



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>

March 2017

Dates to Remember:

March

- 3 – Earth Hour (singalong)
- 10 – African Heritage
- 13-17 March Break
- 24 Wizard of Oz (10am)

April

- 5 School Council Meeting 7-9pm
- 14 Good Friday – no school
- 17 Easter Monday – no school
- 21 Earth Hour/ Earth Day
- 27 Show Choir – Don Mills
- 28 Bell Choir 10:15-11am

Principal's Corner

Dear Parents/ Guardians and the Park Lane Community,

The past few weeks have been filled with music, meaningful learning activities and amazing celebrations!



Beginning with the African Heritage celebrations before the March Break that involved all our students and staff, we were taken on a sensory and visual journey through our own identity as members of one family. The beautiful quilt was created and will be hung where everyone can see and be reminded that we all contribute to the multicolours of Park Lane. Please take some time to admire the pages of our sensory book that is now

posted on the bulletin board at the end of the sensory hallway. Thanks to the African Heritage committee for the thoughtful activities and the delicious buffet of foods that we enjoyed!

Last week, we witnessed a first for Park Lane – a musical co-production with our integration partner Bedford Park. What a magical moment – to see the many students sing, read, act and play to tell the story of the Wizard of Oz. Dreams really do come true. Congratulations to Gloria for persevering throughout the year to prepare for this event and to all our staff and students for practicing and working so hard to perfect the play. The audience truly saw the wonder in our students when they played their part. It was a very proud moment for our staff and parents who made it out to support the students.

2017 was a beginning of "new's"! And it seems like we keep refreshing the new year again and again with the Lunar New Year, coming of Spring and now NawRouz! A big thanks to Fariba who planned the Iranian New Year's celebration – engaging our students with really active learning, multi-sensory learning – and such a wonderful treat of delicious Iranian food at lunch!

I never cease to be amazed at the wonderful events and activities that educators of Park Lane plan for our students, parents and community. We are always learning – and getting new ideas to put into place in our classrooms.

Congratulations!!

Esther

Save The Date!!

Park Lane's Spring Fundraising Musical Gala

Thursday, May 25th 2017

6:30-9:30 PM

Proceeds will go towards an Outdoor Sensory Garden, and Wheelchair Swings for our students as well as to support the development of a Post-21 Institute for Young Adults with Developmental Disabilities.

School Events

Room 3 March Activity (Vicki A)

On Wednesday March 22nd, 2017 Room 3 hosted their March Activity. Our special musical performance by Markus Dedomenico was a fun-filled experience for all. Markus is an award-winning singer and song-writer, having done plenty of work for the children's television station known as treehouse. It was a pleasure to have him at our school and a big thanks again to all staff and students who donated to our Wacky Hat Day fundraiser and made this event possible!



Nowrouz Celebration (Fariba N-Z)

On Monday March 27, 2017, we celebrated the Persian New Year-Nowrouz (starting at March 20th, 2017). We kicked off the celebrations with a special lunch of traditional Persian food. The students joined together in the gym to help create a special art display. Each student made their own unique fish which were then displayed in a large tank on the wall. This symbolized "Life within Life." Afterwards there was a video presentation exploring Nowrouz and the Haft-Seen table. A large table was set up for students to touch and smell the special components of the table followed by traditional dances.





"We're Off to See the Wizard!" (Gloria G.)

The Wizard of Oz, a musical production, was a collaborative effort between the students from Park Lane and Bedford Park. Students from Mrs. Paterson's class narrated the entire story, while Mr. Bonin's class performed with actions, dance and sign language. Park Lane students were featured with movement, film and percussion instruments – all to enhance the story!



African Heritage Month "We Are One"
(Hibo S. & Maria L.)

March is African Heritage month and this year's theme was, "We Are One." This theme was reflected through the collaboration of staff and students coming together to create an African crafted handprint quilt in the shape of Africa. This was done by the students pressing their own handprint into the quilt and filling each of the countries with their handprints.

Once the quilt was assembled and showcased on the gym wall, one could clearly see Africa's diverse and robust countries, which were represented through the different coloured handprints. The colours seamlessly flowed together to become one continent, one people, thus highlighting the theme, "We Are One."



Park Lane students played a role in the cast and were dressed in the appropriate costumes. There were many characters on stage – Dorothy, Toto, Auntie Em, Uncle Henry, Scarecrow, Tin Man and Lion, Glinda, Guard, Wicked Witch and, of course, the Wizard. Together with visual props (a rainbow, yellow brick road and a

Classes also made their own scrapbook page, in which each page is reflective of Africa's many cultural characteristics. Some of the themes included, Caribbean musical instruments, Caribbean traditional clothing, African jewelry, Caribbean cooking spices, African landscape and hand art. The classes came together to present and submit their pages, which were then combined together to create an African Heritage Scrapbook.

Our African celebration continued through a variety of activities following the art presentations. A power point slide was shown to educate staff and students about different tourist destination in Africa, traditional Caribbean dance and the array of African and Caribbean cuisine. The power point also illustrated the beauty and diversity of Canada and the part the courageous Canadian activists that played an important role in changing the course of Black History. A few of these activists include Viola Desmond, Michelle Jean and Harriet Tubeman (Honorary Canadian).



Staff and students were then able to get up on their feet and dance to the rhythms of steel pan Caribbean music as played by our musical guest, Vincent T. African people feel that music is a powerful instrument that can bring people together as well as bring happiness to their lives. Africans use music as a way to communicate through drum beats. When people hear the drum beats far in the distance, they know that there is a celebration happening somewhere, they then will get up and follow the sounds. In this way, the staff and students at Park Lane were able to hear and follow the Caribbean beats!

Looking around the gym, it was fun to see the many students and staff dressed in traditional African clothing provided by the Eresto family! Joy's mom □ Jacob played an important role in our celebration as he performed the Lion – Simba.

Our celebration came to an end by staff members enjoying the assortment of African and Caribbean dishes. These dishes were made by the African Heritage committee which was a wonderful example of the diversity and multiculturalism here at Park Lane.

The committee would also like to extend a thank you to the many staff members who also supported and contributed to the preparation and execution of our event.

Staff and students at Park Lane always welcome a fun, enjoyable and creative way to gain new learning experiences; the African Heritage Celebration provides just that! The students were able to feel the different textures, smells and sounds of Africa while creating their scrape book pages, the music came alive in the gym while dancing to the different rhythms and some of the students were able to taste the various flavours of Africa! We look forward to next year...until then hakuna matata!



Park Lane Spring Musical Gala "We are One"

Thursday May 25, 2017 6:30-9:30pm

Soon we will be celebrating the arrival of spring at our 2017 Spring Fundraising Musical Event.

This is our annual fundraiser ...that raises funds to support our school

- ❖ A portion of the funds raised this year will go towards Park Lane School - creating a Sensory Garden for our students in the courtyard; wheelchair swings for the playground, as well as funds to support a Post-21 initiative to set up an institute for young adults with developmental disabilities beyond graduation.
- ❖ We also want to bring to the community an awareness of the need for continuing education Post-21 after our students graduate. There are very few programs in the community that support and engage our students.
- ❖ Our school will be transformed into a starlit event, with decorated tables, and a dance floor for celebrations
- ❖ There will be 10 food-tasting stations – multicultural foods from around the world and yummy drinks – a salad station and a dessert station

- ❖ We will have some amazing musical entertainment; a silent auction, door prizes and a chance to mingle with the guests, staff and parents in an enjoyable relaxing evening
- ❖ Jack, Jonita, Tina, Esther, Carral and Tony – have been meeting to plan for the event – ideas are most welcomed!
- ❖ Thank you in advance for your help with:
 - ❖ Food Sponsors
 - ❖ Silent auction items
 - ❖ Invitations to guests from the community to learn about our school

Tentative Agenda

6:30-7:00 Reception & Silent Auction
7:00-7:30 Welcome and Presentation

- ❖ 7:30 – 8:30 Guests will mingle & meet friends of Park Lane, enjoying a taste of delicious foods and drinks from around the world – and special music from amazing talented Canadian Musicians.
- ❖ Food Tasting, Dinner & Drinks (live music throughout)
- ❖ 8:30 – 9:30 Special Music Performances & Dancing
- ❖ 9:30pm Silent Auction Closes

Thank you for all your support!

Come to our School Council Meeting!

We need your help!

This is a friendly reminder that our Council Meeting is

Wednesday April 5th @ 7pm-9pm

Child care is provided. Please call the office to let us know if you require this service. 416-395-8525.

To assist our families, transportation can be reimbursed by the School Council.



Room 6

Team: Erica, Paula, Melissa, Diane and Trichanne



Room 6 has many favourite activities such as music, swimming and our favourite- Getting outside!

We do a regular walk around our Bridle Path community (Drake's house is well underway FYI) and partaking in the Terry Fox and Barrier Free Runs.

Tyler and Cory had the best time attending Monoclimbs Outdoor Education Centre this year. They walked in the snow... uphill...in the dark! And with only a headlight to lead their way. Both would tell you their favourite was the sled rides down the hill where they were witnessed laughing unstoppably.



Somi enjoys the feeling of snow on her fingers (and even the taste sometimes). This Spring she is exploring playground equipment more, such as the slide, swing and bouncy bridge.

This past Fall **Hirukesan** loved to get lost in a pile of leaves with a big stretch, and play Peek-a-boo as well as pretending to 'Drive the Bus' on the Jungle Gym in our playground.



Fatouma, our latest arrival enjoys all our fieldtrips in the community, where she can smile and greet others. So far we have visited the Zoo, Gardiner Museum, Aquarium, the Libraries and the ROM.

We are most looking forward to our upcoming trips to TIFF Digiplayspace, the TSO concert of the Hockey Sweater and visiting our integration students at Bedford Park to assist with our collaborative work in their neighborhood for the organization StopGap.ca. This organization brings awareness of accessibility issues and the need for more ramps across Toronto so that students of ALL abilities can make the most of being outside!