

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 **Jackilyn Wallace**, Vice Principal
Marc Sprack, Superintendent of Education **Jennifer Story**, School Trustee



Our wonderful school community was featured in Blog Toronto last week. If you haven't read it, check out this article entitled "This Might be the Most Interesting Street in Toronto."

<https://www.blogto.com/city/2020/11/blake-street-toronto/>

Updated Student COVID Screening and Health Pass

Toronto Public Health announced today that it has updated its COVID-19 [student screening tool](#) to prevent further opportunities for virus spread.

As part of this guidance, if a child **has one** or more new, or worsening COVID-19 symptoms, parents will now be required to:

- Keep their child home.
- Keep siblings and other children home, even if they do not have symptoms.
- Arrange for the child to get tested or contact their health care provider.
- Without testing, the child must stay home for 10 days.
- Monitor the family for symptoms. Adults must stay home if they have one or more symptom.

The TDSB takes its lead from Toronto Public Health and will begin using this new screening guidance starting **Monday, December 7, 2020. Based on this update, here is the new [student screening tool](#) from Toronto Public Health**, as well as the [revised TDSB's Health Pass](#) (which has been sent home with every child). The [TDSB Daily Health Screening App](#) will also be updated to reflect these changes. The [COVID-19 School Decision Guide](#) is also a helpful tool to review.

The biggest changes to be noted, beyond just having ONE symptom, include:

Students would be excluded from school, under the following conditions:

- A) If the student has one or more symptoms, even if they are mild, the student should stay home, self-isolate, get tested or contact their health care provider.
- B) If the student's siblings, or children in the same household have one or more of the above symptoms, the students should also stay home, self-isolate and follow instructions from public health.
- C) If the student has been in close contact with a person who has COVID-19, the student will need to self-isolate for 14 days, even if they don't have symptoms. If the student has symptoms, their household members will need to stay home and self-isolate until COVID-19 is ruled out.

D) If the student has travelled outside of Canada, they must self-isolate for 14 days. Their household members do not need to self-isolate if they have not travelled, if they do not have symptoms of COVID-19, and if they are not a close contact of a positive case.

Ensuring the health and safety of our staff and students is our priority and we all play a role. Again, one of the most important things families can do to help slow the spread of COVID-19 is to screen their children daily for COVID-19 symptoms and keep them home from school if they are sick or have had close contact with anyone diagnosed with COVID-19.

Thank you for your continued efforts to help keep our school environments safe and healthy.

Snack Donations

This year, due to COVID, we decided to try a new program that the TDSB was offering. Unfortunately, many families weren't happy with the program, as it was too similar to snacks that were already being sent in lunches, and students weren't enjoying many of the items. It was also more costly and produced a lot of plastic waste. We discussed this as a group and have decided to go back to Donna ordering for our program, starting December 1st. The menu will be posted on the school website once again, so that families can provide alternate snacks based on what is coming to the classrooms each day. Snacks will still be divided into individual portions following COVID regulations. Bear in mind that I will do my best to stick to the menu, but sometimes delivery items are swapped out for others available. Thank you as always for your support and understanding.

If you are able to support our snack program, please take a look in your child's Friday folder for a donation letter.

Thanks so much!

Bosley Real Estate, who supports our Breakfast program with money and staff, have set-up their direct TFSS page again. This donation link allows you to contribute directly in support of Blake Street PS and another local school. The funds raised are divided into two, with Blake Street families receiving food gift cards. You can access the link at :

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/toronto-foundation-for-student-success/p2p/bosley-breakfast-for-kids/>

Donna

Skate Bank

Winter is coming! Blake Street PS has a skate bank - students can borrow skates for the winter season. If you have skates you borrowed last year please return them to your child's teacher before December 4th. If you would like to borrow skates please let your child's teacher know which size, we will look to find your child skates that fit, and they can bring them home in December. Helmets are not available from the skate bank due to health and safety concerns.

Outdoor public skating has begun weather permitting. The closest skating rink is at Withrow Park. If you would like to reserve a spot you can do so at <https://efun.toronto.ca/> -Click find programs at the top; then reservations on the left side; choose the location from the drop-down menu; then pick Leisure/Public Skate (Outdoor Rink); then the date and time; and finally add the skaters.

You will need your client number and password. You can reserve one time slot per day/per participant. Masks are highly recommended for skaters while using the rink. A CSA approved Hockey Helmet is mandatory for all children under the age of 6. Helmets are strongly recommended for all other participants. Spectators must maintain physical distancing and stand away from the ice area. Washrooms will be open at Withrow Park and Greenwood Park but not the ones at the rinks.

Parenting through COVID: Surviving and Thriving During the Holidays

Join TDSB school social worker Zenobia Homavazir for a virtual drop in session on **Tuesday, December 15 from 12 to 12:45pm**. This lunch time chat will focus on providing parents and caregivers a space to discuss the ups and downs of parenting during a pandemic. Please pre-register by using this link <https://forms.gle/NA1d6sAQuymREqTP6>

Have a wonderful weekend!
Jenn and Jacki

Virtual School News

1) Virtual School Committee

For families currently enrolled in Virtual School, we are planning to do a newsletter for the holidays with some ideas, tips, and virtual holiday celebration hacks. As usual, we're available if anyone wants to check-in, needs support, or has any questions. If you'd like to receive the newsletter or connect with us in the future, please fill out this google form: <https://forms.gle/qHVhFt3NuQMV3ShQ9>

2) George Brown College will be contacting interested families next week to obtain registration information. If you would like your child to participate in programming beginning in January, please indicate your interest by completing the survey.

Feel free to share with others.

George Brown College CHILD & YOUTH CARE PROGRAM SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW

The Child and Youth Care (CYC) Program at George Brown College will deliver a FREE service for families with children in grades 1 to 8 in Elementary Virtual Schools, beginning January 2021. We will be providing daily check-ins, activities, and workshops focusing on social skills, life skills, homework help, and a space to connect with CYC students and young people. CYC students, as part of their field practicum requirements, will plan, develop, and deliver online programming in consultation with CYC faculty.

PROJECT GOALS

1. To give young people a platform to engage with Child and Youth Care placement students.
2. To give young people opportunities to build skills.
3. To give families respite/reprieve.
4. To give young people a safe and monitored space to connect with each other.

If you are interested in participating in free online programming to support your child in EVS, please complete the survey below:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=bCDctf0XBkuLyCTwu2UCKd_6aYGjhRpBs6vnvpKz_spUQ09ON0IDRVdJMzBPTTFaRKlWTDa0NUYwMi4u

Notes and Updates from Parent Council

Please click on the link above to access the Parent Council Update.

[Newsletter December 4](#)

Community News

Toronto Miracle Food Drive

Toronto Miracle is a community food drive taking place this coming Saturday. The event is being organized 100% by volunteers and it has been sanctioned by Toronto Public Health. A group of 16 volunteers will be canvassing the streets from Pape to Greenwood / Danforth to Gerrard to collect food donations. The food collected in our area will be donated directly to Eastview Community Centre.

We are hoping that many of you will be able to participate and support this important event. The plan is simple. If possible, local residents are asked to place non-perishable food donations outside their front entrance by 10:00am on Saturday, December 5th. Residents of apartment buildings are asked to place the food by the main entrance /lobby, for easy access. Volunteers will be out between 10:00am and 3:00pm to collect the food. It will be important to place the food in a place visible from the street. No donation is too small!!! Donors can get more information and register their commitment to donate at www.torontomiracle.org



EASTVIEW
Boys and Girls Club

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY - HOLIDAY CARD WRITING



- **What?** Cheerful cards to accompany a holiday gift.
- **Why?** To brighten a Senior's day!
- **Who?** Anyone aged 5+
- **When / Due Date?** Now - Monday December 14, 2020.
- **How Many?** As many as you want. Write on card stock or plain paper and we'll insert into a card & deliver to local Seniors.
- **Where?** At your home. Email fionadevine@eastviewcentre.com for us to pick up or drop off to our hub - 86 Blake St, Toronto M4J3C9.

Thank You SO Much!

If you have any questions,
call Fiona at Eastview Neighbourhood
Community Centre - Ph: 416 392 1750 x303



www.eastviewcentre.com