



PawPrints

Unionville Public School

January 2009

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

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Monday January 5th—
First day back to school
- Monday January 12th—Kindergarten Registration begins for 2009-2010 academic year**

- Friday January 16th—
House Colour Spirit Day—
WEAR YOUR PJs!!!!



- Tuesday January 20th—
Primary Skating, 10 am-12 pm
- Wednesday January 21st-
Friday January 23rd—
Grade 6 trip to Scanlon—**PACK YOUR LONG JOHNS!**
- Tuesday January 27th—
Junior Skating, 10 am to 12 pm



- Friday January 30th—
PA Day—NO SCHOOL!**



From Your Administrative Team

Working with the Food Policy Committee, we have continued our work with our Food Policy at UPS to ensure the safety and well-being of our students.

We discussed issues related to class parties, holiday celebrations and even lunch hours. Also addressed was the education of students, teachers, and community regarding issues related to anaphylaxis and healthy eating.

In terms of communication, we will be considering the following as we move forward:

1. Parents of children with anaphylaxis will be invited to come in to

present to classrooms to inform them of the risks in the classrooms associate with anaphylaxis.

2. The office will request that parents of children with anaphylactic allergies disclose the allergies of students in the classroom without disclosing names (the office will create these letters once we have parental permission) so that parents are aware of the imminent risks in the classroom when they pack certain foods.

3. An invitation to Anaphylaxis Canada to present to staff/students and perhaps at a parent council to better inform our understandings regarding anaphylaxis.

4. Sharing information regarding food in the school through PawPrints and the parent email system.

5. Presentation from the committee to the school council.

In the future we are going to also consider how we reward students in various situations such as the House Colour Lunch, the Dance-a-thon, "good behaviour in class", class parties with food and how we can find other ways to celebrate.

This is a longer term goal.

Special thanks to the Food Policy Committee—Tess Georgakopoulos, Karen Mitas, Diane Loveys, Brittany Peters (Grade 8 Student) and Aimee Goldman (Teacher)

Parking Lot and Reserved Parking Spots

We have had numerous occasions as the weather has become harsher where parents are using both the disabled parking spot as well as our board vehicle parking spot while either entering the building or waiting for their children. In doing this, there are safety risks for our students, staff and community.

At our school this year, we have several students who require drop off at the door due to physical challenges. Recently, one of our mom's had to park on Main Street and carry her daughter down the street as she is not permitted to walk on slippery sidewalks as the disabled parking spot was occupied by another parent waiting for her child. These spots are designated for these families only. You are not permitted to park/stop/stand in these spots unless you or your child is physically challenged.

There have been other incidents where parents have parked in our board vehicle spot. This requires the same rules of no stopping, standing or parking. In addition to all of these issues, we have had several occurrences where we have had to call in emergency vehicles. We require that our parking lot is accessible at all times for this reason.

In short, we ask that you please pick up your children from Main Street outside of the school and make an alternative location to meet with them rather than in and out of our parking lot. If need be, we will call the police to tow your vehicle.

Please also be aware that when parents are approached by our caretaking staff, Mr. Seapy, Mr. Loughlin and Mr. Ledger, we ask that you treat these men with the respect they deserve. They work very hard every day to ensure the safe and respectful learning environment for your children and are an essential part of our team. Please treat them as such.

The York Region District School Board recognizes its responsibility to provide a healthy and productive working environment that fosters respect for and is supportive of the dignity, self-esteem and fair treatment of everyone taking part in its activities. (Respectful Workplace and Learning Environment, Board Policy, #240)

Contact Us:



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New Entry Time

We will be ringing the bell at 8:55 to accommodate our students with their winter gear and getting to class on time.



Kindergarten Registration

It is the time of year again when Kindergarten registration begins and our little 3 year olds are preparing to join their siblings, friends and neighbours attending "big school"! Understanding the legislation, *Primary Class Size Reduction* (<http://www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/page.cfm?id=PCS000001>), school boards are directed to maintain a minimum of 90% of primary classes, Kindergarten to grade 3 at a limit of 20 students per class. This impacts our ability to accept all students and also influences organizations within the classrooms increasing the number of combined grade classrooms. In an effort to keep our youngest students at their home school, our board has made a commitment to use the 10% of classrooms hard-capped at 23 students.

Kindergarten registration begins on January 12th. There is no preference for those who register earliest in the day or at any time between January 12th and March 15th, 2009.

Where registrations for the following September have been received before *March 15*, the principal shall determine placement of students if we are in an overflow situation by considering the following:

- seeking parents/guardians who will volunteer to have their children enrol in another school;
- selecting students, who do not have siblings in the school and who would be bussed to the school servicing their attendance area, to be bussed to another school;
- selecting students, who do not have siblings in the school and who reside nearest to and within safe walking distance of another school, to attend that school;
- selecting students, who do not have siblings in the school and who reside farthest from the school that serves their attendance area, to be bussed to another school;
- selecting those students who were last registered to attend another school;

(Board Procedure #NP109.0, Kindergarten Registration and Models)

Thank you for your patience during this time.

The Ministry's New Website—abc123

Helping your child improve his or her reading, writing and math skills is as easy as abc123 with new video resources, now available in English and French.

A - Apply what your child learns in the classroom to regular activities at home.

B - Bring reading, writing and math into your family's everyday life. That could mean counting items at the grocery store or reading signs while you take a walk.

C - Check out ontario.ca/abc123 to view video podcasts and watch real families like yours using some practical ideas to help their children learn.

Using the Internet at Home—Clearly Defining the Risks

We have had many conversations with students, staff, parents and agencies surrounding safety and the Internet. Our students/children use the Internet as their social networking tool. Often in conversations with our intermediate students, one realizes that they are actually talking in a different dialect, one based on a texting society with acronyms that become words,

We have had representatives join many of our junior and intermediate students in learning about cyber bullying and safety on the Internet. We have talked about the fact that computers need to be out in the open so that we can watch what our children are doing. We can set their MSN to store conversations and check their history on their searches and websites. In the end, our children will always be MORE computer savvy than we are.

We need to be discussing with our children what is considered to be risky behaviour on the Internet—whether on Facebook, MSN, or myspace. Our children are becoming "friends" with people they do not know or know very loosely through another "friend" they have met in a moment on Facebook. They understand friendship very differently than we do in our generation but allow for the same level of trust with these people they do not know.

Please review what is safe and UNSAFE behaviour on the Internet with your children. For further information, http://www.safecanada.ca/topic_e.asp?category=3 is a helpful site.

Tumble Book Library

Unionville Public School now has a subscription to TumbleBookLibrary and TumbleReadables.



The TumbleBookLibrary is an online collection of licensed titles from children's book publishers. They are animated, talking picture books which teach kids the joy of reading in a format they'll love. TumbleBooks are created by adding animation, sound, music and narration to existing picture books in order to produce an electronic picture book which you can read, or have read to you.

The TumbleBookLibrary provides enrichment to students who are reading independently with a variety of high interest material. It also provides support to students who require skill building with a variety of exercises that can be matched with other areas of the curriculum.

The TumbleBookLibrary collection is accessed online from every computer in our school or from your home computers with Internet connection.

To log on go to www.tumblebooklibrary.com

Username: unionvilleps **Password:** books

The quickest and easiest way to access your TumbleBookLibrary collection is by posting the attached icon and using this direct link on your website.

[http://www.tumblebooks.com/library/auto_login.asp?](http://www.tumblebooks.com/library/auto_login.asp?U=unionvilleps&P=books)

[U=unionvilleps&P=books](http://www.tumblebooks.com/library/auto_login.asp?U=unionvilleps&P=books)

TumbleReadables

We also have a subscription to TumbleReadables an on-line collection of read along titles for elementary, middle school and high school students which features adjustable online text and complete audio narration. Sentences are highlighted as they are being read and the pages turn automatically.

The quickest and easiest way to access your TumbleReadable collection is by posting the attached icon and using this direct link on your website. www.tumblerreadables.com/auto_login.asp?u=unionville&p=login

Or, you can access your collection by going to: www.tumblerreadables.com

Username: Unionville **Password:** login

Our plan is to use these two resources to support our students in literacy. We encourage you to visit these two sites with your children over the holidays and in the days ahead.