

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



Monday's DJ Dance Party

What better way to start off a week than with a dance party?? A huge thanks to Mother Nature who delivered the best weather possible, and to parent council for their generous support of our DJ dance party. A wonderful break for dancing was had by all.

Share Your Voice! We Want to Know

To support our school planning and improvement plans at Blake Street PS, we want to make sure that we hear from ALL voices that make up our vibrant and caring community. We are reaching out to specific community groups to help us.

- Do you identify as a Person of Colour?
- Do you identify as Indigenous?
- Do you speak a language other than English at home?
- Do you identify as a member of the LGBTQ2S?
- Are you currently living in poverty?
- I don't belong to any of the above groups but have thoughts to share.

If so, we are very interested in hearing your thoughts on how we can do better to make our school community and our learning environment a safer, more inclusive space for students and families. If you want to help us do better, please send back the bottom portion of the form sent home today in Friday folders, pick up a form from the school or call the office and we will send one home to you. You will be contacted by our School Community Worker Ian, and your thoughts and ideas will be shared anonymously with us at the school. **This conversation will last no more than 15 minutes, and as a thank you, you will be provided with a \$25.00 food gift card.**

Hellos and Goodbyes

Ms. Effie, our lunchroom supervisor in Room 104 has left us to be closer to home and has been replaced by a much loved and missed community member, Valerie Henry. Valerie worked as our breakfast club coordinator as well as a lunchroom supervisor for many years before leaving to return to college to complete her degree to become a Special Needs Assistant. Thank you, Effie, for all your efforts and love you provided our children and welcome back to Valerie.

Who Am I and What is My Story?

Students in Rom 102 are unpacking their identity. We are focusing on the first guiding question – Who am I? After reading the book, “Why Am I Me?” students were asked to wonder about their identity. We wondered how everyone in our class looked different, why we all eat different foods and have different birthdays. We also noticed that despite the differences, there were lots of similarities as well. They noticed that some of their friends had the same eye, hair and skin colour. They also noticed that some friends had the same shoes, t-shirts, etc... After this discussion, a friend in our class mentioned: “We all have different skin colour and look different, but inside of us, it’s all the same!”



Parenting Through COVID: Riding the COVID Coaster

Join TDSB school social worker Zenobia Homavazir for a virtual drop in session on **Thursday, November 19 from 2 to 2:45pm**. 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/ZGWmxHmxz213sZPB6>

Racial Equity in Education Forum: Black Community

This online forum is open to all concerned educators, activists, advocates, parents/guardians, students and all members of the community who want to engage in an open dialogue about the unique systemic challenges racialized students continue to encounter in our schools. We will also discuss how the school boards across the Ontario regions can address these issues directly and immediately in order to better support our racialized students.

To register for this forum, please click the link below:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/racial-equity-in-education-forum-black-community-tickets-126861862245?utm-medium=discovery&utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&aff=esli&utm-source=li&utm-term=listing>

Flu Clinics

For those of you who have returned consent forms to get the flu vaccinations, appointment times will be sent out on Tuesday...stay tuned.

Early French Immersion

For families interested in the Toronto District School Board's [Early French Immersion](#) Program (begins in Senior Kindergarten), we offer an online process to apply. [Attached](#) please find an important information package.

To apply for the Early French Immersion Program (SK entry) for September 2021, applications must be completed online between [November 2 and November 27, 2020](#).

An offer of placement in the program (not a specific school) is guaranteed to all on-time applicants and will be made in the weeks following the close of the application window.

Please note: Families with an older sibling currently enrolled in the same French program and who will be in attendance next year are still required to complete an online application for the new student. Please select the "sibling option" within the online application.

For more information about the Early French Immersion (SK) application process, please join us for a [Virtual Information Session](#) on one of the following dates:

- November 2, 2020, 7 p.m.
- November 12, 2020, 7 p.m.
- November 19, 2020, 10 a.m.

In order to participate in a live scheduled webchat, please visit the web page below and a link will be available to join on the dates/times outlined above.

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Elementary-School/School-Choices/French-Programs/Information-Sessions>

For more information about French as a Second Language programs, the application process and important dates, please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/french.

For additional inquiries, please contact:

- Centrally Assigned Principal, Angela Caccamo at angela.caccamo@tdsb.on.ca
- FSL Program Coordinator, Kirsten Johnston at kirsten.johnston@tdsb.on.ca

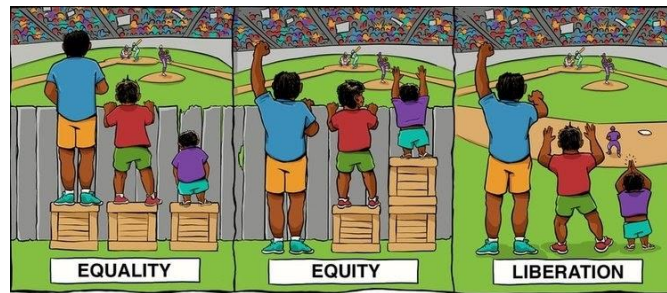
Tomorrow marks the end of the Hindu celebration of Diwali. Diwali, or Deepawali is the Hindu festival of lights, typically lasting five days and celebrated during the Hindu Lunisolar month of Kartika (between mid – October and mid- November). One of the most popular festivals of Hinduism, Diwali symbolizes the spiritual "victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance." For those celebrating, we wish you a happy Diwali!

Have a wonderful weekend and be sure to enjoy the gorgeous weather!

Jenn and Jacki

Notes and Updates from Parent Council**Bottle Drive****LAST CHANCE!**

All donations are getting cashed in tomorrow (Saturday) so this is your last chance to make arrangements for drop off or delivery of liquor, wine, and spirit bottles and cans. Please drop off at 59 Sammon Ave or contact klthomson@yahoo.com. Please count your cans!



Earlier this year, a conversation about Anti Black Racism took centre stage. It has highlighted for many the need to have clear and open dialogue about equity and justice within our communities. Some members of our community brought attention to a podcast created by the New York Times that looked at the issues of the relationship between race, social class, and quality public education. This podcast is entitled “Nice White Parents” and, although American, has some parallels to our community at Blake. As a school council, we would like to help facilitate some discussions with the intention of being more equitable and making positive changes within our Blake community. For those interested, the link below has some interesting questions to think about along with each episode of the podcast.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/27/learning/lesson-plans/nice-white-parents-discussion-guide.html>

Moving forward, we would like to begin this challenging conversation at our November School Council meeting on November 17th at 7pm. We have invited Laurette Jack from Eastview Community Centre to help facilitate the conversation. We encourage you to bring your voice to that conversation.

If you're interested in being a part of our bi-weekly Discussion Group, please sign up here:

[Discussion Group Sign Up](#)

School Council Meeting

The next School Council Meeting will be Tuesday November 17th
Time: Nov 17, 2020 07:00 PM Eastern Time

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://tdsb-ca.zoom.us/j/92871424520?pwd=YIZyU3ZVcURwYzdBTfPfaWVSSWdiQT09>

Meeting ID: 928 7142 4520
Passcode: 684409
One tap mobile
+16475580588,,92871424520#,,,,,0#,,684409# Canada

Dial by your location
+1 647 558 0588 Canada
+1 647 374 4685 Canada
Meeting ID: 928 7142 4520
Passcode: 684409

Donations

We have had some requests from teachers for a few items that you may have at home and be ready to part with. Please see below.



Kindergarten OPAL Donations

The kindergarten classes are looking for kid sized rakes, shovels, scoops, buckets in order to be ready for outdoor play in the snow. If you have something that would suit, please drop off in the kindergarten yard or contact Molly to make arrangements. Molly.middleton@cbc.ca



Aquariums

Do you have an old aquarium taking up space that you'd like to move out? Mr. Nicolaou is looking for an aquarium for his classroom. Please contact Mr. Nicolaou directly or Angela at angelagarde787@gmail.com.