

School Address

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Chris Spence

OUR SCHOOL

Blythwood is located in a North Toronto residential area. The school was built over 85 years ago. In 1993, a multi-purpose room was added that serves as a recreational and meeting facility in the community.

- ✦ The school serves over 320 students -- JK-Grade 6. Most of the children are from English speaking homes and the population is quite homogeneous with a very low rate of mobility.
- ✦ The school grounds border a ravine and are used extensively by the community all year round for sporting and other group activities.
- ✦ Staff work collaboratively to provide a positive and enriching learning environment for students. Parent volunteers work in partnership with staff to provide a rich variety of activities to our students.

School Focus For This School Year

During 2008-09, Blythwood Jr. Public School will focus on:

- ✦ High achievement for all students in Literacy and Mathematics
- ✦ Maintain excellent EQAO scores in Grade 3 and Grade 6
- ✦ Opportunities for students to work with visiting artists in our new Art Studio
- ✦ Ongoing work in dance/drama with a visiting artist
- ✦ A wide range of activities for students in the areas of athletics
- ✦ A safe schools approach focussed on 'Acts of Kindness' and Anti-Bullying
- ✦ Character education embedded in daily lessons
- ✦ Staff professional development in the areas of Literacy, Assessment & Technology
- ✦ Community outreach & partnership with the community- parent activities, newsletters, inter-school peer partnering
- ✦ Welcoming families new to the community
- ✦ Collaborative opportunities for staff involvement and leadership

The Code of Behaviour stresses common sense, courtesy and cooperation. The staff and student body publicize and validate these values and strive to exemplify them on a daily basis. Issues of safety and conduct are examined on a regular basis by the entire school community.

OUR STUDENTS (As of spring 2008)

	<u>No.</u>	<u>Percent</u>
✦ Total number of students:	327	
Junior Kindergarten - Grade 3	217	
Grade 4 - Grade 6	110	
✦ Gender:		
Female	146	45%
Male	181	55%
✦ Primary language other than English:	18	6%*
✦ Students born outside of Canada:		
Students living in Canada for 2 years or less	6	2%
Students living in Canada for 3 - 5 years	8	2%

* Calculation does not include students for whom language information is missing.

THE SCHOOL BOARD PROVIDES:

The Toronto District School Board (TDSB), in partnership with students, parents, teachers and all our communities, is committed to taking responsibility for continuous improvement of schools. This is achieved through:

- ✦ **Relevant Curriculum**
- ✦ **Equity**
- ✦ **Accountability**

Regular Instructional Programs

- ✦ Languages - English, English as a Second Language, and French
- ✦ Mathematics, Science and Technology
- ✦ Arts - Music, Visual Arts, Drama and Dance
- ✦ Social Studies, Health and Physical Education

Special Education Programs

A variety of special education programs and services are offered to meet the needs of all students, including students with exceptionalities, such as behavioural, communication, intellectual, physical and multiple learning disabilities. Students' exceptionalities are identified through a formal review process undertaken by an Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC).

OUR SCHOOL ALSO OFFERS:

Co-Curricular

Arts Programs

- ✦ Dance:
Dance Workshops
- ✦ Dramatic Arts:
Drama Workshops
- ✦ Integrated Programs:
Learning through the Arts
- ✦ Music:
African Drumming, Band, Choir, Itinerant Music Teachers, Music Festivals, Recorder, Strings, Vocal
- ✦ Visiting Artists:
Dance, Drama, In-School Performances By Professional Artists, Music, Visual Arts
- ✦ Visual Arts:
Art classes with our resident artist in the Blythwood Art Studio

Athletic Teams

- ✦ 3-pitch
- ✦ Baseball
- ✦ Basketball
- ✦ Co ed Volleyball
- ✦ Cross Country
- ✦ Curling
- ✦ Dance Club
- ✦ Floor Hockey
- ✦ Football
- ✦ Gymnastics
- ✦ Ice hockey
- ✦ Soccer

- ✦ Softball
- ✦ Track and Field
- ✦ Ultimate Frisbee
- ✦ Volleyball

Community, Culture and Caring

Community - Tutoring

- ✦ School Based:
After Four Program

Information about the success of our programs comes from a wide variety of student assessments. These assessments are based on clear expectations for all learners, consistent with those described in *The Ontario Curriculum*.

The primary purpose of student assessment is to improve learning. Assessment has the greatest potential to improve learning when it is an integral part of classroom activities. Teachers assess student progress towards achieving the expectations on an ongoing basis by using strategies such as projects, class presentations, homework assignments, classroom observations, portfolios of student work, and tests.

Schools use assessment information and information from other sources to make informed decisions for school improvement planning. Schools identify areas of strength as well as areas that require improvement. Input is obtained from a variety of sources such as student assessments, teacher feedback, parent feedback, and community surveys. In this way, schools monitor, celebrate and improve their efforts in providing a supportive and challenging learning environment for all their students.

WHAT OUR SCHOOL IS PLANNING FOR THIS YEAR

The school has developed the following plans for this year based on consultation with staff and parents. The plans also reflect on-going student assessment and provincial test results.

Our school is proud of with the overall student assessment results over the last few years and more recently with the EQAO results. We will continue/implement the following actions:

- ♦ use library/technical resources to build and develop essential literacy/numeracy skills
- ♦ employ inclusionary practices for new students and their families and exceptional students
- ♦ use/train parent/other volunteers
- ♦ employ a team approach to teaching some grade subjects and provide enriching opportunities for students
- ♦ support and encourage staff attendance in workshops related to Literacy and Numeracy
- ♦ develop and maintain a Literacy Bookroom to support teachers in their delivery of a rich reading program
- ♦ purchase additional mathematics, language and science resources for curriculum support
- ♦ continue use of assessment, instruction and reporting to link teaching and learning
- ♦ focus on physical and emotional safety at school in order to provide a positive learning atmosphere
- ♦ teach about diversity
- ♦ devise partnerships related to outreach programs
- ♦ continue to offer Physical Education experiences for students within the school, Family of Schools and TDSB

In response to the students' EQAO assessment results, the following plans have been developed:

- ♦ continue with reading buddies and volunteers in the classroom to give each child the opportunity to read/respond for a purpose
- ♦ use explicit methods and material related to writing conventions
- ♦ have students write for purpose in a variety of ways, e.g., newsletter, presentations, publishing centre
- ♦ teach writing process techniques to improve writing
- ♦ emphasize critical analysis of text
- ♦ have staff use Developmental Reading Assessment, Junior Reading Assessment and guided reading techniques
- ♦ provide students with opportunities to problem solve and articulate the process
- ♦ teach strategies to help students develop standards of excellence and self-assessment
- ♦ plan the teaching of Mathematics, Science and Social Studies with colleagues in other grades
- ♦ assign more non-fictional material for reading response
- ♦ use the First Steps Writing Program

The Blythwood staff will continue to work together with students and parents to foster the academic, artistic, physical, and social well-being of our students.

Blythwood is committed to providing a safe, caring environment that will foster self-confidence, independence, and respect.

OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Parent And Community Involvement

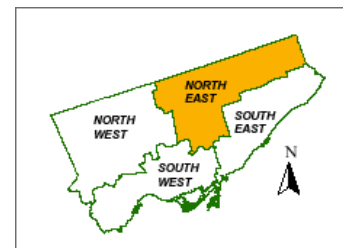
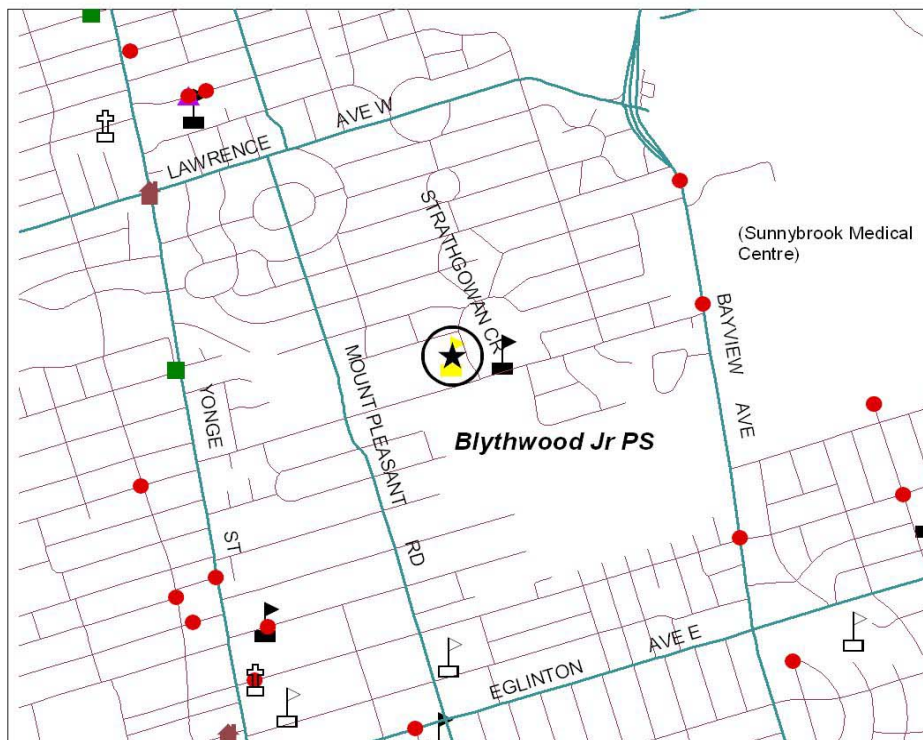
Parent Involvement:

- ✦ School Council with over 25 active parent members
- ✦ 140 regular parent volunteers as assistants in library, publishing centre, safe arrival program, After-4 programs, sports teams, classrooms, reading, safety at school and in the neighbourhood
- ✦ Clothing Drive
- ✦ Food Drive
- ✦ Partnership with sister school (Thornccliffe Park Public School)
- ✦ Workshops related to school topics and forums on public school options beyond grade 6
- ✦ Fundraising projects
- ✦ Rich After 4 Program run by parents
- ✦ Fall Fair
- ✦ Hand to Heart Christmas Families

Community Links:

- ✦ Public library class visits
- ✦ Use of the parks and skating arenas in our area for sports activities: cross-country, hockey, curling
- ✦ Collaboration with community/social agencies: CAS, Thornccliffe Park Public School School and Humber College
- ✦ Environmental projects
- ✦ Sunny View School
- ✦ Work with the Veterans at Sunnybrook
- ✦ Lawrence Park Ratepayers' Association
- ✦ Performances in the community featuring our School Choirs

OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD



- ★ OUR SCHOOL
- ▣ TDSB Elementary School
- ▣ TDSB Secondary School
- ⊕ Separate School
- Daycare/Nursery School
- Family Resource/Parenting Centre
- ▲ Community/Recreation Centre
- 🏠 Public Library

Notes: The map shows the locations of local schools, community and social service facilities. For more information about these locations please contact the school. Sources: TDSB - Academic Accountability, Facility Services; City of Toronto - Children's Services, Toronto Land Information Services.