



Unionville High School

2023-2024 Year End
Newsletter



JUNE 2024

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL: SUSIE NUNES

Dear Parents/Guardians,



As we approach the end of this academic year, I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude for your unwavering support. Your commitment to our school has been nothing short of inspiring, and it has made a significant impact on our entire community.

Throughout the year, we have witnessed your children's academic achievements soar and their creativity blossom. We have witnessed how their characters are developing through acts of kindness and ongoing evidence of support for their peers. From captivating performances on stage to our students representing us at DECA and Skills Canada among many others, their dedication to their craft has been remarkable. Behind every brushstroke, every field goal, every note played, every robot programmed, and every dance step taken, your encouragement and belief in their abilities have been the driving force.

Our school thrives because of the collaborative spirit among parents/guardians, students, and staff. Your active involvement in our School Council, volunteering at events, and cheering from the audience during performances, sporting events and STEM competitions, among many, has created a warm and supportive environment. Together, we have built a community where student voice guides our work, artistic expression flourishes, academics thrive, and lifelong friendships are forged.

A special thank you to our School Council executives, particularly, Dr. Anoosh Sharif, our School Council Chair, whose dedication and support have been unwavering.

This year presented its share of challenges, but your resilience and adaptability have been awe-inspiring. Whether it was waiting for your child's timetable to be finalized, supporting your child's emotional well-being, or attending our showcases, you have shown unwavering dedication. Your partnership with our educators has been invaluable.

As we prepare for the summer break and eagerly anticipate the next academic year, I want to assure you that our commitment to nurturing creativity remains steadfast. We have exciting plans for fundraising events, Alchemy, Showtime, clubs and sports teams, workshops and collaborative projects. Your continued involvement will be crucial as we embark on this journey together.

In closing, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks. Your trust in our school, your encouragement of your children's dreams, and your active participation have touched our hearts. We are honored to have you as part of our extended family.

I wish you a restful and rejuvenating summer. May it be filled with laughter and cherished moments with your loved ones.

With immense gratitude,

Susie Nunes

Alternative Education Department

Semester 1 & 2 Highlights - 2023 - 2024

This school year, our department focused on mental health and well-being. Students enjoyed sunny walks and got to take in the fresh air, while getting to know each other, which led to new friendships.

Students also brought in musical instruments like the guitar and were able to play calm and relaxing songs for the class to enjoy. This year students also got to benefit from being part of athletics like the soccer team and join in on the musical arts.

We're also proud to share many students were accepted into great co-op placements, while the majority of our senior students accepted offers from great college and university programs.

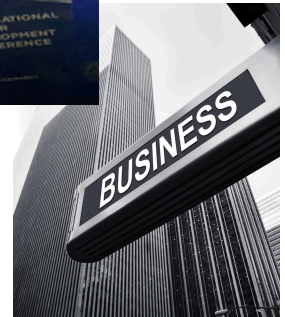
Business

Unionville DECA Two-Time International Champions!

The business department is very proud of our student's entrepreneurial and management skills as they "took care of business" this spring! Mr. McCaffrey's and Ms. Li's Entrepreneurship classes worked hard to create their own small businesses, competing with each other to sell goods and services to the school community. The results were impressive, as student teams created some amazing products, and generated over \$2,600 in profits that will be donated to the Canada Food Bank and the Sick Kids Foundation! Way to go entrepreneurs!

In the classroom, students gained relevant and valuable skills for their future careers, as they learned about business technology, marketing, accounting, economics, leadership, finance, entrepreneurship and international business.

UHS business students continue to excel academically through their hard work, but they also excel in contests outside of regular class activities. Thanks to the mentorship of Mr. Pan and a great team of teacher advisors, our DECA team performed excellently at the Provincial Championships, with 76 total medals and 15 students qualifying for DECA's International Career and Development Conference in Anaheim! Despite facing thousands of competitors from around the world, our school won 7 awards and had 2 first-place glass winners who ranked the highest in their respective events against hundreds of competitors at the international stage! Congratulations to our champions Kevin Wang and J. Z.!



Thanks business students for a fantastic year.
We hope you have a great summer!
The UHS Business Department

Co-Op Education

Co-operative Education provides an experiential learning opportunity for students to **earn high school credits** and gain valuable experience by exploring a potential career choice. Students can earn 2 or 4 credits!

This semester, Unionville High School students explored careers in a wide variety of occupational areas including: **physiotherapy, chiropractic care, automotive service, accounting and finance, teaching, pharmacy, graphic design, web design and digital media, medicine and related health care professions, veterinarian and animal care, computer programming, app development, IT and networking, early childhood education, engineering, marketing, digital marketing, retail marketing, video production, event planning, culinary, and real estate.**



Many of our students also continue to be successful in the Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) program. Currently, UHS offers these 4 sectors:

- **Arts and Culture**
- **Business**
- **Health and Wellness**
- **ICT (Information and Communication Technology)**

A Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) is a specialized program which allows students to experience a range of customized, career-focused learning opportunities while working towards their diploma. Field trips, guest speakers and workshops are fundamental to the program.

Students now have the opportunity to customize their high school experience, explore new ways of learning, participate in valuable workshops and seminars and attend industry related field trips. Learn how your child can take advantage of these vibrant and exciting programs by browsing the YRDSB website at www.yrdsb.ca.



As always, our gratitude goes out to our community partners for their ongoing support of our students, our school, and our program. You are the key to our success and the achievements of our students!

If you or someone you know is interested in providing an experience for our students, feel free to contact the Co-op Office here at UHS at 905-479-2787, Ext. 220 or email jennifer.minos@yrdsb.ca



Follow us on INSTAGRAM @uhscoop to see our students in action!
Visit us at www.uhscoop.com for more information on the program.

Computer Studies



Congratulations students for making to the end of another academic year. It has been a pleasure to teach and interact with students and parents in the computer science courses and extra-curricular activities supported by the Computer Studies department at UHS such as: Computer Science Club, Robotics club and the many contests we facilitate. We would like to wish our grade 12 graduates the very best as they pursue their post-secondary goals.

Post-Secondary Pathways:

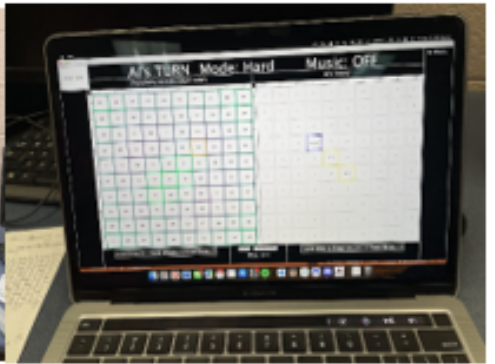
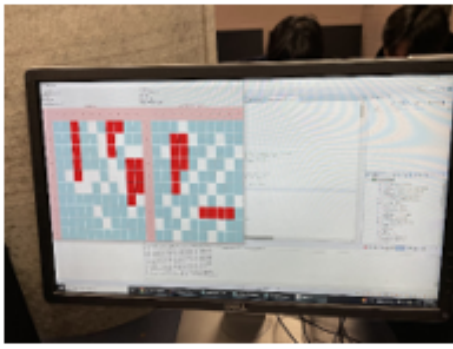
We are very pleased to share that, this year we have had an unprecedented number of students from our school receiving early admission to programs in: Computer Science, CS associated programs, Software Engineering, Computer Engineering, Systems Design Engineering, several other Engineering streams, Informatics, Data Science & Game Development program in several post-secondary institutions. It has been a very gratifying experience to see our students excel in our courses and choose pathways related to computer science. We wish them well and we will certainly miss their presence and contributions to the school life.

Classroom Learning & Extra-Curricular Activities:

Our student leaders and supervising teachers have tried their best to create a community of learners and support them in a variety of ways. Special thanks goes to the teachers in the Department and members of the computer club and robotics club executive teams, who are graduating. Your commitment and support is greatly appreciated. We would like to wish all the graduates the very best in all their future endeavours.



As part of the curriculum, students learnt: Programming (grade 10-Python, grades 11 & 12 – Java), Algorithm Design, Project Management, Overview of Computer Hardware, Inquiry Based Learning on topics in Computer Science, and explored the impact of computer technology on society.



Students testing their battleship AI against other teams

Students at the school were offered the extra-curricular opportunities to be part of the Computer Club, which met weekly, where they learnt: programming, software development, algorithm design; and also prepared for programming contests. Being part of Robotics Club, provided students the opportunity to explore the intricacies of Robotics. Students were also provided the opportunity to participate in programming contests, Ontario Skills Challenge, Hack-a-thons and in Robotics competitions.

This year we also saw the excellent performance by UHS Programmers on the Canadian Computing Competition. An unprecedented one hundred and twenty (120) UHS students participated in the Canadian Computing Competition that was held in February of 2024. Our students performed very well. We are pleased to share that thirty five (35) students, 26 at the senior and 9 at the junior level received certificates of distinction for placing in the top 25% in Canada.



Students taking part in the Canadian Computing Contest

Thank You & Best Wishes!

At this time, we would like to share our best wishes to staff who are leaving UHS for a variety of reasons. One of our CS teachers, Ms. C. Hlevca is retiring this year. She was an excellent teacher in both the Computer Science and Mathematics departments. Our best wishes are with her as she begins this new phase of her life.

We would like to thank all the students, parents, administrators, teachers, past graduates and guest speakers for their keen interest to encourage students to learn and develop an appreciation for this very intriguing discipline of computer science.

We would like to wish you all a restful summer and the best for the new academic year ahead.

Teachers: J. Anandarajan (Subject Head), B. Cho & J. Kotsopoulos, C. Hlevca & L. Chulkova
Computer Studies Department



Dance



What a year it has been UHS DANCE!!!!

Beginning swiftly with our annual retreat to Haliburton, Medeba was a huge success. It was wonderful to see our department come together and bond over team building and department lead activities!

Grade 11 and 12 dancers had the opportunity to collaborate



with the photography students on a partnership that took place at Alexander Muir Park in Toronto.

These photos and the film work that they embarked on were wonderful examples of creativity and artistry aided by the surroundings of this beautifully landscaped location.

Upon our return, our grade 12's welcomed interested candidates to our program information

sessions held at Flato Markham Theatre in early November. The turn out was incredible for our department and we are so grateful for the support within the greater community.

As these two massive undertakings wrapped up, we embarked on our December production with the theme selected and developed by our AMAZING grade 12's; "Jazz Through the Ages" which depicted a historical reference to the origin and evolution of jazz dance.

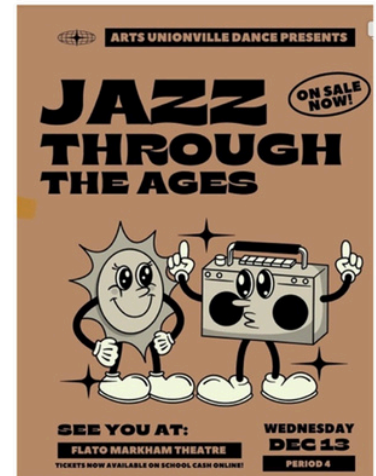
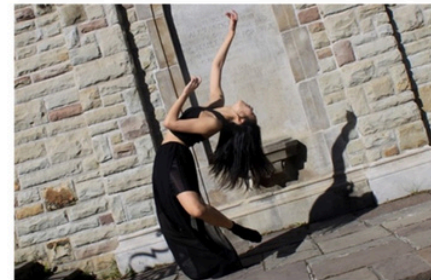
Understanding and studying this lineage is an important and essential lesson on paying tribute and respect to the many Black dance artists that paved the way for us. The show was a huge success and we are so proud of the work produced!

Moving along, soon after this show was UHS's Winter Assembly; another nod to the vibrant talent at UHS we are so fortunate to surround ourselves with.

Then came SHOWTIME!!! Pippin was performed the first week back in the new year and we had a record number of dancers take the stage and contribute to the success of this incredible production. This musical theatre production is a dancer's dream with original choreography by none other than Bob Fosse. What an honour to share the stage with accomplished artists of UHS in this multidisciplinary spectacle!



As always, semester two kicked off with preparations for our arts collaborative showcase; Alchemy. Each AU Dance grade partook in collaborative discussion and development of a chosen theme and created original work alongside our colleagues and peers in various Arts Unionville disciplines. We are so grateful for this unique experience we have developed over the years at UHS. Alchemy 2024 was our 10-year anniversary of this annual performance that holds so much pride for the exceptional arts programming at UHS.



In February we took a field trip to see the Transcendance Project's production of "Eve of St George" held at The Great Hall in Toronto, choreographed by Julia Cratchley, and based off the tale of Bram Stoker's Dracula. This site-specific dance work was an incredible example of storytelling through movement. We were thoroughly inspired by these incredible professional artists and the creativity of how this story unfolded.

Then came Dance Highlights 2024...what can we say when a show leaves you speechless. With the majority of these pieces being original student choreography, we are in awe of your talent and most importantly dedication to your craft. In addition, we had the honour of welcoming professional guest artists Chantelle Good, Ryan Lee, Sasha Ludavicius, and AU Dance Alumni Sejon Balachandran. These incredible artists created work for each of our grades. The process was a wonderful learning experience and the final products were amazing assets to our show.

We can't forget the field trip our department took to see SIX the Musical! Taking place at the stunning Royal Alexandra Theatre in Toronto, we got to enjoy this awesome Mirvish production and smiled from ear to ear for the entire 80-minute duration of the show. What a joy and so much fun!!!!

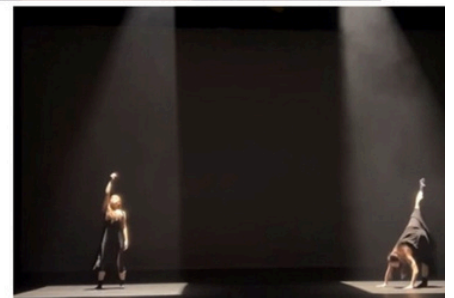
The year wrapped up with summative assignments in each class, workshops, live performance critique assignments, ballet variation assignments, founders of modern dance assignments, and a hip hop unit.

A special mention to our incredible AU Dance Graduates of 2024; we couldn't be more grateful for all of your incredible contributions to AU Dance over the past four years and we know a lot of future success awaits each and everyone of you. Your talent and dedication to your art is remarkable and we will miss you immensely. You know where to find us and we will be cheering you on every step of the way!!!!

We are so grateful for the incredible dedication of all our dancers and their families in support of our program and the pursuit of dance education. We know the power that dance education holds in developing the whole being, and we are so fortunate to witness this magic each and every day.

Enjoy a well deserved and safe summer!

~Melissa Bettio & Katie Major



Drama

Dramatic Arts @ UHS

Creativity | Innovation | Teamwork | Complex Problem Solving



2023/2024 Highlights in Drama !!

An incredible year of learning in, through, and about drama. Students had rich opportunities to explore and express their world views through movement, speech, clown, improv, documentary theatre, original script writing, lighting and sound design, stage craft, make up and hair, dance, music composition, directing, and so much more!!

1

FIELD TRIPS TO THEATRE

8 shows offered this year in Toronto and New York!

2

NEW YORK CITY

Students had a chance to go on an international theatre and film trip to NYC!

3

THEATRE FESTIVAL

Students in Gr. 12 wrote/produced an original play for the largest student festival in the world.



English

While there were a wide variety of UHS English highlights this year, the most exciting development was our visit to see the Kaha:wi Dance Theatre's theatrical premiere of *SKÉN:NEN*. The show offered students the ability to connect to "multi-layered, cultural knowledge embedded (in) narrative that transcends time and place" and to see that storytelling can be offered in a variety of forms and media. Our UHS English program continues to work collaboratively with the YRDSB First Nations, Metis, and Inuit team to investigate and inquire about different ways to read and communicate towards reconciliation.



Family Studies

Welcome to Family Studies!



Hello, UHS! Check out what Family Studies has been up to this past school year. With so many hands-on courses offering real-world life skills, students could show their personal style and flare in unique and inspiring ways.

Grade 9 – (HIF) Exploring Family Studies

Classes practiced basic sewing skills and made stuffies by hand. The grade 9s learned about important developmental changes associated with being a teenager and strategies for money management. They also learned all about shopping on a budget and were able to make delicious meals for under \$15.



Grade 10 – (HFN) Food and Nutrition

Students made delicious chocolate chip cookies, beef tacos, mini cheesecakes, and pancakes with real whipped cream. They also completed a "Meal at Home" assignment, where they planned, shopped for, and prepared an entire meal for their loved ones. They ensured their meals were nutritious, delicious, and made entirely from scratch. Parents and guardians were thrilled with the results!

The grade 10 students participated in an Iron Chef competition, showcasing a 'secret ingredient' and creating tasty bites for our teacher judges. Congratulations to the winners!



Grade 11 – (HFC) Food and Culture

Classes explored foods of the world and made dishes from Europe, Asia, Africa, the Caribbean, and Latin America. Chef Candace from Candace's Catering joined us for a second year and worked with 3 HFC classes who made bison meatballs, wild rice, and strawberry juice as part of the 'Food From This Land' unit.

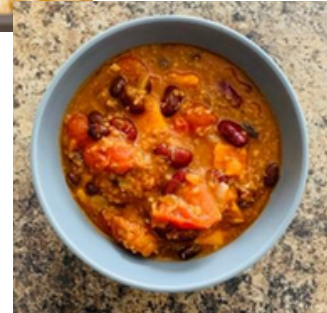


Grade 11 - (HPW) Working with Infants and Young Children

Students began the semester by exploring theories related to child development. Outside the classroom, they investigated the importance of play, and students had the opportunity to experience and evaluate this through participation in movement activities.

Grade 12 – (HFA) Nutrition and Health

Grade 12 students learned how to make healthier food choices by examining and questioning the rhetoric of big food. They studied the nutritional needs at various life stages and expanded their culinary skills through food labs, including a vegetarian lab and animal protein and fats labs. For their culminating cooking projects, each homemade, from scratch dish was carefully chosen to provide maximum nutrition while highlighting a specific nutrient.



Grade 12 – (HNB) The World of Fashion

Students expanded their sewing skills, making fashion items such as tote bags and hoodies. Each one a work of art - stylish and functional! The students also created a bulletin board with their thoughts and ideas on what fashion means to them. Their inclusive and personal responses showed that fashion is not just a great way to express oneself but also a way to demonstrate our uniqueness and build confidence. What does fashion mean to you?

Grade 12 – (HHS) Individuals and Families in Canada

Classes explored how various agents of socialization—such as family, friends, media, government, and school—impact our values, beliefs, and overall development. They delved into this topic by examining how celebrity culture can negatively affect those in Hollywood. They also had honest discussions about the qualities people seek in a significant other by exploring relationship and mate attraction theories. Lastly, they examined the components of healthy and unhealthy romantic and parent-child relationships to prepare for a smooth and harmonious transition into adulthood.

Grade 12 - (HHG) Human Development Throughout the Lifespan

Classes learned about changes and challenges throughout the lifespan. A course highlight was using new understandings of brain science to deepen connections with those in our lives. Another highlight was the emphasis on learning about resources and strategies to build resilience. Students journaled almost daily, practiced yoga, meditated, and sourced books and podcasts that celebrate human strength and perseverance.



***Congratulations and best of luck to all the grade 12 graduates!
The Family Studies department wishes you all a great summer!
See you in September!***

Geography

Geography students have been extremely busy this semester. Grade 9 students have been systematically building cities by completing natural geography surveys, analyzing economic feasibility, carrying out population predictions, and implementing urban design principles. Grade 11 force of nature students have been building dioramas and metacognating through peer project critique. Grade 12 World Issues students have been trying to understand how the complex interrelationships of the global commons have been established. Looking forward to new challenges and adventures in geography next year.

Guidance

Exam Tips and Strategies Workshop

Every fall, the Guidance department provides an exam preparation workshop for our students who need strategies and/or a refresher. This year we held full day workshops for all students in October. Come out next year and discover the best strategies for studying, learn how your brain works to achieve excellent results, and optimize your time to increase efficiency. Be sure to check out next year's sessions!

Peer Tutoring

Throughout the year, Mr. Tam supports UHS students who need extra help in their courses by connecting them with a peer tutor. If students are interested in having a peer tutor or becoming a tutor, they can pick up the Peer Tutor flyer in the guidance office and fill out the required google form.

Mr. Tam will provide students with more information once they have completed the google form. Many thanks to Mr. Tam for his continued efforts in assisting our students with their academic achievements.

Post-secondary Information Fair

UHS was proud to host this year's post-secondary information fair. The event was a success with over 600 people in attendance. Over fifty colleges, universities and institutions were represented. Save the date for next year's Post-secondary Information Fair, which will be hosted by Bill Crothers S.S. on November 14th from 6:30pm to 8:30pm.

Post-secondary Financial Aid Presentation

Grade 12 students were invited to attend a post-secondary financial aid presentation provided by Seneca College. The presentation encompassed many aspects of financial planning including guidelines on how to apply to the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP). A big thank you to Ms. Riolo for organizing this very successful and well attended event!

Ontario College Fair

The Ontario College Fair took place in October. We were able to organize a field trip for UHS students to attend so they could ask specific questions and gather information about different Canadian college programs from recruitment/admissions representatives. For information about next year's college fair, please see the end of this bulletin.

Fast Track Conference

The Fast Track Career Student Conference and Careers Expo took place in May and provided an opportunity for students and families to learn about the skilled trades and apprenticeship pathway. Workshops were also available on the following topics: entrepreneurship, careers in the skilled trades, college opportunities, online job applications, and communication skills. Additionally, Daniel Lewis, the owner of T by Daniel, provided a very passionate and motivating keynote speech about the essential qualities needed to launch a successful business.

Course Selection Presentations

In February the Guidance team hosted grade specific assemblies and pop up sessions during lunch to inform students about the course selection process.

Course selection for the 2025-2026 school year will take place in February 2025. If you have specific questions or need further support during that time, please book an appointment with your guidance counsellor next February.

Women in Trades Symposium

On March 5th 2024 the York Catholic District School Board and the York Region District School Board worked together to create a women in trades symposium to expose female secondary students to careers in the skilled trades.

Students were able to participate in exploratory activities, speed mentoring and were introduced to a Horticulture Project.

The event included a talk from a keynote speaker, Emily Chung, who is a licensed Automotive Service Technician, and Automotive Writer. She owns and operates an automotive shop in Markham and teaches in the Automotive Business School of Canada at Georgian College. She also currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Automotive Aftermarket Retailers of Ontario (AARO).



Some of the sectors featured were tool and die, automotive, electrical, HVAC, welding and plumbing. Providing a hands-on opportunity for students who are considering pursuing a career in the trades or just exploring their pathway options.

UHS students who attended the Symposium had a great time exploring the different trades. Thank you to Ms. Sukdeo for facilitating this field trip.

Community Involvement Hours

The summer break is a great time for students to work on completing their Community Involvement hours. If you have completed community service hours and have not handed in your forms, no worries, hang onto them and we will accept them when school opens in the fall. Please remember to submit your volunteer sheets to Guidance for approval before you commence any activity. Many opportunities are posted on our UHS Volunteer and Program Opportunities Google Classroom (enrollment code is emu544b). More information is also available on the board's website at: [Community Involvement](#)

Thank you Ms. Hawkins for your efforts in updating the community involvement opportunities for our students on the Volunteer Google Classroom.

Scholarship Information

The Guidance Department continues to share information on a weekly basis about various scholarships available for students to apply to. There is also preparation for their post-secondary studies through our Scholarship and Enrichment opportunities Google classroom. This spring, we presented information to our Grade 11's about preparing for post-secondary options and scholarships. Every fall, the Guidance department provides a more detailed scholarship presentation for graduates to help students prepare their applications. Students will learn about scholarship resources (including The Scholarship Report), tips for financing their education, types of scholarships, bursaries and awards, as well as the application process. A huge shout out goes to Ms. Hawkins for updating our students with scholarship information and for assisting our students with their scholarship applications.

Dog Therapy and Mental Health Presentation

During the months of January and May, The St. John's Ambulance Therapy Dogs visitations were a huge success! Our students had the opportunity to visit with these furry companions to de-stress at the end of our school year.

Thank you to Ms. Sukdeo, the Wellness Committee as well as the student volunteers who helped to make these sessions a success!

Student Success

The Student Success Department has had a great year of connecting with and supporting students!



Our Credit Rescue Weeks were designed to support students in achieving credits that had been in jeopardy, and were offered for students at different points in the semester. We worked one-on-one with students on finishing their assignments, making test corrections, and preparing for upcoming evaluations.

From day-to-day, we worked with our students on completing academic tasks and developing strong study skills. We also worked collaboratively with our Child and Youth Worker, Ms. Roset, in supporting students' mental, emotional, and social well-being. A big thank you to Ms. Wu, Ms. Shama and Ms. Choi for their incredible efforts in supporting our students this year.

Students know that Rooms 301 and 304 are spaces where there will always be a caring adult, a comfy place for them to work, and a snack (or two, or three). We look forward to another amazing year!

We Are Communicating With You!

The Guidance Department is always working hard to keep are students and parents in the loop! Important messages and updates will be on Twitter, our school's website, newsletters, and the weekly Parent/Guardian Bulletin. Students can make an appointment with their alpha counsellor via Teach Assist and send their counsellor an email with any concerns to help them get the information they need!

Mental Health Resources

Your mental health is important! As the summer approaches it is important to mindful of your well-being and to take good care of yourself. Below are some mental health resources to assist your needs:

310-COPE: 905-310-COPE (2673) or 1-855-310-COPE (2673) - available 24/7

KidsHelpPhone: 1-800-668-6868, text 686868 - available 24/7

<https://mindyourmind.ca/> Mental Health Helpline: 1-866-531-2600 - available 24/7

<http://www.fsyrr.ca/> Family Services of York Region 905-895-2371 or 1-888-223-3999

<https://www.yorkhills.ca/> York Hills Centre for Children, Youth and Families 905-503-9561

<https://hongfook.ca/> Hong Fook Mental Health Association 416-493-4242

www.youthline.ca Lesbian Gay BI Trans Youth Line 1-888-687-9689

Black Youth Helpline: 1-833-294-8650

Taibu Community Health Centre: 416-644-3536

<https://bouncebackontario.ca/> BounceBack is a free, guided self-help program that's effective in helping people aged 15 and up who are experiencing mild-to-moderate anxiety or depression, or may be feeling low, stressed, worried, irritable or angry.

Want to learn more about college and university programs?

Visit these valuable websites for researching your future:

The Ontario Universities' Fair 2024

October 5th- 6th 9:30 am to 5pm

Metro Toronto Convention Centre – South Building

For more information about this event and virtual sessions, visit the **OUFs website**.

The Ontario College Fair 2024

October 16th (5p.m. – 9 p.m.) – October 17th (9 a.m. – 2 p.m.)

The Ontario College Fair is a one-stop event for all your college information needs.

Enercare Centre – Hall B, 100 Princes' Blvd, Toronto, ON M6K 3C3

General information about college can be found at: <https://ontariocolleges.ca/en>

Have a wonderful summer!

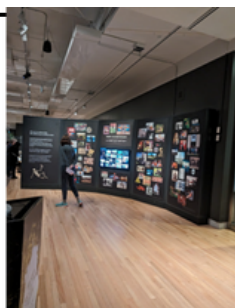
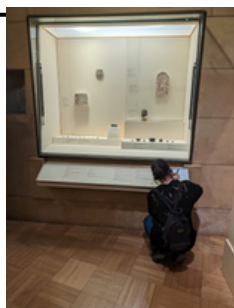


History, Social Science and Law

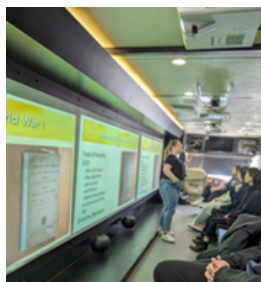
It has been an extraordinarily busy and exciting year in our department! The History team of Ms. Donaldson, Ms. Fong, Mrs. Fong, Ms. Teh, Mr. Struk, Mr. Mallin, Mr. Vlachopoulos, and Mr. Cash facilitated an exceptional array of experiential learning experiences, and opportunities for students to complete field work and hands-on activities. As a department we committed to recognizing Jewish Heritage Month throughout May, with visits from the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Tour for Humanity Bus, and a talk by Holocaust survivor Nate Leipziger.



In November and February our Grade 10 Canadian History students went to the Markham Museum to learn about the History of Markham and to see the specific exhibit about Chinese Immigration History in *Standing in the Doorway*.



A trip to the Royal Ontario Museum saw students analyzing artifacts and learning about cultures and traditions surrounding death in the exhibit Death: Life's Greatest Mystery with Grade 11 World History to the Fifteenth Century and Sociology, Psychology and Anthropology.



Lots of guest speakers, from the Tour for Humanity presenting in Grade 10 History, to UHS alumnus, Claire Gao, discussing her Sociology research at the University of Toronto with grade 11 Sociology, Psychology and Anthropology.

Spain 2024!

For the first time since before the pandemic, students made a trip overseas to explore the rich intersectional history of Spain where we learned about the Islamic, Jewish and Christian histories of this ancient and beautiful country! The interdisciplinary trip showcased the history, art and architecture of southern Spain, explored food and culture through Family Studies, and Physical Education's healthy, active living curriculum which included hiking, biking and sports. There was something for everyone on this trip! Special thanks to our chaperones Ms. Nunes, Mrs. Minhas, Ms. Cheung, Mr. Sanchez and Ms. Faulkner.

A few highlights:



The ancient city of Cordoba



The view in Malaga



Flamenco in Madrid



Touring the Alhambra



The old spice market in Granada



Blue skies and olive fields

This has been a busy year for the Library Learning Commons supporting students with their learning and reading for pleasure. UHS students know the Library is the place to get help with their research, work on projects with classmates, enjoy a good book, or just relax.

The Library team has engaged students in their learning across the curriculum. In semesters one and two we worked with the ESL department to introduce research skills so students could learn about the important people and places of Canada. We collaborated with the Science department to help students learn about Science in the real world. Throughout the year we also helped students to research food in Canada, mental health, fashion history, treaties, household chemicals, business leadership, stress management, as well as issues in anthropology, sociology, psychology, and many STEM topics.

During Black History Month the Library hosted the The Caribbean Inventors and Icons display from the Canadian Multicultural Inventors Museum. Students learned about the contributions of Caribbean peoples and people of Caribbean descent across all areas of the curriculum.

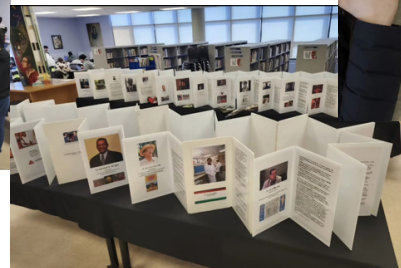
In May we partnered with the YRDSB Museum and Archives to host the traveling version of the exhibit Standing in the Doorway: Lived Histories and Experiences of the Chinese Community. This was a wonderful opportunity for all students to learn about the history of Chinese immigration in York Region.

This year students enjoyed being offline with many of the Library's activities. Puzzles were more popular than ever, as students completed over 20 puzzles this year and made new friends with other puzzlers along the way. Students also enjoyed time away from their screens at the Library's colouring station and with the chess board. Many students honed their chess skills throughout the year and Chess Strategies for Beginners became a popular title.

UHS students also love reading, evidenced by the over 2000 checkouts this year. Popular manga series this year included Pandora Hearts, Spy Family, and Heartstopper, while authors loved by UHS readers continued to be Karen McManus, Cassandra Clare, Tahereh Mafi, Kwame Alexander, and Haruki Murakami.

The Library Learning Commons is available to serve students throughout the summer both for research and reading for pleasure. All of the Library's databases can be accessed through our website. Passwords are available through our Google Classroom, which students can join using the code dus2klz. The Globe and Mail subscription also remains available throughout the summer. Hundreds of great ebooks and audiobooks can be borrowed through Sora. Students sign in using 0 followed by their student number.

The photos: one photo is of students playing chess, one is of students collaborating on a puzzle, and the other 2 are of the Black History Month event of the Caribbean Inventors and Icons display.



We hope everyone enjoys a good book this summer!

Celeste Lawton (she/her)
Library Department Head

Math

This year, over 700 math contests were written at UHS, by students in grades 9 to 12. These contests are intended to build problem solving skills and foster the love of math in middle and high school students. We are so proud of each and every student who participated this year! Certificates of distinction were awarded to 181 UHS students for their outstanding achievement. A special congratulations goes out to the following students, who received top scores at UHS on the following contests:

COMC - Eric Wei
CIMC - Peter Lu
CSMC - Qinrong (David) Tan and A.L.
Pascal - Zhenqi (Bob) Rao
Cayley - Kenneth Chen
Fermat - Jingkai (Kevin) Wang
Fryer - Angela Zhang
Galois - Zhenqi (Bob) Rao
Hypatia - Sophie Zhang

We hosted two math team competitions here at UHS this semester. In January, the Math Club executive team planned and organized an after-school competition where UHS students competed against teams from Markville SS and Pierre Elliot Trudeau HS. In May, UHS hosted six YRDSB schools for a local version of the Canadian Team Mathematics Competition (officially organized by the CEMC at University of Waterloo). Six teams of six students competed in various events throughout the day. Our UHS Math Team won third position in this competition. A great time was had by all!

This year, our Math students also participated in Level Up-Trade Career Fair organized by the Ministry of Education. Student were very excited to get hands on training, to learn about new career paths and to get guidance for their future from the industry experts.

The UHS Math Club would like to extend warm wishes to all members who are graduating and moving on to post-secondary opportunities in the fall. A very special thank-you to the members of our executive team, Susan Ho, David Hu, Gloria Wang, and K. Z., for their exceptional leadership this year. We are so grateful for your commitment and we would like to take this opportunity to recognize the four of you for the countless hours spent planning engaging activities and leading the weekly Math Club meetings. The Math Club could not run without your dedication – thank you!

Thank you to the amazing teachers in the UHS Math Department who worked together as a team, alongside our incredible student volunteers, to help out with organizing and supervising Math Club meetings, After-school Math Help sessions, and Math Contests this school year.

A special thank-you and goodbye to the following math teachers who stepped in this year and became integral members of our math team – Ms. Begum, Mr. Cheung, Ms. He, Mr. Lam, Mr. Liu, and Mr. Shi. We are immensely grateful for your dedication to our students. Your innovative ideas have helped us evolve and make improvements to our program, and for that we are so grateful. Good luck next year and we hope to see you back at UHS soon!

We are excited to welcome back Ms. Bang this June, as well as Mr. Campbell, who will be re-joining us in the fall. We wish Ms. Coulthard all the best in her sabbatical next year. Congratulations to Ms. Hlevca on her retirement! On behalf of UHS staff and students, thank you for all you have contributed to our school over the last 19 years, especially your generosity, kindness, and friendship. We wish you all the very best in this next chapter.

Our deepest thanks and appreciation to Ms. Sharma for stepping up to be our Interim Head of Mathematics this year. Each day, Ms. Sharma exhibits an astonishing ability to unite and motivate our team through kindness and positivity. Thank you for all you have done to mentor and support our team!

Thanks,
Math Department

Moderns

Over the course of the semester, our language students continued to develop their multilingual skills through participation in a number of engaging learning opportunities including book & film studies, interactive discussions, the development and analysis of opinion surveys and the creating a variety of media products, including podcasts, videos, web pages and blogs.

We continue to incorporate a number of online resources into our language classes to provide authentic opportunities for students to interact with the language that they are learning. These resources have also exposed students to the vast cultural diversity of French-speaking communities around the world.

We were excited to incorporate a new resource, Chemins, by Vista Higher Learning, into our Beginner French curriculum delivery. This was a welcome refresh to our program which provided more current materials, including readings, videos and cultural activities in the context of our lessons. For their culminating activity, our beginner French learners wrote and presented profiles of family members to the class.

Our grade 9 French students learned how to speak about themselves and their spare-time activities, how to share their opinions and give reasons and they engaged in group book studies using some recently acquired new titles with interesting cultural connections. The grade 9's finished the semester by creating and sharing 3-minute YouTube videos in French on a topic of their choice. Our grade 10 French students continued to develop their language skills in various ways, including a film study and interactive discussions. Our grade 11 students enjoyed their study of the classic French titles *Le Fantôme de l'Opéra* and *Le Petit Prince* as well as expanding their exploration of francophone culture worldwide by planning a trip to a francophone region outside of France. Our grade 12 French students participated in many interactive discussions based on their study of various texts, including short stories, novel excerpts, poetry, a play and a newly acquired novel set in Japan, *Tant que le café est encore chaud*.

We had senior level (grades 11 and 12) Mandarin courses running this semester. Some of the activities that the grade 11 students engaged in were the creation of a personal portfolio, the exploration of career options and a comparison of Canadian First Nations teaching and culture with Chinese culture and traditions. Grade 12 Mandarin students performed a radio show based on current events, compared variety shows from Asian popular culture and did a comparative critique of two films.

Our extracurricular opportunities such as field trips were somewhat limited this semester due to some scheduling conflicts, temporary closures and other factors beyond our control. Next year, however, we hope to expand the number of extracurricular opportunities available to our language students, including in-school and out-of-school field trips, guest speakers, public speaking contests and a possible overnight French-immersion outdoor educational trip.

We look forward to helping students to continue their language-learning journeys next year and we wish everyone a safe and rejuvenating summer!

Music



The UHS Music Department celebrated another successful year with our annual Music Awards Banquet on June 10th at the All Nations Banquet Hall. This was the largest banquet the department has seen in recent memory, reinforcing the level of commitment and participation from hundreds of music students throughout the year. It would be impossible to highlight all of the concerts, festivals and competitions in which our ensembles have thrived since September, but here are a few reminders that highlight the important role that we play in our community.

- 7 UHS and community based performances at Flato Markham Theatre
- Participation in the Ontario Band Association Provincial Band Festival, Golden Horseshoe Music Festival, Ontario Vocal Festival, Ontario Vocal Jazz Festival, Ontario Strings Association Festival, Toronto Kiwanis Music Festival and North York Music Festival. All ensembles and solo performances achieving among each festival's highest awards
- UHS Showtime presentation of Pippin
- Countless morning performances in the UHS atrium in support of Black History Month and Asian Heritage Month to name a few
- Arts Unionville Music Retreat at Camp Couchiching with the Ontario Educational Leadership Centre
- Many classes completed special studies regarding Indigenous music from Canada and around the world
- With a focus on creativity, many of our students composed their own pieces that were performed on various stages throughout the spring
- Collaborative performances with Arts Unionville disciplines including the Dance Department's Jazz Through the Ages, Alchemy 2024 and the Arts Show/Jazz Cafe
- Many volunteer performances throughout the community
- Over 25 visits from professional performers, conductors, composers and educators that came to work with our students.



This year represents another in our storied tradition of leadership in performance, creativity and education in the arts. We enjoy a reputation of excellence that is a result of decades of commitment to the art of music making. The 2024/2025 school year is the 40th anniversary of UHS. We are already planning an exciting year of events including our usual performances with special activities including an extended performance tour and our "40 Years of Music at UHS" concert on May 25, 2025. Thanks to our staff and students for another great year in the Music Department.



Physical Education

The Physical and Health Education department along with the Athletics program at UHS has had many successes this year. We have continued to push students to reach their highest achievements with our popular fitness classes. The results have been evident with the performance of our students in the various fitness challenges each teacher has created. Our core classes were able to enjoy some early spring weather and gain early access to the fields for our many outdoor units. Classes remained both competitive and fun while enjoying their football, ultimate frisbee, and soccer units. We had 3 Outdoor Education classes this year, the most in the past 20 years! These classes went on many successful trips and came back with real life experiences and stories to tell! Finally, our leadership class ran many school wide activities. Combining with our athletic council, the student population was treated to many intramurals, Terry Fox Run, and Relay for Life.

This year UHS had many successful teams competing in the YRAA. We returned to the Table Tennis scene and captured the YRAA title. We have been one of the most dominant Table Tennis teams in years past and appear to be back on top for years to come. The badminton, ski and snowboard, and swim team had athletes qualify for OFSAA. These athletes had to get through tough fields on their way to the Ontario Championships. Our many other teams continued to represent Unionville HS through league play and playoffs. All the coaches are very proud of all our student athletes for their commitment and sportsmanship this year!

Grade 9 SNC1W

- Students built series and parallel circuits, learning about how voltage, current, and resistance varies within different types of circuits and with additional loads.
- Students analyzed graphs of CO₂ and global temperatures to learn about correlation vs. causation and how scientists develop theories.
- Students participated in an Ecospark workshop to look at benthic macroinvertebrates as a measure of water quality.



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Grade 11 Chemistry SCH11U

- Students learned about "the mole" and learned to count moles in everyday objects like pennies, nails, and packets of sugar.
- Students conducted titrations and titrated acids to determine their concentrations. They learned how to work with more chemistry equipment like burets, pipettes, and volumetric flasks.

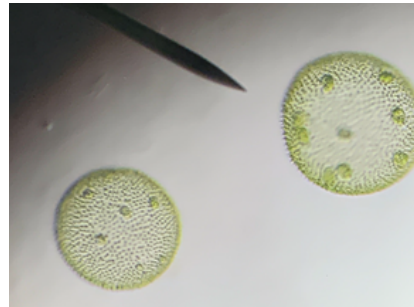
Grade 11 Biology SBI3U

Observing Protist Lab

Students identified different live protists (volvox, paramecium, amoeba), and their characteristics using a light microscope.

REBOP BABIES ACTIVITY

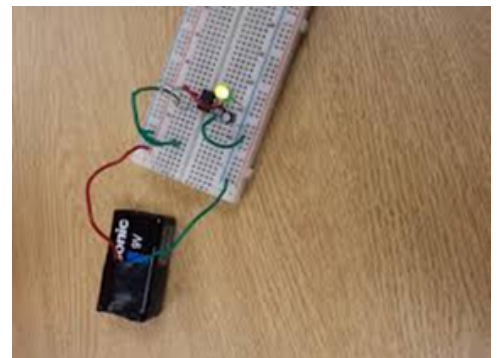
Students experienced the variety within a species that is due to the process of meiosis. Meiosis not only reduces the chromosome number, but it is also a mechanism to ensure variation within a species.



Grade 11 Physics SPH3U

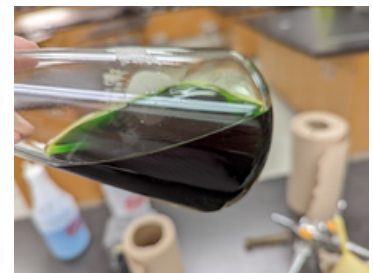
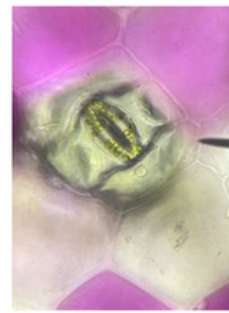
Students had a variety of different labs, workshops, and guest speakers. We

- Determined student horsepower
- Used breadboards to investigate sustainable energy generation
- Used coding to investigate the engineering design process of helmet design and function and the classic "egg drop" experiment
- Highlighted diverse STEM voices through guest speakers and workshops



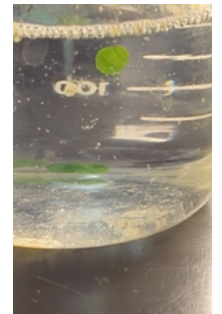
Grade 12 Biology SBI4U

Students investigated photosynthesis in a variety of ways. They looked at stoma and guard cells in a *Tradescantia zebrina* plant (Chloroplasts can be clearly seen). Chlorophyll was extracted from spinach leaves to demonstrate that electrons excited by light energy will release that energy in the form of light. Shown before and after photoexcitation.



Grade 12 Biology SBI4U

Students investigated the relationship between oxygen and light energy in photosynthesis by using spinach leaves. Air was sucked out of the leaves using syringes and a solution of spinach leaf disks were placed under a light. As photosynthesis occurs, bubbles of oxygen gas are produced allowing for the disks to float to the top of the solution.



Grade 12U Earth & Space Science SES4U

This field trip is an out-of-this-world immersive experience for our Grade 12U Earth & Space Science students. They take an extraordinary journey across the galaxy, fly through a technicolor nebula, kick up dust on the moon, see Saturn's rings up close, and weave through an asteroid belt. They countdown To Takeoff On A Space Exploration Through the Galaxy, leave Footprints on the Moon and explore the Stunning Discoveries of the All-New James Webb Telescope.



Students applied the Equatorial Coordinate System and Horizontal Coordinate System to locate celestial objects, such as stars and constellations, in the night sky using the **Stellarium Web** Online Star Map stimulator.



Student Services

STUDENT SERVICES

Special Education Resource Teachers (SERTs): M Caufield, B Serwaa, W Cao, J Chan, J San Luis, J Lethbridge, N Lavalle, C Atletico, S Thillaiampalam, EA: A Ahmed

Our students have demonstrated great growth and resilience this year. We continued to focus on supporting students to understand their Individual Education Plans (IEPs) and with self-advocacy so that they build those skills for transition to Post Secondary and future worklife. It is our hope that our Special Education students will unplug this summer, step away from their screens and devices and get some downtime so they may return to us in the fall refreshed. They deserve a break!

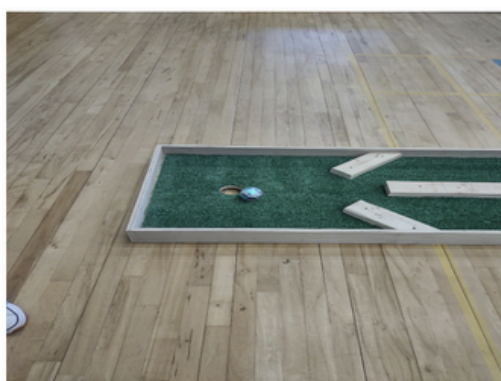


LIFE SKILLS COMMUNITY CLASS

Teachers: A Boughtflower, P Manners, EAs: C Calcagno-Raffaele, J Suchoplas, A Ahmed

Our life skills class has had another banner year!

We were featured in the SEAC video for excellence in education and the community. We were also chosen to represent our school at the DARE Robotics Event! We had amazing dance parties with our friends in Ms. Bettio's and Ms. Major's class. We represented our school in SNAP athletics tournaments. We grew chives, wheat grass, peas, lettuce, strawberries and more. We looked after the gardens and even cooked with some of the things we grew. This year we also did work placements at McDonalds and were celebrated for our professionalism and contributions at work placements in the Experience Works Newsletter. Two of our students were also recipients of the YES I Can! Awards this Spring! Cheers to another banner year!



AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER COMMUNITY CLASS

Teachers: D Brijmongal, W Cao, C Atletico, EAs: S Selvarajah, C Simpson, S Alegado, A Ahmed

This has been a great year for our class!

Our students enjoyed many fun and new activities such as planting, art projects, social games, community activities, work experience, cooking and collaborating with Mrs. Boughtflower's class too. We had special trips to No Frills to gather ingredients and make our own snacks! Our students also had a super fun time with all our friends at our 60s-Themed Prom and Track & Field event—it was amazing! Thank you to all of our amazing teachers, staff and students for a fantastic 2023/2024 year.

PATHWAYS TO EMPLOYMENT & APPLIED KNOWLEDGE (PEAK)

Teachers: J Parnell, Career Coach: Liz Troyer-Lee

A great year of learning & work experience!

The PEAK Program is a transition program designed for senior secondary school students and serves as a bridge from school to adult life options including work, college vocational programs and community participation.

This year welcomed new and returning students and staff in PEAK East. The students continued to work on their employability, transiting and communication skills. Our community work experience employers included a restaurant, grocery store, hotel, fitness center, garage and elementary school to name a few. The three graduating students will be moving onto Vocational College programs, Culinary Arts program and Job Experience training. Best of luck to our 2023-2024 school year graduates.

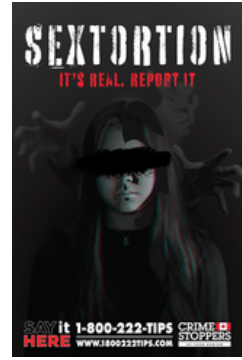
GRADUATING STUDENTS:

Graduating identified students who are continuing onto Post Secondary in the fall should reach out to the Accessibility Services Departments at their respective Colleges and Universities, **DO NOT wait until the fall. REGISTER NOW** if they haven't already, as they will need to submit paperwork and meet with staff in order to ensure they receive accommodations right away in the fall. This website was shared with all students by their SERTs as it links directly to Accessibility Services at each Post Secondary Institutions: <https://www.transitionresourceguide.ca/>

CONGRATULATIONS GRADS!

Technology

We're pleased to share some notable achievements and initiatives from our students here in the Technological Studies Department. First, a commendation goes to Edison Cai, a Grade 11 Communications Technology student, who secured the top spot in the York Region Crime Stopper's Youth Poster and Video Contest. Well done, Edison!



Additionally, Ms. Wong's Grade 11 Communications Technology class once again collaborated successfully with the City of Markham's Strategy, Communications & Executive Operations team to produce impactful social media content. This partnership offered valuable real-world experience for our students, preparing them for future endeavors in related tech sectors.



Mr Berridge's grade 12 class partnered with the music and drama department to broadcast our Remembrance Day Ceremony. Students learned real world valuable skills and created a broadcast that was polished and honoured the veterans.

We're excited to announce that our Green Industries Club, where students engaged in various eco-friendly activities such as plant propagation, landscaping, and crafting wooden garden signs, was a great success. It was inspiring to witness our students actively participating in environmental stewardship and exploring career opportunities in the green sector. Congratulations to all involved!



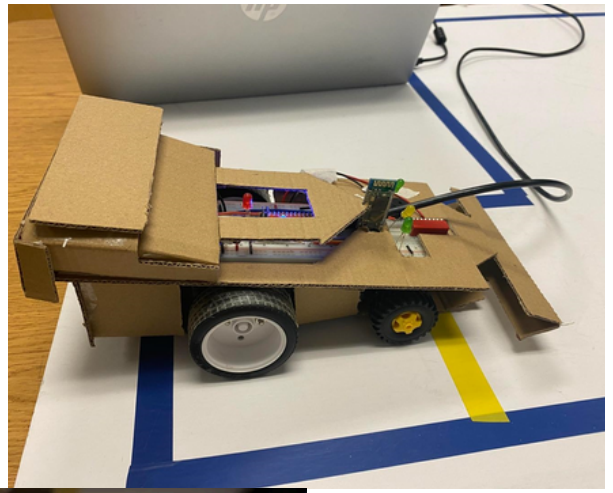
As we draw to a close to the educational year of 2023/2024 for students in Computer Technology, I am excited to share the impressive accomplishments and highlights from some of our students learning in Grade 11 and 12 Computer Technology and Engineering.

This year has been marked by a range of innovation, creativity, and greater understanding that technology serves in our ever-changing world. Some standout moments of this year include the following: Grade 11 students embarked on a self-discovery and fun journey of technology in today's industry and the purpose it serves in our daily lives. Some of this year's projects and learning ranged from computer hardware design and innovation, electronics and circuits construction, automation and programming and robotic projects. Students also explored the various career pathways offered at the post-secondary level attending an offsite field trip and learning about post-secondary pathways offered in Ontario. The capstone projects from our Grade 12 students were truly remarkable. Students completed an independent project, applying their cumulative knowledge to areas such as electronics, hardware, programming and circuit design and some even took part in this year's UHS STEM fair, York Region Science and Technology fair where top projects designed by students were showcased in celebration of youth innovation. Students displayed creativity and technical skills while fostering a sense of pride and accomplishment.

Congratulations UHS Computer Tech students for another incredible year of technological exploration and success in Computer Technology!

Congratulations also goes out to Chris Liu who represented Team Ontario at the Skills Canada National Competition at the end of May which took place in Quebec City, Quebec. Chris won the bronze medal for IT - Network Systems. **Bravo Chris.**

Some of you may be surprised to hear UHS has a woodshop. We do! And it's spectacular!!! This year alone, the woodshop here at Unionville has welcomed not only new students, but new equipment as well. We recently were able to acquire funding to tool up the shop to produce electric guitars, a project that my TJC3C1 and TJC4C1 classes were very excited about. This opportunity allowed us to purchase a new bandsaw along with an assortment of new specialized guitar making hand tools. Although the guitars were fun, TCJ201 also had a great semester learning the basics of wood as a building material and how to manipulate wood to have it do whatever we need it to do, as well as how to stay safe and efficient in a woodshop environment. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kY5j3HYt83A>



Visual Arts

We are delighted to present the end-of-year newsletter for the Visual Arts Department at Unionville High School. It has been an exceptional year filled with creativity, exploration, and remarkable achievements by our talented students. From Grade 9 to Grade 12, our artists have embarked on a journey of self-expression and growth, honing their skills in various artistic disciplines. We are immensely proud of their dedication and artistic prowess showcased throughout the year.

The Grade 9 Open course began with an engaging exploration of the principles of design. Students delved into the world of geometrical patterns, symmetry, and the captivating chiaroscuro technique. Through magnified mechanical drawings, they developed their skills in capturing light and shadow, resulting in astonishingly realistic artwork. Moving forward, they explored art history by crafting stunning Egyptian masks adorned with ancient symbols and vibrant acrylic paint. Clay pottery was another highlight, with students proudly creating their very first clay vases, enriched with Greek patterns and designs. Finally, their creative journey reached its zenith as they beautifully depicted the landscapes of Canada from coast to coast using pastels. We commend all the students for their hard work and exceptional artistry throughout the semester.

Grade 12 Media Arts students designed toy figures and corresponding packaging nets. These figures were 3D printed and hand-painted, resulting in excellent proof-of-concept designs.

The Alchemy performance was well attended. Grade 10, 11, and 12 AU classes created seven interdisciplinary performances in collaboration with other arts disciplines and guest artists, both local and international.

In April, AU Visual Arts and Drama students ventured to New York City, where they saw Boy George in Moulin Rouge and Daniel Radcliffe in Merrily We Roll Along. We walked through Central Park, participated in art workshops, and toured the Guggenheim and MoMA. It was one of the second semester's highlights and one of the first international trips since COVID.

The year culminated with the Art Show Jazz Café, where student artwork from the Core and AU visual arts programs took center stage. The event delighted participants as they witnessed twelve teams of two student painters creating original acrylic paintings accompanied by live music. We express our gratitude to the Music Department and the talented students who shared their musical gifts, providing a delightful ambiance throughout the show.

The Grade 12 AU class collaborated with Tracey-Mae Chambers, a Métis artist, on a woven sculpture displayed at the Aga Khan Museum for a week as part of the group show "Shadows of Racism: Voices Unheard." The work will be displayed next at the new Wong Avery Asia Pacific Peace Museum until September and possibly at a location in Markham. It was serendipitous that Tracey-Mae had her own work displayed at the Aga Khan during the same time.

The City of Markham invited Grade 12 students to design vinyl murals inspired by the theme of 'water' for the many mechanical boxes located near splash pads throughout Markham. The murals will be installed mid-summer. This invitation was extended to the Grade 12 Media Arts class, where they designed graphic vinyl wraps for large Molok waste containers to help beautify Markham parks through art.

Additionally, our Grade 10 AU students demonstrated their compassion and global perspective by participating in the Memory Project. Through their watercolor portraits, they provided meaningful mementos to 56 youth in Syria who have faced significant challenges. This act of kindness connected our students with children across the world, fostering a powerful exchange of art and empathy.

Visual Arts students created illustrated cards sold in packs of 10 to raise funds for Dog Tales Rescue and Sanctuary. Students took a field trip to Dog Tales, met the various animals, and sketched them. They then returned to the school and refined their illustrations of one of the dogs at the sanctuary.

This year we had two amazing LTO (long term occasional) teachers working in the Visual Arts Department. Thank you to Denise Chan and Vincent Spremulli for their creativity and dedication.

Thank you for supporting the Arts at Unionville.

**UHS
Families:
Have a
Wonderful
Summer!**

