

BROWN BULLETIN

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FROM THE OFFICE OF M.J. GIULIANI & F. FRENETTE

MAY 2006

SAFETY - Student safety continues to be a priority. We hold six fire drills with our students each school year, and are now required to conduct two school lock-down drills. We have completed both of the lock-down drills. These drills are not as active as a fire drill and basically involve locking doors and taking attendance. Staff and students were advised in advance of our lock-down exercises. We do not wish to alarm our students but we always want to be prepared in the unlikely event that an emergency requiring a lock-down should occur.

COMPUTERS - We are delighted to have 52 brand-new computers in our school from the TDSB CTMI project. As part of this School Improvement Plan, the staff and students have access to a variety of information technology materials that will reinforce and enrich our academic program. On Tuesday May 9, our teachers had release time to work and explore programs on the computers in the library lab. They were introduced to some of the new software and peripherals. Thank you to Ms Nathanson and Mr. Macdonald for facilitating this exciting professional development for our staff.

STUDENT PLACEMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2007 - This month staff will be involved in student placements for next September. The sending and receiving teachers for each grade will meet with us to discuss each child's placement. The principles that govern and structure the process involve considerations to ensure that each class has a balance of gender, students' abilities and strengths, students' needs and learning behavior and students' interaction patterns that enable them to work and learn together productively. The transition of students from Grade 6 to 7 is coordinated between the sending and receiving schools. As with past practices and policy, parental input is considered for student placements. However, ultimately it is the Principal's responsibility to place the students. You will be notified of your child's placement on the June 26 report card.

SCIENCE HAS BEEN HAPPENING HERE - Our staff identified Science as an area of focus for this academic year. With the support of our School Council, the teachers were provided with additional funding to enrich their students with hands-on science activities from either Scientists in the Schools or Let's Talk Science. Some of the programs that reinforced our students' science program this year have included:

Primary Programs: Matter Matters; Playful Machines; Magnet Madness; the Painted Lady Butterfly Raising Kit

Junior Programs: Body Builder: Technology and the Human Body; What's The Commotion About Motion; Astronomy Presentation
The Grade 6 classes will also participate in a program about Flight from the Engineering Outreach Department at U of T

BELIEVE IN YOURSELF - This was the message that Olympic swimmer Elizabeth Warden passed on to our junior students on Thursday April 20th when she spoke to us about her life as an elite athlete. Elizabeth informed us about the amount of determination and perseverance that was necessary for her to attain her life long goal and to qualify in the Individual Medley event for the Canadian Olympic Team. Elizabeth Warden inspired and motivated all of us. We wish her all the best in her future career as an elementary teacher.

MUSIC MONDAY - On Monday May 1, the entire school gathered together on our new field to celebrate music in our school. The Junior Choir under the direction of Mr. Ellis inspired us to sing along. It was a beautiful sunny day. The music was amazing and we were all delighted to be able to sit on the field and enjoy this additional green space in our schoolyard. Parents who heard the music on the surrounding streets dropped by to join us. We are thankful that Brown's schoolyard is now such an inviting oasis in the middle of our city.

Monday May 15.....	Parent Safety Program presentation at 9:00am in the Meeting Room
Tuesday May 16.....	Glenview School Council invites new parents for 2006-2007 to their final meeting 7- 8:30pm
Wednesday May 17.....	Parent Council Executive Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday May 24.....	Pizza Lunch
Wed May 24 to Thurs June 8	Grade 3 and 6 students participate in the EQAO Testing
Saturday May 27	Garden Fete, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Monday May 29.....	Grade 5 Badminton Team at the City Finals
Thursday June 1.....	Spring Concert performances Band, Orff, Strings, PM Kindergarten, Grade 4 & Primary Choir
Thursday June 8	Track and Field South Conference Meet at East York
Wednesday June 14.....	Brown School Field Day
Thursday June 15.....	Track and Field City Qualifier Meet at East York
Thursday June 15.....	Brown Singers will perform at St. John's Church at 200 Balmoral Avenue from 7-8 p.m.



CHESS NEWS - Brown's Primary and Junior Chess teams brought home the metal in the TDSB Chess Finals held at Harbourfront on April 10th!! The Junior team took silver medals and the Primary team won bronze in a very tough competition.



We bid farewell to the Grade 6 students who have played a vital part in our annual success in this competition and wish them luck in future endeavours. Thank you again to Mrs. Giuliani for supplying the celebratory pizza lunch on May 4th.

THE MAGAZINE FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN WILL BE RETURNING THIS FALL! Please ignore those notices from the publishers and support your child's education by renewing your subscriptions through our school. Details to follow in the Fall.



GARDEN FETE IS SATURDAY MAY 27TH 11:00 AM - 2:00PM - We look forward to seeing everyone at Garden Fete on May 27th. There will be lots of great games, arts and crafts, cupcake decorating, an obstacle course, bouncy fire truck, prizes and amazing food. Come and have fun with your friends, family and favourite teachers. Please make sure to look through the Garden Fete information package that will be sent home with your child(ren). Volunteers are still needed! Please contact kellydriscoll@sympatico.ca if you are able to volunteer.

IMPORTANT SAFETY NEWS



SAFETY TIP: Many students are wearing some shoes with wheels, AKA "heelies". It has come to our attention that some students are rolling down the stairs and in the hallway. For safety reasons, we are asking students to take off the wheels when entering the school building or wear different footwear to school. Please take a moment to discuss this important safety issue with your child.



DOGS IN THE SCHOOLYARD - We would like to remind everyone that dogs are not allowed on the school property. The TDSB has signs posted at all entrance points to the schoolyard and the school must enforce this policy. We know that many people like to walk their dogs to school. Dogs can be safely tied up on the Poplar Plains Road entrance to the school.



A REMINDER: Students should arrive at school before the bell in the morning. The bell rings at 8:50 a.m. and students are expected to be in the yard by that time. We appreciate your cooperation on this matter as we are approaching the end of this school year and it is a very busy and important time for everyone.



PARENT SAFETY PROGRAM - Officer Tracy Gillam has initiated many safe drop-off programs for students in several schools. He will present the information and we can determine if this program would be suitable for Brown. Please join us in the meeting room on Monday, May 15th at 9:00am. Points covered will include common traffic problems at schools, choosing safety over convenience, police/parking enforcement, volunteer functions, and more.

AQUATICS AT BROWN SCHOOL

Brown School is extremely fortunate to have its own swimming pool and two full-time, dedicated swim staff to oversee our swimming program. Vicky Jeffery - or "Mrs J." as she is known around the school - has been at Brown School for 23 years. Her counterpart Victor Daigneau - "Mr. D." has been on staff for 7.

Together Mrs. J and Mr. D. teach 22 swim classes per week. All students from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 6 benefit from a 40 minute lesson once per week, focusing on water safety, stroke development and water games. In addition to their classes, both Mrs. J. and Mr. D. are actively involved in extracurricular swim programs at Brown. They offer lunchtime swimming as part of our Lunch Program and coach our two Brown School Swim Teams. Somehow, Mr. D. even finds time after school to assist with coaching the boy's basketball and football teams.

This year, the Primary Swim Team was made up of 50 students from Grades 2 and 3. They practiced at lunch time during the fall term and had great fun and success in the two inter-school meets. The Junior Swim Team was comprised of 66 students. Their results from the City Finals were outstanding with 3 relay teams finishing in first place!

Many thanks go to Mr. D. and Mrs. J. for their dedication to Brown's students and for fostering a strong aquatics program for all.

SPORTS CORNER



GRADE 6 CO-ED BADMINTON TEAM – This year the Grade 6 Co-Ed Badminton Team had a very successful season. The team had many new players to the game and they quickly developed into a strong group. All the players advanced in their skills which will help them in future years. The coaches hope everyone continues playing the game

of Badminton and to remember that **"It's not backyard Badminton"**.

The team brought home a banner when they advanced to the South Conference Finals and lost to Leslieville. This banner marks the first ever school Badminton banner!

Congratulations to all the players and thanks for all your hard work and dedication throughout the season.

GRADE 5 CO-ED BADMINTON - Congratulations to the Co-Ed Grade 5 Badminton Team, who finished in 2nd place at the tournament on Wed. April 19 @ Brown! The team played some excellent Badminton matches and showed great improvement with every game. They lost in the Finals to Bedford Park by a score of 4 to 1. The Grade 5 Team will represent the South Division in the City Semi-Finals on May 29th at Albert Campbell C.I. (McCowan & Finch). The players will need to car pool and meet the coaches at Albert Campbell C.I. at 8:30a.m. Good Luck Team! Parents can pick up a map from Mr. Profiti at any time.

Badminton Coaches: Mr. Macdonald, Mr. Pare and Steve Pett.



JUNIOR SWIM TEAM - The junior swim team competed at the TDSB city swim finals on Tuesday April 25th the overall team results were outstanding! We are delighted to report that our Grade 4 Boys Relay Team and our Grade 5 Girls and Boys Relay Teams have brought three First Place "Champion" banners home to Brown!

In June at our sports assembly, we look forward to presenting each of our members with their well-deserved awards. We will be displaying our three City Champion banners in our school gymnasium. We would like to express to our junior team of 2006 how very proud we are of each of you! Great Work Team!

Coaches: Mr. Daigneau and Mrs. Jeffery, Brown Aquatic Staff



GIRLS' SLO-PITCH TEAM - This year the Girls Slo-Pitch Team will participate in a one-day tournament on Wednesday May 24th (location TBA). The team has been practicing every Tuesday and Thursday at 7:45 a.m. to prepare for the big day. Thank you to all the girls who came out to try-outs. The coaches were very pleased to see

the number of Grade 4, 5 and 6 girls interested in Slo-Pitch Baseball. Good luck to the team - we wish you all the best at the tournament!

Coaches: Mr. Wittenberg, Mrs. Regan and Mme. Legge

BOYS SLO-PITCH TEAM - Following 3 weeks of try-outs, the Boys Slo-Pitch team has been selected. The Boys practice 3 times per week: Monday afternoons and Wednesday and Friday mornings. The team has a 1 and 1 record to date, having beaten Whitney 2-0 and losing a close game to Allenby 6-4.

The next games are scheduled for:

May 15 against Blythwood

May 16 against John Ross Robertson

May 23 against Maurice Cody.

The top two teams will then advance to the Quarter Finals.

For more information or any changes to the practice schedule, please see Ms. Stella, check the Brown website or the Bulletin Board outside Room 23.



TRACK AND FIELD - The Track and Field try-outs are being held during Phys-Ed class and will also be taking place before and after school in the near future.

Events for Grade 3's: Standing Long Jump, Running Long Jump and 100m dash.

Events for Grade 4-6: Standing Long Jump, Running Long Jump, Triple Jump, 100m dash, 60m Hurdles, 400m, 800m, 1500m, and the 4x100m Relay Team.

More info will be posted outside of the Gym regarding try-out dates and times.

IN THIS ISSUE, WE ARE PROUD TO DISPLAY WORK FROM OUR GRADE 4 AND 5 STUDENTS:

Elizabeth Warden - The presentation

I think the presentation was great! Elizabeth Warden told a great auto biography. She looks like a great swimmer. Now, I know how hard it is to make the Olympic Team. It takes years of practice. The phrase "Believe in yourself" is a very good phrase. I think that is one of the key phrases in life.

There are a lot of key phrases in life. I really like that phrase: Believing is very good! Believing can get you far.

By Matt C. Room 23

Peace by Peace

A shout out to all the Grade 5s in Mr. Wittenberg's class for completing Peace by Peace, an 11 week program designed to help kids deal with conflict better. This program was delivered by four University of Toronto students, who were trained to lead us in activities that developed our inner strength. During the in-class lessons, we learned many different peace friendly games and talked about resolving our problems in a peaceful way. Every year, at the end of the 11 weeks, all of the participating classes come together to celebrate at a big festival at Exhibition Place. There is always a theme, and this year it was the Urban Jungle. We shared our very own peace-friendly game that we prepared the week before. Everything was urban, from the parking spot seats to the street signs pointing to the games. After a good dose of fun we headed off to have lunch. Mmmmmm! We played a bit more, then went to have our t-shirts signed by classmates and volunteers! We had lots of fun, we learned all about dealing with conflict, and we got to spend a whole day of school learning outside the classroom! I would totally recommend it for next year.

By Emily, Room 33

Helping your Child Handle Cliques and Navigate the Social Jungle - Natalie Esakov – Guidance Resource Teacher

Being "in" is every child's dream, but being excluded is painful. There is nothing worse than eating lunch alone and not getting invited to parties and sleepovers. Cliques rule. Trying to get out of a clique can be just as difficult as trying to get in. Unfortunately, as a parent you cannot assure your child that she will be included in the next exclusive gathering, nor can you save her from being snubbed. However, there are some things that you can say and do to help your child learn to navigate the social jungle, bounce back from rejection and learn to fit in.

- Be empathetic. *"I know how tough it must be to be excluded. Let's figure out some things that we can do about it."*
- Provide a balanced view. *"Everyone does not hate you. What about your friend Sandra?" "You and Kevin were playing soccer at lunch – he's a good friend."*
- Don't press too hard. *"This is a tough topic. I'm here when you need me."* It can be humiliating for your child to confess this kind of rejection. Being available and supportive is a good first step. Your child may open up later.
- Don't knock the other kids. Yes, they are excluding and shunning your child, but criticizing them won't help. Your child wants their friendship so don't say: *"Those kids are mean and stupid."* *"Why would you want to be their friend anyway?"*
- Talk to teachers. The teacher is with your child all day and will have some insights that will be able to help you.
- Start with one ally. One friend can be your child's social entry card. Your child can start a one to one relationship with a child who is already in the group.
- Help your child blend in. If this is truly a group of friends that your child wants to be with, superficial as it may seem to you, take a look at the group and then make a few suggestions to your child about how she can blend in.
- Point her in a different direction. If one group rebuffs her, encourage her to make new friends that may be more appropriate.
- Encourage special strengths. Help your child identify what is special and unique about her. This can increase her self-esteem and confidence making her more resilient to be able to handle the pressures of social jungle.
- Help manage frustrations. This kind of rejection can be very traumatic so offer your child healthy outlets and strategies for coping – keep a journal, indulge in activities that can positively channel this frustration - sports, music, drama, creative writing.
- Watch for downside. If you think that your child is having a hard time, be available. Schedule time together. Look for red flags such poor grades, changes in eating habits, mood swings, anger or withdrawal. Use the school as an ally. Speak to the administration or the guidance counselor. If you are very worried, seek help from the school social worker.