

Principal's update – Friday, February 1, 2019

We hope you are all keeping warm. With the arrival of this week's cold snap, we have had a number of indoor recesses, and so we are looking forward to warmer temperatures returning next week. Fresh air and outside play are so important for our students. Please be sure to send your child dressed for the weather, and do not hesitate to call the office if your child is in need of snow pants, gloves, hats or boots...we keep extra pairs and are happy to see if we can help.

Mistatim –Prologue Performance

On Wednesday afternoon, grade 2 to 6 students watched a terrific performance called *Mistatim*. *Mistatim* is about the taming of a wild horse and the truest of friendships. Under a prairie sky, a simple wooden fence is all that separated Calvin on his ranch and Speck on her reservation. In many ways they are worlds apart, that is, until a wild horse named Mistatim turns their worlds upside down while telling an unforgettable story of reconciliation. Many of our students immediately connected our learning of residential schools to the performance. Please do talk with your child about their own take away and reflections.



Girls Triple Ball Team – Tournament at Winchester Public School

Fifteen of our Blake girls in grades 4, 5 and 6, went with Mr. Fowler to an all-day Triple Ball (formerly volleyball) Tournament at Winchester Public School. All of the girls played hard and represented our school with great effort and sportsmanship.

Four games were played against four different teams. Several sets were 'nail biters' that were decided in the last few points.

Our team won a set against Frankland PS, but it was not quite enough to get us into the playoffs this time around.

Our coaches are very proud of how well all of our athletes played and commend them on a 'job well done.'

Mr. Fowler, Ms. Kiil and Ms. Kagan



Parking

As a result of the recent huge snow fall, our limited parking is more limited than ever. Staff are becoming frustrated as a result of ongoing and repeated conversations with parents. The parking lot is for TDSB staff only. In the event that you are dropping off your child to daycare or school, you must do so using Kiswick Street (on the west side of the school, south of Riverdale Avenue). **Children are not permitted in the lot** – it is a

safety concern. Please use the walkway between the south side of the gym, and the fencing along the north side of the parking lot to access the main playground.

In the event you are volunteering at the school, please be sure to come into the office to pick up a volunteer sign, available after 9:00 am. In the event you are parking to attend the Early ON Centre, please check in with the office after 9:00 to see if spots are available and to pick up a temporary pass. Despite the fact that this message has been reiterated since the fall, it continues on. Ticketing and towing will be enforced.

Staff Changes

It is with mixed emotions that we will be saying "goodbye" to Stephanie Robertson, our wonderful Office Administrator who has been with us since last year. Friday February 8th will be her last day. We have been blessed to have found Stephanie, and to have her in our office. She has been a positive influence on our entire school community, and has developed wonderful relationships with our students and community. We wish her all the best in her new position at Taylor Creek PS in Scarborough. Stephanie will be replaced by Kristin Scott, who currently works upstairs at EAST Alternative in the mornings, and down here at Blake in the afternoons. Kristin will now be with us full days, and we are thrilled to have her here, and all the knowledge and established relationships she brings. Tina and I are in the process of hiring for our afternoon clerical position.

We would also like to wish Roula Vassiliou, our long term lunch supervisor all the best as she leaves us to take on a permanent secretary position at Windfields Middle School in North York. We thank Roula for her years of service, and for her support and care of our students.

Kindergarten Registration

JK Kindergarten registration at Blake Street PS will take place during the afternoons of the week of February 11 – 15. Please share this information with any community members it may relate to. The online portion of the kindergarten registration is open February 4 and can be accessed at www.tdsb.on.ca/kindergarten

Once this portion of the registration is completed, you will still need to come in person to complete the process, and you will two proofs of address, the child's birth certificate or passport, and their health card and immunization records.

Extended French

A reminder that the deadline for applying to the extended French program for Grade 4 entry is February 4th. The online application can be accessed at www.tdsb.on.ca/pars

You will require your child's Ontario Education Number which can be found on their report card.

Upcoming Report Card and Parent Teacher Conferences

In the coming days you will be receiving a parent letter regarding upcoming Term 1 report cards. As most of you had a parent meeting in the fall, a meeting is not necessary unless you or the teacher are requesting one. Please complete the form from your child's teacher if you are requesting an interview, and be sure to send it back by the due date.