

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 week, we held our first virtual welcome back assembly. A link to our photo montage can be accessed via the link below. This will be helpful for many of our new families because it includes photos of all of our staff, as well as photos of the bright and beautiful murals and words of inspiration within our walls.

Principal's Welcome

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1o0rtiYi_vRXy9lxtatuKS5YFWk-yIDRk/view?usp=sharing

Question and Answer Video

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YtS-almnGbKFkmBIsNfS1j7l6Zl8UVP2/view?usp=sharing>

Hand Hygiene Song

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iiWediqChTa5tDj6eYBoFhipTCOWMrY6/view?usp=sharing>

Updated Mask Policy While Outdoors on School Property

The TDSB Return to School Operational Guideline continues to be updated on a daily basis. The most important and relevant new update is that **all parents and guardians must wear a mask / face covering outdoors when on school property during pick-up and drop-off.**

While we continue to settle in to another week in this new reality, more questions are coming forward about what to do if a child presents with COVID-19 symptoms. Children at school who present with COVID-19 symptoms are brought to the Wellness Room. Parents are contacted and they are asked to pick up their child. At that time, based on symptoms, a parent will be asked to do one of the following:

1. Consult your family doctor. If they feel that symptoms relate to an underlying medical issue (such as asthma, post nasal drip, seasonal allergies.. etc.) they can write you a note clearing the child. Please pass us a copy of the doctor's note and the child can return to school.

2. Get a COVID Test. If the results are negative, and the symptoms have gone away for 24 hours, children can return to school. You will be asked to share the report with the school.
3. If the child does not get a COVID Test, they are to self-isolate for 14 days even if symptoms resolve.

Please be sure to look at the attachments included in the body of my email as they offer clear and concise next steps to manage symptoms. Please keep in mind that information and practices continue to be reviewed, and may change in the near future.

Request to Change from Virtual to In School or in School to Virtual Learning

The deadline to make a change is September 30th. Please be sure to notify Ms. Scott in the office if you are looking to make a transition.

Terry Fox

TERRY FOX RUN

On **Thursday, October 8th** our school will have our annual **Terry Fox Run** event, with a rain date set for Friday, October 9th. This year, each class will be participating separately with their classroom cohort and homeroom teacher. Primary and Junior Teachers have the option of taking their class on a walking excursion to a local park to complete this event, or to use a neighbourhood block. The Kindergarten students will run/walk for 10 minutes continuously, the Primary students will run/walk for 12 minutes continuously, and the Junior students will run/walk for 15 minutes continuously. Please make sure that your child is wearing running shoes and dressed comfortably on this day. Feel free to practise run/walk training at home to get your child prepared and excited for this fun and meaningful fitness event. There will be draw prizes post event for all participants. This year we will not be collecting Toonies for Terry as we have in the past. Please donate on our Blake fundraising page.

Fundraising Page: <http://www.terryfox.ca/BlakeStreetPSToronto>

UserName: 2020ON5912

Password: CUREON6919

Safe Arrival

To report your child's absence, please call 416-393-9415 or 1-833-250-2290.

When contacting you to confirm an unexplained absence, the School Messenger system number will appear as 1-833-250-2290. Please make sure to answer the call and acknowledge the absence in order to stop the automated phone calls.

Kempton Howard Park

Construction on the new playground is complete and the park is now reopened. The playground has many new features that I hope families can enjoy this fall:

- new play equipment including the space ball and net twister
- refurbished wading pool with a seating wall and a small splash pad on the side
- sand play area including a water jug filler
- new stairs and a secondary pathway
- enhanced seating and picnic table areas
- shade structure
- lower, natural armour stone wall around the playground
- an inclusive seat on the swing set

The new wading pool and splash pad will open next year when the outdoor pool season begins.

Sad News for our Blake Community

Earlier this month, our long time and beloved lunch room supervisor, Juliette Whynder, passed away unexpectedly of a heart attack. Our warm thoughts are with her family, and she will be dearly missed.

**Upcoming Dates**

September 30: ORANGE SHIRT DAY

September 30: Deadline to transition from In-school to Virtual or Virtual to In-school

Have a wonderful weekend.

Jenn and Jacki

Updates from Toronto Public Health

If you have not yet downloaded the COVID App, you are strongly encouraged to do so. It is free in the App store and is called COVID Alert Canada.

Notes and Updates from Parent Council**Elections**

On October 6th, we will be holding a Blake Council election for the executive positions (Co-Chair, Co-Treasurers and Co-Secretary). If interested, the job descriptions are below:

Chair / Co-Chair

The chair (or co-chair if this role is shared) acts as the primary representative of the School Council and leads the School Council meetings. The chair/co-chair will:

- arrange for meetings;
- prepare agendas;
- chair council meetings;
- ensure that minutes of council meetings are recorded and maintained;

encourage consensus among School Council members & facilitate the resolution of conflict;
establish sub-committees when deemed advisable;
communicate with the school principal on behalf of the council.

Secretary

The secretary records and distributes meeting minutes. The secretary will:
record the meetings and type up the minutes
make note of actions promised and planned
distribute the minutes to the chair, co-chair, and principal
post the minutes, once approved in a public place for the parents and staff to read

Treasurer

The treasurer keeps proper records of all monies that are collected and spent by the school council. The treasurer will:
record all financial transactions,
present quarterly and year-end financial statements to the council
follow standard reporting and accounting procedures

You can find executive nomination forms here <https://drive.google.com/.../1Flt3VJe2cgd-onkJ5MbAhnCFd.../view...>

You can review the by-laws for the upcoming vote and to become a council member <https://docs.google.com/.../1Ws5RLKC9DjD25HAUcjsFvEiuK2.../edit...>

Parents who would like to be voting members, your forms are here https://docs.google.com/.../13qqvubirQeJun6kFfFO_tJ3T3E.../edit...

You do not need to be a voting member to attend School Council

Anti-Black / Anti-Indigenous Education Fund

Parent Council will fund an Anti-Black/Anti-Indigenous Racism Education Fund for the Blake Community (including staff, parents and students). \$1000 will be available during this school year.

One upcoming opportunity is 4 Big Questions with Pamala Agawa, Kike Ojo-Thompson, Paul Gorski and Debbie Donsky. More details [here](#). If you would like to attend as a Blake representative please let parent council know (lanrickbennettjr@gmail.com).

Parent Council wants to support our virtual school families. Please contact Melissa if you would like to join our virtual school support group (grant.melissa@gmail.com).

Blake Virtual Parents Community Building

With the launch of virtual classes this week, we are reaching out to all virtual families to help build a sense of community and to stay connected to Blake Street Junior Public School. Currently, there are two ways that we will achieve this.

First, we are going to establish a virtual weekly check-in for parents and children to meet and talk about their experience, identify any needs and to socialize. Our first drop-in meeting will be Monday evening from 6 – 8pm. After that we will be holding drop-in meetings every Wednesday from 6 – 8pm.

It is a drop-in so feel free to join when you're able to (you don't need to stay for the entire meeting) and attend as many or as few as you'd like. **Please email us for the link.**

This week we will be discussing any questions, concerns or needs that you have. We will also be discussing planning a brainstorming meeting to organize both virtual and distanced meet-ups, for those who are comfortable.

Second, we have established a parent liaison. You can reach out whenever you feel you need support, resources or just another Blake parent to talk to. Both Bryanna and Melissa will be acting as liaisons. You can reach out to either of us.

Our hope is that we will be able to strengthen our sense of community and be a support to parents who need it at any stage of their virtual learning.

You can contact us at:

blake.virtualparents@gmail.com

TDSB Remote Learning Support Group

For those looking for additional support on Facebook with virtual learning, this group was initiated by a Blake parent and has grown to over 2,500 members. It is a source of information sharing, resources and support. If you're interested, please request to join.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/366148551446910/?ref=share>

Virtual Swap

Blake has started its very own virtual clothing swap. Please go to Facebook and join. Everyone is welcome. Search: Blake Street PS Virtual Swap.