



Unionville Public School



September 2008

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

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

* Wednesday September 10-Friday September 12—Grade 7s to Muskoka Woods

* Wednesday September 10-Friday September 12—Grade 8s to Pinecrest

* Tuesday September 23, 7:00 pm in the library—School Council Meeting

* Monday September 22-Friday September 26—Safety Week

* Tuesday September 22—Grade 7s and 8s immunization day



* Wednesday September 24—School Photo Day

* **Friday September 26—PA Day, no school**

* Thursday October 2—Terry Fox Walk at UPS



* Friday October 3—Prologue Performance for 7s and 8s in the gym

* Tuesday October 7, 6:30-8:00—Curriculum Night

* **Monday October 13—Thanksgiving Day, no school**



From Your Administrative Team

Welcome to our returning and new families to a new school year. We hope everyone had an enjoyable summer holiday. We look forward to a successful year learning together.

Over the summer our caretaking staff, Mr. Seapy, Mr. Loughlin, and Mr. Vanwilligen, worked very hard to clean the school so it would be ready to receive students and staff and I am sure you will all agree that it looks fantastic! Help from our community to maintain our beautiful gardens most definitely sets our school apart as a beautiful site in which to learn.

Class placements this year were changing until the last moment and we thank Mrs. Tsigoulis and Mrs. Misch for their patience and support through that process.

We also thank the many notes and phone calls from parents who were quite pleased with their child(ren)'s placements this year and the confidence expressed by both students and parents in our staff this year.

We have an incredibly strong team of Special Education Assistances, Teachers, Caretakers and Office Staff to ensure that this year runs successfully.

Our organization for this year is the following:

Teaching Staff:

JK/SK am/pm	Laura Wilkinson
JK/SK M/W	Lauren Kennedy
JK/SK T/Th	Stacey Tam
JK/SK ASD	Pinky Wong
Grade 1	Jennifer Berdugo
Grade 1/2	Catherine Chiu
Grade 2	Kelly Milne
Grade 2/3	Susan Creelman
Grade 3/4	Aimee Goldman
Grade 4	Robyn Noble
Grade 4/5	Dalia Osman

Grade 5	Gary Farber
Grade 5/6	Tim Hawco
Grade 6	Scott Chin
Grade 7	David Norquay
Grade 7/8	Denise Leung
Grade 8	Brent Scagnetti
Grade 7/8 MID	Bonnie Bos
Grade 7/8 ASD	Christine Ragonese
Primary SERT	Elizabeth Dyer
Literacy SERT	Janice McGowen-Young
J/I SERT	Julie Rocha
J/I SERT	Heather Worthington
Phys. Ed/Prep	Mike Leon
7/8 French	Azmina Pirani
Library	Becky Cheung

Special Education Assistants:

JK/SK ASD	Christina Peever
Primary SSC	Donna Culbert
7/8 MID	Sekou Sanford
7/8 ASD	Yvonne Braybrook
	Ronda MacDonald
	Michael Murray

Caretaking Staff:

Lead Caretaker	Riley Seapy
	Wayne Loughlin
	Rob Vanwilligen

Office Staff:

Admin. Asst.	Angie Tsigoulis
Receptionist	Debbie Misch

We look forward to a successful year and as always, our doors are open. Let's work together to ensure the success of each and every student at UPS.

School Safety

This is a friendly reminder to all parents/guardians and caregivers that if you are entering the school, you must do so at the front doors off the parking lot and check in at the office.

As well, if you require the use of bathroom facilities while at the school, please use the bathrooms in the staffroom. It is imperative that adults do not enter into the student bathrooms to ensure the safety of all students.

Safe Schools—Anaphylaxis

As a reminder to all parents, Unionville, like all schools in Ontario, has a restriction on Nut products. We have a number of students/staff with severe allergies to nuts and peanuts. For this reason, we ask that no food is brought into the school for sharing. We understand that many have celebrated children's birthday's at school in the past and this has included cupcakes and birthday cakes among some of the treats. These parties are a risk for our anaphylactic students/staff as well as deterring time away from instruction. In light of these reasons, and others associated with healthy eating, we ask you refrain from this practice.

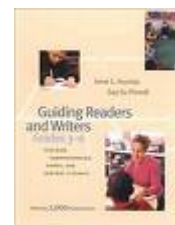


In addition, we also encourage a scent-free school. This means that if you are coming to volunteer or visit in the school, we ask that you refrain from using perfumes and/or colognes as this is another allergy that exists in our building. The many perfumes make it difficult for staff to work in some of the classrooms, particularly in the Kindergarten rooms where so many of you come to volunteer and support our programs.

The First 20 Days

All of our grades 1-8 classrooms will be participating in a process called the *First 20 Days* from the book, *Guiding Readers and Writers* by Fountas and Pinnell. This practice has been in York Region schools for a number of years and at UPS but this year, we have asked that all classrooms participate.

The process is a systematic way to set up structures in the classroom for a successful Balanced Literacy Program as well as supporting the students in thinking of themselves as readers. So often as readers we make decisions about how to choose a book; why we abandon a book; why we would recommend a book to a friend or colleague. We also make decisions while we read such as understanding a word or concept; if we would read a book from front to back or scan for topics throughout; how we use illustrations to understand text or concepts. This program makes all of those practices explicit for our students.



When reading at home with your children, it is a great opportunity to practice some of these talks. You may be reading to them or reading your own book. Let them know why you like a particular book or author. Also let them know why you aren't enjoying a book or article and talk about that. By talking about reading we become better readers.

From the Desk of Trustee Elizabeth Richardson

Dear Parents/Students:

The beginning of a new school year is always filled with excitement! It's exhilarating for students to see friends and classmates after the summer months, and immerse themselves in new classes and grades.

As your trustee, I encourage all parents to get involved in your child's education and school by volunteering for school initiatives. Being active in the school is very satisfying and makes an enormous difference to your child and neighbourhood. It also demonstrates to your children that you are interested in their education and the school's community.



School council elections will soon be underway. Did you know that school councils offer comments to the York Region District School Board policies under review? In order to ensure your input is included, please submit your input on policies *only* to your school council chair. School councils will, in turn, submit their compiled information to the Board. Board policies under review can be found on the Board's website at www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca. Simply click on **Policies for Comment** under News and Events.

The York Region District School Board is committed to open dialogue with its communities. Your views on policy issues and Board governance are welcomed and encouraged. The York Region District School Board welcomes staff and members of the community to its regular Board meetings. Meetings are held usually on the last Thursday of each month during the school year at the Education Centre, 60 Wellington Street West, Aurora. Board Meetings are open to the public and begin at 8:00 p.m. Board minutes and agendas are available on the Board's website at www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca. As your trustee, I appreciate your feedback as it helps ensure that the Board's actions and decisions accurately reflect the needs and concerns of our community.

In addition to my position as your Trustee, serving on countless Board committees in addition to the Board of Trustees, I have been re-elected by my peers to serve on the Board of Directors of the Ontario Public School Boards Association, and elected to the Association's Program Work Group, working with, and sometimes lobbying, the Ministry of Education, offering input and suggestions. In addition, I will be attending School Council meetings again this year – when possible – and hope to see you there!

Welcome back to another exciting year!

Warmest wishes to all!

Elizabeth Richardson, Trustee

Lunch Supervision

As always, we are in dire need of lunch supervisors. We give great thanks to our team of part time and casual lunch assistants who come each day.

We would be grateful for any support be it once a week or even on a casual basis where we could call on a day we are short-staffed.

The lunch hour runs from 12:50-1:50 and the pay is \$10.00/hr. It is a great way to contribute to the school. We need your support.

Please contact the office if you are interested.

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



School Plan for Continuous Improvement

Each year in Ontario schools we are asked to identify our goals for school improvement. These goals are based on data from EQAO, readings assessments, report cards and other data such as the data we collected around issues of bullying in the school. Also identified would be goals set by the York Region DSB as well as our Network of Schools. This year our four areas for growth are:

Literacy and Assessment—Focused on Assessment for Learning in Reading Comprehension

Differentiated Instruction—Focused on differentiated instruction for all students using formative assessment

School Culture/Safe Schools—Focused on working towards a Culture of Respect including Bully Prevention Strategies and Restorative Practices

Learning Communities—Focused on our commitment to a clear focus, purpose, and relationships to improve our work as a team.