

BROWN BULLETIN

www.brownschool.ca 454 Avenue Road, Toronto M4V 2J1 416.393.1560

NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF M. J. GIULIANI & S. LITNER – SEPTEMBER 2008

Welcome Back to Our New Academic Year!

We were delighted to see that our students, staff and parents have returned to school with so much energy and enthusiasm. We are very excited that we will be working with you and your child(ren) this year!

The teachers and support staff have spent many hours preparing the school and classrooms for our students. We extend a warm welcome to our new students and parents. This is such an exciting time for our JK students and their parents. We thank you for choosing Brown school. We welcome back our returning students and their parents. Over the years the strong home and school partnership has been most beneficial to your children. **We look forward to another excellent academic year!**



Staff News

We offer our congratulations to staff **Jocelyn Vernon** and her husband Mark Baker who were married in July.

Marie France Gagnon and her husband Freddy Cortes are the proud parents of a son Matisse.

Alexis Lundy and her husband welcomed another daughter, Jasmine Rose, to their family this summer.

Congratulations to all!

Partnership With Brown Parent Council

We look forward to working with our Parent Council Co-Chairs, **Yvonne Harding and Kelli Shiffer Belanger**, again this year. We thank them for all of their time and commitment on behalf of the entire school community.

We are in regular contact with the Parent Council for feedback and ideas. This close partnership has been beneficial to all. We enjoy working with all of the members of our School Council and we thank all of the members of the Executive for their efforts.

We know that by working together we make positive improvements to our school.

All parents and guardians are invited to attend **Brown School's Curriculum Night** on **Thursday, September 25th**. We look forward to seeing everyone!



- ▶ The evening will begin in the Gym at 6:00 pm. with a general gathering and introduction of teachers, staff and programmes.
- ▶ **Kindergarten and Primary classrooms** will be open from 6:30 to 7:00 for you to meet with your children's teachers and discuss their plans for the year.
- ▶ **Junior Classrooms** will be open from 7:00 to 7.30.
- ▶ Throughout the evening, we hope that you will introduce yourself to the **Administration** as well as the **Phys. Ed, Swimming and Music teachers and the Librarian**.

IMPORTANT DATES

Mon Sept 15 & Tues Sept 16	School Photo Days
Wednesday September 17	QSP Magazine Sales Begin
Thursday September 18	New Parent Breakfast - 8a.m., Brown School Gym
Monday September 22	Parent Council Annual General Meeting - 9a.m. Meeting Rm
Thursday September 25	Toonie for Terry Fox Walk Curriculum Night – 6:00-7.30pm
Friday September 26	Professional Activity Day (no classes for students)
Monday October 13	Thanksgiving Holiday

In This Issue:

News from the Office.....	1
From the Parent Council.....	3
Around Brown School.....	4
Sports Corner.....	5
Facts of Lice.....	7

Important Notes on Student Safety

Our bell rings to start classes at 8:50a.m. The teachers will begin yard supervision at 8:35 a.m. **Please do not leave your child in the schoolyard before this time because there is no supervision.** Students should be picked up at 3:30p.m. in the same location. If children require extra help, classroom remediation time is between 3:30 and 3:45p.m. This is considered to be part of our academic day, so please understand that teachers may keep students in the class for some additional attention at this time. **Kindergarten children** gather in our primary yard and are asked to enter their classroom directly from the playground at 8:50a.m. or 1:00p.m. Students arriving by bus will be supervised until teachers arrive on duty in the yard.

If it is necessary to pick up your child during the school day, please send a note to the classroom teacher indicating what time you would like to meet your child in the school office. Teachers will send the child to the office at the indicated time. Please sign your child out of the school in the Sign Out Book on the office counter.

Brown School has an **Attendance Verification Program** to support the safe arrival of our students. We will call home if your child has not arrived at school. It is essential that all parents report their child's absence or late arrival due to an appointment to **416 393 1557 before 8:50 a.m.** Classes begin at 8:55 a.m. Please ensure that your child arrives at school on time. It is important for our students to be here on time so that we can begin attendance verification promptly. Also, children who arrive on time benefit from valuable teaching time and instruction first thing in the morning.

We ask that parents do not drop off or pick up students or park their vehicle in the laneway off Avenue Road. This area is for bus drop off and pick up and delivery only. It is impossible for the busses to turn around when there are cars parked at the back. This has been an ongoing safety concern that has improved greatly with your cooperation.



On Thursday, September 25th, all Brown School students and staff will be participating in the annual **Toonie for Terry Walk** commemorating Terry Fox and his Marathon of Hope.

Students and their teachers will be walking around the Brown School neighbourhood. All are asked to bring in a Toonie, which will be donated to the Terry Fox Foundation.

Keeping You in Touch

You received a Communications form during the first week of school asking for your contact information. Please return this form as quickly as possible so that we can keep you in touch with school events and other parents. There are a number of ways to keep connected:

Brown Bulletin – Our monthly bulletin will be sent out electronically beginning in October. **Help us reduce paper and increase the speed of communication by providing your email address(es) on the communications form.** We are targeting 100% electronic delivery this year.

Brown Website – You can find school news bulletins, sporting schedules and events, archived Bulletins, forms and other important information on our website: www.brownschool.ca.

Brown Handbook and Directory – We will be piloting a school Handbook and Directory later this fall. The Handbook will outline Brown's special activities and policies to help new parents get to know the school quickly. The Directory will provide names and contact information of Brown children and parents so that you can connect with others. We look forward to your input and feedback on this brochure.

Class Parents – Parent Representatives of each class help connect parents with their child's teacher, the school and each other. Class parents manage class lists, coordinate class volunteers and organize parent and class social and fundraising events. Please speak to your teacher if you are interested in being a Class Parent.

We hope you will feel connected and in-touch with Brown School this year. Please contact Katharine Lake Berz at lakeberz@yahoo.com if you would like to help with Brown Communications.

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

FROM THE PARENT COUNCIL

Welcome to all new and returning families to Brown!

This year will be filled with many wonderful activities and events which support and enhance our children's education and will be organized by a wonderful group of parent volunteers.



A New Parent Breakfast will be held on Thursday, September 18th at 8:00am in the Gym for parents who are new to the school. This gathering will give "new" parents an opportunity to meet and chat with "old" Brown Parents, teachers, Principal Jane Giuliani and Vice Principal Sonja Litner, as well as learn more about the school. **Everyone is welcome!**

We invite all interested parents to attend the **Brown Parent Council Annual General Meeting, which will be held on Monday, September 22nd at 9:00 in the Meeting Room.** This is a chance for you to learn more about the school, its activities and opportunities to get involved with the school. The first Parent Council Executive Meeting will follow immediately after.



If you have any questions, concerns or comments, please do not hesitate to contact us. Looking forward to a wonderful year at Brown!

-- Yvonne Harding & Kelli Schiffer Belanger, Co-Chairs

harding99@rogers.com kschifferbelanger@yahoo.com

Parent Safety Program



Mornings are a particularly hectic time, and no where is this more evident than in the student drop-off area and staff parking lot entrance on Poplar Plains Road.

To reduce the numerous traffic hazards facing our children on their way into school, **a pilot Parent Safety Program will begin in early October.** This program will create an organized "Kiss 'n' Ride" zone on Poplar Plains Rd during the morning drop-off, and will depend greatly on the active involvement of concerned parent volunteers.

If you are able to volunteer 30 minutes of your time every other week to ensure the safety of our children, please contact Yvonne Harding at harding99@rogers.com for more information.

A Final Word on Pools

Thank you to the many parents and students who attended rallies, meetings and wrote numerous letters to our municipal and provincial representatives in an effort to keep water in all of the school based pools across the city. Those efforts have paid off in the form of an **additional \$4M dollars** from the Ministry of Health Promotion to keep these pools open for the coming year while an Aquatics Working Group develops a long-term strategy.

Mark Your Calendars!

the Fall Fling!

This year, our major annual Fundraiser, the **Fall Fling**, will take place on **Thursday, November 27th at the Badminton & Racquet Club.** Available at the evening's Silent Auction will be numerous crafts and creations by the Brown School students as well as many exciting donated items.

Lisa Hunter and Leslie Greenbaum, co-chairing this year's event, are available anytime to answer your questions and to make arrangements for donations. Anji Shukla will once again work her magic to coordinate the wonderful crafts. Please contact Lisa at hunterhome@rogers.com or (416) 483-5655. Leslie can be reached at leslie@rwqr.com.

Please watch for further details in the coming weeks!

NEWS FROM AROUND BROWN SCHOOL

Physical Education Class

Each class from Grade 1 to 6 will receive 2 classes of Physical Education per week. **It is extremely important that your child is prepared for Gym class by having the appropriate clothing and footwear.** Having comfortable clothing such as running shoes, socks, track pants or shorts along with a comfortable shirt is important for your child to get the most out of the Phys-Ed program.

Participation in the Phys-Ed program is worth half of your child's grade on their report card, so being prepared to take part in physical activity is extremely important.

I look forward to seeing your child in the Gym again this year!

-- Mr. Profiti



RECREATIONAL SWIM for GRADES 1-6 will begin the week of September 8th.

This program will be held twice a week on **Mondays & Wednesdays beginning at 12:00 pm.** Students are required to bring his/her own bathing suit, bathing cap and towel.

** Please Note: Sorry, during this program we do not lend swim equipment.*

Innisbrook – Our Favourite Colour Is Green!

Fall is the time of year for our Wrapping Paper and Gift Fundraiser! There will be a fantastic choice of wrapping paper and great gifts from Innisbrook. For those of you concerned about the environment and our efforts to maintain our Gold Eco-school certification, here is a list of some of Innisbrook's efforts to support environmental sustainability:



- ✓ All standard gift wrap is printed on premium recycled paper
- ✓ Inks used are 100% water-based
- ✓ Paper is purchased from mills that support local and global initiatives.
- ✓ All corrugated boxes are recycled.
- ✓ Recycled pallets are used to ship Innisbrook products to schools
- ✓ All Innisbrook catalogues and money collection envelopes are printed on recycled paper

This is a phenomenal fundraiser and we hope all will participate. Look for details to follow later this month. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help, please contact Karen Smith at karenandian@rogers.com.

School-Wide Pediculosis (Lice) Screening is on Wednesday, October 15

The TDSB Pediculosis Coordinator and a group of trained parents will do head checks for every class. Volunteers are needed to assist, so if you can help please contact the office. Further information about Pediculosis is included at the end of this Bulletin.



2008/2009 PIZZA LUNCH



This school year, Pizza Lunch will be served to all participating children on the following dates:

Fall Term

Friday, October 17
Friday, November 21
Friday, December 19

Winter Term

Friday, January 23
Friday, February 20

Spring Term

Friday, March 27
Friday, April 24
Friday, May 22
Friday, June 19

More Information about Pizza Lunch and the Milk Program will come home with your child(ren) in the coming days!

SPORTS CORNER

Another year at Brown School is here - and that means the Athletics Program will be in full gear very soon!

All Students have received a package of **blue permission forms** that are intended to give permission for your child to try-out and/or participate on *any* school team. Whether it is the Cross Country Team or the Football Team or even the Badminton Team, the permission forms must be filled out and returned to their teacher. ***If a child does not have their permission forms filled out they will not be allowed to participate in any of the try-outs until the permission forms are returned.***

The first school teams that will be getting started very soon are the **Football, Cross-Country, Slo-Pitch and Primary Swim Teams.**

The coaches had a sign up meeting for the Touch Football Teams and for the Slo-Pitch Teams on Wednesday September 3rd and Thursday September 4th at morning and afternoon recess in the Gym. This information was brought to the attention of the students via the morning announcements.

BOYS FOOTBALL (Grades 4-6)

The Jr. Boys Football Team will hold try-outs for **students in Grades 6** starting on Thursday September 11th @ 7:30a.m. at Winston Churchill Park.

The **Grade 4 and 5 students** are invited to a try-out on Friday September 12th @ 7:30 a.m. at Winston Churchill Park.

Once the first list is posted outside of the Gym, those students on the list are invited to a final try-out on Thursday September 18th @ 7:30 a.m. at Winston Churchill Park.

The final team list will be posted on Thursday, September 18th in the afternoon and the first team practice will take place on Friday September 19th @ 7:30 a.m. at Winston Churchill Park.

All team practices will follow the schedule of every Thursday and Friday mornings at 7:30a.m at Winston Churchill Park.

Students who would like to walk to the park with the coaches must be in the Principals Hallway at 7:15 a.m. on the morning of the try-out or practice. If you would like to meet the coaches at the park then please be at the park at 7:30a.m.

All students are encouraged to dress appropriately for try-outs; sweater or t-shirt, track pants or shorts (no jeans please) soccer cleats or any pair of athletic shoes.

Coaches: Mr. Profiti and Mr. Daigneau

GIRLS FOOTBALL (Grades 4-6)

The Jr. Girls Football Team will hold try-outs for **students in Grades 6** starting on Thursday September 11th @ 7:30a.m at Winston Churchill Park.

The **Grade 4 and 5 students** are invited to a try-out on Friday September 12th @ 7:30 a.m. at Winston Churchill Park.

Once the first list is posted outside of the Gym, those students on the list are invited to a final try-out on Thursday September 18th @ 7:30 a.m. at Winston Churchill Park.

The final team list will be posted on Thursday, September 18th in the afternoon and the **first team practice** will take place on **Friday September 19th** @ 7:30 a.m. at Winston Churchill Park.

All team practices will follow the schedule of every Thursday and Friday mornings at 7:30a.m at Winston Churchill Park.

Students who would like to walk to the park with the coaches must be in the Principals Hallway at 7:15 a.m. on the morning of the try-out or practice. If you would like to meet the coaches at the park then please be at the park at 7:30a.m.

All students are encouraged to dress appropriately for try-outs; sweater or t-shirt, track pants or shorts (no jeans please) soccer cleats or any pair of athletic shoes.

Coaches: Mr. Profiti and Mr. Wittenberg

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

CROSS COUNTRY (Grades 1-6)

The Cross Country Team will begin practicing on **Wednesday September 10th** with students in Grade 1-3 invited. The students in Grade 1-3 will have their Cross Country practices every Wednesday and Thursday @ 7:45 a.m. at Winston Churchill Park.

The students in Grade 4-6 will have their Cross Country practices every Monday and Thursday at Winston Churchill Park at 7:45 a.m. First practice for Grade 4-6 students is on **Thursday September 11th**.

Please note that the practices on Thursdays are for the whole Cross Country Team - Grade 1 to 6.

All Cross Country practices take place at Winston Churchill Park and begin promptly at 7:45 a.m.

- ➔ If you plan on walking to the park with the coaches, please meet them in the Principals Hallway, just outside the Gym, @ 7:30 a.m. on the day of your scheduled practice.
- ➔ If you want to meet the coaches at the park, then students should be at Winston Churchill Park ready to run at 7:45 a.m.

Please note that students in Grade 1 or 2 must have an adult at the park with them for the duration of the practice.

If there are any questions regarding Cross Country please forward them to Mr. Pare, Mr. Macdonald, Ms Hirsch, Ms Fox or Ms Warden.

BOYS SLO-PITCH (Grades 4-6)

Tuesday, September 9th @ 7:30 a.m. - Try-out for students in Grades 4 and 5 (*Winston Churchill Park*).

Wednesday, September 10th @ 7:30a.m. - Try-out for Grade 6 students only (*Schoolyard*).

Thursday, September 11th @ 3:45p.m. - Try-out for only the students who made the first cut (*Schoolyard*).

All students are encouraged to dress appropriately for try-outs: sweater or t-shirt, track pants or shorts (no jeans please), running shoes, a hat and baseball glove.

Coaches: Jona Weslak, Mme B'Dacy and Mr. Ellis

GIRLS SLO-PITCH (Grades 4-6)

1st Try-out: Tuesday September 9th @ 7:30 a.m. - For students in Grades 4, 5 and 6 (*Schoolyard*).

2nd Try-out: Tuesday September 16th @ 7:30 a.m. - For students in Grades 4, 5 and 6 (*Schoolyard*).

All students are encouraged to dress appropriately for try-outs: sweater or t-shirt, track pants or shorts (no jeans please), running shoes, a hat and baseball glove.

More information will follow soon!

Coaches: Mr. Wittenberg, Mme Legge and Mrs. Regan

PRIMARY SWIM TEAM (Grades 2-3)

In the beginning of October, we will be talking to all the Grade 2 & 3 classes about the fun of joining our primary team. The students who are interested will be given the opportunity to sign up.

Further team information will follow in mid-October regarding the try-outs, practice days/times. We will keep you updated!

Thank you,
Mrs. J. & Mr. D., Brown Aquatic Staff

EVERY PARENT NEEDS TO KNOW THE FACTS OF LICE (PEDICULOSIS)

Head lice and their eggs (nits) is a nuisance that can affect any of us. If you have experienced them, you know how frustrating and time-consuming it is to eliminate the lice and nits from your child(ren). This memo aims to answer questions you may have and provide you with alternatives in treatment.

What are Head Lice?

Head lice are small gray or reddish brown wingless bugs, 1-4mm long depending on their age. Lice live on human heads. They do not live on pets or on other parts of the body. They feed on blood and cannot survive off the head for more than 24-48 hours. They do not hop, jump or fly. Lice lay eggs called nits. They are teardrop shaped and are glued to the hair shaft on an angle on one side of the hair shaft. The viable eggs are usually brownish-yellow. Female lice lay 3-5 eggs per day and live for 30 days. Lice eggs take 7-10 days to hatch and another 7-10 days to be mature enough to mate.

What Do I Look For?

Look for lice and nits in the hot spots. These are around the ears, at the crown of the head and at the nape of the neck. It is best to do this in bright light and with magnification. Look for red scabs caused by scratching, nits and bugs crawling through the hair. Lice lay their eggs close to the scalp but look along the entire hair shaft.

How to Treat Head Lice

Lice treatments and lice combs are available at your local drugstores and through other sources. Whatever treatment you choose to use – whether commercial or all natural alternative methods (such as vinegar and oil) – you must follow the same steps:

- Shampoo your child's hair according to the instructions
- If you use the oil method, leave it on the head for 2-3 hours covered with a plastic bag
- Wash the hair with regular shampoo
- To help loosen the eggs, rinse the hair with a mixture of warm water and vinegar (half and half)
- Separate hair into sections and remove all the nits with a lice comb and your fingernails
- Treating head lice requires several treatments 4-5 days apart for the next few weeks
- Each day for a month continue to inspect the hair for lice and nits

To succeed at eliminating head lice, you must physically remove all nits and lice from the hair.

For those who feel uncomfortable using commercial treatments (pesticidal lice treatment products), there are a number of more natural products and in-home nit/lice removal services, easily located under "lice" in the telephone book and on the internet.

If the person with lice or nits has allergies, asthma, epilepsy or other medical conditions, please consult your pharmacist or doctor. If you or the person with lice or nits is pregnant or nursing, please consult Motherisk at 416-813-6780.

Three Easy Steps to Cleaning Your Home

1. Place items that can safely be dried on high heat in a drier for 20-30 minutes
2. Vacuum items that cannot be dried
3. If an item cannot be dried or vacuumed, put it in a plastic bag for 24-28 hours

Preventing the Spread of Head Lice at School

It is critical that you let your child's teacher know that your child has lice, even if you have already treated him/her. Often by the time you discover lice on your own child it has spread to others in the class. The teacher can alert other parents to inspect their own children, decreasing the chances that lice will reproduce and spread further. Within a few weeks, lice can easily find their way back to your child's head and the cycle continues.

Your child may return to school after the first treatment and **after all nits are removed**. Regular combing of your children's hair with good quality lice combs can reduce the chances of recurrence. If you have any questions, please contact the school office.