

Pawprints

November 2004

Unionville Public School
300 Main Street
Unionville, Ontario
(905) 477-1824

Principal: S. Gardner
Vice Principal: D. Thompson

York Region District School Board

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(905) 940-9814

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(905) 640-1759

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(905) 640-7800

From The Administrator's Desk

The staff and students would like to thank all the people who contributed their time and talents to make **A Place To Call Home** a great success. A capacity crowd filled the gym both nights and as their applause resounded backstage at the conclusion of each scene, the children took great pride in what they had accomplished in six short weeks. The success of such an undertaking is dependent on the efforts of many people and UPS would like to recognize the following groups for their specific contributions:

The students of grades 2 to 8 who worked exceptionally hard as they rehearsed their roles.

Grade 8 students who were stage managers, runners, lighting and sound crews who ran the show during dress rehearsal and the nights of the show.

Grade 8 Art Club who created the back drop for the stage.

Kindergarten and Grade One students and teachers who coloured the autumn leaves for the set.

Mr. Dean Burry, the artistic director, whose talents and enthusiasm inspired the students as they collaborated to create and perform a new work of art. The children under Dean's guidance, wrote the script and added lyrics to the music composed by Dean.

Mrs. Sharon Mehaffey, Director of the Dance Institute, who volunteered to teach students historical dances that added another important dimension to the opera.

Mr. Gary Farber who set the project in motion, and with the help of the Canadian Children's Opera Chorus, secured the financial support of the Trillium Foundation.

Mrs. Harriet Sherman who procured and transported barrels, wagon wheels, and crates to give the set its authentic look.

Lionel Farms for the loan of properties.

Mrs. Marguerite Ennis who sewed several of the costumes.

Parents who helped the students create their costumes and who sent in props

Canadian Children's Theatre Company for the loan of props and costumes.

Mr. Vito Lamanna, Mr. Riley

Ms. Kirstie Andrews, Mr. Gary Hawco, Mrs. Angela Papaiko-Tripp, Ms. Mary Woo, who signed lighting and sound cues

Mr. Michael Benrubi, Mrs.

Ms. Susan Creelman,

Hlynka, Mrs. Lisa Stella who supervised students in the green rooms.



Seapy, and Mr. John Mete who set up

Farber, Mrs. Julie Glamcevski, Mr. Tim nomou, Mr. Gord Sillito, Mrs. Elissa painted sets, created props and sets, de- and assisted backstage.

Yvonne Braybrook, Mr. Tom Carlisle, Mrs. Ellen-Jean Dewberry, Ms. Gloria

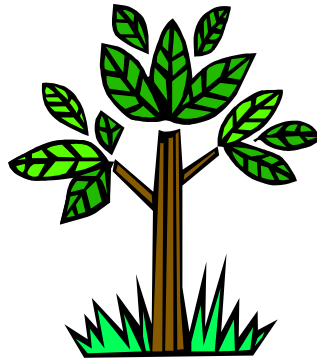
Highlights

- Bus Safety - Nov. 8 & 9
- Scholastic Book Fair - Nov. 22-25
- Term 1 Report Cards sent home- Nov. 30th.
- Parent-Teacher Interview - Dec. 2 & 3
- Picture re-takes- Nov. 12
- School Council Meeting—7:30 PM in Resource Centre - Nov. 16

THE ART OF PUNCTUALITY

Our school bell rings at 8:55 a.m. We expect all students to be in the school yard at this time so they can enter the building with their classmates. Since September, we have had a significant number of students coming in late in the mornings. As students are being dropped off and rushed to enter, we have an unsafe situation.

Students who arrive late often feel embarrassed or anxious when they have to come into the office for a late slip. They often miss important opening announcements or have to enter the classroom after morning routines and instructions have started. We want every student to get a great start to their day and being at school on time is valued. Please ensure that your child has enough time in the morning to arrive at school on time. We thank parents for their help in supporting timely arrivals at school as we strive to teach our students the value of time management and punctuality.



HOUSE COLOURS ARE ALIVE AND WELL AT UPS!

The colour houses are alive and well at UPS. As many of you already know, each student in the school is assigned to a colour house and becomes part of that team for spirit building activities.

The colour houses crosses all grades and builds on school spirit. All staff are also assigned to a colour house. Points are gained by participating in spirit days. Included in this issue of Pawprints is a listing of themes for the up-coming months. A tally of house points will be posted in the school and periodically announcements will be made to let students know the standings. Last year, the winning house was the recipient of a wonderful lunch in the gym! Go teams go!

UPS HOLIDAY HAMPER PROGRAM— VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Parent volunteers are needed for the UPS Holiday Hamper program. Interested parents are asked to e-mail Mrs. Wallia at srinka@wallia.com. The first meeting for those that can help is scheduled for Friday, November 12 at 9:00 AM in the school Conference Room.

As part of the Holiday Hamper program, we are asking if anyone can donate frozen turkey's. We are in need of 20 frozen turkeys. Thank you very much for your on-going support of this UPSAC initiative.

ELECTIVE PROGRAM

We will once again be offering our Elective program. This program allows students the opportunity to participate in a variety of different life skills that they may not get to otherwise experience. In the coming weeks a letter will be sent home outlining the activities being offered this year and prices. It is our hope that students select an activity they have not been exposed to before. This will provide students with a new skill set and enrich their educational experience. Elective dates are on Wednesday, February 2, 9, 16, and 23 from 12:45—3:30 PM. Students will be able to go home on the bus as usual. The only exception is skiing (tentative time: 11:45—4:30 PM, returning to the school at 5:30 PM).

Report Cards

Term 1 report cards will be sent home with students on Tuesday, November 30. Parent-teacher interviews will take place the evening of Thursday, December 2 and throughout the day on Wednesday, December 3.

SPORT'S UPDATE

Congratulations to our Regional Cross Country team who competed at Bruce's Mill on October 26. As always, our Bulldogs did their best to represent UPS both on and off the course. Our Grade 7 girl's put on an amazing performance winning the overall title. Our Grade 5 girls were also spectacular finishing second overall. Thank you to all parents for your support in driving some students and cheering our runners on. A thank you is extended to our coaches, Mr. Carlisle and Mr. Leon for all of their time and expertise.

Volleyball season is upon us! Our Intermediate Boy's and Girl's teams and our Junior Co-ed team have been practicing consistently in anticipation of the season. All three teams will be participating in local tournaments and games in the coming weeks. Thank you to Mr. Fisher, Mr. Leon, Mrs. Glamcevski, Mrs. Thomson, Mr. Yip and Mr. Hawco for all of their efforts in coaching. A special thank you is also extended to Mrs. Eckersley, one of our many active parents, for coaching the Intermediate Girl's team. We all look forward to an exciting season!

STUDENT SAFETY

Thank you to all the parents for continuing to respect our parking lot use policy. The Town of Markham has asked us to remind our UPS community that it is a no parking zone directly in front of the school. Families are encouraged to continue to walk or park on ...

CASUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The York Region District School Board is currently hiring supply educational assistants to temporarily replace permanent employees.

- **Job specifics:** The supply educational assistant needs to be available, on short notice, to replace absent permanent educational assistants. The applicant needs to be willing to work with special needs students, in a variety of settings, in a variety of schools.
- **Duties:** The position provides support to special needs students. Duties include the lifting, transferring, feeding and toileting of students.
- **Qualifications:** Minimum Grade 12 or equivalent (GED) required.
- **Rate of Pay:** \$10.25 per hour plus 4% vacation pay.
- **How to apply:** Please visit our website at www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca, click on "Careers" and then click on "Opportunities At Our Board". Select "Casual Educational Assistants" and follow the prompts to apply on-line.

SUBMISSION FROM THE



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

INTERNATIONAL WALK TO SCHOOL DAY

International Walk to School Day on October 6th was a terrific success! Congratulations to the following classes who reached 100% participation: Mrs. Dewberry, Mrs. Wilkinson, Ms. Thomson and Mr. Farber. Last year our UPS school participation was 88%. This year's participation rate will be soon be presented—stay tuned!

We wish to thank the following people for their contributions in making the event such a success:

- Applewood Farm & Winery (donated 300 apples!)
- Parent Community (baked muffins and donated juice boxes)
- Mr. Farber and his class (for announcements and collecting some of the polling information)
- Mrs. Wilkinson's class and their reading buddies (for "chalking" the sidewalks)
- Artists - you know who you are! (for decorating shoes, check-in signs and awesome banners)
- Parent Volunteers who lead "Walking School Buses" and helped serve refreshments
- To all the teachers who also walked and set a great example for their students!

Remember, some of the benefits of walking to school are:

- Reducing traffic congestion (thereby increasing safety) around the school;
- Reducing air pollution;
- Promoting physical fitness;
- Reinforcing a sense of belonging in your community.

DON'T FORGET: WALKING WEDNESDAYS are well underway. Teachers will be tracking kilometers walked for our "virtual journey" across Canada! Watch for the return of the map outside of the office!!

NEW TREES IN THE SCHOOLYARD!

Our schoolyard was enhanced by the addition of five new trees in late September. Many thanks to the classes of Mrs. Tripp, Mr. Leon, Ms. Glamcevski, Ms. Dilworth and the Community class who participated in the planting of the trees and who have graciously agreed to be responsible for their watering. Regretably, several of these new trees (as well as some others) have been seriously damaged and will be lost. If anyone has any information concerning these acts of vandalism, please advise Mr. Gardner or Ms. Thomson immediately.

ADOPT-A-GARDEN

We are looking for individuals or families to assist with the maintenance of various garden areas throughout the schoolyard. Time commitment is approximately 2-3 visits per year and can be done at your convenience. Support from a member of the Environmental Committee can be provided and you need not join the Committee in order to volunteer.

Next meeting: **Wednesday, November 10, 2004 at 1:00 p.m.** New members always welcome!
ANY QUESTIONS? Call Harriet Sherman (905-940-9598), Connie Prentice (905-943-7341) or Teri Tworzyanski (905-940-1714).



York Region District School
Board

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Unionville, Ontario
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(905) 477-1824

School Website: <http://www.unionville.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca>

Council Website: <http://www.unionville.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/upsac1.html>

Unionville P.S. is located on Main Street in Unionville, just a few minutes walk from historic Main Street. The school attendance area is bounded on the north by Sixteenth Avenue, on the west by Too Good Pond, on the east by Heatherwood and Wrenwood, and on the south by the homes on Carlton Rd. (For precise boundaries please contact the board website, or school office.)

Unionville Public School has gone through several transformations since it was originally built. The original Unionville Public School was built in the 1830s and was named SS#10. It was torn down and a two-storey brick building was built in 1892. According to the book Markham 1793-1900 (edited by Isabel Champion and published by the Markham Historical Society in 1979), "This was one of the first schools in the township to be electrified (1928). In 1949, two more rooms were added at a cost of \$40,000 and in 1955, a one-room annex made an extension to the south of the main structure, which was torn down in 1977." In more recent years the offices were moved to the front of the school and a new hall was added to connect the primary hall and the main lobby and the main offices were renovated and expanded.

EQAO RESULTS

We are currently in the process of examining our EQAO results from the Spring of 2004. The Grade 3 and 6 individual reports will be available to parents during the week of November 10-16th. School results will be available and posted in early December.

COMING UP IN THE RESOURCE CENTRE

● What: Scholastic Book Fair

● Who: For all grades!

Where: Unionville Public School Resource Centre

When: The week of November 22

Why: To add resources to our library

We will need extra help the week of the book fair. If you can assist us, please fill out and return the tear-off portion of the sign-up sheet to Ms. Hlynka, our teacher-librarian. Thank you!

Over the last few weeks, a number of trees on the UPS property were vandalized. The following is a letter sent out to some homes that back on to the UPS field.

Dear Community,

As a Unionville Public School Community, we are saddened to note that in recent weeks, Unionville Public School's gardens were the recipient of a senseless act of vandalism. A number of beautiful trees were cut and scarred, and as a result, are lost or soon will be. Three of the five damaged trees were planted in the last month and diligently cared for by our students.

Unionville Public School's Environmental Committee is comprised of a dedicated and energetic group of UPS parents. It is their hard work over the years that have created the on-going beautification project that comprises our property, including the new trees. We all feel a sense of loss and disappointment that anyone would willfully destroy these trees.

The intent of this letter is two-fold. It is to inform our community of the damage to the trees and to ask that if you hear or see any suspicious activity that you support us by contacting the school or police. Secondly, we invite all to enjoy the beautiful foliage and landscaping that UPS has to offer.

*Sincerely,
Steve Gardner
Principal*