

BLAKE STREET PS NEWSLETTER: Friday March 1, 2019



The week brought another snow fall, and all the fun that comes with it. Children continue to have a blast sledding down the hill, which is also very icy. We ask that you review our school wide OPAL rules with your children to guide and support them in their play choices and decisions:

OPAL RULES:

Respect the boundaries

Listen to others

Have fun

OPAL Guiding Questions for PLAY:

Is it safe enough for me and those around me?

Is it inclusive?

Am I having fun?

Please remind them that they are responsible for their own fun. If they don't like what they are playing, how they are playing, or who they are playing with, they can CHANGE IT!

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

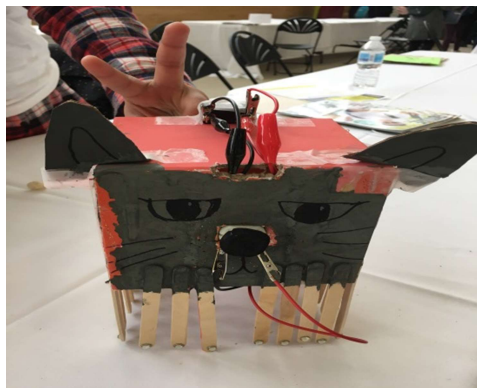
Please join us on **Thursday, March 7th, from 6:00 – 7:00 pm** in the gym for Family Board Game Night. Parents will also be invited to take part in a 10 minute presentation on our School Based OPAL Philosophy and how it impacts play and learning. Light snacks and refreshments will be served.

Grade 6 STEM Equity Conference

On Wednesday, February 27, four grade 6 students embarked on a journey to Centennial College to participate in the STEM Equity Conference. It was a snowy day but that did not stop us from venturing to Scarborough early in the morning. Once we were there we learned they had to shorten the conference because of the weather. The students did not let that slow down

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their excitement, and they quickly set to work setting up their STEM projects to show off their successes at the fair. The students were motivated by several speakers, the Runnymede Steel Pan players, and the Amesbury Middle school steppers that all put on a fabulous performance. Students attended a workshop and got to spend time coding the "Sphero" Robot. The goal was to try to get the robot to follow a maze to a bowl of candy. The day ended early, but at least we all got pizza and cookies. Overall it was a great day and it was inspiring to see all the great work that STEM thinkers across the TDSB are engaged in.



The Skate Library

The Blake Skate Library is still open for a few more weeks while the city rinks remain open. If you would like to borrow skates, please send an email to Ms. Church (jodie.church@tdsb.on.ca) who will be signing out skates while Ms. Kiil is on leave. If you are finished with skates that you have borrowed, they can be left in the main office and they will be made available for other families. In addition, if you have any skates that you would like to donate to the Blake Skate Library, they can also be left in the main office.

Parents as Partners Conference 2019

Registration is now open for the Parents as Partners Conference!

The Parents as Partners Conference 2019 is on Saturday, March 30 and all parents are welcome! This free conference – planned by parents, for parents – includes a variety of workshops and resources that will help any parent support their child in their achievement and well-being at school and at home. This is an exciting and valuable opportunity.

Transportation, day camp for children aged 4-12, and lunch are all provided.

Register now at www.parentsaspartners.ca

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REMINDERS:

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

If you have not yet completed the online portion of the kindergarten registration which can be accessed at www.tdsb.on.ca/kindergarten please do so at your earliest convenience. Should you require the use of a computer, come to the office.

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, your online portion was completed when you initially registered in the fall, and was completed when you accepted. You are still required to complete the in person paper work. 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.

Upcoming Dates:

March 4 – 8: French Immersion Kindergarten Registration

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

March 7 : Earth Rangers Assembly grades

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

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. See attached flyer.

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

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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.

Community News

March is Greek Heritage Month at the TDSB

This year's theme is **"Wisdom, Hope, Love" – "Sofia, Elpida, Agape"**.

The Opening Event will take place on Saturday, March 2 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Greek Community of Toronto – 30 Thorncliffe Park Dr. and the month long celebration will culminate with a Closing Event at East York C.I. on Saturday, 30 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. These events will feature music, dance, art, food, cultural displays and special presentations from TDSB elementary and secondary students and community members. We look forward to seeing you there!

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.

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
Have a great weekend,

Jennifer and Tina