

The Official Blake St. Jr. Public School

# Newsletter

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[School Website](#) | [School Council](#)

Nov 5, 2021



## Blake St. Jr PS Administration:

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## School Update

### Photo Retake Day and Sibling Photos

A form was sent home today with every student. If you are requesting a photo retake for your child, or would like a sibling photo, please be sure to complete the form (1 per family) and return it to the office no later than Friday, November 12th.

### Special Education Parent Workshop

For those who missed the Parent Workshop on Special Education, you can access the recording by clicking on the link below.

[https://tdsb-ca.zoom.us/rec/share/HvtSXO5M5pmjUnPLrBleLInK1ez3tRdAJTxr3wRN-4kXeD8ohOq\\_p9jX15\\_0cZY.uqV6uyp0T9j7EBPm](https://tdsb-ca.zoom.us/rec/share/HvtSXO5M5pmjUnPLrBleLInK1ez3tRdAJTxr3wRN-4kXeD8ohOq_p9jX15_0cZY.uqV6uyp0T9j7EBPm)

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[Nov 5, 2021](#)

# Early French Immersion Application

## Process – JK and SK Entry (Sept 2022 only)

For families interested in the Toronto District School Board's Early French Immersion program, we offer an online process to apply. The entry point to Early French Immersion is moving to Junior Kindergarten. There will be one transition year wherein students who will be entering Junior Kindergarten and Senior Kindergarten in 2022 will be eligible to apply to the Early French Immersion program during the November 2021 application period. Moving forward (2023), the only entry point for Early French Immersion will be Junior Kindergarten. Below, please find the link to the information package (note that this package has also been shared in hardcopy to all our English JK families).

To apply for the Early French Immersion Program for September 2022, applications must be completed online between [November 1 and November 26, 2021](#).

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 application process, please join us for a [Virtual Information Session](#) on one of the following dates:

§ November 8, 2021, 7 p.m.

§ November 15, 2021, 10 a.m.

§ November 23, 2021, 7 p.m.

For more information about French programs, the application process and important dates, please visit [www.tdsb.on.ca/french](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/french) or click on [Application Process](#). For details, please see the downloadable [information package](#) or click [here](#) for Early French Immersion flyers in 22 languages. **Call the office if you are in need of your child's OEN number.**

## TDSB Heritage Months

### *Hindu Heritage Month*

The Toronto District School Board (TDSB) is proud to recognize Hindu Heritage Month during the month of November as the Board of Trustees voted to pass a motion in April 2018 to mark this time. On December 8th, 2016, the Province of Ontario passed the Hindu Heritage Month Act by declaring that the month of November in each year is proclaimed as Hindu Heritage Month.

The [Hindu Heritage Month Act](#) states: *Ontario is home to a large and vibrant Hindu community. Since the first Hindu immigrants arrived in Canada at the beginning of the 20th century, Hindu Canadians from across Ontario have made significant contributions across all*

fields: science, education, medicine, law, politics, business, culture and sports. Hindu Canadians have helped build Ontario into the multicultural success story that it is and have helped to build this province into the best place to live, work and raise families. They continue to help foster growth, prosperity and innovation throughout Ontario. Hinduism is one of the oldest living religions which have flourished for over 10,000 years. It is an occasion to recognize and celebrate the rich tapestry of traditions, teachings and values that are integral to Hinduism and practiced by millions around the world today. November is an opportunity to celebrate the Hindu way of life, examine its impact and contributions to the world culture, and recognize values which promote compassion, tolerance, and inclusion.

The theme this year selected by the TDSB Hindu Heritage Month Volunteer Planning Committee is *Sri Rama: Epitome of love, compassion, duty, and service*. Sri Rama, who lived thousands of years ago, was the 7th avatar or reincarnation of Vishnu. Rama is known as *Maryada Purushottam*, or a man of perfection who took birth as a human to rid the world of some evil forces who were disturbing the peace. Rama was the ideal son, ideal husband, ideal brother, ideal friend and above all the ideal king. Rama, along with his wife, Sita, are role models for how to live life full of love, compassion, duty and service. The Ramayana, the story of Rama's life, is a great Hindu epic representing the rich cultural heritage of India. The Ramayana is also celebrated across Asia – in Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Laos, Myanmar, Philippines, Japan and China as a social and cultural icon. For Hindus the word 'Rama' is a mantra (a sacred chant) and 'Rama Rama' is a common greeting, instead of 'Hello!'.

We are excited to share the winning images from our Hindu Heritage Month Poster Contest that was held during the month of October where all students across the system were invited to participate. We're also delighted to share with you a [video on the Ramayana](#).

Facts	Video Resources
1. Om Shanti, Shanti, Shanti is a powerful vedic mantra or sacred sound with healing vibrations, that calls forth cosmic peace.	
2. OM Shanti is chanted aloud when you begin to meditate to relax and still the mind and body. It is chanted aloud as a peace invocation	
3. Hindus greet each other by saying Namaste - palms are held together in a prayer position in front of the heart area while bowing the head down slightly. Namaste is a Sanskrit word which means, the divine in me bows to the divine in you. The bowing down of the head is a way to show love, respect, and humility.	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c-M8l2bdG8g">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c-M8l2bdG8g</a>
4. 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.	
5. Can you imagine science or technology without the discovery of zero as a mathematical place marker? We can thank Hindu mathematicians who not only discovered the zero but also Algebra, square root and cube root,	<a href="https://www.realclearscience.com/articles/2017/09/23/five_ways_ancient_india_changed_the_world_with_math_110399.html">https://www.realclearscience.com/articles/2017/09/23/five_ways_ancient_india_changed_the_world_with_math_110399.html</a>

Geometry, Trigonometry and Calculus. Famous mathematicians include Arya•bhata, Brahma•gupta, Rama•nuja and Bose.	
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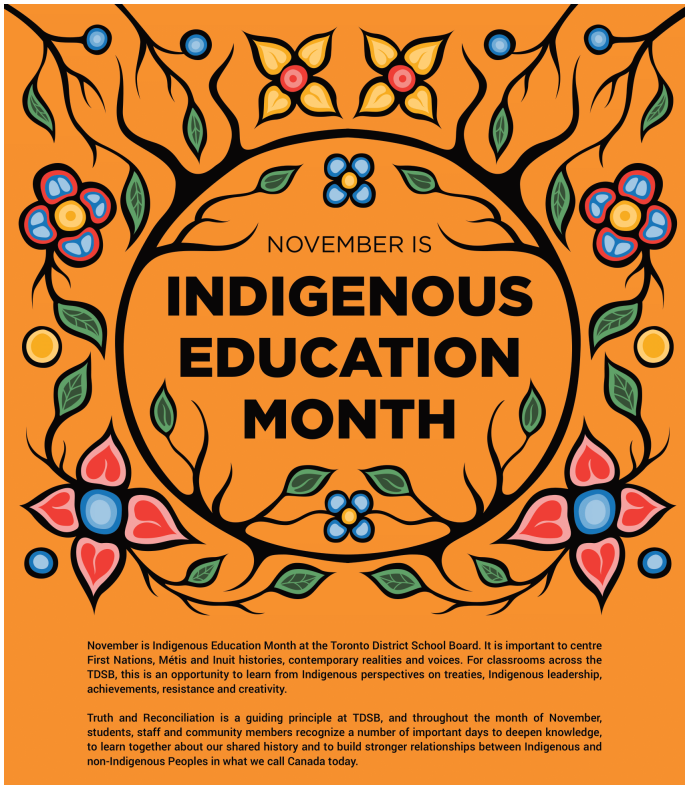
## Indigenous Education Month

November is Indigenous Education Month at the Toronto District School Board. It is important to centre First Nations, Métis and Inuit histories, contemporary realities, and voices. For classrooms across the TDSB, this is an opportunity to learn from Indigenous perspectives on treaties, Indigenous leadership, achievements, resistance and creativity.

Truth and Reconciliation is a guiding principle at the TDSB. Throughout November, students, staff and community members will engage in meaningful opportunities to learn together about our shared histories and to build stronger relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples.

The Urban Indigenous Education Centre (UIEC) will be hosting several events to support students and staff to learn from Indigenous Peoples.

Guests will include: Elder Dr. Duke Redbird, Elder Naulaq LeDrew, Jason Madden, Tasha Spillet, Dr. Pamela Palmater, Ange Loft, Tauni and Albie Sheldon, Traditional Knowledge Practitioner - Clayton Shirt, Dr. Pamela Rose Toulouse, Tanya Talaga, David A. Robertson, Shanese Steele, James Jones - Notorious Cree, Alyssa and Conlin Delbaere-Sawchuk, Jean Teillet, and Theola Ross.



Days of Significance for Indigenous Education Month

Treaties Recognition Week, November 1 - 5

International Inuit Day, November 7

Indigenous Veterans Day, November 8

Louis Riel Day, November 16

[CLICK HERE](#) for resources to support Treaties Week, Inuit Day, Indigenous Veterans Day, Louis Riel Day

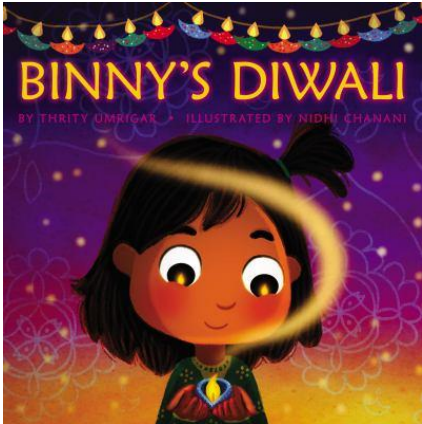
**INDIGENOUS EDUCATION IS ALL DAY EVERYDAY**





# Book Nook

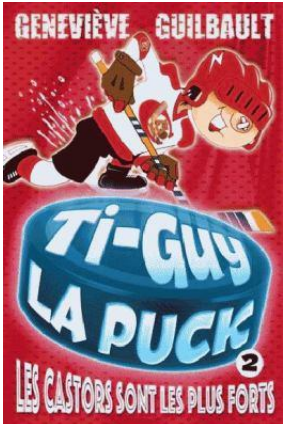
*Here are some new books in the Blake library!*



### **Binny's Diwali**

“Binny woke up happy but nervous. It was her day to share about Diwali, the Festival of Lights! Binny is excited to talk to her class about her favorite holiday. But she struggles to find the words. Taking a deep breath, she tells her classmates about the fireworks that burst like stars in the night sky, leaving streaks of gold and red and green. She shares with them delicious pedas and jalebis . And she shows them clay lamps, called diyas, which look so pretty all the children ooh and aah. Featuring a heartwarming story by Thrity Umrigar, enchanting illustrations by Nidhi Chanani, and detailed information about the Hindu festival of lights, Binny's Diwali is a holiday treat.”

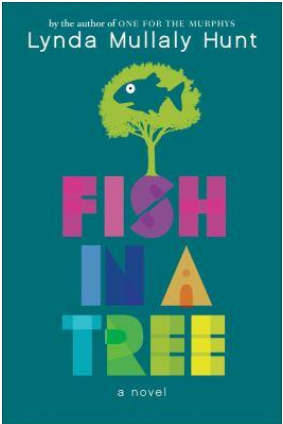
**English Picture Book**



### **Ti-Guy La Puck: Les Castors sont les plus forts**

“A series of sports novels featuring the tribulations of Ti-Guy La Puck, centre player and captain of the Bâton-sur-glace Castors hockey team. Time is running out, because in less than a week his team has to face the Golden Girls, fast, agile and creative girls who do not hesitate to multiply their attacks on the ice and who are very strong in the power play. However, certain elements complicate their task. This is ultimately a book about allyship and learning who has your back when it's crunch time.”

**French Picture Book**



### **Fish in a Tree**

“Ally has been smart enough to fool a lot of smart people. Every time she lands in a new school, she is able to hide her inability to read by creating clever yet disruptive distractions. She is afraid to ask for help; after all, how can you cure dumb? However, her newest teacher Mr. Daniels sees the bright, creative kid underneath the trouble maker. With his help, Ally learns not to be so hard on herself and that dyslexia is nothing to be ashamed of. As her confidence grows, Ally feels free to be herself and the world starts opening up with possibilities. She discovers that there's a lot more to her—and to everyone—than a label, and that great minds don't always think alike.”

**English Jr. Fiction Book**

# Equity Learning and Action

This year, our school wide learning theme is **ALLYSHIP**. Our School-Wide Equity Questions are:

*Currently on >*

1. What is an ally and Who Needs One?
2. What action can we take to show our allyship?

## Les élèves de la salle 206/207 ont écrit leurs propres Reconnaissance du Terrain (Land Acknowledgement) en utilisant les images.

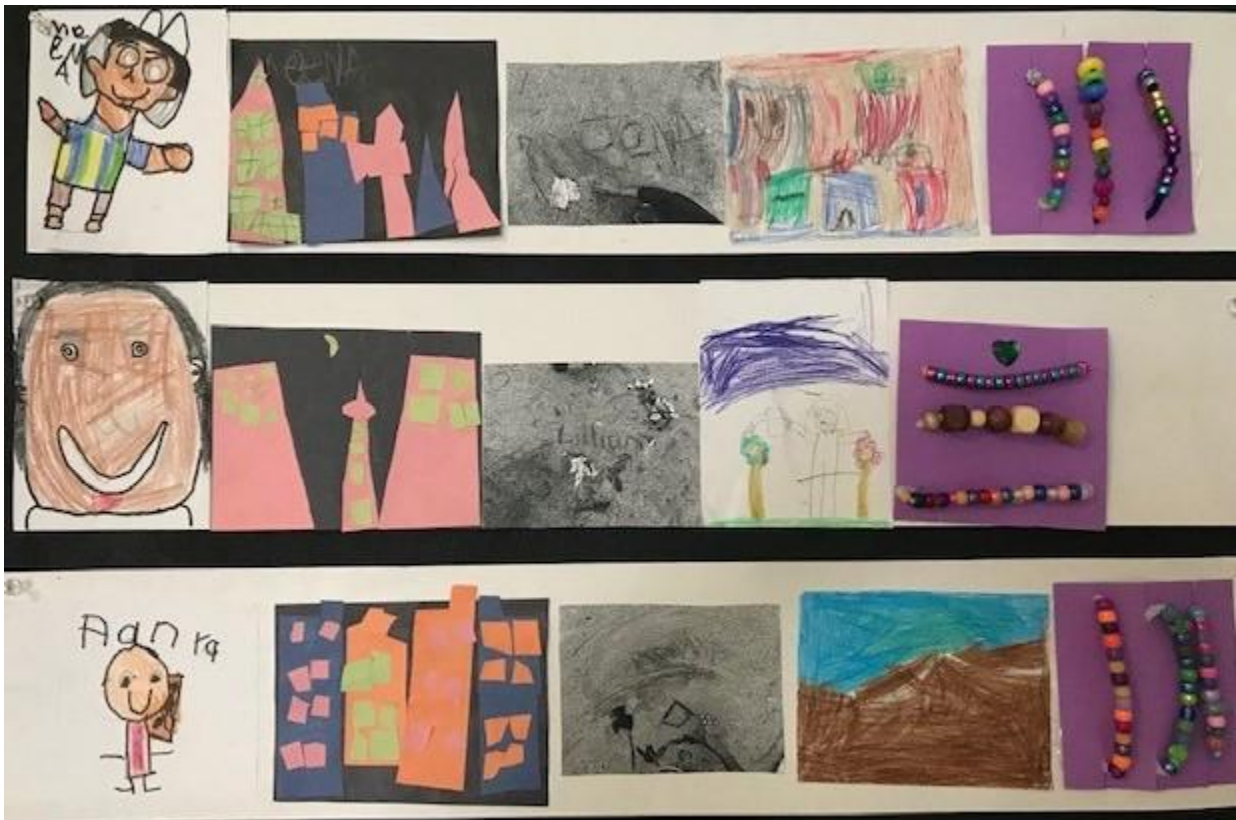
After reading the book, Alex et la Ceinture Wampum, we talked about who first lived on our land. We then looked at the pictures in the book "The Rabbits" and learned about how Settlers arrived and made promises to protect the land, but often these promises, called Treaties, have been broken. Lastly, we learned about how we are all Treaty People and it is important for ALL of us to keep our promises to look after the land so the land can take care of us.

Take a look at our artwork and our personal Land Acknowledgements in writing.

1. Auto-portrait/Self-Portrait - **Mon nom est.....**
2. La ville de Toronto & City Sky Scape - **J'habite a Tkaronto**
3. Photo d'une image faite a l'exterieur & Photo of nature using natural materials - **Je suis reconnaissant pour la Terre quand...**
4. Dessin de comment je peux protéger la Terre & Drawing of How I can protect the Earth - **Je promets de prendre soin de la nature parce que j'aime...**
5. La Ceinture Wampum & Wampum Belt - Symbole de la promesse

Grade 1 and ½ students in Mme Clark and Mme O'Sullivan's class have been writing their own land

acknowledgements.



# Worth Repeating

## Student Data Verification

The *Student Registration Verification* forms were sent home with students last week. Please take a look at your child's information and make sure everything is correct, especially phone numbers, email addresses and Parent/Guardian and Emergency Contact information.



# Covid Tests

Just a reminder that we have PCR test kits. These kits are readily available from the school for any student or household member with symptoms or concern about exposure to COVID-19. We have attached a letter (in French and English) with further details that can be shared as well as the fact sheet with commonly asked questions found here:

<https://tehn.ca/about-us/common-questions-about-mghs-take-home-covid-19-test-kits> and also attached.

Translated versions of instructions can be found here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/o6n98opwkwclki4/AADesQGWX2OKcyDgHtQf76M1a?dl=0>

There are now translations in: French, Amharic, Arabic, Bengali, Pashto, Slovak, Spanish, Tagalog, Tigrinya and Urdu.

Kits can be dropped off at the MGH COVID-19 Assessment Centre or any of our [COVID-19 Outreach Centres](#).

# Community Supports


## Covid-19 Vaccine Q&A

Michael Garron Hospital is hosting a public Question and Answer session on the Kids COVID-19 Vaccine on November 10th.


(<https://tehn.ca/about-us/newsroom/youre-invited-community-qa-covid-19-vaccine-children-and-families> ).

### Community Q&A on the COVID-19 Vaccine


**CHILDREN & FAMILIES EDITION!**




Learn about the safety and effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccine in children aged 5 to 11. Plus, find out where to get the vaccine!



**Featuring**  
**Dr. Janine McCready**  
Infectious Diseases Physician,  
Michael Garron Hospital



**Featuring**  
**Dr. Lopamudra Das**  
Paediatrician,  
Kindercare Pediatrics




**Moderated by**  
**Morgan Livingstone**  
Child Life Specialist,  
Michael Garron Hospital

**Wednesday, November 10 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.**


The event is free and open to all! Sign up to receive a link, call-in instructions and ask questions in advance:

**[tehn.ca/VaccineForum](https://tehn.ca/VaccineForum)**




**MICHAEL GARRON HOSPITAL**  
TORONTO EAST HEALTH NETWORK

Proud member of



East Toronto Health Partners

Learn more at



[ethp.ca](https://ethp.ca)



# Virtual Community Fair



For Parents/Caregivers of Children, Youth and Adults with Special Needs

Meet local community agencies that provide support to children, youth and young adults with special needs. Learn about Therapy Options, Funding Options, Post-21 Programs, Recreational and Respite Services

**When??**

**Wednesday, November 10, 2021,**  
**10:00 am – 12:00 pm**

**AND**

**Wednesday, November 17, 2021,**  
**6:00pm – 8:00 pm**



- Developmental Services Ontario (DSO)
- Respiteservices.com
- Community Living Toronto (CLT)
- Surrey Place



<https://tdsb-ca.zoom.us/j/98367378226?pwd=MW9yaDZTYnBoUTRmZEpGaXVmMVhAxdz6>

*The Virtual Fair will give parents/caregivers an opportunity to talk to persons representing key organizations that support students with:*

- Intellectual Disabilities
- Physical Disabilities
- Dual Diagnosis
- Autism

\*\*\*This Virtual Community Fair is part of a series of fairs that will take place during the school year.



For more information contact Jill Elliot Brennan at 647-229-0728 or Larena Case at (416) 570-3314 or Vanessa Wong at (647) 229-0730 or Irene Au-Yeung at (416) 420-3559

# Parenting in the Pandemic

Join TDSB school social worker Zenobia Homavazir for an interactive discussion on parenting in the pandemic On Friday, November 12th from 12 - 1 pm. This month we will talk about supporting your child in their return to school, including looking at routines, rules and challenges at home.

Please register here <https://forms.gle/YsEhvxHkEpc4P5WjZ>

# Important Dates

November 11: REMEMBRANCE DAY

November 16: PHOTO RETAKE DAY AND SIBLING PHOTOS

November 16: Progress Report Sent Home

November 19: PA Day For Parent Teacher Conferences

December 20 - 31: WINTER BREAK

*For those celebrating Diwali this week...ENJOY!!!! A reminder that this weekend we turn our clocks back one hour. Have a great weekend.*

*Jenn and Robb*

# School Council News

Your feedback is important to us. Feel free to submit your thoughts at any time through the link here: [Council Comment Card](#)

**We NEED your input!**



Please take a few minutes to complete our **Family Engagement Survey**. The information collected will help the School Council plan learning and events that meet your needs this year! This was informed by the wonderful brainstorming session at the previous Council Meeting and we appreciate the collective voice that helps us set our priorities for the year. Thank you for taking the time to share with us!

[Family Engagement Survey - Fall 2021](#)

# Belonging, Dignity & Justice

In addition to the work and planning we are doing with the staff, there are some equity goals set by Council that we would like to focus on planning and implementing. All are welcome to join us on Sunday Nov 7th at 8pm on zoom.

We are hoping to discuss:

- Community Anti-Oppression Library
- Anti-Racism Learning/Workshops
- Book Study - White Supremacy and Me

Topic: School Council BDJ Meeting

Time: Nov 7, 2021 08:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://tdsb-ca.zoom.us/j/93645982969?pwd=YVNPTnk5MitlTnNBbUsvYTZCQldlUT09>

Meeting ID: **936 4598 2969**

Passcode: **426313**

## Lost and Found

Our volunteers have been in to sort through the Lost and Found with hopes of returning items to their rightful owners. Please take a moment to check out the pictures on our [website](#).

## LAST WEEK for our Fall Bottle Drive!



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

1. **Count** your empty cans
2. **Bag/Box** cans and bottles
3. **Email**  
Karen at [klthomson@yahoo.com](mailto:klthomson@yahoo.com)  
or Mike at [mdevitt22@gmail.com](mailto:mdevitt22@gmail.com)  
or Farhan at [farhanc76@gmail.com](mailto:farhanc76@gmail.com)
4. **Drop off or Pick up**  
Tell them your count of cans per bag/box

**BOTTLE + CAN DRIVE**

**Blake Street Jr. Public School**

**All the proceeds will go to our school council.**

**Have you been saving your empty wine, beer and spirit bottles?!?** Let us collect them from you so that we can cash them in for **BIG MONEY** that will go to School Council to support this year's initiatives! Please contact one of the emails above to coordinate pick up or drop off!





We are grandfathered into this 15% rate through Flip/Give, but ONLY via this separate link below. If you are buying from Indigo, please remember to do so via this link.

[Indigo Gift Cards](#)

## Does your child need help with homework?

The Toronto Public library offers Homework Help! Check out the link below.

<https://kids.tpl.ca/homework-help>

## Upcoming Meetings

**Do you have something you'd like to discuss? Any learning you'd like to do? We want to hear from you so that we can make it a part of the agenda! Please reach out to**

[blakeschoolcouncil.tdsb@gmail.com](mailto:blakeschoolcouncil.tdsb@gmail.com)

Join us at our November Council meeting where we will come together to discuss our values and priorities. This conversation will help to inform our School Statement of Need (SSON) and our long range vision as a School Council. Our Community Support Worker, Ian, will help facilitate an activity to get each of us thinking about what our community needs and values are. There will be lots of opportunities to discuss and collaborate about setting our intentions for School Council this year and beyond.

## Save the Date

We hope to see you all at this year's Council Meetings - put them in your calendar now!

Nov 16 - [Zoom Link](#)

Dec 15 - [Zoom Link](#)

Jan 11 - Mid-Year Budget Review - [Zoom Link](#)

Jan 13 - [Zoom Link](#)

Feb 16

Apr 12

May 11

June 14

## In Case You Missed It...

Please check out our recordings, slide decks, and minutes on our council website here:

[Council Meetings and Minutes](#)

[Learning Sessions](#)

# Follow the School Council on Social!



[@blake\\_council](#)

Find out about current Blake and community happenings.



[Blake School Council](#)

[Blake Families Group](#)



[Council Website](#)