

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

Pizza Lunch

Beginning September 27th all Blake students will have the opportunity to enjoy Friday Pizza Lunch. A letter and envelope was sent home today with all students. Pizza can be purchased weekly, by term, or for the entire school year. These envelopes will not go home every week, so if you want to purchase pizza weekly, you or your child will need to pick up a pizza envelope in the office each time.

Orders can be paid in cash or cheque made payable to Blake Street PS.

As well, new this year, pizza lunch will be able to be purchased on-line using the Cash Online payment system. Visit <https://tdsb.schoolcashionline.com> to register. You can then select your order (by term or for the year) and follow the prompts. **Weekly pizza orders will NOT be available on-line. All weekly orders must use the pizza envelopes that are available in the office.**

Pizza lunches will take place every Friday, except when there is a PA day and then pizza lunches will be moved to Thursdays. With your order of \$5.00, your child will receive 2 slices of pizza, a piece of fruit, and a juice box. Please note that pizza will be ordered through Madina Pizza on Danforth, and is halal.

ALL orders will be due to the office by 3:30 on Wednesdays. In the event of a Friday PA day, orders will be due to the office by Tuesday.

Making weekly large scale pizza orders requires tremendous organization. As such, **we cannot roll over pizza or reimburse families for days their child has paid for pizza but may be absent due to illness or holiday.**

The funds generated through pizza lunch will continue to support school initiatives, including technology, literacy and numeracy support, and bringing art into our schools.

Cash Online

The Toronto District School Board has launched School Cash Online, an easy to use, safe and convenient way for parents/guardians to pay for their children's school fees, including agendas, yearbooks and class trips. School Cash Online will be available to our school starting the week of **September 16, 2019.**

All school fees applicable to your child will be posted on School Cash Online. Once you register, you can choose to purchase the items or activities using a debit or credit card. You will be able to see when the school has a new item posted online for purchase and you will also have the option to be notified whenever your child has a new school event requiring payment.

Registration will open the week of September 16, 2019. To register for School Cash Online, please visit <https://tdsb.schoolcashionline.com> select "Get Started Today" and complete the three registration steps. For more information on the registration process, please see the handout attached to this letter. Once registered, you will receive an email notification when items become available online.

If you have questions about the registration process or using School Cash Online, please select the "Get Help" option on the top of School Cash Online web page. You can also contact the School Cash Online Parent Help Desk at 1-866-961-1803 and parenthelp@schoolcashionline.com. The Parent Help Desk is available to assist parents/guardians with the registration process, password recovery, accessing your account or payment issues.

Dogs in the Yard

As it's the start of a new school year, I wanted to remind our families that non-service dogs are not permitted on school property. While the walk to school seems like a great opportunity for the whole family to get their exercise, dogs may not join you on the playground, per the signage placed at both entrances. We've received reports within the past week of family dogs urinating on the grass where our kids play and sit and so I would ask that everyone please respect this TDSB policy and the safety of our children.

Volunteers Needed for Food Rescue

Blake PS is part of a wonderful food rescue program that diverts perfectly good food from being tossed into the waste stream to becoming part of our snack program. Grocery stores, bakeries, cafes etc., notify the program when they have excess food, usually fruit or bread products, and a call goes out to see who can pick it up and use it. At that point Donna, who coordinates our snack program, sends an email to everyone on our volunteer list with details about what it is and how to pick it up, the same day or the next. If you can do it, you respond to the email, go get it, bring it to Donna at the school and she takes it from there. It gets incorporated into our snack program, or if it is something we can't use Donna knows amazing ways to get it to people who need it. So, if you have a car and could occasionally help out, email Donna at donna.booth@aol.com and let her know so she can put your name on the list. The more volunteers we have, the more food we can rescue.

The Book Bank

The Children's Book Bank is open after school and Saturdays!

Summer has come to an end, but fun at the Book Bank doesn't stop! Come by after school or on Saturdays to select your own book, hang out with friends, and learn about our monthly special programming. Free books for ages 0-12 - no parents without children.

Learn more about the Book Bank here: childrensbookbank.com

Upcoming Extra Curriculars

Current running extra curriculars include:

Boys and Girls Soccer will begin next week and run Tuesdays and Thursday from 3:30 – 4:30

KM is continuing on daily Monday to Thursdays with primaries running am recess and juniors running pm recess

Cross Country Team

Ambassadors Club for Junior Students will begin on Monday at lunch

Junior Choir will begin on Wednesday at lunch

We Schools has just begun and runs Thursdays at lunch

Junior girls Club, Girls Basketball and Uke will begin in the weeks to come. Stay tuned!!!

FSL review

Recently the FSL Program has been reviewed and some changes made. Please see the [FSL Program Review Recommendations Q & A](#) that has been prepared. This information will also be posted on the TDSB website.

New from Parent Council

Blake School Council Announcements

There's still space in the Doane U-School Beginner Ukulele program at Blake! The Doane U-School is a charitable organization that offers children's ukulele lessons for grade 4, 5 and 6 students at several east end schools, including Blake. Signup for this year's program began last spring, but there's still space for grade **4** and **5** students in the Beginner class. This class will run **every Wednesday at lunch time** starting the **first week of October**. The program is free; however, there is a requirement to purchase a ukulele. Purchase price is \$70 but there are sliding scale options available. More info in the attached! To secure a spot or discuss payment options please email melanie@uschool.ca directly. Spots are first come first served.



Blake Ukulele
Program

Resources for Allergy Awareness and Support. Food Allergy Canada educates, supports and advocates for the needs of people living with food allergies and the risk of anaphylaxis. They run multiple events including webinars and special programs.

Registration is now open for an online mentorship program called Allergy Pals. It begins **September 28th** and is for kids **7-15 years** old.

Register your child for the 8-week Allergy Pals/Allies online mentorship program so they can:

- Build a support network by connecting with other children who have food allergies

- Learn strategies for managing their food allergies
- Feel more confident managing their food allergies

For further information and to register click here: [here](#)

Action for Climate Change

The Blake Parent Council has endorsed the participation of Blake families in the upcoming Canada-wide Day of Action for Climate on September 27, with a rally at Queen's Park at 11am on that day and a march to follow at 12pm. Inspired by Greta Thunberg from Sweden, youth activists around the world are declaring Sept 20-27 Climate Action Week globally. They are calling on adults to stand with children in demanding immediate action on the climate emergency. Blake families will have the opportunity to participate on September 27 in a Day of Action that will see adults and children standing together in widespread, inter-generational events across Canada at Queen's Park. For those who cannot attend Queen's Park, a rally near the school may be organized. Stay tuned for details.

For more information (including information about opportunities to help spread the word and to volunteer on the day of the event) please feel free to contact Blake Parent Cate Prichard (cate.prichard@gmail.com) or check the Fridays For Future Toronto Facebook page at facebook.com/fridaysforfutureto/

Do you enjoy the home cooked meals at our School Council meetings? Help us avoid Pizza 🍕

Having a meal at our monthly meeting, prepared by one of our parents/care givers, may entice you to attend but it also helps foster a sense of community. We have a great group who provide great food but hope more parents/caregivers will come on board. Share your joy of cooking and in return we'll compensate you for your efforts. The requirements are minimal, we ask that you:

- Prepared the meal using mainly fresh ingredients not processed
- Provide vegetarian and Halal options
- Clean up

We'd love to try your food! To sign up or for more information on requirements and compensation email blakeschoolcouncil.tdsb@gmail.com

September snack menus – The first newsletter of the school year mentioned the great nutrition program at Blake, available to all our students. You can read more about it along with links to the monthly snack menus [here](#). Knowing what daily snacks are provided may help with your lunch planning. September snack menus: [JK/SK](#), [Grades 1-6](#).

Supporting Blake is easy. Forward these links to your friends and family, or use them yourself for things you may already be buying, and give back to your school.

Every dollar raised supports enrichment activities that we would not otherwise be able to provide to our kids such as the new bass xylophone for music class, Silver Birch award winning books for the library, our incredible garden instructor Elin, art in our school and more.

- **Use GIFTED for your next event to give back.** You can support Blake by selecting the percentage you wish to donate from monetary gifts - from 1% to 100%. [Learn more here](#)
- **Buy an Indigo Gift Card**, and 15% of your purchase comes back to our school. [Order Indigo cards here](#)
- **Place an order with Mabel's Labels!** 20% of your purchase is paid to our school. [Order here](#) and search for 'Blake Street'

Community Update from Paula Fletcher

Community Environment Day this Saturday!

Dear Friends,

Join me this Saturday for [Community Environment Day](#) at Jack Layton Way by Bridgepoint Hospital from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

You can drop off the following items:

- Batteries
- Small electronics including cell phones
- Printers and fax machines (do not bring ink cartridges or toner)
- Household hazardous waste
- Fluorescent bulbs

- Unused medications
- Oils, solvents and pesticides

Or donate the following for reuse:

- Sporting goods (e.g. skates, hockey equipment, bikes, rackets)
- Books (excluding school/university curriculum books)
- Eyeglasses, walking aids, hearing aids, etc.
- Small household items (e.g. dishes, ornaments, kitchen utensils, games, etc.)
- Textiles in good condition (e.g. clothing, linens, etc.)
- Musical instruments
- Arts and crafts supplies
- CD's, CD cases and 35 mm cameras
- Non-perishable foods will be donated to a food bank

Please do not bring: Ink cartridges or toner, construction waste, air conditioners, garbage, wood, cassette and videotapes, commercial/industrial hazardous waste and scrap metal.

The **shredding truck** will be available and there will be **free compost** for pick-up - bring your own containers and shovel. Ward 14 Bikes will also be offering compost delivery by bike.

Local and environmental groups will be exhibiting, including LEAF, Danforth Reduces, Ward 14 Bikes, the Ralph Thornton Community Centre and the Toronto Public Library Riverdale Branch.

I hope to see you there!

Upcoming Dates

September 26 – Terry Fox Run
 September 26: Curriculum Night, 6:00 -7:00
 September 26: Special Education parent Information Session, 7:00 – 7:30
 September 27 – Pizza Lunch Begins
 September 27 – SPIRIT DAY: Blake Colours
 September 30 – Orange Shirt Day
 October 4 – OPAL PLAY DAY
 October 4 – Cross Country South qualifier at Ashbridges Bay – 8:30
 October 9 – Prologue Presentation: Vision of Turtle Island, grades 1- 6
 October 10 – Lice Check
 October 11 -PA DAY – school closed for students
 October 14: THANKSGIVING
 October 21 – PHOTO DAY
 November 4- 20: Grade 1- 6 Mural
 November 11: Remembrance Day
 November 15: Parent Teacher Interview Day
 November 20: Photo Retake Day and Sibling Photos
 November 29: SPOIRIT 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