

# 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



This term, students and classrooms are investigating our school wide question: Who am I and what is my story? Today, I had the opportunity to work with some of the grade 5 and 6 students in Mr. Richman's class to build on their learning and develop a community description. Here is what they had to say:

We are Blake Street Public School students, and love our school and we are proud of the community we live in. We live in apartment buildings, town houses, basement apartments, houses and shelters. We live in the heart of downtown Toronto, but we are surrounded by local parks. We are a diverse community made up of different religions, races, countries of origin, identities, cultures, wealth and family structures. Many of us experience poverty, but we are a helpful, cooperative, thoughtful and generous community. We have food banks, a Boys and Girls Club, a clothing swap and a local community centre. We also organize special events to celebrate our school spirit. We all belong and make Blake Boulton the unique and caring community is it!

- Deniza, Kalima, Mubin, Priscille, Poppy, Mariya, JJ, Mikail, Farzin and Akram.

## **THANK you again!**

A big thank you to our families for the treat donations, which made our Halloween parade a hit for the students. Now, here as promised, is our schoolwide slide show.

[Blake-EAST Halloween 2020](#)

## **The Memory Project: Remembrance Day**

Thank you to Acting Sub-Lieutenant Barbara Hodder of the Canadian Navy Reservists for speaking about her military service and the importance of Remembrance Day to our junior students at Blake and all of EAST! It was a pleasure and the kids asked lots of great questions. This was organized through The Memory Project. Our speaker's bio can be found here.

<http://www.thememoryproject.com/speaker-bios/182:barbara-hodder/>

Blake Street PS will be recognizing Remembrance Day next week on November 11<sup>th</sup> through a school wide slide show presentation.



### **Blake Street PS Flu Clinics**

In partnership with the East End Community Health Centre, we will be hosting flu clinics on November 19<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 – 6:00 pm in our south gym. Hard copies of the flyer and consent forms were sent home with all students today (also included as attachments in this email). The flu clinic is open to anyone 6 months of age and older, though senior vaccines are not offered. In order to book an appointment, you must return a completed consent form for each family member no later than Friday, November 13, 2020. Appointments will be scheduled on a first come first serve basis. There is no flexibility, so if you are requesting an appointment you will need to be available for both dates during the hours of 2:00 – 6:00 pm.

### **Monday's DJ Dance Party**

On Monday, Blake School Council will be hosting [DJ Flohback](#) for an outside dance party! Each cohort will have their own dance time on the field, so that the party will be as safe as it is fun! Make sure your children wear their most comfortable dancing clothes so that they can show their Blake School Spirit!!!

### **November is Hindu Heritage Month**

In every morning announcement this month, we are including interesting facts to help us learn and celebrate Hindu Heritage. For example, did you know:

-Thousands of years ago, ancient Hindu sages discovered the idea of infinity known as anan\*ta? Hindus believe that there is no beginning or end to the universe – only endless cycles of its creation and dissolution.

-95% of Hindus live in India and they speak over 22 different languages such as Hindi, Tamil, Kan\*nada, Guja\*rati and Pun\*jabi. As a result of this diversity of languages and cultures, there are many differences in how customs or traditions are celebrated among Hindus.

-Hindus knew the earth was round and not flat 1000s of years ago – hundreds of years before the others discovered this. In fact, the Sanskrit word for geography is Bhu8gol, which means the round earth.

### **Treaty Recognition Week**

As part of our morning announcements everyday, we read the Land Acknowledgement. Classes talk regularly about what the land acknowledgment means and why we say it, however, like all things practiced every day, its importance can become common place. We aim to infuse Indigenous education into all curriculum areas, and we remain committed to understanding the impacts of colonialism on our school and our practices. This week, we reaffirmed this belief with the reading of a more detailed and reflective land acknowledgment. Moving forward, junior students hosting announcements will be asked to write their own reflective land acknowledgement. My example shared over announcements this week is below:

*My name is Jennifer Zurba, and I am a settler of Eastern European descent, born and raised in Toronto, and living on unceded territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nations. As a non-Indigenous person, I benefit from the Canadian colonial system. I am a descendant of colonizers. Blake Street PS recognizes the colonial role that schools have had in harming Indigenous communities and cultures, and we are committed to improving our teaching and learning practices and our relationships with our community members and partners.*

*I am thankful for the ability to live, work and gather on this land. I acknowledge that we are located in T'karonto. This land was a crossroads and gathering place for nations including the Mississaugas and the Wendat and others whose histories, languages, and cultures continue to positively influence us. I also acknowledge that we are located on Treaty 13 territory of the Toronto Purchase of 1805. I understand that colonial violence and anti Indigenous racism continues to hurt Indigenous Peoples, and all peoples for that matter. I recognize that we are gathered in an institution with a colonial history, and a colonial present, and aim to lessen colonial harms by speaking and learning about them. My learning is ongoing.*

**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](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)

**Morning Meal Menu**

Please see the morning meal below. As a result of COVID-19, we are now getting our food deliveries from TDSB Nutritional Services. This way all food comes pre-packaged and organized into individual servings. Please note that sometimes substitutions are made.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
WK 1	1 IP Baby carrots 1 IP Cheese portion 1 IP WG Cereal bar	1 IP Asst apple slices 1 IP Yogourt tube 1 IP WG Tea biscuit	1 Whole clementine 1 IP NANO cup/spoon 1 IP WG mini Muffin	1 NS Apple sauce/spoon 1 IP Cheese portion 1 IP WG Melba Toast	1 NS Apple sauce/spoon 1 IP Yogourt tube 1 IP WG Mini Bagel
WK 2	1 Whole clementine 1 IP NANO cup/spoon 1 IP Nutrigrain Bar	1 IP Baby carrots 1 IP Cheese portion 1 IP WG Mini Bagel	1 Whole Pear 1 IP Yogourt tube 1 IP WG Oatmeal Cookie	1 IP Red apple slices 1 IP NANO cup/spoon 1 IP WG mini Muffin	1 NS Apple sauce/spoon 1 IP Yogourt tube 1 IP WG Tea biscuit

IP= Individual Package

Fruit or Vegetable
Dairy
Grain

WG=Whole Grain  
LF=Low Fat  
NS=No sugar added

Menu is Halal acceptable



**Pick Up and Drop Offs**

While we have begun to settle into this new normal, please note that our previously shared pick up and drop off procedures remain the same. The only parents/guardians allowed on the pavement area by Door 5 are kindergarten parents of students in Room 100. Otherwise, all other students are to be picked up on the field (grades 1 – 3), or picked up at a pre-determined location off school property. Your help in this matter is required.

**Food Drive to Support Eastview**

We continue to collect non-perishable food for our food drive to help those in need. All the donations go to the Emergency Eastview food bank. There is a bin in the front of the office for donations.

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/eastview-neighbourhood-community-centre/>

Thanks so much for your support!!!

**Claude Watson School of the Arts**

Please be advised that Claude Watson, will be hosting our annual open house virtually this year.

**Date: Thursday, Nov. 12.**

**6:00 pm Drama & Music**

**7:00 pm Dance, Film & Visual Arts**

Here is the CW Open House link for Thursday, November 12th

<https://forms.gle/yoFXmd8jE6eLwu4k6>

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

Jenn and Jacki

**Updates from our Community Support Worker**

1. Community Support Workers have collaborated with Service Canada to organize a presentation on the **Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB)** for parents/caregivers. The session will explore Employment Insurance (EI), sickness benefits, childcare supports and the CRB application process.

Join us on **Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at 3:00 pm.**

[Updated Zoom Link](#)

Zoom Dial In:

Dial by your location

+1 778 907 2071 Canada

+1 647 374 4685 Canada

+1 647 558 0588 Canada

Meeting ID: 991 4618 4364

Passcode: 890982

2. TDSB partner, Let's Get Together, is offering this if you know any families trying to get technology.

You have the option to purchase:

1. Desktop for \$60 (comes with monitor, keyboard, mouse, cables & software)
2. Laptop for \$150

Our organization has been allocated only 20 laptops, which we're making available on a first come first serve basis. We can only issue one per family.

We have no limit on desktops, so your family can purchase up to 2 units per year. Please see the specials below for the laptop.

If you're interested, please send me an e-mail tonight or tomorrow by noon so we can submit an application on your behalf. Again, we only have 20 laptops available to you at this price.

Please send us your:

1. full name
2. phone number
3. full mailing address with postal code and city
4. what unit you'd like to order and how many (laptop or desk top)

Payment will also need to be made no later than this Thursday to RCT. We will provide you with the contact number if your application is approved.

All systems include our STANDARD 2-YEAR  
DEPOT WARRANTY (laptop not exactly as appeared in picture)



Laptop Package  
(available for a limited time)  
Fee - \$150

i5 (minimum spec)

8 GB RAM

500 GB

Includes: Windows 10 and MS Office -  
Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and  
OneNote plus learning software

If you have any questions, please kindly e-mail your question with your phone number for a faster response.

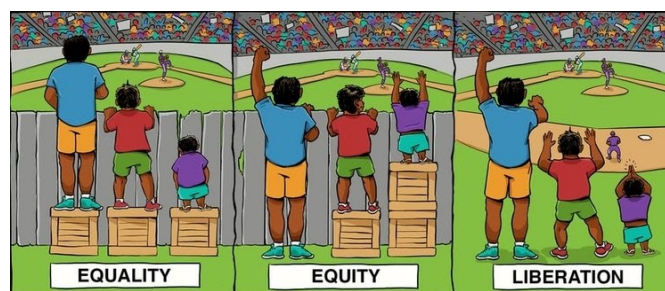
Alison Canning

**Executive Director**

Cell: (416) 302-8349

### [Notes and Updates from Parent Council](#)

#### **A Message From School Council**



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.

The next Parent Council Meeting will be 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

### Bottle and Can Drive!



**4 Easy Steps for Drop Off / Pick Up**

1. **Count** your empty cans/bottles
2. **Bag/Box** them
3. **Email** Eric at [aliendna@mac.com](mailto:aliendna@mac.com) or Karen at [klthomson@yahoo.com](mailto:klthomson@yahoo.com)
4. **Drop off or Pick up**  
Tell them your count per bag/box

**BOTTLE + CAN DRIVE**

**Nov. 4th to 14th**  
**Blake Street Jr. Public School**

All the proceeds will go to our school council.



### Ontario Treaties Recognition Week

The first week of November (November 2nd - 6th, 2020) is Treaties Recognition Week. This annual recognition honours the importance of treaties, treaty rights and relationships. Treaties Recognition Week responds to the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action](#) to increase treaty awareness.

The link below has videos where Indigenous speakers share their knowledge about the importance of treaties, treaty relationships and rights in Ontario.

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/videos-indigenous-voices-treaties>

The Toronto Public Library has curated a number of video and text resources that are available through this [link](#).

### Sign-up!

Thanks to all who have volunteered to help out with School Council initiatives. We still have a need for more people. Please click on the link below to see how you can support Blake.

We are especially still looking for people to help out with Communications, Raffle, Virtual Wellness Night, and Silent Auction.

<https://forms.gle/MejVxwhgDMqk933JA>

### Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC)

PIAC invites all parents and caregivers to take part in our 14th annual parent conference – Ready. Set. Engage! Navigating the School Year Together – in partnership with the TDSB. Join us in our first-ever virtual conference on November 21 and 22, 2020 for two days of workshops for parents and for school councils. Connect with others from across the TDSB as we adapt to a new educational landscape and a new school year unlike any we have experienced before.

Learn more at: [www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/How-to-Get-Involved/Conferences/PIAC-Conference](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/How-to-Get-Involved/Conferences/PIAC-Conference)

Registration opens soon!

**Sick Kids Centre for Mental Health** is offering two free virtual workshops in November. They are open to anyone who may be interested.

Promoting Positive Behaviour (for parents of children aged 6 to 12)

and

Skills to Support Emotion Regulation (for families/parents of adolescents 13-18 years old)

<https://mailchi.mp/7e0450e2e4c2/families-first-november-workshops-5865087?e=c2f681fd88>