

Pawprints

December 2006

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

Principal: S. Gardner
Vice-Principal: A. Mainprize

York Region District School Board

Trustees: E. Richardson
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From the Administrator's Desk

The End of First Term

Students at Unionville Public School have recently received their first report card. We have also had the opportunity for students and parents to come to the school for parent-teacher conferences. This is a time for students to set academic goals for themselves for term 2.

It is important to take the opportunity to regularly discuss school goals with your child. It is also a time to reflect on home routines that support learning. Parents are encouraged to read through their child's agenda planner nightly, in order to check for assignment lists and nightly homework and communication from teachers. Research consistently shows that students who regularly complete homework, review notes, and/or read nightly, come to school prepared and display confidence concerning their academics. A very special thank you to our group of Grade 8 students who offered and provided babysitting services for the younger students on interview night. I know this was appreciated by both parents and the students. A special thank you is extended to Mrs. Elder for all of her time and organizational efforts on behalf of UPS.

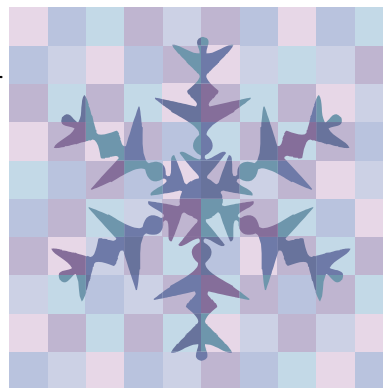
Once again our UPS Book Fair was a resounding success! Thank you to everyone for the enthusiastic participation. On behalf of our Teacher-Librarian, Ms. Hlynka, and UPS, a special thank is extended to our group of parent volunteers who helped set-up and supervise the event - the event could not have occurred without your invaluable support.

On Friday, December 1st, UPS participated in The Candle Light Parade on Main Street. It was a fun filled evening for all of the students and parents who participated. The earlier wet weather did not put a damper on the wonderful festive parade. Thank you very much to Mr. Stokes and Mrs. Dewberry for their wonderful leadership and direction with the UPS performers and to Mrs. Elder for her ever-present support and supervision. Thank you to Kavanagh Roofing for the use of their antique truck. It is the spirit of community that continues to make UPS the special place that it is.

On behalf of the entire UPS staff and community, I would like to thank our Vice Principal, Mr. Mainprize, for his dedication to our school. As you know, Mr. Mainprize will be with us until the end of the month. Mr. Mainprize was a visible presence both in and outside of the school and was able to make a connection with all of our students and families. Best of luck in what lies ahead next.

On behalf of the entire UPS staff, may you have a safe and happy holiday.

Steve Gardner and Al Mainprize



WITH OUR THANKS!

If you have not had the opportunity to see the festive display of garlands at the entrance of the school, please take the opportunity. Thank you very much to our Environmental Committee for all of their dedicated work—it certainly is a festive feeling at UPS! Thank you very much Mrs. Prentiss and Mrs. Stoyanov!



garland and plant- Thank you very work—it certainly tice, Mrs. Sherman

DRESSING WARMLY

In light of the fact that our AM recess time is 30 minutes, students are reminded to dress appropriately now that colder weather has arrived. All students are expected to go outside for recess during the winter months as the fresh air and activity is healthy. Only in the event that the weather becomes extremely cold will the outdoor recess time be reduced. Beginning on our first day back in January, we will be instituting a 10 minute nutrition break during the 11:00 recess. Students will be eating their snack in their classroom from 11:00-11:10 AM and when the bell sounds at 11:10 AM, students will then use that 5 minute period to get their outdoor attire on. The bell will again sound at 11:15 AM signaling students to go outside for 15 minutes of fresh air.

Regardless of the weather, the school will remain open. However, during extreme weather conditions, buses may be cancelled. If this happens and parents choose to drive students to the school, please be aware that you are also responsible for picking up your children by 3:30 PM. When buses are cancelled, they are cancelled for the entire day.

If road conditions do force cancellation of bus service, the following radio stations will be informed as early as possible, and will broadcast pertinent information to the community.

AM	640	1430	1540	740	860	1010	1050
FM	98.1	88.5	99.9	90.3	92.5	93.1	



- *Students need to come to school dressed to play outside during recesses (hats, scarf, gloves/mittens, boots, etc.). It is advisable for children to bring extra pants and socks in case they get wet. Being physically active during winter is an essential part of a healthy lifestyle.*
- *The school administration keeps a close eye on weather conditions, including wind chill. When conditions necessitate, students will remain inside for recess. When conditions allow, reduced outdoor recesses may take place.*
- *If a student is well enough to attend school, then he/she will be expected to go outside for recess.*

We would ask that parents be sensitive to the demands placed on our secretaries and not call the school to inquire about indoor recess, but rather that parents send their children dressed for outdoor winter play.

WINTER SNOW RULES

For safety reasons the following rules are in place for all students at UPS.

Students must not throw snow or snowballs, kick snow at others, rub snow onto others, or destroy others' snow forts (this usually results in a physical altercation) Students are also expected to wear warm winter clothing outside (wear what was brought to school) when outside for recesses and lunch hour. Please discuss these important rules with your child. Thank you.

Baythorn Arts Elementary

Does your child enjoy learning through the Arts?

All grade four, five and six students interested in learning through the arts (Drama, Dance, Music, Visual Arts) are invited to audition for the Integrated Arts Program at Baythorn Public School located in Thornhill. Please join us at our Arts Information Evening on Monday, January 15th at 7:00 p.m. in the Gym at Baythorn Public School. Applications will be available on our school website at www.baythorn.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca (beginning January 16th, 2007).

Information regarding the audition process will be distributed at the information evening.

Auditions for qualified students will be held in February 2007.

HOT LUNCHES AND FUNDRAISING AT UPS

Did you know...that we provide the L & D hot lunch program at UPS on Wednesday and Friday as a service to families. What you might not have realized is that by purchasing a hot lunch for your child, UPS receives a small remuneration for each lunch that is purchased. On behalf of UPS, thank you for all of your continued support.



SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

You did it again! Thank you to all the students, parents, and teachers who helped to make this year's book fair a great success. Due to everyone's efforts, we will be able to purchase more resources for our library. A very special thank you to Ms. Hlynka for her organization of this annual event and all of our wonderful parent volunteers.

SAFETY IN THE PARKING LOT

In an effort to maintain student safety, please remember that the UPS parking lot is closed to vehicular traffic from 3:15 PM. We have a 6 buses and student transportation vehicles that use the parking lot entrance and exit and therefore the area becomes very busy.

Care and Share Week

On the morning of Wednesday, December 13th. The Primary Division will be holding our annual Used Toy Sale. The proceeds of this sale will go to the Markham Children's Aid Society. Primary students are reminded to please send your used toys to the school by December 12th.

This year at Unionville Public School the Junior and Intermediate divisions will have the chance to participate in various activities around the school. The money raised from these events will go to the Care and Share Charity drive. These exciting raising activities will take place from December Prior to the Care and Share week we will have nouncements informing the students of the de-



Monday, December 4th—Jellybean Guess - (**50 per guess**)
Week of December 4-8th (date to be determined)
Student vs. Teacher Volleyball game - (**\$1 to Wednesday, December 6th -Rock, Paper, Scissors titution - (\$1 to enter)**)
Thursday, December 7th -Movie in gym-*Aladdin*: year's production - (**\$1 to watch**)

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Please encourage your children to participate in these activities. They will have lots of fun while raising money for underprivileged children during the holiday season.

Sincerely,

The Junior/Intermediate Care and Share Committee

Our Care and Share week culminates on December 15th. We will be hosting an assembly at 9:30 AM in which we will have an opportunity to present the UPS Holiday Hampers to the Salvation Army and a donation will be made to the Markham Children's Aid Society on behalf of UPS.

SNAP: Stop, Now and Plan

We are pleased to announce the continuation of the SNAP program at U.P.S. Over the past several weeks a number of students from our junior division have expressed interest in becoming peer mediators during recess. As a result, they have received formal training in SNAP and are now ready to assume the role and responsibility of being a conflict manager. The peer mediators will resolve conflicts that arise in the schoolyard and as such support their fellow peers during difficult times. Also, a heartfelt thank you is extended to all peer mediators for their time and interest in this school initiative.

HOLIDAYS APPROACHING

As the holidays approach, and if you are planning to take an early vacation with your child, please ensure that you inform the office with a letter indicating the dates that your child is going to be absent from school.

CYBER BULLYING AND INTERNET SAFETY

As young people embrace the Internet and other mobile communication technologies, bullying has manifested itself in a new and potentially more dangerous way – through cyber bullying. Cyber bullying can generally be defined as sending or posting harmful or malicious messages or images through e-mail, instant messages, cell phones and websites. It is emerging as one of the more challenging issues facing educators, since it has a direct impact on students but often occurs away from school property.

Examples of cyber bullying include

- Sending cruel, vicious and sometimes threatening messages,
- Creating web sites that contain stories, cartoons, pictures and jokes ridiculing others,
- Posting pictures of classmates online with intent to embarrass them,
- Breaking into an e-mail account and sending vicious or embarrassing material to others,
- Engaging in IM (instant messaging) to trick another person into revealing sensitive or personal information and forwarding that information to others and
- Taking a picture of a person using a digital phone camera and sending that picture electronically to others without consent.

Social Networking Sites

Most teenagers visit websites to communicate with friends and meet new people. **MySpace.com** is a social networking site, one of many that has become increasingly popular with students. MySpace allows students to create a personal website (for free), post pictures, add comments and use it to meet “online friends.” The website often includes their full name, telephone number, address, school name and a picture. **YouTube** is a similar site dedicated to hosting user video clips.

About 68 million people reportedly use MySpace, and millions more use other social networking sites such as friendster.com, livejournal.com, nexopia.com and facebook.com. According to MySpace, 22 per cent of its users are younger than 18.

The danger lies in that the Internet is vast, public and constantly expanding. And, if students have not developed critical thinking skills, are unsupervised or create websites that are not monitored, they can be at risk of unknowingly communicating with predators, spammers and pornographers.

As such sites proliferate, students should be warned not to post identifying information to the site and never to meet someone in person they have met through the site unless an adult accompanies them. And parents should conduct frequent reviews of the site to ensure that identifying information or pictures have not been posted.

MySpace will cooperate in shutting down a site created solely to harass another individual.

Talk to your children about cyber bullying. Make sure they understand what it is. Let them know that cyber bullying is no less serious and unacceptable than other forms of bullying.

Set up the family computer in an open, common area so that you can monitor what your child is sending and receiving.

Inform your Internet Service Provider (ISP) or cell phone service provider of any abuse. Although it can take a lot of time and effort to get Providers to respond and deal with your complaints about cyber bullying, it is necessary in order to try to stop it from re-occurring.

Internet Safety

No action is foolproof, but there are steps students can take to protect themselves online and lessen the chance of being the victim of unsolicited messages:

Never give out personal information, passwords, P.I.N. numbers etc.

Remember that personal information includes your name, age, e-mail address, the names of friends or family, your home address, phone number or school name.

Choose a user name that your friends will recognize but strangers won't (such as a nickname used at school). This will help you to identify yourself to friends and lets you know who is trying to communicate with you.

Do not submit or post pictures of yourself to any website, including your own. These can easily be copied and posted to any other website.

Passwords are secrets. Never tell anyone your password except your parents or guardian.

Do not respond to "spam" or unsolicited e-mail.

Set up e-mail and instant messenger accounts with your parents.

Do not respond to, or engage in, cyber abuse.

If you are the victim of a cyber bully

Don't reply to messages from cyber bullies.

Tell an adult you know and trust. Just as with any other kind of bullying, ignoring it often leads to escalation.

If the bullying is occurring through text messaging, use call display or dial *69 to identify the phone number and have it tracked through your cell phone/pager service provider.

Instant messages (e.g. yahoo instant messenger, Microsoft Messenger) are best handled by blocking messages from certain senders.

Bullies are likely to register for an anonymous e-mail account such as Hotmail, Yahoo or Gmail using a fake name. If you receive threatening e-mail messages, instruct your e-mail program to block messages from that address. Then inform your Internet Service Provider (ISP).

If physical threats are made or the bullying escalates, inform your local police.

Do not erase or delete messages from cyber bullies. You don't have to read them, but keep them as evidence. You may get similar messages from other accounts. The police, your ISP and/or your telephone company can use these messages to help you.

If necessary, get a new phone number, account or e-mail address and give it out to only one person at a time.

Suggestions for Parents

Make sure your children understand how vast and public the Internet is. Remind them that anything they post or send in a message is virtually available to be seen or read by anyone in the world.



York Region District School Board

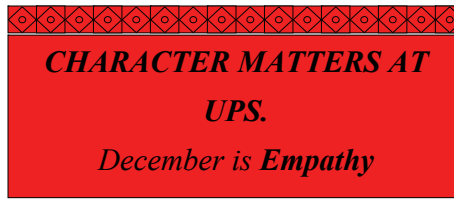
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School Website: <http://www.unionville.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca>

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.



SPORT'S UPDATE

Congratulations to all members of our girl's and boy's volleyball team. During the Area east tournament last week , both teams finished an impressive 3rd! Be proud of your accomplishments. We are extremely proud of your work ethic and athletic abilities. Thank you to our coaches, Mr. Scagnetti, Mr. Hawco, Mr. Chin and Ms. Osman for all their time and expertise given.

Basketball is well underway at UPS and we look forward to another exciting season!

DOES YOUR CHILD NEED HELP IN LANGUAGE ARTS AND/OR MATHEMATICS? (Grade 4,5,6)

Now there's an effective, affordable alternative to private tutors and learning centres.

Learning Advantage is a program developed by the York Region District School Board to supplement classroom learning with convenient, customized schoolwork help for Grade 4, 5 & 6 students. Programs are designed by qualified learning consultants based on the Ontario Curriculum. Instruction is delivered by certified teachers in small group classes with personal attention to individual learning needs. Classes are held after normal school hours in selected public schools across York Region.

Learning Advantage's reasonable registration fees make schoolwork help accessible to all students. Compared with private tutoring costs of \$20, \$30 or more per hour, **Learning Advantage** costs just \$190 per 8-week session, providing 16 full hours of quality instruction and personalized help in either literacy or mathematics.

Ask for a **Learning Advantage** registration form at your child's day school office. Next sessions start in January 2007. For more information contact: learning.advantage@yrdsb.edu.on.ca

