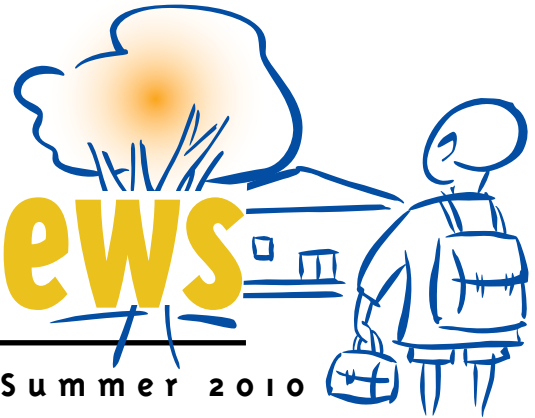


Garden Avenews



Produced by the Garden Avenue School Advisory Council

Summer 2010

The Fun Fair

by Felicia K., Grade 6

The Fun Fair was an amazing event.

There were bouncy castles, mazes, games, races, a fire truck, toonie jars, cupcake making, food, a book sale, raffle baskets, Victorian Tea Room, silent auction, water bottle selling, photo booth, and even an open mike. This year the photo booth and the open mike are new to the school Fun Fair. I know I loved dressing up and taking my pictures. I even bought them. The open mike was amazing between the bands and the singing and dancing, it was all amazing to watch. I think we also



have to thank the parent council and all the volunteers including Carole Reynolds, Jenn Sutherland, Melissa Ogilvie-McKinley, Alison Jessamine, Katherine Doyle and lots more people including Mrs. Peterson.

The school raised over 9000 dollars for the school and I think everyone who went, had fun. Hope next year the fun fair's as good as this year's.

Photos on page 4

KEEP IN THE LOOP

If you're looking for school-related information, check out the Garden Avenue website at <http://schools.tdsb.on.ca/gardenave>. Important events will also be posted on the school sign as well as the Parent Council notice board on the first floor. Be sure to also sign up for our GardenAvenewsDirect e-newsletter by sending your email address to jenn_sutherland@rogers.com

Chair's Message

One of the reasons Garden Ave. is such a great school is because parents take the time to get involved. Being on a school committee or part of the Parent Council is a fun way to meet other parents in the school, get informed and get active in your child's school and education, and make a difference for us all. At Garden we are lucky to have so many people who get involved. Thanks to everyone, parents, staff, and children, for making so many special things

happy at our Garden this year.

With this school year closing out, it is time to start thinking about where you want to help out for the 2010/2011 school year. It is just around the corner. You can play a big or small part in the areas of the

Continues on page 5

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

The 2009/2010 School Year has been a fabulous year for Fundraising at Garden!

by Carole Reynolds, Fundraising Coordinator

We are so fortunate to have a great parent community at Garden, a big thank you to everyone who has helped out raising funds at our many events throughout the year. Big or little, your contribution counts!

The Fun Fair was an amazing day! We raised over \$9000, with every cent going towards Parent Council activities and programs at Garden! A big thank you to everyone who helped make the day such a success!

A new fundraiser for us this year was our stainless steel Garden water bottles. They are imprinted with our own Garden bee logo and available

for only \$10. We still have a few left over from the Fun Fair, so pick one up for the summer!

Thanks to Carol Domitric and all of the parents who lend a helping hand with pizza lunches throughout the year. Along with raising a substantial amount of money for the school, pizza lunch brings a lot of joy to parents who don't have to send lunch one day a week!

Thanks also to Stephanie Phillips and Cookerydoo for offering such amazing after school cooking classes throughout the year. Kids of all ages loved the experience, brought home

tasty treats, and raised money for the school all at the same time.

Believe it or not, we will soon start planning ahead for the 2010/2011 school year. If you have heart to start a fundraiser, or if you are interested in becoming involved in any of our existing events, let me know! We are also really hoping to have more involvement from parents of the younger children next year, as many of the parents who organize our main events are graduating from Garden! Please give some thought about how you can be involved in fundraising for Garden!

Principal's Message

by Mrs. Peterson

Dear Parents and Garden Avenue Public School Community,

It has been a busy Spring at Garden! Scientists in the School visited our Kindergarten classes, the Junior Drawing Club filled the main foyer with wonderful artwork, and cooking classes have now been offered to all grades. Many thanks and words of appreciation go to parent Stephanie Phillips for her tireless efforts in making these classes such a huge success!

A math afternoon was held here at Garden where the students had opportunities to participate in a math games club. Thank you to Parent Council for supporting the purchase of math games for our club. As well, all classes participated in square dancing workshops. In April, Storytelling Night was well attended with storytellers Shannon Thunderbird, Rico Rodriguez

and Jennifer Cayley. Again this was made possible because of the fundraising efforts of our Parent Council.

With the nice weather came many sports activities at Garden. Special thanks go to Ms. Chawla and Mr. Goetz for coaching the Gr. 5-6 volleyball team, Ms. Green for coaching the Jr. Girls soccer team, and Mr. McClure for coaching intramural soccer. Additional thanks go to Mr. Goetz and his parent volunteers, headed by Simon Cotter, who worked so hard to help students prepare for the May Track Meet. Also, students and teachers were thrilled to participate in the two-day Power Soccer clinics. Thank you to Parent Council for funding these clinics!

Our Fun Fair on May 29th was a great success! A huge thank you to our

tireless parent volunteers led by School Council co-chairs Carole Reynolds and Jennifer Sutherland for organizing such a fantastic event.

We are just about to wrap up another school year. The kindergarten students have performed their year-end "Where the Wild Things Are" concert. Our Grade 3 and Grade 6 EQAO assessments are complete. And now the Grade 6 students are preparing for their Graduation Day.

Thank you to Parent Council for your hard work and to all our community for supporting Garden Avenue Public School so generously!

Wishing our Garden Community a very enjoyable summer with family and friends!

Mrs. Peterson

Easing the Transition

A Day in the Life of a Grade One Student

by Tanya Kakei

On Tuesday May 18, Garden held its annual Grade One Transition meeting for parents of SK children. Once again we had a really great turn out. The purpose of the meeting is to give parents some insight into how busy a day can be for a Grade One student and all the changes that go on. The goal is to relieve some of the stress from parents as they prepare their

children and themselves for their first full day in September. It provides an opportunity for parents to ask questions and open the lines of communication for any further concerns that may arise. It was also a chance to meet some other parents that are dealing with similar issues and just get to know the faces of fellow parents.

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; how the children transition from daycare.



Junior Girls Soccer Team

by Ms. K. Green

Garden girls from Grades 5 and 6 practiced twice a week for 6 weeks leading up to our divisional tournament at Sorauren Park on May 25th. Throughout the Spring season we had excellent coaching assistance from former Garden

player Isabella Campbell and Garden parent Melissa Ogilvie-McKinley. The skill development and excellent team spirit among the girls always made for positive experiences on the field. In the week before the tournament,

we held an exhibition game against our main rival: Fern P.S. Our girls played with tremendous heart holding the game at a scoreless tie.

Tournament day was a scorcher! That didn't keep Garden fans away though; how excited we were to see Mr. McClure and Mrs. Polak bringing the Grade 3's to cheer us on. And of course, our biggest fan, Mrs. Peterson was there "coaching" from the sidelines. We played 4 very tough games, and finished the day in 3rd place in our division. Pride is what we felt at the end. And yes, maybe a little disappointment too. Pride because we worked so well together as a team and disappointment because, well, we wanted to win! Many thanks to all the parents who supported their soccer playing girls.

School website

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



GARDEN AVENUE PUBLIC SCHOOL'S ANNUAL
Spring fun fair



Keeping It Clean

by Fatima A. and Katie G., Grade 6

As you probably know Garden Ave. P.S. is a Gold Eco School. We water our plants, turn off the lights and we even reduced our garbage pick-up. Yet there is still litter in our yard. Why? People don't know, maybe it's kids who come at night, or during the weekends. Maybe it's the teachers sneaking a snack. Whoever it is, it needs to stop! As we thought about this we decided to ask someone who

is so environmentally friendly he started his own club about it, Mr. McClure.

"I really dislike it", said Mr. McClure, "but I don't think it's our kids that do it. I really think teaching about being environmentally friendly is understanding what the environment affects, and that everyone is affected."

So we're not only asking you not to litter, but we're asking you to clean up after up those that do litter. It helps everyone from the cute little chipmunk that will not choke on your plastic bag to keeping Garden's standings as a Gold Eco School.

Some Stats to Celebrate

by Ms. Becky Jenkins, Teacher-Librarian

Each Spring, the Library and Learning Resources and Interdisciplinary Studies provides schools with information regarding each school's circulation (i.e. number of borrowed books) as well as information about each school's collection, compared to TDSB board-wide averages. This year, this report showed:

- While the number of books per student is slightly above the board average, the average age of our collection is two years more current than the board average. This means that the books in our collection are more recently published than many TDSB libraries. This is an important statistic as school libraries are meant to focus on current resources that support student learning.

- Our average checkout per student was twice the board average. This means that Garden students are making excellent use of the print resources available from our school library.

Next year, there will be some changes to the book exchange program at Garden. Due to timetabling considerations, each class will visit the library bi-weekly, as opposed to weekly. However, students in grades 1-6 will be able to borrow up to 4 books at a time. In addition, all students are ALWAYS welcome to visit the library to borrow books at any time that I am in the library, with their classroom teacher's permission. Kindergarten students will continue to have weekly book exchange. I am confident that all students will continue to take advantage of the terrific print resources available from Garden Ave. P.S. Library.

Chair's Message (con't)

school that interest or matter to you. For those who are thinking about volunteering, don't be shy. Come out on your own or grab a friend and become part of a team. Descriptions of our Executive Positions and Committees are posted on our website. Check it out at: <http://schools.tdsb.on.ca/gardenave/>

Thank you for a wonderful year!!
Happy summer.

Jenn Sutherland

Garden Avenue Music Notes

by Mrs. Umezawa, Music Teacher

Numerous performances have occurred for Garden Avenue students during Term 3.

On April 15th, the Primary and Junior Choirs along with students from Mr. McClure's, Ms. Chawla's and Ms. Green's classes performed for our Spring Concert *The Lorax*. Students in Mr. McClure's class dramatized their recorded version of the text and the rest of the students provided musical support for this fun event. Many thanks again to Jerome McPeck for producing the audio recording for this multi-media event and to Mr. McClure for his commitment to eco-initiatives in our school community.

The Junior Choir put forth an excellent performance both on and off the stage at the U of T/TDSB Choral Project's culminating concert on April 21st at the MacMillan Theatre. It was a thrill to perform with several professional musicians including a Master Drummer from Iqualuit, a Metis Fiddling trio and a professional flutist. We learned a great deal from our lead conductor, Dr. Lori-Ann Dollof as well as from our own TDSB Music Coordinator, Diane Jamieson.

The Strings Ensembles and our Primary Choir were still up for yet another performance on April 29th

at our first annual Strings and Choral Open House. This event celebrated the accomplishments of our performers in their extra-curricular musical endeavours. Congratulations to all students for their hard work and wonderful performances. Gratitude is extended to Mr. Curry for his outstanding ensemble instruction with our students.



On Monday, May 3rd, the Junior Choir joined several other TDSB schools downtown in Dundas Square for Music Monday performances and celebrations. The weather was perfect and it was another opportunity for our choristers to perform some of their repertoire. Truly a fun and inspiring day for all, showcasing and exposing all students and parents in attendance to the gamut of musical opportunities offered through our school board at all age levels. Thanks to Mrs. Peterson for accompanying us.

The Kindergarten students finished up our Garden Avenue Concert Series for the year on Thursday, June 3rd with their presentation of *Where the Wild Things Are*. This wonderful and engaging performance thoroughly entertained the proud families in attendance.

On May 29th, the Open Mike Stage was a new addition to the annual Fun Fair and it was a HUGE hit! What a wonderful group of talented kids we have here at Garden.

Looking ahead to the 2010-2011 school year, the first annual Garden Avenue Public School Night at the Opera, for parents and students will take place on Wednesday, January 26th, 2011 at 7:30 p.m., at the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts, for the Canadian Opera Company's dress rehearsal of *The Magic Flute*. **SAVE THE DATE!**

Tickets will be on sale in September for \$16 each. The sooner we are able to sell our tickets, the earlier we can book our seats for this event. I am told that there are still orchestra and mezzanine seats available, but that these seats will not last long once the fall season begins. I thought that it might be beneficial to mention this event now since there are many school-related expenses in the fall. Hopefully as many interested families as possible can attend this event.

Thanks for another GREAT year!!

2010 Silver Birch Awards Ceremony at Harbourfront

by Ms. Becky Jenkins, Teacher-Librarian



It was an exciting day for the 28 Garden Silver Birchers from grades 3 to 6 who attended the Silver Birch Awards Ceremony on May 13th. Despite a weather forecast of thundershowers, the rain held off, allowing us all to enjoy the many events at the festival. The students took part in many on-going events such as button-making, a display from the Metro Toronto Zoo, and a gallery of original artwork from the Silver Birch and Blue Spruce Books. The children had the opportunity to attend an author presentation as well as meet the authors during the autograph sessions. This was all topped off by the Awards presentations, which took place on the Sirius Stage. Each Silver Birch group, Fiction, Non-fiction and Express, attended their own ceremony, where the all-Ontario reader's choice award was presented with great fanfare! As part of each

ceremony, the children were able to hear a few words from each of the authors in attendance.

It was especially exciting for our fiction readers when Robert Paul

students. This presentation, as well as those of Cary Fagan (author of Ten Lessons for Kaspar Snit, from the Express category) and Jeremy Tankard (author of Boo Hoo Bird, and winner of the Blue Spruce Award) could not have taken place without the generous support of the Garden Ave. P.S. community through our Parent Council.

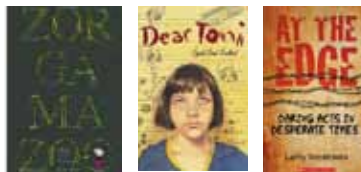
In fact, the Forest of Reading programs at Garden could not exist without this generous support, which includes not only the author presentations but also purchasing the books for the program as well as covering part of the cost of the trip to Harbourfront. The Forest of Reading program encourages a love of reading, exposes all Garden students to quality Canadian literature and provides opportunities for them to learn from the nominated authors about the writing craft. Thank you, Parent Council!

THE WINNERS OF THE 2010 SILVER BIRCH AWARDS WERE:

FICTION - *Zorgamazoo* by Robert Paul Weston

NON-FICTION - *At the Edge: Daring Acts in Desperate Times* by Larry Verstraete

EXPRESS - *Dear Toni* by Cyndi Sand-Eveland



Weston, author of *Zorgamazoo*, won the Silver Birch Fiction Award. The students felt they had a personal connection to Mr. Weston as he had visited Garden to make a presentation to all our junior

Treasurer's Report

by Tanya Kakei

To see full details of each month's updated Treasurer's Report, including forecasted income and planned expenditures, visit the Garden website and click on the School Council section.

Below are some of the more recent fundraising totals as well as some recent expenses.

Income

Cooking classes.....	\$3,190
Fun Fair.....	\$9215
Pasta before Storytelling	\$270
Pizza lunches	\$3680
PRO Grant.....	\$1,000

Expenses

Storytelling Evening	\$980
Author visits	\$1,050
Class Trips	\$955
Teacher Grants.....	\$1,800
Tree Planting & Benches	\$3,900

Check our website for more details:
<http://schools.tdsb.on.ca/gardenave/>

*First day of school in
September is
Tuesday,
September 7, 2010*



Track Meet 2010 by Daphne R., Grade 6

On Tuesday, May 18th 2010, fifty-four students from Garden Avenue Public School, ranging from grades two to six, went to the track meet held at Centennial Park. We either competed in a jumping event, a running event, or a relay. We tried our best and quite a few of us placed in the top eight. The only student to

qualify for the next round was Annie J., who placed fourth in the running long jump. I'd like to thank our coaches Mr. Cotter and Mr Goetz for encouraging us to do our best. It was a great last track meet at Garden, and competing on another track team next year will never be the same as Garden's track team. Thank you.



Volleyball Team by Rachel D., Grade 5

On Friday, April 1st it was the Grade 5 Volleyball Tournament. On the team there was Kyle, Maddie, Nevine, Rachel, Ryan, Troy and Will and the coaches Ms. Chawla and Mr. Goetz. The school that we were at was West Toronto Collegiate. Our

team was really good. Even though we came in fifth out of six, we all played really well. We were about to move on but we were three points behind the other team. Hopefully next year we will play as well as we did this year.

Graduation by Bella H.M. and Sarah J. Grade 6

On June 24th the class of 2009-2010 will be graduating. Most of us have been at Garden for eight years and we hate to say goodbye. From kindergarten to grade 6 we have had so much fun, with concerts, field trips, the fun fair and recesses. Since

Garden is such a small school we have gotten to know all the teachers very well and they have always been there to help us when we need it most. So the truth is most of us are really sad we're leaving.

School website

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