

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

Principal: P. Carew



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...

We are continuing to share with you various aspects of the *UPS School Plan for Continuous Improvement*. The focus for this month will be *Curriculum Implementation and Student Learning (Literacy)*. Under the leadership of Ms Kollias and Mr. Fisher and our staff Literacy Committee the SPCI has been reviewed and revised and is outlined below.

STRATEGIES

- Development of a literacy committee
- Appointment of a literacy lead teacher
- Staff in-service in areas of primary and junior literacy
- Creation of a literacy room (primary guided reading library)
- Expansion of guided reading instruction
- Increased training and skill development in literacy assessment
- Training and education of staff, students and parents in areas of literacy assessment and training.

INDICATORS

- Increased use of guided reading materials
- Increased attendance in literacy and assessment workshops
- Literacy as a focus in teacher evaluations and learning plans
- Continued use of PM Benchmarks and other assessment tools
- Development of rubrics pilot project

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

Paul Carew

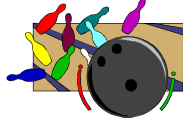
Trustees: G. Unitas (905) 940-9814

B. Crothers (905) 640-1759

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

ELECTIVES

Our electives have been completed for another year. Elective service providers and parent volunteers talked on many occasions about the cooperative spirit of our UPS students and their desire to learn a new skill. Well done everyone!



A special thank you is extended to Mrs. Ludski, Mrs. Bradler, Mrs. Misch, our UPS staff and all of those volunteers who have given of their time to help make this event run successfully. Should you have any ideas for next year's electives please let us know in the office.

UPS BAND IN MUSICFEST

Our Intermediate Band recently participated in the Ontario Band Association GTA Musicfest Regional Competition. They played extremely well receiving a Silver rating. Congratulations to Mr. Wrigglesworth and all of the band members.

The band will also be participating in Music Alive 2003 on Monday, March 29th in the morning at Wilclay P.S.



UPS BASKETBALL TEAMS

Both the girls' and the boys' teams are now close to the end of their seasons. The teams will complete the year with their participation in the Area tournament this coming Monday and Tuesday. Many thanks to Mr. Carlisle and Mrs. Creelman for their work with these teams throughout the past few months. The teams are fine representatives of UPS.

Look for Junior Basketball (boys and girls) to begin shortly after the March Break.

POND SKATE/SWIM???

For obvious reasons our Pond Skate scheduled for Friday, March 5th was cancelled. This was the second scheduled skate that we needed to cancel this winter because of weather conditions. Regardless, a thank you is extended to Mrs. Grott and a group of parent volunteers who made a number of arrangements to help with this day. Maybe next year!

BATTLE OF THE BOOKS

The Battle of the Books competition will be held on April 28th, from 7:00—9:00 at Coppard Glen Public School. UPS is planning to take a team of 6 members to represent all of the readers at our school. Many students are presently reading from the special book list and after the March Break the team will be selected. Many thanks to Mr. Farber and Mrs. Ambtman for helping with this group of students.

COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPRING 2004

MARKHAM DISTRICT BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

Flyers are now available in our note caddy for those interested in registering with the Markham District Baseball Association. For more information contact MDBA @ (905) 472-4327.

UNIONVILLE MINOR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

Registration forms are also available for 2004 play. Registration is due by April 16th. Play begins in May.



JUMP ROPE/HOOPS FOR HEART

Once again the Unionville community needs to be congratulated for their effort in helping others. More than \$11 000.00 was raised during the week of February 23rd for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Many thanks to Mme York for helping to organize this very successful event.

Look for details about the *Legacy Run* following the March break.



REPORT CARDS

Ongoing communication between home and school is an extremely important factor in the success of our students. One of the many means of reporting is the formal report card. This report card serves many purposes, its major function being to promote and enhance learning. Second term reports will be sent home on Thursday, March 11th. Again we encourage you to discuss these reports with your child. While there is no formal interview day for second term reports it is important to maintain ongoing dialogue with your child and his/her teacher in order to maximize student learning.



STAFFING CHANGES

As many of you will know by now, Mrs. Papaikonomou has returned to us from her leave and is now teaching art to the grade 6, 7 & 8's. Ms. Ambtman remains with us in a half time capacity teaching her grade six home-room. In order to accommodate these changes Mr. Fisher has returned to teaching the intermediate science program.

PREPARING FOR 2004/2005

Our preparations for the 2004-2005 school year are underway and our success depends on accurate projections of our school population. Please advise us if your children will not be attending UPS in the Fall. Also, if you know of anyone already living in, or moving into the community, who may be planning to send their children to our school, please encourage them to register as soon as possible. Registrations for Junior Kindergarten are also being taken at this time.

WE NEED YOU!!

York Region's "Homes for Kids" program is dedicated to providing the best foster homes for children in need of care. Our children come from many backgrounds, and are infants to 18-year olds who require foster homes for a few days, weeks, or longer.

While the reasons for them needing foster care range from parental illness to neglect and abuse, the riches of fostering far outweigh the challenges. Nothing can so dramatically transform a life than a healthy home, and a devoted foster family. Every kid deserves a chance. Call us today to find out how you can make a difference in a child's life at 1.877.567.KIDS or go online at www.homesforkids.ca

SAFETY

Safety is everyone's responsibility. Please use extra caution as you drop children at school in the morning or return to pick them up in the afternoon.



Of particular concern are cars turning in and out of the parking lot. Also remember that the bus loop is not to be used between 8:30 and 9:00 as well as between 3:15 and 3:45.

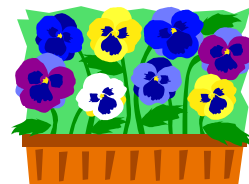
We also ask that if you need to pick up your child during school hours, please report to the main office and we will call your child(ren) from class. Please do not go directly to classrooms. In order for us to maintain a safe school, we cannot have adults walking through the school. All visitors need to check in at the school office.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

Watch for something new in the UPS outback come spring! We have been working closely with Brian Giberson of Cosburn and Giberson, a local landscape architecture firm, to develop an outdoor sign displaying our schoolyard arboretum. We are excited about this direct link to the curriculum for our students and the learning opportunity for the public who use our parkland. We all should be proud of this accomplishment as it was only a few years ago there were no trees in the back schoolyard!

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Schad Foundation—Earth Ranger Program for this special celebration of our schoolyard. Pizza Day Litter Pick Up will resume once the weather has warmed up and the snow has melted.





A new resource: "Greening School Grounds—Creating Habitats for Learning" has been purchased for circulation in the school library. This book and other resources are available to students, teachers, and parents through an Environmental Committee member for your use as well. The next committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 9th at 9:00 a.m. in the school's conference room. New members are always welcome—no experience is necessary!




PAWPRINTS

March 2004

MARCH CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	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>Girls Area Basketball</i>	9 Day 3 <i>Boys 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 <i>Band @ Wilclay Primarys to Markham Theatre</i>	30 Day 2	31 Day 3	1 Day 4 <i>UPS Jr. Basketball (Boys)</i>	2 Day 5	3

APRIL CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Day 4	2 Day 5	3
4	5 Day 1	6 Day 2 <i>Gr. 6 VIP</i>	7 Day 3	8 Day 4	9 <i>Good Friday (NO SCHOOL)</i>	10
11	12 <i>Easter Monday (NO SCHOOL)</i>	13 Day 5 <i>Gr. 6 VIP</i>	14 Day 1 <i>Area Jr. Girls Basketball</i>	15 Day 2 <i>Area Jr. Boys Basketball</i>	16 Day 3	17
18	19 Day 4	20 Day 5 <i>Gr. 6 VIP</i>	21 Day 1 	22 Day 2	23 Day 3	24
25	26 Day 4	27 Day 5 <i>Gr. 6 VIP</i>	28 Day 1 <i>Battle of the Books (Coppard Glen PS)</i>	29 Day 2	30 Day 3	