

# Blake News

The Newsletter of  
Blake Street Public School  
Phone: (416) 393-9415



**Blake Street Public School**  
21 Boulton Avenue, Toronto, ON M4J 1A7  
**Jennifer Zurba**, Principal      **Tina Weinberg**, Vice Principal  
**Mary Jane McNamara**, Superintendent of Education      **Jennifer Story**, School Trustee

Welcome back to all of our Blake Street Families and staff members. I hope that you have all had a relaxing and enjoyable summer. I am thrilled to be a part of the Blake Street team and community, and have been so appreciative of the warm welcome and offers of support. This is no doubt is a special school and we are all looking forward to another vibrant year of learning together.

The first day of school is always one of my favourites. It is an exciting time of renewal; it is a clean slate where we can all start fresh. Our teachers and staff will be taking the time to get to know our students; who they are, their unique interests and backgrounds, and work to build a solid foundation of community in our classrooms and in our school. This sense of community and belonging is our number one priority. School must be a safe and happy place, a place where we look forward to coming each and every day. If this is not the case, let us know. If you ever have an issue or a concern, please let your child's teacher know, or if it is of a more serious nature, please do contact me directly. It is always easier to solve a problem right away then to let it grow and percolate.

This morning was a sight to see; the faces of our students were bright and smiling, eager to begin another year of learning, and excited to make new friends and see old ones. It has been a great first day here at Blake Street.

**Email blasts will be sent out every Friday, so it is necessary for you to sign the enclosed email consent form. These newsletters will contain important information regarding school activities, special events and directives. Once they start, be sure that the email blasts are not going to your Spam folder and that you are receiving them.**

I look forward to meeting many of you in the coming weeks, and working with you to continue to build strong home and school partnerships.

Should you have any questions or concerns with the content of this newsletter, or any other school related issues, please email me directly at [jennifer.zurba@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:jennifer.zurba@tdsb.on.ca)

Jennifer Zurba

## Welcome to our New Staff Members

This fall, there are many many new staff we would like to welcome. Below is a full review of all staff and their assigned roles:

JK, Rm 100 : Ms. Whiteside  
FDK, Rm 101 – Ms. Church  
ECE, Rm 101 – Ms. Mitoulas  
FDK, Rm 102 – Mr. Fowler  
ECE, Rm 102 – Ms. Byres  
Gr 1/2, Rm 206 – Ms. Di Cesare  
Gr 1/2, Rm 207 – Ms. Barr  
Gr 2/3, Rm 204 – Mr. Lowe  
Gr 2/3, Rm 208 – Mr. Tsai  
Gr 4/5, Rm 308 – Mr. Nicolaou  
Gr 5/6, Rm 310 – Mr. Richman  
Pri. HSP, Rm 213 – Ms. Logan  
Jr. HSP, Rm 312 – Ms. Psaralagos  
ESL, Rm 312 – Ms. Ellis

FI SK, Rm 104 – Mme Molder  
ECE, Rm 104 – Mme Muela  
FI SK, Rm 105 – Mme Morton  
ECE, Rm 105 – Mme Kaushal - Bell  
Gr 1, Rm 108 – Mme Dorcin  
Gr 1, Rm 107 – Mme Bertrand  
Gr 1/2 FI, Rm 106 – Mme Clark  
Gr 2 FI, Rm 203 – Mme O'Sullivan  
Gr 2/3 FI, Rm 202 – Mme Burke  
Gr 2/3 FI, Rm 205 – Mme Wald  
AM Phys. Ed – Ms. Weinberg  
PM Phys. Ed – Ms. Kiil  
Music – Ms. Paton  
French & Visual Art – Mme Stagni  
Library, Drama /Dance– Ms. Dymont  
Office – Ms. Reashore  
Office (PM) – Ms. Scott  
EA – Ms. Kassam  
SNA – Ms. Theed

SNA – Mr. Avalos  
Lunchroom Supervisors:  
Gym – Ms. Whynder  
Gym – Ms. Vassiliou  
Gym – TBD  
Rm 100- Ms. Booth  
Rm 101- Ms. Maryam  
Rm 102- Ms. Foussias  
Rm 104 – Ms. Linton  
Rm 105 – Ms. Roy

## September Forms Enclosed

Please complete the forms attached in this start up package and return them to your child's classroom teacher by **Friday September 15<sup>th</sup>**; Permission Consent Form, Medical Information, Acknowledgment, Medical Conditions.

### Going Greener

This year, we are implementing a go green policy, with our goal of going as paperless as possible. With this in mind, it will be very important for you to complete the Parent Email Contact form enclosed. This will allow you to receive weekly information that had previously been sent home on paper. For those parents who choose not to sign the email contact consent form or who do not have access to email, newsletters and inserts can be picked up in the office.

### Litterless Lunch Program

In order to be environmentally conscious we will continue implementing a *litterless* lunch program at Blake. Please send lunches in reusable or recyclable containers. Students will take any non-recyclable waste or uneaten food home with them in their lunch bags. **Please put the student name either on the lunch bag or inside the bag.**

**Any late lunches can be dropped off in the large bin outside of the office, however no announcements or calls will be accommodated notifying children of lunch drop off. A reminder that we are a NUT FREE school.**

### Drop Offs and Pick Ups

It is extremely important that students are at school on time. For all students, Kindergarten to Grade 6, school starts at 8:40, lunch is from 11:30 –12:33, the afternoon entry bell rings at 12:33, and school is dismissed at 3:20. Students entering class after 8:45 will be marked as late.

### Kindergarten Drop off and Pick Ups

English Kindergarten students will meet in the mornings in the Kindergarten playground located on the south side of the school. French Immersion kindergarten students will meet in the garden area on the north side of the school (facing Boulton). For afternoon dismissal at 3:20, caregivers picking up students are able to enter through exit 4 (located at the kindergarten playground) and meet their children at their classrooms.

All grade 1 – 6 students are to be

dropped off and picked up from the back doors (exits 5 and 6).

As per school policy, parents are asked to say goodbye to their children at morning entry times, as it is time for students to become independent learners.

***The office is a busy place. Because of this, we cannot pass on communications to your children unless it is an emergency. As well, the office phones are not to be used to set up play dates and after school activities. Please be sure that your child is clear on their after school activities prior to the start of the school day. To help us out, you can communicate any needed early student picks with your child's teacher.***

Parent volunteers are always welcome and much appreciated. If interested in volunteering, please touch base with your child's teacher. All parents / visitors are asked to start their visit by signing in at the school office.

### Snack and Breakfast Program

We're happy to say that the morning snack program is up and running. See the attached snack menu. A thank you to the Toronto Foundation for Student Success (TFSS) who supports the snack program throughout Toronto. And, of course, a BIG thank you to parent / guardian contributions! Please remember, though, that students participate regardless of their ability to pay; there is always a snack available for anyone who wants one. Our breakfast program will begin on Monday September 11, and runs in the gym from 8:00 – 8:30. For those students accessing the breakfast program, they must enter the school through the side gym doors. The program is supervised, and as such, parents are asked to say goodbye to their children at the door. Participating in the breakfast program is a privilege. Student participation is based on their ability to follow through on behavior expectations:

- be courteous and polite
- observe our school code of behaviour

-cooperate with our breakfast program staff

-once in the breakfast program in the morning, they are to remain there until dismissed at 8:25 where they will be sent outside and supervised by a teacher on duty.

Happy Snacking!

### Car Drop Offs and Pick Ups

If you are dropping off or picking up a student by car, please do not park in front of the main school entrance. The school bus requires full access to Boulton Avenue, and the safety of students is a big concern, especially when they are trying to get on and off the school bus. As an alternative for drop off and/or pick up, please use Keswick Avenue on the west side of the school.

### Class Placement

As you may know the TDSB is required to be in compliance with the Ministry of Education's plan to reduce primary class sizes. This means that within the entire TDSB, 90% of Grade 1 to Grade 3 classes will have no more than 20 students with the remaining 10% having no more than 23. Although we always do our best to plan in June for the next school year, there are always factors in September, such as new or departing students, that might affect how classrooms are organized and in which class a child will be placed. If the classes at Blake Street need to be reorganized, the Board will notify us sometime later in September as to when and how this will happen. We will keep you posted.

### School Council Update

Welcome back. On behalf of School Council, we hope that you had a great summer and we are looking forward to a fantastic school year.

Our first meeting of the school year will be Thursday September 21<sup>st</sup>, 6:00 pm in the school library. Pizza dinner and child minding is provided. I encourage you to come out to the meeting as you will have a chance to learn more about what the School Council does at Blake and how you can be a part of this amazing team of volunteers

Attendees will also be voting to accept the executive for the upcoming year. Please be on the lookout for a letter that will be going home with your child for more information, and remember that you can get timely updates by subscribing to the Blake Blog at <https://blakestreetparents.wordpress.com/> and liking the Blake facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/BlakeStreetPublicSchool/>).

### **Tips for Effective Communication Between Home and School**

Effective communication between home and school is key to ensuring that our students are successful. Here are a few tips:

-The best way to stay in touch with what is happening with your child at school is to talk to him/her and ask open-ended questions, e.g., "Tell me about the most interesting thing that happened at school today?"

-Daily communication in your child's agenda with the classroom teacher.

-Reading all of the material sent / emailed home weekly will help keep you abreast of school events and news.

-If you have a concern about a classroom issue your first line of communication is the classroom teacher. He or she knows your child best in the school environment.

-If you and/or the teacher feel that further follow up is necessary, then the issue can be referred to the principal.

-If you have a concern related to something outside of the classroom then please contact the office directly.

### **Dates to Remember**

**September 19:** First School Council Meeting, 6:00 – 8:00

**September 28:** Curriculum Night