

BROWN BULLETIN

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

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

March 2008

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

A big thank you to our amazing and talented staff who offer so many activities to your child(ren) at lunchtime and before and after school. Our students are busy and very engaged in a wide variety of extra curricular activities each day.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS: BROWN'S LIBRARY HAS BEEN RENOVATED!!

Our library looks fabulous! New bookshelves, curtains and flooring have been installed. Many new books have been purchased to enhance our bilingual book collection. It is a pleasure to observe the children as they enter our newly upgraded library. Everyone is delighted with the inviting appearance of the library and the many new resources that are available.

OISE STUDENT PLACEMENTS

We are delighted to welcome student teachers to Brown School. These placements are beneficial to all. The following practicum placements are from February 21 to March 28:

- Mr. Torus is with Mr. Macdonald in Room 30
- Ms. Jones joins Mme. B'Dacy in Room 37
- Ms Bondy is working with Ms. Hirsch in Room 41
- Mr. Harris is with Mr. Wittenberg in Room 33
- Ms. Hematj is with Mme. Dorcin in Room 25
- Mr. Davis has joined Mrs. Hazan in Room 28

TDSB SPEECH ARTS FESTIVAL UPDATE

Congratulations to the 3 Grade 6 students who represented Brown at the TDSB Speech Arts Festival semi-finals at Maurice Cody PS. All returned with medals! Amiya T. and Laura P. of Room 32 placed 3rd with their interpretation of Robert Munsch's "Mortimer." Ryan A. of Room 30 placed 1st with his original speech "Superman vs. Batman" and continued onto the City Finals on Friday, February 29 at Morrish PS in Scarborough.

Congratulations to Ryan for claiming the winning title in the City Finals! He delivered an outstanding rendition of his "Superman vs. Batman" speech to a packed gymnasium at Morrish PS. Fingers were crossed, the Brown PS cheering squad was tense but Ryan won the audience (and the judges) over with his charisma and easy delivery. Congratulations once again!

Le Concours d'art oratoire, Brown's French public speaking competition, is taking place on Wednesday, March 5th in the morning. Winners will be announced in April's newsletter.

Wednesday March 5.....	Concours d'art oratoire (French Public Speaking), 9:15am to 11:30am
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)
Friday March 28.....	Pizza lunch
Monday March 31.....	Term 2 reports are sent home
Wednesday April 2.....	Parent Council Meeting, 9am in the Meeting Room
Thursday April 3.....	Graduation Photos (morning)
Friday April 4.....	Professional Activity Day reporting to parents (no classes for students)
Tuesday April 15 to Friday April 18.....	Grade 6 trip to Quebec City
Saturday, May 24.....	Garden Fete

“THE KIDS ON THE BLOCK” PRESENTATION

On Thursday, February 28, the students from Grades 1 to 6 watched a presentation called “The Kids on the Block”. This presentation was delivered by puppets, and each character in the presentation had one or more medical conditions. The audience learned a great deal about the characters and the challenges that many children face. The message in the presentation was that although children may be presented with various challenges, they are all the same on the inside. Please take a few minutes to speak to your child about this presentation - everyone learned so much from this experience!

HEALTHY HABITS WEEK – A GREAT LEARNING TIME!!

Students and staff alike have great things to report about Brown’s Healthy Habits Week, February 19 – 22. Read what they have to say – and see the details of our next challenge! – at the end of this Bulletin.

FROM THE OUTREACH CLUB

The Dance-a-thon was a great success! All the classes had a great time dancing to the music with a fun light show. Brown students have a lot of school spirit when it comes to dancing and raising money for the school. Thank you to the parents who came out and supported their children and helped out at the dance.

Coming in March/April: the Outreach club will be visiting a local Food Bank in preparation for a school-wide food drive.

BOOK TALKS

We know that parents enjoy reading with their child each day and we also wish to emphasize how important is to talk to your child about books that you read together.

Retell, Relate and Reflect activities are great to initiate conversation and to encourage your child to think more about the text.

- When asking your child to **retell** events from a story using their own words, your child may speak about what the story was about or something that he/ she especially liked about the story.
- **Relate** activities prompts memories, the telling of personal stories and making connections
- Children who are asked **reflective** questions beginning with: “What do you think about ...” or “I wonder if...” are encouraged to share their ideas and insights.

FROM THE PARENT COUNCIL

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 2nd at 9:00 am in the Meeting Room. All are welcome.

POTENTIAL TDSB BUDGET CUTS

The TDSB is trying to maintain a balanced budget. In doing so, there are several budget cuts proposed that the Parent Council is concerned could impact our children and the quality of their education. If you would like more information on these proposed cuts or are interested in supporting our efforts to prevent these cuts from happening, please contact Kelli Belanger at kschifferbelanger@yahoo.com or Yvonne Harding at harding99@rogers.com.

GARDEN FETE – MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Garden Fête is scheduled for Saturday May 24. More details to follow! If you’re interested in helping with Garden Fête, please contact your classroom liaison, Currie Ross at currieross@rogers.com, or Claire Blicker at cblicker@rogers.com.

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 or Bernie Morrow at 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. Thank you.

AQUATIC NEWS

Update: We have a very busy, happy pool again! Please feel free to call us with any questions or concerns at 416 393-1560.

-- Mrs. Jeffery and Mr. Daigneau, Brown Aquatic Staff

LUNCH SWIM PROGRAM

This recreational aquatic program for our students in Grades 1-6 provides an opportunity to enjoy additional time in the pool.

Days: Monday, Wednesday and Friday Time: 12:00-12:45 pm

JUNIOR SWIM TEAM

**** NOTE: THE SWIM SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY MARCH 5th HAS BEEN CANCELLED ****

On Friday February 22, we had our first swim meet "victory" against the Hillcrest team! Great work Brown!! As of this writing, we do not yet have the final results from our swim meet which was held at Keele on Thursday February 28. However, we were very proud of our team even with the additional challenge of a "25 yard" pool. Our members held their own in both relays and individual events... overall it was a wonderful, successful morning!

Practice Days: Tuesday and Thursday Time: 11:55 - 12:45 pm

SPORTS CORNER

ICE HOCKEY

With the Ice Hockey season now officially over, the team finished the season with 6 wins and 1 shootout loss. Unfortunately for us, the shootout loss came in the semi-finals against Palmerston. Congratulations to the team for rising up and facing each and every challenge presented to them this year. The coaches are very proud of you for displaying great team spirit and a "team first" attitude. Thanks also to the wonderful parents for their consistent dedication and positive attitudes that they brought to each and every practice or game. Below you can read all about the semi-final game against Palmerston.

After Palmerston scored first, the Boys from Brown did not give up. We pressured the opponents and kept pressing until finally scoring to tie the game late in the second period. Palmerston took a 2-1 lead in third period with 1:24 left to go. After Brown took a timeout and then pulled the goalie with about 45 seconds left, the puck bounced around the Palmerston zone, hitting many sticks and legs and finally landing on the Captain of Brown School's stick (Matt C.), the puck went into the net with only 6 seconds left. The cheer from the Brown School parents sent shockwaves through the rink. It was incredible! The coaches jumped so high they almost fell over the boards.

A shootout followed and Brown and Palmerston missed both of their first two shots. Brown's third shooter (Trevor C.) scored thus putting the pressure on Palmerston to score and they did causing the shootout to go on.

The Brown School goalie (Spencer C.) was absolutely amazing during the game and in the shootout. Brown and Palmerston both missed on their fourth and fifth shot and on their sixth shot Brown once again was stopped and Palmerston scored.

WOW what a game! This game will go down in Brown School Ice Hockey history as one of the most exciting games ever!

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



HEALTHY HABITS WEEK - A GREAT LEARNING TIME!

... this is what
some of our leaders,
participants and
staff had to say...

GRADE 5 HEALTHY HABITS STUDENT LEADERS Nastassja and Andrew:

"This was a good opportunity to be leaders in the Healthy Habits Week. It was not always easy. We needed to encourage volunteers and sometimes repeat instructions. It felt good to teach something important."

GRADE 3 HEALTHY HABITS PARTICIPANTS Zoé and Mackenzie:

"We liked the mystery bag game about healthy and unhealthy snacks. We learned many good ideas about what is healthy and what isn't. The workshop got us thinking. We learned about food groups and how to get ready for school by making sure we take a shower, brush our teeth and eat breakfast."

GRADE 1 STAFF MEMBER Mme Sara:

"Healthy Habits Week was very worthwhile. It was well organized, had amazing student leaders, imparted good information, was hands-on, used the arts and had the students very focused. It was a good educational experience. In my class the students loved the Health Hustle so much that it inspired us to do more Daily Physical Activity!"

HEALTHY HABITS - OUR NEXT CHALLENGE!

- Students and families are being asked to submit a simple healthy recipe or recommendation for school snacks. We would like to share these in our school newsletter so we can all benefit! Thank you in advance!