



# Park Lane Public School



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May, 2015

## Dates to Remember

### May

- 4 – Music Monday 1:30pm
- 5 – Jewish Heritage Day
- 11 – 15 – Artist in Residence (Vanessa Barnett)
- 19 – Folkfest (Ted Reeve Arena)
- 29 – Asian Heritage Day

### June

- 4 – 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary OPEN HOUSE
- 10 – TDSB District Review- Postponed
- 16 – Graduation
- 19 – Summer Jam – Full day of activities

## Our Inspirational Celebrity: Ms. Phenomenal Mullings

Park Lane is absolutely honoured by Phenomenal's achievement. The African Heritage Educators' Network (AHEN) recognizes the achievements and contributions of students of African heritage, based on 5 categories. Phenomenal has been awarded for exhibiting inspiration in her school. Park Lane students and staff are extremely proud of Phenomenal; all her hard work and dedication has definitely paid off. Phenomenal's ability to lighten up the whole school with her bright smile and joyful laughter is remarkable!



She is an inspirational girl; she is "Phenomenal."



## OPEN HOUSE

**You are invited!**  
**Thursday June 4, 2015**  
**11:30 am-2:30 pm**

**Meet our teachers and staff and experience a day at Park Lane~ Enjoy some refreshments ~ Connect with alumni, staff, students, parents ~ visit our classrooms ~ Learn about what's happening at our amazing school!**

# School Events

## Park Lane Artist in Residence

It is a great pleasure that Park Lane got selected for the *TDSB EngageARTS Project* with Vanessa Barnett. Vanessa is a passionate arts educator who recently retired from the TDSB where she worked as a Visual Arts & Media Arts Instructional Leader and Acting Arts Program Coordinator, developing curriculum, supporting teachers and creating district wide projects in museums and cultural organizations. Her residency at Park Lane was a wonderful opportunity that inspired staff and students to fabricate coordinated eco-themed art installations. For a series of 5 days, she engaged with teachers and students to create two masterpieces comprising of 4-5 panels each. The first installation showcased a tree going through adaptations for the various seasons and the second one featured the four elements (air, earth, water and fire). Together, we investigated mixed media approaches to colour, texture, sensory, shape and form, while incorporating the collection of organic materials, printmaking, collage and painting. Katherine Yamashita and her media students from Earl Haig documented this pedagogy in action and will make a documentary video of it. The video, unveiling of the artwork and a short speech by Vanessa will be featured during our Open House on June 4th, 2015.

## Whole school celebrated spring with a concert



On May 1<sup>st</sup>, the whole school celebrated spring with a concert provided by the Lenz family. The gym was decorated with tons of musical notes and rainbow flowers. Mercey's dad (Jack) sang and played the piano, while her sister (Sophia) serenaded the school on the guitar. A special guest that was invited was Mark Masri (a Juno nominee). Refreshments provided included cakes, pudding, juice, water, and music-inspired shortbread cookies. The school thanks the Lenz family for providing this enriching musical experience with snacks on a Friday afternoon.



## Earth Day

Spring has sprung at Park Lane and our school has been participating in a variety of Eco friendly activities including Earth Day. Many classes have started their nature walks outside. Students are using all of their senses to take in the environmental changes that Spring brings. Some classes have been making bird feeders with recycled materials,



while others have been participating in outdoor scavenger hunts. On Earth Day all of the students participated in an indoor scavenger hunt where they had to find photographs of green bin items, to stick on their green bins. In the afternoon everyone helped out by picking up garbage from our school yard and surrounding community. Thanks for everyone's help, we are ready to enjoy being outdoors after a long Winter.



## Jewish Heritage Month

On February 23, 2012, the Ontario Legislature passed Bill 17, making the month of May "Jewish Heritage Month" in the province. JHM is an opportunity to remember, celebrate and educate future generations about the inspirational role



that Jewish Canadians have played, and continue to play, in communities across Ontario.



This year, on May 5<sup>th</sup>, the students and staff enjoyed a “Day of Song” as Park Lane School paid tribute to Jewish Heritage Month through music. There were 3 concerts that day: The morning program included 45 students from Associated Hebrew School performing on stage --- they sang lively and melodic songs in Hebrew and English. The



students were accompanied by Mr. Lavner, their music director, on the keyboard and the electric guitar. In the afternoon, there was a combined program of a guitarist and a women’s choir. The guitarist sang melodies in Hebrew, Yiddish and English while she explained the cycle of Jewish life; the women’s choir sang songs and

harmonized in Hebrew and Yiddish. To be informative, there was a pictorial exhibit with panels and banners that depicted the history of the Jewish people in Ontario and across



Canada. There was also information posted about the description of Mount Sinai Hospital, a Jewish landmark in the community, as well as children’s art work from a Student Art Contest, titled “The Music of Jewish Holidays.” These students were from Jewish Day Schools including Associated Hebrew School, Bialik, and Paul Penna, as part of this year’s Jewish Music Week in Toronto (May 10<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup>). Jewish Canadians are proud to be a contributing part in the multicultural fabric of Ontario. And what better way than through music, for our Park Lane students?

**ONE NATION, ONE SONG!**

Music Monday began in 2004 and Park Lane is proud to have been part of this annual event for the past 11 years. The underlying concept was to celebrate the importance of music in our society and to demonstrate the vital role *music*



education plays in the lives of all Canadians, in our culture, our communities and in our schools. For the very first time, the search for the Music Monday song became a competition and the winning entry was composed by a 16-year old high school student, Connor Ross.

What makes Music Monday so amazing is that students from across Canada, from British Columbia to Newfoundland, sing or play the theme song on the same day, at the exact same



*time!* Park Lane students were gathered in the gym to showcase various percussion instruments in a tribute to Connor’s theme song. The



students were divided into groups, featuring different instruments with a combination of rhythms. Various percussion arrangements accompanied 3 lyrical translations as well as an instrumental version with the guitar. In addition, Hamza and Allan sang the chorus, a capella, DiAngelo led the chorus in sign language and there was a ukulele solo with Malcolm singing all the lyrics. For the final



presentation, the entire staff sang the theme song -- proudly -- to demonstrate, once again, how important music is for all of us and, in particular, for our Park Lane students!

### Apple-O-Gram

As part of our School's Mental Wellness Project, Room 6 hosted an Apple-O-Gram booth where apples were being sold and sent to individuals with special messages from staff to encourage Healthy Living! A special thanks to Loblaws for donating all the apples. It was a huge success.



### FolkFest

The students of Park Lane in Rooms 5, 7 and 10 have partnered with the Grade 5 Bedford Park students in integration activities since October. They spent time getting to know each other and they learned some folk dances to



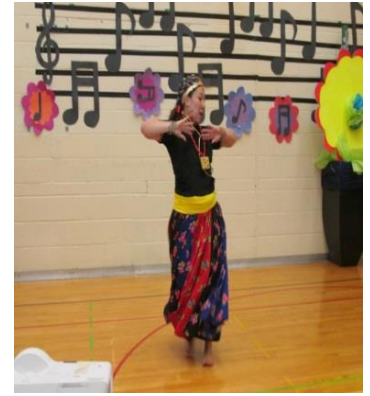
perform in the Special Needs Folkfest that happened on May 19th at the Ted Reeve Arena. Many other schools attended and our Park Lane students together with Bedford Park danced 11 dances alongside them. The students were excited to be there and were full of energy and enthusiasm. We had a great time and look forward to attending again next year!!

Congratulations to Park Lane and Bedford Park on a successful event at Special Needs Folkfest!



### Asian Heritage Celebration 2015

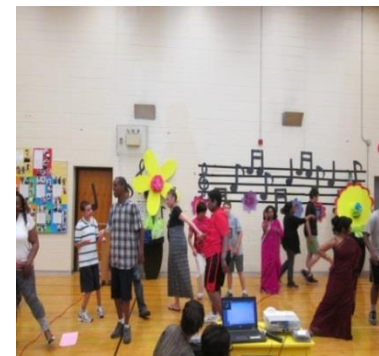
Park Lane has celebrated the Asian Heritage Day on May 29th, 2015. This year Asian Heritage activities were dedicated to the Nepal Earthquake victims. We have begun our activities with videos, folk dance of Nepal and other dances/songs from different Asian countries. Akina TMG has presented



Nepal's folk dance that engaged our staff and students and introduced the rich culture and traditions of Nepal. Our



students and staff were also mesmerized and amazed of younger Abha's Power Point presentation that was included before and after Nepal's earthquake impact and divested area. Those presentations really gave us a clear picture of Nepal's earthquake and encouraged our staff to support Nepal as much as we can. Park Lane staff and students raised \$ 585 so far for Nepal. The profits will be donated to the "Red Cross Society." Rooms 8 and 9 have come up with a wonderful "Flash Mob dance" that has engaged



our students. The second part of Asian Heritage Celebration has taken place in the afternoon. Classes programmed very engaging, interesting and innovative activities. Through these activities, students and staff have an informed understanding of justice, human rights and responsibilities as a global citizen. We also learned about different geographic locations and how we are connected to each other by helping one another when we are faced with natural catastrophes.