

Blake News

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

Blake Street Public School

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Jennifer Zurba, Principal

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This has been a tough week on the news front. While Ontario's emergency orders continue until the end of the month, and our Covid numbers remain in fluctuation, the world has come out in full force to stand united in the fight against anti-Black racism, say out loud the names **George Floyd, Regis Korchinski – Paquet, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Michael Brown, Eric Garner, Amir Rice, Philando Castile**, and remember all those before them who suffered a similar fate. Because of my own white privilege, race is not something I need to confront every day, a luxury many do not share. I know that my lived experiences may be very different than some of yours, but I too have been outraged, angered, and deeply saddened by the troubling and overtly racist acts that have unfolded on my TV screen; events I know are not new to many of you.

It is in times like these, when we are confronted by unacceptable and ongoing attacks on Black people and the continued traumatic impact of systemic racism on Black families and Black students in our communities and our world, that we miss being with our Blake and East families the most.

We appreciate that this week may have unearthed significant questions, raw emotions, and a desire to act. As a school, we welcome the opportunity to engage in dialogue with our students and parents. We want you to know that we stand with you, that we support the movement to tear down policies and practices that marginalize many, while rewarding few. These are conversations and actions that we as a staff will not shy away from.

As we strive to be an ally, we commit to acknowledging our privilege, to talk less and listen more (especially when things may be hard to hear), to support and stand up against racism and hate in all forms, to build trust, and to acknowledge our mistakes. Please call us on this if you feel this is not so.

We are committed to infusing our teachings and learning through a lens of diversity, inclusion and equity, to discuss and uncover historical injustices, and to look critically at events as they relate to power and privilege; all in ways that are developmentally appropriate. This is reflected in our school's guiding questions, and how teachers interpret the curriculum. We are always looking to improve, to make learning more relevant, responsive and meaningful, and to ensure that all stories and perspectives are heard and valued. We are open to any feedback you have, and we look

forward to working with you to actively build a better, kinder world where justice is awarded to all equally. To paraphrase a wonderful quote I heard yesterday, this trauma will not be our trend.

School Access

I know that many of you have been asking about getting into the school to retrieve some of your child's belongings. Next week, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, school will be open to families to access for ten minute blocks. In order to gain entry, you MUST sign up for a time slot on your child's homeroom teacher's sign up page. Without a scheduled time, you will not be allowed inside. Jacki and I have worked hard to develop this format to ensure we are complying with the guidelines set out by Toronto Public Health. If you need help to sign-up, please email me.

Click (Ctrl+click) OR COPY (copy & paste in address bar) this link to access the schedule

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1b88flczSDpENIt1uekyT5ewtB2lgSfYdsqjmEzpSyec/edit?usp=sharing>

Parents, students and staff must clean their hands upon entry. Alcohol sanitizer must be used. In order to reduce the potential of contact with others, we suggest using your own sanitizer.

Masks/face coverings are required.

Access will be limited to a maximum number of people at each scheduled time for physical distancing guidelines (which are well below the numbers recommended by Toronto Public Health).

While inside the building, everyone must practice physical distancing and remain at least 2 metres apart at all times.

Each person must enter and exit the building through the designated doors.

Limited washrooms will be available.

****All staff, students and parents must conduct a self-assessment for COVID symptoms and if you have any, please do not come. Everyone's Health and safety is our priority.**

Celebrating Arts Week

Thanks for the feedback on arts week. We are glad to hear so many of you enjoyed it. Stay tuned for a vide Ms. Psarologos is putting together of all student submissions.

Summer School

Our elementary summer school program focus is to close the achievement and well-being gap and to continue student engagement into July. Programs for students in Grades 3 to 8 will be delivered from July 6 to 31, 2020 from 9am to 12pm.

For students registering for English summer school, learning is focused on:

- Black affirmative learning content.
- Literacy instruction to improve fluency and comprehension.
- Learn about Transformative Justice.

Remote synchronous learning will be offered. There is a possibility that learning may move from remote learning to in-class learning environments in accordance with the ongoing guidance of the Ministry of Education. Registration is online and is currently open to the public

Check out the attached poster, and access the registration form, please visit https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeaq9ZozignlM4NXXLk5T0rWirNqi-6vzSvR8GO4l_4M4TIIA/viewform

French programs will also be available for students currently in a French Immersion or Extended French Program.. More information is available at <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Innovation/Elementary-Summer-School>

International Languages Elementary/African Heritage

The International Languages Elementary/African Heritage Program offers language classes to students Kindergarten to Grade 8. Classes will run from July 6 to 31, 2020 from 1:30 to 4pm. A

minimum of 23 students is required to open a language class. Remote synchronous learning will be offered. There is a possibility that language learning may move from remote learning to in-class learning environments in accordance with the ongoing guidance of the Ministry of Education. Registration will be online and open on Monday, May 25, 2020. More information is available on www.ileprograms.ca.

Community Programs

Adult General Interest courses will be offered in July to continue to engage with existing learners, while increasing the presence and awareness of Learn4Life programs to new learners. Courses will be offered from July 6 to 31, 2020 through a synchronous online delivery model. Registration will be available through our website at www.learn4life.ca.

Adult ESL

Adult ESL is planning to deliver a remote synchronous learning model, with whole group and small group instruction, from July 6 to July 24, 2020 from 9:30am to 12:30pm. Classes will be five days a week for three weeks. We will also be implementing a modified Portfolio-Based Language Assessment program to include 1 to 2 assessments. The number of classes and levels will be based on student enrollment, interest and funding. More information is available on www.ESLtoronto.ca

Message from the Ministry of Education

We are writing to let you know that the province released its testing plan on Friday May 29, 2020, [Protecting Ontarians Through Enhanced Testing](#). Ontario now has the most open testing criteria in the country.

Ontario's testing guidance now indicates that you should visit an assessment centre if you:

- have at least one of the [symptoms of COVID-19](#)
- do not have symptoms but are concerned you might have been exposed
- do not have symptoms but think you are at risk through your employment (for example, if you are an essential or health care worker)
- would like to be tested

To support Ontarians who have identified the need to get tested, as of May 24, 2020, people will no longer need a referral to go to any of the more than 130 assessment centres across Ontario for testing. No Ontarian will be declined a test.

Given this expanded guidance, if you do choose to get tested, here are a few important notes:

- Testing is voluntary.
- You **do not** need an OHIP card to be tested. It is a **free** service.
- Some assessment centres may require you to book an appointment first or have certain restrictions (for example, some are unable to test young children). [Find out more about an assessment centre near you](#).
- You can also take an online [self-assessment](#) to help determine if you should get tested.
- If you are free of symptoms and have not had contact with anyone confirmed to have COVID-19 when presenting for testing, you will not be required to self-isolate. However, you should self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days regardless of your test result. If you begin to develop symptoms, self-isolate and contact your local public health unit for further advice.

Stay informed and visit Ontario's [website](#) to learn more about how the province continues to protect Ontarians from COVID-19. Local information is also available from your [local public health unit](#).

Hearts and Minds

Please take a moment to read through the 2nd version of the attached newsletter, Hearts & Minds, which is being shared by the TDSB's Psychological Services department. If you missed Issue One, they can be found on the TDSB Psychological Services website, along with some information about the Psychology department. <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Professional-Support-Services/Psychological-Services>

News from Parent Council

Silent Auction

The Silent Auction will be held online June 16-20 and we're still looking for donations from our families and community! Please contact Valerie Laurie (valerielaurie@hotmail.com) or drop off any time at 324 Riverdale Ave.

Blake School Council wants your empties.

Please hold onto any beer cans or wine bottles over the next two weeks. We'll return them and hopefully make a few bucks for our school council.

You can either:

1) Drop them off at one of these two addresses during the week of June 15:

Eric's place at 27 Warland Ave

Karen's place 59 Sammon Ave (email her first at klthomson@yahoo.com)

2) Email Sarah to arrange to have them picked up sarah0rogers@gmail.com. She'll do two runs, June 13 and June 20. If you live north of the Danforth, email Eric and he'll come get them aliendna@mac.com.

Families First Parent Workshop

If interested, please see the link...

[Families First parent education workshops | SickKids Centre for Community Mental Health](#)

Thanks for your support. Cheers.

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. You are now also able to leave a voice mail message on the Blake PS phone at 416-393-9415 and Ms. Scott will receive it automatically.

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 Jacki