



**January-February
2017**

Park Lane Public School

60 Park Lane Circle, M3C 2N2

Esther Leung Tou, Principal - Tony Gentile, Vice Principal

Check our website for current updates!

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

Dates to Remember: March

- ❖ March 3rd - Earth Hour
- ❖ March Break 13th -17th
- ❖ March 10th- African Heritage Month
- ❖ March 24th- The Wizard of Oz at 10:00 am
(Park Lane and Bedford Park)

Principal's Corner

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

We had a great start to the New Year 2017 with unbelievably warm weather. Often those days are the ones when our students are most able to enjoy the outdoors and fieldtrips. When I look back at our school, I cannot but give thanks and commend our staff for the amazing care and education they bring to our students....that is not to say there are no challenges. However, challenges are faced with courage and strength and a real positive attitude towards making situations better. Throughout the past 4 months, each teacher and their team have been working collaboratively to find answers to real questions on a particular inquiry that drives them to learn. It is absolutely evident in all of the positive changes in the classroom teaching and experiences for our students that this process is impacting the students' learning. In the following articles, you will see students engaged in fieldtrips, interactive assemblies (to bring culture and experiences to our students), and students participating and accessing their learning through technology. This takes tremendous hard work and a willingness to be vulnerable and try new things – and we are working on a strategy to be able to share all of the learning with parents through innovative technology and media. Our parents have been right alongside our school as we embarked on many difficult conversations about Post-21 and what happens to our students after they graduate. Our parents did not just contemplate the many unanswered questions and challenges of navigating the Ontario system, they took action. As of Summer 2016, a few parents got together to begin to dream about what life could be like for students with complex needs, continuing their education and putting some plans into place.

I would urge you to contact Jack Lenz, our School Council Chair or myself, to join the planning and conversation. It is very exciting to be amongst visionaries and seeing building blocks come together in the learning at Park Lane School and beyond.



Every year, in the Spring, we have an opportunity to celebrate the wonderful happenings at the school and also have an opportunity for our Park Lane parents and community to support the school through fundraising.

SAVE THE DATE!

Thursday, May 25th 2017 from 6:30-9:30pm. This year, we are hosting an **Evening Fundraising Gala Event** which will involve an abundance of food, drinks, live music performances, dancing, silent auctions and most of all, an opportunity to come together as a community to celebrate our students and staff and to support our programs. We would like to “*put Park Lane on the map*” and invite supporters from our community to get to know our school. We need your help! Every class will be collaborating with their staff and parents to create something unique and wonderful to share with the school.

Spread the word and mark your calendars!

We hope you will all enjoy the upcoming March Break.
Esther

School Events

Wacky Hat Day! (Vicki A.)

On Wed. Feb. 8th it was Wacky Hat Day at Park Lane! From Sombreros to Eco-Friendly hats, to DIY & Rock Star Hats, our Staff & Students displayed much

excitement & creativity! Big thanks to everyone for a fun-filled day!



Nutrition Program! (Ruth W.)



We have been so busy in the Student Nutrition Program! We've been making toast with butter, smoothies, and in the pictures you can see us preparing oatmeal for our friends. One student helped to open the packages and another student poured the contents into a large bowl. Then an adult added the boiling water, and students took turns stirring it up. We also served oranges.

A student from another class assisted with delivery. Using a Voice Output device, they go with a staff member from class to class and announce "snack time." Other foods that we prepare are pancakes, waffles, cut-up fruit such as apples, bananas, melon (students do the cutting with supervision), blender muffins, popcorn, snack mix, and

homemade applesauce. We also serve cereal with milk and yogurt.



Lunar New Year Celebrations (Tina F.)

Park Lane celebrated Lunar New Year by watching a professional lion dance in the gym by the Northern Legs and Southern Fists Kung Fu and Lion Dancing team. Students learned about the significance of the materials used in the lion head and took turns feeling the rabbit fur on it for good luck.

Each class adopted a different Chinese last name and took turns performing a common Lunar New Year tradition (e.g., decorating and cleaning the house, buying new clothes, getting a haircut, eating dinner with specialty foods, going to the flower market and lighting fireworks) for the school to experience. For example, Room 5 simulated fireworks by lighting sparklers in dim lighting for the students to see, hear and smell.

Esther gave students red envelopes with a chocolate gold coin for good luck. We also learned about the geography of China by watching a video clip from China's tourism office. Paula Brown narrated a PowerPoint Presentation that her son did of their trip to China together. Special guests included Ann Yang and Jane Feng from the Clearview School of Arts and Culture, as well as Yibo who is a student from David and Mary Thompson. Anna played the guzheng and Yibo played the hulusi.



For the last few weeks, Gloria and Yan taught staff and students the Jasmine Flower song and this song was performed at the assembly by them with Esther and Melissa. Students listened to the song and participated by flicking ribbons on a stick as directed by the music.



animals that live in water. The large overhead aquarium tank that has a slow moving sidewalk is a popular and joyful sight for all the students. The sight of sea creatures moving in the water is captivating and calming. It was a great day for everyone!



A Day at the Museum (Tina)

In February, students went on a school-wide trip to the Royal Ontario Museum. This trip was free because our school qualified for the School Visits Bursary program sponsored by KPMG. Even the school bus and Wheel Trans costs were funded by the donor to make this trip financially and logistically accessible. At the museum, students learned about animals by listening for bats in the bat cave, feeling whale skulls and python skins, digging for bones in a sandbox and touching taxidermied animals (stuffed beaver and raccoon that



Aquarium trip (Paula M.)

The students at Park Lane enjoyed an enchanted trip to Ripley's Aquarium on



January 25th. It was a great day to wander around and enjoy the sights and sounds of all the

were once living). The hour-long guided tour that students participated in was titled "ROM Through My Senses". Students were led through various galleries and encouraged to use their senses when experiencing materials in the exhibitions and display cases. Some of these sensory materials were an extension of the First Nations theme that students have been learning about at Park Lane. For example, our students went in a teepee, felt wooden animal carvings and touched a



ceremonial robe made from the hide of a buffalo. At the



Discovery Area, students got to wear assorted costumes and feel Hindu statues of Shiva. Everyone had a great time on this trip.

School Council

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

Wednesday, March 29, 2017

@ 7:00 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.

Room 5

Team members: Anju, Seema, Jenny, Karen and Limbana



Favourite Story of the Month: Students are learning about winter wear. The story, "The Mitten" is a perfect learning strategy to expose students to snow to feel the cold and to experience why we need to wear mittens.

Favourite Day: We really enjoy Day 4 (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: We love arts & crafts and other sensory activities in our classroom. Brightly coloured paint, shaving cream and, most recently, pumpkin goop always put smiles on our faces!

Chick Pea Salad Recipe

Ingredients: 1 can chick peas , rinsed and drained, ¼ cup cilantro/coriander, chopped, ¼ cup onion, finely chopped, ½ red pepper, chopped, ½ radish finely chopped, ½ English cucumber, 3 tbsp lemon juice, 1 tbsp black salt, 4 tbsp. green chutney.

DIRECTIONS

1. Combine all the ingredients together and toss well.
2. Taste for seasoning.
3. Eat and serve the yummy salad.