

Blake News

The Newsletter of
Blake Street Public School
 Phone: (416) 393-9415

Blake Street Public School
 21 Boulton Avenue, Toronto, ON M4J 1A7
Jennifer Zurba, Principal **Tina Weinberg**, Vice Principal
Mary Jane McNamara, Superintendent of Education **Jennifer Story**, School Trustee

Last Friday, on our scheduled professional development day, we as a staff community began our first learning journey. As a school, we have begun to focus on the very important skill of self-regulation. Many of you will know that self-regulation is a learning skill evaluated in every provincial report card, and can be defined as the ability to monitor, maintain and change the level of alertness so that it is appropriate to a situation or task. Next week, staff will continue to delve into their understanding of self-regulation, however, starting a week Monday, and moving forward, every Monday, classes will participate in Self-Regulation Mondays, where all teachers will teach the same specific lesson with the same learning goal. The focus of the lesson will continue to be reviewed and reinforced for the remainder of the week in all classes and school activities. As a school, we will be highlighting the founding ideas of Dr. Stuart Shanker's book **Calm, Alert and Learning**, while focusing on the scaffolded lessons planned out by the Alert Programme (Kindergarten and Primary students, and the **Zones of Regulation** Programme (Junior students),

Specifically from now until the end of December, we as a school will be focusing in the first stages of the programmes:

- Students will learn the engine words (high, just right or low), or the zone colours (blue yellow, green, red), and the feelings and behaviours associated with each;
- Adults will label their own engine speeds or zones;
- Students will develop an awareness of the feel of their own engine speeds (zones), using the adult's labels as a guide;
- Students will learn to identify and label their own levels (zones) for themselves in a variety of different environments.

Stay tuned for more information on our school learning on self-regulation in the weeks and months to come.

Should you have any questions or concerns with the content of this newsletter, or any other school related issues, please email me directly at jennifer.zurba@tdsb.on.ca

Jennifer Zurba

YPT

This past Thursday and Friday, primary English and French classes (respectfully) went to see the performance of Bello at the Yonge People's Theatre. The show got rave reviews by many of our students. Below is a recount of the play, written by Johann in Mr. Lowe's grade 2/3 class. Today we went to YPT to see "Bello". It is a play. My favourite part was riding on the school bus. When we got there was a lot of people. I was sitting beside Max and Kylie. Two of the characters were Bern and Peter. Bern was funny. To get to school they had to walk 5 km. I had fun. We took a bus back to school and ate lunch.

Friday is Photo Day

Next Friday October 20th is Photo Day. Please be sure that

your child is on time to ensure that they don't miss their photo opportunity and are present for their class photo.

Looking for Lunch Supervisors

We are looking for interested parents, caregivers or community members who are interested in applying to become lunchroom supervisors. This position is a great gateway opportunity to get into the TDSB. If you are interested, please send an email to jennifer.zurba@tdsb.on.ca or come to the office and let us know.

PALS Wanted

PALS stands for Partners in the Acquisition of Literacy Skills. This may be the perfect volunteer opportunity you have been looking for. Blake Street PS is searching for interested parents, caregivers,

grandparents or community members who are interested in supporting reading at the primary level with our struggling readers three to five times a week, 15 minutes a day. In doing so, you can make a big difference in an individual child's success at school, while also learning how to effectively help your own child become a successful reader. Training and on-going support and materials will be provided by teachers. If interested, please email Jennifer.zurba@tdsb.on.ca

OPAL: We Need Your Junk

Last year, we developed a partnership with Earth Day Canada and launched a pilot project to bring **Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL)** to Blake Street PS. Working together as a learning community (teachers, parents, administrators, daycare staff...) we continue to develop a play

implementation plan for outdoor time. The children will engage in self-directed play with **loose parts** (tools, cardboard boxes and tubes, spare tires, fabric, rope, water, hay, logs, etc.), boosting their sense of agency and creating a more inclusive and reciprocal social environment.

The idea of playing with scrap materials isn't new. In fact, we have probably all done it before! In play, loose parts are any materials that can be moved, carried, combined, redesigned, taken apart and put back together in multiple ways. They are materials with no specific set of directions that can be used alone or combined with other materials to inspire building, fort making, imaginative worlds and active play.

As you may be aware, we have a school age OPAL shed on the south east corner of our field, and we need to fill it up. We are currently collecting loose parts for our OPAL program. If you have something old, broken, or taking up space in your home, we want you to think of the potential for loose parts play before you throw it away! Items may include: milk crates, art easels, car tires, wheels, large empty spools, plastic piping, old kitchen items, old electronics, cardboard boxes, landscaping scraps like wooden stump. Any collected items can be dropped off in the office or to your child's teacher.

Extra Curriculars – What's Up

Monday	Junior choir (lunch)
Tuesday	Boys Soccer (pm)
Wednesday	Eco Club (lunch)
Thursday	We Club (lunch) Boys Soccer (pm)
Friday	Lego (lunch)

Equity Committee Call Out

A joint staff and community equity committee has recently been struck. A November meeting is being planned. If you are interested in joining us

in pushing equity and social justice to the forefront of our school vision, please email Jennifer.zurba@tdsb.on.ca

An Update from Councillor Fletcher on the Jones / Boulton Traffic Light

Parent Council Updates

Thank you to everyone who attended the October 11 School Council meeting! Meeting minutes will be posted to the [Blake Blog](#) next week.

Jones/Boulton Traffic Light Update

At the October 17 meeting of the Toronto and East York Community Council, Ward 30 councillor **Paula Fletcher** will move a motion to have the city install a traffic light at Jones and Boulton Avenues. Here's how you can help: email Toronto and East York Community Council at teycc@toronto.ca to express your support of the motion and to share your own experience and insight.

Visit

www.paulafletcher.ca/blake for more info. The Oct. 17 meeting is open to the public and a good venue to discuss issues around school safety.

Pizza Days – News and Reminders

A reminder that our next Pizza Day happens on October 27. You will receive a reminder notice as well as a payment envelope in next week's Friday folder. Please note that absolutely no late payments will be accepted this time—all payments must be given to your teacher by Tuesday, October 24. Remember that you can also pay online via [Munch a Lunch](#). With about two-thirds of Blake kids participating, we would like to make pizza day a more inclusive experience. The pizza team has launched a very short survey to get your feedback. You can find the survey [here](#) or copy and paste this link into your browser: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CX7FNQ8>

Halloween Dance – October 27

Blake's third annual Family Halloween Dance is set for Oct. 27 at 6:00 p.m. The whole family is welcome to come out in costume and enjoy some music, pizza, sweets, face-painting and other fun. We need parent volunteers to make this happen; if you have any time to help out before, during or after the event, please email blakeschoolcouncil.tdsb@gmail.com.

Staff Appreciation Potluck – November 16

School Council will be hosting a Staff Appreciation Potluck after school on Thursday, November 16, and would appreciate any and all contributions! Please email Trish at patriciaculley@gmail.com to sign up.

2017/2018 School Council Financial Information Sessions

School councils play a key advisory role to their school, and they also enjoy the possibility of raising funds to help enhance the educational experience for their students. While the Treasurer is an integral role of managing the School Council's finance, School Council funds are the responsibility of all members of the school council, and that is why all members of the School Council are encouraged to attend the School Council Financial Information Session. For more information as well as dates and locations of sessions, please see the [flyer](#).

Cross Country

Kieran (Grade 3) and Marie-Claire (Grade 4) represented Blake Public School at the South Cross Country Finals this week. These motivated athletes competed against the fastest 100 runners in the southern district of our large city. Keiran placed 22nd in his race and Marie-Claire placed 17th overall. Congratulations to both runners! Marie-Claire will advance to the prestigious Toronto City Finals race.

Dates to Remember

October 20: Photo Day

October 27: Pizza Lunch

October 27: Halloween Dance

November 10: Remembrance
Day Assembly

November 13-16: Dental
Screening

November 13: Progress Reports
Sent Home

November 14: School Council
Mtg

November 15: YT Beauty and
Beast (grades 1-3)

November 16: Photo Re-Take

November 16: Parent Teacher
Conferences (pm)

November 17: Parent Teacher
Conferences (am)

November 20-24: Bullying
Awareness Week

November 24: Pizza Lunch and
PJ Spirit Day

November 30: **Clothing** SWAP

November 30: Movie Night