

# Garden Avenews



Produced by the Garden Avenue School Advisory Council

## Co-Chairs' Message

It is hard to believe it is already June and the end of the school year is in sight. This has been a really special year full of wonderful events and activities.

It is through the outstanding collaboration of parents and staff that it all happens and so we want to thank everyone for their many contributions over the past year. And, it is not over yet! Still to come is our Spring Pot Luck (May 31), the Blue Jays game where our school choir will sing the national anthems (June 6), the all school trip to the zoo (June 15) and our very popular pizza lunches!

It is at this time that as a school council we need to think about our executive for next year. If you are interested in participating in the Council either in a specific position, or as a member at large we welcome your participation. Our last school council executive meeting for this

school year is planned for June 21 at 6:30 pm in the staff room. As always, everyone is welcome to join our meeting—perhaps this would be a good chance to check us out! Child care is available upon request. We hope to see you on the 21<sup>st</sup>.



We hope everyone has a wonderful end to school year and a very happy summer ahead.

*Jenn Sutherland  
(jenn\_sutherland@rogers.com) and  
Carole Reynolds  
(carole.reynolds@sutherlandmodels.com),  
Co-Chairs, Garden Ave School  
Advisory Council 2006-2007*



### DATES FOR 2007-2008

Sep. 28, Nov. 2 + 30,  
Feb. 15, Apr. 4, Jun. 26

#### Professional Activity Days

October 8

#### Thanksgiving

October 13

#### Garden Avenue P.S. 50th Anniversary Celebration

December 24 - January 4

#### Christmas Break

March 10-14

#### Mid-Winter Break

March 21/24

#### Good Friday / Easter Monday

May 19

#### Victoria Day

## ALL SCHOOL TRIP TO THE TORONTO ZOO!

There is much excitement around the school about the end of year trip to the Toronto Zoo! On June 15 the whole student body, along with teachers and many parent volunteers, will head to the Zoo for a day of fun & learning. Last year's all school trip to the Kortright Centre was one of the biggest highlights of the year, and our council fundraising survey showed overwhelming support for your Parent Advisory Council to fund it again. This is where your support of our fundraising efforts ends up! Thanks for supporting the Parent Council.

## WE'RE ERASING PREJUDICE FOR GOOD

Garden students and staff continued to explore equity issues using this literature-based program. Ms. Lawson's class presented a photomontage on the theme of 'Caring Hands'. Mrs. Gacich's class, under the direction of student teacher Miss Wong, used various dramatic techniques to teach us about 'Untying the Knots of Prejudice'. And for the theme of 'Local and Global Citizenship', Mrs. Bagent's class performed a play.

We would like to again congratulate the following students who best exemplified the characteristics associated with these issues:

	February 'Caring Hands'	March 'Untying the Knots of Prejudice'	April 'Local & Global Citizenship'
<b>Room</b>			
<b>102</b>	Alessio	Callum	Michelle
<b>103</b>	Robert	Ariel	Margeaux
<b>104 am</b>	Beth	Jett	Owen
<b>104 pm</b>	Tallulah	Charlotte	Alexander
<b>106 am</b>	Nick	Sebastian	Andrew
<b>106 pm</b>	Sophie	Leo	Charis
<b>203</b>	Katie	Carlin	Bryn
<b>204</b>	Emilia	Liddell	Miranda
<b>205</b>	Joelle	Odelia	Rheya
<b>206</b>	Hadley	Nya	Linnea
<b>207</b>	Phillip	Cameron	Jacob

**PLEASE CHECK THE LOST & FOUND**  
Leftover belongings will be donated to charity at year end.

## Fundraising/Treasurer's Report

By Mary Cuyllé

The 2006/2007 school year is coming to an end and once again it has been an extremely successful year for fundraising at Garden Avenue Public School.

Throughout the year several fundraising projects took place and to date the Garden Avenue School Council has raised \$17 906.99. Here's a look at the profits.

Open House Bake Sale . . . .	\$464.24
Chapters Book Sale . . . . .	\$278.00
Craft Fair . . . . .	\$1 998.38
Pizza Lunches . . . . .	\$676.78
Laughter For The Arts . . . .	\$5 903.58
So Simple Designs Notecards . .	\$215.00
Spring Fun Fair . . . . .	\$7 889.43

Money raised at these events has gone towards things such as the story telling evening, drumming equipment, class trips, library materials and the end of year school trip to the zoo just to name a few.

Thanks to all those people who helped make 2006/2007 the best year yet!

## Easing the Transition

By Tanya Kakei

### A Day in the Life of a Grade One Student



On Tuesday May 8, Garden held its first annual Grade One Orientation meeting for parents of SK children. We had over 20 parents in attendance which was fantastic. The purpose of the meeting was to give insight into how busy a day can be for a Grade One student and all the changes that go on. The idea is to help parents prepare their children for their first full day in September, as well as for parents to feel more prepared.

Among the many topics discussed were: how and when the children enter the building throughout the day; how often the children change their clothes and shoes; first term focus on routines and making friends; ideas for preparing for lunch, whether staying at school or going home; some suggestions for the first term and for the summer.

For those parents who were unable to attend the meeting, you are welcome to request from the office a copy of the handout that was provided or download it from the school website (<http://schools.tdsb.on.ca/gardenave/>). For those who did attend, we welcome your feedback so that we are able to improve for next year.



## C H E S S C L U B

*By Beatrice and Odelia in Ms. Chawla's Grade 5/6 class*

Chess Club was a great experience for the students at Garden P.S. We had a huge turnout with over forty members! Some kids were learning how to play and some kids already knew. As students played and learned how to play chess, they also made new friends. Some kids learned new moves and the more experienced ones helped out the others. For example, a move we learned was that the bishop piece can move diagonally backwards and forwards.

We would also win prizes during chess trivia. Did you know that chess was created in India sometime before 600 A.D.? The first international chess tournament was the London Tourney of 1851 which was won by Adolf Anderssen of Germany. The first official chess tournament was in 1866, also in London.

The game is played on a square checkered chessboard. At the start, two players ("white" and "black") control sixteen pieces: one king, one queen, two rooks, two knights, two bishops, and eight pawns. White usually moves first. The object of the game is to checkmate the opponent's king, which is when the king is under immediate attack (in "check") and there is no way to dodge the attack on the opponent's next move.

At the end of Chess Club, Ms. Chawla organized a chess tournament. The final winners received a certificate along with other prizes.

Here are some of the Chess Club member's opinions:

**"Even though I didn't win the final chess tournament, I was really close to winning."**

*Dominic, Grade 6*

**"I think that it was a great opportunity to learn how to play chess and have a great time."**

*Camille, Grade 5*

**"I think that Chess Club was a great experience"**

*Joelle, Grade 6*

**"It was very good and mind challenging."**

*Patrick, Grade 4*

**"I thought that it was fun and challenging."**

*Thevesan, Grade 5*

**"It was good."**

*Claire, Grade 4*

There were only a few finalists, but in the end we were all winners.



## PLANTS WANTED

If you are dividing plants and have spares, the Playground Committee is looking for plants to beautify the school grounds! Plants we especially want are:

- for the Kindergarten playground, groundcover such as Goutweed, Mother-of-Thyme, Gallium, Periwinkle, Lamium (Dead Nettle)
  - for the Butterfly Garden, butterfly habitat and nectar plants such as Asters, Bee Balm, Black-eyed Susans, Coreopsis, Echinacea, Gayfeather/Liatris, Lavender, Phlox
- Please leave transplants in the Electrical Utility Room in the Caretakers area. Remember to leave the name of the plant too!

## HEALTHY SNACK DAY

April 24 was Healthy Snack Day at Garden, culminating more than a month of nutrition related activities. Every child in the school received a nutritious snack which consisted of hummus, vegetables, pita and apples. Curriculum activities were designed by teachers to go along with the Healthy Snack. This endeavour was a joint activity with Sunnyside Garden Daycare and parent Marci Becker. We would like to form a small nutrition committee to plan future activities. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Mrs. McIntosh at 416.393.9165 or at [margaret.mcintosh@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:margaret.mcintosh@tdsb.on.ca)

# 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

In 2007 our beloved Garden Ave P.S. turns 50! We are in the midst of planning many fun activities to celebrate. Our main event will be October 13 (Saturday) so please mark the date. From 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. we are inviting our Garden Ave. Alumni to come back to the school to celebrate the history and join up with old friends. That evening everyone is invited back to school for a Sock Hop.

The children will also be discussing the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the classroom through a variety of activities and next year the whole school will celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> day of school in addition to the 100<sup>th</sup>.

If you would like more information, or if you would like to be part of our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration planning committee please contact Jenn Sutherland at [jenn\\_sutherland@rogers.com](mailto:jenn_sutherland@rogers.com) or 416-537-1335.

## Forest of Reading Awards

[www.accessola.com/forest2007/](http://www.accessola.com/forest2007/)

On April 26, all Garden students from JK to grade 3 visited the library to vote for their favourite Blue Spruce book. Also casting their ballots that day were the students who had read the requisite minimum of 5 books from the Silver Birch Fiction, Non-fiction or Express programs. Students cheered as the Garden results were read over the announcements!



The Garden votes were submitted to the Ontario Library Association to be tabulated with those from across Ontario. On May 17, the Silver Birch readers who had completed their chosen program made their way to Harbourfront to attend the awards ceremony. Five students from Garden had the additional honour to act as presenters/ushers for some of the Silver Birch authors. Victoria, Odelia, Rheyra, and Michelle from room 205 and Bryn from room 203 proudly represented our school as they took the stage in front of hundreds of students and teachers from across the province.

In addition to attending the ceremonies, students participated in a variety of workshops related to some of this year's entries. The yo-yo clinic (Casey Little, Yo-Yo Queen was one of the Express selection) was a particular hit!

Many thanks go to the Parent Council for their generous support for this worthwhile field trip. Thank you also to students and staff for their enthusiastic support of these programs which made the Forest of Reading such a success.

And the awards went to...

Forest of Reading Program	Garden results	Ontario Winner
<b>Blue Spruce</b>	<b>Camilla Chameleon</b> by Colleen Sydor	<b>Scaredy Squirrel</b> by Melanie Watt
<b>Silver Birch Express</b>	<b>Peggy's Letters</b> by Jacqueline Halsey	<b>Any Pet Will Do</b> by Nancy Shouse
<b>Silver Birch Fiction</b>	<b>Barry Boyhound</b> by Andy Spearman	<b>Walking With the Dead</b> by L.M. Falcone
<b>Silver Birch Non-Fiction</b>	<b>Prepared to be Amazed</b> by Mary Schendlinger	<b>Hiding Edith</b> by Kathy Kacer

**Science Detectives**  
by the Editors of YES Mag  
**They did What?**  
by Jeff Szpirglas



Garden students with author Andy Spearman





Spring 2007 has been a season of 'firsts' for me at Garden Avenue not the least of which was my 'first' Garden Avenue Fun Fair. I decided the best approach to the fun fair was to 'immerse' myself in the total experience. In doing so I realized what a phenomenal commitment our parent volunteers make and how good they are at what they do. Thank you Carole Reynolds and the tremendous group of parents who made it happen.

Wednesday May 16 was the evening of our Gr. 1-6 School Concert and I don't think it would be an exaggeration to observe that we have quite an amazing pool of talent here at Garden, staff, students and parents. The combination of Mr. Ireland's musical expertise, staff's hard work and creativity, an excellent itinerant strings program led by Mr. Curry and the collaborative efforts of school and parents (Giggs Russell, Nazneen Mehdi, Ed Hsing) in developing the World Music program is a demonstration right here at Garden



## Principal's Message

of the best our system has to offer.

Kindergarten registration was a success with over 40 JK students enrolling for September. Many of the parents attended the Kindergarten orientation, a joint effort by parents (Melissa Ogilvie) and staff. Collaboration is alive and well at Garden. Our first Grade 1 Parent Orientation was organized by Tanya Kakei, Liz Johnston-Hill, Ms. Young and Ms. King and passed on lots of useful information to help with the transition from Kindergarten to Grade 1.

Our growing numbers present some space challenges for next year and Judith Malcolm-Barnes of Sunnyside Garden Day Care and I are working out a plan to continue to meet the needs of their excellent School Age Child Care Program while basically sharing more space with school programs. We are however in the fortunate position of increasing our enrolment while many Toronto Schools are losing

students and staff because of the major demographic changes our city is undergoing.

It is a very busy time of year. Soon our Grade threes and sixes will be involved in EQAO testing. On June 6 we will be at the Blue Jays game together to hear our choir perform the National Anthems. On June 15 with the help of over 70 volunteer parents, the entire school will be at the Zoo! The 5/6's are at the Island School June 20-22nd and return to Grade 6 graduation the following Monday. Pizza and outdoor

lunches, Pot Luck supper, track and field practices, playday all add to the memories students and families will treasure. And throughout all this teachers continue to deliver their classroom programs, write report cards and assist me in planning for next year. I know you will join me as well

in thanking Mrs. Andrews for her good nature and skilled work on the 'front line' at Garden.

I look forward to the next school year at Garden Avenue and continuing to work together with staff and parents to deliver the very best programs and experiences to the students of Garden Avenue.

*Margaret McIntosh*



## A MESSAGE FOR PARENTS ABOUT SUN SAFETY

We all look forward to warmer weather and more sunshine. But too much sunshine during childhood can cause eye damage, premature skin aging and skin cancers later in life. And all skin colours are at risk!

The good news is that you can help your children to prevent the damage from too much sunshine. Teach them to follow these simple steps:

- Limit time in the sun between 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. whenever possible.
- Look for shaded areas to do outdoor activities.
- Wear clothing to protect as much skin as possible.
- Wear a hat with a wide brim or with a flap to cover the back of the neck.
- Put on UV protective sunglasses.
- Use a sunscreen with SPF 15 or higher and UVA & UVB protection.

For more information call Toronto Health Connection at 416-338-7600

© Material developed by Toronto Public Health Sun Safety Symbols adapted from The Anti-Cancer Council of Victoria (Australia)

## You Are Not Alone

On Wednesday May 2 a group of Garden Avenue 10-12 year olds, with their parents, came together for a workshop organized by the school and Sunnyside Garden Day Care and facilitated by Toronto Public Health. The goal of the workshop was to help families prepare their 10-12 year olds to be home alone safely.

The program is designed to help families:

- Communicate together
- Find out if they are comfortable leaving 10-12 year olds home alone
- Develop a contract or agreement between parents and children
- Increase safety awareness

Throughout the evening there were activities and information that helped families communicate with each other, look at readiness and safety issues and make a plan that suited their own situation.

Families attending found the evening very helpful and it is a program we will definitely make available again next year.



The At Home Alone program has five easy steps:

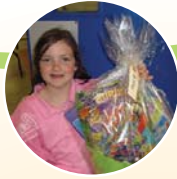
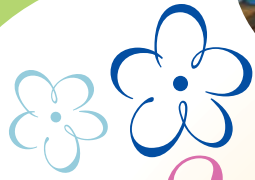
- A**ssess if you are ready
- L**earn about safety
- O**rganize your home
- N**egotiate the terms
- E**valuate

## Some Stats to Celebrate...

Recently, our school received a report from the TDSB Library and Learning Resources department regarding our library. Overall, the report shows that we have an up-to-date vibrant collection that is well accessed by students. The use, quality and extent of the collection exceed the average compared to other elementary schools across the TDSB. Here are some of the details:

- Our collection has grown by more than 1200 items since September. (With almost 300 more to be added by the end of the year.)
- The average copyright date shows that Garden's collection is significantly more up-to-date than the average elementary school.
- Garden has 13% more books per student than the average.
- The average number of books checked out per student is almost double that of other junior schools.

Studies have shown that well-used school libraries with current collections, staffed by qualified teacher-librarians, have a positive impact on overall student achievement. The above report shows that our school library is well positioned to have this kind of positive impact on student learning.



# Spring Fun Fair 2007

The annual Garden Fun Fair was once again blessed by the weather gods, who sent us a day of sunshine and moderate temperatures to enjoy! The biggest attraction at the Fair was the dunk tank, which had a huge crowd around it all day! Mrs. McIntosh, Mr. McClure, Mr. Ireland and our former principal Mr. Tsuji all put on their bathing suits (and snorkels, life jackets and capes in some instances!) and were great sports. Who knew the kids at Garden had such great throwing arms?!

There were lots of games in the gym for little ones to enjoy, and the bigger kids had a riot with the inflatable jousting and Garden's favourite game "Ring the Pop". Our Great Toonie Jar Sale sold out in an hour, leaving lots of disappointed kids hoping to get one—don't forget to make a jar (or two!) next year so every child can get one! Our Victorian Tearoom was bustling all day long, as was the snack bar in the gym. We had to go out and buy more hot dogs!

For all who came, thank you for supporting the Fun Fair and your school! Every cent raised will go towards our school, including the end of year Zoo trip, our new track & field tent, in school theatre performances, and many other wonderful activities.

A big thank you to Allyson McGreal, Marci Becker, Michelle Martindale, Alison Jessamine and the many volunteers who made this great day of fundraising and fun possible!



# World Music Circle

Step-step, clap-clap is how the World Music Circle began its portion of the Spring Concert. The audience stood, stepped, clapped and sang the 'response' part of the call-and-response song 'Banuwa'.

With a shorter session than usual (3 weeks vs. 6 weeks) the twenty primary students mastered and put their hearts and souls into their drumming and ahatchee performance. They joyfully performed a second call-and-response song 'Ah lah no neh nia lano'.



Following their uplifting performance, the Junior World Music Circle group performed the now-classic call-and-response song 'Chay Chay Coolay' while the stage was being set up for their instrumental performance.

Led by special guest Petr Pulchart on didgeridoo, the juniors performed a piece they had put together themselves. Six djembe drummers, one gankogui, 2 bass drums with different rhythms and one ahatchee players alternated and layered their rhythms to provide a fitting finale to a wonderful evening.



Mrs Gacich's Grade 2/3 class enjoyed a morning at the Enoch Turner Schoolhouse, where they went back in time to 1857 and spent a day at school as students of Olde York! Girls put on pinafores and boys donned collars, then saw how kids lived and learned in 1857—including writing with slates, sitting straight with hands behind backs at all times, standing and stepping into the aisle when answering a question, and standing at the front of the class with a sign around their neck for punishment!

## Ward 7 Council

By Liz Johnston-Hill

For a number of years now, our hard-working TDSB representative, Trustee Irene Atkinson, has been hosting regular meetings to keep the community informed. The Ward 7 Education Council's official mandate is "to discuss the needs and issues of common concern to the school communities in the ward; to network with other schools and organizations; to act as a proactive collective voice to inform the local trustee, the local MPP, the Minister of Education and the School Board of these needs and issues; and to act as a forum for school community consultation and input on educational policies, programs and services." There are many opportunities for parents to learn about TDSB initiatives, voice concerns and share experiences. For more information, check out the "Boardroom" section of the TDSB website at [www.tdsb.on.ca](http://www.tdsb.on.ca).

As always, budget concerns continue to dominate Ward 7 council discussions, most notably a looming deficit which board staff has estimated at \$8M. Irene will be actively participating in a special meeting on June 6 to discuss the budget, with the plan to approve it at the regular board meeting on June 27. Irene will keep all members informed as to the outcome of these important meetings.

Catherine Marjoribanks has been acclaimed as the new Chair of the Ward 7 Education Council. Many of you know Catherine from her years of excellent service at Garden, and she will be a superb Chair of this diverse and vocal group.

The next meeting of the Ward 7 Council is scheduled for Tuesday, September 18, 2007. If you are interested in attending or require further information, please contact Liz Johnston Hill at [lizjohnstonhill@primus.ca](mailto:lizjohnstonhill@primus.ca)