

BROWN BULLETIN

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NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF M. J. GIULIANI & S. LITNER – APRIL 2009



Spring is Here!

The third term is well underway and promises to be very busy. Our students are very active with many activities in addition to their classroom work: spring **Sports Teams, Lunchtime Sports** and **Aquatics**; Grade 6 is gearing up for **Graduation**; we are eagerly looking forward to **Garden Fête**, celebrating **Earth Day** and kicking off an amazing collaborative project with the **Avenue Road Arts School**.

Staff News

Ms Liz Warden of Room 13 will begin her maternity leave on April 27th. We wish her all the best and thank her for her contribution to Brown. We welcome Ms Aundrea Pietrobon as the long term occasional who will continue in Room 13.

Outreach Committee: Brick By Brick Update

We are well on our way to singling out the village where Free the Children will build a school on behalf of Brown School. We are really excited to be able to build a well and water filtration system, along with being able to provide the community with alternative income solutions so that **children are free to attend school and not work to make income**. The Outreach Committee has requested that we be able to support the community with the most urgent need. We will keep you posted. In other news, listen for an announcement for our next meeting toward the end of April to discuss our options for our **Spring Outreach project**.

Pediculosis Checks

The next school-wide check is scheduled for **Wednesday April 22**. 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, please send a note to the office by Monday April 20, 2009.

Eco-Committee: Earth Day – April 22

Wednesday, April 22 is Earth Day! In addition to it being an **ABC (Anything But Car)** day, there will be a school wide initiative to help encourage students to be more environmentally aware. Classrooms will work on eco-curriculum and a group of volunteers will work hard to “green up” the school yard in honour of Mother Earth. Students, teachers and families are encouraged to participate in Lights Out Canada (<http://www.lightsoutcanada.tpweb.ca/>) on this day to help further reduce our carbon footprint.

Eco-kids and the Garden Fête

The Brown Eco-kids Club will be participating in a big way at Garden Fête this May to help educate Brown families on the environment. They will be helping to sort recyclables at the Depots set up near the café and in the Kindergarten area. If all goes according to plan, the Eco-kids will also be selling **herbs** that they have seeded themselves so don't fill all of those spaces in your kitchen garden yet – save some space for the Eco-kids! They will have a designated table where they will help the Eco-Committee sell **our new “Brown is Green” stainless steel water bottle** that will be sure to come in handy on the day of Garden Fête for lots of water and lemonade!

Wednesday April 22	Earth Day
	Pediculosis Checks
Friday April 24	Pizza Lunch
Monday May 4	Music Monday / Opera Theatre (Presentation for Gr. 1-6)
Monday May 4 – Mon May 11	Avenue Road Art School / Brown School Art Project
Monday May 18	Victoria Day holiday (no classes for students)
Saturday May 23	Garden Fête
Monday May 25-June 5	EQAO for Grades 3 and 6
Thursday June 4	Spring Concert (afternoon)
Thursday June 11	Brown Singers – Evening performance
Tuesday June 23	Grade 6 Graduation (p.m.)
Thursday June 25	Last Day of Classes

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FROM THE PARENT COUNCIL

Grade 6 Graduation and Yearbook

June is approaching fast! Plans are underway for the Grade 6 yearbook and graduation ceremony. Parents interested in helping out may contact Rose Kurtzer (ceremony - rrrfm@sympatico.ca) or Jeannine Volpe (yearbook - volpej@sympatico.ca).



Collaborative Art Project with Avenue Road Arts School

We are thrilled to announce that Brown Students from JK through Grade 6 will be participating in a wonderful art project with teachers Susie Whaley and Rachel McQuinlan from the Avenue Road Arts School. Susie and Rachel have taken our students' ideas and will be designing **a mural celebrating "Brown Spirit"**. The completed mural will be affixed to the south fence bordering on the backyards along Balmoral Avenue. Our neighbours at St. John's Latvian Lutheran Church have generously agreed to allow us to use space in their basement as our art studio for this project.

Painting will begin Monday, May 4th with our JK students and wrap up on Monday, May 11th with our Grade 6 students. A schedule will be sent out in advance letting you know when your child's class will be painting. Parent volunteers will be welcome!

School Pools

Funding for school pools is still at issue. 39 pools will be closed permanently at the end of this school year if the TDSB, the City and the Province cannot come to terms on a long-term funding strategy. On Thursday, April 16th, deputations from members of the community were heard by the City of Toronto's Committee for Community Development and Recreation. Sadly the Committee voted not to meet with the TDSB and Province but to defer decisions to attend a "future meeting" to the GM for Parks and Recreation. This issue affects everyone who swims or wants to swim in a Toronto "school" pool. Watch for updates as they become available.

Garden Fête is only a few weeks away!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 23! Please see the flyer at the end of this Bulletin for more details, and information on how you can help.

STREETPROOFING YOUR KIDS

At school, the safety of students is our most important priority. We remind parents to keep school staff up to date with students' addresses, phone numbers, childcare arrangements, to whom the child may be released, etc. We also encourage parents not to permit students to make alternate arrangements over the lunch hour if they are in a lunch program. We need parents to let us know about any changes of routine and to sign their child in/out if they are arriving late or leaving early for any reason.

The Toronto Police street proofing program encourages parents to teach each child:

- 1) His/her name, address, phone number
- 2) To dial 9-1-1 in an emergency
- 3) To communicate with a parent when they feel unsafe or afraid
- 4) To keep parents informed as to his/her whereabouts at all times
- 5) Never to admit to being alone in the home when answering the telephone
- 6) Never to invite strangers into the house or answer the door when alone
- 7) Never to approach or enter a stranger's car or hitchhike
- 8) Never to travel or play alone- always be with friends
- 9) To trust their feelings and say "NO" to an adult if that adult wants them to do something that is wrong
- 10) Not to accept gifts from strangers
- 11) To tell a parent if someone has asked them to keep a secret
- 12) That no one has the right to touch any part of his/ her body that a bathing suit would cover
- 13) That if he/ she is being followed, or approached too closely, to run home or go to the nearest public place and yell for help
- 14) To report to your school authorities or a police officer, anyone who act suspiciously towards him/ her
- 15) Never to play in deserted buildings or isolated areas
- 16) Never to enter anyone's home without your permission
- 17) To avoid taking shortcuts through parks and fields
- 18) Never to show his/her money and if attacked to give it up rather than risk injury
- 19) That a police officer is a friend who can always be relied upon when he/ she is lost or needs assistance

Together, we can keep our school and community a safe environment for our children.

STUDENT SHOWCASE

Les fables d'Aesop

Lundi passé notre classe a vu le spectacle des fables d'Aesop. Nous avons beaucoup aimé cette pièce. Les trois acteurs ont représenté plusieurs différents animaux. Il y avait un lièvre et une tortue, une fourmi et un oiseau, la cigale et les deux fourmis, les cigales et l'âne, la souris de la ville et son cousin la souris de la campagne, le berger, ses moutons et les loups, et le renard et les poules. La pièce était pleine de belles chansons et des danses. Chaque fable a fini avec une morale : une leçon. Mais notre partie préféré c'était sans doute Jacot, la marionnette qui criait et jouait des tours très drôles!

Last Monday our class saw the play Aesop's Fables. We really enjoyed the presentation. The three actors played many different animals. There were the tortoise and the hare, the ant and the bird, the grasshopper and the ants, the grasshoppers and the donkey, the city mouse and his cousin the country mouse, the shepherd, his sheep and the wolf, and the fox and the hens. The play was full of beautiful songs and dances. Each fable ended with a moral: a lesson. However, our favourite part of the play was no doubt Jacot, the puppet who yelled all the time and played lots of funny tricks.

-- Salle 15 – la maternelle

Room 41 (Grade 4 English) Explores the Fragile World of Nature

The Grade 4 students in Room 41 have just completed an interesting and fun unit designed and facilitated collaboratively by Miss Hirsch and their student teacher, Miss Ragno. The story "The Elders Are Watching" was the introduction to this unit which explores the beautiful and fragile world of nature. It is written by David Bouchard with illustrations by Roy Henry Vickers, a well known Canadian Aboriginal artist. Each student wrote a **journal entry** reflecting on their favourite place in nature and then did several **art lessons** on modeling Roy Henry Vickers' style with colour and line. The Grade 4s then learned about **Haiku poetry** and wrote a Haiku to complement their artwork. To bring this cross curricular unit full circle, we had a guest presenter with the **Visiting Schools Program of the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto** come in to speak with us about the importance of nature and animals to the Ojibway people. We certainly learned a lot and were fascinated by the stories.

Parents and students are welcome to view our art/poetry projects on our bulletin board outside Room 41 on the third floor. They are super!

AQUATICS NEWS



Lunch Swim

Days: Tuesday and Thursday Time: 12:00 p.m. sharp!

We look forward to seeing you! --Mrs. J. and Mr. D.

Junior Swim Team 2009

On Tuesday, March 31st our Junior Swim team of fifty-four members set out to compete at the TDSB City wide semi-finals held at Harbour C.I. The overall results of the semi finals were just outstanding, every team member swam his/her very best with accomplishments earning our team First, Second and Third place crests and ribbons! Finally, these outstanding results that our Junior Swim team achieved qualified Thirty-six of our members to compete at the TDSB City Wide swim finals!

On Wednesday, April 8th our thirty six "finalists" once again, set out to compete in the TDSB City Wide Swim Meet at Riverdale C.I. the results of the day were just amazing!

Our Junior swim team of 2009 earned Gold, Silver and Bronze medals, placement ribbons and concluded with a presentation ceremony to award to our Grade Four Boys' Relay Team with a first place banner! During our sport assembly we will proudly hang this swim team banner in our gymnasium at Brown School... Fantastic work to our Grade Four Boys!

We are very proud of all our junior members...great job!
Congratulations Junior team of 2009!

Your Swim team Coaches,
Mr. Daigneau, Mrs. Jeffery, Ms Warden, Mrs. Padassery, Mme B'Dacy - and a very special thank you to Mr. Profiti and Mr. Wittenberg!

SPORTS CORNER

Lunchtime Sports

The lunchtime sports program has continued throughout the entire year. For the last few months we will be offering students in Grade 4, 5 and 6 the opportunity to participate in the **Ultimate Dodgeball** league that has been set up by Mr. Profiti and Mr. Wittenberg.

The students have signed up and the teachers will now divide them up into approximately 10 teams consisting of Grade 4, 5 and 6 students. More information to follow soon.

Playground Leaders at Brown!

Starting in the month of May, a group of Grade 6 students, accompanied by some Grade 5s, will be taking on a leadership role in the schoolyard during recess time.

The Playground Leaders have been attending workshops held by Mr. Profiti and Mr. Wittenberg that teach students **new recess games**. The plan is to teach the Playground Leaders recess games that they can easily teach to the younger students at Brown during recess time.

Boys' Soccer

This year at Brown PS we will be having two (2) Soccer Teams to try and meet the needs of the overwhelming number of Boys who signed up to try-out. The first team will be known as the Grade 6 Boys' Soccer Team and it will only consist of Grade 6 Boys. The Grade 6 Team will play a total of five (5) league games beginning during the last week of April and finishing at the end of May.

The other Boys' Soccer Team will be known as the Grade 5 Boys' Soccer Team and it will consist of Grade 4 and 5 students only. This team will begin try-outs during the last week of April to prepare for a one-day tournament being held at Westwood PS on May 20th. More info about the Grade 5 Boys' Soccer Team will follow during the morning announcements, on the Gym bulletin board and on brownschool.ca.

Coaches: Mr. Ellis and Mme B'Dacy

Girls' Soccer

The Girls' Soccer Team had signups after the long weekend and try-outs will follow soon. Stay tuned! Once the team has been selected, the girls will practice twice each week to get ready for a one-day tournament held at Westwood PS on Thursday, May 14th.

Coaches: Mr. Wittenberg and Mr. Profiti

Co-Ed Badminton Team

The Brown School Co-Ed Badminton team had a great day on Thursday, April 16 at Brown playing against strong competitors from Forest Hill, Clinton, Palmerston and McMurrich PS. After a full day of serves, smashes and drop shots, the school team won all of its games except for one. The team finished in second place and has advanced to the quarter-finals against Wilkinson PS. The quarter-final game will be played at Wilkinson PS on Tuesday, April 21st. Parent drivers are needed on game day, so please let Mr. Pare, Mme Anna or Ms Wu if you can help out with transportation to and from the game after school.

Coaches: Mme Anna, Ms Wu and Mr. Pare

Co-Ed Volleyball Team

The Brown School Co-Ed Volleyball Team played a one day tournament on Wednesday, April 15th at Brown. The team has come a long way since their first practice and showed great volleyball skills throughout all their games. The team finished 4th place in the tournament and has now concluded their season. Thanks to all the players on the team for a great day of volleyball.

Coaches: Mr. Macdonald, Ms Baptist and Mme Sulymko

Ultimate Frisbee

Try-outs began the week of April 14th. The team is open to boys and girls in Grades 5 and 6. The regular season will consist of three games: Thursday, April 30th vs. Swansea (to be played at Christie Pits); Monday, May 4th vs. Palmerston (at Palmerston); Wednesday, May 6th vs. Davisville (location TBD)

Coaches: Ms Baptist, Mme Anna, Ms Fox, Mr. Mac.

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



BROWN IS GREEN at Garden Fête 2009



Family Fun on
Saturday, May 23rd, 11:00am-2:00pm

Garden Fête time is approaching! For those who are new to Brown School, Garden Fête plays a large part in our school's tradition. Each year in May, the Brown Community gathers for a day of Fun and Fundraising.

This great day would not happen without the help of many volunteers! There are lots of ways that you can help out:

- **Volunteer to help out** on May 23rd
- Bake goodies to contribute to our **bake sale**
- Make a **salad** for the café
- **Contribute prizes for the prize table.** We are collecting prizes now! If you have anything new that kids might love as a prize – including sporting event tickets or give certificates – please get in touch with Val Davey at valandchris@sympatico.ca
- Make a **financial donation**
- If you know recent Brown graduates who are looking for extra community hours, please have them contact Melisse Craig at melisse@helmanfamily.com and they can help spread the word with the eco-committee at Garden Fête.

The May Bulletin will have further details on how to volunteer and donate items. Please contact Claire Blicker if you have any questions before then! cjblicker@hotmail.com

This year we are going to have a special green focus at Garden Fête! Brown School is on a 2-year track toward the highest level of Eco-Schools: Platinum. By participating in this TDSB initiative, we are striving to educate our children and our community while reducing our ecological footprint in all we do. It's a big job, but Brown is up to the challenge! So therefore, there will be big changes :

- **All of the cutlery, napkins, dishes, and cups will be compostable.** There will be a WASTE DEPOT again this year where we ask everyone to sort their refuse, and more of our waste can now go in the compostable Green Bin area! There will be designated recycle and compostable bins everywhere and let's be sure we use them all – and take the time to teach our children the correct way to get rid of the waste!
- **We will be switching over from cans of pop and bottles of water to water and lemonade.**
- Everyone is encouraged to either **bring cups** for their whole family on the day, **or purchase (at cost) one of our new 'Brown is Green' stainless steel water bottles.**
- Each station display will have special instructions that will let kids and parents know how to eliminate the waste that is generated specifically at that station.