

Pawprints

January 2008

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

Principal: Dr. Debbie Donsky
Vice Principal: Ms. Carol Takagi

York Region District School Board

Trustee: E. Richardson (905) 940-9818

YRDSB Chair : D. Giangrande (905) 640-1759
Superintendent: R. Lambert (905) 940-7800

From The Administrator's Desk

Thank you to the community of Unionville Public School, for welcoming me with such warmth. I feel fortunate to have been placed at UPS as Principal.

I have had the opportunity to visit all of the classrooms, meet with staff, circulate during recess and meet the students and many of you, the parents during morning entry and at other times throughout the day.

My background in teaching began with the Toronto District School Board as well as the North York Board of Education where I was a primary, junior and special education teacher. I also was a member of the Ontario Knowledge Network for Learning, later changed to e-Learning Ontario, (www.elearningontario.com) at the Ministry of Education. During my time there I worked to develop Centres of Excellence in Technology Integration into the Ontario Curriculum as well as develop a Learning Object Repository and online learn-

ing resources to support Ontario curriculum, now called the Ontario Educational Resource Bank.

Following my time in the TDSB and the Ministry of Education, I joined the York Region team in May of 2005 as Vice-Principal of Castlemore Public School.

On a personal note, I am a mother of two beautiful children, my daughter Rachel is 7 and my son Max is 4. Every day after school we sit down together and decide which school stories we are going to share with each other—the funniest memory of the day, the silliest memory of the day or something new we learned.

I also completed my Doctorate in Education last year after many long years of studying with a focus in Equity and Power in Online and Offline Learning Environments. I have often told my children that having them was the easiest part of that journey!

I am thrilled to join the Unionville Public School

team and look forward to developing an even stronger school and community.

My door is always open and will be thrilled to meet all of you. I look forward to our school council meeting next Tuesday evening at 7:30 and hope to see many of you out there.

Thank you again for your warm welcome and your wonderful children who teach us something new each day!

Congratulations to Mr. Riley Seapy who has been promoted to Lead Caretaker. Riley has been a part of the UPS caretaking staff for many years, is familiar with even the smallest corners of the school and is always willing to assist. We look forward to working with Riley in this new capacity.

We are also fortunate to have Ms. Denise Leung join our staff as an additional member of our Special Education complement.

Dr. Debbie Donsky
Principal
Ms. Carol Takagi
Vice Principal

Highlights January 15 School Council— 7:30 PM

Kindergarten Registration	<i>Begins Jan 14</i>
Grade 6s Scanlon Outdoor Ed Centre	<i>Jan 16—18</i>
Grade 3 Gifted Screening	<i>Week of Jan 14</i>
Grade 8 Girls HPV Vaccination	<i>Jan 21</i>
Professional Activity Day	<i>February 1</i>

Kindergarten Registration 2008-2009

Kindergarten Registration for the 2008-2009 school year begins on Monday January 14, 2008 after 9:30 am. Please remind any neighbours with young children of the registration date.



Lost and Found ...

We have several lost items in our hallway leading to the library. Please encourage your child to look for their belongings. These items will be kept until Friday January 18. After that, they will be bagged and donated to a charitable organization. To assist with returning items to their owner, we encourage you to label your child's clothing and other items.



Arts @ Baythorn Public School

Does your child enjoy learning through the Arts?

All grade four, and five 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 Thursday, January 17, 2008 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 18, 2008).

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

Auditions for qualified students will be held in February 2008.

Snowball Throwing ... with the winter season upon us, people of all ages are looking forward to the joys of snow. Most children rank snowballing high on the list of fun winter activities. Unfortunately, with the potential of many, many children engaged in this activity at one time, safety becomes a major concern. **FOR SAFETY REASONS, THROWING SNOWBALLS IS FORBIDDEN.** We appreciate your support in all matters relating to your child(ren)'s safety. Please take time to review this policy with your child .



Safe and Supportive Schools: Visitors / Parents in the Building

As part of York Region's safe schools' initiatives, it is policy that visitors to the building must report to and sign in at the office to receive an identification tag. This is to ensure that the office is aware of individuals in the school who are not members of staff and who can then be recognizable to all staff by wearing an identification lanyard. This policy is also inclusive of parents. As you can imagine, it is not always apparent to **all teachers/staff** who is a parent and who is not, when adults are seen in the halls of the school. To assist us in keeping the school and students safe, we ask parents to please refrain from entering the school at entry times. At this point in the school year, our students (even our youngest) are able to independently get undressed upon arrival and dressed at dismissal. In addition, there may be issues of legal custody that require careful consideration regarding who is entering the school to pick up a child. Please continue to arrange a convenient place to meet your child at the end of the day.

Understanding that you may need to speak to your child's teacher, please indicate any short messages in your child's agenda/planner, send a separate note or indicate in the agenda that you would like to arrange a convenient time to meet. This way, your child's teacher has an opportunity to provide you with focused attention.

We appreciate your support in keeping your children safe and encourage you to speak to the office if you require further clarification.

Our Grade 3s Support OSPCA



Through the donation of grocery store receipts in December, our Grade 3 students were able to collect \$26,872.70. This resulted in a donation of \$268.72 to the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Purrs and licks to our UPS community for your support of this program.

ECO FOOTPRINTS @ UPS

"We don't inherit the earth, we borrow it from our children".

REDUCE: Choose to buy things that are NOT disposable, walk to school, shut off lights/TVs/computers/water when not in use/choose less packaging

REUSE: Use things over and over and over

RECYCLE: When something can't be used one more time



Email Option: Thank you to those of you who expressed an interest in receiving electronic copies of our monthly newsletter. If you have not already done so, and would like to have the newsletter emailed to you monthly (instead of a paper copy **and to save trees and energy**), please print your email address below.

Student's name: _____ Grade/Teacher: _____

Email address: _____

Parent/guardian name: _____

Signature: _____

PLEASE RETURN TO MS. TAKAGI IN THE MAIN OFFICE!

Student Drop Off/Pick Up



To ensure the safety of all of our students, **please do not drop off your students in the loop or in front of the school.** The loop at the front of the school is intended for buses and taxis only. If you are unable to walk your child from home to school, please park on a street close by and walk your child to the school grounds. Busy traffic around the school creates an unsafe route for children to get to school. We all need to do our part by respecting the rules of the road and school and model appropriate behaviour for our children. We appreciate your support and cooperation.

Family Day

Recently, the Government of Ontario announced the creation of Family Day as a province-wide statutory holiday. This year Family Day will be held on Monday, February 18, 2008. Please note that school will be closed on the 18th.

Primary Class Size Reduction

The Board continues to respond to the Ministry of Education's mandated requirements related to primary class size. In doing so, this has allowed us to make great gains in creating primary classes that maximize teacher time with students in support of their learning.

As principal, I am working with my superintendent and Board staff to plan for the upcoming school year. Each school board in the province will have to meet Ministry expectations. In general, on a board-wide basis, 90% of primary classes must have 20 or fewer students, and only 10% may have up to 23. In addition, while classes in grades 4-8 will not have a hard cap, each school board will be required to demonstrate a regional average of approximately 26 students to one teacher.

As we proceed through the planning process, I will be sure to keep you informed as to how our school will be meeting with Ministry requirements.

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

Dr. Debbie Donsky

French Immersion Program

Students receive full-day instruction in French in this optional program beginning in Grade 1.

Both are excellent programs but have different language learning outcomes. Core French graduates have basic communication skills in French which form a firm foundation for further study of French and other languages. Students who graduate from French Immersion secondary schools are functionally bilingual (able to work in a French milieu or attend a French-speaking college or university).

Would you like further information regarding the French Immersion Program?

Information will be sent home in January with all SK students.

For parents interested in the French Immersion program for their children, please attend the **information evening on Wednesday, January 30, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at Sir Wilfrid Laurier Public School.**

Registrations for Grade 1 French Immersion will be accepted after January 30, 2008. The deadline to apply for the school year commencing September 2008 is **Monday, March 3, 2008.**

Registrations will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. As space is limited, some students may be required to attend a French Immersion school other than the one designated for their community.

From Ms. Edwards and the Library...

Thank you goes to the Unionville P.S. community for supporting the book fair and buying so many books! We sold a total of 456 books! You spent a total of \$5,797.65 (gross) worth of books. The profit that we will make from this is \$3,210.73! We will be able to purchase excellent resources because of your generosity!

Thank you too, to all the amazing UPS parents for their help towards this year's Scholastic Book Fair. Your help, from organizing and setting up the book fair and the bulletin boards to selling and reshelving books, was much appreciated. Thank you: Anna Ma, Barbara Hockin, Carla Montgomery, Christine Ingram, Connie Prentice, Darla Mitchell, Earlene Worrall, Jennifer Hunt, Julie Canton, Karen Ingram-Mak, Karen Kenney, Karen Mitas, Kathy Niemens, Margaret Hough, Mekie Wong, Murielle Bijnens, Naomi Tamaki, Rola Vander Zee, Sandy Navaratnam, Tess Georgakopoulos.

(P.S. Books that were purchased directly from the book fair by some of the book fair profits have been catalogued and are currently on display in the library, ready for circulation!)