

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

This week began our self-regulation focused lessons. Students in grades 1-3 were introduced to the concept that our bodies are like speedometers, with three different settings: low, just right and high. Students have spent the week learning about the leaning of different engine speeds, and beginning to reflect on the influence of their engine speeds on their behaviours and readiness to learn, as well as the engine speeds of their classmates. Junior students have been learning about their zones of regulation, which include Blue (low state), green (just right state) yellow zone (getting riled up) and red (full blown). They too are learning to self- identify their zone throughout the day. This weekend, I encourage you to talk with your child about their self-regulation learning and begin to use some of this language yourself as you model your own states of regulation.

Our kindergarten play ground is moving along beautifully, as the photos show. We anticipate near completion by this time next week, and we look forward to opening up for our students and our community.

Today we have added some new signage to the doors of our staff washrooms, with more signs will be added next week to the washroom doors in the kindergarten rooms. These all gender washroom signs show our commitment to making sure our school is inclusive and welcoming to all. In the coming week, classrooms will be discussing in developmentally appropriate ways the meaning of these signs, and what they represent in a broader context.



Next Tuesday is Halloween, and we will be having a full school Halloween parade in the afternoon. There are three guidelines we ask you to think about for Tuesday's school wide festivities. For those students who will be wearing a costume, we ask that:

- students do not come in costume (except kindergarten students)** in the morning as this takes away from the learning of the morning session. Students have the choice to be signed out for lunch and change at home, or they can change at school after lunch from 12:30 – 1:50;
- that **costume choice be appropriate and do not reinforce cultural stereotypes;**
- while masks are allowed, we ask that **all weapons incorporated into a costume stay at home.**

If you have not yet brought in your food item donations to support Eastview Neighbourhood Community Food Bank, please do so.

Finally, we had a school wide lice check today. It is important to be pro-active and to regularly look at your child's head for the signs of lice. Lice are tiny, wingless insects that move quickly and are difficult to see. They cannot jump or fly, and are 1-2 mm long and are greyish brown in colour. Before lice turn into insects, they can be found on the hair as a nit (eggs). Nits are hard to see and can often be confused with dandruff. They are yellow to white in colour, and attach themselves a strand of hair, and will not fall away from the hair if you shake the hair or blow on it. Nits are stuck to the hair, and can only be taken off the hair piece by pulling it off. The nits, if not treated and pulled off, hatch and turn into live lice. Because of this it important to not only treat the hair with special lice shampoo but to also check the head and pull the nits off.

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

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

October School Council meeting minutes
For those who missed Blake School Council's October 11th meeting, you can find the meeting minutes here: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1R9OPbUFEafWTEcAQbXgC3vFmNVdxahJRqqd69CvD5NY/edit?usp=sharing>
The next school council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 14th at 6:00 p.m.
Today's school-wide lice check

Our amazing School Council volunteer lice squad checked every head in the school today (Friday, October 27th). If you received notice that lice were found in your child's hair, please ensure to follow the treatment instructions prior to returning to school. A lice squad member will be back on Monday, October 30th to check anyone who was absent as well as those who required treatment. If you have any questions, please contact blakeschoolcouncil.tdsb@gmail.com.

FREE family clothing and book swap – November 30
Blake School Council is excited to host our fifth annual free clothing and book swap on November 30th! It is time to de-clutter and replenish your family's clothes and books. Please go through your closets and drawers and bring in gently-used, clean, washed and folded clothing, as well as used books in good condition, and drop them off at the school office. Then attend the swap, Thursday, November 30th, from 8am to 8pm in the gym! Everything is free and everyone is welcome.

Swap volunteers needed
We are planning several "sorting sessions" between now and the day of the swap. We could use your help to make sure donated items are organized and that the swap will be easy to set up on November 30th. If you're available to help at the school at any of the dates/times below, please email volunteeratblake@gmail.com with the word "SWAP" in the subject line. Thanks!

- Wednesday, November 15: 3:20-6pm
- Wednesday, November 22: 6-8pm
- Wednesday, November 29: 3:20-8pm

School Council position vacancy: Co-treasurer
We are looking for a volunteer to take on the role of School Council co-treasurer. In previous years, this role has been filled by one person. This year, we've split it into two, with one person (Derrick Gray) handling financial tracking and reporting and another (you?) handling

transactions and depositing. The job will involve about five hours of work per month. Specific duties include:

- Receive cash and cheques from pizza lunches/dances/fundraisers. Count and deposit them into the School Council account at the National Bank at Pape & Danforth.
- Write reimbursement cheques to those who require it (based on receipts).
- Using both deposits and expenses paid, update the bookkeeping spreadsheet and send it monthly to Derrick.

If you're interested in contributing to the school through this volunteer opportunity, please contact School Council at blakeschoolcouncil.tdsb@gmail.com.

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: Free Clothing SWAP
November 30: Family Movie Night