

BROWN BULLETIN

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



The School Year is off to a great start!

Thank you for joining us at our **Curriculum Evening** on Thursday September 25, 2008! We are pleased that so many of our parents attended. We hope that you found the evening informative. Thank you to Unicorn Daycare who provided childcare for many of our families on this evening.

We are very proud of our student success in the **Primary and Junior Assessments (EQAO)** that were completed last spring. The Primary individual reports were sent home last week with students who are presently in Grade 4. The students who have moved on to a Grade 7 in a TDSB School will have their individual Junior Assessment report forwarded to their new school.

We are always concerned about ensuring the safety of our students:

- ✓ We will complete 3 fire drills this term and conduct 2 lockdown drills. A Lockdown drill involves all doors being locked while students remain in the class with their teacher. All staff have viewed a School Lockdown video provided to us by Toronto Police Services.
- ✓ Our front and side doors are locked from 9:15 until 3:30 each day. A security camera and buzzer system monitors entrance through our front door.
- ✓ Primary Students (Kindergarten to Grade 2) play in the primary playground and the gates are to be locked.
- ✓ We held an assembly for all students in September. At this assembly we informed all of the children of lunch and recess procedures.
- ✓ We request that parents do not drop off or pick up students or park their vehicle in the laneway off of Avenue Road. This area is for bus drop off and pick up or delivery and emergency vehicles only.
- ✓ Parents coming into the school for any reason must begin their visit in the office. All visitors to classrooms are asked to sign in to the office and obtain a visitor badge.
- ✓ Please try to schedule appointments after school hours. If you need to pick up your child during the day, please send a note to the classroom teacher. Your child will meet you in the office and you will sign your child out of the school.
- ✓ Parents are requested to speak to their children about personal safety and the importance of following established routines and the School Code of Behaviour.

Please see the last page of this Bulletin for an article on **Safety Tips for Parents**, provided by Toronto Police Services. Thank you for your cooperation and a big thank you to all of you who comply with our requests.

Monday October 13	Thanksgiving Holiday (<i>no classes for students</i>)
Wed Oct 15 – Fri Oct 17	Kiss N' Ride Pilot Program (<i>see page 2 for details</i>)
Wednesday October 15	School-Wide Pediculosis (Lice) Screening
Thursday October 16	Final Day to Hand in Wrapping Paper Orders Cross Country Meet – Qualifiers
Friday October 17	Pizza Lunch Parent Council Meeting (9 a.m., Meeting Room)
Friday October 24	Professional Activity Day (<i>no classes for students</i>)
Thursday November 27	Fall Fling - Badminton & Racquet Club
Thursday December 4	Winterfest Concert 9:15 a.m. (Program to follow)
Friday December 5	Professional Activity Day (<i>reporting to Parents</i>)

In This Issue:

News from the Office.....	1
From the Parent Council.....	2
Around Brown School.....	4
Student Showcase.....	5
Sports Corner.....	6
Hallowe'en Safety.....	7
Police Service Safety Tips.....	8

Once again, we extend a warm welcome to all of the families who are new to Brown PS this year.

We greatly enjoyed meeting those of you who were able to attend the New Parents' Welcome Breakfast and those who attended our first meeting in September. Parents interested in joining the Parent Council are always welcome. Anyone interested should email Kelli Belanger kschifferbelanger@yahoo.com or Yvonne Harding at harding99@rogers.com. Our next meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 17th at 9:00 a.m. in the meeting room.



One of the best ways to get involved in your child's school experience is to become a volunteer. Parent Volunteers are needed throughout the school year. If you are interested in volunteering or would like to find out more information about volunteering please contact Anji Shukla at getanji@gmail.com or Allison Fortier at allisonfortier@rogers.com. There is also a volunteer form on the www.brownschool.ca website that can be completed and placed in the parent council mailbox in the office.

We are currently looking for Parent Reps for the following classes:

Grade 1 (English) – Room 23 Grade 3 (French) – Room 37 Grade 5/6 (English) – Room 30
Grade 3 (English) – Room 28 Grade 4 (English) – Room 41 Grade 6 (French) – Room 32

Please speak directly to your child's classroom teacher if you are interested in this role.

After-4 Programs

The Parent Council will be offering After-4 Programs to all Brown students **beginning the week of October 20th**. Programs in the Fall Term will run for a 6-week period. Information will be sent home before Thanksgiving with sign-up the following week. Be sure to sign up for returning favourites such as: Aquatic Skills with Mr. D and Mrs. J; Mad Science's NASA program (it's out of this world!) and Study Club (formerly Homework Club). Check out new programs like "Bavarder", Chess and Math.

Programs will be offered for 8 weeks during the Winter and Spring terms. Course offerings may vary from term to term.

We are especially pleased to be launching the Kiss N' Ride program this month!

The Pilot program will be launched on Wednesday, October 15th and run through Friday, October 17, 2008. Toronto Police Services will be conducting a training session with volunteers, and leading an assembly to explain the program to students and staff on October 9th. Here are a few basic facts you need to know to ensure the success of this program:

Where is the drop-off zone?

- ✓ The designated drop-off zone will be located at the back entrance to the school on Poplar Plains Rd. It will be clearly marked by pylons and the visible presence of our parent volunteers in front of St. John's Latvian Lutheran Church. Parents can pull into the designated area and drop their children off safely without leaving their vehicles. During the pilot period, our colleagues from Toronto Police Services will help to keep things moving smoothly and to answer questions.

What do volunteers do?

- ✓ Parent volunteers will only be opening and closing car doors, and directing children to school property. They will not be directing traffic in any way or providing assistance beyond the opening and closing of doors. Student Ambassadors from Grade 6 will be used to escort children safely into the schoolyard.

What if I need to go into the schoolyard?

- ✓ If you need to enter the school you have two options: 1) pull into the designated drop zone and allow your children to exit the car safely and then park your vehicle on a side street or 2) park your vehicle on a side street and walk your children into the schoolyard. Traffic signs on Poplar Plains that currently allow for 15 minutes pick-up and drop-off areas will be changed to read "No Standing" in support of this program.

Where can I park?

- ✓ Balmoral and Clarendon Avenues both allow for 1 hour parking between 8am and 6pm, Monday to Friday. As always, parking in the parking lot is restricted to staff only.

How can I help?

- ✓ VOLUNTEER one ½ hour every other week. Contact Yvonne Harding at 416-920-4948 or harding99@rogers.com.

the Fall Fling!

The Fall Fling is the Brown School fundraising event which **brings parents, teachers and staff together for an evening of conversation, good food and entertaining activities.** This year's Fling will take place on Thursday, November 27th at the Badminton & Racquet Club, located at Yonge & St. Clair.

The Fling will feature a Silent Auction, the Giving Tree, a Balloon Burst and wonderfully innovative crafts which will be produced in our classrooms over the next few weeks. Entertainment will again be provided by the exceptional Brown School Choir.

Tickets are \$45.00 each. Please watch for the order forms and further Fall Fling details within the next two weeks when they are sent home with your child. See you at the Fling!

Do you have a special artistic skill or talent to share with Brown School students? We enthusiastically welcome your participation. Please contact Anji Shukla at (416) 940-0076 to discuss how you can lend your talents to help our students create the wonderful crafts that are sold at the Fall Fling.

Brown School Clothing

Due to the tremendous interest in our Brown School clothing items on Curriculum Night, we will make these items available for sale at the Fall Fling on November 27th and on the morning of the Winter Concert on December 4th. If you would like to purchase items in advance of these events, please visit the school website to view a complete list of our current inventory and download an order form. All order forms and payments should be submitted to the school office.



Keeping you in Touch...

The Brown Handbook and Directory

Thank you for your support in collecting your contact information this fall. We are using the information you provided on the yellow Communications forms to create a new Brown School Handbook and Directory that will be distributed to all families. We hope that this will help you better connect with teachers, staff and other families.

The Directory will contain student names, parent names and home phone numbers. Should you change your mind and decide that you do not want your phone number printed in the directory, please email Katharine Lake Berz at lakeberz@yahoo.com.

Thank you to all the teachers, class parents and the directory team for their hard work in pulling this together!

Greening the Brown Bulletin

Many of you will already be receiving your Bulletin electronically this month, thanks to the work of all volunteers and class parents. We are still collating the rest of your email addresses and hope to get it to everyone electronically next month.

If you have not provided your email address on your Communications form or to your class parent but would like to receive the Bulletin electronically please email bulletin@brownschool.ca and let us know!



The final date to hand in Wrapping Paper orders is Thursday October 16, 2008, after which time no more orders will be accepted. All orders are expected to be delivered to the school around the third week in November.

REMEMBER: In addition to the Innisbrook prizes, there are two additional prizes of \$50.00 gift certificates to Indigo Book Store.

Thank you to our parent volunteers and students for all your hard work! Any questions? Please call Karen Smith at 647-439-1928.

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

Toonie For Terry Was A Great Success!

Our Toonie for Terry Walk on September 25 was an opportunity to raise awareness about Terry Fox and his Marathon of Hope and also provided our students with an opportunity to help raise funds for cancer research.

Thank you to everyone for your support. Our school raised \$1471.69 this fall for the Terry Fox Foundation for Cancer Research. Our school has participated in this event since 2005 and we have raised a total of \$5 820.15!!!

The Lunch Program is running well. The Grade One children are eating lunch in classrooms. The Grade Two children eat lunch in the Library. Students from Grades Three to Six have lunch in the gym. The lunch areas are calm and the children do enjoy eating lunch with their friends.

As you know Brown is a Gold Certified ECO School. We are very proud of our accomplishment and wish to maintain our status. We ask for your help in keeping our lunch program "Green":

- ✓ Please send your child with a litterless lunch each day.
- ✓ Students who eat lunch at school should take home leftover food to be included in the family's Green Bin for composting. It is also important for parents and care givers to know if children are eating all of the food that is sent to school.
- ✓ We collect milk cartons and juice containers for recycling each day.
- ✓ All other wrappers should go home in your child's lunch bag.

Thank you to all of you for supporting our initiative. The amount of garbage generated each day has been greatly reduced!

Anaphylaxis

Parents should be aware that there are children in our school with a **severe life threatening food allergy** to peanuts/nuts called anaphylaxis. This is a medical condition that causes a severe reaction to specific foods or to other materials, and can result in death within minutes. Although peanuts and peanut products are the most common foods to cause anaphylaxis, shellfish, fish, eggs, sulphites, milk, sesame seeds, soy or other food can cause this dangerous condition. In recent years anaphylaxis has increased dramatically among students.

Although this may or may not affect your child's class directly, we want to inform you so that you only **send foods to school with your children that are free from nut products**. Due to this allergy concern, parents who wish to send a class treat for their child's birthday or special day, may wish to send an alternate item other than food. Pencils, stickers, bookmarks or a game or book for the class to share are always appreciated by the children.

The Toronto District School Board has procedures for the prevention and management of anaphylactic reactions. If you are interested, contact the school office for further information or contact Anaphylaxis Canada at (416) 785 -5666

If your child has health concerns of any kind, please inform your child's teacher and the office staff immediately and the necessary health protection steps may be taken.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in ensuring the safest environment for our students.

Pediculosis Screening

The next school-wide lice checks are scheduled for **Wednesday, October 15**. Should your child (or sibling attending another school) require treatment before this date, please advise the office. Your cooperation in keeping this problem in check is greatly appreciated! *If you do not wish to have your child participate in the school wide screening please send a note to the office by Friday, October 10, 2008.*

Dental Screening



Toronto Public Health provides dental screening to children in Kindergarten to Grade 8 Brown School will participate in this program **during the week of December 9**. 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.

Thank you for your Magazine Subscriptions!

Thank you to the school community for your new purchases and renewals of the QSP magazine subscriptions. The sales from these magazines support events for our Grade 6 students. We hope all enjoy the pleasure of reading while knowing a special opportunity for our students has been created.



OUTREACH

The Brown School Outreach Committee is a program for Grades 3-6. We are a group of students and adults who assist people in our local community to have a better life. ***This year we are hoping to raise not only local, but global awareness of the needs of children just like Brown Students close by and around the world.*** Holiday Hampers, Food Banks, Warm Clothing Drives are just some of the great ideas the Outreach Committee has led in the past. And don't forget our Annual Dance-a-thon in February! In addition, the Outreach Committee allocates and distributes 10% of revenue from fundraising activities – under the guidance of parent volunteers – to various programs in the community.

Occasionally, we will be meeting during the lunch period to discuss ideas, make posters and create other fun ways to spread awareness in the school of our activities. Please keep your ears tuned to the announcements for our first meeting date. **If you are a student at Brown who really wants to make a difference in people's lives, WE NEED YOU.** Also, if you are a parent or care-giver who has an interest in Outreach, we would greatly appreciate your volunteer time during the lunch hour meetings. For more information, please contact Claire Goodman by email: clairegoodman@sympatico.ca.

STUDENT SHOWCASE

Last week, Grades 1 to 6 of Brown P.S. participated in the **Terry Fox walk**. We started at Brown, walked to Avenue Rd., from there to St. Clair, to Poplar Plains and back. On the walk we shouted: "Honk for Terry Fox" at the cars. Most of the people in cars honked. The non-honkers looked a little fed up by all the honking. We also made signs that said: "Toonie for Terry" and "Honk for Terry Fox" that we carried during the walk. In the end it was very fun.

-- By: A.J., Room 33

Last week on Thursday, September 25th, 2008, we had a **Toonie for Terry walk** and we walked 2 or 3 blocks for half a km. We did this to celebrate what Terry Fox did for cancer research. We walked the 2 or 3 blocks with signs and cheers of hope. We here at Brown school made signs during school time. The students from grades 1-6 and teachers participated in this event. We had fun.

-- By: Mack, Room 33

French Canadian Authors visited Brown in late September. Our Students had the opportunity to meet Mireille Messier, Michèle Laframboise, Aline Apostolska and Louis Weyland:

Michèle Laframboise, une écrivaine, est venue rencontrer les élèves de Mme Blanchard, de M. Paré, de Mlle Harrison et de Mme Vernon. Elle a parlé de la crème glacée littéraire. Elle a fait deux bandes-dessinées et des chevaux. Elle nous a montré comment dessiner des chevaux et des humains. Les personnages des bandes-dessinées étaient nos amis Tess et Carsten. Elle nous a parlé de son nouveau livre Les nuages de Phoénix. Michèle Laframboise a gagné le prix de meilleure recrue en 2001. Elle était amusante et intéressante!

-- Par Béatrice C., Maya C. et Chloé M., salle 39

Le 30 septembre les classes de 2^e ont rencontré une auteure française. Elle s'appelle **Mireille Messier**. Elle lire une histoire. Le nom de la histoire est Une Charlotte au Chocolat. La livre est très drôle.

-- Par Jack T., salle 36

Lundi le 29 septembre, **Aline Apostolska et Louis Weyland**, deux auteurs qui son mère et fils, sont venu à la salle 39. Ils sont venu parler aux classes de Mme Blanchard et M. Paré au sujet de leurs livres: Les voisins pourquoi et Les Jeux olympiques de la ruelle. C'était très intéressant d'apprendre au sujet d'un garçon qui a écrit une histoire qu'il a transformé en roman avec l'aide de sa mère. Les aventures dans les livres sont les mêmes aventures que Louis a vécu dans sa vie. Même certains noms dans les histoires sont les vrais noms des amis de Louis. Louis et Aline ont dit qu'ils vont écrire un autre livre dans cette serie avec l'Halloween comme thème car la fête de Louis est le 31 octobre. "C'était très amusant de voir les auteurs," dit salle 39.

Par : Sophie Mac. et Sophie M., salle 39

SPORTS CORNER

Boys Football

The season is underway! The Boys battled the nasty weather against Clinton P.S and captured victory by a score of 22 to 14.



Next game is Tuesday Oct. 7th @ Winston Churchill Park against McMurrich P.S. Please check the school website for regular updates.

Coaches: Mr. Profiti and Mr. Daigneau

Girls Football

The Girls are off to a nice start to the season by defeating Whitney P.S. by a score of 12 to 6.



The team has their next game against McMurrich at McMurrich P.S. on Wednesday October 15th. Please check the school website for more information.

Coaches: Mr. Profiti and Mr. Wittenberg

Cross Country

About 100 students have been practicing hard twice a week this term at Winston Churchill Park! We are very proud of all members of the team, and of all who went out to the meet at Ashbridge's Bay this week. Watch this space in November for full news!

Girls Slo-Pitch

Tournament Date: Wednesday, October 8
Location: North Prep (Just behind Forest Hill Arena)

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

Boys Slo-Pitch

This year, our boys' Slo-Pitch team has the distinguished honour of being the first team picked and the first game played for the Brown 2008-2009 Athletic Calendar. Not only that, but we are the only team so far to have played a game without ever having a practice. After hectic sign ups, the coaches, Jonah and Mr. Ellis, had a very difficult time making the final cuts for the team. Over 75 boys signed up and we were hard pressed to choose with such great talent. We finally selected 13 amazing boys: (in alphabetical order) A.J., Alejandro, Ben, Harrison, Isaac, Jared, Mack, Milo, Saxon, Sebastian, Spencer, Tayjon, and Zachary.

We played our first series against Whitney and won both games. We then managed to get some practices in. The boys came faithfully at 7:30 am and after school for batting practice at Ramsden Park or on the school diamond. We later faced a strong John Ross Roberts team. We won the first and tied the second. We went on to meet Palmerston undefeated. We won our first competition and the second. Let's just call that the day that will go down in infamy.

We now await the results of the other games with baited-breath. Their scores determine whether we'll be in the playoffs. Fingers crossed everyone! It's been a terrific season so far. The boys have worked super hard and have the best attitudes. They truly are stars. We as coaches couldn't be prouder. But the season's not over yet...

A big thank you to our coaches for the unwavering dedication, to Darrin and Mr. Wittenberg for umping and especially to our Liger parents, for the rides and the support in fair and foul weather.

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

Primary Swim Team

We are delighted as we have had over sixty students sign up for the primary swim team! Over the past two weeks, it has been "swim team try outs" with our primary swim classes...great fun for all!

Please Note: The final team try outs will be held the week of October 6th:
** Tuesday October 7th for Grade Two **Thursday October 9th for Grade Three
Each session will begin a 12:00 pm Sharp!

Noon Swim

Join the fun on Monday and Wednesday beginning at 12:00 pm!
We look forward to seeing you at the pool!

-- Mr. D. and Mrs. J., Brown Aquatics Staff

Upcoming Sports Teams

Girls Basketball Team
Boys Volleyball Team
Ice Hockey

Try-out information will be made available to the students in mid - October.

The school website, morning announcements and the bulletin board outside the Gym are great places to find more information!

Hallowe'en Safety Tips

Hallowe'en provides an opportunity for parents and children to spend time together creating costumes, carving pumpkins, planning trick or treat activities and participating in family parties.

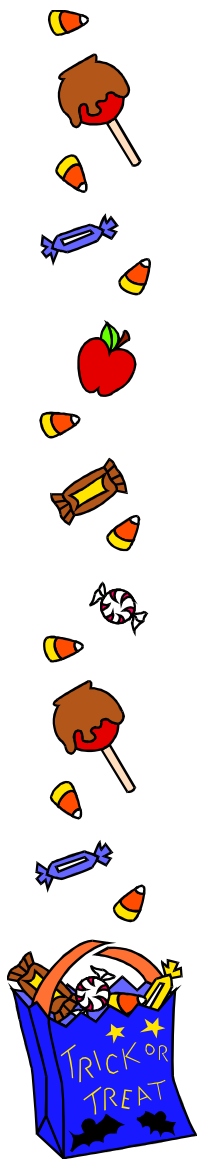
Hallowe'en is a big event at schools and provides opportunities for parties, creative activities, art programs and impromptu history lessons.

Hallowe'en is also a time for students, parents, and schools to take extra care to ensure safety and security.



TRICK OR TREATING SAFETY

- ✓ Have your child carry a flashlight.
- ✓ NEVER go into a stranger's house.
- ✓ NEVER trick or treat with people you do not know.
- ✓ Trick or treat only at homes you know.
- ✓ Children should always stay in groups if no parent is present.
- ✓ Younger children should ALWAYS be accompanied by an older person.
- ✓ Accompany your child when trick or treating.
- ✓ If you can not accompany your child then know the route your child will take.
- ✓ Flame resistant (retardant) costumes are in order. Keep costumes short and remind children to stay away from pumpkins with candles in them.
- ✓ Remind children to stay away from pets they do not know.
- ✓ Remind children of road safety rules:
 - Cross only at corners.
 - Do not criss-cross the road. Go up one side of the road and down the other side.
 - Never cross between parked cars.
 - Walk facing on-coming traffic if there is no sidewalk.
- ✓ If adults are driving their children, drive slowly, with lights on and be cautious when pulling to the side of the road.
- ✓ Children should NEVER eat any treats until parents have had a chance to go through them and inspect them. Parents should look for tampering of packages and discard any they believe to be unsafe.
- ✓ Children should wear their own shoes when trick or treating. Wearing costume shoes/boots can be dangerous and uncomfortable.
- ✓ Remind children that not everyone celebrates Hallowe'en, and to avoid any homes that have no lights on. Also remind children not to run through neighbours' yards or gardens.
- ✓ With older children be sure to know what other events (such as parties) they plan on attending.
- ✓ Set time limits when children should return home.





53 DIVISION TORONTO POLICE

Protect Your Child

Here are some safety tips to help you keep your children safe:

Teach Your Child:

- His/her name, age, telephone number including the area code, address, city , province
- How to contact you, the police, fire department, or ambulance service in the case of an emergency
- To keep you informed as to his/her whereabouts at all times
- Never to admit to being alone in the home when answering the telephone
- Never to invite strangers into the house OR even answer the door when he/she is alone
- Never to approach or enter a stranger's car
- That he/she should never hitchhike
- That you are sensitive to his/her fears and he/she can talk to you about anything
- That a police officer is a friend who can be relied upon when he/she is lost
- Never to play alone – always be with friends

Also discuss with your child:

- That he/she should trust his/her feelings and say NO to an adult, especially if the adult wants him/her to do something that is wrong
- Not to accept gifts from strangers
- That adults rarely ask a child for help
- To tell you if someone has asked them to keep a secret from you
- That no one has the right to touch any part of his/her body that a bathing suit covers
- That if he/she is being followed, he/she should run home or go to the nearest busy place and yell for help
- To report to you, school authorities or a police officer, anyone who acts suspiciously towards him/her
- Not to enter anyone's home without your permission
- Never to play in deserted buildings or isolated areas
- Avoid taking shortcuts through parks or fields
- Carry enough money to make a phone call home
- Never to show his money, and if attacked for it, to give it up rather than risk injury

And You Should:

- Provide schools or day-care centers with the names of person(s) to whom your child may be released
- Avoid clothing or toys with your child's name on it as children are less fearful of someone who knows and calls them by name
- Never leave your child alone in a public place, stroller or car – even for a minute
- Always accompany children to the bathroom in a public place and advise them not to loiter in or around these areas

**Prepared by: Community School Liaison
53 Division
Toronto Police Service**