

BROWN BULLETIN

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



Saturday May 23 was a beautiful, sunny day for our annual Garden Fête!

The Brown Community gathered to celebrate a day of fun, entrainment and socializing. The musical talent of the students and alumni, under the direction of Mr. Ellis, and a drama presentation, facilitated by parent Michele Coleman, provided fabulous entertainment for the event. The children enjoyed the games and activities. The Café once again offered delicious barbequed food and the best salad bar in the city!

A big thank you to the Garden Fête Co-chairs, Currie Ross and Claire Blicher, and their many committee members for facilitating this event. Thank you to parents for your generous donations and for volunteering your time. The parent ECO committee and the student ECO Club made a positive contribution to this event. We all loved the "HTO To Go" water truck and the other Greening initiatives. Thank you to the class parents who organized so many parent volunteers! Garden Fête was truly an example of our school community and staff working together for common goals and having a wonderful time together.

Song Sung Brown

Friends and families of Brown School are cordially invited to SONG SUNG BROWN - an evening of song presented by the Brown School Choir. **Thursday, June 11th - Brown Auditorium** (a.k.a. "the gym"). Doors open at 6:30 pm, show starts at 7:00 pm. Performers should arrive at 6:00 p.m.

This is the final performance of the Choir for this school year and the final appearance at Brown of the extremely talented Grade Six contingent - Don't miss it!

ECO Schools

We are delighted to inform you that Brown School has **once again achieved Gold status** for our ECO School initiatives. The TDSB assessed our energy conservation practices, waste minimization, school ground greening and clean up and environmental events. Thank you to our ECO committee and everyone who supported our initiatives this year.

Staffing Model for 2009-2010

Please see the end of this Bulletin for the Staffing Model for September 2009.

Wednesday June 10	Track & Field Competition (Qualifiers), Varsity Stadium
Thursday June 11	Song Sung Brown - Brown Singers' Evening Performance
Friday June 19	Pizza Lunch
Monday June 22	Reports are sent home
Tuesday June 23	Grade 6 Graduation (1:30 p.m.)
Thursday June 25	Last Day of Classes
Friday June 26	PA Day (no classes for students)
Tuesday September 8	First Day of School, 2009/2010
September 14 – 15	School Photo Days
Friday September 26	Toonie for Terry Walk

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Farewell

Lynda Davenport, who has worked in Brown School's Office for the past 28 years, will be retiring at the end of this school year. She has contributed much to our school and kept our office operating efficiently over the years. Lynda has been a tremendous support to all of us. In addition, she was probably the first person you met when your child registered at Brown School. She has always been concerned about student safety and well being. To be sure, Lynda has dispensed many band aids, kind words and smiles to children who were injured or feeling ill during the past 28 years.

We wish her all the best and know that she will enjoy her retirement. Thank you, Lynda, for your dedication and commitment. We shall miss you!

Anyone who wishes to say farewell to Lynda can drop by the office on the afternoon of Friday, June 19.

Staff News

- ✓ Congratulations to Mr. MacDonald and Maryann on the birth of their daughter "Grace" who was born on June 8, 2009. Everyone is doing well!
- ✓ **Mme Vernon** has accepted a position at Earl Grey Senior School for next year. We thank her for her contribution to our school over the past 3 years and for promoting our school participation in "Speech Arts". We will continue the tradition.
- ✓ **Ms Warden** will be on Leave next year caring for her son, Charlie.
- ✓ **Ms Foord** will be on Leave until December. We are fortunate to have **Ms Wu** continue to provide a wonderful program in room 25 until Ms. Foord returns.
- ✓ We look forward to **Mme Gagnon's** return to our Library. Thank you to **Mrs. Schwartz** who once again filled in for staff on Leave and did an outstanding job.
- ✓ Thank you also to **Ms Pietrobon** for providing a great final terms for our kindergarten students.
- ✓ Welcome back to **Alexis Lundy**, our Special Education program assistant. Thank you to **Rosa Humphrey** who supported our Special Education students each morning while Ms Lundy was on Leave.
- ✓ We are delighted to inform you that **Ms Hirsch** will be participating in a teacher exchange next year with a teacher from Canterbury, U. K. We know that Ms. Hirsch will enjoy her year in the U.K. and will benefit from this experience. We welcome **Ms Ellie Bower** to Brown School for September 2009. Ms. Hirsch and Ms. Bower will exchange teaching positions and living accommodations for the year. This is an unique opportunity for staff and students from both schools to learn from each other.

Looking Ahead to September 2009

Our bell rings at 8:50 am. All Staff will be in the playground on the first day of school with signs indicating their name and room number. The children will be escorted into the school. Please remember that student supervision in the yard does not begin until 8:35 am so please do not leave your child in the playground until supervision begins. Students should be picked up in the playground at 3:30 pm at the end of the school day. **Have a great summer and we look forward to seeing you on Tuesday, September 8, 2009!**

Our **staffing model for the 2009-2010 school year** is on the last page of this Bulletin. For your information, this model is prepared using the number of students projected by the TDSB for each grade for the upcoming school year. As you know, we must keep our primary classes at 20 students and under to meet the Ministry cap size of 20 students per class. Therefore, you will notice that our staffing model has several combined grade classes. **All student placements at this time are tentative.** We continue to register new students to the school well into September. Thus, it may be necessary to adjust our staffing model in September to best meet the needs of our students and school. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work through this process.

Summer Reading with the Toronto Public Library

The Toronto Public Libraries are once again offering a summer reading club. This is a free program that encourages children and families to discover the magic of reading. The theme this year is Detectives and is entitled "Agent 009". The action begins on July 2. The program materials are available in public libraries now. Please visit the public library with your child for more information.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE - REACHING OUT TO TORONTO CHILDREN



The students have a new drive on! Toronto Foundation for Student Success is an organization that assists local schools with breakfast, lunch and snack for students who cannot afford to have these fundamentals. It has been a hard thing for our students to comprehend that kids just like them, in the same city, struggle to have snacks at school. They have decided to spearhead a campaign of "**BRING CHANGE TO MAKE CHANGE**".

They are attempting to outfit a school in the Toronto district with apples for snack each day for a whole year. So, **send in your ziploc bag of change** - any little bit helps - to make change for students in our city who can't afford recess snack. For more information, visit www.studentsuccess.ca. We know it's the end of the year, but at 10 cents an apple, it's easy as pie. There will be announcements at school as well as posters!

Thanks so much from the Outreach Committee - it's been such a fantastic year! We are SO proud of the Brown Students for all the change they are making, both globally and locally. Have a great summer!

FROM THE PARENT COUNCIL

The summer is at long last upon us, but as always its arrival seems to have snuck up on us and we wonder where the time has gone. But as we look back at another great year at Brown, the time has gone by so quickly because the parents, students and of course our staff have only sat still long enough to catch their breath and move on to the next activity. And that list is long - from the usual fabulous fundraisers and events to exciting new initiatives such Kiss'N Ride, Outreach's Free the Children project, and the recent completion of the mural.

On behalf of the entire Parent Council we would like to thank the many parents who have given so much of their time and energy into making Brown a special place and of course to the Administration and Staff who work tirelessly throughout the year in the classroom and beyond to create a positive and caring environment for our students.

In only a few short months, Brown will welcome the start of a new school year! Some things to watch for in September include:

- ✓ ABC Days - let's see how green Brown can be!
- ✓ The return of Kiss'n Ride - volunteers are always welcome!
- ✓ New Parent Welcome Breakfast for all families new to Brown School
- ✓ Parent Council's Annual General Meeting – all are welcome to attend

Brown's Parent Council always welcomes new parents and volunteers. Check the website and the Bulletin to see how you can get involved!

We wish you all a safe and happy summer,
Kelli & Yvonne

ECO COMMITTEE



Brown Went Green at Garden Fête!

A huge thank you to everyone for helping to green Garden Fête this year! Every person who went to Garden Fête and reused a water bottle or put their waste in the compostable containers made a difference. Brown was able to significantly reduce the amount of waste that was produced.

A sincere thanks goes to Garden Fête organizers, Claire Blicher and Currie Ross for being so open to the ideas of the Eco-Committee in greening the event. Thanks to the Eco-Committee including Mai Duong, Steve Thuringer, Lisa Bernstein, David Beutel, Michele Coleman, Kelli Schiffer-Belanger, Michael Curry, Bernie Morrow and Nina Moritsuga. A cheer goes to Wendy Graham and Joanna Colville-Reeves who stayed to help clean up the recycle bins and compostables after Garden Fête.

A special thanks to Ms. Hazen and her group of Eco-Kids for the seedlings they grew and sold at the Eco-Kids table. Thanks to Michele Coleman for her wonderful job of organizing and directing the mimes in their skits - and a big thanks to the mimes for helping us realize that every small action we take for the environment does add up to make a difference.

In September don't be surprised if you hear people talking about **solar panels** to heat the pool. Let's see just how green Brown can go!

-- Melisse Craig & Amanda Levey, Co-Chairs, Eco-Committee

Vini, Vidi, Vici - Grade VI Boys' Soccer Team

Our boys - Alex "Ace" V., "Bend It Like" Ben W., Connor "The Kick" K., Harrison "The Beast" K., Jared "Jump on it!" W., Jarod "The Boot" B., Laith "Lethal" G., Luke "Lucky" F., Milo "Sweet Moves" M., Mon "The Monster" E., Sam "Smarts" C., Saxon "Stealth" L., Spencer "Spare No One" A. - came, saw and conquered.

Unfortunately after a grueling try out session, endless lunch time practices, stellar away game victories and heartbreaker last minute overtime ties, we finished our season with an excellent record, but were scuttled at the end by our standings and were thus not able to advance to the regional finals. The team was an incredible one, whose skills and precision were second only to their drive and enthusiasm. Mr. Ellis and Mme B'Dacy could not have asked for a better bunch of boys. Thank you all for your best efforts always. You should be extremely proud of your season. You listened, learned and played like pros. Thank you as always to our biggest fans our parents for the rides, the snacks and the support. We couldn't have done it without you!

Girls' Soccer

Congratulations to the girls' soccer team who brought glory back to Brown School. The girls began the season competing in a one day tournament against three other formidable schools. The girls battled hard throughout the day, scoring goals, making big saves, and even managed to lose their socks on the roof of the school! At the end of the day, the girls emerged in first place, not losing a game all day!! Due to their stellar play, the girls made the playoffs for the first time in 10 years! In their quarter-final match versus Cosburn, the girls finally met their match, and went down in defeat. Thank you to all of the girls for a most exciting season, and a giant thank you to all of the parents who supported the team all season long. Good luck to the Grade 6 girls in their future years on the field...and to the 4s and 5s...get ready for next season!

Coaches: Mr. Wittenberg and Mr. Profiti

Track And Field

This year's Track and Field Team was made up of 46 students from Grades 3 to 6. Dressed in their new team t-shirts, the team arrived at Varsity Stadium on May 29 looking good and ready to run and jump. After battling a little bit of rain in the morning, the skies cleared and the team continued to collect medal after medal and ribbon after ribbon. When all was said and done approximately 40 students finished in the top 8 - and 17 of them finished in the top four, thus qualifying for the South Conference Championship Track and Field meet on June 2. Great work Brown School!

On June 2 the team was blessed with amazing weather and great results. Of the 17 students who competed, 8 of them qualified for the City Finals! A special congratulations to Jazz, Olivier, Ben, Saxon, Harrison, Mary Jane, Anja and Jarod, who will represent Brown School in several events on June 10 at Varsity Stadium. Congratulations!

Final Thoughts On Sports In 08/09

I would like to take a moment to thank a few people that make the Athletic world at Brown work so efficiently. **A special thanks to the office staff** who always support the coaches - whether it be covering a class for them or allowing us to host tournaments at our school, and even coming by to support the various teams at their games against other public schools.

Thank you also to the teachers/coaches who put in an endless amount of hours before and after school to give the students at Brown the opportunity to participate in competitive inter-school sports. Without the dedication and time spent on the field, court or ice rink it would not be possible.

A huge thank you to all the parents who are so supportive in so many ways. Whether it be a driver to the game, snacks at half-time, donuts after the hockey game, providing an extra pair of socks during a rain soaked baseball game or even just being a cheerleader at the games, the staff at Brown is very thankful. Merci to the amazing parents at Brown!

The last thanks goes out to the ever so talented Brown School student athletes, without your dedication and willingness to learn new skills and concepts the sports teams at Brown would not exist. The athletes at Brown always go the extra mile, always give 100% and always compete no matter what the outcome. **A special thank you to all Graduates of 08/09.** You showed the younger students how to compete, how to overcome adversity, how to lead and most importantly how to have fun! The Brown School sports teams will miss you and wish you luck at your new school. Congratulations on having such a positive influence at Brown.

-- Mr. Profiti

Staffing Model for September 2009

English

Room 13	Jr. Kindergarten AM	Ms Baptist
Room 13	Jr./Sk. Kindergarten PM	Ms Baptist
Room 14	Jr. Kindergarten AM	Mrs. Ferraioli
Room 14	Sr. Kindergarten PM	Mrs. Ferraioli
Room 40	Grade 1/2	Mrs. Regan
Room 25	Grade 1/2	Ms Foord (Ms. Wu)
Room 21	Grade 2/3	Ms Nathanson
Room 28	Grade 2/3	Mrs. Hazan
Room 41	Grade 4	Ms Bower
Room 33	Grade 5	Mr. Wittenberg
Room 30	Grade 6	Mr. Macdonald

French

Room 15	Sr. Kindergarten AM	Mme B'Dacy
Room 15	Sr. Kindergarten PM	Mme B'Dacy
Room 22	Grade 1	Mme Legge
Room 26	Grade 1	Mme Sara
Room 36	Grade 2	Mme Dumont
Room 35	Grade 1/ 2	Mme Bondy
Room 20	Grade 2/3	Mme Breslin
Room 37	Grade 3	Mme Sulymko
Room 34	Grade 4	Mme Blanchard
Room 38	Grade 4/5	Mme Anna
Room 39	Grade 5	M Pare
Room 32	Grade 6	TBA

Principal	M. J. Giuliani
Vice Principal	S. Litner
French Ed. Assist.	Mme Gunta
English Ed Assist.	Ms Bielskis
Physical & Health Ed.	Mr. Profiti
Music	Mr. Ellis
Library	Mme Gagnon
ESL/ Prep	Ms Fox
Sp. Ed. (HSP, LC)	Mrs. Venutolo
Mart/ Core Support	Ms Padassery
Special Ed Assist.	Ms Lundy a.m.
Special Needs Assist.	T.B.A

Please be advised that the above model is tentative and is subject to change. We may need to adjust classes to meet the Ministry class cap size for primary classes and to balance the number of students per class. It may be necessary to adjust the model in September and reorganize student placement. We will keep you informed.



Combined Grades Show Student Benefits

In the time of the one-room schoolhouse, children of different ages would all learn together. Those days may be gone, but the “combined grade class” still lives on.

The term refers to cases where students from two or more grades are taught together by a single teacher in the same classroom. Combined grades occur from Kindergarten to Grade 8 in all Boards.

Due to the Provincial government’s cap on primary class sizes – no more than 20 students per class, with a few exceptions – the TDSB will be required to use teachers and space even more efficiently. This requires slightly more combined grades than before.

What is the impact of these types of classes on students? The research shows that there are many benefits. In fact, some schools in the TDSB choose to organize their schools with *only* combined grades because of the positive outcomes. Among the advantages:

- Students in younger age groups score higher on basic skills;
- Students in older grades can reinforce their previous learning;
- Students enhance their social development, acquire leadership skills and a stronger sense of responsibility;
- There are more opportunities to group students according to their skills; and
- With a balance of independent tasks and teacher-guided lessons, teachers can work with different groups and assess student learning in a greater variety of situations.

In any class, teachers teach the expectations of each grade. For combined classes, that means starting off with common expectations and focusing on the enduring understandings within a subject area to form a natural link between the two grades.

Our professional development in-service sessions, as well as resources from our Program staff, support teachers who are assigned to combined grade classes.

Principals also encourage the success of combined grades by assigning, where possible, teachers who have taught at least one of the grades. Principals carefully consider the needs of students when creating class lists for combined grades.

Whether students are in a single grade or combined, parents can be assured that teachers cover the curriculum necessary for each student’s future academic success.