

# Pawprints

February 2006

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

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York Region District School Board

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## From The Administrator's Desk

As a school community we are continually appreciative of the support that our parents provide UPS with. Whether it be through volunteering throughout the school, leadership of School Council, or driving students to sporting or artistic events just to name a few, our parents are dedicated to the school. The UPS Environmental Committee is comprised of a group of dedicated parents who are continually thinking "GREEN". They continue to make us think and ask the question; "What can I do to make UPS and the greater community a greener environment?" Through countless hours of planning as a committee and discussion with UPS staff and students, February was deemed Environmental Awareness Month at UPS. Included in this edition of Pawprints is an overview of the initiative and a calendar of events for the month. Please take the time to read this informative insert and work with us as we strive to make UPS even more environmentally aware. If you would like to lend your time or expertise to this initiative please contact the school office.

In lieu of the electives program this year, we have decided to deem February 16th, Winter Activity Day. Our Primary students will be skating for the morning, our Junior students will be cross country skiing and our Intermediate students (6-8) will be alpine skiing. We value this opportunity and feel that it is a fun way of complementing the physical education curriculum. If you have any ice skates and/or hockey helmets that you are no longer using and would like to donate them to the school, please bring them to the office. Your support is appreciated.

S. Gardner

- **In an effort to be environmentally friendly—A reminder that Pawprints is not 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](mailto: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>

A small number of hard copies of Pawprints can be obtained in the school's lobby.

### Highlights

- Education Training Day—February 3—No School
- Winter Activity Day—February 16th
- School Council Meeting—February 21st @ 7:30 PM

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. Our goal at Unionville Public School continues to be to increase student achievement. As a staff, we are continually dedicated to using assessment data for instruction and program, building teacher capacity in literacy instruction, providing a dynamic and enjoyable co-curricular and extra-curricular program in the Arts and Athletics.

Through your generosity we have purchased or will be purchasing the following materials to enhance student learning at UPS.

Thank you from the UPS Staff

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<b>Literacy</b>
Math Manipulatives and Storage
Book Series for Library
Library Book Racks
<b>The Arts</b>
Instrumental Music Program
Operetta - Aladdin
Light Box for performances in gymnasium
Band Sweaters
<b>Miscellaneous</b>
Supply Teacher Support for Athletics, The Arts, Literacy
Environmental Awareness Month Assembly Performance
<b>Technology (April delivery)</b>
Mobile Computer Kit
10 – iBook Macintosh Computers
eMac Multimedia Bundle eMac Desk Top Digital Video Camera Digital Camera Storage stand

## Chinese New Year Celebration

On Thursday, January 26, we celebrated Chinese New Year in the gym. Thanks to all the parents who donated the food and carried out the activities. The primary students had lots of fun using the chopsticks, making a craft and writing Chinese calligraphy. The junior and intermediate students learned about two Chinese instruments, the erhu and the zheng. Many thanks to our special guest artists, Ms. Patty Chan, Ms. Miriam Sue and Mrs. Nancy Lam. A special thank you to our very own Ms. Lee for her hard work and coordination!

## Student Vote-2006 at Unionville Public School

On Wednesday, January 18, students from grades four to eight participated with more than 400,000 other students from across Canada, representing over 3,000 schools, in Student Vote - 2006! This national non-partisan programme encourages civic engagement and gives pupils a chance to practise voting before they're eligible to go to the real polls. With a total of about two hundred and seventy ballots cast, here were the results:

( Progressive Canadian Party) - 5 votes

( Independent) - 7 votes

( New Democratic Party) - 41 votes

(Green Party of Canada) - 51 votes

( Liberal Party of Canada) - 67 votes

( Conservative Party of Canada) - 96 votes

Thank you very much to Mr. Farber for organizing and coordinating this initiative. It was quite amazing to hear the excitement in the school as students and classes discussed the electoral process and the debated issues.



## 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](http://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 once again at UPS this spring. Registration forms will soon be available for pricing and details.

Please e-mail all registration questions to [lori@thedirectorscut.ca](mailto:lori@thedirectorscut.ca)

Registration forms will be located in the school's lobby after February 17th.

## TOGETHER WE'RE BETTER AT UPS!

**On February 2nd a group of UPS Intermediate students under the leadership of Ms. Worthington, will be participating in this year's "Together We're Better" Conference.**

This is a Grade 7/8 Student Conference on Antiracism and Ethnocultural Equity.

### Why:

Students will have the opportunity to:

- Promote antiracist education
- Recognize issues and situations related to race and ethnocultural relations
- Learn effective strategies for dealing with conflict
- Develop communication and problem solving skills
- Improve levels of trust, empathy and positive feelings for others
- Understand that all Canadians have a right to full participation in our society

### Who:

Bill Hogarth, Director of Education and a keynote presentation by Mosa Neshama McNeilly, who will address the issue of diverse heritage. Other speakers include Martin Shulman, a teacher at Thorhnill S.S. who will challenge students to take action at their school and Laurie Brownlee, a teacher at Crossland P.S., who will engage students in reflecting on how thoughts, words and actions can be used to include everyone and not exclude people.

This Conference will consist of 20 workshops including addressing and creating awareness on Human Rights issues, Aboriginal issues, and a variety of other issues facing our diverse student population and community. Some of these interactive workshops will examine stereotypes and allow students to explore the meaning (and deconstruction) of messages in society and the media.

**We all look forward to hearing back from our Intermediate students who participated in this year's conference. Stay tuned to the March edition of Pawprints to read how our students have applied what was learned at the conference!**

## LIBRARY NEWS

Thank you, everyone, for making November's book fair the best ever! As you know, any profit we make goes toward the purchase of new books for our library and helps pay for author visits. Here is a report from one of our grade 4 students following a visit from poet Loris Lesynki.

### Poet Visit

On Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, a poet, author, and illustrator named Loris Lesynski came to visit the grade 2, 3 and 4 classes. She has written many books such as Zig-Zag, Boy Soup, Cabbage Head and many other books. She told us many facts about being an author, poet, and illustrator. She told us about putting a lot of work into making a drawing. She told us that when the publishers want to print out the illustrations they only use red, blue, yellow and black to create many other different colours! She told us many other facts about being a poet, author and illustrator as well. When she was small she loved to write, draw and read, just the same as right now. She got a journal in grade 3 and loved to write the first time she learned how to. She also loved to draw cartoons. She showed us a picture of her mom she drew with 4 hands and with each hand she was doing something. She always wanted to be a writer one day, but she tried different things like a university student, a nursery school teacher, a suburban newspaper reporter and a fruit market clerk. When she was 21 years old she found graphic design and she loved it. She designed book covers, posters and a lot more but she never stopped writing. She loved writing stories or poems so one day she signed up for some writing classes or workshops and then she published her first book Boy Soup. Then she started to be a full-time author, poet and illustrator and she was very happy! ☺ By now she has written many books and has her own website. It is [www.lorislesynki.com](http://www.lorislesynki.com). It has facts about Loris, ideas for activities, just for teachers. You can even write or send an e-mail to Loris if you have a question. There are many other things in the website so check it out. Thanks to Loris Lesynski for coming to visit Unionville Public School!

-Amanda L.

## LIBRARY AUTOMATION

Because we had to barcode our entire collection, it has taken some time to automate our library. Therefore, you'll be pleased to know that we're up and running. (Finally!)

Some things you should be aware of:

- a library card has been issued to each student
- the library cards will be kept in binders in the library
- students may borrow up to 3 books
- books are due in 2 weeks and can be renewed
- book cards are to be left in the pockets and will only be used as a backup

## GROLIER ONLINE

Students, parents and staff now have access to the Grolier Online Encyclopedia. It can be used at school and at home. Go to <http://go.grolier.com> and enter the following in lower case:

Username: yrdsb

Password: home

List of Databases: Encyclopedia Americana, Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia, New Book of Knowledge Online, Popular Science, Lands and Peoples.



York Region District School  
Board

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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.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE UPS UNITED WAY LEADERSHIP TEAM

Under the leadership of Ms. Worthington, the Unionville Public School United Way Leadership Team (comprised of a core group of Intermediate students) was awarded the 2005-2006 United Way Spirit Award! They were honoured at Angus Glen Golf and Country Club on January 26th, where they were treated to dinner and entertainment. Their award will hang proudly in our halls.

"I have the great honour of sharing some fantastic news with you! The United Way has just announced that Unionville Public School has won the 2005 United Way Spirit Award in the Elementary School Category. This special award is bestowed on only one school a year. The criteria include money raised for The United Way and initiatives undertaken."

You certainly have much to be proud of! It is your leadership and dedication to helping others that is infectious. By leading by example, you have raised the awareness of those in need to the entire UPS community. On behalf of UPS, thank you for all you do.

I am proud of your efforts and achievements and on behalf of Unionville Public School – Thank you,

## PARKING CONCERNS

In an effort to ensure the safety of all of our students, parents are please asked to not park within the first 10 metres of either the entrance or exit of the bus loop. We currently have 6 busses and student taxis that occupy our bus loop at the end of the day and the busses are increasingly having a difficult time exiting the loop because of the number of cars that are parking within 10 metres of the entrance/exit. It would be appreciated if families could please park/wait along Bridlewood in an effort to ease the amount of congestion in front of the school. Your efforts and attention to this safety matter is appreciated.



**CHARACTER MATTERS AT UPS.**

*February is Initiative*

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