



# Unionville Public School PawPrints

April 2009

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

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Thursday April 2—Earth Rangers presentations for all students, grades 1-8
- Monday April 6—UPS Arts Night
- **Friday April 10—Good Friday, no school**
- **Monday April 13—Easter Monday, no school**
- Tuesday April 14—Legacy Run donation forms due at the school
- Thursday April 16—**The Incredible Speediness of Jamie Cavanaugh**, play for grades 4-8 (see page 2 for details)
- Monday April 20—grades 4-5 to attend **Sprockets** Children's Film Festival in Toronto
- Wednesday April 22—House Colours day dress in green for Earth Day
- **Friday May 1—PA Day, no school**
- Thursday May 7—Prologue Performance for primary students, am
- Monday May 11—Legacy Run, 2 pm
- Tuesday May 12—Rain date for Legacy Run
- Tuesday May 12—Kindergarten Orientation, 6:30-7:30 pm
- Wednesday May 13—Prologue Performance for grades 7 and 8, pm
- Friday May 15—House Colours Day, Wacky Hair Day
- **Monday May 18—Victoria Day, no school**



## From Your Administrative Team

In March, through the support of the Ministry of Education's Program Enhancement Grant (supporting athletics and the arts in Ontario schools) we were able to provide a program for all the students, the **Literacy through Drama Project**, [www.literacythroughdrama.org](http://www.literacythroughdrama.org).

One intention of this project is to engage our students in learning by moving. Drama is a strategy that engages the kinesthetic learner (<http://www.educ.uvic.ca/epl/faculty/rowles/301.htm>). A kinesthetic learner is one who has to move to think. So often we ask our students to sit quietly and when they can't we may think that there is an attention issue. The reality is that many students, particularly those who are athletic, dancers, and/or handy (did your child ever take apart electrical devices just to see how they work and then put them

back together?), are kinesthetic learners.

These children will not excel in a program where they are lectured to or asked to read copious amounts of notes. They will excel when they learn by doing so in science, the experiment will be clear, if they use drama in language or history, movement to show how matter changes from a solid to a liquid to a gas...all of these types of strategies will make learning concrete for them and allows these students to be successful.

This program specifically addressed reading comprehension strategies that we use with our students but did so through drama. Some of the strategies students investigated included visualization, predicting and making connections. Instructors went into every classroom to deliver the content and after school, our teachers partici-

pated in a workshop exemplifying how these strategies could be used in other ways.

Knowing how your child learns can help you to advocate for her or him and then help your child to advocate for him- or herself.

Knowing our learning style helps us to understand our strengths and the strengths of our children. Once we understand them, we can use them to strengthen other areas.

There are many surveys online where you can come to understand how you and your children learn. An interesting website to try is: <http://www.ldrc.ca/projects/miinventory/miinventory.php>.

It can give you insight into why your child is successful or struggles in particular subjects, and/or classrooms.

## Supporting the Care of Animals

We (Taylor Essery and Haley Prentice) are grade seven students in Mr. Norquay's class. On a recent trip to the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA), we discovered that there were so many animals that seemed to reach out to us. Having dogs ourselves, we knew we needed to help. We came up with the idea to create a donation box in the front hall of Unionville Public School. We also created a website ([www.saca-2009@webs.com](http://www.saca-2009@webs.com)) and an email ([saca-09@hotmail.com](mailto:saca-09@hotmail.com)).

Parents and students can donate toys, animal food, almost anything that you think could be used at the OSPCA. Also old blankets and towels can be used at the facility.

You can donate through the OSPCA website (<http://www.ontariospca.ca>). Whenever you are at the pet store, you also can just buy some extra food if it is convenient. We will leave the bin by the front hall (beside the office) for easy drop – off.

Thank you for taking your time to read this letter. We hope all goes well!

Sincerely, Taylor Essery and Haley Prentice



**ONTARIO SPCA**  
PROTECTING ANIMALS SINCE 1873



## About our Schoolyard



In 1997, grants and donations of approximately **\$87,000** were expended to take the UPS schoolyard from “grim to green”. For this effort, UPS won the *York Region Board of Education Award* given to schools showing special leadership in environmental areas.

Since that time, **many hundreds of volunteer hours** have been spent maintaining this investment. It is hard looking at the schoolyard now (12 years later) to imagine nothing there. We have replaced trees and shrubs as they have died or become vandalized, we take the leaves out of the gardens (and dispose of them), weed extensively, plant bulbs with the students, prune the shrubs and trees, arrange for watering through the summer months and try to make the schoolyard look aesthetically pleasing for students, staff and the school community at large.

We do not have a watering system as some new schools do. The gardens are naturalized and we do not use any chemicals or fertilizers. The trees in our schoolyard face the harshest of conditions (drought, soil compaction, wind, vandalism). The only weapon in our arsenal is regular mulching. It reduces the need for watering, protects the plant material from temperature fluctuations and breaks down to enrich the soil naturally.

Grants are available for tree planting and other big projects but who maintains this living asset once the excitement of a planting day has passed? (It is difficult to get people excited about garden maintenance.) All of this work is done by a small group of very dedicated parent volunteers and are in need of HELP!!

## Environmental Committee News - April 2009



### GARDENS

There have been a few sprouts spotted in the gardens and it won't be long before everything is green again. Volunteers will be out shortly to clean out the leaves and tidy things up so the spring bulbs can look their best. We urge parents to review the attached “About our Schoolyard” to gain some insight as to how our schoolyard is maintained. Garden tasks this month include:

- Clean out office planters and plant spring flowers (pansies)
- Cut down Hydrangea in primary garden
- Rake leaves out of all gardens and general spring tidy up
- Pruning of shrubs and trees (crossed and damaged branches)



### LITTER PICK-UP

We wish to re-start our litter pick-up on pizza/hot lunch Fridays during lunch recess. Students get house colour points for picking up litter in the schoolyard on these days. We are looking for parents to co-ordinate this effort.

To help in our gardens or other areas, contact Connie Prentice at (905) 943-7341 or [cprentice@sympatico.ca](mailto:cprentice@sympatico.ca)

## UPS LEGACY RUN 2009

The “Legacy Run” takes place every year to support Markham Stouffville Hospital's **Maternal Child Unit, and its Dr. Bear Surgical Pre-Admission Program**. The **Dr. Bear Surgical Pre-Admission Program** helps children and their parents become familiar with the hospital prior to surgery. The program is designed to support the children and help reduce the stress associated with hospitalization and surgery. It includes providing a playroom, games, learning opportunities, and provides a teddy bear to cuddle with for each child that is registered at the hospital. Although originally used as a Surgical Pre-Admission program, the Dr. Bear program has now been expanded Hospital-wide to provide a source of comfort to children in the Emergency Department, Fast Track Clinic, Surgical Clinic and Pediatric Departments. **(Information provided by Markham Stouffville Hospital.)**

The “Legacy Run” is now in its' 12<sup>th</sup> year and has raised \$1.2 million to date! \$360,000 of this total has been raised by the schools in our community. UPS is one of Legacy Run's Champion Schools. Last year we pledged just over \$6700!

This year **our run will be held on May 11<sup>th</sup> at 2:00** at Toogood Pond—the most picturesque location around! A **rain date** has been scheduled for **May 12<sup>th</sup>**. A representative from “Running Free”, along with Dr. Bear, will be joining us for a warm-up before the run. **Every student will also be able to earn House Colour Points for every complete circle made around the pond!** Although this event will be taking place during school time, parents and other family members are welcome to attend and cheer on their runners. Pledge packages are due back by **April 14<sup>th</sup>**.

**Putting the safety of our students first, we are also in need of a number of parent volunteers to help in the supervision around the pond.** Volunteers are also needed to help run our water and first aid stations, and to help with the tracking of House Colour Points. If you are interested in volunteering or have any other questions regarding this event, please contact:

Tess Georgakopoulos at [tessgeorgak@gmail.com](mailto:tessgeorgak@gmail.com) or Mr. Timothy Hawco at [Timothy.Hawco@yrdsb.edu.on.ca](mailto:Timothy.Hawco@yrdsb.edu.on.ca)

Thank you for your participation in this year's “Legacy Run” at Unionville Public School.



## Contact Us:

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



## iPods, Cell Phones and Other EXPENSIVE items!



We have received numerous phone calls in the office lately regarding missing iPods, Cell Phones and other items that have "gone missing". We encourage students to leave these items at home. We cannot police what happens to these items and also expect that they are left in their lockers during instructional time. Many of our students do not use lockers as they are intended and are not actually locking them. Please have a discussion with your child about bringing these items to school.

## Sprockets—International Film Festival for Children

This spring the junior and intermediate students at Unionville Public School have the opportunity to view 2 feature films being presented at the Sprockets Toronto International Film Festival. Sprockets Toronto International Film Festival for Children is gearing up for its twelfth year of screening engaging, entertaining and essential cinema from around the world for young people from grade 2 to grade 12. A division of the Toronto International Film Festival Group, Sprockets is a world leader in children's film and learning activities, which bring students, educators and families back year after year. Films are carefully selected by the Sprockets team, who travel worldwide to discover films that stimulate the thoughts and imagination of young minds.

By exposing young audiences to other cultures and speaking to issues that affect young people, Sprockets brings enrichment to the traditional classroom learning experience. Sprockets Toronto International Film Festival for Children runs from April 18 to 24, 2009, and features an impressive selection of feature, animated and short films from Canada and the world.

The films that the grades 7 and 8 students have the opportunity of viewing "Breakout" and "Hey Hey It's Esther Blueburger". The films that the grade 4 - 6 students have the opportunity of viewing are "Misa Mi" and "The Ten Lives of Titanic the Cat".



## The Incredible Speediness of Jamie Cavanaugh

On April 16th at 9:30 am students in grade 4-8 will be witness to the play *The Incredible Speediness of Jamie Cavanaugh*, by Chris Craddock. Fast-paced, funny and full of energy, this great new play tackles issues of bullying, peer pressure, learning disabilities and the struggles to fit in. An insightful story of three youth who discover hope, tolerance and friendship in their journey to understanding and acceptance.

Jamie and Max are best friends – she's a trouble magnet who thinks her ADHD is some kind of amazing 'super speed' super-power and he's the smartest kid in his grade. But when Jamie tries to help Max against a bully named Rock, her 'super power' ends up creating more trouble for both of them. Jamie learns that to be a good friend, she needs to slow down and listen, but how do you turn off a super power?

There are many students in our with exceptional and unique learning profiles. We are hoping that this play will help students and teachers alike appreciate and celebrate the differences in others. For more information please see the following website:

<http://www.roseneath.ca/studyguides/Jamie-IntroToThePlay.pdf>

Special thanks to Ms Worthington-Sadoff for organizing these events.

## Bicycle Safety



A parent thankfully called into the office last week concerned over an incident that occurred in front of our school. Several students were riding their bikes in front of the school and cut across on Main Street without warning or a signal in a pack of three. The mother came very close to hitting the students.

Needless to say, this incident is a wake up to all students and parents to please review bike safety and how you should be riding on our very busy roads and crossing the streets. Signalling is essential when riding on road ways. Please take the time with your children to review this website and the safety protocols it addresses.

<http://www.safety-council.org/info/child/bicycle.htm>

## Host Families Wanted by Homestay Services

Last year over 500 international students attended York Region public schools in either school year or summer programs and the numbers will increase this year. Some students are requesting to live with Canadian families to experience Canadian culture while improving their English skills.

If your family can provide a caring, comfortable and secure home for an international student either during the school year or for the summer program, please contact Jennifer



Recine, Homestay Coordinator at 905-883-0047, ext. 306 or email to [jennifer.recine@yrdsb.edu.on.ca](mailto:jennifer.recine@yrdsb.edu.on.ca). All Homestay applicants will be interviewed and homes will be visited. A police check will be required. Remuneration is \$200 per week or \$800 per month.

## Boundaries in the Yard

We have decided to extend the boundaries in the yard. Many of our primary students are frustrated at their limited access to the field. The outline of boundaries was discussed with staff, students, school council and our leadership team.

Ultimately the decision is that the field from the paved area to the west edge of the baseball diamond will be an area that primaries and juniors can share. The juniors can also use the remainder of the field with the intermediates. Considerations included safety due to the sports played by our older students, younger students access to the field, and the ability for our students in split grades to continue to build the relationships they have developed in class by having the flexibility to play with more students.