



Unionville Public School PawPrints

May 2009

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

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Friday May 1—PA Day, no school
- Thursday May 7—
Prologue for Grades 1-3 students
- Friday May 8—Grade 8
Transition Day to Markville SS
- Monday May 11—Legacy
Run, 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm
- Tuesday May 12—Legacy
Run rain date
- Tuesday May 12—
Kindergarten Orientation,
6:30-7:30 pm in the gym
and kindergarten classrooms
- Wednesday May 13—
Prologue for Intermediate
Students
- Friday
May
15th—
Wacky
Hair Day
for
House
Colour Points
- Monday May 18th—
Victoria Day, no school
- Tuesday May 26th—
Michael Wade, author of,
And then it happened...
series,
coming
for a visit



From Your Administrative Team

As a school we are currently working on creating a **Touchstone**. A Touchstone is a statement about character, values and beliefs that we feel represents what Unionville Public School is about.

Rationale for Having a Touchstone

Many schools that have created deep, sustained character education initiatives have done so with the aid of a school wide touchstone that incorporates a shared set of universal values and aspirations for all members of the school community.

Students tend to thrive in environments where expectations are clearly and consistently articulated and reinforced.

A touchstone:

Is a shared creed or "way" Guides the daily decision-making of students and staff

Is the "glue" that holds successful organizations together and keeps them focused even during difficult times

Helps members of the organization feel connected to each other because they are joined by common values

Inspires critical thinking and ethical judgment (e.g. What does it mean to 'take the high road' in various situations?)

*(From "Creating a School Wide Touchstone" Adapted from Educating for Character in the Denver Public Schools by Charles Elbot, David Fulton, and Barb Evans; **Character Matters: Building Cultures of Character** Newsletter, April 2006)*

To date, we have discussed this with staff in February and with our school council, UPSAC in February as well. Teachers have worked with all students around what values, character traits and beliefs they hold dear in terms of what we see at UPS as well as what they would like to develop here.

Moving forward, we will be

continuing to work with staff and students to narrow our focus around the main themes that came from our classroom work but we would also like to have a community voice.

In order to do this, we are inviting community into the school. We are interested in creating a committee that will help to bring this forward that is comprised of both parents and staff with Ms Cheung as the lead on this project. If you are interested in joining this committee, please contact Ms Cheung at the school.

As well, we will be creating a graffiti wall in the front hallway by the gym. This will be a place where students and parents are invited to speak their mind in writing. The two sides of the graffiti will be—

Things we should preserve and celebrate at UPS

and

Things we can improve at UPS

We welcome all parents to come and share their voice in creating the UPS Touchstone.

Go Jr. Bulldogs!!!!

The Jr. boys' basketball team had a successful season this year. They have also left U.P.S. with a sense of hope for a bright future.

Our season opened with us winning the Unionville invitational tournament, against some of York Region's most talented teams. We then placed a close second at the Legacy tournament, which also showcased a high level of basketball.

Later, we went on to and captured the championship at the Redstone tournament, before going to the Area tournament. The Jr. Bulldogs played well and ended up 4th place in our Area, concluding a fun and prosperous junior season.

Special thanks are extended to all the supportive parents, the parent council, the coaches, the intermediate boys and girls basketball teams, that helped up prepare for our tournaments, and especially our Jr. boys for all of their hard work and dedication.



Junior Girls Basketball

Congratulations to the Junior Girls Basketball Team on their Area Championship title. Led by Mylene Spence and Marina Nichols, the girls all played outstanding defence to defeat Parkview Public School in the tournament final. With nine grade 4s and four grade 5s, the future still looks bright for the Lady Bulldogs.

The girls play Wednesday, April 29th in a final four cross over qualifying tournament where they will hopefully qualify for the Regional Championships.

This season, Ms. Myers, Ms. Leung, Mr. Leon and Mr. Chin have been proud of all the hard work the girls have put forth. It has been amazing to see the amount of growth that all the girls have undergone this season. Many have never played organized basketball until this year.

It has been a successful season with tournament results that include: Redstone PS (Champions), Unionville PS Invitational (2nd place), MacCleod Landing PS (Champions), Legacy PS (Champions), Nobleton Sr PS (Champions), East Area Tournament (Champions).

Congratulations girls on an amazing season so far!

#	Name	#	Name
0	Tara Nichols	25	Emma Tworzyanski
10	Elizabeth Gagnon	33	Kaitlin Chang
12	Anastasia Papadimitriou	34	Marina Nichols
12	Maria Papadimitriou	40	Emily Pope
13	Ann Zasada	41	Megan Bethell
14	Mylene Spence	51	Abbe Elliot
20	Danny Mae Toon	52	Victoria Pistritto
23	Sarah Pistritto	53	Kiran Sharma
24	Denise Nicolau	54	Bridget Bethell



Dogs in the Schoolyard

We love dogs but unfortunately some dog owners in our community are not picking up after their pets and are leaving their deposits in our schoolyard.

Please model responsible pet ownership for our students and remember to stoop 'n scoop.



Intermediate Girls Basketball

Congratulations to the Intermediate Girls Basketball Team on their amazing season. The girls completed our best season yet, with a 2nd place at the Greater Toronto Area Tournament of Champions.



The champions of every board of education in the GTA were represented at this tournament. It was incredible to watch our team come together. It was a close loss in the finals to a strong team from the Durham Catholic Board, but our girls never gave up and showed outstanding effort and commitment.

To qualify for such a tournament, our girls beat James Robinson PS in the York Region Public School finals (34 to 20) to repeat as the number one team in the entire Region. Led by our captain Alex Crawford, centre August Ricketts and shooting guard Kim Ingram, forwards Stephanie Lapointe and Alex McKay, the girls had an easy road to the title. We are proud of all the girls and the hard work they have put in this year.

A special thanks to all the parents who drove and supported the team, Ms. Leung, Mr. Leon, and Mr. Chin for their time and effort in coaching the team.

It has been a successful season with tournament results that include: Earnscliffe (4th place), Unionville PS Invitational (Champions x 2), St. Augustine's (Champions), Discovery PS (Champions), Legacy PS (Champions), MUMBA (3rd place), Boggart PS (Champions), East Area Tournament (Champions), East Cross-Over Tournament (Champions), York Region Finals (Champions), GTA Tournament (2nd Place)

Congratulations:

Nicole Mendonza	Meghan Shotbolt
Kim Ingram	Mylene Spence
Alex McKay	Taylor Essery
Kelly Nimens	Alex Crawford
Shawna Ashmeade	August Ricketts
Stephanie Lapointe	Sydney Roberts
Kassidy Sauve	Leanne Tworzyanski
Lauren Hopkins	Alex Popalis

T/TH JK/SK Reads 100 Books!



Mrs. Cooper's Kindergarten class enthusiastically participated in Scholastic Book Club's Spring Read 100 Books Program.

The children were told that if the students could read 100 books before the end of May, then Scholastic Book Club would donate 100 books to children across Canada who need them.

The students are so happy to have been able to help!





Think Recycle Fundraising Programme

A special thank you to all students, parents, and staff who have supported our Think Recycle Fundraising Programme. Cartridges and cell phones deposited in the Think Recycle boxes do not end up in landfill sites, and for every twelve qualifying cartridges and cell phones we collect, one tree is planted through the Tree Canada Foundation in our school's name. Parents please note that your work place can also donate its used print cartridges and cell phones to our school. Simply call 1.888.265.2895. All funds generated will go through to Unionville P.S.

UPS Legacy Run 2009

This year our fantastic little school has once again come through with a wonderful contribution for the **Maternal Child Unit and its' Dr Bear Surgical Pre-Admission Program of \$6100!** Once more, UPS is one of the top ranking schools in our community! Congratulations UPS for a job well done! The combined efforts of all involved will once again help to ensure that the Maternal Child Unit is a top notch facility to help take care of the newest members of our community. The Dr. Bear Program will also continue to provide a source of comfort to all children admitted to the hospital.

Our schools' run **will be held on May 11th at 2:00** at Toogood Pond—the most picturesque location around! A **rain date** has been scheduled for **May 12th**. 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!** T-shirts and prizes will be distributed to students within the next few days. Although this event will be taking place during school time, parents and other family members are welcome to attend and cheer on their runners. Hope to see you there!

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 or Mr. Timothy Hawco at Timothy.Hawco@yrdsb.edu.on.ca

Thank you for your participation in this years "Legacy Run" at Unionville Public School.



Environmental Committee 2009

EARTH WEEK RECAP

Earth Week was April 20-24th and announcements were made each day reminding students of their environmental responsibilities. Students earned house colour points for wearing green on April 22nd (**Green Day**) and a **battery drive** resulted in many batteries being diverted to appropriate disposal at the hazardous waste depot. A very successful "**20 Minute Makeover**" event had most students and staff picking up litter and recyclables in and around the schoolyard. Data was collected each day to determine how many students take active modes of transportation to school. Watch for those results shortly.



GARDENS



Many thanks to parent volunteers Teri Tworzynski & Diana Stoyanov who have been quietly working out in the gardens cleaning out leaves and tidying things up so the spring bulbs and flowers can shine. Our school wide **Planting and Mulch Day** has been scheduled for **Wednesday, May 27th, 2009** with the backup rain date being Thursday, June 4th. We are looking for parent volunteers to assist on Mulch Day as well as a prep day before. Any amount of time offered is appreciated. Contact Connie Prentice as noted below.

LITTER PICKUP

Students will **receive house colour points** for each bag of litter collected during lunch recess on Fridays. An announcement will be made on the pickup day and a volunteer will meet students in the schoolyard at Boag Forest (where the "Dream Acres" sign is) in the Junior playground to collect names and hand out bags and (non-latex) gloves.



CELL PHONE/PRINTER CARTRIDGE RECYCLING

We continue to use a company called **Think Recycle** who collects and recycles printer cartridges and used cell phones. In return this company will give the school money AND plant trees on behalf of the school – a win-win situation. This bin is located at the office entrance.

Contact Connie Prentice at (905) 943-7341 or cprentice@sympatico.ca for further information.

Contact Us:

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Hot Lunch Programs

The Unionville Public School Advisory Council (UPSAC) is once again reviewing our community's needs for a hot lunch program. We would appreciate your feedback so that we can make the best decision for the community. Please go to the survey at: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=ldRctLgpAl6elfphfYchrg_3d_3d to respond and give your opinion regarding hot lunches for your children.



Students and Global Citizenship—www.spreadthenet.org



Hi I'm Adam Binhammer from Ms. Leung's grade 7/8 class, and I gave up shoes for 6 days. Now the first thing is why?

Well, having learned about a child activist from a newspaper article, and meeting him in a film during a school field trip, I agreed this was the best way to try and better understand the life of a child in Africa.

What was it like? My feet were cold, which I admit probably isn't a common problem in Africa, but they do have to deal with hard rocky walks to school, and gravel fields, unlike our grass and smooth pavement.

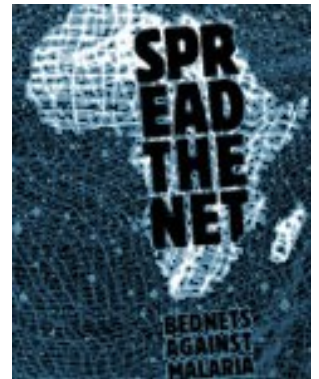
What I really wanted to do was raise awareness,

and my bare feet did raise an eyebrow or two, but mostly just gave me an earful from some pessimistic peers. But I stopped to think before I started a pointless argument, and I realized they were right, I go barefoot for a week, and I come out like Mr. Bigshot?

I decided to do more, so I am following up with a campaign to raise awareness for children who are dying in Africa of malaria. For more information go to www.spreadthenet.org.

Thanks.

Adam Binhammer



School Organization for 2009/2010

Each year we work to make the best organization that will support flexibility for placement, balanced classrooms and strong teaching teams.

This year we have been grateful to receive staffing that allows for all of these parameters. Although this can always change, we would like to share with you what our TENTATIVE organization is for next year.

JK/SK am	Grade 3/4
JK/SK pm	Grade 4/5
JK/SK am ASD	Grade 5
JK/SK pm ASD	Grade 6
JK/SK M/W Alt Friday	Grade 6
JK/SK T/Th Alt Friday	Grade 7
Grade 1	Grade 7/8
Grade 1	Grade 8
Grade 2	J/I Community Class (MID)
Grade 2/3	J/I Community Class (ASD)
Grade 2/3	Prim/Jun/Int SSC

Our staffing process has just started so we are not yet certain about who will be teaching in each of these classrooms.

Again, we remind you that the office does **not** take requests regarding class placement. If you have a particular concern regarding your child, please speak to your child's teacher.

Snowflake Soiree Silent Auction and Dance-a-Thon Fundraising Results

The 2008/2009 School year has been a tremendously successful year for fundraising by UPS families for our school.

The Dance-a-thon raised over \$7,000 and the Silent Auction raised just over \$17,000.

Thank-you again to parents and students for all of your efforts.

The Unionville Public School Advisory Board in conjunction with the Principal, Vice Principal, and Staff have allocated portions of these funds to the following curriculum based enhancements:

- playground repairs (5k)
- media literacy (2.5k)
- library enhancement (5k)
- music program (1.5k)
- athletics (0.5k)
- supply teacher support (3k)
- operating expenses for 2009/10 (3k).

Additional allocation for excess funds is discussed and voted on at council meetings. These funds are allocated based on the needs of the school.

We once again would like to thank everyone for your generous contributions.

UPSAC