



# Park Lane Public School

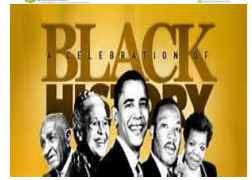
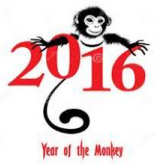
60 Park Lane Circle, M3C 2N2

Tel: 416 395-8525 Fax: 416 395-8737

Esther Leung Tou, Principal

Tony Gentile, Vice Principal

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



## January, 2016

### Dates to Remember

**February 11 – Term 1 Report Cards**

**February 12 – Interviews PA Day**

**February 15 – Family Day – no school**

**February 19 – Lunar New Year Celebrations**

**March 14-18 – March Break**

**March 25 – Good Friday – no school**

**March 28 – Easter Monday – no school**

## Happy New Year!



We have had a busy start to 2016. It has been a relatively mild winter so far this year, and our students have been taking advantage of every moment to take in some fresh air. We hope you had a relaxing time during the Winter Break with friends

and family. At the end of 2015, our students enjoyed Halloween Costume Celebrations, and a wonderful Winter Concert full of music and dance. Premier Kathleen Wynne joined us at the concert and was a huge supporter of our students' hand-made cards! Our students and teachers are back in "full learning force". As we embark on a new year, we welcome several new staff. You may have already met and spoken to our Vice-principal, Tony Gentile. We thank him for his hard work since the beginning of the school year. We said good-bye to Ellie in Room 1 as we wish her all the best in her new position at Monarch Park Collegiate. Tanya joined Room 6, Anita joined Room 1, as Noon Hour Assistants, and Demetra is in Room 3 as Educational Assistant. Together the staff are learning together in Professional Learning Communities every 2 weeks and taking guidance from our professional support staff such as our Speech & Language Pathologist Joanne Bankes, Occupational Therapist Fumiko Takeda and Physical Therapist Deborah Harding.

We also have begun several internship partnerships with local colleges and universities. We have candidates in PSW,

Nursing and Educational Assistant programs at Centennial, York University and Kingston College. The Arts continue to be a big part of the means of learning at Park Lane. This year, we invited Kwasi Dunyo to teach us the Ghanaian Drums and the music. The drums will be at Park Lane for our classrooms to use. We will also continue our Media Partnership with Earl Haig Secondary School. This year, Katherine Yamashita, an Artist-teacher from Earl Haig will work with our teachers and students to produce a photograph collage to capture how our students engage in sensory activities. Integration with Bedford Park PS's Grade 5 students is embarking on its 5<sup>th</sup> year and our students love to meet with their friends from Bedford once every cycle. We encourage all parents to join us for the arts events, culture celebrations and to come to the School Council Meetings. We hope the new School Connects Automated Voicemail and Email system is reaching out to everyone. Please don't hesitate to contact the main office and to access community information through our website for updated information.

Follow the link <http://schools.tdsb.on.ca/parklane> Looking forward to celebrating the Lunar New Year and African Heritage in February with you,

Esther Leung Tou  
Principal

## School Events

### Park Lane Celebrates the Blue Jays Winning Streak

In October, Park Lane cheered on the Blue Jays by gathering all the classes in the open area to watch various YouTube clips of the well-known seventh inning song, "OK Blue Jays". Portia and Sheldon led the school by singing and demonstrating the actions that went with the music. Staff would sing the song and do hand over hand movements with students. We invited Jack Lenz (Mercey-Anna's dad) to sing and play the "OK Blue Jays" song on our piano because he wrote the lyrics for it! News outlets including Toronto Star, Global, and CTV came to record video footage of Jack performing his famous song, our students cheering on the Blue Jays, and Jack and Esther's wishes that students with special needs get more opportunities to participate in community sporting events. After the media frenzy (the day after), everyone got together again to excitedly watch five news clips of our school. Students and staff were pleased to

see themselves on camera and this was a great opportunity for our kids to revisit their learning.



### Hanukkah Concert in the Gym

In December, Jacob's twin aunts (Stacy and Jennifer) came to Park Lane and sang familiar Christmas and Hanukkah songs, while playing accompanying tunes on their guitars. Staff and students also learned about Hanukkah by tasting gelt (chocolate coins) and sufganiyot, which are soft donuts filled with jam and covered with icing sugar. Jacob's mom provided 2 huge artisanal cookies (Christmas and Hanukkah-themed) for everyone to admire and devour. Stacy and Jennifer are in a band called Second Nature. This year, they came to our school during Yom Kippur as well. After plenty

of interaction opportunities with our students, Stacy and Jennifer understood our students' sensory needs and purchased illuminated maracas for students to shake while listening to some of the concert songs in the dark. The kids loved the handheld instruments and many students could independently shake the maracas, once staff placed them into their hands. This concert was a tribute to Uncle Norm (relative of Jacob) who recently passed away. We remembered the times Uncle Norm was at our school by viewing a slideshow of his connections with students and the gifts he gave to them. We would also like to thank Mastermind Toys, Papa Pete and Pinky (Jacob's grandparents) for donating stuffed animals, shakers, and lighted sensory toys to all our students.



## Winter Concert



The morning of December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015 started with a lot of anticipation, excitement, energy and laughter. Park Lane was ready to swing. It was the day of the Holiday Concert! Hallways were decorated with art work made by the students, and there were baskets full of goodies and appetizing food items for the bake sale. Our in-house artists and presenters put the last touches, and then we were on stage. Each classroom made its own presentation. There were angels and snowmen and spicy masala. At this auspicious occasion, we had a chance to meet our Premier Kathleen Wynne as well as our parents. Their sharing the joy of the seasons with us made our day. The week of festivity continued and ended with a Santa Claus visit to our school. He came bearing gifts for each student, courtesy of the firefighters.



## Room 5

**Team Members:** Anju, Diane, Tania, Seema and Limbana.

**Favourite Day:** Day 4. We like to go to the Snoezelen Room, which is a calming and relaxing environment, where students interact with visual, auditory and tactile sensory objects, such as fibre optics, bubble tubes, water bed and calming music.

**Favourite Activity:** Swimming at Beverly Public School. The day starts with an interesting activity for the staff and students e.g., taking the bus to the school, going downtown, seeing the sites and then enjoying and relaxing in the warm water of the swimming pool.

**Interesting fact:** We come from all different parts of the world, working together as a team and enriching our classroom environment for our students by sharing our food, culture and traditions.

## Masoor Dal Curry Soup (Red Split Lentil)

1. Heat the oil in a pressure cooker; add the onions and sauté on a medium flame for 1 to 2 minutes.
2. Add the garlic and chilli powder and sauté on a medium flame for a few more minutes.
3. Add the masoor dal and tomatoes and sauté 1 to 2 minutes.
4. Add the salt, mix well and sauté for 1 more minute.
5. Add 2½ cups of water, mix well and pressure cook for 2 whistles.
6. Allow the steam to escape before opening the lid.
7. Blend the mixture to a smooth purée and then strain using a sieve.
8. Transfer to a pan and boil for 5 to 7 minutes.

# School Council

## School Council

Join us for the next School Council meeting on **Monday, February 23<sup>th</sup> @ 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 6

**Team:** Melissa, Vicki, Carral, Siva, Kathryn, Tanya

**Favourite Day:** Day 2 because our students love to bowl and listen to songs at the piano.

**Favourite Activity:** Swimming is always fun!

**Favourite Food:** Smoothies

### Blueberry-Banana Smoothie Recipe

- 1 cup blueberries (frozen or fresh)
- 2 bananas
- 1 container plain or vanilla yogurt
- ½ cup 2% milk

Blend all ingredients in blender and

ENJOY!



### 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.

### SAFE ARRIVAL 416-395-8525

If your child be absent for the day, late or absent for a period of time, please remember to phone the school by **8:30 am** of that day. You can leave a message in the general delivery mailbox. It is important that we know your child is accounted for. The automated Synvoice Technologies System will call out to absences by 10:00 am. Thank you in advance for assisting us to ensure student safety.

### TRANSPORATION – SEVERE WEATHER

Occasionally, severe weather conditions may require the



TDSB to cancel transportation. This may occur before the beginning of the school day or if conditions become severe during the school day. To ensure the safety and welfare of

students during school hours, the Board Severe Weather Procedures will guide decisions and operations.

**Listen for bus cancellation announcements on the local radio or TV station from 6:30 am onward.** Parents and guardians should familiarize themselves with the procedures and communication plan to ensure the safety of their children. All updates will also be posted on the **Park Lane Website** <http://schools.tdsb.on.ca/parklane>