

Park Lane Public School

60 Park Lane Circle, M3C 2N2

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



Esther Leung Tou - Principal
Hripsik Sarkissian - Vice Principal

December, 2017 & January, February 2018

Dates to Remember February 2018:

- ❖ 16 – PA DAY Parent Interviews No School
- ❖ 21 – Lunar New Year @ 10am; 1:15pm
- ❖ 23 – Leo Baeck Integration
- ❖ 26 – Bedford Park Integration
- ❖ 26 – African Heritage @ 1pm
- ❖ 27 – School Support Team
- ❖ 28 – School Council @ 7pm
- ❖ March Break March 12-16, 2018

I would like to thank our amazing, dedicated staff who made this a reality. As always, we encourage all our parents to get involved in our school life – come on fieldtrips, swim with our children, contribute to council meetings and attend events. We will be celebrating the Lunar New Year next Wednesday Feb 21, 2018 @ 10am-11:30am. The Lunar New Year is celebrated by our Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese families. We are inviting everyone to join us for fun, food, stories and of course the Lion Dance!

Wishing everyone much love and happiness - Happy Valentines to all!

Esther

Principal's Corner

Dear Parents and the Park Lane Community,

Happy New Year! We are off to an exciting start to 2018. To celebrate the end of the year, we had a smorgasbord of musical activities thanks to the many creative minds at Park Lane. We would like to thank the Levy family and Mastermind for their generous donations of gifts to our students for the holiday. This new year we welcomed a new tradition at Park Lane – we celebrated Tamil Heritage Month in January. Thanks to the organization of our Tamil Heritage Team, City Councillor Neethan Shan, came and shared his story with us and our students were engaged with dances and cultural sensory activities. We are celebrating African Heritage Month on February 26th at 1pm. We hope you can join us!

The Arts is such an important part of our learning – it is multisensory, and we continue to integrate it into our everyday programs. Our Eco team has arranged for the Salmon Hatchery to set up a fish tank at Park Lane where our students can watch salmon being hatched and we will have an opportunity in the Spring to release the salmon into the wild. A group of staff and students ventured to Mono Cliffs Outdoor Education Centre this winter for a few days experiencing outdoor activities.

Tamil Heritage (Jonita E.)

At Park Lane we celebrated Tamil Heritage on January 29, 2018. We have a number of students, families and staff that have a Tamil Heritage. Since January was selected by the House of Commons as Tamil Heritage Month in 2016. This month was chosen because Tamil Canadians celebrate the most important Festival, called Thai Pongal. Over 75 million Tamil people around the world celebrate Thai Pongal.



We were so excited when the City Councillor Neethan Shan joined us with his traditional attire. Students learned through Tamil music, dance, and some sensory activities around the school to experience the culture.

School Events

Holiday Concert (Paula B.)

On December 12, 2017 Park Lane had the Annual Holiday Concert. All the Rooms performed songs, wrote skits or a video with full participation. The atmosphere was full of holiday spirit with everyone joining in the event. We were joined by our Trustee Gerri Gershon. I would like to thank the entire Park Lane Concert Committee for organizing this wonderful concert and all of our Staff for their dedication and hard work in teaching our students. We would also like to thank our caretaking staff, Sam and Xiomara for all of their efforts especially fixing the school stage in time.



The Bell Choir Visit (Cindy P.)

A visit from The Bells Of St. Andrews has become a yearly tradition at Park Lane. The English hand bell choir performed many traditional Christmas songs such as "Silent Night" as well as children's songs such as "Alvin and the Chipmunks".



Students were given an opportunity to play chimes. The choir performed a song using chimes and then performed the same song using bells. The concert ended with the song "We wish you a Merry Christmas". Students and staff enjoyed the concert, as evidenced by the calm demeanor displayed by everyone.



A Chanukah Celebration (Gloria G.)

The students and staff assembled in the gym to learn about the Story of Chanukah on Friday, December 15th. This annual presentation highlighted its historical origin and traditional customs of the holiday. Led by several of our staff members, there was a demonstration of how Jewish people celebrate -- with the menorah (chanukiah), candles, dreidels, latkes, sufganiot, songs, poems and videos. Students and staff listened to several songs and sang two of them that they had learned, during music appreciation at the piano, in two languages! Perhaps the star of our presentation was Erica's son, 4-year old Jacob, who was very keen to tell a Chanukah riddle, to sing a song and to play the tambourine! He was also helpful in holding up the chanukiah while we sang as well as presenting all the latke ingredients as a staff member explained how to make latkes. The program concluded with a circle dance to the music of a popular and lively Chanukah song --- and a parent of one of our former graduates joined our circle (way to go, Shari!). While we danced, several students kept the rhythm with the tapping of the tambourines. Following the presentation, mini-sufganiot were distributed to staff and students by Jahsiyah as well as Chanukah gelt (chocolate coins), by 4-year old Jacob.

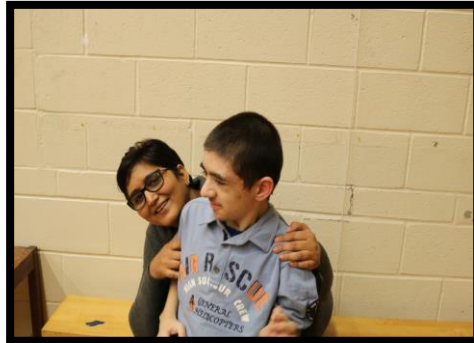


A heartfelt thanks to those who made the effort and took the time to celebrate Chanukah at Park Lane: Nicole & Jonathan, Dylan's mom and dad, with baby brother Jacob; Melanie & Linda, Darius' mom and grandmother; Susan & Stanley, Bailey's mom and dad (a former graduate of 8 years ago); Shari, Cory's mom (last year's graduate); Ashley, Jack's caregiver from Safehaven; and Carol Lavine & Bev Salmon, neighbours in the community. Even a former Pet Therapy leader, Deena, attended the presentation as well. And last but certainly not least, a special thank-you to Erica's mom (from Halifax) and son, Jacob.

Singing with Kathy Reid-Naiman (Gloria G.)

What a wonderful way to welcome in the New Year – a musical concert where students and staff assembled in the gym to listen to songs and sing with Kathy on Friday, January 12th. The program was especially delightful as the majority of her songs were those we have listened to and become familiar with over the years!

Kathy sang songs with her guitar, ukulele and her fiddle (violin).



Park Lane staff and students prepared a "surprise" for Kathy: in the song "Say Hello to the Morning," we showed her how we sing the words while doing sign language and in a counting song "Johnny's Hammers," we played tapping instruments, as the words indicated.

Kathy was duly impressed! When she sang good-bye, she said that she hoped to return to Park Lane again in the future. It would be a pleasure to welcome her back!

Room 5



Room 5 Leaders: Our attributes play very important roles in our students learning. These characteristics help us to work together and make a strong team. These leaders are dedicated, caring and ready to take extra miles to support our students' needs. They are experienced, caring, and adaptive and strive constantly to develop themselves. They can be counted on to remain calm and hold things together in tough times.

Seema: Hard working, sensitive, generous, kind, knowledgeable

Karen: Hard working, organized, clean, honest, transparent

Anju: Special, generous, knowledgeable, flexible, systematic

Kathryn: Calm, hardworking, patient, strong-willed, smart

Limbana: Hardworking, kind, generous, caring, cheerful

Favourite Theme: is "winter theme" where the students and staff enjoy activities for winter e.g. Winter Wear, Winter Celebration, Winter Weather by listening to songs, stories, cooking, dance and a variety of functional activities. Students enjoy touching snow and cold water. The students are enjoying the story of the month; "Penguins' Big Hill" where they enjoy playing and activating musical penguin.

Favourite Day: We really enjoy Day 3 (Integration Day), because our friends from Bedford Park School come to visit us. We plan a variety of activities with them e.g., bowling, cooking, arts and crafts. Lots of fun for everyone!

Favourite Activity: Students and staff like **leisure/Quiet Time** activities. During the activity students are out of their wheel chairs every day and play with their peers on different learning centres e.g. Ayub likes to play with Legos in his calming area with Isabel. Aliceia likes to play with her drum on the padded area and Imasha likes to lie down in her bean bag in the sensory box. Leisure or calming time keep the students calm, relax and happy after busy morning.

Room 4

Our favorite day is every day because we have circle time. Our students love the songs we sing. We also like Day 1 because we have ORFF Music with Diane. Our students like her calmness and gentleness toward them. She has a lovely voice that the students respond so well to. We love working with our Artist Janice. She is teaching us how to move in a graceful way.



Eco Corner (Erica D.)

We had some wonderful visitors from W. J. McCordic School, another site similar to Park Lane, came to visit us in December to view how we run our Ecoschools program with the students.

Don Mills Collegiate stopped by to advise us on how to transform our new garden area into a Food Garden this spring!

Our latest news is the arrival of an aquarium tank in our main lobby! Park Lane will be hosting a Salmon Hatchery! This is offered through the Toronto Zoo's Aqualinks program that is trying to help replenish Lake Salmon.

Students will care for the fish. Starting with setting up the tank, and watch them grow into small fry. Then in May will be taking trip to the river to help the fry journey down to the lake!

Snowshoeing *(Maxine ?)*

This past week Park Lane Students had the opportunity to experience the winter sport of Snowshoeing. Although the weather was not in our favour (NO SNOW), we had a wonderful time snowshoeing indoors around the school, as well as on the grass. Students did a fantastic job with exploring this winter sport and demonstrated their excitement for the activity by participating for extended periods of time.



Holiday Concert by Jacob's Family (Tina F.)

On December 18, Jacob's immediate and extended family came to our school to sing Christmas and Hanukkah songs. His twin aunts Stacy and Jennifer Zosky led the musical performances and encouraged student participation through dancing and movement activities.

Jacob's grandfather (Peter Levy) arranged for Mastermind Toys to donate and deliver sensory toys to all our students. Each student got a jingle stick with bells, revolving fiber optic light and a flashing squishy ball which provide multisensory stimulation.

On behalf of the students and their families, we would like show gratitude for their thoughtfulness and generosity provided by the Levy family and Mastermind Toys. We thank all of Jacob's family members for giving up their time during this busy season to meet with our students and provide them with an extra dose of holiday cheer.



Nativity Story (Kathryn A.)

In December the staff and students at Park Lane got to gather and put on a Christmas Story Play. Melissa read the story of Baby Jesus, and the students acted it out. It was a lot of fun!



JPEC: Jazz Performance and Education Centre (Gloria G.)

The Jazz Performance and Education Centre, a not-for-profit, charitable arts organization, provides a musical outreach program for schools. It is dedicated to the preservation and continued development of jazz in Canada.

Park Lane School was fortunate to have been selected to receive this wonderful program. Two very talented musicians, Joaquin and Dyalis, presented an interactive workshop to familiarize our staff and students with the various components of jazz: its songs, its instruments and its rhythms. Our students were fully engaged with the instruments that were brought to our school: djembe drums, maracas, cowbells, shekeres, among others. Joaquin sang a song and taught it to us, echo style.



Using our percussion instruments, we repeated various rhythms in unison. There was also an opportunity to dance to the music! Every student became a musician and/or a dancer. The fun could be measured by the smiles on people's faces – by students and staff alike!

School Council

It's been a very busy fall term with lots of exciting and fun events for students, staff and families. The common theme has been participation and inclusion for everyone, while having lots of fun.

Memorable activities include the Terry Fox Walk, the school wide zoo trip, the barrier free cross country competition, class swim trips and many more fun and exciting activities. For the past few weeks it's been non-stop excitement with smiles all around.

It's so wonderful to see families enjoying school events together with staff and students. Congratulations to our remarkable teachers and staff on the wonderful achievement of winning the Urban Hero Award.

Your dedication has enhanced the lives of us all. School council has been strong, meeting once a month to discuss many issues including plans for our second annual School Gala and ways for us to better engage with our local community.

Everyone is welcome and brings with them different ideas and experiences with the common goal of enhancing the Park Lane experience for all of our children. Please come out and join us whenever you can. As the saying goes "it takes a village". We wish everyone a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season and look forward to returning well rested and ready to plan for lots more fun that will keep everyone smiling!

Mindy Golosky, Jack Lenz and Jonlasky

Gift Wrapping at Park Lane (Tine F.)

On the Friday afternoon before our holiday concert, Park Lane had a "gift wrapping party" where parents came to sort and wrap numerous items to be auctioned off during the holiday concert.

Students whose families that helped out with cellophane packaging, making themed baskets and assembling festive urns include Mercey-Anna, Sabastian, Laok, Daniel, Dylan, Fraser and Graham.

Hot chocolate and baked treats were provided as refreshments for this social event. A special thank-you to Ivana Manojlovic who helped organize the silent auction items.

Thanks, to all parents who contributed items for the auction and bake sale. Our school really appreciates it.



School Council Meeting

Join us for the next School Council meeting on
Wednesday, February 28th @ 7:00 PM in the Life Skills Room.
All parents are welcome to attend. Child care is provided.
Please take this opportunity to meet other parents and staff

Save the date! RESPITE INFORMATION NIGHT – MARCH 6th 2018 6-8pm

Community Coffee Meetings with Trustee Gerri Gershon

These meetings are held in the mornings in a local restaurant (often Longo's on Laird). They are attended by the Supervisory Officers for our area, parents and community members. There may be a report from the Board but there is no Agenda and attendees raise issues they would like to discuss.

- ❖ Monday, February 26, 2018
- ❖ Thursday, April 26, 2018
- ❖ Friday, May 18, 2018

Flu season is coming so learn how to protect yourself and others...don't let the flu get you down

According to Toronto Public Health, almost 20% of us will get the flu (influenza) this year. The flu is responsible for approximately 12,000 hospitalizations and 3,500 deaths in Canada each year. Because the flu spreads easily, you can become infected or infect others if you are not careful. "Flu season" will hit its peak between late fall and early spring so now is the time to prepare.

At the TDSB, a large number of workers are in close contact with children and in these types of environments, germs can spread easily. Help keep the flu at bay in the workplace by following these **best practices whenever possible**:

- **Get the flu shot**- it's the best defence against contracting the flu and will help protect you, your family and everyone you come in contact with during the day. Flu shots must be updated every year because their effectiveness wears off and because strains of the virus can change annually. Free flu clinics are set up each season so go online to <http://health.gov.on.ca/en/public/programs/publichealth/flu/finder.aspx> and find a clinic near you.
- **Wash your hands**- even if you get the flu shot, washing your hands with soap and water for at least 15 seconds will help prevent the spread of the virus which can live on your hands for up to 3 hours.
- **Sneeze into your sleeve**- avoid sneezing or coughing into your hands. If you do...wash them promptly. Use a tissue if possible but if you don't have one, use your sleeve.
- **Avoid contact with those who already have the flu**- avoid close contact with those who are already sick or those who seem to be unwell.
- **See a doctor**- if you are not feeling better after a few days or if your symptoms get worse. Review the following chart and know whether you have the flu or cold. You can also speak to a nurse by calling [Telehealth](tel:1-866-797-0000) at 1-866-797-0000 (24hrs/day 7 days/week).



Symptom	Cold	Flu
Fever	Rare	Common; starts suddenly and lasts 3-4 days; not everyone with flu will have a fever
General Aches/Pains	Sometimes, mild	Common, often severe
Muscle Aches	Sometimes, usually mild	Often, can be severe
Feeling tired and weak	Sometimes, mild	Common, may last 2-3 weeks or more
Fatigue (extreme tiredness)	Unusual	Common, starts early
Sneezing	Common	Sometimes
Complications	Can lead to sinus congestion or ear ache	Can lead to pneumonia and respiratory failure in worst cases and can worsen a chronic respiratory illness; can be life threatening
Chest discomfort and/or coughing	Sometimes, mild to moderate	Common, can become severe

Ensure your school has handwashing signs posted in each washroom....spread the word...not the flu.
For more information on the flu or to obtain signs, please visit the Occupational Health and Safety webpage or call 416-397-3210. Information is adapted from TPH website.



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 is ill, we ask for your co-operation in keeping your child at home for their better recovery and treatment and to maintain health and safety at school

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.