

Pawprints

May 2006

Unionville Public School
300 Main Street
Unionville, Ontario
(905) 477-1824
Principal: S. Gardner

York Region District School Board

May 2006

Trustees: G. Unitas
(905) 940-9814

B. Crothers
(905) 640-1759

Superintendent: R. Lambert
(905) 940-7800

From The Administrator's Desk

As Spring approaches, our students and staff have been busy contributing to UPS outside activities. April 21st marked Earth Day at UPS and we celebrated with an assembly and "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!

We will be holding our Legacy run/walk on the afternoon of May 4th. 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 \$6,121 from the Legacy run. The entire community is to be commended for their generosity towards this worthwhile cause. A special thank you is extended to our Legacy Run organizing committee, Ms. Lovatsis, Ms. Woo, Mrs. Thomson and Mrs. Caron for all of their efforts!

Congratulations to our Concert Band for their Gold Medal performance at the Music Alive Festival! What an accomplishment! This group of young musicians is to be commended for their dedication and commitment to music. They were the talk of the festival as adjudicators commented on their talent. We are very proud of all of you. A warm thank you is extended to Mr. Stokes for his leadership and dedication to music at UPS. Mr. Stokes has put in countless hours into the instrumental music program at UPS and we all appreciate his efforts.

What a season they have had! Our Junior Girl's basketball team, under the coaching of Mr. Carlisle continued to amaze us all. They were unstoppable on all fronts, be it exhibition play, Area playoffs or Regional competition. Our girls made it to the Regional Championships in Aurora, where they lost the gold medal game by a mere 3 points. Our girls were awarded the Silver medal and we couldn't be more proud of them. Thank you to Mr. Basketball (Mr. Carlisle). His passion for the game is infectious with the students he coaches. Well done girls, you have represented UPS well.

S. Gardner

We have had a number of families inquire as to whether Pawprints could be sent home in hard copy versus our electronic format. As you know, we moved to the electronic format in an effort to be more environmentally friendly, June's edition of the newsletter will be distributed in hard copy also, but beginning September, we will provide families with a choice. If accessing the internet proves difficult, you may request a hard copy be sent home with your child.

Pawprints may be accessed by:

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 or 3. A small number of hard copies will be placed in our lobby.

Highlights

- May 4th -Fast Eddy—Yo Yo demonstration (K-6)
- May 4th—UPS-Legacy Run—1:45 PM
- May 5th -PA Day—No school
- May 16-18th – Aladdin Production
- School Council Meeting—May 16th @ 7:30 PM
- May 24th – Kindergarten Concert
- May 24th – Hoops for Heart (Grade 7 & 8)
- May 26th – Jump Rope for Heart (Grade 1-6)

SNAP CONTINUES AT UPS

One of the initiatives we continue to promote at UPS is the SNAP program. SNAP™ is a cognitive-behavioural strategy that helps kids to regulate their angry feelings and to think before they act.

If your child is in the Primary Division they will have learned about SNAP™ in their classroom. SNAP stands for **Stop Now And Plan**. SNAP helps kids to stop and think before they act! This is how it can help.

A problem occurs, the children are encouraged to describe how they feel, how their bodies change and what they may be thinking when they are angry or upset. (The problem is the trigger.)

What next?

Stop: things they can do to stop themselves from being upset:

- § Snap their fingers
- § Take deep breaths
- § Put their hands in their pockets
- § Count to ten



- § Think about what will happen if they lash out
- § Tell themselves "I can stop, I need to stop"

Now And: Things they can say to themselves to help them calm down and make the right choices. "This is hard but I can do it!" (This is the critical moment)

Plan: The children need to pick a plan that will work for them.

- § Check the problem out with the other person involved, use word to solve their problem.
- § They may try walking away and ignoring the issue
- § They may ask for help from a friend or teacher
- § They think about each plan and pick one that will work for them

By encouraging the children to think before they act, use calming strategies and then pick a plan that will make their problem smaller not bigger they can start to feel better about themselves, and avoid trouble!

BOOMERANG LUNCHES CONTINUE AT UPS

In an effort to reduce the amount of garbage produced in the school, we are beginning a "boomerang" lunch. A "boomerang" lunch refers to whatever lunch items a student does not eat he/she brings it home. The primary reasons are twofold:

- **It will allow parents to help monitor what their children are eating (or not eating)**
- **It will reduce the amount of untouched lunches that get thrown out**
At the lunch hour, our lunchtime staff will continue to reinforce this message. Your support is appreciated as we strive to make gains in raising awareness around the environment.

Tupperware and other plastic containers are suggested as a means of helping to implement the boomerang lunch. We appreciate your efforts in reinforcing this plan with your children. Thank You.

EQAO Testing for Grade 3 and Grade 6 Students—A Reminder

All Ontario students in Grade 3 and 6 will be participating in the 2006 EQAO assessment of reading, Writing and Mathematics. UPS will be conducting the assessments the week of May 29th (May 29-31st)

Aladdin is coming to UPS!

Aladdin is all the buzz at UPS lately. Tickets for the school performance will be sold beginning Tuesday, May 9th. Ticket prices are \$5.00 each. The evening performances are on Wednesday, May 17th and Thursday, May 18th. Please note that seating will be determined on a first come—first serve basis on the night of the performance. We are all looking forward to a fun-filled evening!



Dear Parents/Guardians:

RE: June 29, 2006 - Professional Half Day

As per our commitment with the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario – York Region, elementary teachers will be receiving a half-day on June 29, 2006 to focus on divisional and school needs in planning for continuous student improvement. On this afternoon, teachers and administrators will be involved in culminating activities regarding the review and revision of the school's plan for Continuous Improvement for the current school year.

Please note that students will attend school during the morning of June 29, 2006 only. Students will be dismissed early that day at 12:00 PM. Arrangements will be made to ensure that students who are normally bussed to and from school will continue to receive transportation at this time. Parents whose children attend after school child care should make appropriate arrangements to address this change in schedule.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

S. Gardner
Principal

cc. Superintendents of Education
Wendy Van Straten, President, ETFO – York Region



York Region District School
Board

May is Courage at
UPS—CHARACTER
Matters!

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.

SUMMER ADVANTAGE PROGRAM

SUMMER ADVANTAGE

Very soon, your child will be bringing home a flyer/order form for Summer Advantage.

Summer Advantage is a fully coloured, 200 page activity book designed to maintain and extend all Kindergarten to Grade 7 students' academic learning over the summer months.

There is one activity book per grade level from Kindergarten to Grade 7. The major units and 3 summer fun units in each book are fully aligned with the Ontario curriculum expectations. These activities are intended to keep students' thinking skills sharp over the summer and to introduce themes and subject content for the upcoming school year. 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) which contains more detailed information. The cost of each book is \$20.00.

All orders are to be returned to the school by May 18th. Delivery of the books will be in June. Please make all cheques payable to "Summer Advantage". Should you decide to purchase a book for your child, it is recommended that you order a book for the grade they will be entering in September.

