

Pawprints

February 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

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(905) 640-1759

Superintendent: R. Lambert
(905) 640-7800

From The Administrator's Desk

At UPS, the School Plan for Continuous Improvement is a document that provides direction for school planning. Over the last month, our School Council has had the opportunity to provide input and suggestions into the plan. Our Council meeting in January provided a forum in which ideas were brainstormed, debated and discussed and the process proved fruitful in providing input into the overall planning process.

Thank you to everyone for your generosity in our loonie/toonie drive, as we raised funds for the Tsunami relief efforts. Over a four day period, as a school community, we raised approximately \$2800.00. As a family of 22 involved schools, we have sent in excess of \$70,000.00 to the affected areas. Through class discussions, we have ensured that our children understand the nature of this disaster, its global impact, and what we all can do to help. You can visit the Canadian Relief Foundation website at <http://www.canadianrelief.ca>

On behalf of the staff at UPS, please refer to the back of the February calendar insert for a special thank you to all UPS families and UPSAC..

S. Gardner & 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>

Highlights

- School Council Meeting—February 15th @ 7:30 PM
- Electives—Wednesday's in February (PM) 2, 9, 16, 23
- Dental Screening—Grades JK/SK, 2, 4, 6, 8 on March 7 & 8
- Term 2 Report Cards sent home March 11

Thank you from the UPS staff,

On behalf of the staff of UPS, we would like to thank all families for their monetary donations as part of UPSAC's fundraising efforts. Literacy continues to be a primary focus at UPS. Staff are continually involving themselves in Professional Development. Our Literacy Team is part of a Board literacy initiative entitled the Literacy Collaborative. The goal of the collaborative is to increase student achievement by:

- Using assessment data for instruction and program
- Building teacher capacity in literacy instruction
- Building sustainable, collaborative learning communities

In keeping with our Literacy focus, we have purchased the following materials through your generosity.

Thank you

The UPS Staff

Kindergarten—Grade 3

- Leveled books for a Primary Division borrow-a-book collection
- Tactile Letters and numbers
- Big picture books
- Books on tape
- Sentence building
- Hands on Science
- Hands on Social Studies
- Reference package—Atlas, dictionary, thesaurus
- Big Book display
- Listening Centre

Grade 4—Grade 6

- Literature Circle novels
- Science kit (rock and minerals)
- Story books - Ancient Civilizations, Medieval Times, Aboriginal Peoples
- Literacy Art Kits
- Rainy Day word games
- Leveled reading books for Jr. Bookroom

Grade 7 and 8

- Novels—Literature Circles
- Anthology collections
- Spelling/grammar program
- Rainy day word games/scrabble sets
- Author visits

Chinese New Year Celebration

On February 3rd, we celebrated the year of 'Rooster' in the gym. The primary classes had a wonderful time doing hands on activities and they learned about Chinese brush painting from a guest artist, Mrs. Nancy Lam. The staff and students enjoyed eating a variety of New Year treats like shrimp crackers and spring rolls. We'd like to thank the parent volunteers who spent lots of time planning, preparing and running the activities; the intermediate students who designed the posters, and helped out in the gym; the grade 1 class for their beautiful crafts and decorations in the gym; the caretaking staff for setting up the gym; all the teachers who supplied the materials and the many parents who donated the food.

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 Kindergarten 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

We are very pleased to welcome Ms. Sharon Van Alstyne to UPS. Ms. Van Alstyne will be our new Junior Division Special Education Resource Teacher. Ms. Van Alstyne has had the opportunity to teach at various international schools in her career and Special Education positions in both Durham and York Region. Welcome to UPS!

SPORTS UPDATE

Congratulations to our boy's basketball team. Over the last two weeks they have competed at both the Cop-pard Glen Classic and the Annual Markham District High School tournament. They were crowned tournament champions at both tournaments. Our Girl's team continues to impress us all also! They competed in the Markham District tournament at made it to the Consolation Finals. Parent support is much appreciated, whether it be driving the teams or cheering our Bulldogs on—thank you for all you do.

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



THE DIRECTOR'S CUT

Have you got what it takes to be a high power producer and director in Hollywood? If you do, then we want you! Join other future film directors in our state of the art mobile film studio this spring. While there, you, along with a cast of other creative minds will create, define and imagine your very own digital film production. After school, or during the lunch hour, you will write your own screenplay and use the latest Hollywood gear and techniques to direct, produce, film, edit, and compose your own digital video, complete with original digital soundtrack, all to be showcased on a chaptered DVD that you take with you.

Don't forget the Film Festival, where you, your family and friends will enjoy some movie theatre popcorn and your movie up on the big screen.

All programs are offered on site, at the school. The Director's Cut is endorsed by Apple Canada and is a service provider of the York Region District School Board

Check us out on line at www.thedirectorscut.ca , sign the guest book and receive \$5.00 off your registration fee.

If there is enough interest in this program, it will be offered at UPS this spring. Please refer to the attached registration form for pricing and details.

Please e-mail all registration questions to lori@thedirectorscut.ca

Registration forms are located in the school's lobby.



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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.

Our Grade 5's are currently involved in the VIP program (Values Influences and Peers). This program is presented by the York Regional Police and is an education based program aimed at elementary aged students. The following passage was written by one of our Grade 5 students in response to a session on *bullying*.

BULLYING

When you bully someone it means you are either calling them names, insulting them, physically bullying, or hurting their relationships. Physical bullying is when somebody kicks or hurts you somewhere on your body. Relational bullying is when someone is being excluded because of their colour, religion or for any other reason.

Bullying is the wrong thing to do. Most bullies bully to show off, to get attention, or to feel powerful, but you can get attention by doing good things such as stopping bullying.

There are many different ways to stop or prevent bullying from happening. First, you should have "connections". This means you should have friends around yourself.

Second, stay safe. Staying safe will also help. For example: if you see a bully ready to trip you, try and stay away from him or her.

Third, use authority . If you know a bully is after you or your friends, you should find a teacher to help you.

Fourth, if you or your friends are being bullied you should take a stand; the bully may go away. Bullies do mean things so that they can feel powerful. They need to be told that what they are doing is wrong, and you are the one to stop it!

By Robert C. (Grade 5F)



CHARACTER MATTERS AT UPS.

*February is **Respect***
