

Garden Avenews



Produced by the Garden Avenue School Advisory Council

fall 2005

Co-Chairs' Welcome

Welcome to the Fall 2005 edition of our newsletter *Garden Avenews*. We hope you'll enjoy the updates, photos and stories of happenings in and around our Garden. I think you'll agree we are very fortunate to have such a strong school community.

As we look ahead our calendar of activities looks great. It is filled with pot lucks, concerts, fun fairs, and so much more. None of this would be possible without the talents and hard work of the staff and parent volunteers. Garden is a small school that relies on the involvement of everyone to make so much happen. So, we wanted to say thank you for your support and participation in the past and we hope to see you helping to plan, set-up or take down future activities. With many hands it is truly light work.

We hope school has begun well for everyone. If you have any questions or concerns that you think the School Council might be able to help with, or if you would like to help out with some of the Council activities please send us an e-mail! Or, leave a note in the School Council box at the office.

*Jenn Sutherland (jenn_sutherland@rogers.com) and
Carole Reynolds (caroler@sutherlandmodels.com), Co-Chairs
Garden Ave School Advisory Council 2005-06*

The Executive for
2005-2006 is:

Co-Chairs

**Jennifer Sutherland
& Carole Reynolds**

Secretary

Liz Johnston-Hill

Treasurer

Mary Cuyllé

Volunteer/Fundraising

Co-ordinator

Carole Reynolds

Ward 7 Representative

Catherine Marjoribanks

Communication/Newsletter

Janice Roberts

Daycare Representative

Katherine Doyle

Staff

Craig Tsuji, Principal

Karen Green (5/6)

Lindy King (1/2)

VISIT US ON-LINE <http://schools.tdsb.on.ca/gardenave/>



Garden Avenue
PUBLIC SCHOOL

ANNUAL STORY-TELLING EVENING

Each year the Garden Ave. School Advisory Council organizes a Story-Telling event as part of our Arts programming for the school. We invite professional story-tellers to come to the school for a special evening performance. It is a truly magical experience, and always a favourite among the children. This year our **Story-Telling Evening** will take place on **Thursday November 17, 2005** between 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. So far our Story Teller list includes: Lorne Brown, Sally Jaeger and Harriet Xanthakos.

LAUGH ONE MORE TIME...



Last year was such a success, that Garden parent/comedian Simon. B. Cotter is bringing us **Laughter for the Arts** to Hugh's Room once again. This year's fundraising event will be held **Thursday, December 29th at 8:30pm**. Comedians confirmed include Sean Cullen, Elvira Kurt and of course, Simon. Advance tickets are only \$20 for this fun-filled evening. Order your tickets through the school office, at our Winter Concert December 22, or directly through Hugh's Room. Don't miss this chance to take a break from the hectic holiday season and have a few laughs with your friends and neighbours.

Garden Ave. P.S. Terry Fox Event

By Karen Green



Our event was scheduled to coincide with the nation-wide 25th

Anniversary Terry Fox runs on Friday, September 16. There was a great deal of excitement about participating in this special event from all students and staff in the school. We held a school-wide assembly one week before the event which got everyone talking and thinking about the courage of Terry Fox and how we could play an important role in keeping his dream alive. Unfortunately, driving rains kept us inside and held off our major event (but not our enthusiasm) until the following Monday, September 19.

This was the plan: Terry Fox ran a total of 5,373 km. over almost four months in his attempt to cross Canada raising money for cancer research and awareness of the disease among all Canadians. In order to cover the same distance Terry did, we decided to link ourselves to him and his run symbolically. By dividing the distance he ran by our total number of students and having one lap of our school's block represent 5 of each one of Terry's kilometers we could "run" as far as Terry did. The distance was shared depending on age of students: the JK/SKs rounded the block once, the Grade 1s and 2s did it twice, and on up the grades with the Grade 4, 5, and 6 students and teachers walking between 8 and 12 laps each.

We had asked students to try to match Terry's goal of raising \$1.00 for each Canadian, and to bring a loonie to drop into our Terry Fox Wishing Well as they commenced their walk. We wanted to raise \$300.00, optimistic considering that we only have 250 students.

The walk was fantastic! Everyone in the school participated and some very supportive parents were with us, walking and cheering us on. We are very proud to have been a part of an event that involved 85% of Canadian school children, something that they will never forget. In the end, we raised \$523.33 in Terry Fox's name, and have sparked an excitement about him and his valuable legacy in the children of our school community.

Fundraising/Treasurer's Update

By Mary Cuyllle

First Things First

One of the first things Council tries to do each year is to figure out how our fundraising dollars should be deployed over the course of the school year. In order to create a budget we consider the following:



- How much money Council has in the bank
- Estimate how much we think we'll raise over the year
- Gather opinions
- Evaluate funding requests which have been brought to Council

Based on all this information, Council establishes a working budget for the year.

Funding Requests

Teachers and parents often come to Council to ask for funding for school programs or activities they would like to sponsor. For example, we will be holding another Storytelling Evening which is sponsored by the School Council. Mr. Tsuji will also bring forward ideas for activities or materials that will help the school, its students and its teachers. This year we will continue to support the drumming initiative at Garden with a contribution of \$600 towards supplies and instruction.

The Budget

Based on all of the information we gather, Council established a working budget for this school year at our October Council Executive meeting. A couple of expenditures have already been paid out: \$3000 (\$250 per teacher) for classroom enhancements, \$1250 for class trips and \$1200 for the Storytelling Evening.

If you have any questions about the survey results or School Council finances, please feel free to contact Mary Cuyllle by email at cuyllle@rogers.com or via a note left in the office to my attention.

ARE YOU WEBSITE SAVVY?

We're looking for volunteers to help update and maintain our new school website.

Please contact Carole Reynolds at caroler@sutherlandmodels.com

GATHERING OPINIONS

Thank you for your response to the Fundraising Questionnaire this year. We value your input. The chart below illustrates what the parents think our top five fundraising priorities should be:

POINTS*	PRIORITY
56	Money given to teachers to enhance their teaching efforts...
43	Programs bringing arts into school
22	Class trips
15	Sport/gym/outdoor play equipment
10	Resources for the Library

**The responses were assigned points based on the priority: top priority = 3 points, 2nd priority = 2 points, 3rd priority = 1 point*

In addition to the parents' Fundraising Questionnaire, Council also meets with the teachers and Mr. Tsuji to ask how they think we could spend our fundraising dollars most effectively.

Bake Sale... Pizza Lunches

We've had a great start to our Fall Fundraising! Thanks to **Marci**

Becker for organizing our pizza dinner/bake sale during the Open House in October. We raised \$323.20. Our pizza lunches have been a great success due to **Marianne Backman**. Our profits to date total \$284.19.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING ALERT



Have you ever shopped at the **SAMKO TOY WAREHOUSE SALE?** There are amazing bargains to be had, just a few minutes from our neighbourhood (right at King & Gladstone!)

SAMKO TOY WAREHOUSE is giving us a great opportunity to fundraise for Garden. Shop at Samko between DECEMBER 7-11, 2005 and 10% of all purchases made by Garden parents will be donated back to the school in cold hard cash. Just remember to ask the cashier to stamp your receipt for Garden Ave. P.S., and bring the receipt to the school.

The deals are unbelievable – they have thousands of brand name toys and the lowest prices you could find ANYWHERE. Something new – children are welcome! Keep your eyes out for the flyer coming home mid-November.

SCOOTER GIRL on Roncesvalles has generously offered us the same great opportunity – Garden Days at Scooter Girl! If you shop at Scooter Girl on Friday December 2 or Saturday December 3 and mention that you are affiliated with Garden, they will donate 10% of the pre-tax sales back to the school.

And while you've got your

continues on page 7

Playground Committee June Visioning Event

By Jeff Hanning

The Playground Committee consulted with some local experts on playground design after school one day last June, Garden's own students. In an intense design session, students identified on a school plan their favourite and least favourite spaces. The least favourite was the playing field area and the favourite, the playground equipment area. In a questionnaire completed by the scholars, the favourite ideas voted on were:

1. More playground equipment
2. Soccer field with goalposts
3. Basketball court with nets
4. Swings
5. Tetherball pole
6. Learning gardens for students to grow plants
7. Trampoline

Swings and trampoline were the students' own suggestions. We may need the safety committee to review the trampoline suggestion! The students have spoken! "We want more active playground equipment!"



Sunnyside
Garden
Daycare

NEWS

Sunnyside Garden Daycare is an integral part of Garden Avenue P.S., and provides a warm, caring atmosphere and learning for our children aged 2 1/2 to 12 years of age.

The pre-school room had a change over the summer, with the program moving down the hall to ground floor west in the former Kindergarten Room! The staff and children alike are enjoying the new space and its direct access to the primary playground. Did you know that the primary play structure is financed and financially maintained by the daycare? SGD is thrilled to be able to share this play structure with all the primary kids in the school. This year the daycare was also pleased to finance upgrades in the main playground, namely installing the junior hoops last fall and the free bar and monkey bars added to the play structure just last month. By the end of November SGD will have a new climbing wall installed in the gym.

October 26 was Early Childhood Educators Appreciation Day across Canada. The Sunnyside Garden Daycare families remembered our staff that gives so much each day to the care and education of our children. Once again 'Thank you' to the staff of Sunnyside Garden Daycare for giving your all to make our daycare the best it can be!



The Witching Hour

Our annual Halloween Parade was as fun as ever, as our tour of costumed ghosts, goblins, fairies and various creatures made their way around the school neighbourhood, including Roncesvalles Avenue. Here are a few photos of the wonderful costumes the students and staff wore that day.



Principal's Message – We're off to a great start...

I would like to acknowledge and thank all the staff for their hard work and a fantastic and smooth start to the school year. I would also like to thank the parent volunteers for their countless volunteer hours, supporting activities and programs throughout the school. We have already had a very eventful year with:

- a very successful and fun Potluck
- Curriculum Night and Bake/Pizza sale
- Magazine Fundraiser generating \$6,630.00 in sales
- field trips, including trips to the Ontario Science Centre
- participation in the national Terry Fox Run, raising over \$500.00
- new website up and running (with some parts still under construction)
- participation in the city-wide school Track and Field events
- Pizza Lunches

And more...

We encourage parents to visit the school and be involved in the school community. It's great to see you helping out with fundraising events, volunteering in the classroom, or just spending time after school with your kids in the playground.

While you're at school, during the day or after hours, we hope that you will remember that children look to adults for direction and support, and that you need to model the behaviour that we expect of the

children. (For example, if you are in the office or outside a classroom in the morning, we ask that you stand silently during the daily playing of the national anthem.) We want to do everything we can to make Garden a positive, energetic and safe environment for learning.

Everyone's Learning at Garden...

We now have last year's EQAO results, and the newly implemented Early Development Inventory (EDI) results, both of which help us to identify and understand strengths and challenges in teaching and to develop and prioritize our goals. (To find out more about EQAO testing and results, visit the TDSB website: www.tdsb.on.ca.)

Our teachers are continually learning and taking part in training made available in literacy, numeracy, and other curriculum areas. For example, Karen Green (Grade 5/6 teacher) applied and was accepted to participate in a week-long training program with the Teachers Institute on Canadian Parliamentary Democracy in Ottawa. Continued professional growth in our staff is essential, and we support and foster personal and professional learning at Garden.

Safety on the Playground

We've designed our playground climbing structure to be challenging – and that means some adult supervision is needed. The playground improvement funded by the Sunnyside-Garden Daycare

includes a new monkey bar and high bar added to the climber. This was added specifically for the junior students, to reduce the crowding around the one monkey bar. I am still concerned with the type of play that takes place on the climber: for example, students trying to knock each other off while hanging from the bars, or making high-risk attempts to skip past many bars or to swing as far as possible and land on the deck. We have a rule for the monkey bars: if you can't reach them by yourself, they are too high for you to play on.

I would appreciate the community's help in reminding students of the school rules for the climber. This will reinforce the safe and responsible use of the equipment and, above all, promote safe play. Not sure what the rules are? Ask your child; ask a supervising teacher; ask another parent; or feel free to ask at the office.

I am looking forward to another great year, and I know that it will be filled with fun, learning, excitement, and adventure.

Thank you for your support.

Craig Tsuji

IN THE NEXT ISSUE...

Keeping our Students and Staff Safe:

The Emergency

Lockdown Procedure

Ward 7 Meets with the Education Minister

By Catherine Marjoribanks

The Ward 7 Council started the school year in a dynamic way when we met on September 30 with Education Minister (and Parkdale-High Park MPP) Gerard Kennedy. Six parents from the Ward 7 Budget Working Group met with the Minister to raise our concerns about the Toronto District School Board's budget.

The group made a presentation to Kennedy that outlined the choices facing the Board in terms of balancing funding for existing programs against funding for new initiatives. Our report outlined the cuts that have been made in recent years to education funding and highlighted the discrepancy between provincial funding levels and the real costs of running our schools.

Kennedy's response was to cast doubt on the TDSB's complex budget figures. He called for a "budget reconciliation" between the

Ministry and the Board – a process to be undertaken with all Ontario school boards. With that done, he said, the Ministry would be able to address more confidently the question of whether serious funding shortfalls exist.

The group's follow-up with both Board and Ministry staff suggests that neither was aware of the Minister's request for a budget reconciliation, and further action will be needed to address the Minister's concerns on this point.

The Ward 7 Education Council provides a forum for Ward 7 schools to meet with our trustee, Irene Atkinson, to share information and bring forward matters of concern. For more information, or to see the Budget Working Group's presentation and report, feel free to contact Catherine Marjoribanks (Garden's Ward 7 rep) at wordplay@sympatico.ca.

KANEE WAY! ZEE WAY!

We are excited about getting the Drumming Clubs started and are still in the organizational stages of setting them up. It seems as though we will have at least one afternoon Drumming Club from 3:30 to 4:00 p.m. for Grades 4-6 and one evening class to which parents must accompany their children.

The exact days the clubs will gather are not yet clear as it depends on teacher availability.

So, watch your children's backpacks for sign-up forms and return them to the school as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. If you have any questions regarding drumming or wish to lead or be a leader/ helper, please contact Cathy Hunt at 416.532.0535.

SHOPPING

continued from page 4



shopping shoes on, check out our annual **GARDEN AVENUE HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR** on Thursday December 8th from 2:30 – 7:30pm. The gym will be filled with some fabulous vendors (jewellery, stained glass, seasonal flowers and wreaths, woodworking, handmade cards, just to name a few!) Stop by and enjoy homemade chili and Marci Becker's

famous cornbread, sip a complimentary apple cider after 5pm, and shop 'til you drop!

Another shopping option is our 2nd Annual Library Fundraiser at **CHAPTERS** on Bloor and Runnymede. Purchases made between 6:00 and 9:00 pm on Thursday, December 1 will have a percentage donated directly back to the school library.

Recap of GARDEN SHOPPING DATES:

Thursday, December 1
Chapters Evening (time)

December 2-3
Scooter Girl Garden Days

December 7-11
Samko Sale

Thursday, December 8
Garden Holiday Craft Fair

THANKS FOR THE MAGAZINE DRIVE SUPPORT!

Because of you, we were able to raise \$6,630.00.

Many magazines will begin arriving over the next 2 months, but some subscriptions may take up to 16 weeks to start. If you have any questions, please contact QSP directly at 1-800-667-2536. They offer a 100% satisfaction guarantee.

You may have ordered many subscriptions to support our campaign, but you might wish to renew other magazines, or order gift subscriptions later in the year. Now you can take advantage of QSP's great prices all year long – with the profit being sent back to our school with each order! Go to: WWW.QSP.CA place your order and enter our **group #9136** and **campaign #30243** so that the profits are credited to our school. It's that easy, and you can share this information with your entire address book. Remember that orders must be for Canadian addresses.

Thanks again for your support, and
HAPPY READING!

Your School Council: Bake Sales...and Beyond!



One of the biggest jobs that the School Council undertakes is fundraising. Thanks to our bake sales, Holiday Craft Sale, Laughter for the Arts comedy night, Family Concert, Fun Fair, and other fundraising projects, we are able to bring funds into the school to enrich our children's experience at Garden.

But the Council also acts as a voice for parents in the education system.

With the School: Our principal, as a member of Council Executive, shares information with parents and seeks their input at Council meetings throughout the year.

With the School Board: A representative from our School Council attends meetings of the Ward 7 Council, where our elected trustee, Irene Atkinson, listens to our views and keeps us informed about the business of the TDSB. We also have the opportunity to provide input on Board policies; last year, for example, a Garden

parent was involved with a working group reviewing the Board's Parent, Community, and Student Involvement Policy.

With the Province: Council lobbies the ministry for change in education policy and funding. Last year, representatives of each school in Ward 7 had the opportunity to speak to Education Minister Gerard Kennedy about issues directly affecting our schools, and we hope to have the same opportunity again this year.

Through your School Council, you can play an important part in making important decisions that affect your child's journey through the education system.

If you'd like to know more about parent advocacy, please contact the School Council through the office or by e-mailing Jenn Sutherland at jenn_sutherland@rogers.com or Carole Reynolds at caroler@sutherlandmodels.com



GARDEN AVENUE SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL CALENDAR 2005-06

S E P T E M B E R	<p>Thu 22 School Council General Meeting</p> <p>Fri 23 Start of Magazine Drive</p> <p>Wed 29 Pizza Lunch</p> <p>Thu 30 Pot Luck/Skate Drop Off</p>	F E B R U A R Y	<p>Fri 10 Professional Activity Day</p> <p>TBA Carnivale</p> <p>23 Council Executive Meeting</p>
O C T O B E R	<p>Thu 06 Curriculum Night/Bake Sale</p> <p>Wed 12 End of Magazine Drive</p> <p>Thu 13 Pizza Lunch</p> <p>Thu 27 Executive Council Meeting</p> <p>Thu 27 Pizza Lunch</p>	M A R C H	<p>13-17 Mid-Winter Break</p> <p>Thu 23 Council Executive Meeting</p> <p>Fri 31 Professional Activity Day</p>
N O V E M B E R	<p>Thu 17 Storytelling Evening</p> <p>Thu 17 Pizza Lunch</p> <p>Thu 24 Council Executive Meeting</p>	A P R I L	<p>Fri 01 Professional Activity Day</p> <p>Fri 14 Good Friday</p> <p>Mon 17 Easter Monday</p> <p>Thu 27 Council Executive Meeting</p>
D E C E M B E R	<p>Thu 01 Pizza Lunch</p> <p>Fri 09 Professional Activity Day</p> <p>07-11 SAMKO Toy Warehouse Sale/ Fundraiser</p> <p>Thu 22 Student Winter Concert</p> <p>Thu 15 Pizza Lunch</p> <p>26-Jan 09 Christmas Break</p> <p>Thu 29 Laughter for the Arts</p>	M A Y	<p>Sat 13 Fun Fair/Silent Auction</p> <p>Mon 22 Victoria Day</p> <p>Thu 25 Council Executive Meeting</p>
J A N U A R Y	<p>Thu 19 Council Executive Meeting</p> <p>23-27 Scholastic Book Fair</p> <p>26 Pot Luck</p>	J U N E	<p>Thu 22 Pot Luck/Talent Show</p> <p>Wed 28 Last Day of School</p> <p>Thu 29 Professional Activity Day</p>

