

PAWPRINTS

JUNE 2004

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

Principal: P. Carew



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the UPS staff, students and parents for their support during the past three years. I recently described this past twelve months as my most enjoyable year in education. Perhaps I should have said it a little more quietly, as within a couple of days I discovered that I would be leaving Unionville P.S. at the end of this school year. This is the reality of working and learning in one of the fastest growing boards in the country. While change is often difficult, we do realize that for many this also represents a variety of opportunities in other communities throughout York Region.

Personally, I have been most impressed by the way in which this community has made a tremendous effort in recent years in helping those who are less fortunate. From the Terry Fox Run in September, through the Toonies for Autism event last month, UPS staff, students and family have supported a number of worthwhile community causes. We helped provide hampers for nearly twenty families at a nearby school during the Christmas season, in addition to raising money for The Salvation Army and the Children's Aid Society. Once again Unionville P.S. was the number one fundraising school for the Legacy Run in support of Markham Stouffville Hospital. During the past twelve months our school community has raised more than \$35 000.00 in support of local charities. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs. Janice Pickering and other members of school council for all of their time and effort during the past year. Their cooperative spirit has made a difference in the lives of our children.

I am pleased to inform you that Mr. Steve Gardner will be your new principal. I have known Steve for a number of years and am excited to let you know that he will be my replacement at Unionville. Mr. Gardner is currently Vice-Principal at Brownridge Public School in Thornhill and has also served as Summer School Principal for the York Region District School Board. He will bring many fine qualities to UPS. Joining him will be Mrs. Dunreath Thompson, who assumes the role of Vice-Principal, sharing her time between UPS and Parkview P.S. Mrs. Thompson joins us from Central Park P.S.

I will always remember my time here at UPS with great affection. Much of this can be attributed to the support of the wonderful staff, students and parents in our community. I would also like to take this opportunity to say a special thank you to Mrs. Ludski for all of her hard work and support during my time at UPS. I will miss the many, many friends that I have made during my three years serving you in this community. Working together, I feel we have made a difference in the lives of our students.

I wish you all the best in the future.

Paul Carew

Trustees: G. Unitas (905) 940-9814

B. Crothers (905) 640-1759

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

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

Walking Wednesdays—Special appreciation is extended to Mr. Farber and his students for their awesome coordination of the Walking Wednesday Program. They continue to gather and analyze data weekly, to track how far across Canada our students have walked. By checking out the map in the front hall at the school you will see that the student body to date has walked from the East Coast to Orillia, Ontario (approximately 2,500 kms) since the inception of the program in the late fall. Cheers to healthier bodies and a healthier environment! Let's keep up the good work.

Many hands make light work—Once again this old adage rings true. Heartfelt appreciation is extended to the eager students, staff and parents who planted and mulched on our June gardening day. Our gardens as a result, look fabulous, ready to be enjoyed by all who visit our schoolyard. The shade garden at the south end of the primary wing even has a "new look." The success of the day is largely due to the capable hands of Teri T., Jeannie N., and Harriet S. whom coordinated the event. Later in June, students will be planting five new trees to replace those that are declining in health out back. Funding for the trees comes from the Earth Angel Program and in part, the School Council. We are particularly interested in having healthy trees reflected in the arboretum sign that will be posted at a later date in the schoolyard.

The Environmental Committee is currently looking for:

- One more garden to be adopted by a family or a group of neighbours. (This requires about three visits to it throughout the year.)
- Volunteers to water the gardens over the summer. (This is a two half day, one week, commitment, weather permitting. Training is included.)

A new brochure, outlining the committee's work and achievements is currently available through the office or in the note caddy outside of the office. The final Environmental Committee meeting will take place on June 15th—9:00 a.m. at 75 Longwater Chase. Anyone who helped out this year and new interested members are welcome. No experience necessary! RSVP Harriet (905) 940-9598.



LUNCHTIME CRAFT OPPORTUNITY

On June 9th, the Environmental Committee is sponsoring a lunchtime opportunity for grades 4, 5 & 6 students who wish to make a stepping-stone to adorn one of our gardens. Those students who are interested, please bring a disposable, rigid, molded plastic flat bowl or tray (approximately 25 cm in diameter) and items to embed in the cement that will decorate the stone. (Example: marbles, colourful stones, tiles ...) Meet outside the office doors for this popular activity, after eating lunch.

TOONIES FOR AUTISM

During the week of April 26—30 UPS participated in the *Toonies For Autism Drive*. Students brought in a toonie, coloured a cut out and hung it on the wall to show our generous support to a very important cause. We are pleased to announce that UPS raised approximately \$430.00 This money will be donated to the Ontario Society of Autism to help fund research and services for children with autism. Thank you to the students and teachers at UPS for your support.

TRACK AND FIELD

Our Track and Field Day took place on Thursday, May 27th with students from grades 3—8 participating. On Monday, June 7th members of both the Junior and Intermediate teams will represent UPS at the Area meet at Stouffville District High School. Members of the team are selected based upon their results in our meet. Regional qualifiers will take place in a meet held on Wednesday, June 16th. Once again, thanks to Mr. Carlisle and Mrs. Papaikonomou for helping to organize and coach these teams.

Special Needs

On June 2nd, five of our UPS students participated in a Track and Field meet at SDHS. Thanks to great weather and lots of cheering from parents and staff, the students enjoyed all of the events throughout the day. Congratulations to Christopher, Tommy, Mark, Colin and Zachary who all placed in the top four in their various events. Thanks to Ms. Webber, Ms. MacDonald & Mrs. Schultz for helping to arrange this day.



UPS RELAY TEAM

Recently more than 60 students did an outstanding job representing UPS at the Regional Relay Meet. Special thanks to Mr. Carlisle and Mr. Leon for helping to coach this team.

STAFFING CHANGES

Each year brings about a number of changes for any school. This is especially true in a fast growing board such as York Region. This year there are relatively few changes at UPS. We are however, going to miss Mrs. Vanker's presence around UPS. She will be retiring following this school year. Mrs. Vanker has been a member of our school's special education department for the past few years and has touched the lives of many children during that time. We wish her all the best.

We would also like to extend our thanks to a number of teachers who have done a wonderful job filling in for us as Long Term Occasional teachers during the past year. Ms. E. Boag has filled in for Mrs. Caron in grade one, while Mr. Cockburn, Ms. McCowan, and Mme Pardon have all made significant contributions to the students at UPS in their various LTO positions. On a related note, we are thrilled to inform you that we have two new additions to our Unionville family. Caroline Emile York and Ryan Catherine Anaconda are both doing well at home with their moms.

CROSSING GUARDS & LAY ASSISTANTS REQUIRED

The town of Markham is looking for a Crossing Guard for the upcoming school year. In addition we are also looking for the names of those people who would be interested in becoming Lay Assistants. If you are interested in either of these paid positions please contact the school office for further information.

MUSIC GROUPS IN PERFORMANCE

Under the direction of Mr. Wrigglesworth and Ms. Crivaro our UPS Band and Jr/Int Choir will both be performing during the end of the year assembly on Tuesday, June 22nd. The groups will also be performing at Wonderland on June 15th.

KINDERGARTEN KABARET

Parents, grandparents and siblings were delighted by the performances of UPS students at the recent Kindergarten Kabaret, which took place on Wednesday, May 26th. Special thanks to Mrs. Dewberry, Mrs. Wilkinson and Mrs. Ballantine for working with the students to help prepare such a great evening.

VOLUNTEER TEA

Many thanks to Mrs. Ballantine for making the arrangements for our annual Volunteer Tea, which was held on Thursday, June 3rd.



CLASS PLACEMENTS FOR 2004/2005

Tentative plans for the school organization for the 2004—2005 school year have already been shared with staff and school council. Teacher assignments will not be finalized until the end of the year, due to the teacher transfer process. Staff has already met to discuss student placements for next year. Administration, special education teachers, the sending and receiving homeroom teachers have all organized tentative homeroom classes for all students within next year's organizational structure. Staff have carefully considered each individual child when deciding class placements. The criteria used to determine class placements was stated in the last two Pawprints. The deadline for any special requests regarding class placement, was **May 25th**. At the placement meetings the current homeroom teachers will have presented all relevant data. While we attempt to accommodate requests, it is important to remember that due to the nature of the task, it is not always possible. This is a difficult task, but it is important for you to know that we have experienced staff who will do their utmost to place each student in the best possible learning environment.

REPORT CARDS

Students will receive their report cards on Thursday, June 24th. Students who are not at school on that day will have reports mailed to their homes.

LOST & FOUND ITEMS

Lost and Found Items have been placed in the hallway off the Primary wing in the near future. Please make an effort to claim any missing items as soon as possible.

JUNIOR SOFTBALL

Unionville P.S. currently has two teams that have been selected to participate in a Junior Mixed Tournament to be held on June 17th at the Milliken fields. This tournament will welcome teams from four other schools and is being organized by our own group of teachers.




Thanks to Mr. Yip, Mrs. Glamcevski and Ms. Webber for their time and effort with this initiative.

SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Parents who need to register their children during the summer for the upcoming school year must do so at the Community Education Centre—East, 1000 Carlton Road, Markham. (905) 940-7800. Registration will take place from July 26—29 & August 9—12 between the hours of 9:00 and 3:00.



JUNE CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Day 3 Gr. 6—VIP Planting Day	2 Day 4 SP Ed. T&F	3 Day 5 Volunteer Tea 3:00—4:00	4 Day 1 Pizza Lunch	5 
6	7 Day 2 Area Track & Field	8 Day 3	9 Day 4 Kind'n Info Night Stepping Stones	10 Day 5 Rain Date	11 Day 1 Sub Lunch	12
13	14 Day 2	15 Day 3 Env'l Committee School Council	16 Day 4 Reg'l T&F	17 Day 5 Jr. Softball Tour't Jr. Interest Project Fair	18 Day 1 Pizza Lunch	19 
20	21 Day 2 Kdg'n Graduation	22 Day 3 Assembly	23 Day 4 Gr. 8 Graduation Gr. 1 Play	24 Day 5 Last Day of Classes (1/2 Day)	25 Summer Break Begins	26
 <p>A reminder to please return all UPS library books to the library by June 7th. Please help us out by completing a thorough check at your home.</p>						

2004/2005 SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

- Thanksgiving Day - Monday, October 11, 2004
- Christmas Vacation - Monday, December 20, 2004 to Friday, December 31, 2004, inclusive
- Mid-Winter Break - Monday, March 14 to Friday, March 18, 2005, inclusive
- Good Friday - Friday, March 25, 2005
- Easter Monday - Monday, March 28, 2005
- Victoria Day - Monday, May 23, 2005

ELEMENTARY – 4 PA DAYS:

- Friday, September 24, 2004
- Friday, December 3, 2004
- Friday, May 6, 2005
- Thursday, June 30, 2005

