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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

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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.

Items should be sent in Microsoft Word format if possible, but do not need to be formatted. Simply forward text and/or images.

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Welcome, from the Blake St School Parent Council Co-Chairs

Hello Blake Street Students and Parents,

We certainly hope your year has started off nicely at Blake Street. For all the new members of the Blake Street School community, we'd like to welcome you to this special place. This year is going to be simply amazing! We have so many wonderful initiatives going on in the school and so much energy focused on making this year special for students, teachers and Blake families.

Jeanette and I are your new parent council co-chairs. Last year's chairs, Emma and Sean, have been very informative and very patient with us as we have transitioned into the roles over the last couple months. Our Principal, Kiki Karailiadis, has a wonderful relationship with the Parent Council and we are so thankful for her support!

It is our goal to have EVERY Blake family represented at the Parent Council meetings. They are a great way to get a sense of what is going on at the school. It's an easy way for the school to communicate with parents and vice versa. This is where we vote on where and how to allocate the funds that have been raised by the Fun Fair and our other fundraising initiatives. Childcare

is available, so please do come out to our next monthly meeting. You will see an invitation to the meetings in your child's backpack and the school sign on Boultbee Avenue will show the date and time of upcoming meetings.

The Parent Council strives to work with Kiki, Blake's amazing staff, and the students to make Blake Street School the best it can possibly be. You can help make this happen by joining one (or more!) of the council's groups and sub-committees. This is where the real fun begins and where you can make a meaningful and very positive impact on the school. We urge EVERY Blake family to become involved in a group or subcommittee. The amount of time required is flexible, so even if you are extremely busy, you can still be a part of a team. You'll

quickly realize that the amount of work is a lot less than you imagine and we guarantee you will have much more FUN than you imagine.

If you can't make it out to the Parent Council meetings, here are our pictures. If you see us around the school and want to say hello or have a question, please come over and introduce yourself.

Jeanette and I are very excited for the 2015/2016 school year. With your continued support, it will be another hugely successful year!

Thanks very much,

Jeanette Rees & Alan Lyons

BlakeSchoolCouncil.tdsb@gmail.com







JEANETTE REES

Friday Fun Family Sports: A fun time had by all over the summer

Each Friday from mid June through to the first week of September, families from the Blake Street community got together on the field of Blake Street school to play sports. We met Fridays between 6 and 8 p.m., and had a pretty fun time.

On different Friday nights the number of families and sports we played varied. At our peak we had about 50 people, and had simultaneous: cycling, badminton, basketball, playing on play structure, t-ball, cricket, throwing and catching (baseball), and then wrapped up with a big game of soccer.

Other nights there were fewer people, which turned out to be a good chance to get in some baseball batting practice. On the last Friday of the summer (Friday September 4th), we played baseball with three generations and two families, incorporating enormously long bases spanning the entire Blake Street field.

Cricket games were a common fixture for kicking off "Friday funs." Sara Bosch's grandpa would sometimes start off the game, using his knowledge from playing as a boy in England. Thankfully Naeem, the dad of Zuhair, Rayyan and Arriz, promptly arrived t

Arriz, promptly arrived to take over leading the cricket. He knows a lot about the game from playing in Pakistan and Canada.

During Fridays in early summer,

some families brought picnic dinners & blankets to enjoy while at Family Fun Friday Sports.

For the soccer matches we used our bright blue and green pinnies, which were purchased with funds from the Blake Street Parent Council (thank you to the Parent Council!). By: Emma Richardson de Bosch



Sometimes

we had a separate soccer game for children 6 years and under.

These are some of the comments some Blake students, parents and teachers about their experiences at Blake "family fun":

<u>Question:</u> "What was your favourite part of Friday Fun Family Sports?"

Responses:

"I really enjoyed it when everyone was playing soccer" (Sara Ross, Grade 3)."Playing with my baseball glove" (Sarah B., Grade 1).

"I love the laid back nature of it... how there weren't any referees or admission fees or anything like that. It was kind of a throw back... parents and kids



getting together in the neighbourhood for a good time" (Allan, father of Rowan, grade 3, Poppy, grade 1 & parent council co-chair).

"My favourite part was just seeing all the different families that were out. And being able to bring your own things, but if you didn't have your own things there were lots of sports equipment to use. And there were lots of different activities to try... I'd never tried cricket before. That was pretty cool to hit my first cricket bat" (Ms. Dyment, librarian).

"Well your watermelon, 'cause I love watermelon" (Poppy, grade 1).

"Soccer. Playing soccer. " (Kayden, grade 2).

"My favourite part about fun family sports was connecting with the community. And it didn't matter what age or talent level you had, everybody was welcome and everybody managed to have fun" (Danielle Stamatiou, mother of Maximo in Grade 1 & Stella in junior kindergarden).

"The funest part was everything, 'cause we got to do anything we wanted. We had fun. We all played. It was very delightful and fun" (Mohammed, grade 5).

"It was a great opportunity to get to know new parents and for kids to meet other kids... The last time I had played soccer was probably grade 10 gym. It felt awesome to get out there. My son especially loved it 'cause he totally creamed me" (Naomi Gillingham, mother of Benjamin, grade 6, Nadia, grade 3 & Ian, Senior Kindergarden).

"We came out 4 or 5 times at the beginning of the summer. Having a reason to get out of the house at the end of the week, at a time when otherwise you might collapse and do something lethargic like sitting in front of the TV. So it was a community event. The kids maintained

contact with their kids from school and we got outside and did fun things, like I played badminton with my wife."

"Did you get out on the soccer pitch?" (Emma, interviewer) "Oh I definitely did. I mean I played more defense and then some of the older elementary kids



commented on the few number of times I made contacted with the ball, but I defended my performance. And uh (laughs), I played with heart... But I did my best." (Jamie Gillingham, father of Ian, Senior Kindergarden, Nadia, grade 3 & Ben, grade 6)



Blake Showcase: A Year in Review

By: Lucy Frankel and Darcy Losell

At the end of the last school

year the Blake Parent Council hosted the final Showcase events. In May we celebrated Asian Heritage Month with Chinese storyteller Bernice Gei-Ying Hune. Her traditional folk



tales and engaging style captivated the audience. Her stories ranged from personal experiences as a child growing up in China to cautionary tales.



In June we hosted our final event of the year – a traditional summer hoedown. We were fortunate to be joined by renowned local folk musicians Anne Lederman and Bill Russell. With a live band and caller parents and kids were led through traditional country dance routines that were easy and fun to learn. It was an extremely rousing and enjoyable evening of music, dancing and perogies... a truly Canadian experience.



The Blake Street Parent Council NEEDS YOU!

Blake Street School has a vibrant and active parent council, but it won't be complete until EVERY Blake parent gets involved!

Participating in the parent council is really important because it provides

a way for the school to communicate directly with parents and vice versa.

The Parent Council spends a lot of effort on fundraising for the school. Why do we fundraise? We do it to improve our children's education and their overall school experience. Some of the programs the Parent Council has contributed to are the garden program, educational field trips, theatrical performances, and specialty science programs. This year, we are contributing funding for the ukulele program, which will enable a large number of Blake Students to get musical training at a young age.

The Blake Parent Council is a great way of meeting other parents, making connections, and building the Blake Street School community. Plus, it's really fun, especially when

> you join one of the many subcommittees!!

We meet once per month at the school. Look for the dates in flyers coming home with your child and on the sign in front of the school. We'll see you at the next Parent Council meeting!



VOLUNTEERING: HOW YOU CAN HELP

There are many ways you can help at Blake, whether you work or are available for an hour or so during the day.

During the day there is always a need for people to help with the snack program. This involves about an hour first thing in the morning. VolunteerAtBlake@gmail.com

At any time during the day there is a pile of books in the library that need putting away. Just stop by.

The Parent Council is a great way to get involved in the life of the school, and much of it is done after work hours. There are a number of committees you can help with find the one that suits you skills and interests! Also, many of our events need a little help with set up and take down. Unless otherwise specified, contact us via VolunteerAtBlake@gmail.com

Parent School Council

BlakeSchoolCouncil.tdsb@ gmail.com Newsletter BlakeSchoolNewsletter@gmail.com Fun Fair School Dance Cttee Clothing and Book Swap Cttee Safety Fence Cttee **Plauground Art Cttee Temporary Communications Team** Assisting with distributing information during the work-torule action **Movie Nights Cttee Spirit Days Cttee Spirit Wear Cttee Staff Appreciation Pot Luck** Cttee **Pizza Lunches Cttee Family Fitness Cttee Grant Writing Cttee Garden Initiative Cttee Lice Squad Cttee Fund Raising Cttee**

New Initiatives to be Voted On at Parent Council - 15 October 2015

The Parent Council is introducing a New Initiatives Procedure, where proposals are brought to the Committed and discussed, and the vote takes place the following month. The following are the two new initiatives up for vote at the next Parent Council meeting.

Purchase a Cotton Candy Machine

The Fun Fair Committee would like to purchase a Cotton Candy machine, for use at the Fun Fair and other events such as the school dances. Currently we either rent or borrow a machine, if available.

COST: \$400

CURRENT COST: \$50 each time we rent it.

BENEFITS:

- High Margin Sales: For very little cost in supplies we gain a great deal in income. The cotton candy machine alone raises \$250 in profit at the Fun Fair.
- It is not always possible to rent a machine, or to borrow from Frankland school. Owning our own would guarantee access, and enable us to use it at all school events.
- With the number of events the machine could be used at it will pay for itself vis a vis renting.

RESOURCES REQUIRED: Storage

Classroom Startup Fund for Teachers

The Parent Council would like to provide teachers an ongoing reimbursement of classroom set up costs, to the value of \$100 per classroom per year. Teachers would submit receipts to the Parent Council Co-chairs and Treasurer to be reviewed and reimbursed.

COST: \$1750 (Currently 17.5 classrooms)

FUTURE COST: The annual cost of this will increase as the school grows.

BENEFITS:

- Teachers can spend the money on items required for their individual needs. We did consider making an arrangement with a particular store, but decided against restricting teachers.
- Every classroom in the school will benefit from this outlay.
- Annual fund, teachers can rely on it when planning their classrooms.

RESOURCES REQUIRED: Parent Council Co-chairs and Treasurer to review receipts

Open Communication from the TDSB

29 September, 2015

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We wanted to provide you with an update about job action being taken by teaching staff represented by the <u>Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO)</u> and the <u>Canadian Union of Public Employees</u> (<u>CUPE</u>), which represents support staff.

Currently, both unions are in ongoing province-wide labour negotiations with the Government of Ontario and public school boards. As a result, members of ETFO and CUPE are taking part in a legal job action that will impact our schools.

It's important to note that schools remain open and instructional programs continue to run. During these extraordinary times in our schools, principals and vice-principals are working together with staff to maintain a caring and positive school environment. As always, student safety and learning remain the top priorities of all TDSB staff, and superintendents are in daily contact with our schools to assess any concerns.

Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario

Recently, ETFO escalated its work-to-rule campaign to include a number of new measures — the full list of which was posted on September 18th at <u>http://www.tdsb.on.ca/labour</u>. As a result, some activities and events (e.g. curriculum nights and fundraising events) may need to be postponed or cancelled. Wherever possible, schools are working to reschedule affected events.

ETFO has stated that if sufficient progress is not made in negotiations it MAY implement rotating oneday strikes in October. Should rotating strikes occur, we will provide you with as much notice as possible about the impact on our schools.

Canadian Union of Public Employees (e.g. custodians, school office staff, educational assistants)

Today, CUPE (e.g. custodians, school office staff, educational assistants) has started a partial withdrawal of services which includes:

- Not sweeping entrances and hallways
- Not doing school compost programs
- Not cutting grass or cleaning up leaves unless there is a safety concern
- Not collecting or accepting money for school-related initiatives and fundraising

A full list of CUPE's directives to its members is available at <u>http://www.tdsb.on.ca/labour</u>.

As the withdrawal of services continues, it **MAY** have a more significant impact on school activities and permits.

Please note, child care programs are currently operating according to their normal schedules.

As you can imagine, principals and vice-principals have had to take on additional tasks as a result of the ongoing job action and we appreciate your patience. During this time, there may be some delays when trying to contact your school office. While we appreciate offers of assistance from parents, volunteers cannot fulfill the duties of staff during a legal job action.

For all the latest labour information, visit <u>http://www.tdsb.on.ca/labour</u>.

We remain hopeful that a fair agreement can be reached between unions, the Government of Ontario and public school boards in the very near future. Page 9





WELCOME FAMILIES OF BLAKE STREET PUBLIC SCHOOL

Parent Council is pleased to hold our 3rd Annual

FAMILY CLOTHING AND BOOK SWAP

On THURSDAY NOVEMBER 12TH from 315p-830p

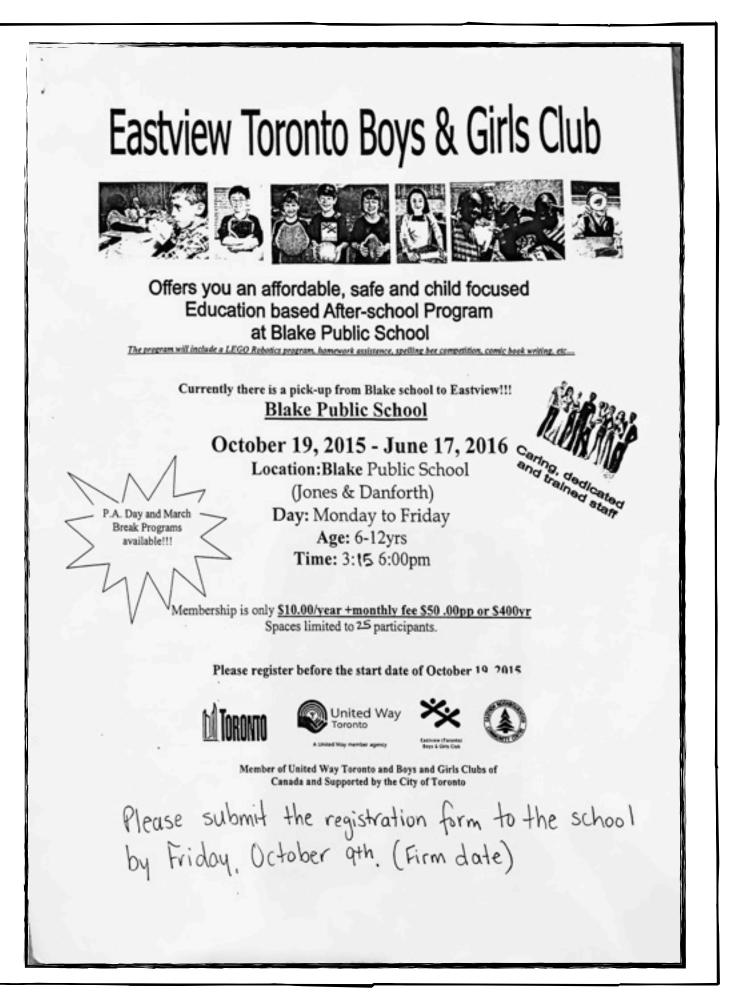
A SWAP means to **exchange** your valued but no longer *used* clothing and books, for clothing and books you *will* use. There is no exchange of money at this event.

It is time to *declutter* and *refill* your and your children's wardrobes and swap some good books and sporting equipment. Parents this includes your clothing along with the Children's clothing and Books and sporting equipment. Some examples are: JEANS, T-SHIRTS, PARTY DRESSES, SWEATERS, BUSINESS ATTIRE, MITTENS, HATS, SCARVES, BOOTS, SHOES, SNOW PANTS, WINTER COATS, LONG JOHNS, SKATES, HOCKEY STICKS, and HELMET'S AND OF COURSE BOOKS!!!

How it Works: PLEASE GO THROUGH YOUR DRESSERS, CLOSETS AND BOOK SHELVES AT HOME AND BRING **ALL** THE CLEAN, *WASHED*, GENTLY USED, ITEMS TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE BEFORE: **WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 11TH BY 330pm**.

We are holding this on the same evening as the Parent/Teacher Interview Night, so please stop by the gym and take what you need. See you there!!!





We put the FUN in FUNDRAISER!

XXQSP#

We are starting our 2015 QSP **Magazine** and **Cookie Dough** Fundraiser Campaign with lots of magazines and cookie dough flavours to choose from! All purchases help raise funds for Blake Street Public School that go to support student programs and learning initiatives. The deadline to order is **Friday, October 16th, 2015**.

Blake Street Public School is pleased to be bringing the opportunity to participate in the Magazine & Cookie Fundraising Campaign with QSP Canada. Over 700 magazines are listed at savings up to 85% off newsstand prices. By renewing your existing magazine subscriptions or ordering new subscriptions through our school, you are NOT PAYING ANY EXTRA, but approximately 37% of the money you spend stays in the school to benefit our students! Last year we were able to raise \$1,600 for our school!

Examples for our children include the many wonderful, educational publications like Chirp, Chickadee, Owl, National Geographic Kids, Pomme d'Api, J'aime Lire, Les Debrouillards, Les Explorateurs.

Great for Gifts! This is a great opportunity to buy gift subscriptions for relatives, friends, and family - children love to receive their own mail! Renewal orders will simply extend your current subscription, regardless of its expiration date. On renewal orders, copy the name and address exactly as it appears on the mailing label.

You can support Blake St Public School by ordering magazines <u>online</u> at <u>www.qsp.ca</u>. Our school ID is: 3958253 or just type in "Blake Street Public School".

In addition to magazines, this year QSP is also offering Cookie Dough from Tasty Batters, a local Toronto company! Tasty Batters offers 14 different gourmet cookie dough flavours including gluten-free and peanut-free flavours. It's trans-fat free and lasts 6 months in the freezer and 6 weeks in the fridge. To order you must fill out a <u>paper</u> <u>order form</u> and keep the pink copy for your records. Payment for Cookie Dough orders are made by cash or cheque payable to: Blake St School Council. Cookie Dough orders will arrive on November 19, 2015 in time for the holiday season!

Please ensure the student's name is on the top of the order form for credit towards campaign rewards!



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 Canadian company with all types of labels that are colourful, indestructible, easy-to-use and fun! Order your labels <u>online at: http://mabelslabels.com/support-a-fundraiser</u> and select Blake School Council (Toronto) from the drop down menu. 20% of your purchase will be donated back to Blake St Public School.

Thank you for your support!

Fundraising through Social Media



We have entered Aviva's Community Fund to win \$100,000 towards a new playground. We need you, and everyone you know, to vote

everyday from October 6 to October 23 at www.aviavacommunityfund.org.

We need thousands of votes - use the images and videos on Blake's website and Facebook page to invite your friends on Facebook to vote for Blake! Ask people in your community to vote eg. work, religious or service groups, book club, and local real estate agents.

From September 20 - October 10 2015, Indigo employees, customers and their communities will raise money to help rejuvenate underfunded elementary-school libraries across Canada.

It's easy for you to join us and take part in Indigo's Adopt a School program.

With your help we can win \$10,000 from Indigo to fill our Library with books for our students, for many kids our library is their only source of reading materials.

A simple vote/adopt every day is all it takes! Please vote/adopt or donate and help put a book into the hands of every child at Blake St PS. Every \$12 buys a book for the school and adds an additional 10 votes/ adopt, please see the attached link and send to all of your family and friends!

https://adoptaschool.indigo.ca/eng/schools/612

Here's to building a lifelong love of reading and learning for all children.

Morning Meal - October 2015

Monday Oct 5	Tuesday Oct 6	Wednesday Oct 7	Thursday Oct 8	Friday Oct 9
Nut-free low-fat Cereal Strawberry Yogourt Carrots	English Muffin Cream Cheese Melon	Pita/Tortilla Hummous Peppers & Carrots	1 slice baked goods Chocolate Milk Ontario Grapes	Crackers Marble & Mozzarella Cheese
Monday Oct 12	Tuesday Oct 13	Wednesday Oct 14	Thursday Oct 15	Cucumbers Friday Oct 16
Thanksgiving No School	Nut-free low-fat Cereal Vanilla Yogourt Apple	Crackers/Bread Yogourt Tube Carrots	1 slice baked goods White Milk Melon	Pita/Tortilla Hummous Peppers & Tomatoes
Monday Oct 19	Tuesday Oct 20	Wednesday Oct 21	Thursday Oct 22	Friday Oct 23
Nut-free low-fat Cereal Strawberry Yogourt Pear	Crackers/Bread Marble & Mozzarella Cheese Cucumbers & Carrots	English Muffin/Bagel Cream Cheese Banana	Pita/Tortilla Hummous Yellow & Red Peppers	1 slice baked goods Chocolate Milk Apple
Monday Oct 26	Tuesday Oct 27	Wednesday Oct 28	Thursday Oct 29	Friday Oct 30
Bagel/Bun Yogourt Tube Tomatoes & Carrots	Nut-free low-fat Cereal Vanilla Yogourt Ontario Grapes	Pita/Tortilla Hummous Peppers & Cucumbers	1 slice baked goods White Milk Melon	Crackers/Bread Marble & Mozzarella Cheese Carrots

*Fruits/vegetables subject to change due to supply

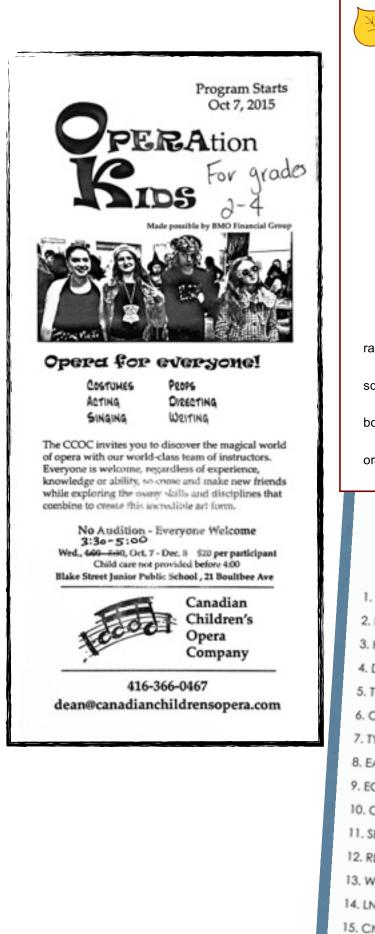
**all grain products served meet a minimum of 2 stars (out of 3) of the Guiding Stars program. For more information see http://guidingstars.ca/

Veggie-packed Zucchini Muffins

This is a wonderfully spiced muffin recipe that's actually full of vegetables (no token carrot here). Chocolate chips are optional, but are often the convincing ingredient for my picky eater. These muffins freeze amazingly well; pop a frozen muffin in your child's lunch and it will be defrosted and ready to eat by lunchtime!

Yield: Approximately 24 muffins

3 large eggs	Preheat oven to 350°F.
1 cup olive or vegetable oil	Line 24 muffin cups with paper liners.
1 3/4 cups sugar	
2-3 zucchini, grated	In a large bowl, beat the eggs with a whisk. Mix in oil and sugar,
2 teaspoons vanilla extract	then zucchini and vanilla.
3 cups all-purpose flour	Combine flour, cinnamon, nutmeg, baking soda, baking powder
1 tablespoon cinnamon	and salt, as well as chocolate chips, if using.
1/8 teaspoon nutmeg1 teaspoon baking soda1/2 teaspoon baking powder	Stir this into the egg mixture. Divide the batter into prepared pans.
1 teaspoon salt 1 bag chocolate chips (optional)	Bake approximately 20 to 25 minutes, until a toothpick inserted in the centre of a muffin is removed clean.
 2 teaspoons vanilla extract 3 cups all-purpose flour 1 tablespoon cinnamon 1/8 teaspoon nutmeg 1 teaspoon baking soda 1/2 teaspoon baking powder 1 teaspoon salt 	then zucchini and vanilla.Combine flour, cinnamon, nutmeg, baking soda, baking powder and salt, as well as chocolate chips, if using.Stir this into the egg mixture. Divide the batter into prepared pans.Bake approximately 20 to 25 minutes, until a toothpick inserted



Autumn Word Search Can you find the Autumn words in the puzzle below? b ι ι h t n y 0 w х t е h r ο w n s s ι s b u i с q h u a a е u с a С q q m a с a i r w С Т h k e o h a t ο d i С r f s ρ a n q е n r a d k L 0 w a q r s s d х a w k h L h С Х k р m ч a p е b h е ч с е h rake scarecrow yellow brown squirrel leaves apple red bonfire harvest fall pear orange acom www.ActivityVillage.co.uk - Keeping Kids Busy Word Scramble Unscramble each group of letters to form a school word. 1. PCLIEN 2. EKDS 3. HACRI 4. DCOINTAIYR 5. TTSE 6. OOWEHMKR 7. TYSDU 8. EANLR 9. ECTEAHR 10. CYSNRAO _ 11. SEDNTTU 12. RDIAEGN 13. WTNIIGR 14. LNPEIGSL 15. CMEUTPOR

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27 3.15 pm Book Exchange	20 3.15 pm Book Exchange	13 3.15 pm Book Exchange	6 8.20 am KM Club 10 am KM Club 3.15 pm Book Exchange		Tuesday
28 3.30 pm Operation Kids	21 3.30 pm Operation Kids	14 3.30 pm Operation Kids	7		Wednesday
29 3.15 pm Book Exchange	22 3.15 pm Book Exchange	15 3.15 pm Book Exchange 6 pm School Council meeting	8 8.20 am KM Club 10 am KM Club 3.15 pm Book Exchange	1 Terry Fox Run	Thursday
30	23 Nutrition Envelope	Photo Day	\$	2	Friday
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