



# CHRONICLES

*Volume 11, January-March 2022*

In January we welcomed Ms. Romina Barone-Pace, our new Blythwood Principal. Romina's extensive experience and strong leadership has been a wonderful addition to our school. Parent Council is thrilled to be working in partnership with her and the entire Blythwood team to ensure a positive and impactful learning environment for our children and teachers.

Although January seems like forever ago, we also started off the new calendar year with a delay in in-class learning as Blythwood families and staff continued to adapt to the challenges of navigating the pandemic. Throughout February and March, Staff as well as Parent Council worked to find innovative ways to engage with students and families both within the classroom and remotely. With the promise of Spring comes the hope of returning to some of the exciting in-person programs at Blythwood, including extra-curricular and other social and fundraising activities.

Thank you to all families for your ongoing support of Blythwood and to Romina, our administration team and all the teachers for everyone's continued efforts to make Blythwood a safe, caring and fun place to learn.

## **Valentine's Day -Virtual Craft Night**

The first ever virtual Valentines Day Virtual Craft Night was held on February 10<sup>th</sup>. Blythwood students and their families participated in a fun evening of learning how to make their own Valentine's Day cards and crafts to share with loved ones. The evening was a hit, especially with the younger grades. Thank you to our School Support team led by Tammy Neal and Atenor Paris for organizing this event!

## Fundraising that Pays Back!

On February 23<sup>rd</sup>, Blythwood Parent Council partnered with **Panago Pizza** to offer Blythwood families a 15% discount on their pizza order AND 15% of the net ordered was donated back to the school! Thank you to all parents who supported this Win-Win event! Additional fundraising that pays back include purchases from **Mabel's Labels** as well as **Blythwood Spirit Wear**. Please check out our Blythwood website for more information and links to place your orders! A big thank you to our Fundraising Director, Lee Koutsaris for organizing these partnerships.

## Blythwood Extension Committee (BEC): Proposal Presentation

At the end of January, the Parent Council co-Chairs, along with Ms Barone-Pace, met with Rachel Chernos Lin (TDSB Trustee) and Ron Felsen (TDSB Superintendent) to walk through the grade 7&8 extension proposal developed by the Blythwood Extension Committee (BEC) volunteers. Initial feedback was positive and, the next step is for the proposal to be presented at an upcoming TDSB planning meeting. Our goal is to have the proposal approved to be added to the TDSB list of projects to undergo a feasibility study. We will continue to keep the parent community informed as to the status of this project.

## Kiss & Ride: A team effort!

The Kiss and Ride program is a key program that provides an essential service to Blythwood families and children. For the program to run, we need a consistent supply of parent volunteers. Thank you to all parents who volunteered during the designated weeks for their child's class. We continue to ask parents to sign up for 1 shift to share the responsibility. Please speak with your class parent to ensure you have signed up for a shift during your scheduled week. Thank you in advance for your participation and to Tom Sigsworth for organizing and leading the program.

## StepUP Learning Program: Launch

Launching this Spring, the Blythwood Parent Council is thrilled to introduce "StepUP", a parent Council funded program providing new learning opportunities

for all students complimenting grade curriculum, supporting teachers and school goals. The intention is to keep the courses offered in each grade consistent year-over-year to ensure students experience the enhanced learning program as they progress through the grades at Blythwood. These courses were curated based on discussions with students, teachers and parents and include 2 courses per class:

JK/SK: Farm to Table Eating & Handmade Arts

Grade 1: Visual Arts & Performance

Grade 2: STEM Fun & Mindfulness Meditation

Grade 3: Coding & Character Education

Grade 4: Financial Literacy & Photography

Grade 5: Presentation Skills & Elevate (building superpowers in pre-teens)

Grade 6: Entrepreneurship & Elevate (building superpowers in pre-teens)

Also, part of the grade 6 Entrepreneurship course will lead to a new Parent Council supported fundraising activity called “Grade 6 Marketplace” to help fund graduation events.

## Parent Council Elections

Parent volunteers have a huge impact on making Blythwood the special school that it is. At the end of each school year different Executive positions on the Parent Council come up for election. The positions listed below are open and we’ve received some great interest. If you are interested in volunteering for any of these positions and would like more information please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Caroline Mandell, [cgibbings@gmail.com](mailto:cgibbings@gmail.com). Don’t forget to attend the final General Council meeting of the year in June to place your vote.

### **PSC/A Executive Members Open Positions:**

Co-Chair (x1)

School Support (x2)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

1. Spring Clothing Drive – April 2022
2. StepUP Program – Elevate - grade 5&6 students
3. Teacher Appreciation Breakfast – Thursday May 5<sup>th</sup> (rain date May 6<sup>th</sup>)
4. Silent Auction – May 27
5. Kiss N Ride – Please check your class schedule and sign-up genius
6. General (PSA/C) Meeting – Wednesday, June 8; Virtual; 10:00am

7. Grade 6 Grad Events – stay tuned for more information

Wishing all Blythwood families health and happiness this Spring.

Warmest Regards,

Christina Caney & Kristy Luciani  
Co-Chairs, PSA/C