

PARK LANE P.S.

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

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Learning at Park Lane is always integrated. Throughout the past few weeks, our students have been immersed and learning through the arts, technology and all of the gross motor and fine motor activities. Fieldtrips add a unique dimension to the themes in the classroom and our teachers are always looking for special outings to enrich the students' experiences.

We have started a sensory, creative Art Program at Park Lane. Teachers and support staff were trained in the art of paper-making. Students in each class use recycled materials to create hand-made cards that provide our students an experience in practicing various skills. Teachers use the Art Cart on a rotation and connect the skills and learning into the curriculum through art, social skills, fine motor, visual and sensory activities. Everyone will have an opportunity to see the cards on display and they will be for sale during the Holiday Concert. I would like to thank Tina, Melissa and Jonita for their creative inspiration in setting up the program.



What a fantastic Remembrance Day Assembly we had on November 11th. It was great to see some parents join us. It was very meaningful and absolutely moving when all of the students went up to place their poppy on the poster. Thanks to the group of staff who dedicated so much time in practicing the songs and working with the students to put together a whole hour of stories, music and poems, and involving the students in singing and playing music. Thanks for reminding us that we can always do something to bring peace to our world.

Thanks to the whole Diwali team for putting together the amazing dances and fun songs to celebrate this festival. What a great opportunity to come together and experience different art forms! Our students love and enjoy the arts tremendously and we will continue to enrich their lives with the arts. In the next few weeks, we will be celebrating Chanukah and the Holiday Concert.

The October edition of our Park Lane Newsletter took on a new colour! It is wonderful to see the articles and pictures in such vibrant colour. We would like to thank Brown Book Company for so generously donating the special issue to our school. Please also visit our website for additional helpful information for parents: <http://schools.tdsb.on.ca/parklane>. We have recently added to the website all the links and contacts from the Community Agencies at the Open House. If you have suggestions that will assist our parents, please send it to ParkLanePS@tdsb.on.ca

I trust that all of our parents have had the opportunity to meet or speak with their child's teacher during the parent-teacher interviews. We are encouraging our parents to stay involved with the school events and news. Please continue to communicate regularly with your child's teacher if you have any questions. Park Lane recently received a \$1000 Parents Reaching Out Grant that the School Council is using to support parent events and workshops and to encourage more parent participation in the school. If you have an idea for a special event that will be helpful to our parents or would like to suggest a topic, please send an email to ParkLanePS@tdsb.on.ca. We would love to see more parents at the next School Council Meeting.

The weather is so unpredictable these days, remember to dress warmly for the winter.

The last day of school for this term is Thursday, December 19, 2013. Have a wonderful December and hope to see you at the Holiday Concert!

Esther Leung Tou
Principal

Upcoming dates

December

- 2 - Chanukah Celebration
- 4 - Friday Activity
- 10 - Holiday Concert
- 20 - PA Day - No School

December 23 - January 3 2014
- Christmas Break

January 2014

- 6 - First day of classes

Meet your 2013–2014 Professional Support staff

This year we are pleased to welcome back our speech language pathologist, social worker, physiotherapist and occupational therapist to Park Lane. We welcome a new psychological associate, Barbara Vale to Park Lane. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions that can be supported by our team of specialists.

We also have a new staff member joining the St. Elizabeth Nurses at Park Lane who are contracted by the CCAC. Ishar Singh has joined Park Lane and will be added to the rotation of nursing support for the school to attend to the students who have a need for regular medical care, support fieldtrips, bus escorts and community walks.

The team of St. Elizabeth Nurses at Park Lane: Sheila, Debbie, Demaris, and Ishar.

Occupational and Physiotherapy

Deborah Harding and Lynn Torrie work regularly with Park Lane teachers and Ed. assistants to find effective ways for your children to reach their potential at school. Teachers can refer to them for advice on:

- Self care skills (eating, dressing, toilet use, hygiene)
- Community skills (walking outdoors, safety, etc)
- Mobility (walking, wheelchair and walker skills)
- Hand Skills
- Equipment (standers, special chairs, switches, splints)
- Sensory processing (working with students who get over excited and need calming or students who need extra stimulation to get involved.)

The therapists can do an individual assessment on a student, if needed, then go into the classroom and show specific strategies and/or provide general training to all staff. Therapists are available to meet with parents on any aspect of their children's physical management at school.

Park Lane School Council

Chair – Shari Slonim

Members – Elisabeth Linton, Mary Peterson, June Colman, Nancy Kwan and Gloria Gordon

Park Lane Parent Council is comprised of volunteer parents who along with the principal, teachers and staff work together to support and improve the educational opportunities for the students who attend Park Lane Public School. Council provides information and resources for parents, coordinates social events that showcase the talents and abilities of the students as well as creating a school community and assist with fundraising to benefit the diverse needs of the students. Highlights of the year include the Holiday concert in December and the Spring Fling held at the end of the school year.

Council meets in the evenings several times a year and a caregiver is provided. Dates of the meetings will be posted on the website. We welcome all parents who are interested in shaping their children's future at Park Lane.

2013–2014 Professional Support Staff

Office Administrator:
Nancy Henderson

Head Caretaker:
Sam Mephram

School Nurses: Debbie Smith, Demaris Echevers, Sheila Sellar, Ishar Singh

Music: Gloria Gordon

Physical Education:
Rita Westacott am
Efrosiny Fotiadis pm

Library: Rita Westacott pm

TDSB Partnerships

Surrey Place Consultant:
Elaine Schiller

W. Ross McDonald:
Risa Walker

Professional Support Staff

Social Worker:
Alison Sellors

Psychologist: Barbara Vale

Occupational Therapist:
Lynn Torrie

Physiotherapist:
Deborah Harding

Speech and Language:
Joanne Banks

ASD Team: Robert Gauthier

Spec. Ed. – Co-ordinator:
David Rankin

Spec. Ed. – Consultant:
Melissa Sachter-Coleman

Vision Itinerant Teacher:
Matt Brook

Park Lane Divali Celebration



ROOM 2

Team members: Tina, Aida, Stacey, Honey, Micheline, Monica & Toni our volunteer.

Favourite day: We love Mondays because we have Snoezelen first thing in the morning, followed by music, gym and Library after lunch.

Favourite activity: Swimming at Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital.

Interesting fact: We are world travelers! We have been to Australia, Fiji, Singapore, Italy and Turkey. Guess who has travelled where!

Turkey Chili

- 3 tsp olive oil
 - 3 cloves of chopped garlic
 - 2 chopped vidalia onions
 - 2 pounds extra lean ground turkey
 - 1 of each, red, yellow & green pepper chopped
 - 1 chopped carrot
 - 1 chopped celery
 - 6 peeled, pureed tomatoes
 - 1 jar of tomato sauce
 - 1 can of kidney beans
 - 1/2 tsp cumin
 - pinch of salt & pepper
 - Cayenne pepper to taste
1. Sauté the garlic & onions in olive oil in a big pot. Add meat and continue to fry until golden brown. Set cooked mixture aside.
 2. In the same pot, fry the peppers, carrots & celery.
 3. Add the meat mixture and the remaining ingredients into the pot and simmer for 90 minutes. Enjoy with cornbread or garlic bread!



Park Lane celebrated Divali on November 6th with an Assembly and yummy snacks enjoyed by all. We were joined by students from Bedford Park who performed a wonderfully choreographed

Bollywood dance. Staff from Park Lane also performed a dance. Some of our staff dressed up in shalwars and sarees to celebrate this festive occasion.

During the week, Room 3 celebrated Divali by making Indian snacks, "halwa" and "kesari" which were enjoyed by our students and together with Room 8 they did beautiful Rangoli designs with different beans and coloured rice. Room 5 also made "chillah" and samosas with students from Bedford Park.

We look forward to celebrating again next year.



A Trip To The Royal Winter Fair!



Rooms 2 and 10 went to the Royal Winter Fair at Exhibition Place. Students responded to the hand over hand touching of hairless guinea pigs, horns from different types of rams, assorted animal feed, and the wool of sheep and alpacas. Students had a great sensory experience smelling the natural scents and hearing the calls of a large variety of farm animals. Animals that we saw on our private tour included sheep, pigs, goats, cows, horses, rabbits, and guinea pigs. This tour was specially hosted by WindReach Farm, a farm with animals trained to work with students with Developmental Disabilities. We learned how goats are milked and the dairy byproducts they produce. Freebies that were



given at the fair include stickers, Mini-Wheats, measuring spoons, coupons, and recipe cards. Risa Walker (Deaf/blind Consultant) met us at the fair and made us an experience book from the organic items collected from the trip for us to read and feel.

Around Park Lane



Spa time in Room 3!



Working on the Art Cart in Room 9!



Learning about apples in Room 7!

Halloween!

On Thursday, October 31st the halls of Park Lane were filled with super heroes, animals, policemen, athletes, creepy characters and princesses. On the morning of the spooky event everyone had fun going to each classroom and trick-or-treating. At 1:30 both staff and students gathered in the gym to make scary play-dough and to create Halloween shapes. Prizes were given to the classroom with the most creative pumpkin, as well for the best costumes. There were so many great costumes to choose from, however we awarded our courageous policeman, a beautiful princess, a cute bumblebee and a creepy bad guy.

The Halloween committee would like to thank staff and parents for helping making a fun and creative Halloween event. Congratulations again to all of our winners!

UNCLE NORMAN ROGUL



Uncle Norman Rogul (relative of Jacob in Room 2) came to Park Lane and delivered 70 new stuffed animals to the students of Park Lane. He also brought in two large slab cakes to celebrate Hannukah. Uncle Norman also makes similar donations at Beverley PS, Jacob's previous school. The students and staff would like to thank him for his thoughtfulness and generous contributions during this holiday season. Our students really appreciated the soft sensory toys, some of which were puppets of animals they had studied about in class.

Remembrance Day

Park Lane students attended a solemn and respectful school assembly on Monday, November 11th to honour our Canadian soldiers, past and present. The program included a speech by the Principal, songs, poems and two power point presentations.

There was great participation from both staff and students during the ceremony. The students in Meera's class played percussion instruments to the song "We'll Never Forget". At the conclusion of the assembly everyone sang the song together.

Each student had made a poppy and everyone was asked to place it on a huge mural. The mural was delivered to a group of veterans, along with the generous contributions by families and staff of Park Lane in the amount of \$173.58.



SENSORY WALL REVITALIZATION



ART CART

Room 6 had a paper-making exploration on Tuesday, Nov. 26th. This Art Cart activity had our students ripping, blending and mashing scrap pieces of paper together, to make fresh, new paper for future art projects. Lots of fun! Can't wait to see where the Art Cart takes us next!



ROOM 7 BOWLING

Room 7 went on our first bowling trip of the school year. What a fun time it was !!! The students enjoyed this trip very much. We bowled many strikes and spares. Students listened as the ball rolled down the ramp. After bowling we had lunch in the food court. Lalit enjoyed people watching and vocalizing. Jahsia and Kai listened to a story. We had a wonderful time!

THANKS NURSING STUDENTS



Park Lane has had an opportunity to have York Community Nursing Students from York University. They were with us for 12 weeks. It is time to say good bye and thank them for working and sharing valuable information with the staff and students at Park Lane. Life is a journey and being a student nurse is a privilege and a wonderful experience. Hopefully Park Lane has provided them an opportunity to gain new skills. We want to say thank you and wish them all the best in their future nursing careers.

COOKING WITH ROOMS 8 & 9



Every Thursday morning, Rooms 8 and 9 come together to partake in a weekly cooking program that focuses on having the students reproduce simple yet delicious recipes as independently as they possibly can. Most lessons involve a combination of chopping, measuring, mixing, cooking and eventually, eating. To prepare for these Thursday culinary adventures, both Rooms 8 and 9 travel to Metro supermarket at the Shops at Don Mills to hand-pick many of the ingredients they use. Taking the TTC to and from Metro and taking the time to pick out the groceries, undoubtedly enriches the program by including the students in the meal preparation from purchase to the plate.

DINOSAURS AT THE ROM!

Room 4 went to the ROM on November 19th to see dinosaur fossils. Wow, they are so big! Just one leg bone is almost the same size of our bodies. After looking at all the dinosaur bones, we wore safety goggles and used brushes to find dinosaur bones in the dirt, like real scientists. We even made dinosaur bone rubbings. It was a great day to explore dinosaurs!





It's not too late!



Don't forget to bring your yummy baked goods
for our Holiday Bake Sale

We can't wait to try your amazing recipes!

Holiday Concert!

This is the epic concert of the year!!

Bring your family and join our

Holiday Concert on

December 10th at 1pm

There will be a bake sale, craft sale,

and special gifts for sale as a

fundraiser for our school.