

## BLAKE STREET PS NEWSLETTER: Friday February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019



For those of you who celebrated Chinese New Year this past week, Gung Hei Fat Choi. We wish you prosperity and good health during this year of the pig.

What a whirlwind of weather we have had this week. With the drastic change in temperature and weather conditions, our caretakers are doing the best they can to create clear and safe walkways, but icy conditions remain an issue. Please be careful walking in the yard.

### **Blake School Guiding Question: January to March**

This past week students came together to celebrate our learning on this term's school wide Big Idea : "How do I fit in and contribute to my community?" Both primary and junior classes took part in the read aloud of the book **Gandhi's Glasses**, written and illustrated by students in Model Schools for Inner Cities. "Gandhi's Glasses has been created through a project called the Gandhi Way: Engaging Youth in Global Citizenship. This is an educational partnership with the Canadian International Development Agency, World Literacy Canada and the Toronto District School Board. This project worked to encourage global citizenship using Mahatma Gandhi's life and work as an introduction to social justice issues."

The book focused on a girl named Asha who, through her daily school experiences, saw many problems, but never felt she had the ability to solve them. In her language class, she begins to learn about Mahatma Gandhi and mysteriously finds a pair of yellow golden glasses similar to the ones Gandhi himself wore. Upon putting on the glasses, she begins to feel a sense of confidence and empowerment in making positive changes and contributing to improving her community and those in it. The book reminds us that we all have the power to contribute to our community to make positive change, no matter our age or our size.

To support learning and build community we will be celebrating Random Acts of Kindness next week.

All students watched the animated video, **Make Joy Happen**, while junior students also watched the video, **Revolution of Love**. We discussed key messages in both videos, as well as the lyrics within the junior video. Students were asked to reflect on how they could contribute

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positively to their community. This will form the basis of our redesigned bulletin board outside the gym ...stay tuned.

### **Upcoming Report Card and Parent Teacher Conferences**

Report cards will be sent home on Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, with parent teacher interviews set up for Thursday evening and Friday morning (unless other times have been provided by your child's teacher). Should you wish to set up an interview to discuss your child's progress, please contact your child's teacher.

### **African Heritage Month**

This month we acknowledge African Heritage Month. Beside morning announcements, classroom teachers are engaging students in learning through read aloud and class conversations. The TDSB is offering is hosting #thetalk....Talking Race and Racism With Your Child.

The **#Talk** is a rite of passage for many children of African Descent: parental warnings on how to handle racial discrimination. This talk will explore the research, complexity and challenges navigating race and racism.

Session will be facilitated by Michelle Munroe,  
Manager Parent and Community Engagement, TDSB

**Wednesday February 13, 2019**

6:30 p.m.

5050 Yonge Street, Boardroom

**Wednesday February 27, 2019**

6:30 p.m.

Scarborough Civic Centre, Room 3&4

140 Borough Drive

### **Kindergarten Registration**

JK Kindergarten registration at Blake Street Jr 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](http://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.

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### **Upcoming Dates:**

February 11 – 15: English Kindergarten Registration Week  
February 13 : Report Cards Sent Home  
February 14: School Wide Lice Check  
February 14 (pm) and 15 (am): Parent Teacher Conferences  
February 15: PA Day (no school)  
February 18: Family Day (no school)  
February 22: Spirit Day - Wacky Socks

Should you have any questions or concerns about the content of this newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact me at [jennifer.zurba@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:jennifer.zurba@tdsb.on.ca)

Have a great weekend,

Jennifer and Tina