

BROWN BULLETIN

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

Thank you to all of our staff, students and parents for a very productive first term!



Schoolyard snowman

We look forward to our Winter Term with renewed energy and enthusiasm, and **we hope parents will join us for coffee on Tuesday, January 20 at 8:30 a.m. in Room 16.** At this time you will have an opportunity to see the new classroom space and music room on the main floor (see below). Ms. Wu who will be teaching in Room 25 will be available to meet parents of children in Room 25. The Parent Council representatives will inform you of some of the events planned for the remainder of the year.

On January 9 and 10, 2009 our students participated in the **UCC Basketball and Hockey Tournament.** This was a great way to start off the season for our players. Thank you to our students who always represent themselves so well. Thank you to our parents for your support and to our coaches Mr. Wittenberg, M. B'Dacy, Mr. Profiti, Mr. Ellis and Mr. Daigneau for volunteering their time on the weekend to coach the Teams.

Our **music program** has moved into Room 12 and we are all excited about having this additional space for our students and music equipment. Ms. Baptist, who is providing programs to many of our primary classes and ESL students, is delighted to now have a classroom. You will find her in Room 16.

We have purchased the **Nelson Reading series** for our English Grade 3 to 6 students. This is an excellent program that incorporates many curriculum areas in the reading materials. We are all excited about this new resource. Additional materials have also been ordered to improve and update our Core French resources.

Staff News

We offer our congratulations and best wishes to **Asher and Kate Wittenberg** on the arrival of their son Nathaniel Jonathan Wittenberg on January 8, 2009.

Ms. Anna Foord of Room 25 will be on maternity leave beginning on January 15, 2009. We wish her all the best and thank her for the outstanding program she has provided to her students this year. We are pleased to inform you that **Ms. Angel Wu** will be the long term occasional teacher in room 25 while Ms. Foord is on leave. Ms. Wu is well known to our staff and students and the Brown community and she is excited about joining our staff.

Congratulations to **Jonah Weslak** in the Community Centre on his marriage January 10; we wish Jonah and wife Andrea all the best! Jonah is an amazing support to our slo-pitch and hockey teams. Our staff and students appreciate his assistance.

We would like to say thank you and good luck to **Desiree Forrester** from Oakwood C.I. who will be completing a co-op placement at Brown School at the end of this month. She has been with us each morning since September working in Room 40 Mrs. Regan's class and Room 21 Ms Nathanson's class. The students have benefited greatly from this placement.

Tuesday January 20	Winter Warmup, 8:30 a.m. (Room 16)
Thursday January 22	Parent Council Meeting, 9 a.m. (Meeting Room)
Friday January 23	Pizza lunch
Thursday January 29	French Immersion Information Night, 7 p. m. (Library)
Wednesday February 4	English Speech Arts Event
Friday February 6	Last Day to submit SK French Immersion application forms
February 9-12	Grade 5 classes at the Island School
Tuesday February 10	Kindergarten Registration for September 2009
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
Friday February 27	Dance-A-Thon
Wednesday March 4	French Speech Arts Event

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Severe Weather Guidelines for Indoor Recess



Students are kept indoors for recess and the lunch break for a number of weather conditions such as rain, lightening in the area, extreme winds and extreme cold. **When temperatures and wind chill measure -28C or lower, students are kept indoors due to the risk of frostbite.** Recess and lunch time outdoors may be shortened if the wind chill is -20C or lower.

Kindergarten Registration for September 2009

February is the system-wide Kindergarten Registration month at the TDSB. **Brown School will be holding registration on February 10 from 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.** To attend Junior Kindergarten in September, children must turn four by December 31 of that year. To attend Senior Kindergarten in September, children must turn five by December 31 of that year.

To register, please visit us on February 10 and bring the following information about your child:

1. Age (a birth certificate or baptismal record or passport)
2. Citizenship (a birth certificate, passport, or Record of Landing)
3. Address (two pieces of identification that show your address, such as your telephone bill, driver's license, bank statement, income tax form, rental or lease agreement)
4. Immunization (the card that shows a list of needles your child has received)
5. Your child's health card

If you are not able to attend on February 10, please contact Mrs. Davenport in the office at 416 393-1560 to make an appointment to register your child. For more information about Kindergarten Registration, or to find the school nearest you, visit www.tdsb.on.ca/kindergarten.

Start your children in Kindergarten at Brown School and watch them achieve great things.

The Lost & Found is already overflowing!



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 will be 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.**

Lunch Program Activities

Our students are fortunate to have many lunch time activities to keep them active and busy during the lunch break.

- * There are **Primary Sports** activities in the gym each Monday (Grade 3), Wednesday (Grade 2), and Thursday (Grade 1)
- * The children may participate in **Recreational Swim** each Monday and Wednesday.
- * The **Junior Swim Team** practices each Tuesday and Thursday.
- * The **ECO Club** meets on Wednesday in Room 28 and new members are welcome.
- * There is **Chess** on Mondays in Room 28.
- * The **Outreach Committee** meets on many Fridays in the Library throughout the year.
- * There will be **Arts & Crafts** for primary students on Fridays.

Litterless Lunch Challenge!



We continue to ask all of our students to bring a **litterless lunch** each day. Any food not eaten at school will be sent home to be disposed of in your family's green bin for organic waste. We feel it is important to keep you informed about what your child is eating or not eating each day. With your cooperation, this also helps to reduce the amount of garbage collected each day.

The ECO club will be providing tickets to students who bring a completely litterless lunch to school, and there will be a draw for prizes each week for the next three weeks!

FROM THE PARENT COUNCIL

Winter Warm Up 2009

Please join the Parent Council and Teachers for a welcome back coffee on **Tuesday, January 20th in Room 16** at 8:30 a.m. This will be a great opportunity to see the new music room, meet Room 25's new teacher, and find out what is planned for the Winter and Spring terms. All parents and guardians are encouraged to attend.

After 4 Program

The Winter After-4 programs begin the week of January 19th. There are a number of new and exciting programs being offered to both Primary and Junior students, including Sewing, Digital Photography, Videography and of course favourites such as Board Games, Aquatics and Mad Science. Limited spaces may still be available if you have not yet registered. Contact Yvonne Harding for more information at harding99@rogers.com.

Tips for a Successful Kiss 'n Ride drop off

With the cold weather more families are taking advantage of the kiss 'n ride. To help ensure a smooth and safe drop-off for all here are a few tips:

- ✓ Move your car to the front of the line, it leaves room for the next person and eases congestion at the corner;
- ✓ Have your child's backpack in the seat ready to go, not in the trunk;
- ✓ Please ensure that your child(ren) can exit onto the sidewalk from the car;
- ✓ Arrive a few minutes before 8:50 a.m.; and
- ✓ Pedestrians: please cross behind the crossing guard.

Meeting Reminder

The first Parent Council meeting for 2009 will be held Thursday, January 22nd at 9 a.m. in the Meeting Room. All parents and guardians are welcome and encouraged to attend.

NEWS FROM AROUND BROWN SCHOOL



Dance-A-Thon, by Tilly, Room 28

It's almost time for the Dance-A-Thon!

This year Brown School will be partnering with Free the Children, a Canadian organization of children helping children around the world. **Brown School and the Outreach Committee have made a goal of \$8,500 to build a school in Kenya with the BRICK BY BRICK campaign.**

Nabeela Rahman of Free the Children will be coming on February 12, 2009 to speak with the students about the project chosen by the Outreach Committee. It should be an exciting time for the students to learn about what education, water and health issues are like in a country in need.

Our annual Dance-A-Thon will support this initiative, and will be held on Friday, February 27, 2009. Look for more information on our website, along with pledge sheets that will be coming home in the students' backpacks. If you would like more information go to www.freethechildren.org. You can also go online to the BROWN SCHOOL EVENT page at <http://my.e2rm.com/personalPage.aspx?registrationID=578398> and make a donation directly.



Warm Clothing Drive

The Outreach Club is holding 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. The children and staff at this school will truly appreciate your donations of warm clothing during this cold weather. There will be a collection box outside the office for the next two weeks (January 12 – 23). Thank you to all parents and students who have already brought in items.



Pediculosis Screening

The next school-wide check is scheduled February 11. 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!

Library News

I am very proud to say we have **completed our first 1000-piece puzzle, *It's Raining Cats and Dogs***. This was a cooperative effort done by the whole school. There were some keeners who spent recesses or after school time solving the border that really helped to get us going. We also had some difficult days when other children broke pieces that were already done. In the end, everyone learned to respect the work completed by others. All in all we had a great time doing it! The puzzle will be on display till the end of the month and then we are going to try a new one. ***Anyone interested in donating a puzzle to us?***

On Friday January 9th, many classes, as well as the Outreach Committee, enjoyed listening to a ***fabulous presentation by Shirley Lewis***, a retired librarian who spent five years teaching in Ethiopia. Shirley gave us a slide show of the life, the geographical features, and the customs of Ethiopia. She brought many samples of clothing, woodwork and even a goatskin lunchbox. She explained how boys take priority over girls to go to school, and that often only one out of eight children in a family have the opportunity to go. School costs are \$400.00 per child, which is a huge sum for most families.

Shirley sells cards made with banyan leaf designs by a group of girls in Ethiopia, and uses the money raised to send girls to school through the ***Children of Ethiopia Education Fund***. I will have a selection of these cards in the library for anyone interested in purchasing one or more for \$2.00 a card.

This month features ***Family Literacy Day*** on January 27, and we will try to break a world record by having 30 minutes of read aloud to many of our students. Wish us luck!

- Rise Schwartz

Update from the Eco Committee



A new ***Eco Bulletin Board*** will be posted in the hallway across from the school office this term. It will be a chance for Brown's Eco-Kids Club to keep the Brown School Community informed about their activities and initiatives.

The ***ABC (Anything But Car) Day*** has been taking place on Tuesdays. We have been asked to move the day to "Any day but Tuesday" as this is the current pickup day for recycling and garbage. The bins can create quite the obstacle course for those walking to school, especially on snowy days. We would like to switch the day for ABC this term.

If you have any strong opinions on which day of the week you would prefer, please let us know by contacting either Melisse Craig at Melisse@HelmanFamily.com or Amanda Levey at amanda_levey@yahoo.ca.

THANK YOU AGAIN for supporting our fall QSP Family Reading fundraiser

Your tremendous support has made this a very successful fundraiser for our school! We will be offering this reading fundraiser again next school year but some publishers may send you early renewal notices. Please do not renew with the publishers, as the school does not receive any profits or benefit.

If you would like to renew early (or purchase additional subscriptions or gifts for Easter/Mother's Day) and still help our school, please place your order at www.qsp.ca.

HEALTHY HABITS

Many of our classes have been discussing Healthy Habits as a kick start to the New Year, including the importance of having a nutritious breakfast every day. Try **Make-Your-Own Muesli Cereal** for a healthy start to the day or as an any-time snack!

Make-your-own Muesli Cereal

Makes 12 servings

- 1 cup (250 mL) granola cereal
- 3 cups (750 mL) rolled oats
- 1 cup (250 mL) raisins or chopped dried fruit (such as apricots, cherries, cranberries or dates)
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) oat bran
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) wheat bran

In an airtight container, combine all the ingredients. The mixture will stay fresh for a month. Serve this cereal with yogurt, soy or lower fat milk and top with your choice of fresh fruit.

Nutritional information per serving with 1/2 cup (125 mL) of 1% milk:

Calories: 236

Fat: 4 g

Saturated fat: 1 g

Sodium: 73 mg

Potassium: 463 mg

Protein: 10 g

Carbohydrate: 43 g

Dietary fibre: 5 g

Dietary Cholesterol: 5 mg

Developed by Deborah Hoffnung, RD. © The Heart and Stroke Foundation. For more Heart and Stroke Foundation fast, heart-healthy breakfast and school lunch ideas, visit www.heartandstroke.ca/recipes.

SPORTS CORNER



Lunchtime Sports

The very popular Lunchtime Sports program continues this term for students in Grade 1, 2 and 3. The students do not need to sign up; attendance is optional. Mr. Wittenberg and Mr. Profitti welcome any and all Grade 3 students to the Gym every Monday from 12:00 to 12:40, Grade 2 students every Wednesday from 12:00 to 12:40 and Grade 1 students every Thursday from 12:00 to 12:40. **The only thing students need to remember to bring with them is their RUNNING SHOES as boots are not permitted in the Gym.**

Girls' Volleyball

Great enthusiasm and spirit characterized this year's tryouts for the Girls' Volleyball team. When the dust (and volleyballs) settled, we found ourselves with a team made up of 16 girls from Grades Four, Five and Six.

Practices will be held on Tuesday mornings at 7:45 a.m. A busy schedule will see us play 8 games over five weeks:

Tuesday, January 13th @ McMurrich

Thursday, January 15th: Whitney @ Brown

Thursday, January 22nd: McMurrich @ Brown

Thursday January 29th: JRR @ Brown

Wednesday February 4th @ JRR

Thursday February 5th: Allenby @ Brown

Monday February 9th @ Allenby

Tuesday February 10th @ Whitney



Ice Hockey and Boys' Basketball

Ice Hockey and Boys' Basketball are beginning their regular season schedule this week. Keep checking the Brown School Website for information regarding game schedules and more!

<http://www.brownschool.ca/sports.asp>

Upcoming Sports Teams at Brown

Co-Ed Badminton Team
Track and Field (Gr. 3-6)

Junior Swim Team
Water Polo (Gr. 6 only)

Boys' and Girls' Soccer
Ultimate Frisbee (Gr. 5 and 6 only)

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