

Pawprints

April 2005

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: R. Lambert
(905) 640-7800

From The Administrator's Desk

It certainly is time to celebrate the accomplishments of 32 of our students who competed in basketball this season...Congratulations is extended to both our boy's and girl's Intermediate Basketball teams for their outstanding performance throughout the season as they advanced to the Regional championships which were held last week in Aurora. I cannot recall a time when a school was represented at the Regional level by 2 teams from 1 school!

*Our boy's were crowned **Regional Champions** for this 2004-2005 season. They had an impressive 49-1 win-loss record for the season. This group of boys were full of poise, pride, character and ability. They represented and acted as ambassadors for UPS both on and off the court—they certainly have a lot to be proud of, as we certainly are proud of their efforts and commitment to their sport and studies.*

Our girl's had an incredibly impressive season! They continued to improve as the season continued. They were a dedicated group who never let down, and it was this tenacity that saw them make it to the Regional Championship. They lost their semi-final match to the eventual Regional winners and in turn finished in third place in the entire region! Be proud ladies, as you have a lot to be proud of.

A very special thank you is extended to our two coaches. Mr. Carlisle and Mr. Leon worked as a tremendous team coaching both teams throughout the season. It is their passion for working with students and their love of sport that certainly was infectious. They have taught our UPS students that hard work and dedication certainly does pay off. Thank you for a wonderful season!

*And finally our sixth player award goes out to our parents. Thank you for the driving, the cheering and your commitment to sport at UPS—we could not have done it without you!
S. Gardner and D. Thompson*

Please note,

- ***We are moving towards an electronic only version of Pawprints. Beginning June 2005, Pawprints will not be sent home in hard copy, but instead can be accessed in one of two ways:***

1. Visiting the UPS website or 2. by being a part of our distribution list. If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically, please send a message, using your e-mail address to unionville.ps2@sc.yrdsb.edu.on.ca

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

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

Highlights

- School Council Meeting— April 19th @ 7:30 PM
- Pajama Day—April 15th
- Earth Day—April 22—Yard Clean up— 2:00 PM

PREPARING FOR 2005/2006

Our preparations for the 2005-2006 school year are underway and our success depends on accurate projections of our school population. Please advise us if your child will not be attending UPS in the Fall.

CLASS PLACEMENTS FOR 2005-2006

We have begun making plans for the school organization for the 2005-2006 school year. Teacher assignments will not be finalized until the end of the year, due to the teacher transfer process.

In early June, staff will meet to discuss student placements for next year. Administration, Special Education Teachers, the sending and receiving homeroom teachers will organize tentative homeroom classes for all students within next year's organizational structure. Staff will carefully consider each individual child when deciding placement. The following criteria are used for placing students into classes:

- Class size, based on Board allowed staffing formula
- Balance between male and female students
- Matching the student's learning style with the teacher's instructional style
- Coordinating students with Special Education/ESL staff

- Combining/separating students for optimal learning

If you have any special requests regarding class placement, please notify **Mr. Gardner in writing before May 20th**. At the placement meetings, the current homeroom teachers will present all relevant information. We will attempt to honour requests, however, 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.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION AT UPS—A REMINDER

Kindergarten registration for September 2005 is underway. Parents are asked to come in and register on Mondays, Tuesdays or Fridays between 9:30 AM and 3:30 PM. Children born in 2001 are eligible for Junior Kin-

dergarten and children born in 2000 are eligible for Senior Kindergarten this September.

DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED FOR REGISTRATION:

- Proof of your child's age (Birth Certificate/Passport)
- Record of your child's immunization
- Ontario Health Card
- Proof of residency in our attendance area (e.g. Tax bill)

Please share this information with families who live in our attendance area but may not get this newsletter. Please register early to help us plan appropriately for September.

STAFFING UPDATE

Mrs. Papaikinomou began her maternity leave just prior to the March Break as she awaits the birth of her child. We all wish her the very best in the up-coming year! We welcome Mr. B. Scagnetti to UPS as he takes on the Grade 8 teaching responsibilities. Mr. Scagnetti brings a wealth of experience to UPS as he has been a teacher in our Board for the past 12 years, most recently returning from a leave from Brownridge PS. Mr. Scagnetti is an experienced Visual Arts teacher who will be sharing his expertise with our students in Grade 6-8.

TOONIE FOR AUTISM - April 25 – 29, 2005.

Autistic Spectrum Disorder is a condition that affects the way the brain works and how people develop. People who have it don't look different, but have particular ways of sensing, learning, and understanding things. They especially have difficulty with communication and social behaviour. It can affect people in different ways and degrees. Asperger Syndrome and Pervasive Developmental Disorder (P.D.D.) are a part of the Autistic Spectrum.

Creating awareness and an understanding for people with autism is an important focus for every child and teacher at U.P.S. During the week of April 25, U.P.S. will be participating in various in-class activities and discussions about Autism. Our school will be raising money to donate to the Ontario Autism Society. This money is used to further research and programs for people with autism. Please support the cause and have your child bring in a toonie to donate!! Each child who donates will have a toonie or puzzle piece to colour and display in our front hall. Thank you for all of your continued support towards such an important cause!

LEGACY RUN—2004-2005

This year all UPS students will have the opportunity to participate in the Legacy Run/Walk at Toogood Pond in support of the Markham Stouffville Hospital on Thursday, May 5th in the afternoon (rain or shine). Last year we contributed close to \$6500 and were the top fundraising school. This year we hope to raise even more money for this worthy cause and assist the hospital in obtaining much needed Magnetic Resonance Imaging technology (MRI). In addition to helping out the hospital, the school category will enable us to qualify for rewards for the school (\$500 Canadian Tire Certificate, Brooks Rewards, Student Express Bus vouchers and a gift certificate from Scholastic).

Your child has three options:

Option A: Your child collects \$50+ in pledges.

Your child will receive a T-shirt, race kit and a prize, depending on the amount collected. In addition, they will have their name entered into a draw for an IBM desktop computer.

Option B: Your child brings in \$20 to \$49.

This entitles your child to a T-shirt and race kit.

Option C: Your child brings in a donation of any amount up to \$19 in support of your local hospital.

****All monies must be returned to the school by Wednesday April 13th.**

Please fill out the tear off at the bottom and return it with the pledge form and the money.

Please make sure that the total on the pledge form equals the amount of money attached.

All prizes (for pledges of \$50 or more), will be awarded at a later date.

As this is a part of our healthy child initiative, all students will participate in this event regardless of their monetary contributions. Students will be encouraged to complete the five loops of the pond at their own pace.

Although this event will be taking place during school time, parents and other family members are welcome to attend and cheer on their runners. Volunteers are welcome to run our refreshment and first aid stations. If you are interested in volunteering or have any other questions regarding this event, please call Dunreath Thompson at 905-477-1824.

Thank you for your support and participation in this event.



CHARACTER MATTERS

Character Calendar

- ♥ Respect
- ♥ Responsibility
- ♥ Courage
- ♥ Empathy
- ♥ Optimism
- ♥ Fairness and Friendship
- ♥ Perseverance
- ♥ **Initiative**
- ♥ Honesty
- ♥ Integrity

INITIATIVE

Initiative is not only a Character Matters character trait but it is also one of the learning skills included on the Ministry of Education's student progress report. According to the Ministry, initiative refers to taking risks and accepting challenges. It includes qualities like curiosity and questioning and confidence and it leads to behaviors like investigating and obtaining information independently, conducting experiments and participating fully in a wide variety of activities. People who take initiative are self-motivated and confident and they seek out opportunities to learn. Since we assess initiative we must be committed to teaching and to giving our students opportunities to practice it. This month is the perfect time to "take some initiative" and try some Character Matters ideas!



Earth Day



Earth Day is coming up in April, a perfect time for children to take some initiative and make a positive impact on our environment. At UPS, many classes will be participating in activities. At home you might want to show your child a picture of the Earth taken from outer space or look at a globe together. Play or sing the song: This Pretty planet by Tom Chapin and discuss his message. Brainstorm some of the gifts human beings receive from the Earth. Ask them, "How does our Earth provide us with shelter? food? recreation?" Talk about how important it is to give something back to the Earth. heir experience.

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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-story 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.



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Homes For Kids

As of June 2004 there were 5835 children in our collective care, yet only 1330 foster homes throughout the Homes For Kids region. If you can provide a caring and stable home that supports the positive development of these children, call ~1-877-567-KIDS~ for more information.

SUMMER ADVANTAGE PROGRAM

Unionville PS will be holding a fundraising event called "Summer Advantage" early in the month of May 2005. "Summer Advantage" is a 200 page, fully coloured, activity book designed to reinforce and maintain Kindergarten to Grade 6 students' academic learning skills over the summer months. There is one 200 paged activity book per grade level from Kindergarten to Grade 6. All 8 major units and 3 summer fun units in each booklet are aligned with the Ontario curriculum expectations. Booklets have parent information pages, evaluation forms, follow up activities and a family focus. The cost of each booklet is \$20.00. There are sample units available for parents to look at in the office. Look for the colourful posters advertising "Summer Advantage" coming soon to our school.

All profits from this campaign will be used to directly benefit UPS. Please direct any questions to Mr. Gardner.