

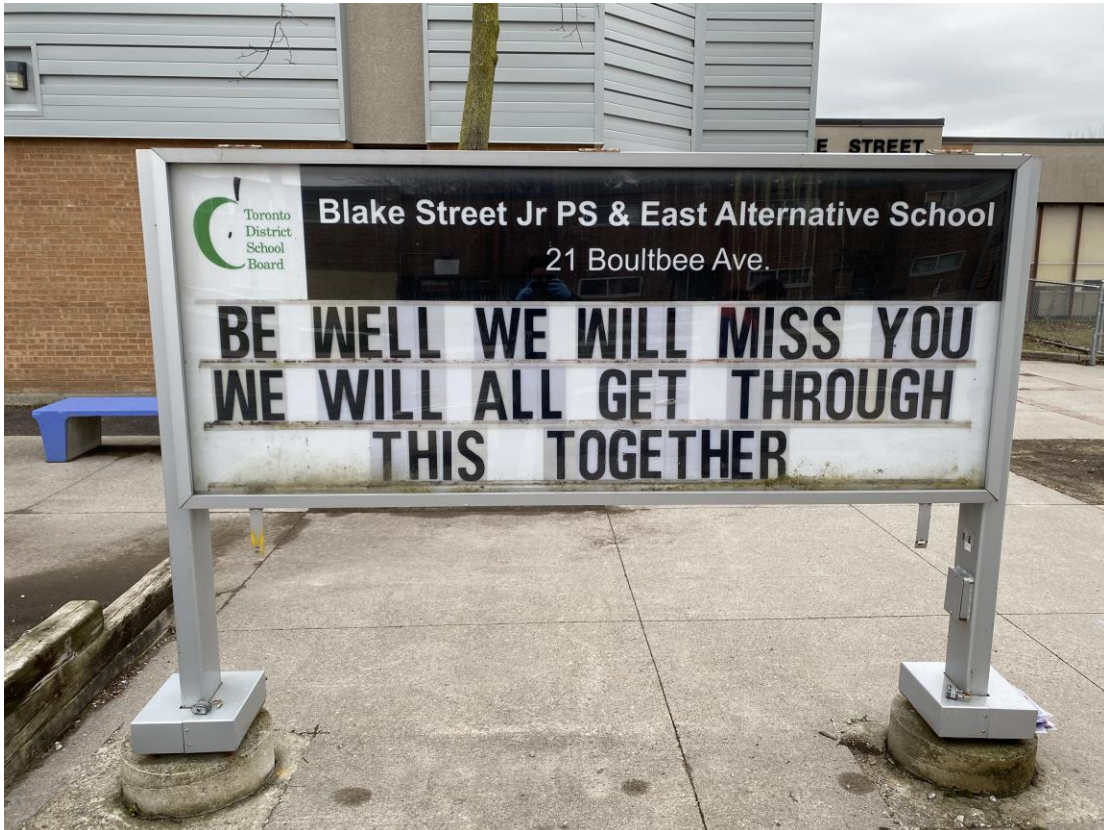
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# Blake News

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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      **Jackilyn Wallace**, Vice Principal  
**Mary Jane McNamara**, Superintendent of Education      **Jennifer Story**, School Trustee



As we complete week two of remote learning, I want to thank you for your ongoing patience and flexibility in working through challenges. I know that many of you are waiting for technology and wondering when it will be coming. I do not have that information the board is organizing this centrally. I do know that before delivery I will receive an email, that will be shared with staff. They are then asked to call you to let you now it is on its way and to make sure you are home to receive it. This seems to be happening in dribs and drabs, with older children receiving technology first.

Again, I appreciate your patience, and we ask you do the best you can with what you have available. Most tasks for our primary students only require very brief technology access just to see the weekly posted learning tasks, and those tasks do not need to be completed on a computer. Again, we hope that this situation will be sorted out as soon as possible. Please know the TDSB is working at full capacity at this time, and are doing their very best in these unprecedented circumstances.

Our learning has moved to a more technology centered approach these days and I would like to remind you of the importance of online safety for our students. During this time when many students spend an increased amount of time online, it is incredibly important to reinforce online safety practices. The internet offers many opportunities for our communities to learn and connect, but it can also put youth at risk for cyberbullying, inappropriate use of social media, privacy issues and more. Below you will find information to help support discussions about online safety with your family. If we work together – parents/guardians, students and educators – we can help keep our students safe from online risks.

Here are some key online safety tips for parents/guardians and students:

- Students should never share personal information, such as their phone number, address, social insurance number, date of birth, personal images or financial information, over the Internet without adult permission;
- If students see a message, comment, image, or anything else online that makes them concerned for their personal safety or feel uncomfortable, they should bring it to the attention of an adult immediately; and
- Parents/guardians should be aware and monitor the websites, video games and apps that your child is using to ensure they are appropriate and used in a safe manner.

For more information, please visit the [TDSB Online Safety web page](#)

If you could use some support with food, please check out the Hands Up Toronto link. I am not certain if this is a one- time support, or something that can be accessed monthly. I am looking into it and will share with any updates. Hand up Toronto is providing \$25 worth of food per child in the home. Families will need to complete the Google form below and consent to being contacted by Hand Up Toronto to arrange for a food delivery. Hand Up for Kids - an initiative created in response to the COVID - 19 impacts on the Toronto area , particularly towards alleviating food insecurity. This initiative aims to provide healthy meals to low income households with children and vulnerable youths that are in need. <https://handuptoronto.org/>

If you are a low income family with children, click below to request breakfast care packages. In light of the developing COVID-19 situation, our team at Hand Up Toronto is launching a new grocery delivery service initiative to help our community, families, and children in need to get the groceries they need.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSelqcMEBCpzpQXr\\_S9K2BmdGab\\_PFTnGHcZU0Ex00tKRNhQKQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSelqcMEBCpzpQXr_S9K2BmdGab_PFTnGHcZU0Ex00tKRNhQKQ/viewform)

We will also be sourcing our groceries exclusively from local grocers, to provide them the support they need.

Torontonians who don't have a Toronto Public Library card can now access OverDrive, our largest collection of ebooks and audiobooks, with the new Instant Digital Card. This temporary card is available to people age 13 and older with a Toronto cell phone that can receive texts. New customers can enjoy this access until September 1, 2020.

<https://torontopubliclibrary.typepad.com/digital-services/2020/04/digital-library-card-tpi2020.html>

While schools and child care centres are closed, parents can apply for direct funding to offset the cost of buying materials to support their children's learning, while they practice self-isolation and physical distancing. Eligible parents will receive a one-time per child payment of:

- \$200 for children aged 0 to 12
- \$250 for children or youth aged 0 to 21 with special needs

This funding can help parents with the costs of work books, educational apps, educational subscription services, movies and other tools to support learning at home. To apply, please access the link below

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/get-support-families>

For all families that have paid in advance for pizza after March 13<sup>th</sup>, we will begin to process refunds next week once Ms. Scott has access to a board computer. If you paid for pizza online, the refund will be credited to your credit or debit card. If you paid by cheque, Ms. Scott will contact you to arrange an, e transfer. If you paid cash, Ms. Scott will contact you directly to make arrangements.

For those of you who will begin to observe the holy month of Ramadan next week, we wish you Ramadan Mubarak!

Please know that we are here to help however we can. If there is anything we can do to support you and your families, we are just an email away.

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)

Be well and have a great weekend.

Jenn and Jackilyn