

Garden Avenews



Produced by the Garden Avenue School Advisory Council

Chair's Message

It is hard to believe that we are half-way through the school year! What a terrific year we are having!

We started with a whirlwind of activities celebrating Garden's 50th Anniversary, and the pace has just continued!

I feel very fortunate to be part of a vibrant community filled with so many giving and caring people. We couldn't do what we do, without the help and participation of everyone.



from the children about theatre presentations, author presentations, field trips and so much more. If you are interested in helping with any of these events please let me know. We are always looking for volunteers!

I'd also like to extend an invitation to join our School Council meetings. Watch for the dates on our new school sign (isn't the sign terrific?), or on the School Council notice board in the first floor hallway. Everyone is welcome.

I hope you have a wonderful second term. See you at the Pot Luck!

*Jenn Sutherland, Chair
Garden Ave School Advisory
Council 2007-2008*

THE FUN FAIR IS COMING!

Garden's favourite event – and biggest fundraiser of the year! – is planned this year for Saturday May 10. Spring may seem far away now, but we are already working on all of the exciting events that will be happening at the Fun Fair including the Silent Auction, Dunk Tank, Bike Parade, Inflatables, Games, Victorian Tearoom, Toonie Jars, Book Sale and much more!

If you can help organize, donate a service or item to the Silent Auction, or volunteer on May 10, please call Carole Reynolds at 416-703-7070 or email carole.reynolds@sutherlandmodels.com, Allyson McGreal at 416-536-1441 or allyson_mcgreal@themastercardfoundation.ca, Michelle Martindale or chellekev@sympatico.ca



The second half of the year is shaping up to be just as exciting. Watch for information about family events like our Pot Lucks, Story-Telling evening and of course the Fun Fair. As well, you'll hear stories

Feedback, comments or suggestions: garden@tdsb.on.ca



FUNDRAISING/ TREASURER'S REPORT

By Mary Cuyllé

The 2007-08 school year is almost half over and the school advisory council has been very busy raising money to support the many programs offered at Garden Avenue Public School. Some of these programs include class trips, teacher grants, artistic presentations, sports equipment and library programs. Through the following fundraising events the school council has so far raised over \$8500. Thank you to everyone who has helped make this school year such a success!

Open House Bake Sale . . .	\$591.60
Chapters Book Sale	\$410.81
Craft Fair	\$2190.53
Pizza Lunches	\$693.27
Laughter For The Arts . . .	\$4629.86
Total	\$8516.07

For 2007-2008 Fundraising Survey Results:

http://schools.tdsb.on.ca/gardenave/pages/council_fund.htm#survey



We're Erasing Prejudice for Good

This year our school continues to develop our equity program using this literature based program. Each month, there is a different equity theme. We have a collection of high quality literature related to each theme, appropriate for each grade level. While all classes have access to the

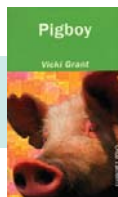


theme books, the classes take turns to share their learning related to the theme. The host class is also responsible for developing a nomination form to be used by all teachers to nominate a student in each class who best demonstrates the current month's theme. These honours are presented to students at a whole school assembly each month. This year the staff have decided to encourage variety in the way the host class shares what they have learned. Although there may be some performances at the assembly, learning will be communicated in other ways, such as bulletin board displays, classroom visits to share student work, etc.

We would like to share with you the 'Erasing Prejudice for Good' recipients in each Garden Newsletter. Since our last newsletter, the following children have been honoured in our assemblies (Note, there was no honour ceremony for December this school year):

Room No.	May '07 'True Worth & Beauty'	June '07 'Circles and Cycles'	Sep '08 'Self-Esteem'	Oct '08 'Sharing Our Lives'	Nov '08 'Peace'
101			Zohra	Phillip	
102	Brintha	James	Abigayle	Maxine	Gonpo
103	Rachel D.	Janiel	Heinrich	Lucas	Sarah P.
104 am	Gabriele	Garisan	Neethini	Leah	Francesca V.
104 pm	Spencer	Hnem	Jacquelyn Y.	Catherine J.	Clara
106 am	Rhiannon	Andre F.	Brandon K.	Vanessa	Lauryn C.
106 pm	Esme	Elin	Owen B.	Grace	Viren
203	Vivienne	Bella H.	Oskar	Shagitha	Nevine
204	Abinaya	Isiah	Kai	Samaha	Hailey B.
205	Michelle	Lara	Taylor B.	Isabella C.	Sam. W.
206	Charlotte R	Troy	Jack C.	Aarthy	Tsangyang
207		Campbell & Nathaniel	Kajeetha	Hailey I.	Thevesan

Forest of Reading



Each year, the Ontario Library Association organizes an award program, called 'The Forest of Reading', for outstanding books written by Canadian authors. These awards for children's literature are unique in that the intended audience (i.e. the children) decides, through province-wide voting, which authors will receive these coveted awards. This year's 'Forest of Reading' Program is now underway at Garden. Students in Grades 3 to 6, who have joined the Silver Birch Club, have begun reading and will continue to do so until voting day, April 23. Over 40 students have joined to date. Those students who read enough of the books to be able to vote (at least 5 books out of the list of 10) will be rewarded with a trip to Harbourfront in May to attend the Silver Birch awards ceremony.

New to this year's Silver Birch program is an exciting online component. Students are welcome to make contributions to a Silver Birch 'wiki' created by a TDSB teacher, where several Silver Birch authors are also contributing. There will also be opportunities for students to read and post reviews to a TDSB email conference. Silver Birch members have been given the information required to access these online components from home and/or the public library. They will also be able to do so at school each Thursday at lunch when the Silver Birch Club meets.

In February, primary students will begin working with the Blue Spruce nominees, which are read-aloud books geared towards

primary students. All primary students will be eligible to vote for their favourite Blue Spruce book on April 23 as well.

Thanks go to school council who has generously supported this program at Garden and also to all staff members who volunteered to read this year's nominees, in order to act as 'book experts' willing to conduct book talks when a student has finished reading a Silver Birch book.

For more info regarding these programs, see the link on the Library page of our Garden website at:

<http://schools.tdsb.on.ca/gardenave/pages/library.htm>

Garden Grows Playground Committee

Keep your eyes open this spring for the bulbs that were planted in the front garden. In honour of Garden Avenue's 50th Anniversary, students from Kindergarten through Grade 6 helped plant approximately 100 bulbs of different varieties. Hopefully the squirrels were already stocked up for the winter and we will have a burst of colour this spring.

We have also begun our "Garden Rocks" campaign which is to raise \$5000 for an outdoor classroom

built out of armour stones. This will provide a natural learning environment for kids among our mature trees at the front of the school. Take a look at the display in the foyer of the school for pictures and updates towards our fundraising goal.

Finally, if any parents are interested in joining the playground committee please contact Mary Cuyllé at (416)531-6059 or at cuylle@rogers.com.



Scholastic Book Fair – A Great Success

This year's Scholastic Book Fair was quite different from previous ones at Garden. The timing was changed to coincide with the first term parent-teacher interview period at the end of November. The venue was changed to our school library in Room 202 and the format changed from display cases to table displays. Sometimes these changes can have an adverse affect on traditional school fundraising events, but in this case it all added up to a **RESOUNDING** success! Our sales nearly doubled over last year, to almost \$5000. This resulted in almost \$2,500 coming back to our school in profits. These profits have already been put to good use as a large portion was distributed to teachers to purchase resources for their classrooms, with the remainder going to the library to enhance the collection as well as for future IT project plans.

A sincere thank you to all families who supported the Book Fair. A special thanks goes to Tanya Kakei and the wonderful group of parents and student volunteers who assisted Ms. Jenkins in making this Book Fair such a success.



Garden Avenue Music Notes

By Mrs. Umezawa, Music Teacher

The beginning of 2008 was launched with a harmonious start with a special performance by the a capella group, "Cadence". This dynamic foursome performed for the whole school on January 17th. Their vocal acrobatics and humorous presentation were enthusiastically received by everyone present. Thanks to Mr. McClure and Ms. King for being such good sports about their unexpected roles in the performance!

Kindergarten and Grade One students successfully performed their animal-themed concert entitled "Feathers, Furs and Fins" on Thursday, January 31st. Their presentations were based on the work "Carnival of the Animals" by Camille Saint-Saens.

Students in Grades Two through Six will be performing their Four Season-themed concert at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 12th. This brief concert will showcase choral singing, our strings ensemble as well as our community drumming troupe.

Students in Grades Two to Six are also preparing repertoire to present at the Toronto District School Board's Non-Competitive Music Festival, which is taking place at Etobicoke. Students from Mr. McClure's, Ms. Chawla's, Ms. Green's and Ms. Lawson's classes will perform on April 1st. Students from Ms. Baigent's and Ms. Gacich's classes will perform on April 2nd. More information about this event will be forwarded closer to the dates.



New lunch hour choirs have begun. The Primary Choir for students in Grades Two and Three rehearses on Mondays at lunch and the Junior Choir for students in Grades Four, Five and Six rehearses on Wednesdays at lunch. All students are welcome to attend.

Finally, on February 20th, students from the two Grade One classes and the two Grade Two/Three classes will be attending a performance of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra at Roy Thompson Hall. The music will be familiar to them as the orchestra will be playing excerpts from "Carnival of Animals" as well as "Flight of the Bumblebee". It promises to be an exciting day!

Principal's Message

It has now been just over one year that I have been Principal of Garden Avenue School and what a year it has been! From the dunk tank to the 50th Anniversary celebrations, there are countless memories to cherish! (I was hoping one time in the dunk tank would be memory enough but I hear plans are afoot...)



Principals, past and present, and local politicians at the 50th

This school year started off with the 50th Anniversary celebrations on Saturday October 13th. Hundreds of past and present Garden/Argentina students, teachers and parents flooded into the school with great enthusiasm. Laughter, nostalgia and conversation were everywhere, and the Decade Rooms provided a suitable place to meet. Staff and parents worked hard to create an atmosphere that would convey the richness of the history and times. The commemorative ceremony with past principals, current politicians and parents, the World Music performance, and the evening 'sock hop' rounded out a wonderful day.

On November 15th—the 50th day of school—we had a special

performance by Kim and Jerry Brodie. Students then spent the afternoon working on their time capsules that are “not to be opened until 2032”. Hopefully you have found a place in your home for these treasures. As well, over 100 bulbs have been planted in our front garden with the help of parents from the playground committee Mary Cuyllle and Maddie Hudson.

The Fall term also saw a very successful Terry Fox Run, QSP fundraising campaign and Scholastic Book Fair. Our school participated in cross-country and softball tournaments, and parent Simon Cotter and Mr. Goetz organized our first Garden Track and Field Club supported by funds raised at a special comedy fundraiser. Garden also proudly collected a Gold EcoSchool Award.

Garden's staff continues to work together towards our priorities. We have plans in place around numeracy, literacy, equity, arts, and information technology, with special interest in programs like Safe Schools, EcoSchools and Toronto Schools on the Move. Currently, staff have organized chess, drawing and homework clubs, choirs, primary floor hockey league, Forest of Reading activities and the Playground Ambassadors program.



World Music performance at the 50th Anniversary celebration

Recently, the Falconer Safety Panel Report was released. Many of the recommendations involve laying the groundwork for safety and equity while children are young. Garden Avenue School is doing a great deal already in this area.

As we move further into 2008, kindergarten registration for September is about to begin. The reputation of our school and of Sunnyside Garden Day Care keeps the neighbours coming and attracts others from outside the community. In current years, our registration numbers have grown and our capacity is limited in welcoming children from outside the district.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committed parent volunteers at Garden, from School Council to classroom volunteers, special event volunteers, drivers, pizza lunch volunteers, and everyone who gives their time to make Garden a better place.

I look forward to the rest of this 2007-08 school year and invite you to get involved!

Margaret McIntosh



FRENCH IMMERSION

The Toronto District School Board offers both an Early French Immersion Program and a Middle French Immersion Program. The Early Immersion program begins in Senior kindergarten and Middle Immersion Program begins in Grade 4. The Early and Middle French Immersion programs are not offered at Garden Avenue Public School at present.

Please be advised that if your child is currently enrolled at Sunnyside Garden Daycare Centre and you choose to exercise either French Immersion option, you will forfeit your child care space in the daycare.

Sunnyside Garden Daycare Centre has a limited number of spaces, and priority is given to students currently enrolled at Garden Avenue Public School. Should you have any questions please give Judith a call at 416.533.2008.

www.sunnysidegardendaycare.com

For photos of the Halloween Parade, click this link

Halloween Parade '07
Photos 

on

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

Laughter for the Arts 2007

By Cathie Gryfe-Seeley

December 28th, 2007 marked the date of the 5th Annual Laughter for the Arts evening. Thanks to our own Simon B. Cotter it was another night of pure enjoyment. Over 170 people were humoured by Tony Krolo, Meg Soper, Scott Harris, Glen Foster and David Merry. What a lineup! Some folks were overheard saying it was the best night yet.

Although the audience numbers were down, Simon and his fellow comedians helped to raise over \$4600. Another successful year, Simon. Congratulations!

A big round of applause must go out to Mr. McClure who won the 50/50 Draw and then donated the money back to the school. That's quite a precedent to set.

What a treat to see so many of the Garden Avenue staff members in the audience! We are incredibly lucky to have such a devoted group of people teaching and caring for our children. We know that Margaret McIntosh and Luba Andrews help to keep our teachers positive and enthusiastic about their jobs. Thank you to the teachers for helping your students to create such fantastic Joke Books to give as thank-you gifts to the performers. I know that they are touched by this gesture and that they find them hilarious. I would also like to thank all of the people who helped to make the evening such a big success. The LFTA committee is Shelagh Cooke, Melissa Ogilvy, Kim Haines and Allysonne McGreal.

Chapters Fundraiser a Big Success!

Over 200 people came out to sing Christmas carols with our school choir at the Chapters Fundraiser in December! Shoppers made great purchases and a percentage of the sales were given back to Garden. We raised \$410 for our school library! It was a lovely evening with parents, friends and relatives in attendance, all enjoying the holiday spirit and the beautiful voices of our children. Thanks to Ms. Jenkins for preparing a table with "Librarian's Picks" and to Mrs. Umezawa (Mrs. U to the kids!) who has been such a wonderful addition to Garden this year.



Gonpo was a student in Mrs. Bell's Grade 1 classroom. Recognized as the reincarnation of a Tibetan Lama, on January 20th he set off on a very special journey to begin his Buddhist philosophical training in India. The following article was graciously submitted by his family. Students and staff will miss Gonpo but feel honoured to have been part of his life to date



Gonpo (Jigmey Tenzin Gyurmey Rinpoche)

Gonpo was born in Toronto on July 20, 2001 to a Tibetan family. He is the only son of his parents and has one sister. He and his sister, Tenzin, both joined Garden Ave School in 2005. He has made many friends at Garden and he loved to go to school everyday.

Gonpo was very much a miracle child, displaying signs that he was indeed special. Soon after his birth one of his Father's friends who practices as an Astrologer predicted that he was a very special boy, he would have a name for himself and he would move away from his birthplace. His parents never thought that it would turn out like this.

In February 2005, Gonpo was recognized as the reincarnation of Khenpo Mewa Thubten Rinpoche (the Master of Dzogchen, Nyingmapas Lineage) by His Holiness Dodrup-chen Rinpoche. He was bestowed the new name Jigmey Tenzin Gyurmey Rinpoche.

In 2006, H.H. Dodrup-chen Rinpoche arranged for a preliminary ceremony for the ordination for Gonpo. At the airport in India, many of Gonpo's students and followers received him and were very happy for the reunion. The young Rinpoche (Gonpo) even recognized a few of his students and friends from his previous life and spoke with them. Some of his students said they saw an image of the Buddha over the mountain when he was coming. When young Rinpoche was making his way to visit His Holiness Dodrup-chen Rinpoche's monastery, all the people at the monastery could see a large rainbow, as a dragon, flying towards the monastery.

Gonpo was ordained and enthroned in November 2006 by H.H. Dodrup-chen Rinpoche in Gangtok Sikkim (India) and thereafter Gonpo was officially called Jigmey Tenzin Gyurmey Rinpoche.

Gonpo was supposed to begin his Buddhist philosophical training in 2006 but due to his name change he had to come back to Toronto. The name change process, new passport application and visa were finally completed in November 2007.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama's visit to Toronto in Oct-Nov 2007 bestowed an opportunity for young Gonpo to meet him. This was possible because Gonpo is a reincarnation of Khenpo Mewa Thupten Rinpoche. His Holiness the Dalai Lama held young Gonpo's face and looked into his eyes for a minute and said "study hard".

His final journey to the Monastery began January 20, 2008. The Garden Ave School will always remain close to his heart as it is his first school and a place where he met many kids and made many friends. He will remain Gonpo to all of his friends, but to others he is now Jigmey Tenzin Gyurmey Rinpoche.

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

We are posting most parent communication from the main office and School Advisory Council on our website. We strive to post it all in the near future. Look for newsletters, forms, events, etc. Put it in your favourites list.

TERRY FOX

By Ms. Chawla

The Terry Fox Foundation and Garden Avenue Public School would like to thank the families for their generous contribution during the Terry Fox Run. The foundation recognized our outstanding contribution of \$4,778.92. Students were committed and passionate about raising money for cancer research as they ran or walked around the perimeter of the school on September 25th. Your generosity for such a great cause is very much appreciated!



HOLIDAY CHEER

The Holiday Craft Fair was a successful fundraising event as well as a fun time for everyone who enjoyed the holiday ambiance while munching on chili, cornbread and homemade baked goods. The highlight, of course, was shopping for handmade and original items — did we see a lot of moms wearing gorgeous new necklaces afterwards? The wonderful raffle baskets were also a big hit with everyone. A special thank you to Liisa Dickson, Mark Reynolds, Marci Becker, Alison Myles and Doreen Mattatall for helping to raise \$2190!

Ward 7 Report

By Liz Johnston-Hill

On January 15th, Toronto District School Board Trustee Irene Atkinson hosted her first Ward 7 Education Council meeting of the new year. A few important items from the agenda have been outlined here.

Homework Policy

The TDSB is currently reviewing their policy on homework and would like to hear from parents. There is a special meeting scheduled for February 26th at Western Tech for those who wish to discuss this topic. Curriculum Superintendent Karen Grose will be the special guest and each school has the opportunity to make a presentation. If you are interested in attending this meeting, please contact Liz Johnston Hill as soon as possible.

TDSB Budget

The TDSB has a projected deficit of \$41.7 M. To deal with this deficit,

the Board staff has proposed possible cuts that include reductions to kindergarten education assistants, school librarians and school budgets, as well as closing pools. Trustee Atkinson does not support these measures and will not vote for them. A Board strategy meeting is scheduled for mid-February, with final budget decisions to be made on March 5th.

New Superintendent

A new Acting Superintendent for the SW-2 Family of Schools (which includes Garden) has been appointed. Manon Gardner, formerly the Principal of Runnymede P.S., brings a wealth of experience to this challenging position. We wish our former Superintendent Karen Falconer all the best in her new position as Superintendent of the NW2 Secondary and Middle School Pilot.

For more information on the Ward 7 Council, click on Trustee Atkinson's link on Garden's webpage or contact Liz Johnston Hill at lizjohnstonhill@primus.ca.

Our Kids Have Big Hearts!

Perhaps you noticed a big thermometer on the wall outside of the office, or heard a rumour of a cow being purchased by our children?!

The generosity of our school community was amazing after Mr. McClure expressed the desire for kids to donate to World Vision as a holiday gift. After playground meetings and lunch discussions, several of the children came forward to organize a fundraising initiative with the goal of purchasing a dairy cow through World Vision—at a cost of \$600. Not only did our little school raise enough for one dairy cow—we raised enough for two! It was remarkable to see the way the idea took off, and also wonderful that our children were able to understand and learn about other communities in the world that are so much less fortunate than ours.