

BROWN BULLETIN

www.brownschool.ca 454 Avenue Road, Toronto M4V 2J1 416.393.1560

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

Welcome to Our New Academic Year!

We were delighted to see that our students, staff and parents have returned to school with so much energy and enthusiasm. We are very excited that we will be working with you and your child(ren) this year!

The teachers and support staff have spent many hours preparing the school and classrooms for our students. We extend a warm welcome to our new students and parents. This is such an exciting time for our JK students and their parents. We thank you for choosing Brown school. We welcome back our returning students and their parents. Over the years the strong home and school partnership has been most beneficial to your children. **We look forward to another excellent academic year!**



This is Brown's last paper Bulletin!

Please sign up to receive the Brown Bulletin by email by following the link at www.brownschool.ca

If you do not have an email account, please inform the office in writing and a paper copy will be provided.

Staff News

Congratulations to **Daniel Paré** on his wedding this summer in Toronto, and to **Alison Fox** on her wedding in St. John's, Newfoundland. We welcome **Ms Ellie Bower** from Canterbury, UK to our Grade English 4 class. Ms Bower and **Ms Hirsch** have exchanged teaching positions and homes for a year. This is an opportunity for professional growth for both teachers, and the students in both classes will benefit from this global connection. **Mme Anna** is on leave this year from the TDSB, and we welcome **Mlle Danisch** to Room 38, Grade 4/5 French Immersion. **Mlle Clouthier** joins us in Grade 6 French Immersion (Room 32). We are delighted to welcome all of these teachers to Brown School. We are pleased to inform you that **Ms Dorothy Hunt** is our new Office Administrator and **Ms Lisa Burk** will be with us each morning in the office.



All parents and guardians are invited to attend **Brown School's Curriculum Night** on **Thursday, September 24th**. We look forward to seeing everyone! The evening will begin in the Gym at 6:00 p.m. with a general gathering and introduction of teachers, staff and programs.

- ✓ **Kindergarten and Primary classrooms** will be open from 6:30 to 7:00 for you to meet with your children's teachers and discuss their plans for the year.
- ✓ **Junior Classrooms** will be open from 7:00 to 7.30 p.m.

Throughout the evening, we hope that you will introduce yourself to the Administration as well as the Phys. Ed, Swimming and Music Teachers and the Librarian.

IMPORTANT DATES

Mon Sept 14 & Tues Sept 15	School Photo Days
Wednesday September 16	QSP Magazine Sales Begin
Thursday September 17	New Parent Breakfast – 8 a.m., Brown School Gym
Thursday September 17	Parent Council Annual General Meeting – 9 a.m., Gym
Thursday September 24	Curriculum Night – 6:00-7.30 p.m.
Friday September 25	Toonie for Terry Fox Walk
Monday October 12	Thanksgiving Holiday
Thursday November 12	Fall Fling – Save the Date!

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On Friday, September 25th, all Brown School students and staff will be participating in the annual **Toonie for Terry Walk** commemorating Terry Fox and his Marathon of Hope.

Students and their teachers will be walking around the Brown School neighbourhood. All are asked to bring in a Toonie, which will be donated to the Terry Fox Foundation.

Important Notes on Student Safety

Our bell rings to start classes at 8:50 a.m. The teachers will begin yard supervision at 8:35 a.m. **Please do not leave your child in the schoolyard before this time because there is no supervision.** Students should be picked up at 3:30 p.m. in the same location. If children require extra help, classroom remediation time is between 3:30 and 3:45 p.m. This is considered to be part of our academic day, so please understand that teachers may keep students in the class for some additional attention at this time. **Kindergarten children** gather in our primary yard and are asked to enter their classroom directly from the playground at 8:50 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. Students arriving by bus will be supervised until teachers arrive on duty in the yard.

If it is necessary to pick up your child during the school day, please send a note to the classroom teacher indicating what time you would like to meet your child in the school office. Teachers will send the child to the office at the indicated time. Please sign your child out of the school in the Sign Out Book on the office counter.

Brown School has an **Attendance Verification Program** to support the safe arrival of our students. We will call home if your child has not arrived at school. It is essential that all parents report their child's absence or late arrival due to an appointment to **416 393 1557 before 8:50 a.m.** Classes begin at 8:55 a.m. Please ensure that your child arrives at school on time. It is important for our students to be here on time so that we can begin attendance verification promptly. Also, children who arrive on time benefit from valuable teaching time and instruction first thing in the morning.

We ask that parents do not drop off or pick up students or park their vehicle in the laneway off Avenue Road. This area is for bus drop off and pick up and delivery only. It is impossible for the busses to turn around when there are cars parked at the back. This has been an ongoing safety concern that has improved greatly with your cooperation.

School-Wide Pediculosis (Lice) Screening is on Wednesday, October 28

The TDSB Pediculosis Coordinator and a group of trained parents will do head checks for every class. Volunteers are essential to the smooth running of school wide lice checks and volunteers are needed to assist. No experience is necessary as you will be trained by experienced persons.

If you can spare 30-45 minutes of your time on October 28, please contact Karen Janes at karenjanes@rogers.com.

Keeping You in Touch

There are a number of ways to keep in touch with Brown's many activities and events this school year:

Brown Bulletin – Our monthly bulletin will be sent out electronically beginning in October. **Please make sure that you area on our email list by following the link at www.brownschool.ca**

Brown Website – You can find school news bulletins, sports schedules and events, archived Bulletins, forms and other important information on our website: www.brownschool.ca.

Brown Handbook – Our Handbook outlines Brown's staff roles, classes, special activities and policies to help give families an overview of the school. Our new edition will be sent home in October. A student directory will not be printed this year.

Class Parents – Parent Representatives of each class help connect parents with their child's teacher, the school and each other. Please speak to your teacher if you are interested in being a Class Parent. We need volunteers!

We hope you will feel connected with Brown School this year. Please contact Katharine Lake Berz at lakeberz@yahoo.com if you would like to help with Brown Communications.

NEWS FROM AROUND BROWN SCHOOL

Physical Education Class

Each class from Grade 1 to 6 will receive 2 classes of Physical Education per week. **It is extremely important that your child is prepared for Gym class by having the appropriate clothing and footwear.** Having comfortable clothing such as running shoes, socks, track pants or shorts along with a comfortable shirt is important for your child to get the most out of the Phys-Ed program.



Participation in the Phys-Ed program is worth half of your child's grade on their report card, so being prepared to take part in physical activity is extremely important.

I look forward to seeing your child in the Gym again this year! -- Mr. Profiti



RECREATIONAL "Noon" SWIM for GRADES 1-6 will begin the week of September 21st

This program will be held twice a week on **Tuesdays & Thursdays from 12:00 – 12:40 p.m.** Remember...please bring your own bathing suit, bathing cap and towel.

Looking forward to seeing you! -- Mrs. J. and Mr. D, Aquatic Staff

PS: See "Sports Corner" for important reminders about regular swim classes!

Lunch Program

This school year we will continue to offer enrichment to our Lunch Program. **If your child stays at school for lunch, they are in this programme!** Our enriched Lunch Program includes indoor/outdoor sports, swimming and club activities during recess.

We also offer a daily milk and monthly pizza lunch option. The form for pizza and milk was sent home last week, and should be returned with payment (**cash or cheques payable to Brown School Lunch Program**) by the end of September.

We are pleased to offer several classroom sites for Grades 1-2 to use to eat their lunches. Students in Grades 3-6 will eat lunch in the Gymnasium.

To ensure that the programme runs efficiently and safely for the large number of students staying for lunch, please observe the following:

- ✓ We request that you do not send food that needs to be refrigerated or microwaved. Please consider using thermoses and/or cold packs to keep your child's lunch at the right temperature until lunchtime.
- ✓ Peanut Butter and Nut Products should not be sent to School – this includes products that "may contain nuts".
- ✓ We expect "Litter free Lunches" for environmental reasons.

Fall is the time of year for our Wrapping Paper and Gift Fundraiser!



Parties and presents galore make wrapping paper an essential item year-round. Details of this annual fundraiser will be coming out shortly. **New this year is an online ordering process.** This is a phenomenal fundraiser for our school and we hope all will participate!

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help, please contact Karen Smith at karenandian@rogers.com.

QSP Magazine Drive

Thinking of subscribing to a new magazine? Time to renew a favourite? Take advantage of great subscription rates of up to 80% off newsstand prices while helping Brown PS by ordering through QSP. Our school receives an average of \$10.00 for every subscription sold, so each and every order makes a difference! The sales from these magazines support events for our Grade 6 students.

- ✓ Order online at www.QSP.ca; your order will be processed immediately.
- ✓ Our group number for Internet orders is **9143**

FROM THE PARENT COUNCIL

Welcome to all new and returning families to Brown!

This time of year everyone is bursting with energy and enthusiasm - and that's just the parents! Again this year there are a number of events and activities planned to support and enrich the student experience at Brown. The volunteer efforts of our fantastic parents are essential to ensuring the continued success of these activities.



The Brown Parent Council invites all parents to attend a **New Parent Breakfast on Thursday, September 17th at 8:00 a.m. in the Gym** for parents who are new to the school. This gathering will give "new" parents an opportunity to meet and chat with "old" Brown Parents, teachers, Principal Jane Giuliani and Vice Principal Sonja Litner, as well as learn more about the school. **Everyone is welcome!**

All interested parents are invited to attend the **Brown Parent Council Annual General Meeting, which will follow the New Parent Breakfast**. This meeting will get underway at 9:00 a.m. and will also be held in the Gym. This meeting is a chance for you to learn more about the school, its activities and opportunities to get involved with the school. The new Executive Council will be elected during the AGM. The first Parent Council Executive Meeting will follow immediately after. All parents are welcome and are encouraged to attend!



Looking forward to a wonderful year at Brown!

-- Yvonne Harding & Kelli Schiffer Belanger, Co-Chairs 2008/2009

WANTED: Volunteers!

If you would like to meet other great parents, learn more about Brown or have a special skill to share, **we would like to hear from you!** Volunteer forms were sent out in the initial forms package and can be returned to the Main Office. If you would like more information on any of the activities outlined, please contact Anji Shukla at getanji@gmail.com

Kiss 'n Ride Program



The Kiss'n Ride is already underway and all families are encouraged to participate in this student drop-off program in an effort to ensure the safety of our students during the morning rush. A few reminders and tips for new users:

- ✓ Please pull into the designated area on Poplar Plains Road to drop off your children (look for the orange cones)
- ✓ Please exit on the passenger side to avoid the dangers of opening doors into traffic
- ✓ Keep all back packs, etc. in the car with you
- ✓ Please do not park in this area during the morning drop-off
- ✓ If you need to park please do so legally on Balmoral Avenue or in the 15 min zone on Poplar Plains (north of the school driveway exit)
- ✓ Please remember that the parking lot is for STAFF ONLY!

Volunteers for the Kiss 'n Ride are always welcome. If you can spare 20 minutes between 8:30 and 8:50 a.m., please contact Yvonne Harding at harding99@rogers.com. Thank you!

the Fall Fling!

Mark Your Calendars!

This year, our major annual Fundraiser, the **Fall Fling**, will take place on **Thursday, November 12th at the Badminton & Racquet Club**. Available at the evening's Silent Auction will be numerous crafts and creations by the Brown School students as well as many exciting donated items.

Diane Burk and Francesca Milan are co-chairing this year's event, and are available anytime to answer your questions and to make arrangements for donations. Anji Shukla will once again work her magic to coordinate the wonderful crafts. Please contact Diane at dianneburk@sympatico.ca or (416) 926-8910. Francesca can be reached at fmilan21@gmail.com or (416) 901-5921.

Please watch for further details in the coming weeks!

SPORTS CORNER

Aquatic News 2009-2010

Welcome Back! The aquatic staff is looking forward to beginning their **regular swim classes** the week of September 14th!

Aquatic Reminders:

- ✓ Swim Equipment: Each student must be prepared with a bathing suit, bathing cap and towel for each swim class.
- ✓ A note of explanation from your parent or guardian is required if you are unable to participate in your swim class.
- ✓ Labeling: All swim equipment should be labeled! This will help us to return any items left behind.
- ✓ Lending Equipment: Unfortunately, the aquatic department no longer lends swim equipment.
- ✓ Bathing caps are on sale for the cost of two dollars in the School Office.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to give us a call. Thank you!

Mrs. Jeffery (Mrs. J.) and Mr. Daigneau (Mr. D.)
Brown Aquatic Staff - 416 393-1560

Another year at Brown School is here - and that means the Athletics Program will be in full gear very soon!

All Students have received a package of **blue permission forms** that are intended to give permission for your child to try-out and/or participate on *any* school team. Whether it is the Cross Country Team or the Football Team or even the Badminton Team, the permission forms must be filled out and returned to their teacher. ***If a child does not have their permission forms filled out they will not be allowed to participate in any of the try-outs until the permission forms are returned.***

The first school teams that will be getting started very soon are the **Football, Cross-Country, Slo-Pitch and Primary Swim Teams.**

The coaches had sign up meetings for the Touch Football and Slo-Pitch Teams on Thursday, September 10 and Friday, September 11 at morning and afternoon recess in the Gym. This information was brought to the attention of the students via the morning announcements.

BOYS' and GIRLS' TOUCH FOOTBALL (Grades 4-6)

The Junior Boys' and Girls' Football Teams will hold try-outs simultaneously for students in Grades 4, 5 and 6 on **Monday, September 14 and Friday September 18 at 7:30 a.m. at Winston Churchill Park.** Students interested in trying out for the team should attend both try-outs.

Once the first list is posted outside of the Gym on the afternoon of Friday, September 18, those students on the list are invited to a final try-out on Monday September 21st at 7:30 a.m. at Winston Churchill Park.

The final team list will be posted on Tuesday, September 22 in the morning and the first team practice will take place on **Friday September 25 7:30 a.m.** at Winston Churchill Park.

Students who would like to walk to the park with the coaches must be in the Principals Hallway at 7:15 a.m. on the morning of the try-out or practice. If you would like to meet the coaches at the park then please be at the park at 7:30 a.m.

All students are encouraged to dress appropriately for tryouts; sweater or t-shirt, track pants or shorts (no jeans please) soccer cleats or any pair of athletic shoes.

Coaches: Mr. Profiti, Mr. Daigneau and Mr. Wittenberg

Please check the school website for announcements, information regarding team sports and more!

www.brownschool.ca

Click on Sports, Click on Teams then click on the team you are looking for.

CROSS COUNTRY Information for Parents of Students in Grades 1 & 2

Practices for primary students who wish to participate in Cross-Country will start Monday, September 21 and take place at Winston Churchill Park. If you would like your child to participate, there is no need to sign up; just show up at the practice and check in with a coach. **Should you choose to accept this mission, however, (being the parent of a cross-country athlete) ...here is what you would be committing to:**

- ✓ Parents of children in Grades 1 & 2 must escort their children (or arrange for another adult, not a teacher) to stay for the entire practice, and walk their children back to school afterward. Practices begin at the park at 7:45 a.m. Alternately, you can meet the coaches at the school at 7:30 a.m. and walk over together. At practices, we will focus on a number of elements including, stretches, starts, following the pace bunny and passing.
- ✓ Before the first meet, practices take place every Monday and Wednesday for two weeks (starting September 21) for all primary children. (This does include Grade 3 students also.)
- ✓ Because the school buses can be a little unpredictable, Grade 1 & 2 students must be transported to the meet on Monday, October 5th by a parent or guardian. The first meet takes place at Ashbridges Bay (Lakeshore & Coxwell). The meets normally begin at 10 a.m. with the Grade 1 Girls followed by the Grade 1 Boys. As well, before taking your child to the meet, you must stop by the school to pick up a t-shirt and a label with your child's information. At the end of the meet, parents are responsible for transporting their children back to the school. Parents are also asked to wash the t-shirt and return it to school with their child.
- ✓ If your child qualifies at the first meet, they might return to compete at the South Conference Finals on October 15th and possibly go on to the City Finals on October 22nd. Typically however, only four to eight students from Brown make it all the way to the City Finals.

If you and your child are ready to take all of this on, then we would love to see you at the first practice on Monday, September 21st at 7:45 am at Winston Churchill Park!

P.S. Practices for the Junior Grade students (4 – 6) will start one week earlier than Primary Students. The first practice for Juniors will be on September 15th, and take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays with a total of six practices before the first meet. Information will be posted near the gym in the principal's hallway and reminders will go out via the morning announcements.

BOYS SLO-PITCH (Grades 4-6)

Try-out Schedule:

- 1) Monday September 14 at 3:45** – Grade 4 and 5 Boys only. Meet at the baseball diamond in the schoolyard after school.
- 2) Wednesday September 16 at 7:30 a.m.** – Grade 6 Boys only. Meet at the baseball diamond in the schoolyard.
- 3) Monday September 21 at 3:45** – Grade 4, 5 and 6 Boys who are on the list posted outside the Gym. Meet at the baseball diamond in the schoolyard after school.

All students are encouraged to dress appropriately for try-outs: sweater or t-shirt, track pants or shorts (no jeans please), running shoes, a hat and baseball glove.

Coaches: Jonah Weslak, Mr. Ellis

GIRLS SLO-PITCH (Grades 4-6)

Try-Out Schedule:

- 1) Tuesday September 15 at 7:30 a.m.** – For Girls in Grades 4, 5 and 6. Meet at the baseball diamond in the schoolyard.
- 2) Wednesday September 16 at 3:45 p.m.** – For Girls in Grades 4, 5 and 6. Meet at the baseball diamond in the schoolyard after school.
- 3) Tuesday September 22 at 7:30 a.m.** – Grade 4, 5 and 6 Girls who are on the list posted outside the Gym. Meet at the baseball diamond in the schoolyard.

1st Team Practice: Wednesday September 23 at 3:45 p.m. Only for Girls who are on the final list. Meet at the baseball diamond in the schoolyard after school.

All students are encouraged to dress appropriately for try-outs: sweater or t-shirt, track pants or shorts (no jeans please), running shoes, a hat and baseball glove.

Coaches: Mme. B'Dacy, Darrin Chin

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