

# 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



By now, all of our in-school families will have received progress reports and have scheduled a parent - teacher interview. These interviews are important conversations that build strong home school relationships that allow us to work together to best support the needs of your child. If you have not yet booked an interview, please contact your child's teacher or call the office to book one.

Virtual school families will receive their report card in the coming weeks.

## **Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week**

In acknowledging this week's focus, we reviewed our school wide working definition of bullying, which is when "someone repeatedly and on purpose says or does mean or hurtful things to another person who has a hard time defending himself or herself." We also shared the different types of bullying:

**Physical:** hitting, punching, kicking, pushing, tripping, stealing, breaking someone's things...

**Verbal:** threats, teasing, name calling, hurtful comments...

**Social:** telling other kids not to be friends with someone, excluding others, spreading rumours...

**Cyber:** mean texts, rude comments on social media, prank call, hate filled message on the internet....

Finally, we reviewed the different roles, including the bystander, who is someone who is present when bullying takes place, and while they don't take part, they don't stop it. But we also talked about they Upstander, someone who stops the bullying and stands up for those being victimized. Everyone is encouraged to do their part to make our community as safe, caring and inclusive as possible.

At Blake, we take bullying seriously. In the event of an act defined by the teacher as bullying, both the victim and the students engaged in the behaviour will come to the office to discuss the incident, which will be documented. As deemed necessary, parents will be notified. In the event of a second re-occurrence involving the same two students, progressive discipline will be followed.

As parents and caregivers, please review our school wide definition of bullying with you child, and never hesitate to call your child's teacher if you feel there are issues of bullying the we are unaware of or are not managing. We are here to ensure every child feels safe at school.

## **Flu Clinics**

We heard from the East end Community Health centre on Tuesday that due to a lack of flu vaccinations, they have had to cancel our clinics. They are expecting more vaccines to come in by early December and at that point we will be rescheduling. All families who sent in consent forms will be contacted to confirm they are still in need of a flu shot. We apologize for the inconvenience.

### **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 last Friday, or call the school to leave your name. 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. Note that this is also open to our virtual families.**

### **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 try to find skates that fit for your child to borrow for the season. Helmets are not available from the skate bank due to health and safety concerns.

Outdoor public skating will begin on November 28th. The closest skating rink is at Withrow Park. Leisure skate times include 9-12am everyday and 3-6pm on Wednesday. This year the changeroom and washrooms will be closed and rinks will be operating at reduced capacity. Helmet use is encouraged at all times (CSA approved hockey helmet). You can learn more about city skating rinks here:

<https://www.toronto.ca/data/parks/prd/facilities/outdoor-rinks/index.html>

### **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 French as a Second Language programs, the application process and important dates, please visit [www.tdsb.on.ca/french](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/french).

For additional inquiries, please contact:

- Centrally Assigned Principal, Angela Caccamo at [angela.caccamo@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:angela.caccamo@tdsb.on.ca)
- FSL Program Coordinator, Kirsten Johnston at [kirsten.johnston@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:kirsten.johnston@tdsb.on.ca)

### **Moving to Virtual Schools**

We want to say a temporary and what we hope will be a short lived goodbye to Ms. Mahbub who is our afternoon ECE in Room 102 and also works in the afternoon Extended Day Program with our

school age children. She has been moved to virtual schools temporarily. We will miss her and look forward to her return.

**A reminder that tomorrow, Friday November 20<sup>th</sup> is a PD DAY. School is closed for students, though EDP remains open.**

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

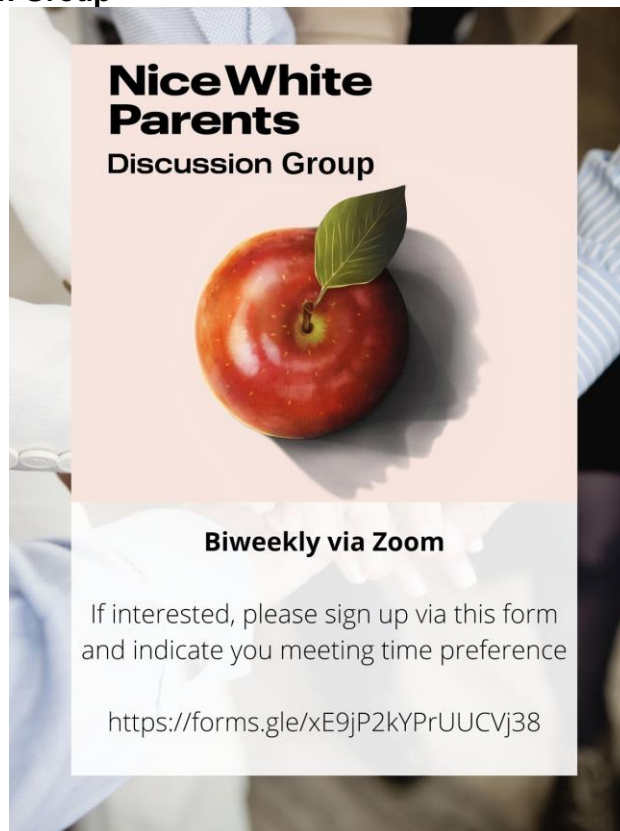
### **Notes and Updates from Parent Council**

#### **School Council Meeting Minutes - November 17th**

#### **Bottle Drive**

Thanks for all of your support. We earned a little over \$250. Continue to save your empties as there will be a December collection!

#### **Nice White Parent Discussion Group**



<https://forms.gle/xE9jP2kYPrUUCVj38>

#### **Lost and Found - November**

Please check the pictures below and contact your teacher if anything belongs to your family.

[Lost and Found - November](#)

#### **Budget Meeting**

Stay tuned! We will be setting a date in the next couple of weeks for a meeting to speak exclusively to spending and fundraising priorities and strategies.

For anyone who would like to submit a funding request proposal to council, please submit for discussion via this [form](#).

Voting members, please make an extra effort to attend so that we will have quorum.

**How to Talk To Your Kids About Racism**

# How to Talk to Kids About Racism

December 10th  
7-9pm  
via Zoom



*SCAN ME*  
Facilitated by  
BLM-TO



Illustration by Emma Darvick

**School Council Meeting**

The next regular School Council Meeting will be Wednesday December 16th  
Time: Dec 16, 2020 07:00 PM Eastern Time

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://tdsb-ca.zoom.us/j/92871424520?pwd=YIZyU3ZVcURwYzdBTfFpFaWVSSWdiQT09>

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