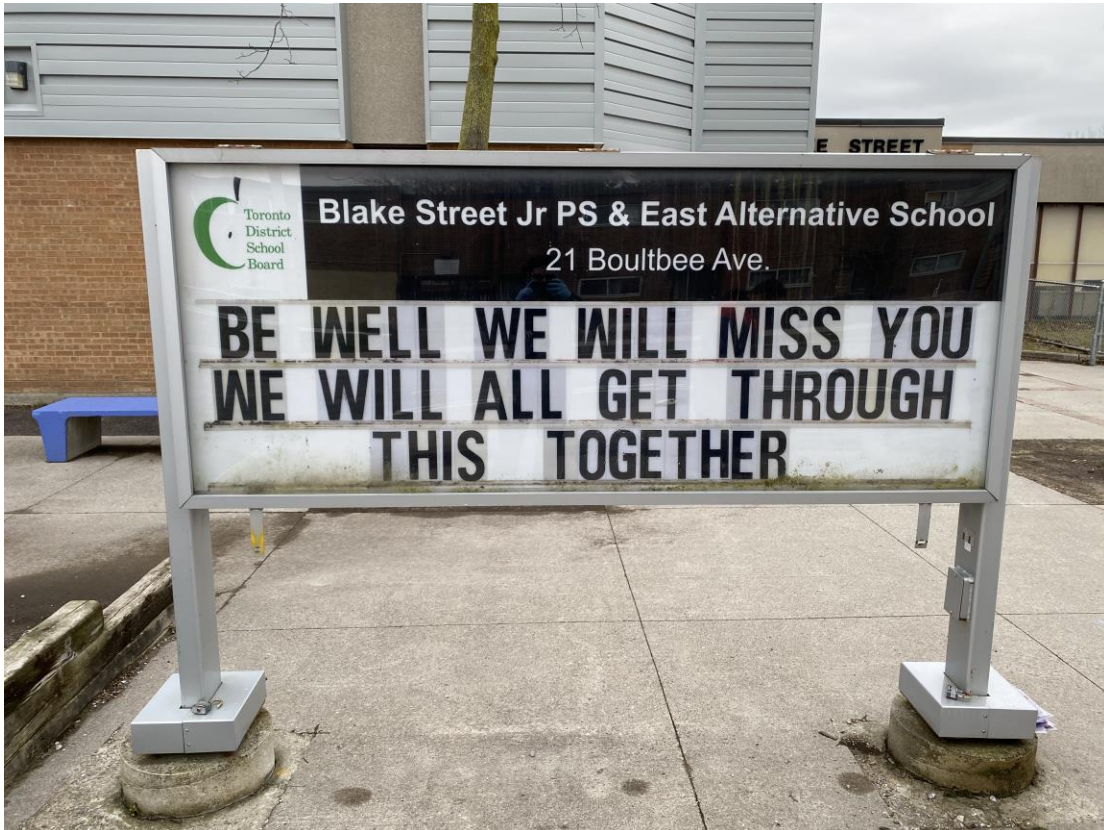


Blake News

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



This week, we launched week 1 of remote learning. We do hope your children have been able to connect and engage in learning this week. Different classrooms have chosen different platforms to work remotely from, but whatever that is, we hope you have been able to access the learning. We appreciate that many of you continue to work, either from home or out on the front lines, and we want to reiterate that these posted learning tasks and assignments are not to add increased stress and workload onto what we know is already a very stressful time. Only do what you can, when you can. If you are finding it challenging to access the posted learning materials, please be sure to reach out to your child's teacher. They will be happy to follow up and work to ensure that these initial technological issues are resolved. This is the first week of our new way of learning, and we know there will be bumps along the road, but we remain positive and know that as we all continue to learn and navigate these new technological platforms, things will become easier.

For those families in need of access to technology to support this remote learning, please be sure that you have completed the online survey that the TDSB sent out a few weeks back. You can complete this by clicking on the link below.

https://tdsb.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_24CSltMznYXabrf

This way we can ensure that no families have been left behind. If you are not able to access the survey yourself, please let your child's teacher know, and they will be happy to call you and complete the survey on your behalf while over the phone with

you. Once the survey is done, can you please email your child's teacher so they know it has been taken care of, and also share the technology you were requesting.

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.

For those of our families in need of food support, 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

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

Through my many phone calls, a number of you have mentioned that food cards would be helpful. I was originally thinking they would come to me directly for distribution, however I have learned otherwise today. In the coming week or two, all Blake families will receive an email asking you if you are in need of a food card (\$50 per child). If this is the case, please be sure to complete the survey. If you are having a challenge completing the survey, please contact our child's teacher directly.

Finally, for those interested in accessing some free online YMCA classes, you can 'like' YMCA GTA's Facebook page and the classes are all live on Facebook

Live. <https://www.facebook.com/YMCAGTA/>

For those of you celebrating Passover or Easter this weekend, do enjoy!!!!!! While it may not be the way we have normally celebrated and come together, it is a time to create new traditions.....enjoy this long weekend!!!

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

Be well and have a great weekend.

Jenn and Jackilyn

News from Parent Council

Blake School Council held a special online meeting on March 25, where members voted to re-allocate funds from our previously scheduled Family Wellness Night to Eastview Community Centre's Food Bank.

Council members felt this was the best way to support our community right now. You can read minutes from the meeting

here: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wFMLOyx_9LhHZrtovhNC6bInz254SW9G/view?usp=sharing

Purpose of urgent mtg: Vote to donate Council funds to Eastview Food Bank.

During the Covid-19 Quarantine, the purpose of the urgent Blake School Council Meeting was to vote on the proposal to make a lump sum donation to the Eastview Food Bank, using funds originally allocated to Blake's Family Wellness Night (now postponed until our next school year) and remaining, unallocated Council funds. We had shared our proposal via the Blake Street PS School Council Facebook page and posted it to the Blake Street PS Families Facebook group.

Here is the post:

"We need to hold a formal vote on this item with sufficient participation from School Council voting members. Realizing that the need is urgent, we are proposing to hold a virtual meeting (via Zoom video chat) tomorrow evening, Wednesday, March 25 at 7:00pm. We expect the meeting will only take a few minutes, and are hoping that as many of you as possible will participate..."

Finance discussion - Dean Kotwal:

-We had \$1300 of available funds to donate to Eastview
-We discussed what an incredible service Eastview provides to our community and to our school - they are always so generous and they serve and help so many people.

Vote to donate funds:

-The council unanimously approved the indirect donation of \$1300 to Eastview Food Bank immediately
-The council considered the fact that it is a non-tax paying entity and therefore wouldn't benefit from a charitable tax credit that a tax paying entity would otherwise be able to use. In an effort to increase the donation to Eastview it was decided that a donation of \$2,100 would be made by a parent to Eastview and that the parent would then be reimbursed \$1,300 by the Council, with the expectation that the parent would receive a \$800 charitable tax credit.

[Blake School Council meeting minutes March 25 2020.docx - Google Drive](#)

drive.google.com

East for East connects vulnerable members of our community with volunteers who can help with external tasks during the COVID-19 pandemic.

You can sign up *for support* or *to volunteer* at the link below.

<https://www.eastforeast.com/>

Wondering what kinds of benefits you might be eligible for during the COVID-19 crisis? Here is a plain language summary of emergency financial support available through the federal and provincial governments, compiled by a Carleton University professor:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Yo1k4T4PnbJL2qzleVj9WtW5IWuuyKcqGW9P32WqPQ/edit?usp=sharing>

Community News

211 Toronto

Do you need information about financial assistance, mental health support, employment support, childcare, housing, food, clothing and shelter?

Find help at 211central.ca or call/chat/text/email 2-1-1.

- 211 Toronto connects people to community and social services quickly and easily so they can get the help they need. For example: a person searching for financial assistance, employment assistance, childcare or food, clothing and shelter.
- We offer a 24/7 confidential service in 150 languages
- We connect people to over 4,000 programs and services in Toronto
- 211 reduces the call burden on other municipal phone services (311, 911) as well as city staff, councillors, trustees and their offices.

211 Toronto is operated by Findhelp and funded by the City of Toronto, Government of Ontario and United Way Greater Toronto.

Eastview Community Centre

Eastview food bank is an important part of our community, offering many families food security. This is an increasingly challenging time for many, and the need for food is a real concern. The food bank is not accepting food at this time, but financial donations can be made on their face book page: Eastview Community Neighbourhood Centre.