



Park Lane Public School

60 Park Lane Circle, M3C 2N2

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

Lindsay Borden - Principal
Maria Ginis - Vice Principal

January & February 2021
Edition 3

Dates to Remember:

- **March: Greek Heritage Month**
- March 17th - St. Patrick's Day
- March 28th – April 4th – Passover
- **April: Genocide Awareness Month, Latin American History Month, Sikh Heritage Month, World Autism Month**
- April 2nd - World Autism Day
- April 2nd – Good Friday (no school)
- April 5th – Easter Monday (no school)
- April 12th – Hindi New Year
- April 12th – May 11th – Ramadan
- April 14th – International Day of Pink
- April 22nd – Earth Day

In the following newsletter, you will have an opportunity to see how the various heritage celebrations were recognized in the school and learn about the different ways the students participated.

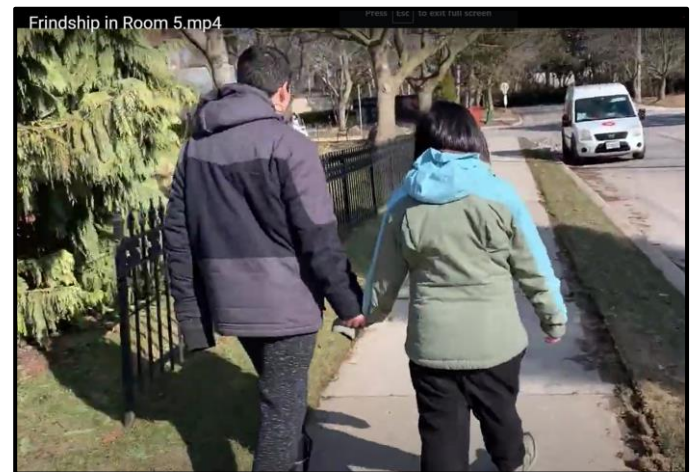
Additionally, students in school and at home are really enjoying the virtual lessons. Students and families are getting the opportunity to interact with one another, share stories and experiences, explore the school, and engage in various activities.

To expand on the virtual experience, we are also starting to present school-wide assemblies. On February 25, 2021, we organized a friendship assembly. Classes presented songs, artwork, videos, and poems. It was great to see the staff and students getting involved in this assembly as well as the responses from the students watching

Principal's Corner

In January and half of February, Park Lane staff and students were in school while most schools in the TDSB were still closed. As a result, we were fortunate to be visited by our Superintendent and the Director of Education.

Most recently, we also received a very generous donation of school supplies from the Kiwanis Club of East York and Staples at Pharmacy and Ellesmere. While at school during the months of January and February, we were also able to celebrate the Lunar New Year, African Heritage Month, Tamil Heritage Month and Chinese Heritage Month.



School Events

Lunar New Year (Tina F.)

Park Lane celebrated the Lunar New Year with a virtual lesson hosted by Elizabeth and Yan. Students and staff at home and in person shared a variety of things from China such as: fans, flags, clothes, foods, decorations, and ceramics. Everyone was encouraged to dress up in traditional outfits or wear the colours of the Chinese flag (red and yellow). We also learned about similarities and subtle differences in how the New Year is celebrated in China and Korea. Virtual lesson participants listened to celebratory songs about wishing others a healthy and prosperous year ahead. Everyone also enjoyed watching videos of previous Park Lane Lunar Celebrations & gatherings. Students made red and yellow lanterns to illuminate the new year ahead. Room 2 created a sensory table at the front of the school with traditional decorations and customary items for students to explore.



African Heritage Month Celebration *(Hibo S.)*

Black History Month takes place every February at the TDSB. During this month, we look at the past and present to recognize and gain a better understanding of Black History as well as celebrate traditions and accomplishments of the African Heritage community. It is important to recognize Black History Month as it was created to understand the hardships black people have had to endure in order to be recognized as equal in society; which is a movement that continues today. Black History is also not simply from the past. It is important to understand how recent prominent world leaders like the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., had dreams and set up foundations for activists to continue the work in order to see means of change.

This year, African Heritage Month at Park Lane was celebrated through beautiful traditional pieces used by many African nations. We set up a display in honour of Black History Month. Through the virtual lessons, we visited Kenya and Ghana and learned about their beautiful traditions. During classroom and virtual lessons, we explored countries like Ghana, Kenya, Trinidad and Tobago. The students also got dressed up in traditional clothing and played with sensory books based on African culture. We watched the Lion King and encouraged staff and students to listen to Anansi stories, play drums and watch the animals roam the Masai Mara lands. During this learning experience it seems students, parents, and staff were enjoying the wonderful themes Black History Month had to offer. Happy Black/African History Month everyone!
Dr. Martin Luther King's "I have a dream speech":

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vP4iY1TtS3s>



Tamil Heritage *(Jonita E.)*

Greeting (Vanakkam)! January marks the celebration of Thai Pongal, a Tamil harvest festival. This year's themes are: Truth, Rights, and Unity. This year's Tamil Values are: Hospitality, Duty, Upholding Character, Respecting Elders, Maintaining Discipline, Gratitude, and Truthfulness.

In Park Lane, we celebrated Tamil Heritage month by displaying Nirai-kudam (full pot); used when Tamils have their celebrations. Each part has a significant meaning behind it: a coconut represents a human head, The 5 Mango leaves represent the 5 senses, a pot with water represents water in the human body, rice represents the earth Finally, lamps cure ignorance.

We also celebrated by creating Tamil art pieces and displaying students' names written in Tamil throughout the hallway.

Fun facts about Tamil heritage include: Tamil is more than 2000 years old and there are a significant number of Tamil speakers in: Australia, Canada, Fiji, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mauritius, Myanmar, Réunion, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and in the United States of America.

Tamils believe that piercing ears helps in the development of intellect, power of thinking, and decision making. Since ancient times, Tamils believe that on the forehead between the two eyebrows is a spot considered a major nerve point in the human body. The Pottu is believed to prevent the loss of "energy "from this area. The red 'kungumam ' between the eyebrows is said to retain energy in the human body and control the various levels of concentration.



Room 6

Team Members: Kathryn, Sherine, Dave, Matt



Hello Everyone,

Room 6 (previously the art room) is home to 3 students (all older boys) and 4 staff (2 longstanding and 2 newbies). We are a busy class.

We love our morning circle, our games of bingo (which are very competitive), and working outside (with shovels, rakes, and brooms)

A little about each staff member:

Kathryn: I am the mother of two beautiful boys. I was born in Canada. I have worked at Park Lane Public School as an Educational Assistant as long as I can remember. I really enjoy the job I do; especially working in room 6 with the staff and students.

David: I am the father of three daughters and one son. I was born in Nigeria. This is my second year at park lane as an EA.

Sherine: I am the mother of two daughters. I was born in Jamaica. I have worked at Park Lane longer than I have fingers, as an Educational Assistant.

Matt: I am the father of two daughters and one son. I was born in Australia. I am one of the newbie teachers at the school. I am still learning lots about this wonderful community

Room 7

Team Members: Paula, Perla, Cynthia and Cindy.

Favourite Activities: Our students enjoy Orff Music. This year we participate in music virtually. Each Day 1 we meet with Renata, our music teacher.

We play drums, tambourines, bells, and tap out the beat using body percussion. We move to the beat of the music. Staff and students are learning about music by exploring notes and rhythm.

Special daily activity: Virtual circle in the morning and afternoon have become a favourite activity! We tune in and eagerly watch the screen and wait for our friends at home to join us! Staff and students get so excited to see our friends at home.

We enjoy listening to the familiar greeting and weather songs. We like to share our items and watch with anticipation as each student shares their items with the whole group.

We are looking forward to the future, so that we can once again be together with all our friends!!



Valentine Day Celebration *(Elizabeth B.)*

"Love was in the air" at Park Lane on Thursday, February 11th for Valentine's Day festivities. Students enjoyed a virtual lesson on 'all things Valentine' in the morning, followed by a 'virtual disco' in the afternoon. Red, pink and purple were the colours of the day and student-decorated hearts were everywhere to be seen. Thanks to the generosity of our local METRO (York Mills), our very own Cupid was spotted in the corridors handing out Valentine's balloons / roses to the students. It was a fun-filled day, filled with music, happiness and LOVE. Until next year Park Lane!



Virtual Learning Updates *(Maxine J.)*

Park Lane's Virtual Sessions continue to be a great success for both students in the brick and mortar, and those participating online. We enjoy seeing the connections that our staff, students, and families are making with one another. A few changes have been made to our virtual sessions:

- 1) The morning start time is 9:30 AM
- 2) Room 9 is leading three days in the mornings and other rooms are leading the other two days
- 3) Afternoon sessions start at 1:00 PM and will also be led by different rooms depending on the day

On Thursday February 25th, 2021 Park Lane held a Spirit Day and Friendship Assembly during the morning virtual session. It was great to see everyone wearing pink or red and joining in on the fun.

