Blake News

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

Blake Street Public School21 Boultbee Avenue, Toronto, ON M4J 1A7Jennifer Zurba, PrincipalTina Weinberg, Vice PrincipalMary Jane McNamara, Superintendent of EducationJennifer Story, School Trustee

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As you are aware, the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) announced that its members will take further job action on **Monday**, **October 7**, **2019**, if a new collective agreement is not reached through negotiations with the province and the Council of Trustees Associations. **The new job action will be a full withdrawal of services**, **which is otherwise known as a strike or a walk-out**. Over 18,000 employees will not be at work for the duration of the strike, which is almost half of the Toronto District School Board's employees. Most of these employees work in schools.

If this job action commences as scheduled, the Board will **close all schools for all students on Monday**, **October 7**, **2019 and for the duration of the job action**. While we understand that this is a challenging time, parents/guardians will be required to make alternate arrangements for their children. This is not a decision that we made lightly and we have explored every possible contingency plan to keep schools open. Student supervision and safety are our top priorities and without the important services of these school-based employees, we cannot guarantee that our learning environments will remain safe and clean for all students. Employees, who are members of CUPE, provide critical daily services, including (but not limited to):

- building and school ground safety and security;
- lunch room supervision;
- educational support in full-day kindergarten classrooms;
- supervision and support for students with special needs;
- safe water checks;
- washroom and water fountain cleaning;
- heating system operations; and
- safe arrival programs.

During this job action, all non-CUPE employees will continue to report to work in schools and administrative centres.

In addition to the closure of schools for students, the following programs and services will also be impacted should the strike action commence on Monday:

Third-Party Licensed Child Care Operators in TDSB Schools

During the full strike action when schools are closed to students, third-party child care operators located in TDSB schools will be permitted to remain open. However, operating hours have been adjusted to 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. It's important to note that the decision to open or close will be made by individual child care operators. Please contact your child care operator directly to confirm and for more information.

Most of the services provided by licensed child care operators are not directly impacted by the CUPE strike. However, some TDSB CUPE employees have responsibilities related to the opening and closing of these child care facilities. With limited management staff to fill in these roles, we are doing our best to keep these childcare operations open, but with limited operating hours.

TDSB Extended Day Programs

During the full strike action when schools are closed to students, TDSB-operated Extended Day Programs will also be closed to all families. This child care service is operated by CUPE employees. Parents/guardians will be refunded for any closure during the labour disruption. <u>See the full list of TDSB-operated Extended Day Programs</u>. **Permits**

During the full strike action, all school <u>permits</u> are cancelled, including authorized recreation programs. **Continuing Education**

BLAKE STREET NEWS

During the full strike action, all continuing education classes are cancelled. This includes <u>Adult ESL</u>, <u>Adult High</u> <u>Schools</u>, <u>Credit Programs</u>, <u>Community Programs/Learn4Life</u>, and <u>International Languages Elementary/African</u> <u>Heritage</u>.

Meetings

The following meetings will be cancelled during the full strike action: school council meetings, advisory committee meetings and ward forums.

While the TDSB is not directly involved in the provincial negotiations, the Board remains hopeful that a new agreement will be reached before Monday, October 7, 2019. If an agreement is reached, schools will open as usual on Monday.

We are committed to providing an update to all parents/guardians over the weekend.

For ongoing updates and the latest information, please continue to check <u>www.tdsb.on.ca/labour</u> and follow <u>@tdsb</u> on Twitter.

Cross Country



Blake St. had an amazing day at the cross country meet today at Ashbridges Bay. There were many outstanding performance from all our athletes. Maya and Zaid were leaders in the Grade 2 fun run. Special recognition goes to Maya in grade 3 for her first place, Beatrice in grade 3 for sixth place, and Sebastian for tenth place. In the junior grades, Izusa in grade 4 placed 18th, Johann in grade 5 placed 26th, Camillo in grade 6 came in tenth, Ty in grade 6 placed 18th, and Conal in grade 6 came 26th. Athletes in the top 30 places from grades 3 to 6 will advance to the Conference Finals at Ashbridges Bay on Oct 17. The top 20 places in grades 4 to 6 from the Conference Finals will advance to the City Finals on Oct 24 at Centennial Park in Etobicoke. Grade 3s do not advance to City Finals. Special thank you to all the parent volunteers and cheering squads for your support!

From Mme. Morton, Mme. Thomas, Mr. Tsai

Extended Day program vacancies

There are a number of vacant spots in our Extended day program, a before and after school program located in our school. If interested, please email <u>edp@tdsb.on.ca</u> expressing your interest in the program.

Orange Shirt Day

To recognize Orange Shirt day, the Grade Seven Class at East Alternative hosted our assembly, exploring the long history of First Nations Peoples, Inuit and Metis cultures in North America.

Using scientific and historical information, students explained that Indigenous Peoples have been living in North America for over 15 000 years. Once here they settled in many different areas until the arrival of the British and French cultures over the past 500 years. They explored how the French and English took over Indigenous lands and eventually created Residential schools in an attempt to assimilate them.

This policy attempted to, and was almost successful in destroying Indigenous Cultures and lasted until 1996. In 2008 the Canadian Government apologize and through assemblies such as Orange Shirt Day that educate the citizens on this dark history we are attempting work towards reconciliation.

-EAST Alternative Grade 7 Students

We have been reflecting on this important day, our commitment to Truth and Reconciliation, and have been connecting our learning to our school wide question on the stories that names tell. Primary classes are reading the book Shin-Chi's Canoe by Kim LaFave, while junior classes are reading I Am Not A Number by Jenny Kay and Kathy Kacer. Students have been investigating the following questions:

- What was the purpose (or intention) of schools using numbers instead of names.
- How might this connect and relate to the value of a name and the identity contained within it?

News from Trustee Story

I hope you can join us at our next Ward Forum! When: Thursday October 17, 2019 Meeting Time: 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm Where: <u>Wilkinson Junior Public School</u> 53 Donlands Ave, Toronto, ON Meeting Details:

- Ward Forum School Space
- Andrew Gowdy from TDSB Planning will review with us how space in our schools is allocated, what the
 data tells us about our schools here in Toronto-Danforth, what it means when a school is full, what
 happens when a school closes, and what terms like utilization rate, PARC, PART, and boundary-change
 review mean.
- Light refreshments will be served.
- Childcare will be provided.
- Please contact Trustee Shared Services in advance to request any accommodation, including interpretation services.

News from Parent Council

Blake School Council Announcements

Join our Oct. 10 walk-in at Blake to show support for our education workers and a fully funded public education. Follow our <u>blog</u> or <u>Facebook</u> for updates. <u>https://blakestreetparents.wordpress.com/2019/10/02/join-our-oct-10-walk-in-to-support-public-education/</u>

Annual Clothing Swap is coming! November 14, 3:30pm - 8:00pm and November 15, 9am-12:00pm. All items are free. Please come and help yourself. Everyone welcome-no need to contribute items. Drop off items in Room 203 starting after Thanksgiving, on Tuesday October 15. Items include:

• Clothing and footwear for babies, kids and adults. Please label all bags/boxes with the contents and sizes (e.g. girls size 6-8) This helps our volunteers a lot.

- Winter gear-jackets, snow pants, and boots.
- Games, books and electronics.

We will also be collecting textiles that are no longer usable. (Socks with holes in them, ripped, stained or worn out clothing, towels, bedding, etc.) Please be sure to separate these items in a different bag and label this bag separately with <u>bag2school</u> written clearly on it.

If you are interested in joining the Clothing swap team, we would love to hear from you! Email: <u>blakeschoolcouncil.tdsb@gmail.com</u> or leave a note on the Blake Street PS Families page on <u>Facebook</u>.

Next School Council Meeting is Tuesday, **Oct. 15** at 6:00 p.m. in the school library. You can read minutes from our September meeting here: <u>https://blakestreetparents.wordpress.com/2019/09/15/september-council-meeting-minutes/</u>

October snack menus -JK/SK, Grades 1-6.

Halloween Dance and Bake Sale will start a little later this year at 6.30pm. Hopefully this give you more time to get all dressed up. You don't need to worry about dinner – pizza, samosas and, of course, treats will all be available for a small price. It also gives us more time to set everything up. If you're available on Oct 25th, anytime from 3pm onwards, to help email: <u>ss_healy@hotmail.com</u>

The bake sale relies on your generously donated goodies. If you love to bake and want to contribute or you're not a baker but you'll buy something instead, let us know, email <u>brandyhumes@gmail.com</u> Goodies MUST be **nut-free** and accommodating dietary restrictions (Halal, gluten free, vegan, etc.) is much appreciated.



Upcoming Dates

October 9 - Prologue Presentation: Vision of Turtle Island, grades 1-6 October 10 - Lice Check

October 11 - PA DAY - school closed for students

October 14 - THANKSGIVING

October 21 – PHOTO DAY October 24 – OPAL PLAY DAY

November 4-20: Grade 1-6 Mural

November 11: Remembrance Day

November 15: Parent Teacher Interview Day

November 20: Photo Retake Day and Sibling Photos

November 29: SPIRIT DAY - Dress Like your Favourite Video Game Character

December 6: PA DAY

December 13: Prologue Presentation: Duffle Bag Theatre K - 6

December 20: SPIRIT DAY – WHITE PARTY December 23 – January 3: WINTER BREAK

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

Have a great weekend.

Jenn and Tina