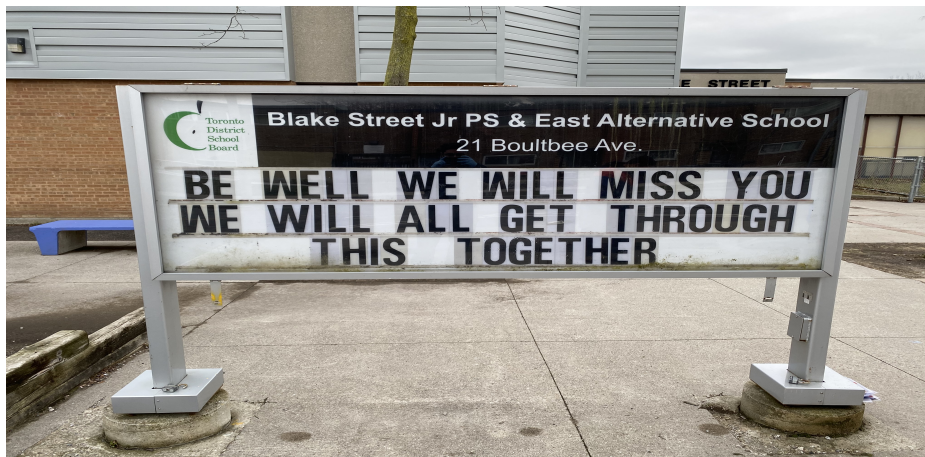


Blake News

The Newsletter of
Blake Street Public School
Phone: (416) 202-0415

Blake Street Public School
21 Boulton Avenue, Toronto, ON M4J 1A7
Jennifer Zurba, Principal **Jackilyn Wallace**, Vice Principal
Mary Jane McNamara, Superintendent of Education **Jennifer Story**, School Trustee



This week, I have finished my family wellness check in phone calls to all Blake families. While I was able to speak directly with many of you, for some, I left a voicemail. If you would like to speak with me directly, I am happy to reach out, just send me an email.

This week, Jacki and I have also been able to sit in on many google and zoom meets. It has been a delight to see your child's smiling face, and watch them as they acquire these new technology skills. We have been inspired and in awe of our staff's ongoing commitment to making this new learning situation fun and engaging; including game shows, scavenger hunts, building time, sharing stories and pictures, small reading differentiated groups, not to mention the regular one to one reading support our special education teachers continue to provide.

I know that a number of our families continue to wait on technology. All children awaiting technology are accounted for on our list, and it is just a matter of time. Again, we thank you for your patience, and know that once technology does arrive, it will be instrumental in allowing your children to further engage and be a part of this new community.

September Class Placement: Parent Input

At Blake Street Public School we follow a collaborative approach to student placement for the upcoming year. It is one that has input from these sources:

- sending and receiving teachers
- principal and office administrator
- support personnel

This month, several meetings will be devoted to student placement. During these meetings, the best possible educational experience for your child will be given the utmost consideration. Parent information shared throughout the year at parent/teacher conferences will be helpful as the Blake Street teachers discuss the student placement process and consider the following:

- balance of numbers in a class
- Ministry of Education primary class size caps
- ratio of males & females in a class
- balance of students' levels of English Language Proficiency

- balance of academic performance according to Ministry expectations
- consideration of possible negative peer influences
- social, emotional and physical needs of the student

While we try to accommodate parent suggestions, please understand that a great deal of professional time and consideration will be devoted to the student placement decision.

If there is information you feel should be considered by the committee regarding your child's placement, please submit it in writing as an email to me at Jennifer.zurba@tdsb.on.ca by **Monday May 11th, 2020.**

The 2020/2021 school year staff, teachers and their grades are not yet finalized. You will be notified of your child's classroom for 2020-2021 in September. Tentative class lists (first names only) will be posted on the exterior rear doors of the school on Labour Day weekend.

Your information/requests should indicate your child's needs and program preferences, as opposed to names of teachers. **No requests for individual teachers will be accommodated for the reasons mentioned above, along with the potential for staffing and class arrangement changes right up until the end of October.**

Our tentative approved staffing model (pending the possibility of a fall re-organization) for next year is below. A co-teaching model means that two teachers will share the same space. Note that due to limited room usage, there may be more co-teaching models than those listed below.

English:

FDK (with ECEs)
FDK (with ECEs)
FDK (no ECE, capped at 15 students)
Grade 1/2 and Grade 1/2 (co-teaching model)
Grade 2/3
Grade 3/4
Grade 4 am (co teaching with Grade 5 am, and streamlines into Grade 4/5 pm)
Grade 5 am (co-teaching with Grade 4 am and streamlines into Grade 4/5 pm)
Grade 6

French:

SK FI (with ECEs)
SK FI (no ECE, capped at 15 students)
Grade 1
Grade 1/2 and Grade 1/2 (co-teaching model)
Grade 2/3
Grade 3/4
Grade 4/5
Grade 5/6

Prep subjects offered will include:

1.5 Physical Education / Health
0.5 Library
2 Special Education
1 Music
0.5 Drama
0.5 Core French

Have you moved? For those of you who have moved out of the Blake Street attendance area over the school year, your child has been permitted to complete their 2020 school year here at Blake. ***For the 2020/2021 School Year you will need to register your child at his/her home school.***

Please help us with our placement meetings and enrolment by letting us know ASAP if your child WILL NOT be returning to Blake Street P.S. in September 2020.

Ways to Support

I have heard from a number of families wondering how they might be able to support our community during these times. A link was shared last week, allowing interested families the opportunity to donate directly to our nutrition program. These donations, shared with another school Bosley Real Estate also supports, go directly into providing food cards to our families in need. A big thank you to those who have donated. Please note that your donations have already supplied over \$1500 in gift cards directly to our families.

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

Extended Day Program

For families with children currently in EDP, their spots in the EDP program will naturally be extended. However, for families with new students registering, who need before and after care, registration is now open. This is a new registration process, and no student number is required. You can access the registration link at **www.tdsb.on.ca/EDP**

Please know that we are here to help however we can. If there is anything we can do to support you and your families, we are just an email away. You are now also able to leave a voice mail message on the Blake PS phone at 416-393-9415 and Ms. Scott will receive it automatically.

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

Be well and have a great weekend.

Jenn and Jackilyn