

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

Principal: P. Carew



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...

As was mentioned in last month's Pawprints the *School Plan for Continuous Improvement* helps form the basis for much of what happens at UPS. One of the sections of the School Plan is structured around the board's *Character Matters* initiative. Under the leadership of Ms. Dilworth and our staff Character Committee the SPCI has been reviewed and revised and is highlighted below.

INDICATORS

- Second Step program integrated into regular school activities
- Creation of a lead teacher position 2003/2004
- Improved communication regarding various parts of program within the school program
- Tracking sheets
- Healthy Child Character Certificates
- Increased outreach into the community
- Links with community organizations
- Enhancement of local charity support
- School Environmental committee

STRATEGIES

Proactive:

- Direct teaching of social skills through Character Matters and Second Step during class health periods
- Reporting on above on report card
- PR through out school and community via monthly themes related to character attributes, daily announcements, themed assemblies, newsletter inserts and school wide initiatives such as Random Acts of Kindness.
- Staff meeting updates on behavioral strategies and regarding successful strategies for specific students who demonstrate exceptional behavioral need.
- Lunch supervisors given PD on how to deal with behavioral concerns as they arise and on how to use clipboard system
- Lunchtime intramurals started to keep students engaged in positive lunchtime activities in all three divisions
- Taps program for grades seven and eight

Reactive:

- Behavioral tracking sheets and clipboard system:
- (referral, think sheet and parent information sheets)
- E principal analysis of data
- Individual and group counseling as the need arises
- Markham Stouffville Family Life Centre counseling at school for students demonstrating a high need
- Healthy child certificates and Character Matters windows of fame as reinforcement of positive student behavior.
- Development and implementation of a consequence hierarchy that utilizes the language of Character Matters and Second Step

While your feedback is always welcome, the year end school survey will provide a formal opportunity for parents and members of our community to have input into our School Plan for Continuous Improvement.

Paul Carew

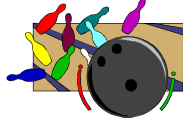
Trustees: G. Unitas (905) 940-9814

B. Crothers (905) 640-1759

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

ELECTIVES

Our electives have successfully begun. We remind you that bus students will be able to go home at their usual time. 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. It is important to note that should skiing/snowboarding be cancelled as a result of extreme weather conditions on a particular day, students would receive a free ski pass or refund as compensation for their missed day. In addition skiers/snowboarders would remain at school for the afternoon and be provided with alternate activities and then be dismissed from school at their normal 3:30 dismissal time. Every effort will be made to pass along this information to parents as soon as possible. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Mr. Carew.



A special thank you is extended to Mrs. Ludski, Ms Bradler, Mrs. Misch, our UPS staff and all of those volunteers who have given of their time to help make this event run successfully.

UPS BAND IN MUSICFEST

Our Intermediate Band will participate in the Ontario Band Association GTA Musicfest Regional Competition on Monday, February 16th @ 3:10 p.m. The event will take place at LeParc Banquet Hall (Leslie & Hwy #7). The Band is also looking forward to participation in the York Region Music Alive Festival and the Markville Pops concert later in the Spring.



POND SKATE

A number of our students have been able to enjoy a skate on Too Good Pond both before and after school. We were hoping to hold a *School Wide Pond Skate* on January 29th. At that time however, the red flag was still flying. (Conversations with the town of Markham indicated that this was due to a large number of ruts in the ice and not the depth of the ice) We are currently looking at an alternative date. Further details will follow.



CHINESE NEW YEAR COMMITTEE

January 22nd marked the start of the Year of the Monkey. At UPS, students earned house colour points for wearing lucky red clothing or silk outfits. Primary students had the opportunity to visit a brightly decorated gym and try out chopsticks, Tai Chi, Crafts, Calligraphy and the Chinese invention of paper-making. There were treats for all the students in the school, thanks to the generous donations from parents. Mrs. Kollias and Ms. Lee would like to thank all the parents who donated their time planning, decorating, running the activity centres or sending in food, decorations, and supplies. Thanks also go out to the Grade 7 volunteers for their work on the posters, announcements and at all the centres and to the caretakers for their input, setup and cleanup.

UPS BASKETBALL TEAMS

Both the girls' and the boys' teams have begun to compete in a number of exhibition games. The boys team also participated in the Aurora Heights tournament this past Monday, demonstrating excellent skill and sportsmanship on their way to winning the championship. The teams will continue to compete over the next few weeks before the Area East tournaments which will take place during the first week of March.



PARENT INPUT

REVIEW OF PROGRESSION OF CONSEQUENCES

Each year, we as a school, seek input on a variety of school policies. As a staff we have begun to establish a *Progression of Consequences* policy. This would provide a reference point for students, parents and staff when children become involved in various difficulties. We have scheduled a meeting for Tuesday, February 17th from 3:30—5:00 p.m. to gather input from parents around this initiative. If you are interested in attending, please call and leave your name at the school office.

UPSAC CONSTITUTION REVIEW

UPSAC (Our School Council) is also seeking input on our School Council Constitution. This project team is being led by Mrs. E. Wilkes and will hold a meeting on Wednesday, March 3rd at 4:00 p.m. in the conference room.

SCHOOL COUNCIL SUPPORT

A big thank you is extended to UPSAC for their approval of purchase requests at our January meeting. This practical support will result in additions to various programs throughout the school. Children in all divisions will benefit from these purchases. The continual support of the community in so many practical ways results in UPS being a great place to grow and learn.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Thank you to Norm Joyce and Margaret Brevik of the York Region School Board for their attendance at our January meeting. The exchange of information presented by both parties will be beneficial to our future partnership. Walking Wednesdays has begun, so remember to dress warmly and enjoy the fresh air. Anyone interested in adopting the path gardens please contact Teri Tworzyanski at (905) 940-1714. Our Environmental Committee next meets on Tuesday, February 10th at 9:00 a.m. in the conference room. Please join us as we continue to discuss our plans for 2004. All interested parties are invited to attend.

UPS SNACK DAY PROGRAM

As part of UPS's ongoing **Community Outreach Initiatives**, we will continue to provide snacks to children in a less fortunate school community.

Our plan for Term II is to make the program easier on parents as well as more meaningful for our children. Snack Days will now be tied in to House Colour Days. Special bins corresponding to school house colours will be placed outside the school office. Snack items will be counted & house points awarded accordingly. **The house with the most snacks gets 10 bonus points !**

Here are some suggestions for snack items that you might find helpful:

Rice Krispie squares, cereal bars, juice boxes, crackers, oatmeal cookies, fruit bars

As always, please ensure none of the items contain any traces of nuts.

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. During the past few weeks when the weather became extremely cold outdoor recess time was significantly reduced.



JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Registration for Junior Kindergarten (children born in 1999), began earlier this week. Please contact the school office for more information. Also, if you know of anyone in our neighbourhood planning on bringing their children to UPS for the Fall of 2003, for any grade, please advise them to contact our office as soon as possible.



GRADE 9 INFORMATION NIGHTS

Grade 9 information nights for local high schools will take place on the following evenings:

M.S.S.	Thursday, February 12th
U.H.S.	Monday, February 16th






While students will receive considerable information through their homeroom teachers during the next couple of months, we ask that should you require further information about these evenings, please contact the high schools directly.

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS




Following up on the success of our Random Acts of Kindness initiative at Christmas we are embarking on our Valentine's edition of Random Acts of Kindness at UPS. This time when children are reporting good deeds to the staff of UPS, the deeds will be tracked by writing the good deeds on red and pink chain links. These chain links will be assembled into a large *Chain of Kindness* that will spread around the inside of the school. The main difference with this edition of the Random Acts of Kindness is that we are working together as a school to maximize the number of kind acts recognized. All staff may reward any student's good deeds both inside and outside the school building. Stay tuned to find out what a caring school UPS can be!



FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Day 2	3 Day 3	4 Day 4 <i>Electives Begin</i>	5 Day 5	6 Day 1 <i>Pizza Lunch</i>	7 
8	9 Day 2	10 Day 3	11 Day 4 <i>Electives</i>	12 Day 5 <i>MSS & UHS Information Nlghts</i>	13 Day 1 <i>Valentine's Red Day—HC McDonalds</i>	14 
15	16 Day 2 <i>School Band @ Musicfest (3:00)</i>	17 Day 3 <i>Gr 8 Grad Photos School Council</i>	18 Day 4 <i>Electives</i>	19 Day 5	20 Day 1 <i>Pizza Lunch</i>	21 
22	23 Day 2 <i>Jump Rope for Heart Week</i>	24 Day 3	25 Day 4 <i>Last Day of Electives</i>	26 Day 5	27 Day 1 <i>Sub Lunch</i>	28 
29	1 Day 2	2 Day 3	3 Day 4	4 Day 5	5 Day 1 <i>Hawaiian Beach Day</i>	

MARCH CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	1 Day 2	2 Day 3	3 Day 4	4 Day 5	5 Day 1 <i>Hawaiian Beach Day</i>	6 
7	8 Day 2 <i>Area Basketball</i>	9 Day 3 <i>Area Basketball</i>	10 Day 4	11 Day 5 <i>Report Cards Home</i>	12 <i>March Break Begins (NO SCHOOL)</i>	13 
14	15 <i>MARCH BREAK</i>	16 <i>MARCH BREAK</i>	17 <i>MARCH BREAK</i>	18 <i>MARCH BREAK</i>	19 <i>MARCH BREAK</i>	20
21	22 Day 1 <i>Return to School</i>	23 Day 2 <i>School Council</i>	24 Day 3	25 Day 4	26 Day 5	27 
28	29 Day 1	30 Day 2	31 Day 3	1 Day 4	2 Day 5	