

BROWN BULLETIN

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

Brown School, in partnership with our parents, offers an excellent learning environment for your child.



Brown School offers a rich tradition of strong academic programs complemented with a wide variety of extra curricular activities where your child(ren) can find a sport, a talent or an interest to pursue.

We have worked to build upon our academic success and to extend and enrich your child's day with an extensive variety of programs to keep our students active and provide opportunity to develop new skills:

- ✓ This term, over 100 children tried out for our **Junior Swim Team**. Approximately 30 children participate in **Recreational Swim** at lunch time each Tuesday and Thursday.
- ✓ The primary students are enjoying **lunch time sports** in the gym each Monday, Wednesday and Thursday with approximately 60 students attending each day.
- ✓ Our new Music Room (Room 12) offers a wonderful space for the ninety children who come to school at 7:45 a.m. each Wednesday morning to join Mr. Ellis in the **Choir**.
- ✓ The **After Four activities** provide a variety of activities for 100 children each week.

Together we do make a difference!

Staff News

We offer our congratulations and best wishes to **Anna Foord** and her husband Andrew on the arrival of their son Jack, who was born on January 19, 2009.

Mme Gagnon has renewed her Leave until the end of this year. We are fortunate to have **Rise Schwartz** available to stay on in the Library until the end of this school year.

We have several **teacher candidate placements** with us from OISE. The students spend one day each week in the classrooms and then complete a practicum teaching session from February 26 to April 3.

- ✓ Ms Lindsay Cochrane has been placed with Mr. Macdonald in Room 30.
- ✓ Ms Christine Rundle Trott is with Mme Blanchard in Room 34.
- ✓ Ms Erin Peters is in Room 28 with Mrs. Hazan; Ms Kristen Ragno joins Ms Hirsch in Room 41.

Brown Students benefit greatly from the additional classroom support; the OISE candidates benefit by being mentored by our wonderful Brown staff.



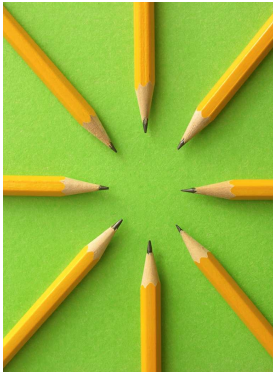
Thank you for your support!

It is a pleasure to communicate with you at this time to say **thank you for your extraordinary support and generosity to our school**. The Fall Fling was a huge success and The Giving Tree surpassed expectations, making this Fall Fling another very successful event. The time and effort that parents offer to our school is truly remarkable and your children benefit greatly from our unique Home and School cooperation. Your support is truly appreciated.

February 9-12	Grade 5 classes at the Island School
Wednesday February 11	Pediculosis school-wide screening
Friday February 13	P.A. Day (no classes for students)
Monday February 16	Family Day (no classes for students)
February 17-20	Grade 6 classes at the Island School
Thursday February 19	Parent Council Meeting, 9:00 a.m., Meeting Room
Friday February 20	Pizza Lunch
Friday February 27	Dance-A-Thon
Wednesday March 4	French Speech Arts Event
March 16- 20	March Holiday (no classes for students)
Monday March 30	Term 2 reports are sent home
Friday April 3	P.A. Day Reporting to parents (no Classes for students)

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EQAO

Each year, the students in Grade 3 participate in the Primary Assessment and the Grade 6 students complete the Junior Assessment. The students will be asked to complete tasks in reading, writing and mathematics. Please note that the Grade 3 students in the French Immersion program complete the math section only. ***This year, the assessments will be administered between May 25 and June 5, 2009.*** Parents with children presently in Grade 3 or 6 should ensure that their child is at school during the assessment period.

Parents can visit the EQAO website at www.eqao.com where you will find a number of resources. No login is required! Look under "Parent Resources" on the homepage to find Key Words, Practice Booklets, French Immersion Glossaries and more.

Procedural Writing

Our Staff is implementing First Steps Writing in their classrooms. Teachers used the items that were made by the children for the Fall Fling as an example of following the process of procedural writing. Please see examples of Procedural Writing from Grade 2 students in our special ***Student Showcase Supplement***.



Student Safety: Toronto Hydro's City-Wide Inspection Of Handwells

As you likely have read or heard, Toronto Hydro announced at the end of January that it is accelerating its city-wide inspection of handwells following recent incidents in which dogs and children received shocks. A handwell is a circular metal plate that covers connections feeding street lights and other electric services.

Toronto Hydro has now suspended normal operations and assigned all non-emergency crews to its contact voltage program. More than 600 tradespersons and support staff are dedicated to this effort. The work will begin in the downtown area and spread out to all neighbourhoods. This will ensure that the oldest equipment is inspected and repaired first. The older parts of Toronto are expected to be completed by the end of February.

To be safe, Toronto Hydro asks that you keep away from work sites as crews work on live equipment. ***They also ask that children be aware of where they are walking and not to step on any metal handwells.*** Although most are believed to be safe, avoid all handwells until the work is completed.

Please note that our staff regularly speaks to students about street and traffic safety. While it is important to help students be aware of the locations of handwells in our community, ***it's equally important to reinforce standard safety tips so that students continue to be alert and aware about their surroundings,*** particularly in traffic areas.

If you suspect any contact voltage, please report it immediately to the Toronto Hydro hotline at 416.222.3773 so that crews can be dispatched to make necessary repairs. Visit www.torontohydro.com/voltageinspection for information and updates.

Speech Arts Festival

Imagine the excitement and nervousness of walking onto a stage, looking out into a sea of faces and hearing nothing but your own heartbeat. The audience anxiously awaits the speaker to open his mouth and inform them. Or perhaps entertain them. Now, imagine feeling all of this and being only 6 years old!

There is no doubt that public speaking is an art form. And not everyone has a knack for it but on Wednesday, February 4, Brown discovered just who in their student population had that "knack," that special ability to speak to a group of people in a structured way and with purpose. The 2009 Brown Speech Arts Festival was filled with enthusiastic speakers of all ages. The Primary students captured the audience's heart and the Junior students competed for a chance to represent Brown at the semi-finals on Friday, February 20th at Maurice Cody PS.

Congratulations to Mary of Room 32 who will represent Brown in the Format A competition (original speech) with her speech "The Name Mary." ***Congratulations also to Jared and Sacha of Room 32*** who will compete in the Format C competition (dramatic arts) with their interpretation of the famous skit "Who's On First?" Check the special ***Student Showcase Supplement*** to find Mary's winning speech.

Brown's next public speaking competition is the ***Concours d'art oratoire*** which takes place on Wednesday, March 4th. See you then!

-- J. Vernon Baker - Organizer/Grade 6 French Immersion

February is African Heritage Month

Our school commemorates African Heritage Month in order to promote knowledge and understanding of the history, achievements and experiences of people of African descent. The learning activities and cultural events organized by schools for African Heritage Month help to build understanding and respect for each other among all students. They also help to enhance pride and self-esteem among students of African heritage. The TDSB's African Heritage Month Statement describes the importance of this month to our schools.



Brown is Green

Did you know that your foam coffee cup and the white foam packaging material from your new computer can now be recycled? Polystyrene is one of the most widely used plastics. It comes in two distinct types. The first type is rigid polystyrene which can not be recycled and includes items such as cutlery, CD cases and clear plastic egg cartons. The other type is foam polystyrene which is recyclable and includes packaging for cameras and take-out containers.

Accepted foam polystyrene (all must be clean, with no trace of food residue):

- foam takeout containers
- foam meat trays
- foam cups
- foam egg cartons
- foam packaging – the hard white foam that is used in packaging for computers, cameras and many electronic goods

Not Accepted foam polystyrene: packing peanuts (popcorn)

For more information on polystyrene recycling, check out http://www.toronto.ca/garbage/bags_and_foam_faq.htm

FROM THE PARENT COUNCIL

Meeting Reminder

The next Parent Council meeting will be held on Thursday, February 19th at 9:00 a.m. in the Meeting Room. All parents and guardians are welcome and encouraged to attend.

It may still be winter...but we're thinking about Garden Fete!

Brown's annual Garden Fete gets underway in the spring, and it's time for us to start preparations. Anyone interested in helping out should contact Claire Blicker at cblicker@rogers.com.

FROM THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Thank you for supporting the Warm Clothing Drive

The Outreach Club held a second Warm Clothing Drive for another Toronto school which has students who are in great need of any new or gently used winter clothing and boots. **Thank you to all parents and students and staff who contributed to this event.** The children truly appreciated your generosity during this very cold time of year.

Hey Everyone! Want To Help Us Make A Difference?

Have you heard? Brown School Outreach Club is almost 40 members strong! We have taken on a HUGE task and we are so excited. This year we decided, as a club and as a school, to try to make a difference in the lives of some children who live in rural Kenya. We learned that a family in Kenya lives on only \$2.00 a day and that as many as 5 children in a household may share one pair of shoes, if they have any at all. They walk two hours – one way – to get water and when they get to the water, it's filthy, full of bacteria, and disease. Makes you think about how easy it is for us to get clean, filtered water anywhere to drink. **We also found out that most of these kids don't have a school to go to.** That is why we decided to raise money at our Annual Dance-a-Thon to build a school with a place to get clean, filtered water. **We are positive Brown School can make it happen.**

Our campaign is called BRICK BY BRICK and we have partnered with Free the Children, a Canadian organization started by a 12 year old boy named Craig Weinberger (he is 25 now). Free the Children is an organization of children helping children around the world. Log onto www.freethechildren.com for more information. You can donate online by going to our Event Page for Brown School at this link www.my.e2rm.com/personalPage.aspx?registrationID=578398. You can also donate by cash or cheque. Any donation over \$10.00 made online or via cheque will receive a tax receipt. We want to raise \$8,500 to build a school. **How cool would that be – for Brown School Students to build a school in Kenya. We think, VERY.**

HEALTHY HABITS



Jump Start Your Day with Breakfast

Everyone should start his or her day with breakfast because breakfast really is the most important meal of the day. Yet, despite the healthful benefits, breakfast may be the meal that is most often neglected or skipped. Eating breakfast fuels the brain and body to help provide energy and better concentration and problem-solving ability throughout the day.

Breakfast is the first chance the body has to refuel its glucose levels, also known as blood sugar, after eight to 12 hours without a meal or snack. Glucose is essential for the brain and is the main energy source. Blood glucose also helps fuel the muscles needed for physical activity throughout the day. ***Kids who skip breakfast often feel tired, restless or irritable in the morning.***

Easy to prepare breakfasts or breakfasts on the run include cold cereal with milk and fruit juice, whole-wheat toast with peanut butter, yogurt, fruit, waffles, muffins, granola bars, or even last night's pizza! Remember that eating breakfast also helps kids stay focused and do better in school.

AQUATIC NEWS

UPDATE: Beginning in February, we switched the Lunch Swim and Swim Team days. Please help us to remind your children to avoid any disappointments! Many thanks from Mrs. J. and Mr. D.

LUNCH SWIM

Days: Tuesdays and Thursdays
Times: 12:00 - 12:40 p.m.

SWIM TEAM

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

SPORTS CORNER

Ice Hockey

After an awesome pre-season warm-up tournament at UCC, the Ice Hockey team pulled off five wins in a row in the regular season, including a thrilling 3 to 1 victory against Forest Hill, to complete the regular season with an undefeated record. The team will play their next game against Balmy Beach on Thursday, February 12th at Forest Hill Arena from 12-1:00 p.m. The school team has a history of making it to the play-offs but has not advanced to the finals since 1996...***is this year going to be the year?*** Stay tuned and we'll find out! Good luck to all the Ice Hockey Team members. Parent drivers are reminded that we will be leaving Brown School on Thursday, February 12th at 11:10 a.m. for the quarter final game.



Boys' Basketball

Congratulations to the Boys' Basketball team on a very impressive season. The season started at the UCC Tournament back in January, and the regular TDSB season began shortly thereafter. The regular season was highlighted by a 38 - 18 win, over previously undefeated Clinton. The team finished on a losing note, but still has a good chance to move into the playoffs. Good luck to the team the rest of the way! Coaches: Mr. D, Mme B'Dacy and Mr. Wittenberg

Girls' Volleyball

Where to find a victory for the Girls' Volleyball team?

Despite the best efforts of a dedicated group of Brown students, this mystery remains unsolved. Though our record stands at 0-6 for the season, it is not for lack of effort. Keep up the good work, Girls – we're proud of you for trying so hard!



Upcoming Teams At Brown

Co-Ed Badminton (Grade 4 to 6)
Track and Field (Grade 3 to 6)

Girls' and Boys' Soccer (Grade 4 to 6)
Ultimate Frisbee (Grade 5 and 6 only)

Water Polo (Gr. 6 only)

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

Dance-a-Thon

École Brown School

Friday, February 27th, 2009 / Vendredi, le 27 février, 2009



TIME	GRADE(S)	ROOM # (TEACHERS)
9:00 - 9:35	Grade 1 Grade 1/2 Grade 1 Grade 1	Room 23 - A. Fox Room 25 - A. Wu Room 22 - D. Legge Room 26 - S. Weizman
9:35 - 10:15	Grade 5 Grade 5	Room 33 - A. Wittenberg Room 38 - A. Fischer-Harrison
10:15 - 10:30	RECESS	
10:30 - 10:55	SK JK SK	Room 13 - L. Warden Room 14 - S. Ferraioli Room 15 - Y. B'Dacy
11:00 - 11:35	Grade 2 Grade 2 Grade 2	Room 40 - N. Regan Room 35 - H. Bondy Room 36 - L. Dumont
11:40 - 12:40	LUNCH	
12:45 - 1:20	Grade 3 Grade 4 Grade 4 Grade 4	Room 37 - A. Sulymko Room 34 - C. Blanchard Room 39 - D. Paré Room 41 - J. Hirsch
1:25 - 1:55	JK JK SK	Room 13 - L. Warden Room 14 - S. Ferraioli Room 15 - Y. B'Dacy
1:55 - 2:25	Grade 3 Grade 3/4 Grade 3	Room 28 - L. Hazen Room 21 - G. Nathanson Room 20 - M. Breslin
2:25 - 2:40	RECESS	
2:45 - 3:25	Grade 6 Grade 6	Room 30 - C. MacDonald Room 32 - J. Vernon