

BROWN BULLETIN

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

Fall Activities

We hope that we will see you at our **Fall Fling** on November 27 at the Badminton and Racquet Club. This is a wonderful opportunity for parents and staff to socialize and celebrate the artistic talents of our students. The **student art projects**, organized by the very creative Anji Shukla, the staff and our parent volunteers, are so amazing! The **Grade 6 Choir**, under the direction of Mr. Ellis, will entertain us. Thank you to Lisa Hunter and Leslie Greenbaum, the co-chairs the Fling, along with their committee and the School Council Executive, for their dedication and hard work to provide us with such a unique and memorable evening. Thank you to the many generous donors of items for the silent auction and to the parents who have already made donations to the **Giving Tree**.

Our **fall sports teams** have completed another outstanding season! Our students have a great time and always represent their school so well. Our parents have been a constant support to our school teams by attending games to cheer us on and by driving students to and from sporting events. Thank you to the Brown staff for sharing their talents and skills to coach our school teams.

Our school **Remembrance Day Ceremony** was held on Tuesday, November 11. Thank you to Mr. Ellis and Mr. Macdonald for organizing this event, and to the classes and students for their presentations. The ceremony provided us with an opportunity to remember and reflect. Thank you to the students in Room 40 for sharing their Peace poems with us during the week on the daily announcements.

Academic Initiatives

Mathematics - We have compiled lists of books that teach math concepts in the story, and have made these books available in our school library. An example is *Spaghetti and Meatballs all Around* by Marilyn Burns, which reinforces multiplication and division skills. We have recently purchased French primary picture books that introduce math concepts and reinforce the mathematics strands. Please make note of math concepts in books when you are reading at home with your child.

Writing - Brown Staff has a school improvement plan focussing on using the First Steps writing assessment to program for the students. The school has a writing plan to promote the consistent teaching of the six forms of writing. We are using a school-wide approach to writing, working in teams to build lessons, common evaluations, multi-grade and inter-subject connections. This Term the primary staff will be teaching Recount and Procedural writing. The Junior staff is working on Recount and Report writing. Many classes are using the Fling craft activity as a basis for procedural writing. Brown families are encouraged to partner with staff to help students become excellent writers. Support strong writing skills by:

- Make sure writing is upheld as an important skill to learn and look for reasons to write with your child, e.g. thank you note, family trip journal, greeting cards, telephone messages.
- Model and discuss your many reasons for writing – filling in forms, work reports, personal notes, crosswords, shopping lists, e-mails, recipes etc.
- Talk over your child's draft writing; ask clarification questions about the content, structure and purpose of the piece.
- Encourage revision of your child's writings concerning spelling, punctuation, sequencing of ideas, vocabulary upgrading and enriching the content. Praise efforts in using writing support tools such as a dictionary or thesaurus.
- Expose your child to a wide variety of writing by encouraging the reading of a multitude of fiction and non-fiction materials.

Monday Nov 17 - Fri Nov 28	Outreach Club's Warm Clothing Drive
Thursday November 20	Primary Swim Meet at Brown (<i>no Pool Classes today</i>)
Friday November 21	Pizza Lunch; Last day to order Festive Plants
Thursday November 27	Fall Fling (<i>Badminton & Racquet Club</i>)
Friday November 28	Primary Swim Meet at Hillcrest (<i>no Pool Classes today</i>)
Monday December 1	Term 1 Reports are sent home
Tuesday December 2	Festive Plants available for pick-up, 3.30 – 6 p.m.
Thursday December 4	Winterfest Concert 9:15 a.m. (Program to follow)
Friday December 5	Professional Activity Day, Reporting to Parents (<i>no classes</i>)
Tuesday Dec 9 - Fri Dec 12	School Wide Dental Screening
Friday December 19	Pizza Lunch & Last Day of Classes for Fall Term

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Successful Parent-Teacher Interviews

Report cards will be sent home Monday, December 1st and parent teacher interviews are upon us. We encourage you to take this opportunity to find out about your child's progress, and offer some questions and tips that you may find useful for the interview:



Great Questions to Ask

- What skills does my child need to work on?
- What activities can we do at home to strengthen those skills?
- Does my child complete his/her work and assignments efficiently and conscientiously?
- Is my child facing any struggles in class not related to her/his schoolwork?

Interview Tips

- Talk to your child about school before the interview. Ask how they think they are doing and how the teacher can help them meet their goals.
- Get an idea of what the curriculum is like, the level your child is working at, and areas where they are struggling.
- Make a list of what you want to know before you go into the interview. You can even prepare questions ahead of time if it will make you feel more at ease. Knowing what you want to know and writing it down ensures that you don't forget anything, and that you get the information you need.
- Be open and honest. Feel free to add your own observations around your child's behaviour, strengths and weaknesses.
- Find out what they're learning. Ask curriculum questions; find out what your child has learned and what is coming up in the term ahead. Know the skills your child will need to be successful in the term ahead (i.e. knowing how to multiply and divide fractions).
- Ask about strengths and weaknesses and possible problems. Find out about problems before they happen. This information will allow students to get help before they fall behind.
- Ask what you can do at home to help your child. Make a commitment to support your child's learning.

FROM THE PARENT COUNCIL

After a successful Pilot, the Kiss'n Ride program is now firmly in place. A huge thank you goes out to the entire Brown School community for supporting this initiative. In just 4 short weeks a number of families are now regular users have this program and we hope the numbers will continue to grow. Our dedicated team of parent volunteers has also grown during this period, as always we happily welcome anyone else who is able to spare 25-30 minutes one morning every other week. Contact Yvonne Harding at harding99@rogers.com if you can spare some time. Thank you also to our **Student Ambassadors** who eagerly show up each morning to escort our younger students into the playground.

While we are pleased with the success to date we would like to stress a few important safety reminders:

- ✓ **Backpacks and belongings:** These items should be in the car with your child, not in the trunk, as it does pose a safety hazard to our volunteers, students and drivers.
- ✓ **Parking:** For those who choose to park in the 15-minute drop zone to the north of the parking garage, please do not exceed the fifteen minutes and please refrain from parking in the area between the parking garage entrances as this is not a legal parking area and you will be ticketed.
- ✓ **Crosswalks:** Please reinforce the proper usage of the crosswalks with your children. Children and adults should always cross behind the crossing guard, not in front as small children may not be visible to drivers. As well, children (even in the presence of an adult) should not cross the road on a diagonal.

Please, choose safety over convenience.

Thank you for your help in gathering information for the **Brown Handbook and Directory**. We will be distributing one per family in the coming weeks.



After 4 Update

The Fall program is well underway and has been very well received, particularly new programs such as *En Français* and *Piano and Music Theory*. We hope to add more courses for the Winter program; where demand is high, programs may be available on more than one day.

Information for the Winter program will be made available in December, with registration beginning in early January.

Meeting Reminder

The remaining Parent Council meetings for the Fall term will be held on Wednesday, November 12 and Wednesday, December 10. All meetings are held at 9:00 a.m. in the Meeting Room. All parents/guardians are welcome to attend.



Beautiful Festive Plants Are Coming To Brown

Look for the flyer and order form sent home with this Bulletin! Plants may be ordered until **Friday, November 21**, and will be available for pick-up at the school on Tuesday, December 2 from 3.30 – 6 p.m. Please call Judy Sheldon at 416-488-6267 if you have questions or if you would like to get involved and help!

The Wrapping Paper and Chocolate Fundraiser Was Very Successful!!!

Thank you to everyone who participated in this fundraiser, making this one of our most successful years to date. This could not have been done without all your participation and support! All orders are due to arrive at Brown at the beginning of the third week of November.

We are pleased to announce the winners of the \$50.00 Indigo gift certificates for achieving the highest sales in the school:

JK, SK, Grades 1, 2, 3: Liam M. (Grade 2)

Grades 4, 5, 6: Nicolas S. (Grade 5)

Honorable mention goes to the 5 runners-up: J. Eddy; O. Caminsky; G. Grancolini; J. Pearson; S. Janes; M. Alexander.

Congratulations to all!

the Fall Fling!

Come for the Food! Come for the Fun! Come for the Raptors tickets!

Join us for all this and more on Thursday, November 27 from 6:30 -10:30 p.m. as Brown School hosts the annual Fall Fling at the Badminton & Racquet Club.

Thanks in large part to the outpouring of support from Brown School families, the Fling is shaping up to be a fantastic event. **What will catch your eye? A mosaic vase created by your child's classroom? The Yorkville Spree Basket? The weekend retreat for two to Niagara-on-the-Lake? How about the spirit of your family captured in a logo, designed by Dear Henry, or a pastry-making class?** While you try to make up your mind, you can enjoy the wonderful menu including food stations and hors d'oeuvres as well as entertainment provided by the Brown School Choir.

This year, we will be accepting Visa and MasterCard for all Silent Auction and Craft Table purchases. If you are intending to make a contribution to the Giving Tree, please remember to bring your chequebook so that you will be eligible for a tax receipt.

As always, you may purchase your tickets at the door, but to help organizers provide the venue with an accurate number of attendees on which to base the menu, it would be helpful for parents to purchase tickets in advance. You may use the ticket order form attached to the newsletter or find additional order forms at the office.

Thank you once again for all your support to date. We are looking forward to a great night!

Correction Notice:

THE GIVING TREE form that was included in the Fall Fling Package, sent home with your child, contained incorrect information. Only donations exceeding \$25.00 will be eligible for tax receipts. Also, cheques must be made payable to the TDSB (Toronto District School Board) and not to Brown School, as was indicated on the form. We are sorry for any inconvenience this has caused and thank you for your understanding.

NEWS FROM AROUND BROWN SCHOOL



Winterfest Concert

We look forward to sharing and celebrating our student's musical accomplishments with you at our annual Winterfest concert on the morning of **Thursday, December 4**. We will send home a copy of the program early in December.

Please note that our afternoon Kindergarten classes do not participate in this concert. They will perform at our Spring Concert which is held during the afternoon.



OUTREACH

The Outreach Club is holding a **Warm Clothing Drive** for a Toronto school which has students who are in need of new or gently used scarves, gloves, mittens hats and socks. In the past week, we have experienced cold weather and even snow!!! Both parents and children understand the need for warm clothing as the temperature becomes lower. **There will be a collection box outside the office for the next two weeks (November 17 – 28)**. Thank you for those who have already brought in items for the clothing drive.

Please watch your children's knapsacks at the beginning of December as Brown School will be creating **Holiday Hampers** this year. Each class will be given a family profile detailing who is in the family, sizes, colour preferences, and gift ideas. Thank you for supporting this initiative and for making a family have an easier time during the holiday season.

Lost and Found

Is your child missing a hat, winter coat, running shoe, lunch box, knapsack, towel, or any other item that should have returned home? Odds are that the forgotten item has found its way into our overflowing Lost & Found box, located in the Meeting Room on the Main Floor of the school. **Please encourage your children to visit the box and reclaim any lost items**. This box will be cleaned out regularly and articles displayed in the hallway. After that all unclaimed articles will be donated to a local charity. To help minimize the number of misplaced items, please help by labeling clothing, backpacks, etc., with your child's name.

Pediculosis Screening

The next school-wide check is scheduled for early February. However, it is now hat season and a great time for these little pests to make their return. Should your child (or sibling attending another school) require treatment before February, please advise the office. Your cooperation in keeping this problem in check is greatly appreciated.



Dental Screening

Toronto Public Health provides dental screening to children in Kindergarten to Grade 8. Brown School will participate in this program **from December 9 to 12**. The goal of the program is to identify children with oral health problems. The screening consists of an assessment by a dental hygienist using sterilized instruments. The dental hygienist will assess the need for topical fluoride, scaling, sealants or any other obvious dental needs.

As a follow up to the screening, only parents whose children require dental services will be notified by a note sent home with the child. Toronto Public Health dental staff may contact parents by telephone to assist in the access of care. **This dental screening does not replace the dental examinations done by a licensed dentist**. If you require more information, please contact Toronto Public Health, Dental & Oral Health Services at 416 370 4780.

Brown Teachers Love Halloween!



ECO NEWS

Brown is Green!



The great fall weather has helped our **ABC efforts** by making our walks to and from school even more enjoyable. It seems that many families are extending their Anything But Car efforts to other days of the week- not just Tuesdays. Keep up the great work to help reduce our vehicle emissions. If you really must drive, then please use our new **Kiss 'N Ride program** which will cut down on idle times and therefore exhaust emissions. Just get yourself into the curb side on Poplar Plains from 8:30-8:50 a.m. and let our parent/student volunteers assist your children out of your car and into the school yard. These initiatives make it easy for you to do the right thing!

This fall also marks the birth of Brown's **Eco-Kids Club**. This group of green pioneers meet weekly with teacher involvement (Ms. Hazan) and have great plans for greening Brown School. They began with an assembly aimed at educating kids about what a "Green Lunch" looks like and how they can take this information home and help their parents pack an eco-friendly lunch each day. Great work Eco-Kids and we'll watch your next moves!

Our **Eco-Parent Committee** meets monthly to plan initiatives and help take Brown to the next level of Green. If you're interested in joining, contact Mélisse Craig (melisse@helmanfamily.com) or Amanda Levey (amanda_levey@yahoo.ca).

Thank you to many parents and caregivers for sending **litterless lunches** to school! With your cooperation we have significantly reduced the amount of garbage collected each day. Yogurt and drink containers are recycled. We do request however that for safety reasons that children do not bring drinks in glass bottles.

Eco News - Waste Reduction Year At Brown

On October 22nd, members of the Eco-Club went to a lunch time event downtown to launch Waste Reduction Week in Canada. Now that Brown School has been given a **GOLD Eco School award**, we have decided to make our whole school year WASTE REDUCTION YEAR at Brown School. For the month of November, we are encouraging everyone to really fill up their green compost bin at home. To help, we would like to remind Brown Families about all the things that can be included in the green bin:

- Fruits, vegetable scraps
- Meat, shellfish, fish products
- Pasta, bread, cereal
- Dairy products, egg shells
- Coffee grounds, filters, tea bags
- Soiled paper towels, tissues
- Soiled paper food packaging: fast food paper packaging, ice cream boxes, muffin paper, flour and sugar bags
- Paper plates
- Candies, cookies, cake
- Baking ingredients, herbs, spices
- Household plants, including soil
- Diapers, sanitary products
- Animal waste, bedding (e.g. from bird/hamster cages), kitty litter
- Pet food

....and remember: everything we put in our green bins STAYS OUT of the garbage landfill.

-By Matthew B., Grade 6 Eco Club Captain

STUDENT SHOWCASE

In this issue, we are proud to share work from students in Salle 20, troisième année: poems about Halloween and reports from their recent field trip to a farm.

Le fantôme
Blanc, effrayant
Disparaissant, Volant, glissant
Il veut me pousser
Le fantôme

-- Le Monstre Jac P.

Dracula
Bizarre, cruel
Flottant, disparaissant, ricanant,
Je veux être mort
Dracula

-- Wyatt B. le Dracula

Le diable
Mystérieux, silencieux,
Volant, Mangeant, Criant,
Quelle est cette odeur
Le diable

-- Declan Le Diable

L'excursion à la ferme

Le 7 octobre on est allé à une ferme avec la classe de Mme Sulymko. On est allé sur l'autobus et on a regardé par la fenêtre.

Ensuite on est allé sur le tracteur et on a reçu du maïs. On a vu des cochons. Les cochons étaient propres. Puis on est allé dans une grange et on a vu différentes citrouilles. On a appris que les citrouilles ne sont pas toutes oranges.

Après on est allé dans le jardin de légumes et on a cueilli les légumes. On a aussi fait une chasse aux trésors et j'étais avec la maman de Jessica et la maman d'Audrey. On a trouvé les noms des arbres.

On est allé à la ferme pour apprendre comment sont les communautés rurales et on a bien travaillé.

Claire C.

L'excursion à la ferme

Mardi, le 7 octobre 2008, moi et la classe et une autre classe sont allés sur un bus à une ferme. La première chose qu'on a fait était un tour en tracteur. J'ai vu du maïs et des arbres. On a vu les animaux comme des vaches et des cochons. Les cochons étaient très contents.

Ensuite on a mangé nos dîners. Après on a fait une chasse aux trésors. Tout le groupe a trouvé des arbres et des animaux aussi. Puis on est allé dans un labyrinthe de maïs. C'était très amusant.

On est allé à la ferme parce qu'on étudie les communautés rurales. J'ai appris que les dindes peuvent sauter. J'aime les chèvres beaucoup parce qu'ils ont des cornes.

ON A BEAUCOUP ÉTUDIÉ LES COMMUNAUTÉS !!!!

Matthew D.

AQUATICS NEWS

Noon Swim

A well attended program...come out and join the fun!!

Mondays and Wednesdays
12:00 - 12:40 p.m.

-- Mrs. J. and Mr. D.

Primary Swim Team

We have a primary swim team of fifty members. Congratulations to all!!

Practices: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:00 - 12:40 p.m.

Swim meets: Thursday November 20th held at Brown pool;
Friday November 28th held at Hillcrest pool.

*Both swim meets will begin approximately at 10:00 a.m.
Note: Viewing space is very limited at both locations, we apologize for any inconvenience.

Please do not hesitate to call if you have any concerns or questions.
-- Mrs. J. and Mr. D., Brown Aquatic Staff

SPORTS CORNER

Girls Football

For the third consecutive year the Jr. Girls Football Team was crowned South Conference Champions!!

The team represented the South Conference in the City Finals against a tough opponent from Lambton Kingsway PS (West Champions). The weather was a perfect 20 degrees and sunny. The Girls played a solid game and never gave up for the entire 48 minutes. In the end we came up a little bit short on the scoreboard but in true Brown spirit looked on the bright side and came home with the second pennant for Girls Football Team this year.

To the Grade six students...take your football pride to your future middle school and make us proud! To the Girls in Grade 4 and 5 who will be with us next year...we can't wait! Special thanks to all the parents for your continued support throughout the entire football season.

Coaches: Mr. Profiti and Mr. Wittenberg

Boys Football

Congratulations to the Boys Football Team for winning the South Conference Championship game against Allenby PS!

The team brought home the South Conference Championship banner for the third time in four years at Brown.

The Boys finally met their match in the City Semi-Finals against Keele St. PS, but not without an amazing 3 touchdown comeback in the second half. The team walked away from the game with a 3 point defeat but walked away with their head held high. Congratulations to the team for an amazing season!

Special thanks to all the parents for your continued support throughout the entire football season.

Coaches: Mr. Daigneau and Mr. Profiti



Ice Hockey

The Ice Hockey Team has had their sign up meeting and will now begin their **try-outs** on the following dates: Thursday November 20, Thursday November 27.

After these two try-outs the coaches will select the team and the team will **practice** on the following dates: Thursday December 4, Thursday December 11, Thursday December 18

**** All tryouts and practices are at Forest Hill Arena from 7:45 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.**

Good luck to all students (Grade 4, 5 and 6) who signed up and are trying out!
Coaches: Mr. Profiti and Mr. Ellis

Boys Volleyball

Volleyball season is upon us, and we've narrowed our team down to 12 dedicated players.

On Monday, November 3rd, we hosted John Ross Robertson for a pre-season tune-up. Some great serving (dare we say the most consistent in years), some strong defense and a couple of superb rallies combined to produce a satisfying exhibition victory.

Practices will generally be held on Tuesday mornings and Thursday afternoons.

Below, please find the schedule (which is also posted at www.brownschool.ca/teams.asp):

Thursday, November 6th vs. Clinton @ Clinton
Monday, November 10th vs. J.R.R. @ Brown P.S.

Wednesday, November 12th vs. McMurrich @ Brown P.S.
Wednesday, November 19th vs. Whitney @ Whitney

Looking forward to a great season!

Coaches Ms. Baptist, Mr. Mac, Mme. Sulymko

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