

Park Lane Public School

60 Park Lane Circle, M3C 2N2

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



Lindsay Borden- Principal
Hripsik Sarkissian - Vice Principal

November and December - 2018
Edition 2

Dates to Remember

January 2019:

- ❖ 7- First Day Back to School
- ❖ 18-PA Day
- ❖ 24-Leo Beck (Integration)

Principal's Corner

Parents and Guardians,

While the weather outside is cooler, Park Lane Public School has been kept warm with all the activities and visitors we have had in the school. In addition to the many wonderful concerts, field trips, and eco-initiatives you will read about in this newsletter,

Park Lane students finished this term's integration program with Bedford Park Public School and completed artwork through TDSB's EngageARTS program.



I wanted to thank Gloria for organizing the integration program with the Bedford Park students. This grade 5 class came to our school once a week and interacted with various students in the school. Together, the students created Halloween decorations, sang songs, bowled, and so much more. It was clear to see the impact these visits had on both groups of students.

This month, some of our staff also started working with our Learning Coach on supporting the students with communication. They discussed the intended impact of intentional learning activities as well as strategies for implementing Alternative or Augmentative Communication for students.



Classrooms teachers are currently looking at how communication skills can be naturally integrated into the day to promote intentional communication multiple times throughout the day.

We are looking forward to all the exciting things coming in 2019 and we wish you all the best during this holiday season and a happy New Year!

Lindsay and the Park Lane staff

School Events

Winter Celebration (Anju P.)

On December 13th, Park Lane had a winter concert which included all the classes performing on stage in front of a number of parents, family members and guests. The gym was decorated with large ornamental snowflakes, a Christmas banner, garland, and evergreen trees. All the classes worked very hard to prepare for the concert by making decorations, practicing and developing a creative act to perform. Students sang, acted, played instruments, danced, stomped, waved and created videos to show the audience. Kudos to Paula who led the event, along with Seema and Melissa. They worked really hard leading the staff and students to make a memorable event.



Métis Fiddlers Performance - 2018

(Gloria G.)

It was wonderful to welcome back Conlin and Alyssa (sister and brother) to Park Lane Public School. Their performance was our way to acknowledge **Aboriginal Education Month**.

The duo introduced their Métis heritage by explaining some historical facts, with a variety of songs. Some were fast, some were slow, and some had a very distinct rhythm.

Conlin took the time to introduce the instruments that were being played: he was on the guitar; Alyssa was on the violin. The concert was enjoyed by all our students, as evidenced by the smiles on their faces!



CUBAN JAZZ at PARK LANE (Gloria G.)

The Jazz Performance and Education Centre (JPEC), a not-for-profit, charitable arts organization, provides a musical outreach program for schools. It is dedicated to the preservation and continued development of jazz in Canada. And for the second time, Park Lane Public School was fortunate to have been selected to receive this wonderful program.

It was such a delight to welcome back our Cuban musicians, Joaquin and Dyalis! They came to Park Lane, not only to perform many wonderful Cuban melodies, but also to teach the students about the various instruments. They also had the staff participate in echo songs, while the students listened and vocalized. We all had the opportunity of playing percussion instruments when we copied the movements of Joaquin and Dyalis while they played a series of rhythms, which we had to copy!

At the outset of the program, we were amazed to see blue *illuminating* drumsticks as Joaquin drummed his first song! In addition to the musical part of the performance, we had some great dance music --- and dance we did! Let's hope that these wonderful musicians can come for a return performance next year!



Chanukah 2018: A Musical Celebration (Gloria G.)

Park Lane students and staff, 2 former graduates, a former Pet Therapy staff, 2 community members, and 6th family members all assembled in the gym to learn about the Story of Chanukah on Thursday, December 6th. This annual presentation highlighted its historical origin and traditional holiday customs and practices, with music, candles and dance.

Led by several of our staff members, there was a demonstration of how Jewish people celebrate with the menorah, candles, dreidels, latkes, gelt, songs and youtube videos! Several songs were sung: Two of them had been learned during music appreciation at the piano, and we did them in two languages! One of our students, Allan, sang verses in two of the Hebrew songs. Our Orff itinerant teacher, Sharon, played her guitar and led us in a group song about candles.

One of the highlights was having Leah and Simon in our presentation (Ruth's children, our Life Skills teacher). Last, but not least, there were 4 young adults who came to Park Lane and participated together with us. This group, called the "ShinShinim," came to Canada to serve in the Canadian Jewish community for an entire year, educating students and their families.



The program concluded with a lively Chanukah circle dance, accompanied by the rhythm of tambourines, tapped by several students. Following the presentation, Sharon and Leah distributed Chanukah gelt (chocolate coins) to all staff and students. The following day, latkes and cookies arrived, prepared by students from Associated Hebrew School (where Leah and Simon attend). What yummy treats!

What a wonderful opportunity to showcase a holiday: for those who celebrate the holiday, reflecting what one might do at home, and for those who do not share this holiday, demonstrating the fun in learning about one another's holiday.



ROOM 6 FIELD TRIPS (Irene T.)



The Botanical Gardens - Room 6 students planted seeds and bulbs in the Teaching Gardens' organic vegetable beds, touched and learned about composting worms and explored the colours, sounds and textures of the garden and arboretum. Days later, we walked over to the gardens to see everyone's named popsicles sticks to see where they had planted their seeds.

The ROM: Spiders Fear and Fascination Exhibit-

Students in Room 6 loved this field trip! We had been exploring a lot about Spiders, their characteristics and habitats by looking at some live spider-webs at the Botanical Gardens and by making our own paper mache spider webs with students from Bedford Park P.S. for our Halloween festival.



Students participated in face-to-face with over 200 live and preserved specimens, interactive and augmented reality experiences within the exhibit. Not to mention checking out the amazing exhibit of Dinosaurs, the dark Bat Cave to hear more about squeaky bats and see a simulation of their night flight, hands-on discovery Gallery - trying on period costume, digging for dinosaur bones, exploring a child-size teepee, and feeling different animals skins!



Fairview Mall/ Library - The purpose of this field trip was to promote awareness for our students of the greater community around us and the city at large, participate in buying food and explore day-to-day activities in a mall and library. We also met people who live and work in the community.

Ripley's Aquarium - Students enjoyed the amazing self-guided tour through the aquariums at Ripley's. The calming and soothing sounds with the aquatic scenes had students calm throughout the tour. Our brave students went up close to some fish by exploring the touch tanks. They were able to pet Horseshoe Crabs, White Spotted Bamboo Sharks, Stingrays and even explored their habitats by rubbing the reefs and digging into the sand!



Gardiner Museum- Students enjoyed the exhibits of porcelain and clay masterpieces from Ancient Americas to Modern and Contemporary Ceramics. We all had the opportunity to get the funny feelings of clay on our hands. Students got really dirty in the discovery with a hands-on clay project in one of the museum's well equipped clay studios.



With the guidance of an amazing clay artist, staff and students in room 6 enjoyed creating different styles of clay. From rolling and cutting to squishing clay shapes. Students and staff cannot wait to see what their masterpieces will look like once they are fired in 2 weeks!

Eco Corner

(Irene and Sam)

The 2018-19 school year is well underway and Park Lane has eagerly picked up where they left off with their Eco-School initiatives. Headed by Vice-Principal Hripsik Sarkissian, along with teachers Irene Tsatsaklas and Sam Derksen, the Park Lane Eco-Schools team has been busy at work putting together new initiatives and reviving old ones. On November 21st, Park Lane welcomed a speaker representing the City of Toronto to give a presentation on proper recycling, green bin, and garbage practices. Students and staff enjoyed the interactive activities, as well as the videos that were built-in to the presentation. The speaker was happy to answer questions and provide resources to ensure that Park Lane PS is exemplary in our eco-friendly practices each and every day. More recently, each classroom in Park Lane undertook the task of reusing old materials to create a Menorah in celebration of Hanukkah this month - one of many of the culturally diverse celebrations happening within the school this month.

Students are hard at work as well. Many of the senior students in the school work each and every day to appropriately collect green bins and recycling bins from each class and dispose of them appropriately. In addition to this task, students are also asked to re-bag the bins that require re-bagging, as well as replace the bins in the room appropriately. With practice, many of our students are already excelling in our daily eco-initiatives. The New Year is sure to bring more opportunities for students to get involved in helping Park Lane sustain its eco-friendly practices.



Room 3

Favourite Day: Day 1 because our students love relaxing in the snoezelen room and music time at the piano.

Favourite Activities: Being outdoors and moving around the beautiful school grounds and surrounding community. We also enjoy listening to our favourite songs and stories on the Interactive Whiteboard.

Favourite time of year: December is always a fun month with all the special school-wide events for the holiday season.



Room 4



Team- Our team includes: Hyacinth, Fariba, Perla and Efrosiny

Favourite Activities- We have a lot of activities that we enjoy in our classroom like art, gross motor but we agree that our favorite activity is doing spa.

The students love getting their feet and hands massaged. They smile and laugh when we give them a manicure and/or pedicure. Our favorite time of year of spring as we enjoy planting and taking the students out for walks so they can get their vitamin D.

Family Resources

Need support so your child with ASD* can go to Summer Camp?

Funded with support from the Government of Ontario

[Apply Online](#)
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The 2019 March Break Reimbursement Fund is available to Ontario families of children or youth with ASD who retain the services of a one-to-one support worker OR who have paid for their child to attend a 2019 March break camp or program, but not both.

Maximum reimbursements of \$350 per child or youth (up to 18th birthday) will be made to subsidize services purchased between **March 11 and March 15, 2019**.

A minimum of 1,007 families, from across Ontario, are expected to receive reimbursements. Reimbursements will be provided based on a random selection made from all eligible applicants who apply between December 17, 2018 and January 25, 2019.

<http://www.autismontario.com/camp>