

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

Today was photo day, and it was wonderful to see so many of our students dressed to the nines looking gorgeous. Phot retake day is scheduled for November 16th. At that time we will be also offering sibling photos. A sign up letter will be sent home for families to let us know that they are interested in this opportunity.

Each semester, all schools are required to conduct three fire drills and one lockdown drill. I am pleased to let you know that this past Tuesday, we conducted our third and final fire drill, with our lockdown drill having been completed in early September. While we hope to never have to deal with an actual evacuation or lockdown, it is reassuring to know that we are prepared.

Last week, I shared with you some information on the start of our school wide focus on Self-regulation. To support our upcoming lessons, we are asking for donations of any appropriate magazines. Please drop them off to the office.

Ms. Paton, Ms. Burke and myself introduced a student ambassador program this past Wednesday, open to junior students interested in taking on leadership opportunities at the school, particularly as peer mediators during recess. Ongoing training and mentoring will be available to the student ambassadors in managing simple conflicts, finding play groups for lonely children, supporting the introduction of new games and recess activities and building relationships with younger children. We look forward to having access to extra proactive strategies outside during recess time.

We continue to look for items for our OPAL shed, that we will use during our OPAL Play Day on November 1. Please drop off any loose parts you may have to the office.

Finally, as a result of the ongoing construction in the kindergarten yard, we have had to close the exit to the south gym doors, used for breakfast program. Students can be buzzed in through the front doors before 8:25 to access this program.

Happy Diwali for those in our community who celebrate.

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

Model Schools Pediatric Clinic

We are pleased to announce that the Model Schools Paediatric Clinic at Sprucecourt Public School is in operation for the 2017/18 school year. As well as serving the Sprucecourt PS community, the clinic is available to our school and our students. The clinic operates **Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays** during the school year.

The school-based health clinic at Sprucecourt is staffed by Family Physicians, Pediatricians and developmental Pediatricians on different days. Appointments are available for TDSB students

and/or their siblings (ages 0-12). In addition to episodic health concerns, the clinic is also available for:

- Vaccinations
- Flu shots
- Developmental concerns

Families may make appointments directly by calling the clinic coordinator at 647-214-0599.

International Language

Leslieville PS is now offering **Mandarin Traditional, Cantonese and Spanish** classes for students in JK – Grade 8,

every **Thursday from 3:30 – 6:00 pm** for 30 weeks throughout the year. Registration is on-going and spaces are still available. If you would like to register your child in this language program, please go to Leslieville school and ask for registration on Thursday afternoon from 3:30-6:00 pm. Any other new language class is possible if there are minimum 23 registrations. **See the attached flyer.**

We Scare Hunger

Once again Blake's WeSchools Club is collecting non-perishable food items, and

baby items (diapers, formula, wipes, etc.) for our annual drive to benefit Eastview Neighbourhood Community Centre's Food Bank. Items being donated should be brought into your student's classroom. We are bringing back last year's popular classroom competition! The classroom that collects the most items by Tuesday, October 31st – Halloween – will win a Halloween goodie bag for each student in the class! Help us help the families in our community by donating goods! Items may also be brought to the Halloween dance next Friday. Thanks for your support with this important initiative. #WeSchools

Boys Soccer

On Tuesday the 17th, 12 junior boys (Ahmad, Conal, Daniel, David, Ezaam, Ibraam, Mackenzie, Michael, Yaseen, Camillo, Jaden, and Jonah) participated in a soccer tournament at Norway Junior PS. The boys played their hearts out, experiencing two losses against the Davisville and Norway teams. They kept their spirits up as they persevered throughout both games, showing some great defensive and offensive plays. Camillo scored two goals, one in each game, and Michael earned the coaches ball for his many outstanding saves as goalie. Everyone demonstrated good sportsmanship and team play throughout the day, truly representing Blake well. Many thanks to parent volunteer Pablo Bosch who committed his time to coaching the team and went above and beyond to prepare the boys for the tournament and build their team spirit. Also thanks to Valerie Foussias who helped out with the practices and the organization of it all. See photos attached

Junior Achievement Workshop

The junior students in Mr. Nicolou and Mr. Richman's classes participated in the Junior Achievement Workshop this past Wednesday.

"The junior achievement workshop was really interesting

because we learned what it means to be an entrepreneur and how to start a business. We thought of a book store, a bakery, a mini mall and many more. We had to think of who our competitors would be and also who our target market was. We enjoyed our day."

-Alima and Aafiyah

Primary Dance Club

Yesterday we had a lunchtime information meeting for grade 1, 2, and 3 students interested in joining a dance club. There was an amazing turnout, so please make sure your child returns their forms to Mme Dorcin, Ms Paton or Ms Psarologos by Wednesday so that they can get a sense of numbers. Dance club may be run in a few different sessions so that everybody can have a great time dancing in a manageable group size. We will let you know next week which session your child is in.

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 jenifer.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

Extra Curriculars – What's Up

- Monday Junior choir (lunch)
- Tuesday Yoga (lunch)
- Wednesday Eco Club (lunch)
- Thursday JR We Club (lunch)
PR Dance Club (lunch)
- Friday Lego (lunch)

Parent Council Updates

New organizer needed for the coffee fundraiser!

We are looking for a volunteer to take over the Coffee, Tea and Hot Chocolate Fundraiser at Blake. This job requires collecting monthly cash/cheques for orders and sending the orders to our coffee distributor on a monthly basis. The volunteer will also sort the shipment and notify customers to pick up their purchases. In the near future we aim to have coffee, tea and hot chocolate orders available online through our Munch a Lunch provider. Contact your Parent Council Chairs at blakeschoolcouncil.tdsb@gmail.com if you are interested.

Pot-Luck items left behind

Three dishes and two spoons were left behind after the Multi-cultural Potluck in September and can be retrieved from the school's lost and found inside exit 5.

Parent Council Office – Request for donation

We are working to restore our parent council office to its former glory. This is the light filled office at the very front of the school (to the right when facing main school office). Currently the office is full of supplies for various school events. We will be doing a major purge and clean of the office on the morning of Tuesday, October 24th. We are on the lookout for a used but still functional laptop to keep in the office for council members to use (to make flyers for events, etc.). Please contact Emma at emmazoelouise@yahoo.com if you can help!

We thank you in advance for helping us to make our parent council office a warm space for collaboration, fun and planning parent council activities.

Jones/Boulton Traffic Light Update

We are very pleased to report that the motion for a traffic light at the Boulton/Jones intersection received unanimous support at Toronto and East York Community Council today. Approval is still required from City Council, but this is a very positive and encouraging first step. Thank you for your support of this issue!

Pizza Days – News and Reminders

A reminder that our next Pizza Day happens on October 27. All payments must be given to your teacher by Tuesday, October 24. Remember that you can also pay online via [Munch & Lunch](#).

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 are asking for baked / store bought nut-free treats for the Halloween Dance Spooky Bake Sale! Items can be dropped off at the school office on October 27 from the start of the school day until 6pm.

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.

Dates to Remember

- 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