

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 **Tina Weinberg**, Vice Principal
Mary Jane McNamara, Superintendent of Education **Jennifer Story**, School Trustee

It has been wonderful to see so many families out this week during morning drop off, and Tuesday ran quite smoothly for the first day of school.

Last night, parent Council held their third annual Welcome Back Picnic and BBQ. This event was a huge success and showed off what a great, inclusive, vibrant community we are. A tremendous THANK YOU to Bholy who organized this incredible event, to Enbridge who brought the barbecues and cooked the food, and to all who helped, brought food, cleaned up, and came out to celebrate our community.



School Forms

Thank you to all of our families who have been so diligent in returning our start up forms. This year the TDSB has introduced online forms, and it is your choice to complete them as hardcopies or to submit them online. Either way, we ask that they are completed by Friday September 13th.

Bell Times

In my initial email, I shared last year's recess times. Our schedule has changed slightly this year, and our correct times are as follows:

8:28	Yard is supervised
8:43 – 8:45	Entry
10:05 – 10:20	Recess
11:30 -12:33	Lunch
1:45 – 2:00	Recess
3:30 – 3:35	Yard is supervised

Hearts of the Yard

During one of my weekly den meetings (a meeting made up of one rotating representative from every grade 1 – 6 class) the idea of a buddy bench came up. Given the challenge of securing a bench, students problem solved and came up with the idea of spray painting hearts on the yard. This is a safe place that children can go to, identifying to others that they are looking for someone to play with. This new heart system was introduced to our students at Wednesday's Welcome back assembly. Please review this opportunity with your children, as it is our goal that every child has a friend to play with at recess, to feel included, and valued in our community.

The Parking Lot Gate

The gate in the parking lot allowing for access entry into the school yard is now locked. We have had a number of incidents with students exiting the yard into the parking lot. This has created a supervision and safety concern that we have addressed. We appreciate that for some of you, it will mean that you will need to walk around the school. We apologize for the inconvenience, but student safety is our number one priority.

Canada Post Donation

Today, we had a wonderful surprise come our way. The employees of Canada Post, Eastern Avenue branch, work hard to support their local communities. This year, they decided to do a back to school supply drive. Twenty two large crates were delivered filled with pens, pencils, crayons, backpacks, lined paper, binders, lunch bags and anything else you can think of. This generous gift has overwhelmed us. If you or your child could benefit from any of these supplies, please let us know. Next week, students will be allowed to walk through this newly created "supply" room, and take what they will need for the school year.

Kilometer Club and Cross Country

Our school's ever popular **Kilometre Club runs Monday to Thursday at recess times**, commencing **Monday, September 9th** and finishing **Thursday, October 3rd**. Kilometre Club is a school-wide month-long running challenge for **Grade 1- 6 students**. The children are encouraged to run as many laps as they can or want to around our field collecting popsicle sticks from volunteer staff for each lap. Homeroom teachers record their students' laps and results are tallied individually, as well as school wide. The grade that has run the most laps by the end of the month wins a special prize (TBA). Some may choose to participate for fun and to be social, while other students may wish to pursue personal fitness goals. Students will be recognized for each 10km that they run and the Cross Country team selection is based solely on Kilometre Club recess participation. We estimate that four laps around our field equals one kilometre.

After the first two weeks of Kilometre Club, students who meet the success criteria based on their grade's race distance will be invited to join the **Blake Cross Country team**. Students who have demonstrated the below standards and base fitness will be invited to compete.

A) Grade 1-2 students have to run at least 12 laps each week

B) Grade 3 students have to run at least 16 laps each week

C) Grade 4-6 students have to run at least 20 laps each week

Like all teams, the privilege of representing our school is subject to good behaviour in the classroom.

As our school's population continues to grow, we have had to make small changes to alleviate congestion on the track. **The Kilometer Club track will be used by primary students (Grade 1-3) only during morning recess 10:05 am-10:20 am, and by the junior students (Grade 4-6) during afternoon recess 1:45 pm-2:00 pm.** The before school running will be reserved for the Cross-Country team a few mornings a week once the team is created later this month. Let's have fun and get fitter together Blake PS!

Upcoming Extra Curriculars

This fall, teachers are planning to volunteer to offer the following clubs and activities. Keep an eye on this section as it will be updated regularly.

Girls Basketball
Boys and Girls Soccer
Cross Country Team

International Language

As the largest and one of the most diverse school boards in Canada, TDSB takes great pride in our International Languages and African Heritage programs. IN an increasingly globalized world, learning languages and cultures benefits our students today and helps them build skills for the future.

To access the website and look into programs and language choices offered nearby, log into www.ileprograms.ca

To register for an International Language Course, you can visit the host school during program hours (as listed in the brochure), or you can register online at www.ileprograms.ca.

News from Parent Council

Our first council meeting will be held on **Thursday, Sept. 12 in the school library at 6:00 p.m.**

This is an important meeting, where we sign up our voting members and elect (or acclaim) our executive positions.

Interested in getting involved with council this year? Check out our Blake Blog for more

info: <https://blakestreetparents.wordpress.com/2019/08/28/blake-school-council-in-2019-2020/>

Upcoming Dates

September 26 – Terry Fox Run
September 26: Curriculum Night, 6:00 -7:00
September 27 – Pizza Lunch Begins
September 27 – SPIRIT DAY: Blake Colours
September 30 – Orange Shirt Day
October 4 – OPAL PLAY DAY
October 4 – Cross Country South qualifier at Ashbridges Bay – 8:30
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
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: SPOIRIT 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