



November 2016

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:

- ❖ 11- Remembrance Day
- ❖ 16 -Progress Reports go home
- ❖ 25 – Métis Fiddlers Duo

December

- ❖ 6 - Music Concert Sonya 10:00am
- ❖ 9 - Earth Hour 1:30-2:30pm – Open Area
- ❖ 15 - Winter Concert 12:30-2:30pm
- ❖ 16 - Leo Baeck/ Jacob's Aunts Hannukah Concert – 1:00pm
- ❖ 20 - Don Mills CI Concert (am)
- ❖ - Santa Arrives 1:30pm
- ❖ 21 - Chanukah 10:15am
- ❖ 23 - Last Day of School
- ❖ Jan 9 – School Resumes

Principal's Corner

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

The last few weeks have been filled with learning in teams, through music and special events. We have an opportunity every month to come together as a school to participate in a school-wide learning activity we call "Friday Activities" – not always on a Friday! Last month, Room 2 organized an interactive workshop with the Toronto Watershed on Wheels for the whole school. Our students learned about the environment and habitats of our native animals in Ontario. At Park Lane, every concert, event, assembly and fieldtrip is a rich learning experience. Our students had a chance to pay tribute to our fallen soldiers in WWI – the very men and women who fought for our freedom in Canada. On November 9th, several Grade 9 students came to Park Lane to spend the day with our students during "Take Your Kids to Work Day" – it was a fantastic day of learning for Park Lane as these high school students put together an array of interactive sensory activities for us. Liam, Khushi, Aidan and Laigqh also took home some real-life experiences of working in a school setting and supporting students with special needs. What a win for all of us! We would welcome them back anytime! I



hope you have an opportunity to read their reflections below – truly remarkable young people. On December 5th, we had a delegation of educators from Finland visit Park Lane. They truly appreciated the visit and took back

some ideas to Finland. We are excited to have connected with our colleagues in Finland and perhaps



sometime in the future, we will have an opportunity to reciprocate the visit. The team shared this with us: *"...you have something that I wish to bring with me to my University - something that I think should be cultivated in all education, in all levels. That is openness, care, love and ultimate respect of human life in all its variations and in all its diversity. All this is so clearly observable in all that you are doing. It should also be so in all education. The times that we are living offer and celebrate also other kinds of values. But there is hope, and your work is one very concrete example of that."* Congratulations to all staff and students at Park Lane for being such a wonderful example for education all over the world!

Esther



School Events

Halloween (Paula M.)

It was a dark and stormy night.....not really; Halloween is all about the senses at Park Lane. Students enjoyed the touching of pumpkins and pumpkin insides, wet leaves, tasting of chocolate and the spooky sounds of Halloween recorded on switch plates. It is so much fun for everyone to parade in costumes before visiting each classroom for their own special treat. The dance in the afternoon had loud, fun music and special glow- in-the-dark jewelry to end the Halloween day fun at Park Lane.



United Way (Paula M.)

United Way is a charity that helps provide access to support services that individuals with disabilities need to actively participate in their communities and help improve their quality of life. Park Lane staff held some fun activities to raise money for the TDSB United Way campaign. This year we had generous contributions from both staff and kids for pajama day. We also sold apples, as well as, a portion of fundraising money made from the Room 5 lunch. United Way helps many of our families. Thanks for the support from the United Way Committee.

Métis Fiddler Duo (Gloria G.)

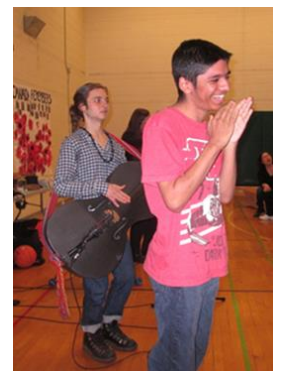
On November 25th, two Métis fiddlers arrived to Park Lane – brother and sister duo, Danton and Alyssa. Danton played the guitar and the cello; Alyssa played the violin, or as the Métis call it, the fiddle!

This was a wonderful opportunity to listen to music of an Aboriginal nature, while appreciating the string instruments, up close and personal.

We participated in several echo songs and learned a few words and actions to a French song. We also enjoyed learning various rhythms, with the added syllables: "Ta!.....Tika Ta!.....Ta!..... Ta!.....Ta Tika!"

The music was very lively and welcoming --- there was clapping in the audience to accompany the fiddlers. Moreover, some of our students came up to the dance floor!

Everyone had a super time at the concert – even three of our "alumni students" (former Park Lane graduates) who were in the audience, with their parents.



Room 3

Team: Vicki, Yan, Demetra, Jean

Remembrance Day (Paula M.)

On November the 11th Park Lane students and staff joined in the gym to have a moment of silence to remember those who fought in the war to keep our country free and peaceful. Our ceremony had videos, songs, stories along with each Park Lane student placing their own personally made poppy on a poster. We were delighted to enjoy the last post played live for us by Maslin. The live trumpet rendition of the last post was a wonderful experience for all of us to experience through sight and sound. We received \$200.00 from poppy sales this year which goes to our local legion. Thank-you for the donations!



Favourite Day: Day 2 because our students love Bowling and Snoezelen time.

Favourite Activity: Swimming is always Fun!

Favourite Food: Yogurt & Apple Sauce!

Yogurt Smoothie Recipe

- 1 cup yogurt (strawberry or vanilla)
- 1 cup strawberries fresh or frozen
- 2 bananas

Blend all and enjoy!

Our Halloween Creations!



Room 1

Team: Paula M. Debbie, Bobbie, Anthony and Cynthia

Favourite Day: Day 3 We have snoezelen, gym and music at the piano..... it's all of the students' favourite activities

Students Favourite Activity: Sensory crafts and water play

We are a very active class and have really enjoyed the nice weather this fall. We have been outside walking and playing in the playground. We participate in the art cart activities on Day 2 and in the photos we are making some cards.



The "Living City" in our classrooms (Tina F.)

In November, students participated in the Living City classroom where nature-based education was brought to Park Lane by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, at no cost to our school. Presenters came with a large variety of locally sourced fur pelts and bird puppets that chirped their natural calls when gripped. Students learned about native animals by viewing explanatory videos of beavers and squirrels in their



natural habitats. Sensory activities included touching and smelling floral materials foraged from the Park Lane property (e.g., sumac, leaves, pine cones and cedar boughs) and making a tactile collage out of the organic materials. Moist and textured seed balls (created by mixing clay with soil and seeds of meadow flowers) were hand rolled/squeezed by the students and sent home for planting. These environmental activities are an extension of the eco-schools initiative that our school has been promoting with our students.

Exploring the Community (Erica D.)

Rooms 5 and 6 are learning about recognizing various community helpers and settings and practicing the skill of exchange for purchase. The students are looking at recognizing traffic and crossing light signals, wheel chair and washroom signs. Each week they examine a different community setting and helper- from Library to waiter. On November 15th the students were given an opportunity to put their learning to practice.



food court. The visit also included the bank, sensory play and the movie theatre. Attention was brought to safety skills such as traffic/pedestrian crossing lots and cooperative engagement with bus drivers when loading and unloading from a bus. We had a great time!



Santa at Scarborough Town Centre (Joseph K.)

On a sunny but windy day students and staff from Rooms 2 and 10 went on a trip to Scarborough Town Centre. The main reason for that trip was to see Santa! At the center of the mall, we saw a big green tree, decorated with different ornaments. A staff elf met us at the entrance and walked us through the displays. Prior to the visit, we prepared our students by talking about Santa's beard and outfit and how it might feel if Santa shakes their hand or gives them a hug. We were able to touch the



They visited the Fairview Library and had an opportunity to sign out books and interact with a librarian during a special story time.

The classes proceeded to the Fairview Mall where students exchanged money for food purchases in the



ornaments and take photos while waiting in line to see Santa. We also socialized with other families waiting their turn to see Santa. Finally, we reached Santa! He was sitting in a fancy chair and dressed in a red and white outfit. Santa personally got up when our students approached him. With some of the students, Santa gave a hugs and other he gave handshakes. Each student took a photo with Santa. What a memorable Santa experience! After visiting Santa, we had lunch in the food court and visited The Body Shop where students had the opportunity to smell different scents and enjoyed the festive music played.



Take Your Kid to Work!



My Visit at Park Lane Public School

Earlier this week, I had the opportunity to visit Park Lane Public School. I have visited before, but I was really young and I do not remember much. I have heard so many great things about this school through my mother and I'm glad I got to see it once again. During my stay, I met a lot of interesting people. Up until then I never really valued one's life so much. I quickly realized we take too many things for granted. But I have never seen a group of people come together with so much love and respect for one another like I did at Park Lane. I have also learned that each child has their own abilities and strengths. The children inspired me that will change my life forever. I also would like to thank the administrators for this wonderful learning experience. I am grateful that I had this opportunity and I hope to visit Park Lane in the coming years.

By: Laiqah



A Much Different Experience!

When going to Park Lane, I thought, I would just be going to school, but it was a much different experience. 'Take Your Kid to Work Day' was a very interesting, educational and fun experience. I got to do many interesting things from the teacher's perspective, such as observing ways to act with students, alongside my mom and the Park Lane staff.

Being at Park Lane, which is a very unique environment, where all the students are special needs and work on an alternative curriculum, with a focus on well-being and life skills, I found myself feeling more compassionate, caring and patient than ever before.

Being a teacher in a regular high school, you deal with many students, but at Park Lane, I saw teachers teaching differently. The teachers had much patience and they were warm and caring towards their students. I learned that every student has the ability to learn in different ways.

Before, I used to see someone who was different and never knew how to interact with them. Now, in the future, I will be prepared for this experience. If I ever see anyone with special needs in my workplace, I would understand and help them, and I would know how. Being at Park Lane for just one day, I saw something totally different. There weren't many students, and with all the staff, I saw how close everyone is. Everyone knew everyone and it was like one big family. When I entered, I felt welcomed, just like entering my home.

Thank you, Park Lane for having us Grade 9s!

By: Khushi

Fun Experience!

Take your kid to work day was a fun experience. Being at the school many times before take your kid to work day, I had an idea about the school, and what was going to happen, but planning a music activate was new. I had to make sure I had enough material for everyone to be able to make an instrument and make sure everything was safe for the kids. All in all it was a good day and was a great experience.

By: Liam

Fun time!

"It was great to spend 'Take Your Kid to Work Day' at Park Lane P.S. I spent the morning with the students in room 9. We had a fun time doing some art and getting some exercise in the playscape. We made musical instruments in the afternoon with all the kids. We saw some really creative drums and shakers being made. The students at Park Lane are amazing. It is a really positive and happy place to be. I understand why my Mom loves working there so much."

Bv: Aidan E.

Integration and Fall Activities in Room 5 (Anju P.)

Fall is in the air! It's one of our students' "favourite time of the year." In the spirit of the season, activities were centered around apples, leaves, pumpkins and visiting Riverdale Zoo with Room 6. The students were involved and exposed to several special events such as, Thanksgiving, Halloween and Remembrance Day. Our students, together with their peers from Bedford



Park School, peeled apples to make applesauce. They carved the pumpkin, felt the stringy pulp and decorated the pumpkin for the pumpkin contest. We played with the leaves, did arts and crafts activities, showed the colours and heard the crunching and rustling sounds. The amazing colours and sound of leaves and the taste of apple sauce enhanced the beauty of the fall season! In the month of November, the students created the wreath and poppies for the Remembrance Day.



School Council

School Council

Our School Council meets once a month.
Please join us on

Wednesday, December 21 2016

@ 6:00 PM in the Life Skills Room. All parents are welcome to attend.

Child care is provided. Please take this opportunity to meet Esther as well as other parents and staff from the Park Lane community.

TDSB News

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 or will, we ask for your co-operation in **keeping your child at home**. Also, 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. Parents may be called to pick up your child in case of illness. Thank you in advance for your co-operation in an effort to keep all our children safe and healthy.



Snoezelen Pool at HBKRH

Dear Parents and Caregivers,



Registration for the winter snoezelen pool program will open online at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday December 6th

Information is posted on our website.

We want to share changes which may affect your family or client, depending on the day that you book.

This winter, we will no longer be offering Tuesday sessions.

This decision was made, taking into account such factors as registration over the past 4 seasons, reduced enrollment that typically happens over the winter session, as well as optimizing program planning needs and staff recruitment.

Sunday weekend programming hours will remain the same.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sundays

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|-------------|---|
| 3:15 – 4:00 | 13 – 19 Teens, Relaxation |
| 4:00 – 4:45 | Children, 0 – 12, Relaxation |
| 4:45 – 5:30 | Group (For multiple clients – maximum of 6 children or 5 adult clients) |
| 5:30 – 6:15 | Children, 0 – 12, Combination |

Mondays

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 10:00 – 10:45 | Adapted programming, (children 0 – 12 years) |
| 10:45 – 11:30 | Group (For multiple clients – maximum of 6 children or 5 adult clients) |
| 11:30 – 12:15 | Adult Relaxation |

Wednesdays

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|---------------|-------------------|
| 10:00 – 10:45 | Adult Combination |
| 10:45 – 11:30 | Adult Relaxation |
| 11:30 – 12:15 | Adult Relaxation |

Sincerely,

Lorraine Thomas, M.
Family Support Specialist/Snoezelen Coordinator

Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital

First dial 1-800-855-0511 to get Bell Operator. At prompt give 416-422-7049

www.hollandbloorview.ca/resourcecentre

www.hollandbloorview.ca/snoezelen