

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
Marc Sprack, Superintendent of Education **Jennifer Story**, School Trustee



Wednesday, September 30 was orange shirt day. On this day, we wear an orange shirt to honour and remember the survivors of residential schools. It is important to remember their stories and to learn from our past.

Orange Shirt Day

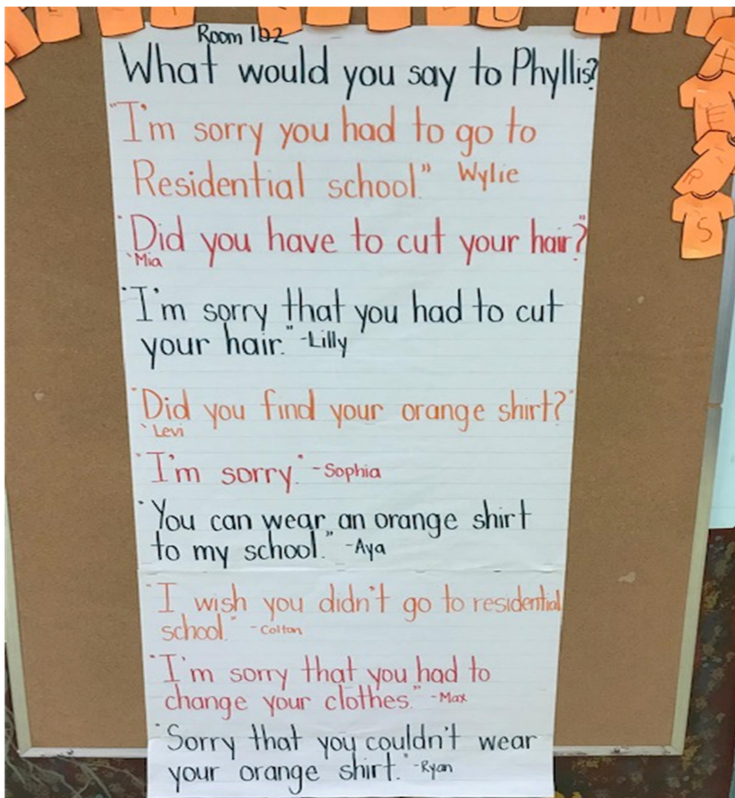
On Wednesday, September 30th, Blake Street PS commemorated Orange Shirt Day, a day that honours the Indigenous children who were sent away to residential schools in Canada, to learn more about the history of those schools. Each class read books, watched videos, and held discussions about residential schools, their impact, and how each of us can be an ally, and to support Indigenous rights and treaty promises made. Learnings were directly tied into our School wide ongoing conversations about Identity.

To commemorate this important day, each student was given a river rock, which they painted, and wrote reflective and meaningful words and messages on. These rocks will be placed around our Three Sisters garden bed in the front garden, with the intention of creating a sacred space that will remind us every day of the need to stand up against injustice and for the rights of all.

We read "The Orange Shirt Day Story" by Phyllis Webstad. We also read "Stolen Words" by Melanie Florence and listened to "When We Were Alone" by David Robertson. We noticed that residential schools were an attempt to take away the identity of Indigenous people, by taking their language, their clothing, their families and their way of life.

After hearing these stories, we realized... Wearing an orange shirt on September 30 is a good start, but what else can we do? We reflected on these questions:

- What else can we do to show that we remember residential school survivors?
- How can we be anti-racist every day?
- What have you learned from these stories?



Clothing Swap

The Blake Annual Clothing Swap is a go. We have consulted with the TDSB and our TPH nurse, and we will be going ahead with this clothing swap carefully following COVID health measures. Please see more details under the Parent Council section of the newsletter.

Updated Mask Policy While Outdoors on School Property

The TDSB Return to School Operational Guideline continues to be updated on a daily basis. The most important and relevant new update is that **all parents and guardians must wear a mask/face covering outdoors when on school property during pick-up and drop-off.**

Updated COVID-19 Screening Tools for Children

As you may have heard on the news in the past few days, the Ministry of Health has reviewed its screening process for children in schools and child care centres. These updates will soon be reflected in the TDSB Operational Guidelines. We take direction from the TDSB, and are awaiting updates at time of this newsletter.

As a general rule, if your child presents with a fever or chills, a cough, shortness of breath or a decreased loss of smell or taste that is new or worsening and not related to other known causes or conditions, your child should stay home to self-isolate immediately, and you should contact your child's health care provider for further advice or assessment.

If your child demonstrates only one of the following symptoms: sore throat, stuffy or runny nose, headache or nausea/vomiting and/or diarrhea, fatigue /muscle ache; that is new or worsening and not related to other known causes or conditions, your child should stay home for 24 hours from when the symptom started. If the symptom is improving, your child may return to school when they are feeling well enough to do so. If the symptom worsens or persists, you should contact your child's health care provider for further advice or assessment.

If your child shows two or more of the following symptoms: sore throat, stuffy or runny nose, headache or nausea/vomiting and/or diarrhea, fatigue/muscle ache; that is new or worsening and not related to other known causes or conditions, your child should stay home to isolate immediately. You should contact your child's health care provider for further advice or assessment.

If your child has travelled outside of Canada in the past 14 days, has been identified as a close contact of someone who is confirmed as having COVID -19 by your local public health unit (or the COVID Alert AAPP), or has been directed by a health care provider including public health official to isolate, your child should stay home to isolate immediately and follow the advice of public health. If your child develops symptoms, you should contact your local public health unit or the health care provider for further advice.

Please be sure to look at the attachments included in the body of my email as they offer clear and concise next steps to manage symptoms. Please keep in mind that information and practices continue to be reviewed, and may change in the near future.

TERRY FOX RUN

On **Thursday, October 8th** our school will have our annual **Terry Fox Run** event, with a rain date set for Friday, October 9th. This year, each class will be participating separately with their classroom cohort and homeroom teacher. Primary and Junior Teachers have the option of taking their class on a walking excursion to a local park to complete this event, or to use a neighbourhood block. The Kindergarten students will run/walk for 10 minutes continuously, the Primary students will run/walk for 12 minutes continuously, and the Junior students will run/walk for 15 minutes continuously. Please make sure that your child is wearing running shoes and dressed comfortably on this day. Feel free to practise run/walk training at home to get your child prepared and excited for this fun and meaningful fitness event. There will be draw prizes post event for all participants. This year we will not be collecting Toonies for Terry as we have in the past. Please donate on our Blake fundraising page.

Fundraising Page: <http://www.terryfox.ca/BlakeStreetPSToronto>

UserName: 2020ON5912

CAT 4

Our school is one of the 150 schools that are part of the TDSB's Model Schools for Inner Cities (MSIC) program. The school board provides all MSIC schools with extra resources, programs and services in order to offer their students all-round support to succeed in school. One of the key components of MSIC schools is the ongoing research to help schools identify the needs of their students and their school community, to monitor the progress made by students, and to demonstrate school improvement over time.

In the next few weeks, students in Grades 1,2,4,5 and 6 will take the Canadian Achievement Test (CAT4) in order to assess their foundation skills in reading, writing and math. The CAT4 test results will be reported to parents and the classroom teacher for improvement purposes.

Start Up Forms

We have been told that TDSB start up forms will be sent out early next week. You are asked to complete and submit these online forms at your earliest convenience. The walking excursion form will also need to be re-submitted even though you have likely signed off on a hard copy this past month.

Safe Arrival

To report your child's absence, please call 416-393-9415 or 1-833-250-2290.

When contacting you to confirm an unexplained absence, the School Messenger system number will appear as 1-833-250-2290. Please make sure to answer the call and acknowledge the absence in order to stop the automated phone calls.

Upcoming Dates

October 12: Thanksgiving – no school

Have a wonderful weekend.

Jenn and Jacki

Updates from Toronto Public Health

If you have not yet downloaded the COVID App, you are strongly encouraged to do so. It is free in the App store and is called COVID Alert Canada.

Notes and Updates from Parent Council**Elections**

On October 6th, at 6:30, we will be holding a Blake Council election for the executive positions (Co-Chair, Co-Treasurers and Co-Secretary). If interested, the job descriptions are below:

Chair / Co-Chair

The chair (or co-chair if this role is shared) acts as the primary representative of the School Council and leads the School Council meetings. The chair/co-chair will:

- arrange for meetings;
- prepare agendas;
- chair council meetings;
- ensure that minutes of council meetings are recorded and maintained;
- encourage consensus among School Council members & facilitate the resolution of conflict;
- establish sub-committees when deemed advisable;
- communicate with the school principal on behalf of the council.

Secretary

The secretary records and distributes meeting minutes. The secretary will:

- record the meetings and type up the minutes
- make note of actions promised and planned
- distribute the minutes to the chair, co-chair, and principal
- post the minutes, once approved in a public place for the parents and staff to read

Treasurer

The treasurer keeps proper records of all monies that are collected and spent by the school council. The treasurer will:

- record all financial transactions,
- present quarterly and year-end financial statements to the council
- follow standard reporting and accounting procedures

To participate in the elections, you can log into the zoom meeting at:

<https://meet.google.com/yur-kjay-eyh>

You can find executive nomination forms here <https://drive.google.com/.../1Flt3VJe2cgd-onkJ5MbAhnCFd.../view...>

You can review the by-laws for the upcoming vote and to become a council member <https://docs.google.com/.../1Ws5RLKC9DjD25HAUcjsFvEiuK2.../edit...>

Parents who would like to be voting members, your forms are here https://docs.google.com/.../13qqvubirQEJun6kFfFO_tJ3T3E.../edit...

You do not need to be a voting member to attend School Council

Annual Clothing Swap**Donations:**

October 13-16th

Drop off pre-sorted clothes and footwear only.

Please make sure your clothes are sorted according to age and size, boots correctly labeled

and in bags.

We have very limited time. Please be courteous and pre-sort.

Drop off is at the parking lot Gym Entry off Kiswick Street during school hours – please call the office (416.393.9415) upon arrival and someone will open the door for you.

Refer to map - Red arrow

Last day for donations is Friday the 16th 2:30pm. Clothes need to quarantine for at least 3 days.

For all other items (games, equipment, toys, books...) please visit Blake Street PS Virtual Swap Group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1413500632176268> and post there.

If you need something and feel shy to ask publicly, please message me directly and I will do it for you.

Swap:

October 20th from 9:30am-4pm (rain date October 21st)

Entry is in the backyard where the Kindergarten Playground is – at Kiswick Street.

Exit at Main entrance of school on Boulton. **Please refer to map – Blue arrow.**

Please wear a mask at all times – absolutely no entry without mask.

You will be asked to leave your name and phone number at the entry for tracing according to Public Health guidelines. Paperwork will be stored for 30 days and then destroyed.

You will be asked to use sanitizer upon entry.

No access to the school building, no toilet access.

You will have a 10 min window to “shop”. You can enter as many times as you want but you must exit after 10 mins and go back to the end of the line.

Please bring your own bags and make sure you wash the clothes on hot before using them

Looking for volunteers:

Sorting - Monday 19th

Swap - Tuesday 20th

Cleanup - Wednesday 21st (bagging & driving to value village)

Please email me at nora.schramek@gmx.com



Blake Virtual Parents Community Building

With the launch of virtual classes this week, we are reaching out to all virtual families to help build a sense of community and to stay connected to Blake Street Junior Public School. Currently, there are two ways that we will achieve this.

First, we are going to establish a virtual weekly check-in for parents and children to meet and talk about their experience, identify any needs and to socialize. Our first drop-in meeting will be Monday evening from 6 – 8pm. After that we will be holding drop-in meetings every Wednesday from 6 – 8pm.

It is a drop-in so feel free to join when you're able to (you don't need to stay for the entire meeting) and attend as many or as few as you'd like. **Please email us for the link.**

This week we will be discussing any questions, concerns or needs that you have. We will also be discussing planning a brainstorming meeting to organize both virtual and distanced meet-ups, for those who are comfortable.

Second, we have established a parent liaison. You can reach out whenever you feel you need support, resources or just another Blake parent to talk to. Both Bryanna and Melissa will be acting as liaisons. You can reach out to either of us.

Our hope is that we will be able to strengthen our sense of community and be a support to parents who need it at any stage of their virtual learning.

You can contact us at:

blake.virtualparents@gmail.com

TDSB Remote Learning Support Group

For those looking for additional support on Facebook with virtual learning, this group was initiated by a Blake parent and has grown to over 2,500 members. It is a source of information sharing, resources and support. If you're interested, please request to join.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/366148551446910/?ref=share>

Virtual Swap

Blake has started its very own virtual clothing swap. Please go to Facebook and join. Everyone is welcome. Search: Blake Street PS Virtual Swap.