cheese Tomatoes & Cucumbers	1 pc baked goods 2% Chocolate Milk Melon	Pita/Tortilla Hummous/Dip Carrots	<b>PA Day No School</b>
Monday Feb 16	Tuesday Feb 17	Wednesday Feb 18	Thursday Feb 19	Friday Feb 20
<b>Family Day No School</b>	Nut-free low-fat Cereal Vanilla Yogourt Apples	Pita/Tortilla Hummous/Dip Snow Peas & Carrots	English Muffin Strawberry Yogourt Oranges	1 slice baked goods 2% White Milk Peppers
Monday Feb 23	Tuesday Feb 24	Wednesday Feb 25	Thursday Feb 26	Friday Feb 27
Crackers Marble & Mozzarella Cheese Pears	Pita/Tortilla Hummous/Dip Peppers & Carrots	Nut-free low-fat Cereal Yogourt Tube Melon	1 piece baked goods 2% Chocolate Milk Cucumbers & Carrots	Bagel/Bun Cream Cheese Bananas

\*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

# February 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Grade 5/6 Boys' Basketball Tournament Folkdancing Practice Girls Volleyball Practice	3 EAST Math Club	4 Chess—Rm 201 (Ms. Dymont) Chess—Rm 210 (Ms. Yoannou) Eco Club Chess Club —Rm 208 (Mr. Tsai)	5 Kindergarten Trip to ROM Mad Science Workshops- Grades 1—3 "Free The Children" Club <b>Samba Kidz Just Drum Workshop—6:30pm</b>	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<b>English Kindergarten Registration</b>						
15	16 Coding Field Trip—Grade 5 (Ms. Dymont) Folkdancing Practice Girls' Volleyball Practice	17 <b>Report Cards Go Home</b> Grades 4—6 Trip to ROM EAST Math Club	18 Chess—Rm 201 (Dymont) Chess—Rm 210 (Yoannou) Eco Club Chess Club—Rm 208 (Tsai)	19 "Free The Children" Club <b>Valentine's Dance 6pm-8pm</b>	<b>PA Day</b> Parent/Teacher Interviews	
22	23 Folkdancing Practice Girls Volleyball Practice	24 EAST Math Club	25 Space Day—Grade 6 Chess—Rm 201 (Dymont) Chess—Rm 210 (Yoannou) Eco Club Chess Club—Rm 208 (Tsai)	26 "Free The Children" Club <b>School Council Meeting 6pm—7:30pm</b>	20 21 Girls' Volleyball Practice	21
22	23 Folkdancing Practice Girls Volleyball Practice	24 EAST Math Club	25 Chess—Rm 201 (Dymont) Chess—Rm 210 (Yoannou) Eco Club Chess Club—Rm 208 (Tsai)	26 Character Trait Assembly (Fairness) "Free The Children" Club	27 <b>Parent Workshop: Helping Your Child With Homework 6pm—7pm</b>	28

