

# Park Lane Public School

60 Park Lane Circle, M3C 2N2

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



**Hello Spring!**

**Esther Leung Tou - Principal**  
**Hripsik Sarkissian - Vice Principal**

**March, 2018**

## Dates to Remember:

### April

- ❖ 2- Easter Monday
- ❖ 6 – Experiential Learning Meeting
- ❖ 9 – Orff Instruments Arriving
- ❖ 11-Pink Day & School Council Meeting
- ❖ 13-Autism Awareness Day-Wear Blue
- ❖ 16-Grad Photo Day & Zoo Presentation
- ❖ 18- Sunnyview Friendraiser
- ❖ 23- Rocks n Rings
- ❖ 25 – School Council Meeting

I hope everyone had a restful March Break and holiday. It is Autism Awareness Month in April and Sikh Heritage and Hispanic Heritage Month at the TDSB. We are encouraging classrooms and monthly events to incorporate these themes. In order to fully experience the learning at Park Lane, we invite our parents to join in the daily activities, volunteer on school trips and swimming, and attend school council meetings.

I invite you to visit our website homepage for information on respite, camps and community resources <http://schools.tdsb.on.ca/parklane>

Happy Spring!  
Esther

## Principal's Corner

Dear Parents, Guardians and the Park Lane Community,

Who said there are February Blues? When the rest of the world is facing the challenge of post-holiday depression, in the darkness of February's numbing grip, energy loss and lacklustre moods ... Park Lane always finds a way to turn things around in an amazing way!! Our staff created magical activities for all our students and we have celebrated more in February than in any other month! From our first Tamil Heritage celebration, to the Lunar New Year extravaganza, to the African Safari with stories and foods that tantalize our senses, to the upbeat dancing and bouzouki playing by our very own Greek families who shared their traditions and foods with us! Our Irish brothers and sisters also celebrated in green style.

Congratulations to the leaders of this school, who put forth so much thoughtful effort, in organizing and ensuring our students have an opportunity to engage in multi-sensory learning – every single day - especially during these special events! You keep inspiring and raising the bar for learning at Park Lane!

## Save the date!

Due to last year's success – the Park Lane School Council is hosting another gala evening to fundraise in honour of our special students ... look out for more information coming ... you will NOT want to miss this opportunity to support our school!

*Park Lane Spring Gala  
2018*

*We are One!*

Friday May 25, 2018  
7:00pm  
Toronto Botanical Gardens

# School Events

## African Heritage Celebration

(Portia B. & Adam M.)

We had an excellent African History Month celebration at the end of February. Many staff came dressed in traditional clothing. We had an assembly celebrating various aspects of African heritage in Canada. Each classroom contributed to a sensory book highlighting different folktales and elements important to African cultures. Staff performed cultural dances from the Caribbean islands as well as Ghanaian folk songs. There was also a brief presentation focusing on the island of St. Lucia. Students then had the opportunity to visit the sensory tables featuring African Heritage crafts, fabrics, clothing, fruits and spices. There was also an afro-photo booth set up for students to have their picture taken.



Staff performed cultural dances from the Caribbean islands. ↓



Students prepared sensory books and role play to highlighting different folktales ↓



And of course there is no celebration at Park Lane without food! Many staff members worked tirelessly over the weekend to prepare a feast for staff and students with many traditional African and Caribbean dishes.

A very special thank-you to the African Heritage committee for putting this together!

# TDSB Engage Arts at Park Lane (Tina F.)

Our school was very lucky to participate in the Engage Arts program where a professional dance and movement artist (Janice Pommer) came to work with staff and students for 5 days. She taught each class new strategies in drama and dance instruction by focusing on gross motor movements at the students' varying abilities.



Since we are an eco-school, Janice focused her lessons on the water cycle and students dramatized words related to water such as bubbling, dripping, evaporating and melting, while listening to a rainfall soundtrack. Other activities students participated in included sponging water colour paintings, being in a simulated and interactive rain tunnel, dramatizing fish swimming, waving a long sheet of plastic to simulate oceanic waves and visually depicting waves and pollution on an overhead projector.

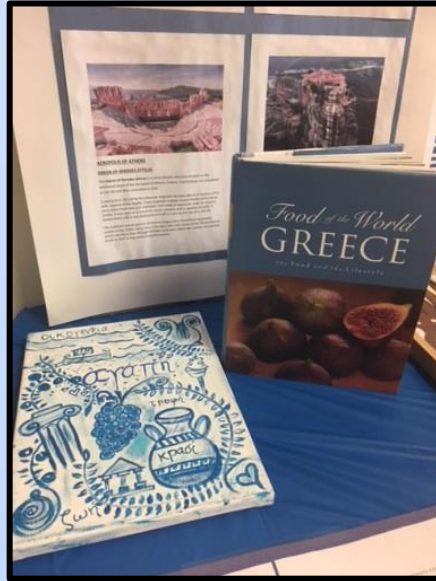


A teaching strategy that Janice used which was wonderful for students with low vision was turning off the lights and having students visually locate and track a red flashlight that was moved around onto the students' limbs. The dimmed lighting allowed students to look at the high contrast lighting easier without being distracted by environmental noise in their visual field. Tina and Erica went to in-services for 2 days to learn additional movement activities that are relatively open-ended and low stress compared to traditional dance class which may be more structured requiring people to memorize a series of complex dance steps.



# Greek Heritage Month (Vicki A.)

March is TDSB's Greek Heritage Month and there are many exciting events going on board-wide. Here at Park Lane, on Fri. March 2<sup>nd</sup> we had a Greek Activity Day filled with fun, sensory centres for our students. From flag-making to beading and of course our amazing friend Dino who played the bouzouki for us all, it was an energizing day!!! Thanks to everyone for participating!



# Room 6

Room 6 loves music. We sing, we dance, we play instruments and recently we made some! Room 6 was hired to do a work task for the First Narayever Congregation to make shakers for their Jewish Purim celebration. Students practiced their Experiential learning skills in preparation for work after graduation.



The repeated acts of scooping, filling, decorating are skills that will help our students in a variety of job situations. The students loved touching the dyed rice, beads and bells and hearing the sound as they went into each bottle, followed by choosing the most colourful tape they could find to wrap them in © Love the Room 6 team: Erica, Paula, Kristin, Melissa and Trichanne!

# Room 7

The students in room 7 enjoy every day at school. Each day brings new opportunities to engage with friends and learn about the world around them. On Day 3 we get together with our friends from room 4 to socialize. We do a variety of activities such as bowling, singing songs, reading stories and engaging in sensory related art activities. This past winter, we read the book, The Mitten and we decorated mittens with sparkles, sequins, bingo dabbers and paint. We extend our learning by using an interactive white board to develop cause and effect and build vocabulary related to our book.

Another favourite activity is listening and dancing to music. Sometimes students make song choices by touching an interactive white board or using a switch to scan through choices on a computer. Once a song is chosen we all have a good time dancing and moving to the music. Some classroom favourites include Gummy Bears, Adele, Pretty Much, Shawn Mendez and the list goes on..... We hope to add new songs to our list of favourites.



# Lunar New Year at Park Lane (Tina F.)

Staff and students gathered in the gym to listen to New Year greetings in Cantonese, Mandarin, Korean and Vietnamese by Erica (emcee) and Esther. Each staff member who celebrates this holiday took turns talking about their family heritage and experiences of when they came to Canada. Students of Chinese and Korean descent were also recognized.



Ms. Judy Yeung (the outreach assistant to MP Shaun Chen) shared with us her thoughts of moving to Canada, working for the government and the societal contributions made by people who celebrate Lunar New Year. Yan invited dancers from A Y Jackson Secondary School to visit and perform for us. They collectively did an umbrella dance called "A Wrong Kite", followed by a series of solo dances of which one was Tibetan. Our students celebrated the "Year of the Dog" by waving ribbons to a song that began with dogs barking. After that, we had lion dancers from the *Northern Legs Southern Fists Team* led by Master Ian Chow. The dancing lion greeted students up close and tossed lettuce (representing prosperity) at the audience. Esther concluded the assembly by handing out traditional red envelopes to staff and students for good luck.

In the afternoon, classes circulated the school to various themed-stations. The stations featured (1) shadow puppets of dogs, (2) Lunar New Year foods and a slideshow of Korean, Chinese, Vietnamese and Tibetan photos, (3) art activities with a therapy dog, (4) painting and (5) fireworks on the interactive whiteboard and walking on bubble wrap. We would like to thank the staff, parents and students for their generous contributions towards this successful heritage event.

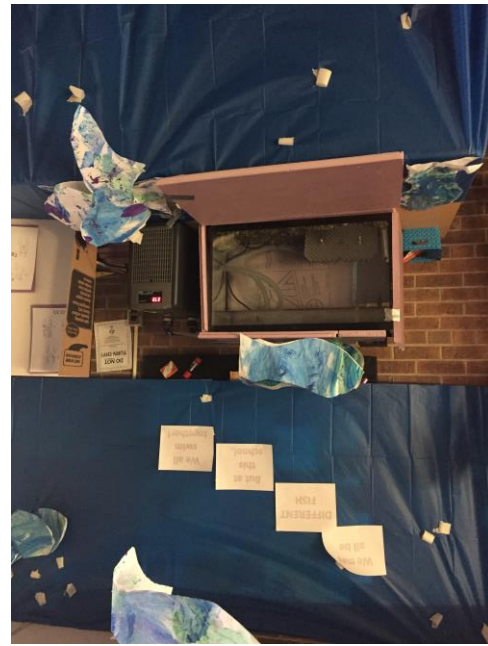
# Eco Corner (Erica D.)

Ecoschools at Park Lane have been busy these past two months. We put on two events. In February we had a Tu B'Shvat assembly recognizing the Jewish holiday that celebrates what the Earth gives us and how we must give back to it.



Students participated in a series of interactive centres on recycling, composting and problem solving in addition to the foods traditionally served at a Tub B'Shvat seder.

This March we are holding an Earth Hour assembly Friday March 23<sup>rd</sup> to recognize global Earth Day that takes place the next day Saturday March 24<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 pm. We will dim the lights and have students practice classroom power saving techniques using a visual energy checklist we have developed and gathering up used Batteries from our Battery Blitz! We are accepting non rechargeable batteries from families and staff that we will collect and bring to a Battery Recycling drop-off location March 20-23<sup>rd</sup>.



And keep an eye on our fish tank when you next come in! Our last salmon egg is hatching and the small Alevin (as they are called after hatching) are snuggling deep into the rocks at the bottom of our tank.



# Saint Patrick's Day (Erica D.)



Park Lane wanted to recognize three important causes in one Friday March 9<sup>th</sup>. Students were invited to the gym to create hats and capes in solidarity with Holland. Bloorview's Capes for Kids campaign.

Students and staff decorated their capes and hats with green decorations in honour of St. Patrick's day and paraded them around the building in camaraderie with the Geneva Centre for Autism's Shamwalk fundraiser that occurred on March 18<sup>th</sup>.

As many of our students go to Bloorview and the Geneva Centre for various programming we at Park Lane know how valuable their work is for our students and families. Lastly, March 9<sup>th</sup> was also the official opening of the Paralympic games in Pyeong Chong Korea. Students passed a Park Lane Paralympic torch during their parade in honour of this momentous event.



# Community Placement-Experiential learning (Dave C.)

We are very excited to announce that Hamza G. has been participating in a community placement on Monday mornings at the Community Share Food Bank in North York.

Hamza takes a TTC bus with a job coach, and works for approximately 1 hour. Typical jobs include: 1) measuring and pouring rice into Ziploc bags and 2) sorting vegetables into bags – both of these items are placed into food hampers for clients of the food bank.

Hamza is learning social skills (greeting food bank staff), riding public transit, and work skills. We hope to have other students participate in community placements next school year.

This is an extension of the Experiential Learning Program to build independent skills in the community.

