



# Park Lane Public School

60 Park Lane Circle, M3C 2N2

Esther Leung Tou, Principal - Tony Gentile, Vice Principal

<http://schools.tdsb.on.ca/parklane>

## Dates to Remember:

### May

- ❖ 29 – Jewish Heritage Month

### June

- ❖ 1 – Asian Heritage Month
- ❖ 5 - Summer Jam
- ❖ 9 – PA Day
- ❖ 12 – Last Day of Integration
- ❖ 20 – SST Meeting
- ❖ 21 – Graduation Ceremony (10:00 am)
- ❖ 27 – Reports Go Home
- ❖ 29 – Last Day of School
- ❖ 30 – PA Day

## Principal's Corner

To our Parents, Friends and Awesome Team of Staff:

A Huge Thank You!

The musical gala on May 25th was incredible! From the moment our guests entered the school, they were welcomed and experienced a warm buzz that is so typical of Park Lane – filled with delicious food, art and music. Every detail (lights, music, photos, videos, stories) added a different dimension to the event so that our guests could have a better understanding of how our students learn and communicate. Each food station was immaculately prepared with so much diversity and love... and the transformation of the gym into this gorgeous cascade of colours and sparkle was unbelievable! Everyone jumped right in to bring in friends who could help. Such an event takes a lot of planning, dreaming, hard work and support from each other.

This was truly a team effort! Thank you from the bottom of my heart and congratulations!

I would like to especially thank Jack, Elisabeth and the planning team (Jonita, Tina, Aida, Carral, Tony, Perla)

for the marvelous vision, insight and perseverance into making this a reality. They were wonderfully supported every day by our staff and parents around the school who pitched in to help wherever it was needed. There are no words that can adequately describe the amazing angels that are our staff! They are dedicated, hard-working and kind – from whom I learn every day. Thank you for making our school the vibrant place it is!

Park Lane School is a shining star that is supported by so many friends, businesses, parents from different schools across the TDSB! Together we raised close to \$20,000 for Park Lane and Post-21 programs.

Our students deserve the best – they are the best teachers – and you all helped to give them the best opportunities to experience life to its fullest and to tell their story to the world! This is inclusion!

I would like to thank Jack & Debrah Lenz for so warmly leading our school council this year, and for their incredible support in the gala. I encourage all our parents to actively support our School Council and continue to advocate for our students to keep learning at this amazing school engaging and enjoyable!

Esther

## Student Health & Safety



Common colds and other contagious illnesses can pose a health risk for our high risk students. If you are aware that your child is developing a cold, we ask for your co-operation in keeping your child at home.

Please remember some of our students are medically fragile. **If your child has a fever, please keep them at home until they are fever free for 24 hours.** There may be occasions when your child arrives at school ill or becomes ill during the day. If the Parent is called, please make the proper arrangements to have the child picked up.

# School Events

## JEWISH HERITAGE MONTH- 2017 ( Gloria G.)



In February of 2012, the Ontario Legislature passed Bill 17, making the month of May *Jewish Heritage Month* in the province. In so doing, Ontario recognizes the important contribution that Jewish Canadians have made to Ontario's social, economic, political and cultural fabric.

With that in mind, a school-wide activity was organized on Monday, May 29th. The theme of the day was PEACE.

In the morning all classes assembled in the gym,

with each class presenting a poster that had been done during class time, explaining their concept of peace. Following that, two travel videos were shown, as we all boarded El AL Airlines for a trip overseas! Ten classes were divided into 5 groups and each group did a rotation of art/sensory activities. The 4 centres involved chopping a salad, water and sand play, music appreciation and art, and a mud spa. In the afternoon, there was a musical performance, featuring the Senior Choir from Leo Baeck Day School. Park Lane had partnered with Leo Baeck in an Integration Program earlier this year, in the fall and winter. Music videos were shown and Park Lane participated with song and dance, featuring the underlying theme of peace. In addition to the singing, Park Lane staff did a folk dance, followed by the same dance modified for the students in wheelchairs.

How wonderful it was to share various aspects of Jewish culture through the arts!

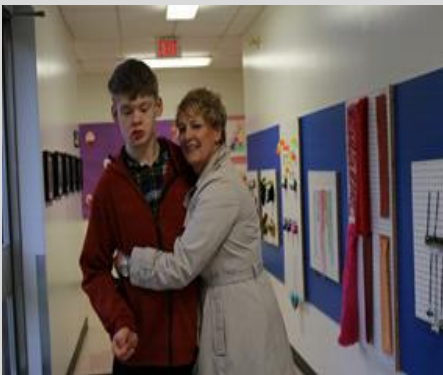


## *Park Lane's Musical Fundraising Gala (Tina F.)*

On May 25<sup>th</sup>, Park Lane held its first musical fundraising gala to raise funds for an accessible sensory garden and wheelchair swing for its playscape. A portion of the funds were also used to fund the Post 21 Foundation's facility launch that will take place in fall of 2017, which will provide adults with complex special needs a safe and stimulating place to go for day programs.



The theme of the night was "We Are One" which represents school staff, parents and the community coming together to recognize our students' achievements and support their on-going needs. The community showed their generous support by attending the gala, donating money and auction items (e.g., LG phone and Neil Diamond tickets) sponsoring the ethnic food stations and providing special event services (e.g., security, floral displays and promotional printing) and equipment (e.g., sound and lighting, tables and chairs). The gym was decorated with silhouettes of international buildings, fresh flowers and professional stage lighting.



Attendees dined on multicultural appetizers from 10 different food and drink stalls that were beautifully decorated to match the items served. Herbie Kuhn who is the voice of the Raptors and Argos emceed the entire night. Attendees learned about our special students and their family's challenges when they listened to speeches made by Jack Lenz (school council chair) and Chris Hopper (Post 21 Foundation). Ellen Schwartz (Jacob's Ladder Foundation) also shared her parenting insights with a book talk about her experiences as a mother of a son with special needs and the life lessons she has learned from it. Musical performances of the night included the Don Mills CI Quartet, Dala Girls, and Judy Belanger & The Northern Stars. Guests also got their photos taken at a photo booth and these pictures can be viewed on the following website: <http://www.yoursubjectmyfocus.com/p943191576>, password is parklane.

We would like to thank all our Park Lane friends and family for coming together to make our meaningful night a memorable success.



Indian Station



Caribbean Station



Asian Station



Canadian Barbeque



Don Mills CI Jazz



Mediterranean Station



Room 5 Team

## Summer Jam: (Paula B.)

On June 5th the staff and students of Park Lane celebrated Canada's 150th Birthday. All the provinces and territories were represented in the activities. In exploring our great north we enjoyed building igloos with marshmallows, feeling the arctic cold by touching ice and making Inuksuks, made with beach rocks. To represent the East coast students had fun catching Jello fish, sailing boats and looking at a live crayfish. For the west coast we played horseshoe toss and sensory play with corn. We reflected on First Nations teachings of the fur trade by feeling pelts, furs and feathers. Our snack program included grain toast cut into maple leaves with red strawberry jam.



The afternoon was spent with our friends from Bedford Park sharing our love of music. Famous Canadian singer/ songwriter, Jeanette Arsenault, helped to finish our day with an interactive and moving concert. All and all, it was a great day, eh?



# Eco Corner

## Eco Audit (Erica D.)

We had our official Eco Audit today from TDSB Ecoschools. We got to rave about the incredible projects going on at our school, highlighting our efforts in Waste Management in how we incorporate sorting garbage, recycling and compost into our IEP goals. We focused on energy conservation at the school. Bedford Park students assisted us with an energy walk about the school and we created a tactile reminder to assist students and staff with turning off the lights in our classrooms and washrooms before we leave them. The auditor applauded our efforts to come together as a community for our Clothing Donation Drive to ease the over usage of textiles on the planet, and for reaching out to the Yonge/Lawrence storefronts around Bedford Park School to address accessibility issues for persons in wheelchairs by encouraging them to use StopGap.ca ramps. Park Lane will continue to uphold watering our gardens and grounds as a school. Another successful year for Ecoschools at Park Lane!



# Room 9

**Staff** – Adam, Sherine, Portia, Dave, Sharon



## **Favourite Activities:**

- 1) Swimming at Variety Village - it's relaxing, it builds independence and skills, and we met some new people!
- 2) Our morning walks - It gives our students and staff some morning fresh air and exercise.

Research suggests that daily physical activity stimulates and calms the brain, allowing for clearer thinking and concentration.

**Life Skills:** Our class is focused on life skills development, to maximize the independence of our students.

Some of the activities we did this year were:

- ❖ Work boxes
- ❖ Spreading mulch around trees
- ❖ Making a sleeping mat out of milk bags
- ❖ Cleaning windows
- ❖ Cooking, place setting
- ❖ Green bin pick-up
- ❖ Science experiments – magnetism, buoyancy, air pressure
- ❖ Grocery shopping



## Asian Heritage Celebration 2017 (Anju P.)

May is Asian Heritage Month, a time to acknowledge the long and rich history of Asian Canadians and their contributions to Canada. With that in mind, the Asian Heritage Committee at Park Lane organized school-wide activities that Room 5 led. The celebration began on Thursday, June 1st at 10:00 am in the gym with an introduction of the Asian contribution in the Canadian history and other activities that reflected the culture and traditions of various parts of Asia. The activities took place in the morning and afternoon.

We invited a DHOL player to play Bollywood music which created a very fun-filled environment. *(The dhol is a double-sided barrel drum played mostly as an accompanying instrument in a variety of forms of regional music.* The staff and students enjoyed the music and got in the spirit to dance.



The classes were divided into groups and were given various activities, for example, Rooms 1 and 7, 3 and 4 were given a Bollywood song to do wheelchair dancing and they performed outstandingly. The students displayed an engaging and happy disposition. Other rooms used non-standard instruments to match the beat of Dhol and Bollywood music. Rooms 2 and 10, 5 and 6 used a selection of non-standard musical instruments for students to play along with the assigned song...excellent performance! Rooms 8 and 10 performed a magical group dance where students took the lead and displayed their variety of dance moves.

Our Park Lane staff was amazing, especially those who came up to present a solo or do a group dance performance. Those performances created a very happy and fulfilled environment. The staff and students cheered the dancers. Kudos to Diane, Perla, Karen, Helen, Anju, Anthony, Portia and Dave C. for their amazing performances and spirit they showed through dance. It proved that the best learning comes from a fun-filled environment where the students' mind and soul are relaxed to learn.

In the afternoon, Park Lane staff and students played an Indian traditional game Kabaddi. The staff and students were very excited to play the game. They displayed very competitive demeanors. We played two rounds...the first round was for the students which was modified and the second round was for the Park Lane Staff. Altogether, Parklaners learned so much about Asian culture and tradition.



## Variety Village Track and Field Meet (Dave C.)

On May 26th, students and staff from Park Lane travelled to Variety Village to participate in barrier-free track and field events. Events such as the 50 metre dash, wheelchair basketball, obstacle course and Kung Fu, tested and thrilled our students! Over 300 students from 16 schools participated in the track meet that day – it was an electric atmosphere! We plan on returning next year for more excitement and challenges.



## Post 21 Meeting

Post 21 meeting is on  
Tuesday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017.  
Child care is provided. Please call the  
office to let us know if you require this  
service.

416-395-8525.

**Post 21- 6:00-8:00 pm**

