

BLAKE STREET PS NEWSLETTER: Friday February 22nd, 2019



Lost and Found

As has been previously shared, our lost and found is sorted and displayed in the library before every parent council meeting. Classes are invited to come in and take a look and reclaim articles. Once the lost and found is cleared, re -usable clothing is washed and housed in the office for students who require a change of clothes, or snow pants, while all other items are donated to Bag2School. To help us ensure that all articles are returned to their owner, it is helpful for you to **label** your child's belongings, as all labelled items are returned to children.

Upcoming Family Board Game Night and an Introduction to our School Wide Focus on OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning)

Please join us on **Thursday, March 7th, from 6:00 – 7:00 pm** in the gym for Family Board Game Night. Parents will also be invited to take part in a 10 minute presentation on our School-based OPAL philosophy and how it impacts play and learning. Light snacks and refreshments will be served.

Forest Fridays

Many of you have heard about, or seen the display that is outside the library at this time every year. Blake is proud to support the Forest of Reading Program organized by the Ontario Library Association. Each year Parent Council has supported five of the 'branches' of books in both English and French, by providing the funds to purchase the 50 books. Each 'branch' has 10 books written by Canadian authors, which students read with their teachers, or on their own (depending on the levels of books), and then have the opportunity to vote on their favourite. Every individual vote counts and winners in each branch are chosen. These are one of the only book awards chosen by children themselves!

As a partner in the Forest program, we have access to many different supports, one of which is "Forest Fridays". Almost every Friday from January to early April, a different author is available to visit the library by way of a digital broadcast. Ms. Dymont chooses the authors that we 'host' based on the books that students have read, or will be reading. The authors typically spend about 15 minutes talking about the process of writing their book, or the process of becoming a

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writer, and the remaining 15 minutes they answer questions from the virtual audience. Kids are always especially excited when a Blake question is chosen!

Interested students come to the library after they've eaten their lunch, and commit to spending the whole half hour with the supporting teacher (usually Ms. Dymont, but sometimes Ms. Church or Ms. Kiil). We have had as few as five students and as many as 30, depending on the interest in the books. All grades from 1-6 are welcome.

This year we have hosted 3 authors so far – Elizabeth Macleod (*Meet Viola Desmond*), Deborah Kerbel (*Sun Dog*), and Ammi-Joan Paquette (*The Train of Lost Things*). We hope to see your child here!

Upcoming author visits:

March 1 – Kallie George (*Heartwood Hotel 02: The Greatest Gift*)

March 22 – Cale Atkinson (*Where Oliver Fits*)

April 5 – Shari Green (*Missing Mike*)

Blake School Council Announcements

Family Wellness Event - Blake's Family Wellness Night is **March 28**. Join us for a series of parenting workshops on nutrition, mental and sexual well-being at the school from **6:00-8:00** p.m. The free event includes dinner and activities for children.

Playground Improvements - The Playground Committee thanks those of you who completed their short survey in a previous newsletter. If you haven't already, you still have the option to provide your opinions and ideas. Here's the [link](#). It should only take a couple of minutes to complete.

TDSB Parents as Partners – On **March 30**, this all-inclusive conference, organized by TDSB parents for TDSB parents, guardians and caregivers, gives you the opportunity to participate in workshops, network with parents and community agencies and learn new strategies to support your child's success. The conference is FREE. Buses are provided and a FREE Day Camp is available for kids aged 4-12! Full details can be found [here](#).

Contact the School Council - blakeschoolcouncil.tdsb@gmail.com for any school council related initiatives, questions or if you'd like to volunteer for any of our events e.g. Silent Auction, Funfair, Raffle, School Dance.

Have a great weekend!

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Community News

Parent Workshop at Jackman Avenue PS on Math and Self- Regulation, Anxiety and Well Being

You are invited to attend **a PRO Grant Presentation around "Math & Self-Regulation, Anxiety, and Well-Being," on Thursday March 21, 2019, from 7-8 pm**. Brenda Smith-Chant, from The MEHRIT Centre, will be speaking to parents around supporting children at home with mathematics.

Please RSVP at 416 393 9715

Winterfest at Greenwood

Councillor Fletcher would like to invite students and parents to Winterfest at Greenwood Rink on Sunday, March 3rd from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. There will be free skating lessons, music, face painting and hot chocolate. Also taking place on March 3rd is a new Skate Exchange Program run by the City. Residents can donate, exchange or get a pair of skates at no cost. We are also encouraging residents to drop-off skates they no longer need to Greenwood Rink or Eastview Neighbourhood Community Centre at 86 Blake Street between February 23rd and March 3rd.

REMINDERS:

Please share this news with any neighbors or community members: A Reminder about Kindergarten Registration

This week was our English JK registration. If you have not yet done so, please complete the online portion of the kindergarten registration which 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 need two proofs of address, birth certificate or passport, health card, and immunization records. We ask that you do so in the afternoons as Ms. Scott is by herself in the mornings.

For those getting ready to register for French Immersion Kindergarten, the in person paper is the same for French as it is for English. Our French immersion Kindergarten registration week is taking place the week of March 4 – 8. Again, we ask that you come in to register in the afternoons.

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PARENT COUNCIL UPDATES

Upcoming Dates:

March 4 – 8: French Immersion Kindergarten Registration

March 6: Prologue presentation, pm for grades 1 – 6 : **Bboyism**

March 7: Family Board game Night, 6:00 -7:00 in the gym

March 8: Beach Day for grades 1 – 6

March 11 – 15: MARCH BREAK

March 28: 6:00 -8:30: Parent Wellness Workshops Sponsored by Parent Council

Should you have any questions or concerns about the content of this newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact us at jennifer.zurba@tdsb.on.ca

Have a great weekend,

Jennifer and Tina