

Sprucecourt News

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Construction Update

- Gym Addition: Done
- New Windows: Done
- New Library: Done
- Solar Panels: Done
- New Playground: Done
- Playground Seating: Done
- KG Outdoor Table: Done
- KG Outdoor Drawing Board: Done
- KG Storage Shed: arriving shortly

With the exception of a couple of minor items and some outstanding deficiencies, construction at our school is almost complete.

Buddy Geometry Room 209 and 101

Based on the principles of Islamic design and the use of geometric patterning blocks, Mr. Cunningham's Grade 2 class consulted with students in the Home School Program (HSP) to design tiles that emit light. The two classes have been working closely, since October, with a parent/community business. They worked collaboratively in the second floor tool suite to produce a cardboard template of their tile. The design was then put onto graph paper and together, the students discovered how to place (x,y) coordinates on a Cartesian plane. Their designs were then plotted onto graph paper.

The students in HSP were taught how to make a technical drawing using AutoCAD. These drawings will be used to communicate the designs to a sheet metal laser cutting machine. Each student will walk away by the end of the year with a metal tile that they have created in collaboration with a geometry buddy.

The goal of the project is for students to come to an understanding of the manufacturing process i.e. steps involved from beginning to completion. In this heightened era of consumerism and instant gratification, students are often unaware of the work involved. This process is teaching them patience, perseverance, and is helping them strengthen their creative, collaboration and communication skills; skills that will be very useful for all of their academic and work place endeavours in the 21st century.



Girls Volleyball Team

Congratulation to the girls volleyball team who made it to conference finals on February 10th. They competed against Jesse Ketchum on February 15th, and although they lost, they still worked hard and come next year they will improve and make it further. Our first tournament was held at our school, and it was by far the best they've played as a team. They played great against Lord Dufferin P.S, Winchester P.S, B.A Morrison and George Webster. They played very well against all the schools, and had only one loss against Winchester by one point. This could only have been possible if everyone played well and worked together like they did on that day. The way everyone got a chance to play and worked passed their mistakes while on court, all contributed to the win at the end of the day, and came out in second place.

On February 15th, the girls volleyball team competed against Jesse Ketchum P.S. They suffered a hard loss, but they played well and improved a lot through the season. Even though no one on the team was happy with the outcome of the game, they all supported each other from the beginning to the end and congratulated Jesse Ketchum on their win to the semi-finals. That's what team work is all about. From the very first practice, to our last game, every single player gave 110% and tried their best. In conclusion, it was a great season and despite the fact that we didn't make it to the city finals, we still worked the hard and got pretty far. Next year, the girls will definitely secure the win!

By: Naushin Farazi

Gr 4, 5, 6 Art Club

Our lunchtime Drawing Club is in full swing! York Teacher Candidates Alice Kreger and Natalie Meyers have been teaching this twelve week club to help students in grades 4, 5 and 6 gain valuable drawing techniques and build confidence in their abilities. Students have been focussing on figure drawing through a series of guided exercises developed to draw the face and body. We have also been experimenting with different materials including charcoal and oil pastel. Over the coming weeks students will be collaborating to create a multimedia piece that will bring all our new skills together and showcase what we've learned. Keep an eye out for it in the school!

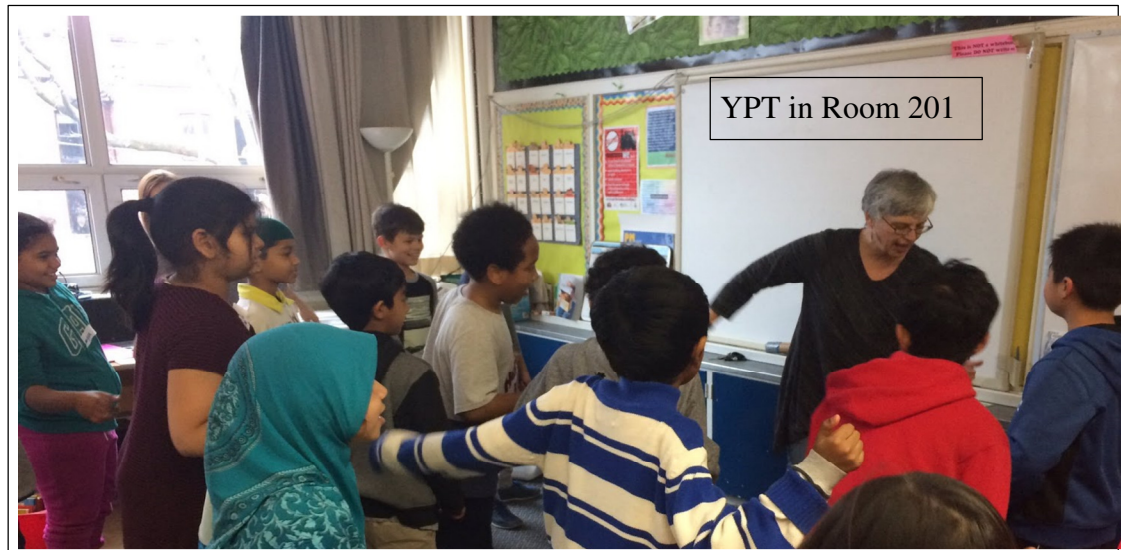
**The Nest: Book Review by Maryam in Room 201**

What would you do if you discovered a secret that changed everything? For some kids Summer is the season of fishing, swimming, barbeques and other things. But for Steve, it's another seasons of worries. Worries for his new sick baby brother who is fighting to survive. He worries about his parents who are struggling to cope and the wasp's nest looming outside his bedroom window. But when a wasp queen invades his dreams offering to "fix" the baby Steve thinks his dreams have been answered. All he has to do is say "yes". But "yes" is a powerful word. It is also a dangerous one and once it's uttered can it be taken back?

Young People's Theatre at Sprucecourt:

Sprucecourt's partnership with Young People's Theatre is in full swing again this year, building on the work of our previous two years as a Member School with the Theatre Company that is celebrating its 51st wonderful year serving young audiences. In addition to attending the mainstage production of James and the Giant Peach on February 28th with the rest of the junior division, Rooms 201 and 202 have been working on a major creative writing project with YPT and our very own Playwright in Residence, Paula Wing. Paula is an actor, teacher and playwright who has written and adapted more than thirty plays for theatres across Canada and in the United States, for both young and more seasoned audiences. She has been working with our students to teach them the craft of playwriting through drama and writing activities.

The students are having so much fun "writing on their feet" with Paula as they learn about how to write dialogue, how to create powerful scenes, and how to craft a compelling problem to hook their audience. They are all so excited to begin to writing their final projects. We are all looking forward to the big day in May when the plays written by the students of Rooms 201 and 202 will be performed by professional actors as Staged Readings directed by YPT Artistic Director Allen MacInnis on the Studio Theatre Stage at YPT on Front St. Stay tuned for more details!



Fun Fair is Only Two Months Away

We are in full swing with preparations, but need your help!

Volunteer - Be in the heart of the action and help raise money for our school by donating your time! If you or someone you know would like to volunteer on the day of the event, please contact us.

Have a highschool student in your family? Let them know they can earn Community service hours by helping raise money for our kids.

Prizes and Donations - Know any local business owners, or do you have something fun to contribute as a prize for the games and raffle? Last year we had amazing prizes such as Blue Jays and Argos tickets, Kids' Bikes, a Razor Scooter, Restaurant Gift Certificates, t-shirts and more. Want to make a cash donation? Contact us and we'll gladly tell you how.

All money raised by the Fun Fair is put back into Sprucecourt through School Council initiatives. Last year, we raised an impressive \$5,000 - *Let's take it higher this year!*

The committee can be contacted by email: sprucecourtfunfair@gmail.com



MAY 13TH

Student Well-Being at Sprucecourt and TDSB

In the past few years, the ministry has made promoting the well-being of students one of their main priorities.

Why is this important to our kids? It means the school board is invested in helping promote a positive sense of self, spirit and belonging for all students. They are committed to helping ensure our kids' cognitive, emotional, social and physical needs are being met. Well-being in early years and school settings is about helping children and students become more resilient.

As parents and caregivers, it's essential that we learn how to support our children's social and emotional learning so they can make positive, healthy choices for achievement now and in the future. With both parents and schools working together, we can make a huge difference.

To help bring awareness to this focus, the ministry has been engaging parents to help form strategies for tackling this important aspect of school life for our kids. Over the past couple months, they've hosted a number of parent seminars/conferences about Mental Health and Well-Being - Details for their next parent event is listed to the right. Parents and caregivers of a Toronto student can attend, if you **register by March 20th!**

Some of the 70 plus topics to be discussed include: *enhancing equity, dealing with anxiety, mindfulness, advocating for kids with ADHD, managing behaviour.* For a full list, and to register, visit parentsaspartners.ca

If you'd like to join the *Mental Health and Well-Being Parent Partnership Committee* email sprucecourtschoolcouncil@gmail.com



Parents as Partners

With over **70 FREE WORKSHOPS**

Saturday April 1st
9am - 4pm
105 Princes' Blvd.

Food, Child Care & Transportation Provided

Register by **March 20th**
parentsaspartners.ca

Next Council Meetings

April 5th
6pm - 7pm
May 3rd
3:45 - 4:45
June 14th
6pm - 7pm

Meetings are held in the School Library lasting about an hour.

Light dinner and child care provided.

POPCORN FRIDAYS!!



\$1

Last Friday of the month.

March 31st
April 28th
May 26th
June 23rd

Volunteer?

sprucecourtcouncil@gmail.com

March Break Events to Check Out

Parliament Library has daily fun for kids. Build cool stuff at STEM Camp, daily at 11am-1 pm, Teens - DIY Arduino Wearables, Wednesday 2-4:30. Animals in the library on Thursday 2-3:45, all ages. 7+yrs and Family can Ukulele Jam on Saturday. Call for details/register 416-393-7664

Events at the Book Bank change daily at 3pm. Magic Monday, Drumming on Tuesday, Drawing on Wednesday and Puppets on Thursday ! 416-922-7323

This weekend at Sugar Beach taste the maple sweets at the Sugar Shack 11am - 5pm.

Next weekend (19th) wear green to the St Patrick's Day Parade down Yonge Street to City Hall.

Ontario Legislature Buildings, At Queens Park has Free 1 hr program for ages 4-17, take a tour with scavenger hunt, traditional dress up, crafts and more. Register at 416-325-0061

Indigo has free daily activities at 11am. Check in store for details.

Regent Park Aquatic Centre
Leisure Swim - Mon, 1:30 - 5,
Wed, 1:30 - 4, Fri, 1:30 - 6

Regent Park Ice Rink
Public Skate - Mon 10-12,
Tue 6-7, Wed 10 - 12:45

Cabbagetown Youth Centre,
2 Lancaster Ave. March Break
FUN Camp ages 5-12, Basketball
ages 10-18, Soccer ages 8-14
Register in person - 416-960-1032

Dream Catchers Workshop with
singer Emm Gryener, 10am -4:30
Tuesday 14th, Kiwanis Club - 101
Spruce Street, Ages 11-13

Evergreen Brick Works,
550 Bayview Ave
Guided Nature walks, Play with
worms, Test your bike skills -
Obstacle course, and Fire
building workshop.
www.evergreen.ca

Black Creek Pioneer Village,
1000 Murray Ross Parkway - Solve
the Maple Mystery, hunt for
clues, or skip to the sugar shack.
10am -4pm, up to four kids under
14 are free with Adult admission.

**Wishing all of our
Sprucecourt Families & Staff
A SAFE & FUN MARCH BREAK!
See you again on March 20th**