

BLAKE STREET PS NEWSLETTER: Friday June 21, 2019



Play Day

A great day of cooperative fun was had by all!!!

Talent Show

Next Tuesday June 25, from 10:15 – 11:30, we will be hosting our first annual Talent Show. The focus on this is fun and confidence-building, and students have been encouraged to practice how they will introduce their act and how to thank the audience afterwards. They need to make sure they bring any needed items for their act for Tuesday. This is a fun community building event, but it is not a musical showcase or performance. While parents are invited to attend, please note that it is a very casual celebration as opposed to a polished musical performance. Please note that Seating for guests will be extremely limited as all classes will be watching the performance as well.

Graduation – Bakers Needed

On June 26th, we will be hosting our grade 6 Graduation. We are looking for some bakers who may be able to make some cupcakes for the event. If you are able to do so, please let Ms. Barr know by emailing her at erin.barr@tdsb.on.ca

Eco School Status

Congratulations to Blake Street PS for earning ECO Schools Platinum certification!

ECO Schools was impressed with:

Eco Club's campaign to lessen the use of single use plastics and build awareness of the problems created for the environment because of single use plastics.

The Ecological Literacy evident throughout the school in Indigenous education, science inquiry and social justice themes.

Rich excursions such as the grade 5/6 trip to Queen's park for Climate Action.

Special mention was made of our beautiful and educational school grounds, thanks to Elin, our garden educator, and the Pollinator Club.

Thanks to all of our ECO Club members for their hard work!

-Madame Stagni, Mr. Richman, Ms. Kiil and Ms. Ellis

Pizza

A reminder that today was the last day of pizza lunch – there will be no pizza lunch next week.

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Teaching Assignments

At this time I would like to share with you the tentative teaching assignments for the fall of 2019. Please keep in mind that there is always a possibility of a re-organization come the fall, particularly in the English Kindergarten classes.

I would also like to share some goodbyes, some congrats, and some see you soon, and some welcomes. First off, a BIG congratulations for Debra Ellis, our ESL teacher in the afternoons who officially retires at the end of the school year. An interesting fact I learned is that Ms. Ellis began her teaching career here at Blake as a student teacher. We wish her all the best in this new phase of her life.

We would like to also say farewell to Ms. Walker, our ECE in Room 102. We wish her all the best as she moves on to a new location.

As we, farewells go out to a number of our lunchroom supervisors: Ms. Janet, Mr. Leary, Ms. Carla, Ms. Olivia Brooks

We would also like to say farewell to our wonderful long term occasional teachers, some who have been with us all year, some just a few weeks. Regardless, we have been fortunate to find such gems of teachers, and we thank them for their support of our students, and community. We do wish to see them all in the fall in some capacity or another. Farewell to Ms. Connie Brooks, Mr. Tapley, Ms. Damer, and Ms. Gutowski.

We wish Ms. Barr and Ms. Dymont a great year off next year as they take advantage of their 4 over 5. As well, we wish Mrs. Wald all the best as she welcomes her second child in August.

Finally, some welcomes. We would like to welcome Ms. Asma Motala, our new English Kindergarten teacher who comes to us with many years as both an ECE and a kindergarten teacher at Jackman Avenue PS. We would also like to welcome Mr. Dimitri Alexopoulos, our new physical education teacher, who comes to us from North York with extensive experience in phys. ed and in TDSB sporting events.

English:

FDK – Room 100: Ms. Whiteside

FDK – Room 102: Ms. Motala

FDK – Room 101 (under 16 students with no ECE): Ms. Church

Grade 1 (Rm 107: Mr. Fowler) and **Grade 1 /2** (Rm 106): Mr. Lowe- co-teaching

Grade 2 /3 – Room 108 : Ms. Kagan

Grade 3 /4 – Room 212 : Mr. Tsai

Grade 4 /5 – Room 308 : Mr. Nicolaou (LTO in from September to March)

Grade 5/ 6 – Room 310 : Mr. Richman

French:

SK FI – Room 104: Mme Molder

SK FI – Room 105 – Mme Morton

Grade 1: TBD

Grade 1 / 2 FI (Room 206): Mme Burke and **Grade 1 /2 FI** (Room 207): Mme Clark - co-teaching

Grade 2/3 FI (Room 208) : Mme Thomas and **Grade 3 FI** (Room 209) : Mme Lafontaine

Grade 4/5 (Room 200) Mme O'Sullivan and **Grade 4/5** (Room 201): TBD – co-teaching

Music – Room 103: Ms. Paton

Special Education – Room 213: Ms. Logan

Extra Junior Support and Special Education: TBD

French and French Immersion Special Education: Mme Stagni

Library and Drama and Dance: Ms. Psaralogos

Physical Education: Mr. Alexopoulos

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Half Physical Education: Ms. Weinberg

As is customary, classroom placements will be posted the Friday of the Labour Day weekend at noon on our centre door (Door 5). Only incoming JK students and SK FI students will receive an email in the summer notifying them of their placements.

Expect your child to bring home their report card on Tuesday June 25th.

Have you moved or is your child attending a new school in the fall?

For those of you who have moved out of the Blake Street attendance area over the school year, your child has been permitted to complete their 2019 school year here at Blake. ***For the 2019/2020 School Year you will need to register your child at his/her home school.***

Or those of you celebrating the Summer solstice today, enjoy!!! The first day of summer has arrived, let's hope the weather shows it.

A reminder that we are a NUT SAFE SCHOOL. Please be sure to not send your child with any NUT products as many of our students suffer LIFE THREATENING allergies.

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

This is the last newsletter of the 2018 – 2019 school year. We wish you and your family a safe, restful and enjoyable summer. We will see you all back here September 3rd

Jennifer and Tina

Upcoming Dates:

June 26: Blake Graduation, 6:00 – 7:00

June 27: Last Day of School

Blake School Council Announcements

A call out for bakers: If you would like to contribute a baked good to this year's Grade 6 graduation celebration, please drop it off in the main office the morning of Wednesday, June 26.

Calling all budding artists: We're going to send thank you letters to all of our amazing Fun Fair sponsors. In order to make them REALLY memorable (hint: sponsor us again next year, please!), we'd love to enclose pictures drawn by Blake kids. Just a regular 8x11 or 11x17 drawing would be wonderful. Maybe a drawing of the Fun Fair with the word Thank You? Whatever your artist is inspired to do! Please have photos in by early next week; they can be left in the Parent Council mailbox, in the office.

If you donated a cooler to this year's fun fair, please be sure to pick it up at the main office. And next week is your last chance to pick up any stuff in the Lost & Found before those items are donated.

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Mark it on your calendar: Blake's Welcome Back Potluck Picnic is on Thursday, September 5 at 5:30 p.m. in the school year. Please bring a dish to share! There will be live music entertainment, OPAL play and a barbecue.

A note from this year's Blake School Council executive (and details on how to get involved next year)

On behalf of the Executive Team consisting of Lanrick Bennett Jr. (Co-Chair), Andrea Gusen (Co-Recording Secretary), Dean Kotwal (Treasurer), Sarah Rogers (Co-Recording Secretary) and Karen Thomson (Co-Chair), Lanrick and I would like to say a huge **THANK YOU** for another successful school year! We started the year with our 2nd annual Welcome Back Pot Luck, this year featuring live music!! Soon after, the excitement built as the Fall Raffle began. Lucky winners won some amazing prizes. Then Halloween arrived and with it, a fantastic Halloween Dance, full of dancing, costumes, and fun. Before the winter hit, we also organized another very successful Clothing and Book Swap, a great eco-initiative that saves the planet while saving everyone a few dollars. In the fall and again in the spring, we enjoyed 2 movie nights, complete with popcorn and cotton candy, of course. In the spring, we had our first (annual?) Family Wellness Night and were overwhelmed by the number of kids and parents who attended this event to learn how to keep their families healthy, mentally and physically. After that, we enjoyed our first Parent Social and Silent Auction. This raised a record amount of money, as well as offering an opportunity for parents to socialize (and watch the Raptors win!) Finally, just last weekend, we enjoyed the Fun Fair! Luckily, the rain held off so that the kids and the parents could have a great time.

These are the wonderful events that you know well, I'm sure, but throughout the year, other, less high-profile teams have been diligently working on behalf of the school council. Every week, the Communications Team pulls together information about school council business for the newsletter, posts information on Facebook and the [blog](#), and generally keeps us all informed of what the council is up to. The Lice Squad volunteers performed 2 different lice checks on the kids at Blake, ensuring that these pesky varmints stay under control. The Playground Improvements committee has been meeting with kids and representatives of OPAL and the TDSB to plan the new and improved school playground. Check out the minutes of the most recent meeting for an update. Our Spiritwear team made sure that our kids were decked out in their finest black and red for Spirit Day. And finally, a huge shout out to the amazing Grant Writers who had a very successful year, securing two huge grants to buy musical instruments for the school, as well as many other donations that help us run our events and programs!

None of this could be done without the hard work of the amazing volunteers who give their time, and energy to making sure that Blake Street School is the best place to play and learn. If you would like to support the wonderful work of any of these teams, please review this [description of the teams](#) and how you can contribute.

We will have our first School Council meeting in September, and at that time, we will elect our school council. If you wish to become an official member of council, please read the [bylaws](#) or [this blog post](#) outlining the responsibilities of council members. In that meeting, council members will also elect the next Council Executive. If you are interested in learning more about what the Executive does, please read [this](#) document outlining the responsibilities and time commitment. At this time, our Treasurer, Dean, is planning to stand for re-election, and Sarah Lawson is standing for election as the Co-Treasurer. Our Co-Recording Secretary, Andrea Gusen, is also standing for re-election. Lanrick Bennett Jr. will be standing for re-election for Co-Chair, and he would love to hear from anyone interested in working with him next year. If you feel you would

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like to stand for election to any of the positions listed, please review the information and contact blakeschoolcouncil.tdsb@gmail.com with your questions. To review all the election information, please read [the bylaws](#).

Thank you again to the council members who attended meetings and contributed to the discussions. Thank you to all of you who volunteered at events and behind the scenes, and of course, thank you to all of you who attended the amazing events! We couldn't do it without you. We look forward to another successful year in 2019/20.

Lanrick Bennett Jr. and Karen Thomson
Co-Chairs, Blake Street School Council

Please see the attached flyer relating to our annual Welcome back BBQ on Thursday June 5th, starting at 5:30. Be sure to mark the event in your calendars!!!!

Community Announcements

News from Councillor Fletcher

I am writing to invite you all to a small event that Councillor Fletcher and Trustee Story are putting together to celebrate the hard work of the Blake Street School Community in fighting for the newly activated traffic light at Jones and Boulton. On Monday June 24th at 8:20am we will have a short event at Jones and Boulton, I hope you are able to join us. Please pass this info along to anyone who is interested. Our office will send out communications and social media starting very soon. Our office will also make a Facebook Event that can be shared.

Kidsfest

It's a long 9 weeks ahead, but here's some good cheap entertainment for you and your kids during the first two weeks.

Kidsfest is part of the Toronto Fringe Festival. First there is the theatre component with 7 shows suitable for kids ages 5-12. Kids' tix are just \$5 and adults \$13. Wondering which ones to see? Come to Lexi and the Flying b's, written and produced by Blake's own Joan Jamieson, and featuring lots of shout outs to Blake. Can a dyslexic 9 year old, her grandma and her painfully shy friend find happiness in a garden full of bees? Come see the show and find out.

As well as all the theatre, there is a whole festival free of charge featuring a lego table, crafts, a dress up tent, a cave, workshops, a performance stage and on the weekends a bouncy castle. Everything happens at George Ignatieff Theatre, a short walk from the St George subway. For tickets and show times visit www.fringetoronto.com. See attached flyer.

Summer Book Bank Activities

School's nearly out, and everyone's gearing up for summer vacation! The Book Bank will be hosting its Summer Reading Program again this year, from July 2 to August 30. This year, the theme is Summer in the City - celebrating all the fun activities Toronto has to offer. Children ages 3-12 can sign up at any time, and will receive a notebook to keep track of all the books they read. At the end of the summer, we will celebrate all our participants with prizes, cupcakes, and books! See attached flyer.

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