

BROWN BULLETIN

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

January 2008

STAFF NEWS

- We offer our congratulations and best wishes to our December bride Michele Breslin and her husband Jason Cohen.
- We welcome back Claudine Blanchard who returns to room 34 from leave on Monday January 28, 2008. We would like to thank Martha Osler for her time and commitment to students in room 34.
- Geetha Padassery has renewed her leave until next September. We are fortunate to have Rise Schwartz continue to replace Ms. Padassery for the remainder of the school year.
- This term, we welcome many student teachers to Brown School. These placements are beneficial to all.

LUNCH PROGRAM

We continue to strive to have all of our students bring a litterless lunch each day. We are having **Boomerang Lunches** this year, which means that any food that is not eaten at school will be sent home with the child. We feel that it is important for parents and caregivers to know what the children do eat each day. Also left over food can be disposed of in the family organic waste container. With your cooperation we continue to reduce the amount of garbage collected each day.

The children are fortunate to have many lunch time activities to keep them active and busy during the lunch break!

- There will be **primary sports activities** in the gym on Mondays Wednesdays and Fridays.
- The children may participate in **recreational swim** on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
- The **Junior Swim Team** practices each Tuesday and Thursday at lunch.
- The children trying out for the **Chess Team** meet on Tuesday morning at 8:00 am in room 28 and at lunch time on Wednesday in room 15.
- The **Junior Boy's Reading Club** will meet on Wednesdays in Room 20.

The children do have time each day for outdoor activities and must be dressed appropriately Often clothing and boots are misplaced by the children and these items arrive in our Lost and Found box. Please label your child's outdoor clothing and all footwear so that lost items can be reunited with its owner.

SEVERE WEATHER GUIDELINES FOR INDOOR RECESS

At times winter weather conditions warrant indoor recess or lunch. When the temperature and/or wind chill indicates -28C or lower, students will remain indoors due to the risk of frostbite. When temperature and/or wind chill indicates -20 to -28C, recess and lunch recess may be shortened depending upon local conditions.

STUDENT SAFETY

At times, parents need to pick up their child during the school day for an appointment or other reasons. Please send a note to the classroom teacher indicating what time you would like to meet your child in the office. Teachers will send the children to the office at the time indicated in the note. Parents are requested to meet their child in the office and sign their child out of the school in the SIGN OUT book in the office. Thank you.

Friday January 18.....	Pizza Lunch
Thursday January 31.....	French Immersion SK information Night at 7pm in the Library
Wednesday February 6.....	Speech Arts Festival English students (French Immersion students TBA)
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)
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)

FROM THE PARENT COUNCIL

WINTER CONCERT

The Winter Concert was a terrific success again this year! The on-stage performances were absolutely delightful and only surpassed by the incredible generosity of our students and parents who provided all of the refreshments, most of which were home baked. We were able to extend this goodwill by donating the leftover baked goods to our friends at Second Harvest - an astounding 60lbs of baked goods were redistributed to those in need.

PARENT SAFETY PROGRAM ("KISS 'N RIDE")

This much anticipated program will launch as a pilot program in the Spring. A number of parents have expressed their support and interest in volunteering. If you are able to commit to one or two mornings per month to open vehicle doors and assist children into the school yard between 8:35am and 8:55am, please contact Yvonne Harding at harding99@rogers.com or 416-920-4948. An overview of the Parent Safety Program can be downloaded from the website at www.brownschool.ca

BROWN ESTABLISHES A GREEN COMMITTEE!

The Parent Council, working with Principal Giuliani, has created the Green Committee to look at initiatives that our school can implement in the near and longer term. Our school has already taken some smaller steps (e.g. sending the Bulletin via email to as many families as possible, encouraging litter-less lunches and establishing "boomerang" lunches), but there is a lot more we can do. Ideas and initiatives include scheduling weekly "walk-to-school" days – for those who can – all the way to installing a solar power generating system on the school's roof, and many in between. We will be putting our plan together with the goal of becoming certified at the gold level through the TDSB's EcoSchools program. We are aiming to launch our program on Earth Day, April 22. The Green Committee is being co-chaired by Brown parents Bernard Morrow and David Beutel and we will be putting together a team of parents, teachers, school administrators, maintenance staff and students. If you are interested in becoming a member of the team, or helping out in any way, please email David at david@oakwest.ca.

NEWS FROM THE OUTREACH CLUB

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE HOLIDAY HAMPERS

Brown School was able to provide hampers for 22 families who needed extra support during this holiday season. We fulfilled specific requests which were gratefully appreciated by each family. As always, Brown families were huge supporters of this program and the gifts were heartfelt. To ensure the continued success of this program, we plan to ask a parent volunteer from each class help oversee their class's basket starting in the 2008/09 school year. Please watch for news in the Fall and contact the Outreach Coordinator if you are interested in volunteering.

DANCE-A-THON IS ON FEBRUARY 14!!

Do you love to dance? Do you love Brown School? This year's Dance-a-thon is on February 14! Please see the end of this Bulletin for a class schedule. This is a great opportunity to raise money for the school and show your school spirit. Because it is Valentine's Day, **wearing pink, red or white would be a perfect clothing choice**. Please only ask friends and family for donations (do not canvas door-to-door). Parents are welcome to come and help out. To get everyone in the mood, there will be a Pep-Rally on January 22 at 11:00. Pledge forms will be handed out at the pep rally.



"Dance-A-Thon" By Adrienne, Room 25 (Grade 2 French)

GRADE 7 OPEN HOUSES

The following Open Houses are being hosted for current Grade 6 students and their parents:

School Name	Date and Time	School Name	Date and Time
Arlington MS	February 7, 7pm	Horizon Alt.	January 16, 6.30pm
City View Alt.	January 24, 6.30pm	Humbercrest PS	April 30, 7pm
Deer Park Sr. PS	January 23, 7pm	Jesse Ketchum PS	January 24, 6.30pm
Delta Alt.	January 28, 7pm	Kent Sr. PS	January 16, 6.30pm
EAST Alt.	January 23, 6.30pm	King Edward	January 29, 7pm
Essex PS	February 7, 6.30pm	Lord Lansdowne PS	January 23, 7pm
Forest Hill Sr. PS	February 6, 6.30pm	Quest Alt.	January 29, 6.45pm
Glenview PS	January 31, 6.30pm	Ryerson PS	January 24, 6.30pm
Hawthorne II Alt.	January 23, 7pm	Spectrum Alt.	January 30, 7pm
Hodgson Sr. PS	January 29, 7pm	Winona Sr. PS	January 24, 6.30pm

BROWN SCHOOL PRESENTS: IDEAS FOR PARENTS

Parents often request information about literacy. The following information about the components of a balanced literacy program will explain why teachers do various literacy activities with their students.

Components of a Balanced Literacy Program

Literacy Activity	Explanation
Read Aloud	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Teachers read aloud from a variety of genres. ➤ Listening to others read is a highly motivating factor for children to become good readers. ➤ It is so important to read aloud to children!
Shared Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The teacher selects a text to read to the whole class. This text is revisited over a period of days. Students join in and read the text aloud. ➤ This provides many opportunities for incidental teaching and learning more about language. ➤ You may observe teachers reading chart stories, poems and big books with their students.
Guided Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ This involves a small group of students with similar needs. The teacher provides instruction. ➤ The goal is for students to talk, read and think through a text, and to read silently. ➤ Our teachers have access to many sets of books to use for guided reading instruction.
Independent Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Students read self-selected materials without assistance to practice and apply reading strategies. ➤ Younger students may also read environmental print. ➤ Visiting the school and public libraries on a regular basis and participating in classroom “borrow-a-book” and “book buddy” programs help develop independent reading skills.
Modelled Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The teacher demonstrates how a proficient writer writes by thinking out loud and scripting the writing. ➤ These demonstrations extend the students’ repertoire of writing forms to teach a range of skills and strategies for writing.
Shared and Interactive Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ This is an extension of Modelled Writing. The teacher and students collaborate in the construction of a text. ➤ Students are then encouraged to edit and revise the writing.
Independent Writing / Writer’s Workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Students write daily and receive regular instruction based on their needs.

SPORTS CORNER

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

ICE HOCKEY

The Ice Hockey team is off to a great start with a win against Forest Hill P.S. on Jan 8 and a win against Bennington Heights on January 15. The team also participated in the UCC Hockey Tournament on Jan 11 and represented Brown School very well. The team made it all the way to the semi-finals and ran into a very strong team from Northlea P.S.

Thanks to all the parents for their wonderful support thus far. Next practice is scheduled for Jan 28: Bill Bolton Arena, 7-8am.

Coaches: Mr. Ellis and Mr. Profiti

BOYS BASKETBALL

The Boys Basketball team has been chosen and they have just come off of a very impressive weekend at the UCC Basketball Tournament. The boys - and for the first time in many years, a few girls - went into the tournament with no real game experience, and shocked everyone, coaches included, as they made their way to the Consolation Finals. Thank you to all of the parents, brothers, sisters, teachers and friends that came to support the team in the tournament.

There is no rest for this team, as the regular season gets started on January 16 vs. Sprucecourt. Good luck to the team through their entire season!

Coaches: Mme B'Dacy, Mr. Daigneau and Mr. Wittenberg

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Thank you to the over 30 girls who tried out for this year's team!

A busy schedule will see us play 6 matches in just over three weeks. Matches are played in a best-out-of-three format, beginning as close as possible to 4:00 p.m. and ending by 5:00 p.m. Any 'away' games will see us return to Brown School by about 5:30 p.m.

Practices will be held every Monday, after school, from 3:45 to 4:45 p.m., and every Friday morning, from 7:45 to 8:45 a.m.

Schedule (with the potential for 2 more games against Palmerston):

Thursday, JANUARY 17th vs. McMurrich (@ Brown)
Monday, JANUARY 21st vs. John Ross (@ Brown)
Wednesday, JANUARY 23rd vs. Allenby (@ Allenby)

Monday, January 28th vs. Allenby (@ Brown)
Wednesday, February 1st vs. McMurrich (@ McMurrich)
Thursday, February 7th vs. John Ross (@ John Ross)

Coaches: Mme Dorcin and Mr. Macdonald

LUNCHTIME SPORTS (GRADES 1, 2 & 3)

This year the Grade 1, 2 and 3 students will have the opportunity to participate in a fun lunchtime sports program organized by Mr. Wittenberg and Mr. Profiti. The students who signed up for the program have been placed on one of 10 teams.

Games will take place every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday until the end of March. All games will take place in the Gym from 12:00 - 12:40. Students are reminded that they must have running shoes to participate on game days.

The classroom teachers have a copy of the teams along with the schedule of games.

Do you have news or events to announce in an upcoming Bulletin? Send the details to bulletin@brownschool.ca

Dance-a-Thon

École Brown School

Thursday, February 14th, 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	RECESS	
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	LUNCH	
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	RECESS	
2:45 - 3:25	Grade 5/6 Grade 6 Grade 6	Room 38 - A. Fischer-Harrison Room 30 - C. MacDonald Room 32 - J. Vernon