

# Pawprints

May 2005

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

Principal: S. Gardner  
Vice Principal: D. Thompson

York Region District School Board

May , 2005

Trustees: G. Unitas  
(905) 940-9814

B. Crothers  
(905) 640-1759

Superintendent: R. Lambert  
(905) 640-7800

## From The Administrator's Desk

*As Spring approaches, our students and staff have been busy contributing to UPS outside activities. April 22 marked Earth Day and UPS celebrated with a "Community Clean-Up". Students, staff and parents took part in a litter pick around the UPS grounds and neighbouring Toogood Pond. Fun was had by all in this worthwhile community event! In addition, many of our classes were involved in the planting of 6 trees throughout the UPS property. The UPS Environmental Committee has an active month of May (details are found within the newsletter) and everyone is encouraged to lend a helping hand if they can. Thanks for all of your support!*

*We will be holding our Legacy run/walk on the afternoon of May 5. As you know, this annual event raises funds in support of the Markham-Stouffville Hospital. This year we are very proud and honoured to announce that Unionville Public School raised \$8,500 from the Legacy run. The entire community is to be commended for their generosity towards this worthwhile cause..*

*S. Gardner and D. Thompson*

***Please note that this is the final hard copy of Pawprints, as we move towards an electronic only version. Beginning next month, Pawprints will not be sent home in hard copy, but instead can be accessed in one of three 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](mailto:unionville.ps2@sc.yrdsb.edu.on.ca) or 3. A small number of hard copies will be placed in our lobby.***

***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— May 17th @ 7:30 PM
- Backwards Day— May 13th

## 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. Rather than suggesting a particular teacher, please indicate learning style or classroom structure, which would be most appropriate for your child.** 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 continues at UPS. 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.**

## EQAO Testing for Grade 3 and Grade 6 Students

All Ontario students in Grade 3 and 6 will be participating in the 2005 EQAO assessment of reading, Writing and Mathematics. UPS will be conducting the assessments the week of **May 16-20th**.

Students who participated in last year's assessments (Grade 4 and 7 students) will be bringing home the EQAO assessment booklets in May.

## UPS HOUSE POINTS

The UPS House Point system is in full swing. It's a very close race at this point in time with the Red house in the lead.

**Red 401; Green 392; Blue 363; White 350; Black 345; Grey 342**

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

- Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Mark your calendars!  
Plans are underway to redo our office garden beds. Extensive preparation of ground is necessary before the actual planting and involvement of students. The assistance of interested parents (even for an hour or two) would be of great value. We have scheduled Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup> (May 17<sup>th</sup> rain date) to rototill and extend bed (muscles, help needed). See plans posted near front entry.
- May 31 (June 1<sup>st</sup> rain date) - will be our annual school-wide planting/mulch day. Parent volunteers at all grade levels are needed. No gardening experience needed. Please contact:  
Harriet Sherman @ (905) 940-9598 or Teri Tworzyanski @ (905) 940-1714  
  
As we continue to invest in our schoolyards, we seek to encourage our children in environmental awareness and make our community "A Place to Call Home" (the words of William Berczy, founder of Unionville).
- The next committee meeting will be: Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 pm in the school's conference room. New members are always welcome - no experience is necessary!

# School Council Forum CEC East

Wednesday, May 11th 2005  
Castlemore P.S.  
7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

## Changing Communities:

York Region District School Board



**Invited Panelists are our YRDSB  
Community Liaison representing the  
African/ Caribbean, Asian, Iranian and  
South Asian cultures. An opportunity to ask  
questions will follow the presentations.**

Castlemore P.S. is located at 256 Ridgecrest Rd in  
Markham  
(South of Major Mackenzie Ave. , East of  
Kennedy Rd. )

Light refreshments will  
be served at 6:45.



# CHARACTER MATTERS

## Character Calendar

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

## HONESTY

This month's Character Matters' trait is HONESTY. This word is a familiar one to our students and represents an ethic valued in all cultures. Webster's dictionary defines honesty as "uprightness, or integrity" and goes on to describe it as "sincere, truthful or frank." What do we mean when we use the word? Often we are asking for truthfulness, "What happened? Be honest." At other times we are looking for honourable behavior, "He was honest and returned the wallet." There are even situations where we are asking for sincerity, "Tell me what you think, and be honest." In all these situations honesty is equated with trust, which is the cornerstone of all positive, respectful relationships.. This is a point we need to make for our students.



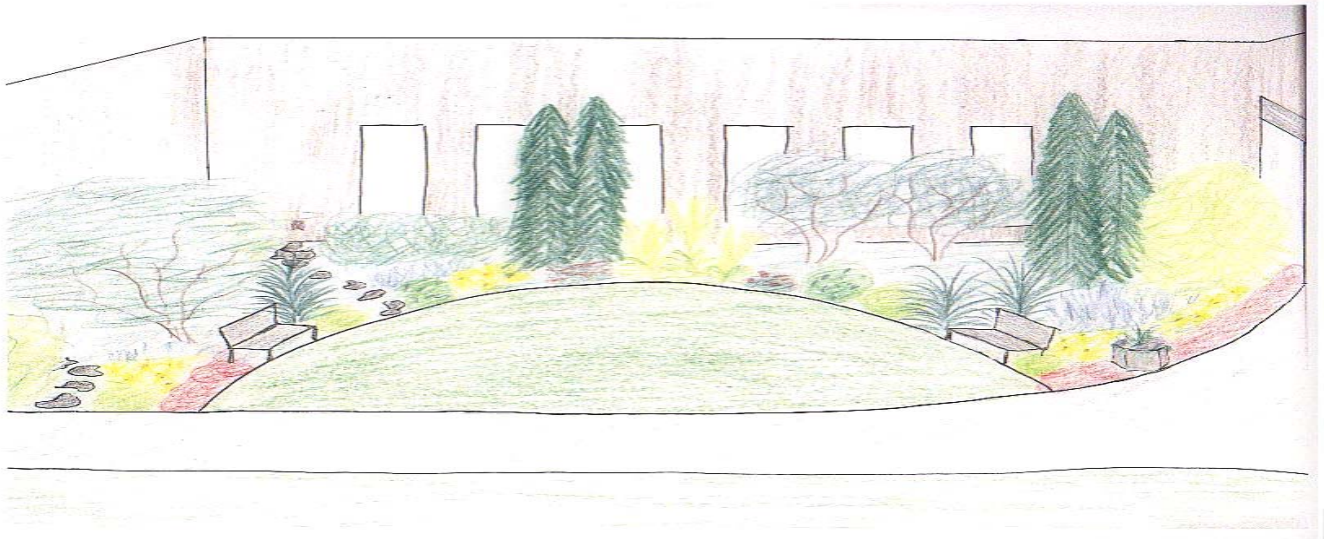
## Character Websites

This site links you to a wide variety of Character Education sites, many of which include ideas on Honesty.

<http://webtech.kennesaw.edu/jcheek3/chared.htm>

This is part of the Scholastic website and it suggests ways to address Character Education through literature. There are suggestions of specific book titles and discussion of Character Education.

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/professional/todayschild/charactered.htm>



## **GARDEN OUTSIDE OF FRONT OFFICE GETTING A NEW LOOK!!**

In order to create a more obvious and welcoming entrance to the school for visitors, parents and students, the Environmental Committee has planned to renovate the garden outside the school's main entrance.

On May 16, 2005, parent volunteers will "break ground" to prepare the outline of the new bed and ready the area for planting. In addition to the plant material already there, we will be adding a Pagoda Dogwood (tree), several shrubs (including Elder, Forsythia, Dogwood, Kerria), grasses and lots of spring and summer-blooming perennials for the community to enjoy during the school season. The plan also includes two benches, one of which has been generously donated by a school parent. Planting will take place with the children on May 31<sup>st</sup> (rain date: June 1<sup>st</sup>) as part of our school-wide Planting Day.

We are working with a very small budget and the project will have to be done in stages as funds and plant material become available. **IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, HERE ARE SOME WAYS YOU CAN HELP:**

1. Join us on Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup> (rain date May 17<sup>th</sup>) to help with preparatory work (many hands make light work!)
2. Donate perennials from the list below from your own garden\* if you have any to spare.
3. Purchase a perennial from the list below when visiting the garden centre.
4. Send a monetary donation with your child in a sealed envelope marked "Environmental Committee". See some examples below of what your contribution could do for the garden. [FYI: UPS benefits from trade prices at the nursery if we make the purchase. As a result, your money goes further.]
5. Join us with your children on Tuesday, May 31<sup>st</sup> (Rain Date June 1<sup>st</sup>) and help as we involve the **WHOLE SCHOOL** in planting and mulching our gardens.

\*If providing plants, please deliver to the school (caretaker's entrance) or to an Environmental Committee member on **May 26 or 27<sup>th</sup> only** to facilitate planning). **Please ensure that the plant is properly identified.**

### PLANT LIST

**Grasses:**

Miscanthus 'Morning Light'

Calamagrostis arund. Var. brachytricha

**Perennials:**

Rudbeckia 'Goldsturm' (Black-eyed Susan)

Perovskia atriplicifolia 'Filigran' (Dwarf Russian Sage)

Sedum 'Autumn Joy' (Stonecrop)

**Groundcover:**

Lamium (Dead nettle)

**Shrubs:** We will purchase all shrubs to ensure any warranties are valid.

Any and all donations of labour, plants or money are most appreciated. Whether or not you choose to contribute, please take a minute to look at the landscape plan posted in the front hall and watch the progress of our garden makeover!

THANKS IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

**Please contact the following Environmental Committee members if you have any questions and to confirm your attendance on May 16 or 31st:**

**Harriet Sherman**  
**(905) 940-9598**

**Teri Tworzyanski**  
**(905) 940-1714**

**Connie Prentice**  
**(905) 943-7341**

**Jeannie Nicolaou**  
**(905) 474-2023**

**What your contributions could do:**

\$1 will go toward the cost of soil

\$3 will buy a groundcover in a 4" pot

\$10 will buy a perennial in a 1 gallon pot

\$15 will purchase an ornamental grass in a 2 gallon pot

\$18-35 will pay for a shrub (Golden Elder, Dogwood, etc.)

Labour - to quote a familiar ad... knowing you've contributed to beautifying a community space...PRICELESS

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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### **SUMMER ADVANTAGE PROGRAM**

*The Summer Advantage Program is ready for take off!!!!*

"Summer Advantage" is a fully coloured, 200 page activity book designed to maintain and extend all Kindergarten to Grade 6 students' academic learning over the summer months. There is one activity book per grade level from Kindergarten to Grade 6. The major units and 3 summer fun units in each book are aligned with the Ontario curriculum expectations. These activities are intended to keep students' thinking skills sharp over the summer, to introduce themes and subject content for the upcoming school year and to provide an alternative to television. When your child says "I'm bored", Summer Advantage will provide that beneficial alternative. All books have parent information pages, evaluation forms, follow up activities and a family focus. There is also a Summer Advantage website ([www.summeradvantage.ca](http://www.summeradvantage.ca)) which contains more detailed information. The cost of each booklet is \$20.00.

The Summer Advantage program runs from May 11 to May 20, 2005. Order forms will be sent home with your child. Delivery of books will be in June. Please make all cheques payable to "Summer Advantage". There are sample units for all grade levels in the school office and they are available for parent viewing.

As part of our celebration of Earth Week, UPS was visited by a representative from TerraCycle ([www.terracycle.ca](http://www.terracycle.ca)). TerraCycle makes an effective, odourless, liquid plant food from garbage—organic waste that is composted and fed to worms. A "tea" is then brewed from the worms' castings. This "tea" is then packaged in garbage—used plastic pop bottles are cleaned and filled with the natural liquid plant food.

TerraCycle's concept is to help reduce garbage going to landfill and create useful products that benefit the environment.

Our students and teachers were fascinated to learn that companies like TerraCycle are out there trying to achieve the same goals as UPS in helping out the environment.