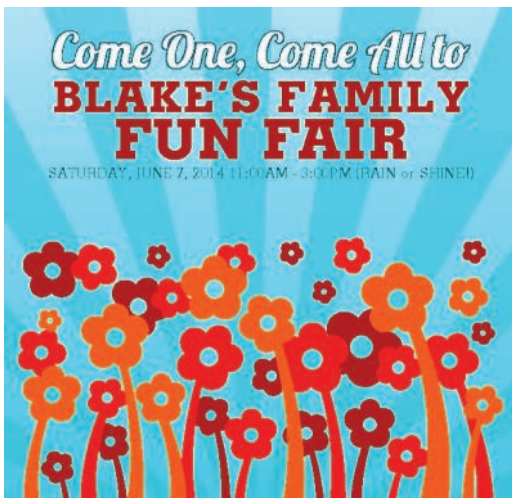


# BLAKE *BEAT*

[WWW.BLAKESTREETPUBLICSCHOOL.COM](http://WWW.BLAKESTREETPUBLICSCHOOL.COM)

[FACEBOOK.COM/BLAKESTREETPUBLICSCHOOL](https://FACEBOOK.COM/BLAKESTREETPUBLICSCHOOL)

[TWITTER.COM/TDSBBLAKE](https://TWITTER.COM/TDSBBLAKE)

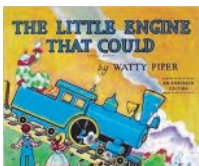
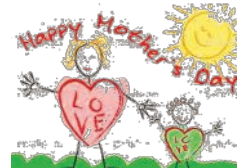


## FUN FAIR IS NEXT WEEKEND! Pg. 3

**Focus On Grenada**  
Pg. 7



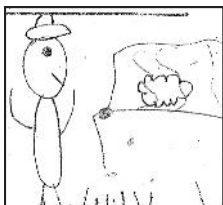
**Kids' Corner**  
Pg. 9, 10



**Character Traits**  
Pg. 2, 3



**Chess Club**  
Pg. 6



**Creative Writing,  
Love Your Lunch**  
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**Crazy Hair Day**  
Pg. 11



**Little Artists**  
Pg. 12



**Morning Meal Plan,  
May Calendar**  
Pg. 14

# CHARACTER TRAITS

**Perseverance** is one of the most important character traits. Being able to stick with a difficult problem, or continue when things get tough, is absolutely a predictor of a successful child! Sometimes, as parents, we step in too soon and do not allow our children to struggle with things. Also, as our children grow, they will develop habits based on watching us. How we respond to challenging situations in life – both big and small - shows our learners how to respond in the classroom and beyond. Researchers recommend that **parents spend time with their children when they themselves are doing difficult things and enjoying “being stuck”**. We parents should tell our children stories about our learning difficulties (and how we overcame them). Overtly talking about our learning; how we learned something, how we felt at the different stages, what we learned from it, etc. will demonstrate positive learning dispositions to our children, and make them aware of the process of learning when something isn’t easy. Research tells us that being aware of this learning process reaps great rewards.

Also, allow children to see that we **are open about not knowing all the answers**. These ideas demonstrate that we are all learners; we all get “stuck” and that it’s okay to “not know”. If children see adults modelling “good/deep learning” and showing how they behave (both intellectually and emotionally) when coming up against challenges, then they will learn from this and form positive “habits of mind”.

**Feeling “stuck” or confused can be approached in a variety of ways**. Although in the past, people may have felt embarrassed by it, finding things difficult shouldn’t necessarily be frowned on. We have all struggled at some stage in our lives. World greats through time - Einstein, Shakespeare, Beethoven, J. K. Rowling, even David Beckham - have had to develop determination and resilience when they have come up against challenges. They all had to develop their ideas and practice, practice, practice. No-one is born great. Some learners suffer from “learned helplessness” or perfectionism, and give up when things get tough as “I can’t do it” and they don’t want to be seen to “fail”. Another way to help children is to develop strategies they could use **to get themselves unstuck**. When they come up with a problem in life, instead of telling them how to solve it you could instead help them develop a list of things to do when they don’t know what to do - resources to use, questions to ask, where to look etc. They could keep the working list somewhere special or somewhere they see often around your home. From then on, if they present a problem of “I don’t understand...”, then we can refer them to the list and say “what do you do when you don’t know what to do?”

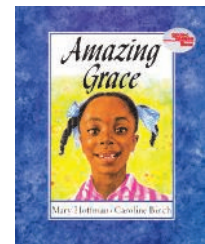
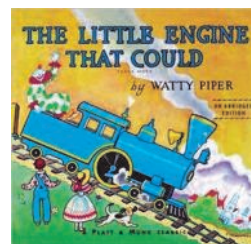
## Ways to show perseverance:

- Trying out for a team even if you weren’t successful the last time.
- Giving up your TV or video games to spend time studying.
- Trying a new sport or activity that is very difficult without giving up.
- Having a learning disability but studying and working hard even when you feel discouraged.
- Spending many hours practising your instrument/music.
- Coming from a home where there is fighting and unhappiness but you still try your best.
- Saving money, working hard or making sacrifices to buy something.
- Studying and working hard to improve your grades.

## People who persevered despite handicaps and disabilities

- **Stephen Hawking** (physicist) - has Lou Gehrig's disease (of the nervous system)
- **Terry Fox** (runner) - was an amputee with cancer
- **Beethoven** (composer) - was deaf
- **Ray Charles** (musician) - was blind
- **Thomas Edison** (inventor) - had a learning problem
- **Albert Einstein** (scientist) - had a learning disability
- **Stevie Wonder** (musician) - is blind
- **Helen Keller** (author) - was deaf and blind
- **Vincent Van Gogh** (artist) - was mentally ill

Share a book about perseverance and talk about why it is important. Here are some suggested books:



And some GREAT junior books – highly recommended for summer reading. My grade 5 and grade 6 girls and boys ALL loved these two books (no exceptions!).



## CHARACTER TRAITS

Congratulations to the winners of the **May Integrity Award**:

**Ms. Vlahos's Class:**

Aka Azmi  
Steven Zheng

**Mr. Stoch's Class:**

Imran Gangat  
Kaylee Cao  
Yunis Quraishi

**Ms. Wheeler's Class:**

Ethan He  
Mohammad Ahmad

**Ms. Kiil's Class:**

Yeabsera Beshir  
Elizabeth Mercelina  
Nadia Gillingham

**Ms. Barr's Class:**

Michael Howey  
Aysiah-May Ross

**Ms. Yoannou's Class:**

Daniel Wang  
Antony Li  
Kian Pham

**Mr. Tsai's Class:**

Muaaz Abowath  
Ibraam Raja  
Andy Chen

**Mr. Milburn's Class:**

Naomi Woldu

**Ms. Ho's Class:**

Parsa Anayat-Gostar  
Zubeda Bhayat



*Come One, Come All to*  
**BLAKE'S FAMILY FUN FAIR**  
SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 2014 11:00AM - 3:00PM (RAIN or SHINE!)

FOOD! ENTERTAINMENT! PONIES! RAFFLE! SILENT AUCTION!  
**BLAKE STREET PUBLIC SCHOOL**  
21 BOULTBEE AVE.  
JUST NORTH OF THE RAIL BRIDGE ON JONES AVE.



# FUN FAIR IS NEXT WEEKEND!!! VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

Blake's Fun Fair is Saturday June 7th, from  
11am - 3pm, so get ready for some all-day FUN!

**BUT we need your help to make it successful!**

We need volunteers on the day of the Fair parents, friends,  
and extended family to volunteer to help set up and run the event.

Please contact the Fun Fair Committee at [blakefunfair@gmail.com](mailto:blakefunfair@gmail.com)  
or sign-up on the Fun Fair sign-up sheets on the School Council  
bulletin board (in the front hall outside the school's office).





## COURAGEOUS VOICES

As a parent of school-aged children, nothing gives me greater pleasure than to see children interested in an activity and expending their effort in order to succeed in it. We have a great school with great kids attending it, and from curriculum subjects to extra-curricular activities to events sponsored and led by parents, the point is to show the children in our school community the possibilities available to them and excite their interest.

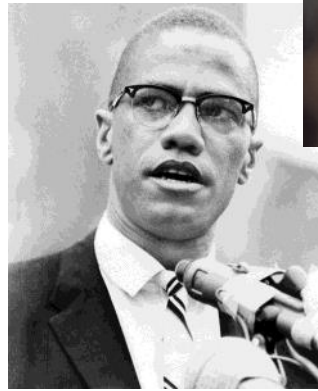
Against this measure, the play *Courageous Voices* was a roaring success. This play is a part of the EAST curriculum and is a major focus for the Grade 8 students every year. It is shown in our school building but I took my two older children to see it at the Metropolitan Community Church showing in late April. To be blunt, my basic message throughout this article is to encourage anyone and everyone to see this play when it is next showing. Although EAST is a separate school from Blake Street Junior PS, we share a building and, as parents, common goals – to provide an environment in which the very best will shine through all our children.

The theme of *Courageous Voices* is heroism, and the action of the play, is a non-stop conversation between the students about how heroism has been brought to life in a series of people. Each student in the Grade 8 year at EAST chooses someone they consider a hero and, after defending their choice to their peers and teachers, develops the character of their hero based on what is known about them. The play is the result of their work and is a synthesis of what makes each person a hero.

I remember the girl who played Abraham Lincoln standing on stage and proclaiming, 'If slavery is not wrong, then NOTHING is wrong', Sojourner Truth saying, 'Ain't I a woman?' I also remember all the characters I had not heard of before the play talking about the fights they fought in their lifetimes (or, for those still alive today, are still fighting). Because each of the Grade 8 students is a unique person, the heroes ran the entire spectrum of messages and lifestyles. We learned about Malcolm X and Romeo Dallaire and Banksy and Malala Yousafzai and twenty-nine other people, living or dead, who stepped away from what they knew to

be comfortable into lives of uncertainty, isolation, and fear for causes they believed in, to help others they felt needed help. As in most human interactions, I found myself disagreeing with some of what these characters said. It would be impossible to hear what this large group of electrifying, energetic people had to say without finding something in some of their words that does not square with my personal view of the world. However, I don't think any of these people, or any of the students who threw their hearts into this project, would be afraid of disagreement. Those thirty-three students delivered the message that the real fear should be reserved for those who would silence the voices.

Jamie Gillingham



# *Volunteering at Blake*

Much of the success of Blake School's initiatives and programs depends on the commitment and effort of our volunteers. Parents and guardians of Blake students are encouraged to volunteer in areas that interest them, all of which contribute to our thriving school community. Some opportunities include:

**School (Parent) Council** – All parent and guardians of Blake students are welcome to join the Council, which holds evening meetings once a month and includes a home-made meal for everyone. During meetings we discuss fundraising, grants, the newsletter, and many other topics.

**Community Garden** – The garden is located near the entrance of Blake school and is used as an outdoor classroom for every class once a week. Volunteers manage the garden's upkeep during growing season, especially during the summer.

**Scholastic Orders** – Book orders come in on a regular basis, and volunteers help collect and sort them.

**Snack Program** – Blake offers every child a snack every morning, and volunteers help prepare and distribute it to classes.

**School Library** – The school library needs regular upkeep, including shelving, sorting, and organizing books.

**In The Classroom** – Teachers are often looking for volunteers to accompany classes on field trips, as well as help with day-to-day tasks during regular classroom hours.

**We at Blake School hope that you will donate some of your time to our causes, especially in support of our children's experiences here! Information about volunteering opportunities will go home with your child(ren) throughout the year; joining the School Council is a great place to start!**

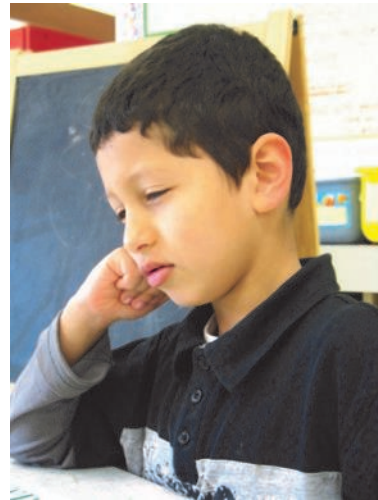




# CHESS CLUB

Students in Rooms 106 and 206 recently completed 8 weeks of chess lessons with Mr. Jen. Over the 8 weeks, they learned the basic rules and strategies of chess. Students learned not only how the pieces moved, but also to study the board and think carefully before making a move. Check out some of our "thinking poses." All students had made amazing progress as they headed into the class tournaments. Congratulations to Michael (room 206) and Gabriel (room 106) for winning the tournaments in their classes. A huge congratulations also to the sportsmanship award winners, Molly (room 206) and Nadia (room 106). Well done, everyone!

*Ms. Erin Barr*



## FOCUS ON GRENADA

Grenada is a nation of seven islands in the Caribbean. Islands in the Caribbean stretch from near North America to near South America. It is 344 square kilometres (around half the size of Toronto) and its population is around 110,000 people. However, it is estimated that another 100,000 or so Grenadians live in other parts of the Caribbean, and another 100,000 live in developed countries like Canada, the US, England, and Australia, so that only one-third of Grenadians actually live in Grenada. The official language is English and this is the language used in the schools and in government, but Grenadian Creole is spoken in everyday use. Creole is a mixture of English, the Indian languages brought by settlers during the British government, African languages, and French left over from the period of French government. The capital is St. George's. Like Canada, the Queen of England is the head of the government and Grenada is a member of the Commonwealth.

French settlers were the first Europeans to colonize Grenada and controlled the island for a hundred years, until Britain gained control of the island around 250 years ago. Grenada became an independent nation in 1974. It was free of hurricanes for many years until, over the past 10 years, it was hit by Hurricanes Ivan and Emily, both of which caused huge damage to homes, businesses, and agriculture on the island.

Carmia, a student in Ms. Barr's class in Grade 1 whose mom is originally from Grenada, also has an older sister who recently emigrated from Grenada. She relates that Grenada is full of black and white sandy beaches and interesting tourist sites. People visit the lakes on the island as well as estates, forts and waterfalls.

Ms. Aberdeen is also from Grenada. She says that the first thing you notice as you step off the plane at Maurice Bishop Airport is the ocean breeze. Everywhere you go throughout the island of Grenada the ocean is nearby. The island is surrounded by white sand beaches lined with palm, cashew, and almond trees. Underneath any one of these trees is the perfect place to rest, relax, and enjoy coconut water straight from the coconut.

Known as the Spice Isle, Grenada has an abundance of nutmeg, cinnamon, clove, ginger, and turmeric, as well as tropical fruits like mangos, limes, avocados and passionfruit, not to mention the cocoa used for chocolate. The locals are as vibrant as the local produce! The small population of a little less than 110,000

inhabitants is known for their hospitality, friendliness and uniquely Grenadian sense of humour.

Because Grenada has been a French and British colony over the last three centuries, you can find these

influences all around the island and in the culture of Grenada. Place names, the education system, and spoken language all reflect Grenada's colonial history. It's not uncommon to hear Grenadian Creole English or Grenadian Creole French sprinkled into conversations. Students complete "forms" not grades and sit a common entrance exam (a standardized test) before heading to high school.



The food of Grenada is a showcase of the people, the history, and produce. The national dish, Oil Down, is a unique combination of indigenous ingredients: breadfruit, coconut milk, turmeric, dumplings, callaloo, and salted meat such as cod, smoked herring, or beef.

Calypso is the music of Grenada. Its energy fills the airwaves and sets the mood for the annual carnival. Carnival festivities include parades with elaborate, colourful costumes, pageants, competitions, and j'ouvert. J'ouvert is a middle-of-the-night parade where participants smear themselves in oil or paint, and play drums and conch shells until sunrise. It's a tradition that dates back to slavery and celebrates freedom.

Grenada is only 344 square kilometres, but there is an abundance of plantations, forts and history to visit, countless fruits, spices and one-of-a-kind snacks to sample and smiling faces and gorgeous beaches everywhere inviting you to stay awhile and relax.






# WRITING

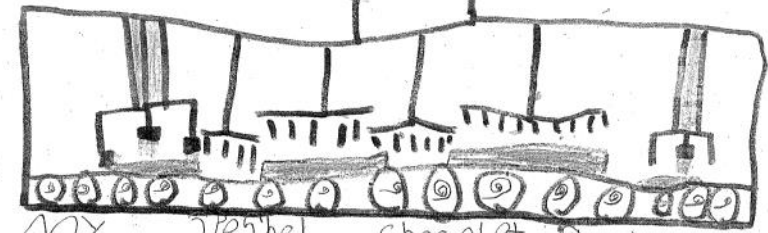
Creative Writing from Ms. Barr's class.

Jonah Willy Wonka




If I Was Willy Wonka  
I would make candy that makes  
more candy. It would be cool.  
You could eat candy all the time.  
It would be the coolest in  
ever. I would be the  
best in ever.

Mackenzie



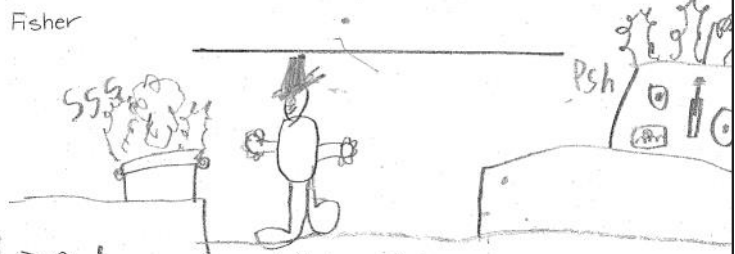
My Fresh chocolate is the  
best because it melts up  
every time. My chocolate is  
cold the chocolate that lasts  
forever.

David



If I was Willy Wonka I would invent a chocolate  
marshmello candy. My candy is  
called David's chocolate marshmello  
It has a wrapper of gold.

Fisher



If I was Willy Wonka I would  
invent eggs that crack in your mouth  
and when they crack they taste sweet.  
I would call them egg sweets. And everyone  
would buy them. And I would get a lot  
of money.

## LOVE YOUR LUNCH

### Pasta in a Creamy Spinach Garlic Sauce

This is a great alternative to a traditional alfredo pasta sauce. It is simple to put together and makes for a really tasty, light summer meal. This dish is one of my son's favorites.

Serves 3-4

#### Ingredients

- Whole grain pasta for 3 - 4 people (fettuccini, spaghetti or penne would work well)
- 1 tbsp. of butter
- 3-4 cloves of garlic
- 2 big handfuls of cremini mushrooms chopped
- 4-6 cups of baby spinach
- Pinch of nutmeg
- Sea salt to taste
- 1 ½ cups plain yoghurt



#### Method

1. Cook pasta and set aside
2. Sauté garlic and mushrooms in butter until soft
3. Add spinach, nutmeg, and salt and cover for 5 minutes or until spinach is wilted. Remove from heat and place spinach mixture in a bowl
4. Add yogurt to spinach mixture and blend with hand blender until smooth
5. Toss cooked pasta in sauce and serve immediately

Other options (I like to add in some of the following ingredients to make for a more colorful, substantial meal):

- Grilled chicken cut into strips
- Roasted vegetables
- Cherry tomatoes halved
- Lightly steamed broccoli cut into small florets



Q. Why did the teacher wear sunglasses?

A. Because her students were bright

Q. How do bees get to school?

A. By school buzz!

Q. How do you get straight A's?

A. Use a ruler

LAUGHING  
— is — the —  
BEST  
exercise

# GET OUTSIDE AND PLAY...

**I Spy...**

- Blue Car 
- Lake or River 
- Stop Sign 
- A Person Walking 
- Dog 
- Traffic Light 
- Airplane 
- Yellow School Bus 

# School Year Reflections

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I feel I improved the most in \_\_\_\_\_ because ...

Something important that I learned this year was ...

What I enjoyed studying the most was \_\_\_\_\_ because ...

Something I'm proud of accomplishing is ...

Something I learned about myself this year was ...

Next year I hope to ...

I will never forget this year because ...



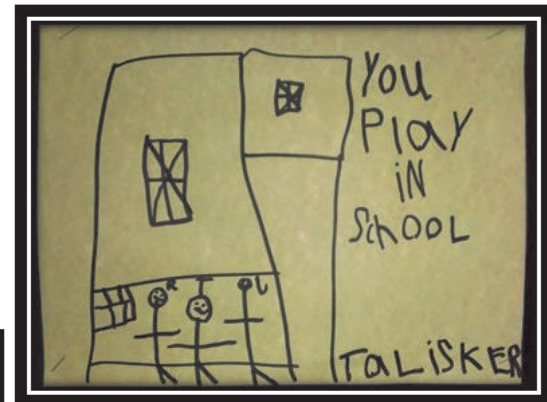


# On May 23<sup>rd</sup> it was **CRAZY HAIR DAY** at **Blake St. P.S**





# Little Artists



Lily, Milka, Lloyd, Talisker, Michelle, Mackenzie, Sadie & Yumiko.



# SCHOOL COUNCIL UPDATE

Here is a summary of the May 15<sup>th</sup> School Council meeting:

## Principal's Report (Kiki)

### School Climate Survey

- Very low response, letter was a bit confusing
- Kiki will send out an email with the link
- Needs to be completed by June 20th

### Placement:

- Last posting ends on Friday May 23rd
- Might be one more change before everything is finalized

### French Immersion:

- Kiki has been a tour guide for new families
- 26 confirmed children to start next year

**Paul the Pottery Guy:** Was a huge success with the kids – the artwork will be displayed for children and parents to admire

**Volunteer Tea:** June 19th from 3:15-4pm in the Blake Library

**Folkfest:** Held at East York – and it was a huge success and lots of fun

**SK Graduation:** Tuesday June 24th at 9:30am

**Grade 6 Graduation:** Wednesday June 25th

## Teacher Update (Erin)

### Spirit Days

- Need to notify the rotary teachers as well as the home room teachers
- Next year – might be a good idea to tie into Pizza lunches so that it is easier to remember

## Treasurer's Report (Jamie)

- Finances are fluid at this time of the year because of Fun Fair – cheques coming in and out
- Have paid for most of Elin's salary (gardening educator)
- Last pizza lunch profit was \$200
- Total pizza lunch profits will be about \$2000 for the year
- Movie night: 2 movie nights totalled \$600
- Parent Council Dinners profit – approximately \$500

## Newsletter (Kate)

- If anyone would like to take on newsletter for next year – Kate is willing to pass it on.
- Deadline is May 25th for the June Newsletter – last of the year

## PRO Grant (Darcy/Sean)

- Secured facilitator 'Culture Shock' to do a Hip Hop session at Fun Fair
- Sean will be doing an 'evaluation' and final report on this year's PRO Grant
- PRO Grant application for next year has been submitted

## Gardening (Mary)

- 5 seating stones arriving next week – they will be here before Fun Fair
- Looking for volunteers to maintain the garden in the summer

## Fun Fair (Eric)

- Over \$2K donated in sponsorship so far
- Tons of items for silent auction and raffle
- Still need more volunteers – please let Nicole know.

## Next Year (Sean)

- Brainstorm around what to spend money on for next year

## ***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 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 each other, and are responsible for following staff directions.

Principal: Kiki Karailiadis

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

Superintendent: Mike Gallagher

Trustee: Cathy Dandy

## ***Newsletter Submissions***

This newsletter was 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 JUNE NEWSLETTER TEAM**

Ms. Aberdeen

Carmia from Ms. Barr's Class

Ms. Barr

Ms. Dymont

Lucy Frankel

Jamie Gillingham

Kate Green

Ms. Karailiadis

Marie MacEwan

Eric Novakovics

Jeanette Rees

BLAKE BEAT

ISSUE # 9, VOLUME 03



# MORNING MEAL PLAN FOR JUNE 2014

Monday June 2	Tuesday June 3	Wednesday June 4	Thursday June 5	Friday June 6
Nut-free granola/cereal Vanilla yogourt Oranges & Melon	Pita/Tortilla Hummous Tomatoes & Peppers	Crackers Marble & Mozzarella Cheese Watermelon	1 slice baked good 2% chocolate milk Tomatoes & Cucumbers	PA Day - no school for students
Monday June 9	Tuesday June 10	Wednesday June 11	Thursday June 12	Friday June 13
Bagel/English Muffin Yogourt Tubes Peppers	Bagel/English Muffin Cream Cheese Strawberries	1 slice baked good 2% white milk Carrots & Broccoli	Crackers Marble & Mozzarella Cheese Red & Green Grapes	Pita/Tortilla Hummous Cucumbers & Tomatoes
Monday June 16	Tuesday June 17	Wednesday June 18	Thursday June 19	Friday June 20
Crackers Marble & Mozzarella Cheese Apples	Nut-free granola/cereal Strawberry yogourt Carrots & Cucumbers	1 slice baked good 2% chocolate milk Bananas	Pita/Tortilla Hummous Peppers	Bagel/English Muffin Vanilla Yogourt Melon
Monday June 23	Tuesday June 24	Wednesday June 25	Thursday June 26	Friday June 27
Bagel/English Muffin Yogourt Tubes Carrots	Crackers Marble & Mozzarella Cheese Strawberries	Pita/Tortilla Hummous Carrots & Cucumbers	1 slice baked good 2% white milk Watermelon	Bagel/English Muffin Cream Cheese Tomatoes & Peppers

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

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

# June

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 Children's Book Bank (Ms. Barr)	5	6 PA DAY	7 FUN FAIR!  11am - 3pm
8	9	10	11 Pape Library (Mr. Tsai)	12	13 Metro Toronto Zoo Trip (Ms. Vlahos, Ms. Yoan- nou, Ms. Tsue, Ms. Ho )	14
15	16	17	18	19 Volunteer Tea in Library	20 Pizza Lunch	21
22	23	24 Kindie Graduation	25 Blake Graduation	26 Reports go home	27 Last Day of School	28

Character Trait for June:  
**Perseverance**

#### 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**