



Unionville Public School



June 2008

Principal: Dr. Debbie Donsky
Trustee: E. Richardson(905) 940-9818

Vice Principal: Ms. Carol Takagi
Superintendent: R. Lambert (905) 940-7800

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Monday June 2—Area Track and Field @ Stouffville (Rain date June 3)
- Tuesday June 3—JK/SK Orientation Night, 6:30 pm in the gym
- Wednesday June 4—Mulch Day (Thank you to our many parents who contribute to this day!)
- Thursday June 5—House Colour Lunch Day
- Thursday June 5—Rain date for Mulch Day
- Friday June 6—Wonderland Music Festival
- Wednesday June 11—Regional Track and Field Day (Rain date June 12)
- Wednesday June 18-Friday June 20—Grade 8 Trip to Ottawa
- Friday June 20—Kindergarten Graduation
- Wednesday June 25—Report Cards go Home
- Wednesday June 25—Grade 8 Graduation
- Thursday June 26—Last Day of School for students, Half Day ends at 12:00 noon



From Your Administrative Team

At the school council meeting in May we announced the organization for next year. This organization has changed.

The current organization for September 2008 is still under review as our enrollment is higher than expected.

Decisions around organization at a school are made by considering a number of parameters:

- We consider the number of students we have in the building. There are maximum numbers for each division based on legislation and collective agreements. Primary classrooms (K-3) are capped at 20 per classroom. We are allowed to have 10% of the primary classrooms go above 20 but are hard-capped at 23. This 10% is system-wide, not per school.
- We consider the best organization to allow for as many options for placement as possible. There

are some situations where social groupings affect children's learning and we do our best to move children around to develop new friendships.

- We consider the space we have to work with in our building and which organization will work to support our children as well as fit into the building in the best configuration.

When we place children in classrooms we consider the following:

- Gender
- Special Needs
- Peer groups
- Numbers
- Balanced classrooms
- Classroom teacher

Many parents have expressed concerns about combined grades. There are myths that students in the lower grade will receive an "enriched program" or are put there because they are further ahead than the others. Teachers are expected

to teach the children in the classroom.

The use of formative assessment allows teachers the ability to understand where each student is in terms of understanding and development. Recently, while attending an assessment conference, one of the presenters stated that, "as teachers we have always been concerned with what we teach [i.e. the curriculum] but have forgotten the importance of what the students are learning [formative assessment]."

We will be providing support to all teachers in instruction and assessment to ensure that the needs of ALL students are met in ALL classrooms.

Placements for students will be available on the June report card.

More information is available on the Ministry of Education website (www.edu.gov.on.ca) regarding combined grades.

Safe Schools Action Team and Safe @ Schools

Every school in Ontario is mandated to have a Safe Schools Action Team. The role of this team is to review data and monitor issues related to the safety of all students, particularly around issues of bullying and bully prevention.

We have created a team of teachers at UPS as well as several parents who have volunteered to join us in working towards a safer school environment.

Our first step is to create surveys for students, parents and staff to get a baseline of data around issues of bullying in the school. We will be asking:

- i. What types of bullying are most prevalent;
- ii. Where bullying happens in the school and outside of the school;
- iii. What grade levels are affected most by bullying;

iv. And, if there is a difference in bullying between the genders.

By collecting and collating the data we will be able to determine where we must provide the most coverage, who is targeted and what intervention strategies will be most effective in creating a safer school.

In addition, our Safe Schools Action Team will be working through a series of stages by using the Safe @ Schools website as the resource (www.safeatschool.ca).

The Safe @ Schools initiative is a joint initiative between the Ontario Ministry of Education and the Teachers' Federations throughout Ontario. Using surveys from the Ontario Principal's Council (OPC), The Ontario Ministry of Education, and the Safe @ Schools initiative, our team

has created surveys for students, parents and staff.

We will be doing the staff and student surveys at school but would ask that sometime before the end of school that all parents submit their responses to our online survey at (http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=IYTDc6SdtNpH4GbWTUX3cg_3d_3d) so that we can also include your perspective. If you have difficulty with this link, please go to our school website at <http://www.unionville.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/pawprints.htm>. Or go to the website and visit the Pawprints page for the June newsletter!

Thank you so much for your continued support.

Bullying

There are lots of ways to bully, but in all cases students who bully other students want to hurt or upset them (it's not an accident). Usually they hurt or upset them repeatedly and have an advantage over them, such as being bigger. Sometimes a group of students will bully a student.

Types and Examples of Bullying

• Physical bullying

- hitting, pushing, shoving, slapping, kicking, spitting at, or beating others up
- damaging or stealing someone's property

• Verbal bullying

- name-calling, hurtful teasing
- insulting, humiliating, or threatening someone

• Social bullying

- excluding others from "the group" or from an activity
- gossiping or spreading rumours about others
- setting others up to look foolish
- making sure others don't associate with someone

• Electronic bullying

- sending e-mail or phone text messages or pictures to threaten someone or hurt their feelings; single out, embarrass, or make them look bad; or spread rumours or reveal secrets about them

• Racial/ethnocultural bullying

- treating others differently or badly because of their culture, their racial or ethnic background, or the colour of their skin
- saying negative things about someone's race, culture, ethnic background, or skin colour
- calling someone by a racially or ethnically derogatory term
- telling racist jokes

• Sexual bullying

- touching, pinching, or grabbing someone in a sexual way
- making crude comments or spreading rumours about someone's sexual behaviour
- calling someone "gay" or a "fag" or a "lesbian" or something similar to upset them
- making sexual gestures at someone

• Religion-based bullying

- treating others differently or badly because of their religion
- saying negative things about someone's religion

• Gender-based bullying

- leaving others out or treating them badly because they are a boy or a girl
- making sexist comments or jokes

Lunch Supervision for 2008/2009

We are always looking for lunch assistants! Ideally, we are hoping to have two people in the primary hallway and two people in the junior/intermediate hallway each day in addition to a kindergarten assistant each day. The position is a paid position and is a wonderful way to support the school by ensuring the safety of our students.

Next year, with our additional full day alternate Friday Kindergarten we will require coverage in the Kindergarten 5 days a week.

If you are interested or would consider sharing this position with someone, please inform the office ASAP.



Attention all Parents!!!

Exclusive Camp Muskoka Summer Camp Discount
for all of our school's students



This past year, many of our students enjoyed an outdoor education experience at Camp Muskoka. As a result, Camp Muskoka is offering an exclusive discount on their 2008 summer camp to all of our students. Any of our students, grade 1 and up, who enrolls into a Camp Muskoka 2008 summer camp experience will receive a discount of **\$50 off** a 1-week session, **\$100 off** a 2-week session or **\$200 off** a 4-week session. Camp Muskoka offers one-week, two-week and four-week summer camp programs to children age 6 - 16. To take advantage of this exclusive discount, camp registrations must be received by Camp Muskoka **no later than May 15th, 2008**. For more information on our school's exclusive discount, parents may pick-up a Camp Muskoka brochure complete with the "Exclusive Discount Voucher" from the school office. For additional information about Camp Muskoka please check out their website www.campmuskoka.com.



WALK, RUN, ROLL or RIDE
To help find a cure for inflammatory
bowel disease.
COLLECT PLEDGES THE EASY WAY ONLINE

Use the **e-pledge** system. www.heelnwheelathon.ca

Pledge forms available: at M&M Meat Shops, www.heelnwheelathon.ca or call CCFC 416 920-5035 | 1-800-387-1479 ext. 236

Registration at Toogood Pond 9:30 a.m.

Warm-Up 10:15 a.m.

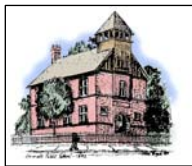
Start time 10:30 a.m.

Not able to attend? Collect pledges anyway, and turn your pledge form in before the event. You will still be eligible for the national prizes. We will designate someone to walk for you.

Please encourage everyone you know to pick up a pledge form and participate with you, or sponsor you. Together we can make a difference!

- BBQ lunch Provided by M & M Meat Shops
- Pizza Nova pizza
- Tim Horton's
- Refreshments.
- Clifford the Dog will be on hand
- Face Painting for the kids
- Event T-shirt for everyone who collects a minimum of \$50.00 in pledges

Contact Us:



300 Main Street
 Unionville, Ontario
 L3R 2H2
 Phone: (905) 477-1824
 Fax: (905) 477- 5745
 unionville.ps@yrdsb.edu.on.ca

Lost and Found



We will be donating all lost and found items to a local shelter by Friday June 13th. Please come by the school and/or encourage your children to check the lost and found for their belongings prior to this date.

As Are you moving out of the area?

we look at our organization for next year, we have to ensure that our classrooms are organized based on the numbers of students in the building.



If you know that your children will NOT be attending Unionville Public School in September 2008, please send in a signed notice to the school office ASAP!



Thank you to our parents and classrooms who contributed to the MULCH DAY on June 4th. Our gardens look beautiful. We so appreciate your efforts to make Unionville Public School a beautiful place.

Don't forget to stop and smell the flowers!



School Hours—2008/2009

Our school hours for next fall will be the following:

8:45	Students will be supervised on the playground beginning at this time.
8:58 time alert	Entry bell will ring. Students may enter the building at this and have 2 minutes to get to class. Song will play on PA to students to get to class.
9:00	O Canada will play & Announcements
9:00-9:50	Period One
9:50-10:40	Period Two
10:40-11:10	RECESS
11:10-12:00	Period Three
12:00-12:50	Period Four
12:50-1:50	LUNCH
1:50-2:40	Period Five
2:40-3:30	Period Six
3:30	DISMISSAL



Kindergarten Hours



We are thrilled to announce that we were given an additional .5 kindergarten teacher to accommodate the 15 students who would have been overflowed. We are now going to be an

overflow site for Parkview PS as well. The full day alternate Friday JK/SKs, as usual, will run on the same schedule as the rest of the school. The AM./PM JK/SKs will run on the following schedule:

9:00-9:05	O Canada & Announcements
9:00-11:30	AM Program
1:00-3:30	PM Program

Outdoor play will be supervised by the classroom teacher. Students do not take part in the recess times with the other students.