



Pawprints Unionville Public School

December 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 December 1st to Friday December 5th—Hip Hop Dance Program in all Gym Classes
- Fridays in December—VIP Police Program with all Grade 6 students
- Friday December 12th—House Colour Spirit Day, DRESS IN FESTIVE CLOTHING
- Friday December 19th—last official day of school for this year!
- Monday December 22nd to Friday January 2nd inclusive—Winter Holidays, school closed
- HAPPY HOLIDAYS to everyone!



From Your Administrative Team

It is hard to believe that we are entering into the last month of 2008. We have had a busy first term with the Terry Fox Run, the Cross Country team, Remembrance Day Assembly and representation at the Unionville Main Street Cenotaph, our Volleyball teams, the Dance-a-thon, Student Vote 2008 and our first Spirit day for House Colours. These events only happen because of the commitment of our staff and community to work together to ensure a rich learning environment for all of our students. So a thank you to all of you for ensuring that these events happen.

As we move into the New Year, we will continue, as a school, to move towards our goals for school improvement including increased student achievement through differentiated instruction, formative assessment, safe and supportive schools as well as building our organization as a learning community.

There have been many positive gains in these areas this year including several programs organized through our safe and supportive schools such as peer mediators, playground partners and our Safe Schools Action team which includes both teachers and community mem-

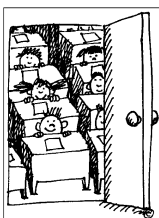
bers. We will also be working towards creating a safe school food policy with our staff and community members to determine how best to celebrate within the school and ensure our students' safety and healthy eating.

We work towards bringing together success in our school with success in the community. Through partnerships and intentional planning followed by action, we will continue to work towards an even better Unionville Public School.

We wish all of you a happy and healthy holiday season.

All the best.

Class Visits During Instructional Time



We value and encourage an "open door" policy. We know how much our many parents bring to the school and that we must work together to provide the best learning environment for your children.

Part of providing this environment is to adhere to our daily schedule. Our instructional hours are from 9:00 until 10:40 am, 11:10 am until 12:50 pm and 1:50 pm until 3:30 pm.

This has become a particularly difficult issue in the primary hallway as many parents engage teachers in conversations at 8:55. We ask that if you require a meeting with your child's teacher that you schedule a meeting outside of instructional time to discuss issues.

U.P.S. loves to bake. . .

The grade 8's would like to extend sincere thanks to everyone who supported their grad fundraiser. Cookie dough orders totaled \$3,948, of which **\$1,110** profit will go towards their grade 8 grad!!

Orders will be either sent home with your child, or available for pick up **December 12th**, after 1:00pm.

Happy Holidays



Contact Us:



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

Lunch Assistants Needed!

We are currently seeking support for our lunch program on Tuesdays and Thursdays. If you are interested in supporting supervision during the lunch hour, please contact the office.

Arts @ Baythorn

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 Tuesday, January 13, 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 on January 13th 2009).

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

Auditions for qualified students will be held in February 2009.

A number of flyers will be distributed to your school later this month. We ask that you post them in places for students and parents to be able to see the. Also, please give a copy of the flyer to the appropriate teachers for distribution.

Please call us at Baythorn Public School if you have any questions. 905-889-7992

Reading Comprehension Strategies at Home

When teachers work with your children on their reading we consider a variety of aspects. We develop with your children an understanding about what good readers do. For example:

- How do we select books?
- What do we do when we come to a word we don't know?
- How do we understand what we are reading?

When you read with your children, you might ask these questions or tell them what you do when you read, select a book or come to a word that you don't know.

Many of our students think that good readers "know all the words". They believe that if they can pronounce the words then they are good readers. They think that if they can read a chapter book then they are good readers—especially if the words are small and there are more words on a page. If they turn the pages then they are reading. But we know that is not what makes us good readers.

Finding their "just right" book, whether in kindergarten or grade 8 means that the student has a book that is of interest to him or her—fiction, non-fiction, poetry, picture book, newspaper, website, magazine, graphic novel or comic book—it all counts as reading.

When you don't know a word, look at the words around the word for understanding. Look at the root of the word to see if there is some part of the word that is familiar. Underline the word or use a stickie and ask someone for help in understanding the word.

When you are reading, be aware of what you are thinking about or visualizing. Does this part of the book remind you of anything in your own life? Another book you have read? Something that has happened in the world around you?

Reading is complex but when your child finds something of interest, there is no stopping them!

Welcome to New Staff



We would like to welcome Mr. Mahmood as our new Intermediate French teacher and Ms Myers who has joined our primary team in our grade 1/2 classroom. We are so grateful to have such talented staff join our UPS team.

Kindergarten Registration

It is that time of year again! Beginning Monday January 12th, 2009, we will be accepting kindergarten registrations for the academic year 2009/2010. Please inform your neighbors with children who are school age for next year of this date. More information will follow.

Fundraising Update

Thank-you to all the families, students, volunteers and teachers who really worked hard to make the 2nd annual Dance-a-Thon a successful and fun day. The UPS community raised over \$7000. The 1st place class was Mrs. Creelman's, 2nd place goes to Mr. Hawco, and 3rd place to Mrs. Wilkinson's AM Kindergarten class. We are over 30% of the way to reaching our fundraising goals.

Stay tuned for details on our last and largest event of the year benefiting the school. You will not want to miss our **Snowflake Soiree and Silent Auction in late February..... details will be coming soon!** If you are interested in helping out with this event or if you have an item/gift to donate please email Pamela Nitert at pnitert@rogers.com.