

Pawprints

October 2004

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

Principal: S. Gardner
Vice Principal: D. Thompson

York Region District School Board

Trustees: G. Unitas
(905) 940-9814

B. Crothers
(905) 640-1759

Superintendent: V. Bismilla
(905) 640-7800

From The Principal's Desk

On behalf of UPS, I would like to thank everyone for participating in the Meet the Teacher night and BBQ, by all accounts it was a resounding success. A special thank you to all of the parent volunteers who organized and ran the BBQ. UPS continues to be a hub of activity. The Terry Fox run, cross country running, intermediate band, golf, junior spelling bee, the grade 7 trip to Camp Muskoka, the Primary division's trip to the Markham Fair, and the "Berczy Opera", have been highlights of what has been a very busy beginning to the school year.

In October we will re-introduce our Character Matters recognition program. This month's trait is Responsibility. Throughout the month, students who have demonstrated this important characteristic through their personal actions, will be recognized in an assembly and names will be placed on the recognition wall outside of the office. In the next few weeks we will be receiving our new signage at the front of the school. This display sign will allow us to communicate important dates and events to our UPS families.

It has been 10 years that we have been serving milk at lunch to our students. The Dairy Farmer's of Ontario have presented UPS with a special 10 year anniversary plaque to recognize this accomplishment. This beautiful plaque can be found proudly displayed in our main hallway.

The York Region District School Board and its schools, highlight student achievement through various means such as hall displays, Board publications, etc. At times throughout the school year, your child's identity and other information may be shared beyond the classroom and the school. Special events at UPS may attract media attention. We believe that this recognition is positive. To comply with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, we request that parents notify the Principal immediately in writing if they DO NOT want their child's accomplishments publicly recognized or their photographs taken for this purpose.



Steve Gardner & Dunreath Thompson

Highlights

- International Walk to School Day—October 6
- Area Cross Country—October 15 (Milne Park)
- Berczy Project Opera—October 27 & 28
- School Council Meeting—Tuesday October 19

MEET THE TEACHER NIGHT

Thank you to all of our parent volunteers for organizing the BBQ. A special thank you to Lianna S. for all of her hard work and time spent on organizing and the evening—it truly is appreciated by the entire UPS community.

Thank you to all of our teachers for their time and efforts in sharing their program with parents. We have a dedicated group of teachers and staff who provide an excellent program for each and every student. If you have any concerns or if an issue arises, please do not hesitate to contact your child's classroom teacher. Two way communication between home and school is a critical component of student success.

SAFETY FIRST—A Reminder

This year we have 8 buses that drop and pick up various students, some with specific special needs. To ensure the safety of all of our students, please make sure you follow our safety rules. As you may remember, last year the Town of Markham permitted cars to *STOP* on Main St. directly in front of the school. This allows you to stop your car and let your children out directly in front of the school. Please remember that this is *not* a parking zone, and therefore you are unable to park your car and leave it unattended. Please note that the bus loop is closed to all vehicles from **8:00 until 9:00 AM** and between **3:00 and 4:00 PM**. As you can attest, the UPS parking lot is quite small and as a result parking is limited and student safety is our primary concern. **We are asking all parents not to use the parking lot as a drop off area, but instead use the area directly in front of the school. Pylons will be placed across the parking lot from 8:40-9:00 AM in order to ensure the safety of all of our students. We now have 2 assistants who will be standing by the parking lot in order to help students cross the drive safely. We appreciate your support in listening to their instructions.**

At the start of the day when dropping your child off or when picking up your child up at the end of the day or at the lunch hour, we would please ask that you meet your child at the designated entry and exit doors. This strategy both fosters independence and eases the congestion in our hallways. Please note that supervision is provided by UPS staff 15 minutes prior to the morning bell.

PLEASE SIGN IN

Parents and visitors must **sign in at the office and wear a UPS tag** when arriving at the school. We ask all of our families in the Unionville PS community to work with us to ensure the safety of all of our students.

SCHOOL COUNCIL—UPSAC 2004-2005

I am happy to welcome the parent members of the School Council for this school year. The first meeting was held on September 28th and we had a wonderful turnout. A reminder to all parents that Council meetings will be held the third Tuesday of each month beginning at 7:30 PM. The following is a listing of the Unionville School Council Members for 2004-2005.

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| • Ellen Chan | • Robert Chang | • Christine Gowe | • Linda Grott |
| • Karen Harvey | • Barbara Hockin | • Anne-Maria Hurle | • Marie McLennan |
| • Janice Pickering | • Connie Prentice | • Jeffrey Smith | • Kelly Smyth |
| • Julie Sumner | • Michael Tamaki | • Tara Tomlinson | • Carol Worthylake |

TERRY FOX RUN

Our annual Terry Fox run took place on September 23rd. All students and staff and a large contingent of parents participated to raise \$7245.05 for this very worthy cause. Thank you very much to everyone who contributed both in monetary donation and time. Thank you to Mrs. Fedy for organizing this event and sharing resources with both staff and students.

LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Ms. Hlynka, our Teacher-Librarian, is looking for parent volunteers who can help us complete the barcoding of our collections in preparation for our library automation.

Character Matters—October is RESPONSIBILITY

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE NEWS

The Environmental Committee is pleased to announce UPS's participation in our second annual International Walk to school Day. Last year we boasted a proud 88.2% involvement. This year we are hoping to go above and beyond this figure. Check points will be arranged and students will have the opportunity to walk in groups under parental supervision. Bussed students (AM) will have the chance to walk from the Unionville Public Library (Watch for our IWALK NEWSLETTER). Further involvement will be possible through our "Walk to School Wednesday" program. Mr. Farber's class will once again gather data as we clock our km's and walk across Canada.

Don't miss October 6th and please join us in the Primary Playground for some light refreshments before school begins.

The Environmental Committee has many interesting initiatives for this coming school year.

- We will have planted 5 new trees in the month of September, to replace some which have died or been vandalized over the years.
- Completion of an Arboretum Sign placed near the treed area allowing students and community to identify some of the 26 species found in our own backyard.
- Continued care and maintenance of our existing gardens through Adopt-A-Garden Program.
- New ideas and faces always welcome.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 12th at 1:00PM in the UPS Conference Room

THE BERCZY OPERA PROJECT

The William Berczy Opera project is proceeding well. From all accounts the students are thoroughly enjoying the song writing experience. They have collaborated with Dean Burry, assisting him with ideas for the opera, and lyrics for the music. Each scene of the opera will be presented by a different grade. The songs have been taught and the script written. The dancers have also begun their rehearsals. Students will be practicing their singing, and learning their lines over the Thanksgiving weekend. When we return, the classes will begin working together to stage the production. We are still in need several props. Wooden barrels and buckets, wagon wheels, and period wheel barrow, a wooden chest that two children could carry, will all help us to create an authentic atmosphere.

The children are looking forward to the premiere of this opera and we hope that you will be able to join us for one of the presentations at the end of October. Tickets and times will be made available in another week or so. Thank you for your ongoing support.



York Region District School
Board

300 Main Street
Unionville, Ontario
L3R 2H2
(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.

CHARACTER MATTERS AT UPS!

Last month's highlighted Character Trait was *Courage*. Courage can be defined as "readiness to face difficulty". We would like to acknowledge the quick thinking and courage displayed by Holly in Grade 4. While at home with her older brother, Holly noticed that his friend was having a seizure. She immediately phoned 911 and then proceeded to have the wherewithal to phone the family doctor. It was Holly's courage and quick thinking that ensured the well-being of another person. Well done Holly!

SCHOOL ASSISTANTS NEEDED IMMEDIATELY

- We are looking to hire school assistants to help supervise students during the lunch-hour. If you would like to help supervise students from 11:45-12:45, please contact Ms. Thompson, UPS Vice Principal at 905-477-1824. This is a paid position and there is some flexibility around days worked..

Update from UPSAC

UPSAC held its first meeting for the 2004-2005 school year last Tuesday evening. We are very excited about the number of parents that are interested in council this year! Council meetings are always open and we encourage parents to attend and get involved. Council meetings are on the third Tuesday or every month at 7:30 pm in the school library. UPSAC executive for the 2004-2005 school year.

Chair - Janice Pickering

Treasurer - Barbara Hockin

Assistant Treasurer - Ellen Wong

Secretary - Christine Gowe

A number of parents have been inquiring about the magazine subscription service that UPSAC has provided over the last number of years. Laura Chapman has once again volunteered to head up this service but she is looking for help. If anyone is interested please give me a call and I will pass your name along to Laura. Packages should be arriving home with your student by Friday October 8th. Please remember this is a service provided by UPSAC and not a fundraiser.

The first Friday Fun Lunch was held on Friday October 1st. With the help of L & D Foods, lunch ran very smoothly and the students seemed to enjoy Crupi's pizza. We will still be using parent volunteers to deliver the pizza to the classrooms. Carol Worthylake has kindly offered to head this up. If you volunteered to serve pizza, you will be hearing from Carol shortly for the next pizza day. Thank you to the many volunteers who served pizza on the 1st.

We have started talking about the Candlelight Parade. There are many wonderful ideas already in the works. If you are interested in helping with the float and did not indicate that on your volunteer form, give me a call and I will pass your name on to the group involved. The Candlelight Parade is part of Unionville's Old Time Christmas, which this year will be held on Friday December 3rd.

We are excited about the wonderful things that are already happening at UPS and looking forward to another fabulous year. If you have questions, suggestions or concerns regarding UPSAC, please contact me.

Janice Pickering