

# 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

Last year, students in grades 1-6 participated in an eight week block of hour long sessions with the Canadian Chess Institute. We received such amazing and positive feedback from students, teachers and parents alike that we decided not only to continue this partnership, but to extend it. The additional benefit is that this instruction comes in both English and French for our Immersion students. As such, grade 1-6 classes will receive 2 eight week blocks, one in the fall, and one again in late winter. This was the first week of our chess instruction. Be sure to ask your children what they learned this week.

A reminder that tomorrow, Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup> is a PA Day and the school is closed to students, however EDP is open regular hours. Monday is Thanksgiving and both the school and EDP are closed. We look forward to seeing everyone back on Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>.

## Kilometer Club

Congratulations to the Grade 3 students, who ran a combined 876 kilometres as a team. They are the grade that ran the most laps and the winners of the Blake Golden Shoe trophy. Well done as well to all of the individual runners who set personal goals and achieved distance milestones. We estimate that 40 laps of our track equals 10 km, 80 laps is 20 km, 120 laps is 30 km, and 160 laps is 40 km. There are many students who surpassed these impressive distances during the month of Kilometre Club running at Blake. There are thirteen students in the school who ran more than 30 km. They are: Zaid (Gr.2), Ian (Gr.3), Maya (Gr.3), Logan (Gr.4), Bradley (Gr.4), Asqualane (Gr.5), Fatimah (Gr.5), Johann (Gr.5), Johnny (Gr.5), Justin (Gr.5), Kaylee (Gr.5), Maximo (Gr.5), and Nevin (Gr.5). These athletic individuals will be treated to a special celebratory Subway lunch on Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, in honor of their great achievements.

From Mme. Morton,

## Girls and Boys Junior Soccer

Congratulations to the girls soccer team. The team practiced hard every Tuesday and Thursday after school in order to be prepared for the tournament on October 9 at Central Technical High School. Throughout the tournament, the girls improved with each and every game. You all demonstrated a positive attitude, an eagerness to learn, and always found a way to persevere and encourage each other regardless of how the game was going. Blake was definitely represented proudly with your great team spirit. Although we did not move on to the playoffs, you should all be proud of your efforts! –Mr. Alexopoulos

The boys' soccer team played 4 exciting games at their division tournament this year. Their growth as a team and as individual players was very obvious as they came together to win one and tie one game. Camillo won the honour of the game soccer ball for his great improvement and spirit. A huge thank you to Coach Pablo for accompanying them, and coaches Ms. Gutowski, and Mr. Alexopoulos for joining us in working hard with the teams this Fall!



### Prologue Presentation: Vision of Turtle Island

On Wednesday morning, Blake students were fortunate enough to explore First Nations history and traditions, and confront stereotypes in a high-energy song and dance performance. *Visions of Turtle Island* included live singing, dancing, video and image presentations to help illustrate the cultural experience of First Nations peoples in Canada. Students particularly enjoyed a final performance with a traditional Hoop Dance which embodies the message of interconnectedness. This moving performance was perfectly timed on the heels of our Orange Shirt Day assembly last week, and reminded us that these beautiful traditions and songs reflecting cultural, heritage and identity were exactly what was attempted to be stripped away by residential schools. Thank you, Prologue!



### Bussing Challenges

There have been a number of significant bus delays in recent weeks. It is the responsibility of the bussing company to directly update these delays on the TDSB transportation portal. The bigger challenge has been that the bussing company has not always followed through on this, leaving parents naturally anxious and concerned. This is further complicated by the fact that our school office closes at 4:00 pm, meaning that there is no one here to answer your phone calls. Support staff on bus duty leave at 4:00 pm, requiring Ms. Weinberg and/or me to take over the supervision, another reason why no one is in the office to answer your calls. Please note that your children are always supervised, and we do our best to communicate with you, however we also deal with the frustrations of getting through to the bus companies to understand about delays when they haven't been communicated to us via the portal system.

Please note that the concerns have been communicated with the TDSB Bussing Department, and we are hoping that they are rectified.

Please be sure that you have registered for the portal, which can be accessed at

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/earlyyears/kindergarten/transportation.aspx>

I have also been told that in the event of an emergency and you have not been informed on the portal, nor can you access the bus company or the school, call the number below, following the prompts (emergency) and they can direct you to a TDSB Bus supervisor.

**Contact # 416-394-4BUS (4287)**

Thanks for your ongoing patience.

### Shoe Bank

We are in the midst of developing a shoe bank, so we are looking for very gently used running shoes and winter boots. If you have some to donate, please drop them off directly to the office.

### EDP News

For all EDP parents and guardians, the link to the EDP Parent handbook is below. It is a great resource to answer most of your general questions.

The EDP Parent Handbook which includes all EDP related policies and procedures for families can be found at [https://www.tdsb.on.ca/portals/0/earlyyears/docs/child\\_care/EDP\\_Parent\\_Handbook.pdf](https://www.tdsb.on.ca/portals/0/earlyyears/docs/child_care/EDP_Parent_Handbook.pdf)

There are a number of vacant spots in our Extended Day Program, a before and after school program located in our school. If interested, please email [edp@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:edp@tdsb.on.ca) expressing your interest in the program.

### Extra Curriculars

#### Current running extra curriculars include:

Ambassadors Club for Junior Students (grades 4-6): Monday at lunch  
 Junior Choir (grades 4-6): Wednesday at lunch  
 We Schools (grades 4-6): Thursdays at lunch  
 Girls Club (grades 4-6): Tuesdays at lunch for grades 4-6  
 Advanced Uke (grades 4-6): Monday at lunch  
 Beginner Uke (grades 4-6): Wednesday at lunch  
 Junior Girls Basketball (grades 4-6): Monday and Tuesday after school

### News from Parent Council

#### Blake School Council Announcements

#### Walk-in supporting education workers and a fully-funded education

There was a great turnout and lots of enthusiasm at this morning's walk-in by Blake students and parents!

#### Annual Clothing Swap is coming!

**Clothing Swap Collection starts on Tuesday, October 15!** Drop off items upstairs in Room 203.

Accepted items:

- Clothing and footwear for babies, kids and adults. **Please be sure your items are clean and label all bags/boxes with the contents and sizes (e.g. girls size 6-8) This helps our volunteers a lot!**
- Winter gear- jackets, snow pants, and boots.
- Games, books and electronics.

We will also be collecting textiles that are no longer usable (Socks with holes in them, ripped, stained or worn out clothing, towels, bedding, etc.) **Please be sure to separate these items in a different bag and label this bag separately with [bag2school](#) written clearly on it.**

If you are interested in joining the Clothing swap team, we would love to hear from you!

Email: [blakeschoolcouncil.tdsb@gmail.com](mailto:blakeschoolcouncil.tdsb@gmail.com) or leave a note on the Blake Street PS Families page on Facebook.

The swap will take place on Thursday, November 14 after school and Friday, November 15 in the morning.

**Next School Council Meeting** is Tuesday, **Oct. 15** at 6:00 p.m. in the school library. You can read minutes from our September meeting here: <https://blakestreetparents.wordpress.com/2019/09/15/september-council-meeting-minutes/>

**October snack menus** –[JK/SK](#), [Grades 1-6](#).

**Halloween Dance and Bake Sale** will start a little later this year at 6.30pm. Hopefully this give you more time to get all dressed up. You don't need to worry about dinner – pizza, samosas and, of course, treats will all be available for a small price. It also gives us more time to set everything up. If you're available on Oct 25<sup>th</sup>, anytime from 3pm onwards, to help email: [ss\\_healy@hotmail.com](mailto:ss_healy@hotmail.com)

The bake sale relies on your generously donated goodies. If you love to bake and want to contribute or you're not a baker but you'll buy something instead, let us know, email [brandyhumes@gmail.com](mailto:brandyhumes@gmail.com)  
 Goodies MUST be **nut-free** and accommodating dietary restrictions (Halal, gluten free, vegan, etc.) is much appreciated.

✕ **BLAKE** ✕

# HALLOWEEN DANCE PARTY



ALL KIDS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

- ✕ \$2 PIZZA
- ✕ \$1 GLOW STICKS
- ✕ \$1 POPCORN
- ✕ \$1 CANDY FLOSS
- ✕ BAKE SALE GOODIES
- ✕ TATTOOS
- ✕ LIVE DJ
- ✕ FACE PAINTING
- ✕ NAILS

FREE ENTRY | 25TH OCT FRI. | @ THE GYM  
6:30-8:30PM

**Upcoming Dates**

October 15 – November 15: Grade 1- 6 Mural  
October 17 – Lice Check  
October 21 – PHOTO DAY  
October 24 – OPAL PLAY DAY  
November 11: Remembrance Day  
November 15: Parent Teacher Interview Day  
November 20: Photo Retake Day and Sibling Photos  
November 29: SPIRIT DAY – Dress Like your Favourite Video Game Character  
December 6: PA DAY  
December 13: Prologue Presentation: Duffle Bag Theatre K - 6  
December 20: SPIRIT DAY – WHITE PARTY  
December 23 – January 3: WINTER BREAK

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](mailto:jennifer.zurba@tdsb.on.ca)

Have a great weekend.

Jenn and Tina