

# PAWPRINTS

November 2003

UNIONVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL  
300 Main Street,  
Unionville, Ontario  
(905) 477-1824

Principal: P. Carew



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...

In recent months our board has placed significant emphasis on Character Education. The development of good character within our children is of great importance. Rod Paige, Education Secretary of the United States; speaking at the Character Education Partnership 10<sup>th</sup> National Forum, October 16, 2003 stated the following:

*"We are in a race for our kids' minds and souls; we are in a race against the media and other forces out there. We need to do a better job educating our children, in reading, in math, but especially in character education. The person is the product of the educational system. So many students in schools need our help now; we need to help. We cannot live in a culture of callousness. A culture of callousness is founded on those who serve themselves rather than serve others. We need to look inside ourselves to find our common humanity. Character and knowledge equal education. The future is already sitting in our elementary school classrooms."*

We endeavour to develop character in our UPS students, not only on a daily basis, but also through a variety of special events. Earlier this month the character and spirit of our Unionville community was once again clearly evident. Led by Mr. Farber's grade 5 class and the Environmental Committee, a large majority of our students did their part by walking to school as part of "International Walk to School Day." Later that morning we were privileged to have a guest speaker. The following report from one of our students suggests the impact that Isabelle Turcotte-Baird had on our students.

*"Isabelle Turcotte-Baird came to visit the students at UPS on Wednesday, October 8th. Isabelle is an Olympic triathlete. She represented Canada at the 2003 Sydney Summer Olympics. Isabelle Turcotte-Baird is part of an organization called CLEAN AIR CHAMPIONS. She talked to students at UPS about ways to reduce pollution including; recycling, reducing garbage, and walking to school as we did on October 8th, International Walk to School Day. Isabelle was born in Quebec and now lives in Toronto where she is a physiotherapist at a downtown hospital. English is her second language. After listening to Isabelle speak a lot of kids are going to start trying to save electricity, reduce garbage and walk or bike to places. We hope to do our part to reduce pollution in our country. What I found most interesting about Isabelle was that she does so many things to help people and help our country. I have learned that she really is a Clean Air Champion."*

*(T. Dailleboust—Gr. 5)*

Students need to know that they can make a difference in our future. Let's encourage our children in order to ensure that education includes both knowledge and character.

Paul Carew

Trustees: G. Unitas (905) 940-9814

B. Crothers (905) 640-1759

Superintendent: Ms. V. Bismilla (905) 640-7800

## HOUSE COLOURS

We had tremendous participation in our Halloween dress up day with students gaining house points for their teams. House point totals will soon be listed on the bulletin board outside the gym. A special thanks to Mrs. Harvey for helping coordinate our house colour program.

## ARTS YORK AUDITION

### INFORMATION

Once again we remind you that the application deadline for Arts York is Friday, November 28th. Only one set of auditions will be held in 2003 between January 23rd—29th. For additional information please contact Arts York at (905) 479-2787 x 249.



## STAFFING NEWS

We are pleased to welcome Mr. Brian Cockburn who has been recently hired on a part time basis to provide some additional support for our Junior division as well as for Intermediate special education. In a more recent development we need to inform you that Ms. Ballantine will be away from UPS for a six week period. Her place will be taken by Mrs. Brenda Hood who worked with us towards the end of last year.

## ENGLISH CLASSES FOR ESL

The YRDSB presents a number of English classes for adults at a variety of classes. Registration takes place on Tuesday, November 18th from 4:00 –7:00 at the Uplands Community Learning Centre, 8210 Yonge St., Thornhill. For more information call (905) 731-9557.

## EQAO RESULTS

EQAO has now released individual student results. Parents of students in last year's grade 3 and 6 classes will shortly receive their child's individual report and will also be given the opportunity to review their child's results. School wide results will be released to the public through the board website on November 21st. As has always been the case with EQAO results we are reminded that:

- *These results represent one piece of information about student learning*
- *The board does not support the use of results to rank or compare schools*
- *EQAO assessment data will be used as an additional source of information to support*

## ELECTIVES

Once again after discussion with both Unionville Staff and the School Advisory Council we are pleased to present our UPS students with the *Electives* program. This program allows students the opportunity to participate in a variety of different life skills that they may not get to experience otherwise. We suggest that students pick an activity they have not been exposed to before. This will provide them with different skills and enrichment to enhance their education. A brief description of each elective is given in the brochure which will be sent home early next week, as well as the appropriate grade level and the cost of the program. We have endeavoured to offer elective selections at a variety of costs thus allowing all students to participate. Should the cost be prohibitive we would simply ask that you contact the school office as we would like all students to participate. Elective dates are Wednesday, February 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th from 12:45—3:30. Bus students will be able to go home on the bus as usual. The only **exception** is skiing and snow boarding which is from 11:45 to 4:30 p.m., returning to the school by approximately 5:30 p.m. In order to complete all arrangements before the holidays, please assist your child in selecting an appropriate elective and return the sign-up section of the brochure with a cheque, in the appropriate amount, made **payable to Unionville Public School, by Friday, November 28th, 2003.** Space in some electives will be allocated on a first-come basis. Please make sure that the elective chosen is appropriate for your child's grade level and indicate first, second and third choices. The alternate choices will be used if minimum number of participants are not registered in a particular elective program. We would appreciate and welcome any assistance from parent volunteers. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Mr. Carew.

## CROSS COUNTRY

Congratulations to our cross country team who represented us so well at a number of meets throughout the season. Of the more than 80 students who ran at the Area meet 30 students qualified to represent UPS at the Regional meet held at the end of October. A special thank you as well to Ms. Kollias, Mr. Carlisle and Ms. Dillworth who gave many hours helping to train the team.



## COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM

The Bagel and Snack program for less privileged children is going well. Thanks to all of those who signed up to volunteer. These past few weeks, the school has participated in the Terry Fox Run, Cancer Research fundraising and the Unicef Hallowe'en campaign. We hope to soon get started on our Holiday Share and Care week programs such as the toy exchange and our hampers for needy families. If you missed signing up but would like to lend a hand, please don't hesitate to contact Srinka Wallia at [srinka@wallia.com](mailto:srinka@wallia.com) or (905) 887-9766. Volunteers are always needed and greatly appreciated—we look forward to hearing from you.

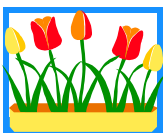
## UPS STUDENTS SUPPORT CANCER RESEARCH

A number of UPS intermediate students raised more than \$2500.00 in a recent drive in support of Breast Cancer Research. A special thank you to Mrs. Caron for coming to visit us at UPS and for helping organize this effort.

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

Wanted—Gardeners or Want to be Gardeners! Part of the success of our attractive, well maintained gardens relies on families or individuals "Adopting a Garden." We ask for a one year commitment to maintain a small garden area. It requires a minimum of 3 visits a year at your convenience. (April, June and late Aug/Sept) to edge, weed and prune. No experience is necessary. Environmental Committee members will assist. Please contact H. Sherman at (905) 9409598 for your "Adoption Papers" today.

On the average, about 65 students help to pick up litter in the school yard for colour house points each pizza day lunch hour. It is great to show school spirit and reinforce important values. However, we need parents to help out. If you are serving pizza please consider staying for an extra 15—20 minutes to help coordinate this activity. We need people to maintain a simple supply box, supervise and record basic information. Please let us know if you can help. Other projects this year will include; an arboretum sign, organizing student lunch hour activities and gardening. Look for our display in the school library. The next Environmental Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, November 11th @ 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Room.



## WREATH MAKING

The Environmental Committee invites you to come to the school and try your hand at making natural wreaths or centre pieces, just in time for the winter decorating season. Watch for more details closer to the date of this special evening or call Harriet Sherman (905) 940-9598.



## DRESSING WARMLY

Students are reminded to dress appropriately now that the colder weather has arrived. Students are asked to go outside for recess during the winter months as the fresh air and activity is most beneficial. Only in the event that the weather becomes extremely cold will the outdoor recess time be reduced. It is expected that all students will go outside for recess.

Regardless of the weather, the school will remain open. However, during extreme weather conditions buses may be cancelled. If this happens and parents choose to drive students to school, please be aware that you are also responsible for picking up your children by 3:30 p.m. When buses are cancelled, they are cancelled for the whole day.

If road conditions do force cancellation of bus service, the following radio stations will be informed as early as possible, and will broadcast pertinent information to the community.

AM	640	1430	1540	740
	860	1010	1050	
FM	98.1	88.5	99.9	
	90.3			
	92.5	93.1		



## CANDLELIGHT PARADE

Once again we have entered a float in the Unionville Candlelight Parade, which will take place on Friday, December 5th. There will be a meeting for all those interested in helping organizing our participation on Wednesday, November 12th @ 4:30 in the school conference room. If you are interested in helping but unable to attend please let us know at the school office.







## UPSAC MONETARY DONATIONS

This is a reminder that monetary donations can be made at any time. Tax receipts will be issued for donations. Extra forms are available in the note caddy outside the office.

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## NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					31 Day 2 Sub Lunch	1
2	3 Day 3 Gr. 7 Hep B Shots	4 Day 4	5 Day 5 Gr 6,7,8 to Concert @ Agincourt CI Gr 3L -Schoolhouse	6 Day 1 Gr. 3C- Schoolhouse	7 Day 2 Pizza Lunch	8 
9	10 Day 3 	11 Day 4 Env'l Committee Remembrance Day Assembly	12 Day 5 Girls V-ball @ ET Crowle tournament Candlelight Mtg.	13 Day 1	14 Day 2 McDonalds Lunch Josten Photo Retakes	15 
16	17 Day 3 	18 Day 4 School Council	19 Day 5 Band Camp Trip (Return Friday)	20 Day 1 Gr 6 Trip—St. Marie	21 Day 2 Pizza Lunch Reports Home Gr 4—8 Booktalk	22 
23	24 Day 3 	25 Day 4 Book Fair begins	26 day 5 Book Fair Boys Area Volley- ball	27 Day 1 PM—Interviews Sub Lunch Girls V-ball	28 PA Day Report Card Interviews Book Fair	29



## DECEMBER CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 	1 Day 2	2 Day 3 Gr 7 Trip— Muskoka Woods	3 Day 4	4 Day 5 Env'l Committee Wreath Making	5 Day 1 Pizza Lunch Candlelight Parade Gr 7's return	6 
7	8 Day 2 Care & Share Week	9 Day 3	10 Day 4 Primary Program	11 Day 5	12 Day 1 McDonalds Lunch Care & Share Assembly	13 
14	15 Day 2	16 Day 3	17 Day 4 Primary Concert	18 Day 5	19 Day 1 Pizza Holiday Sing Last Day of Classes	20 
21	22	23	24	25 	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3 Classes resume on Monday, Jan. 5th.