

Building Bridges to the Future

R.W. BLAKE ACADEMY

Principal: Dr. Kessell

Assistant Principals: Mrs. Sealey

Mrs. Oldham-Jackson

November 2011

Christmas Parade

Our float for the Lakeland Christmas parade is coming together nicely. We are in need of the following items: **LED lights** – white string and icicle, blue string lights and red string lights. Because our entire float is powered through battery, it is important that all of our lights be **LED only**. If you can loan us a set or two, please bring them to the front office labeled with your name and phone number. They will be returned to you no later than December 9th. For more information, please contact: Jodi Johnson at: Jodi.johnson@polk-fl.net. Or call the school and leave a message.

Blake Food Drive

We will be participating in a Food Drive for Lighthouse Ministries. This is a great way to teach our kids how to give back to people in need. All canned food items can be dropped off to the homeroom teacher 11/28-12/18.

Blake Toy Drive

We are having a Toy Drive for Families in need at Blake. The toys can be dropped off to the homeroom teacher 11/28-12/13.

Dr. Kessell's Corner

We are approaching a very busy time of year. Holidays are a time when we enjoy family, friends and festivities. They are also a time when we can reflect on our good fortune and explore ways to help others less fortunate in the community. There is however, a danger during the holiday season that students lose academic focus and forget to continue practicing their reading and math skills. Please set aside some time everyday, for your child to practice to ensure continued academic success.

As always, thank you for your help to continue make Blake Academy a fun place to learn, grow, and work!

Blake Meal Donation

Each year we help families in need here at Blake by providing a nice meal during the holidays and we would like to continue with this tradition. We are asking that each parent donate \$1 to your child's homeroom classroom 11/28-12/13.

Ice Skating

We will be taking an ice skating field trip at the Lakeland Center and are in need of district approved volunteers for chaperone's on 12/15 and 12/16. The cost for this event is \$7.

Dates:

November 3
5:00pm-School
Advisory Council
6:30 pm-Blake's
Got Talent

November 8
Report Cards
distributed

November 11
*8:30am-Veterans
Day Breakfast
*11:30 am—
Academic Success
Luncheon

November 16
7:30 All County
Chorus at
Branscomb
Auditorium

November 21-25
Thanksgiving
Break

December 1
Lakeland
Christmas Parade

December 7
Early Release Day

December 8
5:00 pm SAC
6:15 pm—TNL

December 9
Interim Reports

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Bring notes, an open mind to parent-teacher conferences (Source: The Parent Institute, Oct 2010, www.parent-institute.com)

Come prepared to your next parent-teacher conference and you'll get more out of it. To make the most of meetings with your child's teacher(s):

- **Be there.** You won't get anything out of parent-teacher conferences if you don't show up! So do whatever it takes to be there. If it's truly impossible to attend, speak to your child's teachers about meeting at a different time (or even over the phone).
- **Jot down notes ahead of time.** Do you have specific questions you'd like your child's teachers to answer? Don't assume you'll remember them when you get to the meeting. Instead, write them down beforehand. But keep your list short. There probably won't be time to address dozens of issues.
- **Come with an open mind.** Has your child told you horror stories about a certain teacher? Don't let it affect how you approach your meeting. Instead, start every conference with a clean slate. It may lead to better communication all around.
- **Listen.** Give your child's teachers a chance to talk about their classes without interrupting. It might give you fresh insight into what's happening at school. Of course, if you hear something you don't understand, speak up and ask for clarification.

A Language Rich Home

Good news: Strong language skills can make your child a better reader, writer, and all around student.

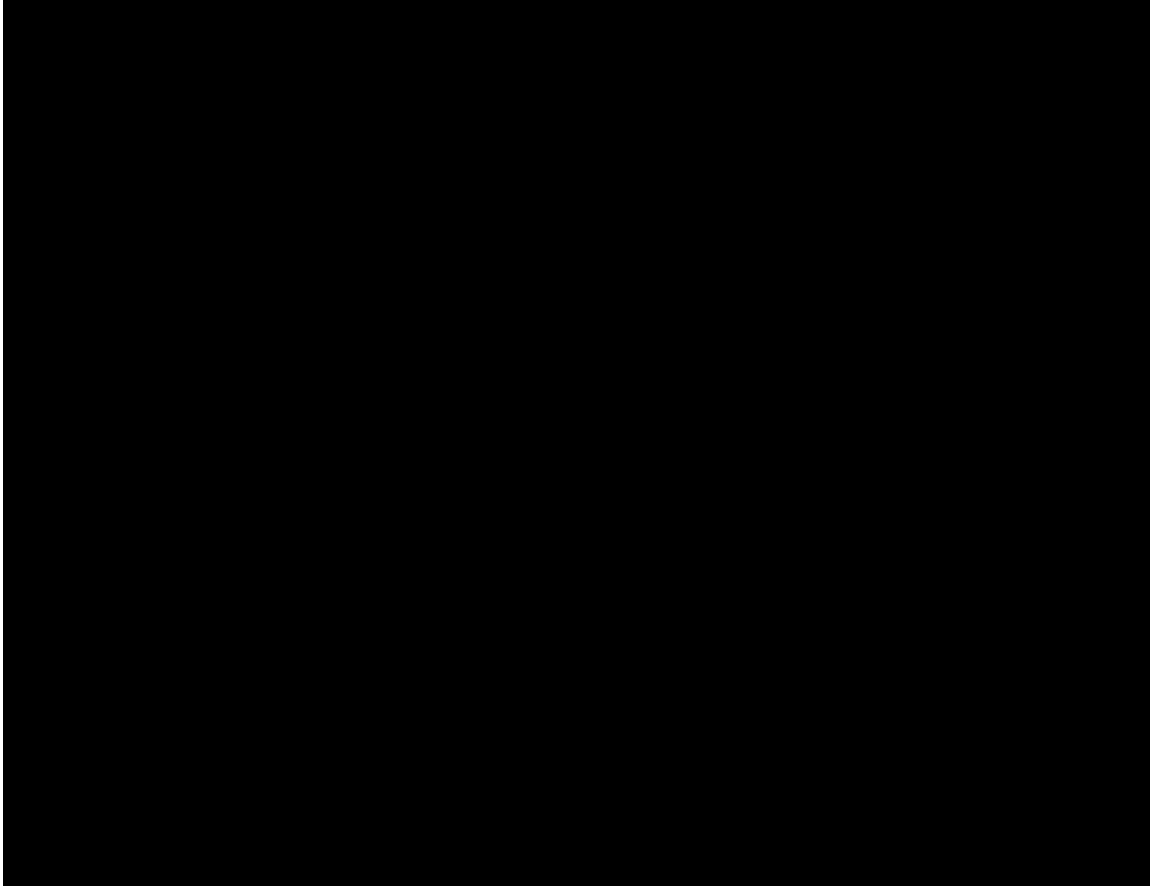
Great news: You can build those skills just by talking to your child. Try these ideas.

Narrate everyday activities like driving or cooking. Hearing unfamiliar words in conversation will help your child understand words in books. ("Please hand me the *colander* so I can drain the spaghetti.") Tip: If your child doesn't know the word, explain: "This is a colander. Water drains through the holes."

Encourage your child to join family conversations. Ask him questions to help him expand on his answers. ("Why do you think so?" "What else happened?") Your child will learn to talk about event and give his opinions.

Promoting Resiliency in Your Child

Resiliency is essential to success. Resiliency gives us the ability to deal with life's challenges, "bounce back", and handle new or difficulty situations. There are a number of ways that adults can help children become more resilient.



Adapted from "Resiliency: Strategies for Parents and Educators," Virginia Smith Harvey, in *Helping Children and Home and School II: Information for Parents and Educators*, NASP, 2003.

Brought to you Sara Wood, School Psychologist

Read Aloud Enjoyment

Some of the best times with your child may be when you share a story. Get the most out of reading aloud with these three easy tips:

1. Hold the book so your child can see the words and pictures while you are reading. Run your finger under the text, or point to interesting things in the illustrations.
2. Take your time and do not rush the story. Your child can tell if you are in a hurry. Reading slowly will help you read clearly and give you and your child more time together.
3. Do not be afraid to stop reading a book if your child does not seem interested. Have a backup selection ready so read aloud can continue.

"Teaching kids to count is fine, but teaching them what counts is best."-Bob Talbert

Yearbook News

The last day to pre-order your 11-12 yearbook will be December 16. They are currently only \$30.00 and can be purchased with our great split payment plan! What a wonderful holiday gift! We have certificates for those wanting to give the yearbook as a gift. Please email antje.wetherington@polk-fl.net. if you purchased a yearbook and would like one emailed for you to print out and insert in a card for your student. Please send in cash or money order, no personal checks please. We have less than 60 copies available to pre-order! We have a new split-payment option! You can pay \$15.00 now and \$15.00 in May. Unfortunately, we cannot give refunds in May if you cancel the order. ALL ad information/\$\$ is due Dec.1. Please hurry and turn in all pictures and text for your ads as soon as possible! We only have 2 one eighth ad spaces left!! Thank you to everyone who purchased an ad!

School Picture News

Fall Pictures should be here in a couple of weeks! Retakes are on November 30. In order to retake the picture we MUST have: New order form with payment or returned “complete” picture pack. Class and club pictures will be on December 14. Please try to make sure your child is at school on these dates as there will be no retakes for class and club pictures. Order forms for class/club pictures will go out November 15. You may send checks (to Lifetouch only), cash, and money orders or fill out the credit card information on the order form for these pictures. Late orders must order online.

Blake Quarterly News

We still have a few copies of the October BQ available for only 25¢! Send your student a special message as a SHOUT OUT for only 25¢. SHOUT OUTS appear on our Friday morning news shows AND in the BQ! Forms are available on our website and in the office. We also have the new iBridge shirts available in black or white for only \$10.00! See Mrs. Wetherington if you would like one!

Help Our Veterans!

Please support the Blake Academy yearbook staff as they collect toiletry items for our veterans. “New” items include: toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, soap, puzzle/game books, pens, playing cards, etc. They will be hand delivered to each of the veterans at James A. Haley Veterans Hospital in Tampa on December 10. Please send the item(s) to your child’s homeroom teacher by December 2. Our veterans need our support and this is one small way you can make a difference in their lives! Please help! We are also collecting OLD, WORN OUT, TORN, “rubber soled” tennis shoes. So, please dig them out of your garage, closets, etc. and send them to Mrs. Wetherington in room 203!

Video Club News

BAE Video Club is meeting on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings. We are working on a special project for Veterans day. Anyone that has served in one of our armed services are invited to send in a picture with their Name, Rank, Branch and time of service. All pictures turned in by Nov 9 will be highlighted in a video tribute.

TSA News

Blake Academy's TSA chapter raised \$501.26 for "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer". Several of the club members also participated in the walk held at Fantasy of Flight on Saturday, October 22, 2011. The club will be continuing their fundraising effort throughout the school year for the American Cancer Society and the "Relay for Life". We will be participating in the South Lakeland relay on May 4-5, 2012. We will let you know how you can contribute to this worthy cause.

Chorus News

Mark your calendars!!

Middle School Chorus will be performing at December's First Friday Celebration in Downtown Lakeland this year! The Chorus Winter Concert will be Tuesday, December 6th at 7pm in the Blake Cafetorium!

Thank You!

Blake Academy would like for the community business partners and volunteers to know how thankful they are for all of their help and assistance with the Fall Festival. A heartfelt "Thank You" goes out to following community business partners and supporters that assisted with the 2011 Fall Festival:

Officer Bosque & "Tiberius", Officer Johnson & "Harris"	Blake N.J.H.S.
Lakeland Police Department	Rosa and Polk County EMS
YMCA/Par 3 & Mr. Richardson	Community Volunteers
PCSO Mounted Search and Rescue Unit- Larry Jacklin	Lakeside Grillsmith
B.A. Officer Mark Ingram	Blake Mentoring Program
Yearbook/Newspaper Staff and Parents	Blake Academy Jazz Band
KHS Devil's Angels- KHS FFA Club	Mrs. Simmons
Blake Academy Domestic Engineers	Bartow IB Academy- Bianca Mulaney
Blake Academy Teachers & Staff	B.A. Band Boosters
Blake Academy Alumni	Blake Academy PTO
Fall Festival Committee	Barb Castro- Parent
Fall Festival Volunteers	Blake Academy Administration
KHS Spanish Dancers, Arlene Ramos	Blake Academy Leadership Team
Choe's Martial Arts, Master Jae	Dr Montgomery Dental Office
Blake Academy Chorus	Special Thanks to Mrs. Demidovich
Blake Academy Step Team	Blake Strings Orchestra
Mrs. Kirkland & ITV Students	Epilepsy Foundation
Spooky House Volunteers	Mrs. Barnes and the Book Fair Committee
Chorus Volunteers	Inneract/Alliance
Al Green at FSC, "Mocsie"	Raggity Dog Productions, Ken Suarez
Junior Women's Club & Nancy Gilbert-Pierce	Special thanks to Officer Ingram
Combee Road Winn Dixie- Janice Santiago	KHS FBLA Club-Lori Jenkins
Lakeland BloodNet	Lakeland Police Explorers, "McGruff", Kathy Chin
KHS KEY Club-Stephen Shipley	Aeromed Helicopter
KT Spencer and "Freyja"	Lakeland Fire Department
James Kessell, ABC Action News	Ernest Haynes and Geoff Haines
Polk Area Bicycle Association, PABA,	Wing Chun Kung Fu
Sr. Reiche, Dr. Joe Belshe, Dave Wilson	Intune Studios- Music Education and Entertainment
Mrs. Boatman, Mrs. Barfield, Mrs. Campbell and Ms. Headley	
Mrs. Murray and Mr. Gomez's Research Class for campus beautification	