

BLAKE STREET PS NEWSLETTER: Friday March 8, 2019



We are certainly going out with a BANG before the March Break, with three different school performances (outlined below), a FAMILY Board Game Night and Parent OPAL presentation, as well as a school wide Beach Activity Day - this week has been a busy one!

All of the kindergarten to grade 3 students got to enjoy an assembly on Tuesday where we learned about school bus safety. We learned how to board the bus safely, how to ride the bus when it starts to move, and the safest way to get off of the school bus. It was fun to learn many safety facts from 'Buster the Bus', the mini talking and moving school bus; it was an informative and entertaining assembly.



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Wednesday afternoon brought the Prologue of the Performance Arts School performance of "Bboyizm – The Evolution of Bboying". During the course of the hour-long performance, we were taken on a journey through the decades and influences that formed the street dance that we know and practice today. Our favourite part was the audience participation, and we applaud our staff and students who participated! Check out our Facebook page for photos!

On Thursday the Earth Rangers came to visit Blake to give our grade 1 to 6 classes a very interesting presentation focusing on climate change, what we can do about it, and how climate change is affecting animals. The Earth Rangers showed us a few live animals, and spoke about each one individually with a focus on what we can do to help maintain their habitats. The assembly was topped off with a friendly eco-trivia game between Mme. Clark and Mr. Nicolaou and their student support teams. Ask your child who came out on top!



It was great to see a number of you out at our Family Board Game Night, enjoying quality time with your children. For those of you that were not able to attend and benefit from our short parent presentation of our OPAL School wide play philosophy, the power point is attached. A special thank you to Mr. Lowe for his leadership on this parent talk, and to Ms. Barr, Ms. Dymont Mme. Clark, and Mme Burke for their support of our Board game Night. If you missed the OPAL presentation below is a link.

[Outdoor Play and Learning \(OPAL\) presentation link](#)



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Our week ended with students in grades 1 to 6 participating in a full day of beach related activities; including beach volleyball in the gym, beach wear dress up relay, the building of sand' castles, beach blanket bingo, and watching as our staff participated in a Hula Hoop contest. It is our hope that our active attempts at enjoying a beach day will bring an early spring!!!! We can only hope.



BEACH BLANKET BINGO



STAFF HULA HOOP CONTEST

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BEACH VOLLEYBALL IN ACTION

And now for some exciting Music news... The Grants Committee, along with Music Teacher Liz Paton, is thrilled to announce that Blake School is the recipient of a MusiCounts Band Aid Grant for \$9700. This, combined with the previously announced S'Cool Life Grant (\$2400), will support the building of our music program by purchasing much-needed instruments. These include: xylophones, glockenspiels, a metallophone, contra bass bars, a cabasa, cowbells, an agogo, a shekere, a kokiriko, beaded maracas, temple blocks, tambourines, wind chimes, a gong, finger cymbals, bass, tenor, alto, soprano and sopranino recorders, a thunder tube, an ocean drum, a rain stick, djembe drums, doumbek drums, and a djun drum.

We deeply thank the following people for their support: Susie Burpee, Liz Paton, Kelly Dymment, Sue Yahoda, Lanrick Bennett, Valerie Laurie, MusiCounts BandAid Program, John Bitove and the S'Cool Life Fund, and a huge thank you to all the families and students who contributed letters and testimonials. Our hearts our singing!

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Finally, March 8th recognizes International Women's Day. Thanks to Ms. Dymont for another great book display!

A reminder that next week is March Break, and we look forward to seeing your children all back on Monday, March 18th.

REMINDERS:

Thank you to all the families that have been participating in Blake's Friday pizza lunches. This is a reminder to those families who signed up by term, that this Friday, March 8th is the last day of the 'Pizza Term'. If you would like your child to continue to receive pizza lunch after the March Break to the end of the school year, there are 14 more Fridays to go at a cost of \$70.00.

Pizza envelopes are always available in the office, and, as always, you can sign up for pizza any way you want – once in a while, weekly, bi-weekly, monthly or every Friday until the end of the school year. Envelopes must be received in the office by **Wednesdays** at 3:30 unless the Friday happens to be a PA day in which case envelopes need to be received by **Tuesday** at 3:30. The proceeds of the Pizza lunches have gone to support many exciting initiatives at Blake. Thank you for your continued support!

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Please share this news with any neighbours 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, immunization records. For those registering 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.

We ask that you do so in the afternoons as Ms. Scott is by herself in the mornings.

Upcoming Dates:

March 11 – 15: MARCH BREAK

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

March 29: EARTH HOUR from 2:00 – 3:00

April 11: Day of Pink

April 18: Lice Check

April 19: Good Friday – no school

April 22: Easter Monday – no school

April 23: Earth Day Assembly

April 26: School Wide Earth Day Clean Up

May 2: Prologue Presentation – Silk Road

May 2: NUIT BLAKE A Celebration of the Arts 6:00 – 7:00

May 6: Start of Ramadan

May 8: Family Fun Night and Parent Presentation on Inquiry, 6:00 – 7:00

May 21-31: EQAO for Grades 3 and 6

May 24: Parent Council Silent Auction

May 23: 6:00 – 7:00 Welcome to Kindergarten Night for both English and French Immersion

June 7: PA DAY – no school

June 10 – 12: Grade 6s at Mono Cliffs

June 18 : Volunteer Tea

June 20: Play Day for grades 1- 6

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

June 27: Last Day of School

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

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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 **6:00-8:00p.m** in the library . The free event includes dinner and activities for children.

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.

Community News

March Break at the Children's Book Bank

Lots of great activities are taking place at the Book Bank during the March Break, so do drop by. The book bank is located at 350 Berkley St (Parliament and Gerrard)

Monday March 11: 2pm Collage with author and illustrator Thao Lam

Tuesday March 12: 2pm, Book Bank Scavenger Hunt

Wednesday March 13: 2pm Costume Building with Randy

Thursday March 14: 2pm Sing along with Musical Guests

Storytimes every day at 11:30 and 1:30 including Friday and Saturdays

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