

# BROWN BULLETIN

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FROM THE OFFICE OF M. J. GIULIANI & G. LAROCQUE

February 2008

## EQAO

Each year, the students in Grade 3 participate in the Primary Assessment and the Grade 6 students complete the Junior Assessment. The students will be asked to complete tasks in reading, writing and mathematics. Please note our Grade 3 students in the French program complete the math section only. This year, the assessments will be administered between May 26 and June 6, 2008. Parents with children presently in Grade 3 or 6 should ensure that their child is at school during the assessment period.

Parents can visit the EQAO website at [www.eqao.com](http://www.eqao.com) where they will find a number of resources. No login is required! Look under "Parent Resources" on the homepage to find Key Words, Practice Booklets, French Immersion Glossaries and more.

## SPEECH ARTS FESTIVAL

On Wednesday, February 5, Brown held its first Speech Arts Festival! This is a board-wide, judged competition organized by teachers with a focus on oral communication and delivery of content. There are 2 categories of competition: Category A in which students prepare their own original speech and Category C in which students (single or pairs) take a non-original piece of work (such as a storybook) and transform it into a dramatic presentation.

Each class sent one representative to recite their speeches in front of a full gymnasium. Students spoke about everything from Elvis to reptiles to cell phones. The judges certainly had their work cut out for them but in the end, could only send 1 speaker from each category to compete in the semi-finals. Congratulations to Ryan A. in Grade 6 for his comparative speech on Superman vs. Batman, and to Amiya T. and Laura P., both in Grade 6, for their interpretation of the story *Mortimer* by Robert Munsch. These students will move forward and represent Brown at the semi-finals on Thursday, February 21 at Maurice Cody PS. Good luck!

We are please to share Ryan's winning speech with you – please look for it at the end of this Bulletin! - *Jocelyn P. Vernon*

## ARE YOU READY TO DANCE??

Don't forget - this year's Dance-a-thon is on February 14! Please see the end of this Bulletin for a class schedule. Because it is Valentine's Day, **wearing pink, red or white would be a perfect clothing choice**. Parents are welcome to come help out.

## BOY'S READING CLUB

Attending the Junior Boy's Reading Club is one of the best things to do at lunch time. Sometimes we have guest readers. Mr D. and Mr Ellis were guest readers and there will be more. You can join the Boy's Reading Club by going to Room 20 on Wednesdays at lunch. We have been learning about all of the ways you use reading. You need to read maps, menus, books, music, comics, magazines, instructions, cards, letters, and so much more. -- *Julian, Room 38*

Thursday February 14 .....	Danceathon (Schedule attached at the end of this Bulletin)
Friday February 15.....	Professional Activity Day (no classes for students)
Monday February 18.....	Family Day Holiday (no classes for students)
Tuesday February 19 – Friday February 22.....	Healthy Habits Life Skills
Wednesday February 20.....	Parent Council Meeting, 7pm in the Library
Friday February 22.....	Pizza Lunch
Tuesday February 26.....	Kindergarten Registration for JK & SK September 2008 (in district students only)
Thursday February 28.....	School presentation " Kids on the Block" (JK to Grade 6)
Wednesday March 5.....	Concours d'art oratoire (French Public Speaking) 9:15 am to 11:30 am
Monday March 10 to Friday March 14.....	March Holiday (no classes for students)
Monday March 17.....	First Day of Spring Term
Friday March 21.....	Good Friday (no classes for students)
Monday March 24.....	Easter Monday (no classes for students)

## LIBRARY NEWS- NOUVELLES DE LA BIBLIOTHEQUE

Students and parents who purchased books for the library will be happy to hear that most books have been catalogued and your child will be able to borrow the books first. This initiative was a great success! We spent \$2400.50 on additional books for the library. Thanks to all for your support!

Just before the Lunar New Year, all of the students had the opportunity to hear Mrs. Bernice Hune, a famous story teller. She entertained our students with traditional Asian Folktales. The children really enjoyed the story "The Ghost Train", about the Canadian Pacific Railway.

-- Marie-France Gagnon

## FEBRUARY IS AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Our school commemorates African Heritage Month in order to promote knowledge and understanding of the history, achievements and experiences of people of African descent. The learning activities and cultural events organized by schools for African Heritage Month help to build understanding and respect for each other among all students. They also help to enhance pride and self-esteem among students of African heritage. The TDSB's African Heritage Month Statement describes the importance of this month to our schools. To view how schools across Toronto are celebrating African Heritage Month in a multitude of ways visit the TDSB web site at [www.tdsb.on.ca](http://www.tdsb.on.ca).

## FROM THE PARENT COUNCIL

### GREEN COMMITTEE – GOING FOR THE GOLD!

The Green Committee is putting together an integrated team of teachers, students and parents to help Brown become a TDSB ECO certified school. If you would like to become part of this team or are interested in helping with other environmental initiatives, please contact David Beutel at [david@oakwest.ca](mailto:david@oakwest.ca) or Bernie Morrow at [Bernard.morrow@sympatico.ca](mailto:Bernard.morrow@sympatico.ca).

### PARENT SAFETY PROGRAM (KISS 'N RIDE)

We have had a good response to our request for parent volunteers to help with the spring launch of the drop-off program. However, we can never have too many volunteers. If you can spare 20 minutes one morning a month, please contact Yvonne Harding at [harding99@rogers.com](mailto:harding99@rogers.com). Thank you!

## BROWN SCHOOL PRESENTS: IDEAS FOR PARENTS

According to Marzano in *Classroom Instruction That Works*, homework and practice are ways of extending the school day and providing students with opportunities to refine and extend their knowledge. Homework helps students develop good study habits, a positive attitude towards school and to recognize that learning continues outside of the school day.

Many helpful resources for parents and students are available online, including:

**Ministry of Education : 10 Tips to Help Your Child Do Homework**

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/abc123/eng/tips/homework.html>

**Nrich.com – very useful for extending, reinforcing and enriching math skills**

<http://www.nrich.com/>

**EcoKids – Canada's Environmental Destination for Kids**

<http://www.ecokids.ca/pub/index.cfm>

We hope that parents will visit these sites with their child(ren).

### **Family Math – try some hands on math practice with your family!**

- 1) Invite your child into the kitchen and cut sandwiches into triangles, squares, etc.
- 2) Try to slice a pan of brownies into equal squares, practice multiplication.
- 3) Discuss how to divide a pizza equally among an odd number of people.
- 4) Read recipes and discuss measurement.

## SEVERE WEATHER GUIDELINES FOR STUDENT SAFETY

Occasionally, severe weather conditions may require the Toronto District School Board to cancel transportation and close schools. This may occur before the beginning of the school day or, if conditions become severe, during the school day. To ensure the safety and welfare of students and staff during school hours, the Board's Severe Weather operational procedures will guide decisions and operations. The safety and welfare of students is a shared responsibility with parents and guardians. It is important for everyone to understand how the Board operates under unusual weather conditions. Please familiarize yourself with the following procedures and communication plan so together we can ensure the safety of the students entrusted in our care. In the event of severe weather conditions, please keep children at home if possible. The decision to close schools is made by the Director of Education. Closure of schools or cancellation of transportation services will be announced from 6:30 a.m. onward on the following stations:

AM Radio	FM Radio	TV	ONLINE
FAN 590 CFTR 680 CFRB 1010 CHUM 1050 CHIN AM-1540 CHOG-TALK 640	KISS 92.5 CHFI 98.1 CBC 99.1 CKFM 99.9 CFNY 102.1 CHUM 104.5 CILQ- 107.1 CHIN FM-100.7 CIDC-HITS 103.5 CJEZ-EZ ROCK 97.3 FLOW 93.5	The Weather Channel CP 24 CFMT CFTO CITY-TV GLOBAL TV ROGERS	<a href="http://www.globaltv.com">www.globaltv.com</a> <a href="http://www.thestar.com">www.thestar.com</a>

Should schools close during the school day or transportation schedules change, announcements will be broadcast on the radio stations above by 12 noon. If there is no announcement about school closing before 12 noon, schools will remain open for the day. Please be prepared to pick up your child or make arrangements for your child, if required, should schools close early or if transportation schedules are advanced. Please ensure that we have an emergency number where you, or a responsible adult to whom you are willing to entrust the care of your child, can be contacted. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter. Should you have any questions or comments you would wish to make, please telephone the school.

## AQUATIC NEWS

We are delighted to have the aquatic department open! It has been so nice to once again offer our students a variety of aquatic programs. We always appreciate the continuous support given to the aquatic department. Thank you!

Mr. Victor Daigneau and Mrs. Vicky Jeffery,  
Brown Aquatic Staff

## SWIM TEAM

The swim team for 2008 has been selected...A big congratulations to all! On Tuesday, February 5th our members had their first official swim practice. Each member was given two handouts – an information sheet and a calendar schedule (designed to be posted on your fridge!) highlighting their practice days and swim meets. Please look over the information provided and if there are any questions or concerns feel free to give us a call at 416 393-1560. We are looking forward to a positive, fun-filled swim team season. Please Note: All swim team members must be prepared with full swim equipment. (We do not lend swim equipment during this time).

DAYS: Tuesday and Thursday  
TIMES: 12:00-12:45 pm SHARP!

## LUNCH SWIM PROGRAM

This recreational aquatic program was designed to give our students from Grades 1-6 an opportunity to enjoy additional time in the pool. Please Note: In order to attend this program the students are required to have their own swim equipment.

DAYS: Monday, Wednesday and Friday  
TIME: 12:00-12:45 pm

## SPORTS CORNER

### GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

We are quite proud to report that Girls' Volleyball team proudly wrote a new chapter in Brown School history this year. Our group of sixteen girls bumped, set, and served our way to our first victory ever (a nail-biter of a match against Allenby). We may have lost more games than we won this season, but we'll always have that victory.

Positive attitudes, supportive cheers, and more than our share of giggling (coaches and players alike) made for an entertaining season.

We'd also like to send out a special thank-you to all the parents who took time out of their busy schedules to drive players to practices and games.

Coaches: Dorcin & Macdonald

### BOYS BASKETBALL

The Boys Basketball season has come to an end. After beginning the year in style at the Upper Canada College Under 12 basketball tournament, the Boys set their sights on the regular season. The Boys faced some tough challenges against McMurrich and Withrow, but finished the season strong with decisive victories against Hillcrest and Regal Road.

Congratulations to all of the boys for their hard work and dedication to the team! Thank you also to all of the parents who supported the team throughout the season.

Coaches: Daigneau, B'Dacy and Wittenberg

### ICE HOCKEY

The Brown School Ice Hockey team has completed its regular season with a record of 5 wins and 0 losses. Thanks to great play by the players who have played on the team for the last couple of years along with some surprisingly good play by the rookies, the team has come together and has really meshed well together. They have a great balance of scoring, defending and solid goaltending by both goalies.

Over the past few years, the team has always been able to qualify for the play-offs but they were never able to quite win a play-off game. Our goal this year is to conquer that first play-off game that has been a stumbling block in the past, and then hopefully move on to bigger and better things.

Good luck to the team for the quarter final game on Thursday February 14th @ Forest Hill Arena from 12-1pm. Parent drivers are asked to meet the team at the office at 11:10am. to help with the transportation to and from the rink. GO BROWN GO!

Coaches: Ellis, Profiti and Weslak

### COMING SOON!!

Co-Ed Badminton Team - March-April - Grade 4-6  
Boys Soccer Team - April-May - Grade 4-6  
Girls Soccer Team - April-May - Grade 4-6  
Ultimate Frisbee Team - May-June - Grade 5-6  
Track and Field - May-June - Grade 3-6

Please continue to check the school website for announcements, information regarding team sports and more!

[www.brownschool.ca](http://www.brownschool.ca)

## **SUPERMAN versus BATMAN** *By Ryan A., Grade 6*

Hello ladies and gentlemen my name is Ryan. Now I know we have some comic fans out there! I am here to explain to you why I think Superman is better than Batman.

Superman's born name was Kal-el and his parents sent him on a rocket down to earth when his planet, Krypton was about to explode. How cool is that! He was then adopted by the Kents and was raised on their farm doing chores and learning how to fully use his powers. He is now working for a metropolis newspaper and fighting crime.

Bruce Wayne's parents were shot by a mugger in Gotham City when he was a child. He inherited the family fortune and wanted to fight crime. He chose batman as a bat flew through the window of his study when he was thinking about his costume. Now he is managing the Wayne enterprises and fighting crime.

What do you think is a better home base? A dark dingy hole in the ground called the batcave or a fortress made of ice called Solitude with an ever continuing source of light. Think about it.

What would be a cooler way to get around then to fly or leap from building to building. Well That's what Superman does. Would you rather be able to fly, or drive a gas guzzler of a car that is slowly killing the environment with all it's exhaust. How do you get somewhere fast in the batmobile if there is traffic?

Superman's secret identity is Clark Kent a photographer for The Daily Planet. Batman's secret identity is Bruce Wayne a millionaire who runs Wayne enterprises. While Bruce has it all, Clark isn't a millionaire with a fancy car or butler and has to do everything by himself. Whatever Bruce wants Bruce gets. A bit spoiled you may think. What does Wayne enterprises do anyway? For all we know they could be arms dealers.

Superman wears a red cape and blue costume with no mask. The red cape is there just for looking cool in flight. It sure works doesn't it. Batman has a huge black cape that one would wonder how he avoids tripping on it. His face is masked and his body hides behind a plate of steel with fake abs. Would you trust someone who wore a mask with horns on it? Superman changes in a phone booth and could change in an ally or a barn while batman goes in his big batcave to change. Superman just changes his clothes and bam no one knows who he is. Doesn't that suggest that there is something really super about him. Yet Bruce goes to all the trouble to cover his face, does he lack the super quality of superman.

Superman has a vast array of powers while batman doesn't have any. Batman is just a guy with lots of money and some hi-tech equipment. Superman has heat and X ray vision, flight and super strength. Batman has a lot of gadgets. One of these is shark repellent bat spray. How often and where does a bat encounter sharks?

Superman's long true love is a woman named Lois Lane. Lois Lane is a fellow worker at the newspaper. Batman on the other hand has yet to show us that he can hold on to a normal and stable relationship!

Superman is invincible to everything except for kryptonite which is remaining fragments of his planet that fell down to Earth. Now for Batman, batman has weakness practically to everything mainly because he doesn't have any super powers!

Think about this, who would you choose for a bodyguard, a guy with a smiling face who could fly you places and take a bullet for you and not be hurt or a guy dressed up as a bat with a sidekick that doesn't wear pants combined with a sketchy company that you know nothing about. It practically spells itself out for you. Now I hope you all go home tonight knowing why superman is better than batman. Because he actually has super powers, he's from a cool planet, he doesn't need a mask, and HE IS TRULY SUPER.

Do you have news or events to announce in an upcoming Bulletin? Send the details to [bulletin@brownschool.ca](mailto:bulletin@brownschool.ca)

# Dance-a-Thon

## École Brown School

Thursday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008 / Jeudi, le 14 février, 2008



TIME	GRADE(S)	ROOM # (TEACHERS)
9:00 - 9:35	Grade 1 Grade 1 Grade 1	Room 23 - A. Fox / A. Foord Room 22 - D. Legge Room 26 - S. Weizman
9:35 - 10:15	Grade 4/5 Grade 4/5	Room 33 - A. Wittenberg Room 39 - D. Pare
10:15 - 10:30	<b>RECESS</b>	
10:30 - 11:00	JK SK SK	Room 13 - L. Warden Room 14 - S. Ferraioli Room 15 - J. Konstantinou
11:00 - 11:35	Grade 2 Grade 2 Grade 2	Room 40 - N. Regan Room 25 - C. Dorcin Room 36 - L. Dumont
11:40 - 12:40	<b>LUNCH</b>	
12:45 - 1:20	Grade 4 Grade 4/5	Room 34 - C. Blanchard Room 41 - J. Hirsch
1:20 - 1:50	JK SK SK	Room 13 - L. Warden Room 14 - S. Ferraioli Room 15 - J. Konstantinou
1:50 - 2:25	Grade 2/3 Grade 3 Grade 3 Grade 3	Room 28 - L. Hazen Room 37 - Y. B'Dacy Room 21 - G. Nathanson Room 20 - M. Breslin
2:25 - 2:40	<b>RECESS</b>	
2:45 - 3:25	Grade 5/6 Grade 6 Grade 6	Room 38 - A. Fischer-Harrison Room 30 - C. MacDonald Room 32 - J. Vernon