

BROWN BULLETIN

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

NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF L. SHAFRANSKY & S. LITNER – OCTOBER 2010



We Are Going Strong!

Our school year is in full swing and staff, parents and the community can be proud of their combined efforts to ensure a wonderful balance of curricular and extra curricular programs! In one short month we have been busy with the **Terry Fox Run**, Primary **Character Education Assembly**, **Eco-Schools Platinum Awards Ceremony** at the Brickworks, the **Cross Country** meet and **Photo Day**.

Our **Curriculum Night** was well attended, and provided us with a great opportunity to meet with our parents. Thanks to Unicorn Daycare for providing child care for the evening! As well, thanks to the volunteers who helped run our “adopt a book” fair, school “spirit wear” boutique, and Smartboard demonstrations in the library.

We also had our **New Parent Breakfast** and **Annual General Meeting of the Parent Council**. It was wonderful to meet so many of our new families. At the meeting, I provided information around our enrolment, staff hiring, our Eco-Platinum status and our preliminary EQAO results. We hope by staggering meetings between mornings and evenings from one month to the next, that more of you will have opportunities to come out to parent council meetings.

If you have not received this Bulletin by email...

...please visit www.brownschool.ca and sign up to receive future issues!

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

Staff News & Reorganization

We welcome aboard **Mlle Hannah Ticoll**, who is the Long Term Occasional (LTO) teacher replacing Claudine Blanchard in Room 34, Grade 4 French Immersion. As well, we welcome back **Angel Wu**, the LTO teacher who has replaced Anna Foord in Room 25, Grade 1/2 English. We wish Ms. Foord well, with the new addition of a baby boy!

Fortunately, our reorganization this year to meet the required Ministry cap of 20 children in the primary grades was minimal. With the addition of a new teacher, we were able to create a new Grade 2/3 class in Room 23 to reduce class sizes overall. We welcome aboard **Aundrea Pietrobon**, a former teacher here at Brown, as the new teacher in our primary division. We thank all families for their support and understanding throughout the process of reorganization.

Reminder: Progress Reports will be sent home in November

As mentioned at Curriculum Night, the TDSB has developed a new reporting tool for students in Grades 1-8: **Elementary Progress Report Cards**. These will be used in the first term of the school year and will be sent home in November. You will receive the traditional Provincial Report Cards for the Winter and Spring Terms, in February and June. Please visit the school website for more information: www.brownschool.ca; look for “**Growing Success - Elementary Progress Report Card**”.

Wednesday October 20	Parent Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Library
Friday October 29	Pizza Lunch for participating students
November 3 - 5	Rooms 38 & 33 to Island School
November 8 - 10	Rooms 30 & 32 to Island School
November 10 - 12	Grade 5s of Room 39 to Island School
Monday November 15	First Term Progress Reports sent home
Tuesday, November 16	Sibling Photo Day
November 15 - 18	Classroom visits from Police Officer Marcie Beaven-Brindle
November 16 - 18	School-wide Dental Screening
Friday November 19	PA Day (no classes for students); Parent Interviews
Thursday November 25	Fall Fling – Save the Date!
Thursday December 9	Winterfest (morning)

In This Issue:

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

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

- ✓ Please do not leave your child in the school yard before 8:35 a.m. when supervision begins.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.

Thanksgiving – Action de grâce

Contrary to popular belief, the origins of Thanksgiving in Canada are not based on American Thanksgiving at Plymouth, but go back further to explorer Martin Frobisher, who had been trying to find a northern passage to the Pacific Ocean. Frobisher's Thanksgiving was not for harvest but homecoming. He had safely returned from a search for the Northwest Passage, avoiding the later fate of Henry Hudson and Sir John Franklin. In the year 1578, he held a formal ceremony in Newfoundland to give thanks for surviving the long journey.

French settlers who came to New France with explorer Samuel de Champlain in the early 1600s also took to celebrating their successful harvests. They even shared their food with the indigenous people of the area as well as setting up what became known as *l'Ordre du bon temps*. As many more settlers arrived in Canada, more celebrations of good harvest became common. New immigrants into the country, such as the Irish, Scottish, Germans would also add their own harvest traditions to the harvest celebrations. Most of the American aspects of Thanksgiving (such as the turkey) were incorporated when United Empire Loyalists began to flee from the United States during the American Revolution and settled in Canada. (source: Wikipedia)

From all of us to you and yours: Bonne action de grâce!

NEWS FROM AROUND BROWN SCHOOL

Update from Outreach:

Outreach Club Organizes Brown Food Drive, October 13 - 22

While Ontario is slowly coming out of an economic recession, there are many in the GTA for whom the recovery is far from over. How hunger affects families:

34% of food bank clients are children	15% of children go hungry at least once a week
39% of adults go hungry at least once a week	15% spike in client use of food banks since 2009

Brown would like to assist our local food banks in the fall re-stocking of their shelves by asking families to donate non-perishable items during the week of October 13-22nd. Items may be dropped off in bins located outside the office or library. One canned good, one box of powdered milk or a bag of rice could make a difference around a family's table. Please have your family assist Brown School with a donation.

Pajamas for Pakistan was a Success!

A cheque in excess of \$1,000 has been made out to Unicef on behalf of Brown and its efforts in collecting toonies for Pakistan. Thank you for contributing to this important TDSB initiative.

Library News/ Nouvelles de la bibliothèque de Brown

Thank you to the parents who purchased books for the library on Curriculum Night. We sold a number of books, raising a total of \$ 1 400 worth of books for the Library. We are still accepting donations.

Merci beaucoup, Thank you all for your great support!

-- Marie-France Gagnon

From the Eco Committee:



Brown is Green – and PLATINUM!

Congratulations to everyone at Brown - we are now a **PLATINUM certified Ecoschool!**

Our school was recognized at a special Platinum ceremony in September at the Evergreen Brick Works. This award recognizes the group effort that it takes to become an Ecoschool.

There are lots of sustainable initiatives at Brown. We encourage everyone to participate in as many as they can:

Eco-kids – Students meet once a week during lunch to discuss how they can contribute to a more sustainable environment. Leslie Hazan leads the Junior students; Holly Bondy leads the Primary group.

Kiss and Ride Program – Reduces congestion and car emissions by providing a safe way to drop your child at school. Pull up at the designated area on Poplar Plains and an adult will open the door to help your child out. A student from Grade 6 will then escort your child safely to the school ground.

ABC / Anything But Car Day – Held every Wednesday to encourage families to leave behind the car and find a more sustainable way to commute to school.

Litterless Lunches – Encourages families to pack snacks and lunches in reusable containers to reduce litter on the school grounds.

Fall Fling Crafts – the crafts made by students and available for sale at the Fall Fling are created with recycled materials to demonstrate the reuse of materials.

Garden Fete – We aim to reduce all garbage at our annual event and highlight ways of being more environmentally sustainable. We are improving every year.

School Grounds – Maintain nature in our school grounds and clean up litter.

Earth Day – involve the students in a project to observe Earth Day.

Eco-Committee – Parent volunteers who are always looking for fresh ideas and willing people such as our new Co-Chair, Tricia Davidson-Chiasson.

French Language Events

There are a number of events happening in Toronto in October and November! You won't want to miss **French Family Story Time** at the Toronto Public Library, or **French Family Movies** at the National Film Board.

Other events include a **Parent Survival Night for Parents of Children in French Immersion** on October 19, and **Adult French Lessons** starting on October 14. See <http://www.brownschool.ca> and click on "School News" for full details!

FROM THE PARENT COUNCIL

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

It was a pleasure meeting those of you who were able to attend the New Parents' Welcome Breakfast, and those who attended our first meeting in September. What an incredible turnout!

Parents interested in joining the Parent Council are always encouraged and welcome to attend. ***The next meeting of the parent council is Wednesday, October 20th at 7:00 p.m. in the library.***

Anyone interested in finding out more about the parent council and how they can become involved should please contact Lisa Bernstein at bernstl@lao.on.ca

A big thank you to Jennifer Caminsky and her team for the organizing the New Parent's Welcome Breakfast!

The Brown Handbook

Once again, the Parent Council has distributed the Brown School Handbook to all families. The Handbook is a great information resource for Brown School information, including the school year calendar, school office hours, class reps, clubs, athletics and much more! Be sure to keep your Handbook close by!

For environmental reasons, the Parent Council has sought to avoid giving duplicates to families that have more than one child at Brown. ***If you received a duplicate, please return it to the office.*** However, for those children in two-household families, please feel free to request a second copy from the office.

Thank you to Nina Moritsugu and Danjela Ninkovic for their incredible dedication and efforts in organizing the handbook at such a busy time of year!

Brown After 4

We have sent out the After 4 Fall 2010 Session Program Listing. We're bringing back popular programs as well as introducing new courses from Computer Programming to Science to Swimming and even Personal Finance and Woodworking. There's a variety of arts programs like Arts & Crafts and Beading. And check out the new courses on Dinosaurs and Scrapbooking. Plus Ms Baptist and Ms Hazan are offering two exciting new courses, Snack & Study Club and Artists & their Art.

Please refer to the Program Listing for details of the courses, fees, locations, dates, and age groups. If the Listing hasn't made it out of your children's backpacks, or has otherwise gone astray, you will find a copy on the school website. Spaces are still available in many classes, so register today! Programs start week of October 18 for an eight week session. Hope the children enjoy the program! As always we welcome any feedback.



Kiss N Ride: MORE VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO KEEP THIS PROGRAM RUNNING!

The Kiss N Ride program was initiated 3 years ago to address serious safety issues during the morning drop-off period. Cars were backlogged along Balmoral Ave east to Avenue Rd and south on Poplar Plains to Clarendon. Limited parking in the area resulted in driver frustration, dangerous mid-road drop-offs, double-parking and countless other acts of hostility.

While significantly more families walk or bike to school, there are still those who need to drive and this program allows for a safer, smoother drop-off for drivers and safer streets to walk across for pedestrians.

Volunteers are desperately needed to keep this program running. ***Without another 5-6 volunteers it will NOT be possible to offer this service every day for the balance of the school year.*** If you can offer 20 minutes between 8:30am and 8:50am one or two mornings a month, please contact Yvonne Harding at harding99@rogers.com. Thank you.



The final date to submit Wrapping Paper & Chocolate Orders is Friday, October 22

Parties and presents galore make wrapping paper an essential item year-round. Reminders for ordering:

- ✓ Order online at www.stanbridge-innisbrook.com; Brown School code is 124849
- ✓ Print the payment voucher and return to school along with cheque payable to Brown Parent Council. NO CASH PLEASE.
- ✓ Helpline for orders: 1-877-525-5608



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 25 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.

What will the money raised buy? Every year, the school administration and teachers let our parent Fall Fling committee know what they would like to see added to enhance the learning experience for the students at our School. **This year, the primary focus will be on increasing technology**, specifically the number of Smart Boards. Our hope is to raise \$15,000 to purchase three more of these interactive white boards so that there are at least two of them on each floor. In addition, funds will go to satisfying specific requests teachers have made for their classrooms or activities.

Please watch for the order forms and further Fall Fling details in the coming days when they are sent home with your child. More details are also available at www.brownschool.ca > School News. See you at the Fling!

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED! Please contact Dianne Burk dianneburk@sympatico.ca 416 926 8910 or Bettina Hoar hoarhouse@gmail.com 416 927 7737.

AQUATICS

Primary Swim Team - Grades 2 & 3

Times: 12:00 -12:40 pm

Days: Tuesdays and Thursdays. An Information package for new members will have the practice start date.

PLEASE NOTE: Swim Requirement - A student must be able to swim two full lengths while demonstrating a strong front and back crawl.

Recreational Swim

Days: Monday & Wednesday
Times: 12:00 – 12:40 p.m.
A busy pool is a happy place. Come out and join the fun!!

Dear Parents: Over the next couple of weeks we will continue to run the primary swim team tryouts during your child's regular swim class. An information package will be given only to a student who has successfully demonstrated the necessary skills. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to either call us or drop by the Aquatic department. We look forward to a happy and successful Primary swim team season!

Brown Primary Swim Coaches: Mrs. Padassery, Mrs. Warden, Mrs. Jeffery (Mrs. J.) and Mr. Daigneau (Mr. D.)
416 393-1560 Aquatic Dept

SPORTS CORNER

Upcoming Sports Teams

Gr. 4/5/6 Girls' Basketball- Mr. Wittenberg

Gr. 4/5 Boys' Volleyball Team - Mr. Macdonald, Mme. Sulymko and Ms. Baptist

Gr. 4/5/6 Co-Ed Ice Hockey Team - Mr. Profiti, Mr. Ellis and Jonah Weslak

More information about try-outs and practices will posted on the school website and on the bulletin board outside the Gym. You may also listen for details during morning announcements!

Boys' Football



A one-day tournament takes place on Wednesday, October 13 at Memorial Park (just behind Forest Hill Arena). The team is meeting at the tournament site at 8:30a.m.

Girls' Football

A one-day tournament takes place on Tuesday, October 19 at Winston Churchill Park. The team is meeting at the park at 8:30a.m.



Boys' Slo-Pitch

The boys finished 1st place in their pool and have advanced to the quarter-finals against Gledhill P.S. The quarter-finals will take place on Thursday, October 14 at Gledhill P.S. at approx 4:00p.m. More info about the game will be passed on to the team during the next few days.

Coaches: Mr. Ellis and Jonah Weslak

Girls' Slo-Pitch

Darrin and Madame B'Dacy thought that no team could compete with last year's Dream Team. Surely no group of girls could display equal talent, heart and spirit. But we crossed our fingers and were pleased at the huge turn out for this season's try outs. Over 35 girls showed up. From that we had the difficult task of narrowing it down to just 20 great athletes. It wasn't easy. It was even harder to say good-bye to six more girls and make our final cut of 14 girls. We were so proud of all the girls who showed up. They were winners just for trying. We hope to see many of them next year.

After much deliberation we welcomed the 2010 Brown Ligers: Annabel "de Best" deR., Ashley "A+" A., Audrey "Bone Breaker" G., Chloe "Crank" C., Chloe "Clutch" M., Genevieve "G-Force or Princess" F., Gabrielle "Billionaire" R., Juliet "Beast" S., Michelle "Mouth" S., Mythra "Mighty" M., Samantha "The Rock" S., Sara "Speedy" M., Sydney "The Major" M..

The girls showed up to practices twice a week in the blinding sun, pouring rain and gale force winds. We threw, swung, caught and ran. Finally we were ready for our first test: Pool A – Division One Tournament. We faced three hungry teams, including some other Panthers. But our rhyming Ligers were hungrier. We are pleased to report that we won all three games: Brown 10 – Clinton 0, Brown 5 – Palmerston 3, Brown 14 – Regal Road 0. We were crowned the tournament winners. We are extremely excited to be advancing to our quarter final game on Wednesday the 13th at Ramsden Park where we will face a strong Withrow team. We know that all of the Brown Liger fans will be cheering us on in spirit. Go Ligers!

The team would like to thank the following Liger fans who made it all possible: Merci to Mr. Profiti for his help in organizing the permit. Merci to Mr. Wittenberg for organizing the tournament schedule. Merci to Mr. Ellis and Jonah for organizing our equipment. Gros merci to Colette and Dorrin for the help coaching. An extra grand merci to Colette for welcoming our team and other teams into her home for lunch and the bathroom. Thank you to all of the parents who helped with rides, who paid for lunch, who took pictures, brought snacks and Slushies and who came to cheer us on and give us moral support. We are so grateful for all of your help.

Mme. B'Dacy

Cross Country

The first meet took place at Ashbridges Bay on Monday, October 4. Brown School was well represented and had a great day! All students who qualified will race again on Thursday, October 14 at Ashbridges Bay. More info to follow from your coaches.

A reminder to all students who did not qualify: please return your team t-shirt to school as soon as possible. T-shirts can be given to any of the Cross Country coaches or Mr. Profiti.

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

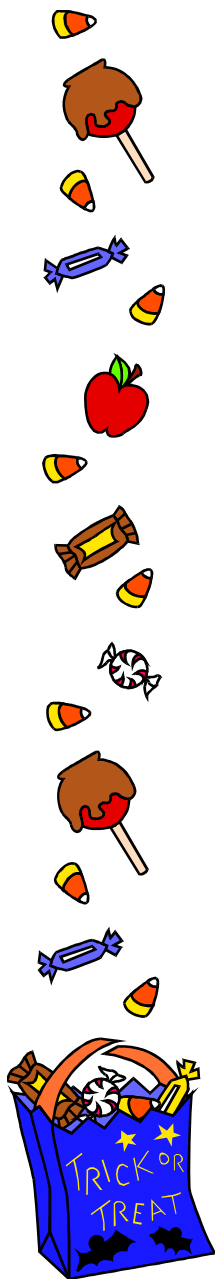
Halloween Safety Tips

Halloween 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.

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

Halloween 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 Halloween, 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.

Special Note:

Trick or treating is a high risk activity for families with children with anaphylaxis. There is a high probability that one or more of those families will come to your door on Hallowe'en. If you are giving away treats that contain peanuts or other nut products, please tell the parents of the trick-or-treaters who come to your door. While the decision of what treats may be eaten by their child is ultimately the parents' responsibility, **nut treats can contaminate a child's bag of safe treats**, all of which will end up in the garbage bin.



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**