



UHS News

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Website www.yrdsb.ca/schools/unionville.hs

February 2016



Accomplishments, Challenges and Success

The midpoint in a school year is a time of looking back and acknowledging accomplishments. Our students are more than half way through this school year and have worked diligently to achieve well success. With the beginning of semester two, students begin new courses in different subject areas that will have new learning expectations and will present new challenges.

It is a time of the year in which students need to reflect back to their learning in semester one and consider their accomplishments. To improve, students need to ask themselves how to further develop their skills, how to increase their participation in learning and how to determine best strategies that they can apply to new learning in semester two. It is essential for students to be reflective about themselves as learners to be successful.

In the Ontario Ministry of Education document, Creating Pathways to Success, it is stated that “*students are to be at the centre of their own learning...They are encouraged to discover who they are, explore opportunities, pursue their passions, and design personal pathways to success. They are encouraged to express their insights in individual ways and to keep track of what they discover about themselves and their interests, passions, and opportunities over time.*”

Please take time to peruse the newsletter to read about our students’ accomplishments this past semester. You will read about students exploring exciting opportunities across all subject areas. Each subject offered diverse learning experiences that challenged students to think deeply and globally. Students were engaged in meaningful educational pursuits that relate to their personal strengths and interests. By working together teachers and students engaged in creating learning experiences that will prepare students well for their future.

Parents and guardians can be involved in their child’s learning by engaging in conversations about learning. We encourage you to listen to your child’s reflections, discuss the challenges, and to join us in the celebration of the accomplishments.

On behalf of all of the staff at UHS, I would like to thank UHS students for their willingness to accept educational and life challenges, and for their ongoing commitment to achieve success.

Ms. Weaver

Message from our Trustee—Mr. Billy Pang

Although winter still feels far from over some days, we are now halfway through the school year. With report cards coming home, this is a good time to review progress and celebrate what your children have learned both inside and outside of the classroom. This is also a good time to set goals for the months ahead.

One of our goals set out in the Board of Trustees’ Multi-Year Plan is to “continuously increase student achievement and well-being through a culture of caring and learning.” Developing this supportive culture includes engaging parents/guardians and other members of the school community in public education and working together to create safe and supportive school environments that enable students to thrive.

As parents/guardians, there are many ways you can get engaged in your child’s education and support their learning, including talking with them about school, communicating with teachers, attending school events or school council meetings, and volunteering in the school. However you get involved, know that you are making a difference.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I wish you all the best an enjoyable and successful second term.

Inspire Learning!

Please visit the website for information shared throughout the school year:

www.yrdsb.ca/schools/unionville.hs

School Council Meeting Dates:

Wednesday February 17

Wednesday April 20

Wednesday May 18

Thank you and Happy Retirement....

Konrad Doerrbecker

Chris Unitas

Welcome new to our teaching staff...

Jody McMillan

Suzanne Masilamany

Additional Elementary and Secondary P.A. Days

As a result of provincial labour negotiations, a **P.A. Day** has been added for all **York Region District School Board elementary schools on Friday, May 6, 2016** and **secondary schools on Friday, June 3, 2016**. You can see the full updated school year calendars on YRDSB's [website](#).

These additional P.A. Days are mandated by the Ministry of Education. On these dates, teachers will be taking part in professional development on provincial education priorities identified by the Ministry of Education.

VISUAL ARTS

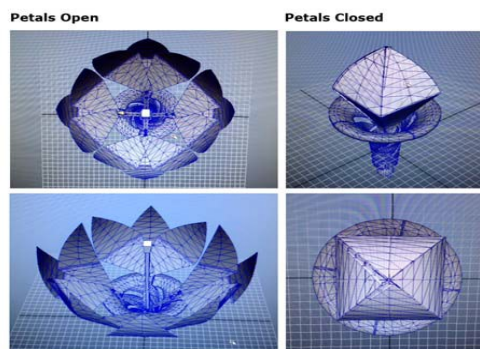
It was a busy first semester for students and staff in our Visual Arts Department! September provided a wonderful launch to the new school year with our annual grade 9 and 12 Arts Unionville overnight trip to the Ottawa International Film Festival. Students viewed a number of award winning films and had the opportunity to speak with the artists involved in their creation. Senior students presented our annual Art Attack during the grade 8 Parents' Information Night. Students painted two, 4' by 8', five minute portraits of Frida Kahlo and Salvador Dali while accompanied by piano duet live on stage.



In October, UHS was invited to again partake in the Markham Fair's high school art installation competition. Thirty visual arts students volunteered their time over one week to create an interactive art installation at the Markham Fair related to the theme of "a fine country tradition". The student's artwork references the fine country tradition of sharing and preserving the bounty of the harvest. And memories of the season. The series of mason jars, arranged on the harvest table, references the sharing and preserving of both harvest traditions and newly shared memories of the season. The interactive components reinforce the idea of community and of a collective shared experience. When participants make contact (forming a circuit) between with the two metal hands the mason jars illuminate making visible over 100 stenciled designs, one in each jar. Twenty Arts Unionville students worked in teams of two to create original acrylic paintings in the lobby of the Markham Theatre as part of the Markham's Theatre's 30th anniversary celebrations. The artworks were well received and several paintings were purchased.



The willingness of our students to learn using technology was evident in an event recently held in November where UHS students collaborated with fifty students from eleven high schools throughout YRDSB in an interdisciplinary project called *Artonomy*. This inquiry-based project was hosted at the YRDSB's education conference, Quest. *Artonomy* acted as a showpiece for the conference and received considerable attention.



VISUAL ARTS Cont.

Markham's Public Library System partnered with us from the project's inception, providing funds and allowing the artwork to be displayed at the Cornell public library. In two months, students designed and built an interactive wall of twenty-two robotic flowers that open and close according to an individual's proximity to the artwork. A core team of visual arts and computer science/robotics students from UHS and Richmond Green S.S. were responsible for the project's original designs and fabrication. Simulations to evaluate the robotic flower's mechanisms were created using the software, *Autodesk Maya*. Those successful designs were 3D printed using *Makerbots* and *Dremel Idea Builders*. Artonomy demonstrated our student's eagerness to act as leaders while collaborating on technically challenging projects.

For more info go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PW4jxQXPtM>



Student Lina Lam with author of *Beauty Scars*, Erin Zikos

Grade 10 and 11 Arts Unionville Visual students got top honors in a recent competition against St. Elizabeth, that asked students to create a book cover for Kern Carter's upcoming novel titled *Beauty Scars*. Unionville students placed in the top four spots out of at least forty entries! Congratulations to Erin Zikos, Samantha Chow, Erin Chan and to our first placed winner Lina Lam. Lina's painting will be published on the cover of *Beauty Scars*. All of the students' works are currently on display at Artscape Young place, 180 Shaw Street in Toronto until the end of January. In the spring of 2016, these works will also be on display in York Region.

Ms. Gardham's Grade 10 AU students had a wonderful learning opportunity that extended outside of the school and into the community. A partnership was established with Unionville Homes Society and students spent a day in November meeting and talking with, and drawing a senior resident. Both the students and the seniors benefited immensely from this learning opportunity and students came back to the classroom with a deeper connection to their portrait assignment. Over the course of several weeks, students learnt watercolour techniques and how to render facial anatomy which resulted in outstanding portraits of these residents. After the winter holidays, the class went back to present their resident with a print of their original painting. The residents were so pleased and grateful with the results that the Unionville Homes Society selected the works of seven students to add to their permanent art collection located in the CEO's office. Congratulations to Jacqueline Chen, Sydney Lad, Bhavindu Adhihetty, Iris Li, Lordman Lau, Samantha Chow, and Joanie Tian!



VISUAL ARTS Cont.

Please see the attached photos plus you can view the links below for some finished photographs of the portraits:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/mm126ye9s60upx0/Jacqueline%20Chen-%20Watercolour.jpg?dl=0>

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/5xbmkfvy199lmka/Samantha%20Chow%2527s%20Watercolour%20Portrait.jpg?dl=0>

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/kv91qi9nz8b8d5r/Bhavindu%2527s%20watercolour%20portrait.jpg?dl=0>

The Zen Garden was on display in the UA gallery. It is a collaborative installation created by Ms. Cheung's Grade Eleven Visual Art class and inspired by Zen priest and poet o Soseki's Ryōan-ji (The Temple of the Dragon at Peace), located in Kyoto, Japan. After taking a virtual tour of the Zen Garden inside Ryōan-ji, students reflected on the formal qualities of the space and made connections to its function. Students then followed the creative process to hand-build clay lanterns in a contemporary Japanese style. A group of volunteers in the class reclaimed a previous installation (a great opportunity to be eco-friendly!) and added some natural materials to transform the UA gallery into an illuminated contemporary Zen Garden.

Semester two will be equally productive for staff and students. This is what we have planned thus far for semester two! Early in second semester acrylic painter Ian Bodnarky will be conducting a two day advanced painting workshop of senior art students enrolled in the Arts and Culture SHSM program. *Sample of Bodnarky's artwork* <http://www.ianbodnaryk.com/Site/Home.html> Arts students from Dance, Music, Drama and Visual Art will be collaborating in the design of this year's Alchemy performance scheduled for March.

The Visual Arts department. is currently collaborating with UHS' Arts and Culture Club, York University and the City of Markham on the possibility of a Board wide painting competition held at the Markham Theatre in May.

The Visual Arts department. is excited to announce that the March Break international trip to Barcelona and Rome is now full. The Visual Arts and International Language students are eager to explore the history, culture and cuisines of these countries.

On behalf of the Visual Arts department. we wish to thank the parents and guardians for their support and encouragement in all of our department's artistic endeavours. We look forward to your continued support.

MATH

The Math Department would like to congratulate all of the students that participated in the Canadian Intermediate and Canadian Senior Math Contests. The results can be found on the Math Contest board. Top students in the Intermediate contest were Yu geng Xu, Lin Deng and Karen Lin. Unionville High school placed 2nd overall in the Canadian Senior Math contest. Top students in the Senior contest were Joseph Diao, Yue Weng and Cody Xu. Joseph and Yue have both won special awards from the University of Waterloo. Results are also in for the Canadian Open Math Challenge. Yue Weng, Cody Xu have both qualified for the Canadian Math Olympiad. Joseph Diao will be writing the Repchage to join Yue and Cody.

There are many opportunities for students wishing to take math contests second semester. The AMC 10/12 registration is closed. There are still 7 different contests for students to participate in. For students wishing to join the Math Club it runs every Tuesday after school in room 244. Newcomers are always welcome. Please use the UHS website as a guideline for all of the upcoming contests. Registration can be done online using "School Cash Online" or with your Math teacher.

We are sad to see Ms. Baghdassarians leave us. She has a new position with Bayview Secondary School in the Science Department.

Good luck Ms. B!

DANCE



The Dance Department has had another busy semester preparing for performances and working to provide enriched experiences for our dancers. Here are a few highlights...

Our 2nd annual department retreat took place at Medeba Leadership Training Centre in the heart of beautiful Haliburton at the end of September. These few days proved to be another successful experience for our students as they committed to team building opportunities and time together away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. We were lucky enough to host two guest artists over the course of our time there. Joseph Brown of the Tyendenaga Mohawk Territory conducted a song, dance, and storytelling workshop focused on his vibrant First Nations culture, and Lynda Shadbolt from Haliburton Yoga taught a wonderful yoga class. It was an excellent start to our year together!



November was spent preparing for the department production of Nutcracker Twist; an original take on the beloved holiday classic. Nutcracker Twist was held at Flato Markham Theatre in early December. Following two sold out performances, the show was a huge success and we couldn't have been more proud of our dancers! Congratulations!



We had the opportunity to attend two live performances this year. TOES for Dance was held at Flato Markham Theatre in November. Aside from attending the performance, students also had the opportunity to participate in a workshop class taught by artists from the collective.

We also had the privilege of seeing The National Ballet of Canada's beautiful production of "The Winter's Tale" which is a play written by Shakespeare and choreographed by Christopher Wheeldon. It was such a valuable experience to have our students observe live professional work of such high quality.

TECHNOLOGY

This semester was very exciting for the Gr 9 tech students. They were challenged to design, create, and test their very own CO2 Dragsters. Students were involved in every aspect of this project from designing and building the race track, to shaping, painting, and racing their cars. Along the way they learned how aerodynamics, drag, and friction play a very important role in the design of their cars.



Race day was very exciting with a series of close races and a few crashes. The students had a lot of fun and in the end medals were given out to the top 3 racers. 1st place Lucas Ka, 2nd place Jacky Chen, 3rd place Rex Zhu Congratulations to all the racers for a job well done!

COMPUTERS

It's been another busy year for the Computer Studies Department at UHS. Students have been busy developing GUIs for their game projects and preparing for the upcoming Canadian Computer Competition to be held Wednesday February 17, 2016. Last year we advanced five students, and this year's programmers look stronger than ever. With the world dependent on the technology, computer studies students are well prepared to take on the challenges and changes of tomorrow.



ESL



The ESL Department has had a busy semester of field trips and workshops. We began the year with a welcome party for new and returning students. As part of this event, we played badminton in the school gym. The following week we had yoga/meditation workshops with the Dance Department students.

As part of our Board's wellness initiative we had a Video Gaming Addiction workshop for the students and then a Wellness workshop for the ESL staff members. The *Immigrant Youth*



Centre presented on their programming and volunteer opportunities as well as teaching the students Iris card making. The Guidance Department presented workshops on Ontario Secondary School Diploma requirements. In December, we decorated cookies to celebrate the holiday season. Once a month after school the peer leaders from the Newcomer Orientation Program organized socials. Then in January, the school hosted an orientation session for our thirty-seven incoming VISA students with guest speakers from the *Immigrant Youth Centre*, Guidance and the ESL Departments as well as student presentations. Early in the semester we took a group of students to Cora's for breakfast and then workshops at the *Immigrant Youth Centre*. Our students participated in the Parks Canada *Learn to Camp* program where we had a BBQ lunch and learned how to pitch a tent. In October, we saw *The Young People's Theatre* production of *Hanna's Suitcase* with the History Department. Some of our students went to the *Ontario Science Centre* with the Physical Education Department. We went to see *The Honouring* at Markham Theatre, a dance and multimedia presentation from the perspective of the Iroquois about the War of 1812. The students also attended Unionville High School's Dance Department's production of *The Twisted Nutcracker* and *Showtime's* production of *Pippin*.



GEOGRAPHY

This year has been an exciting one thus far in geography and we look forward to welcoming a new group of grade 9 students and senior classes in second semester.

So far, our Grade 9 geography program has experienced new learning opportunities which included creating an infographic, exercising inquiry based learning skills and conversation at evaluations. We are excited to reflect and continue our learning journey with our semester 2 Grade 9 Geography students. Students will become familiar with the inquiry process and use technology to help them understand the spatial world around them. We are also looking forward to our Niagara Escarpment field trip in the spring. Students will hike 8 km which include parts of the Bruce Trail. We will learn about our natural landscapes and how humans interact and can impact these landscapes.

We welcome Mr. Cash to UHS this year! Mr. Cash taught the **NEW** Grade 11 Travel and Tourism course this semester. We are excited to announce that we are able to offer it again in semester 2! Get ready to race to the finish line with *The Amazing Race* adventure.

This year welcomes a teacher to our new Grade 11 Physical Geography course, Ms. Caufield. She has taught the course at a previous school and looks forward to new learning and exploring the *Forces of Nature*. Students can look forward to dynamic lessons, inquiry based learning, field trips and guest speakers. Get ready to learn, analyse and prepare for those natural disasters!

Along with field work, guest speakers, experiential learning and student driven inquiry, Grade 12 World Issues students will examine the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals which were adopted at the UN summit in Sept 2015. Inequality, climate change, sustainability and poverty will be some of the main themes discussed throughout the course.

Semester 2 courses: Grade 11 Physical Geography – *Forces of Nature*, Grade 11 Travel and Tourism and Grade 12 World Issues. These courses along with Grade 12 Environment and Resource Management course will be offered for the 2016-2017 school year! Ask the geography department in room 357 for more details!

BUSINESS

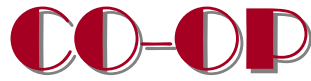
Business students raise over \$1600 for charities!

The Business department looks for opportunities to learn business by *doing business*. This fall, students in the Intro to Business classes and the Entrepreneurship class put their skills to the test by running their own companies. Our budding entrepreneurs in grade 11 showed their creativity and determination by designing and marketing their own products to the school – their sales were a success and over \$200 was donated to the “Raising the Roof” charity. In the grade 10 Intro to Business classes, students created food companies and competed with each other by selling food to hungry students in the atrium after school. This year’s groups had the best results ever, with profits of almost \$1400 being donated to 3 different charities chosen by the winning group of each class!

One of the many exciting aspects of business is that it is always changing, so our department looks for chances to connect students to business people from different industries - students in our grade 11 Marketing and grade 12 Leadership classes benefited from a number of guest speakers who shared their experiences and current trends in the business world.

A big thank-you to our students for a great fall semester and for all their great work!





U.H.S. CO-OP STUDENTS TAKE ON THEIR FUTURE!!

Co-operative Education provides an opportunity for students to earn high school credits and gain valuable experience by exploring a potential career choice.

This semester, Unionville High School students explored careers in a wide variety of occupational areas including: physiotherapy, architecture, engineering, automotive service, photography, museum curating, accounting and finance, investing, teaching, chef, pastry chef, pharmacy, public relations, graphic design, web design, medicine, dentistry, photo editing, computer programming, marketing, law, by-law enforcement, veterinary medicine, chiropractic, and event planning.

We are proud of our students for choosing to give themselves an educational and future advantage by choosing co-op. Many of our students are earning their co-op credits toward completion of a Specialist High Skills Major program as well. Huge thanks go out to our community partners for their continuing support of our students, our school, and our program.

As course selection time approaches, we are excited to announce that our application process in which students complete following course selection will be completed online through the use of a bit.ly link and google docs. We are excited about this technological advancement and the streamlining of our process for our students.



We look forward to another tremendous semester thanks to the enthusiasm of our students and the support of our community.

Feel free to contact us at UHS at 905-479-2787, for more information about Co-operative Education (Ext. 220) or Specialist High Skills Major (Ext. 453). Should you be interested in becoming a partner in our Co-op program and providing experience for our students, we would love to hear from you as well.



ENGLISH

One of the highlights this semester was a field trip by senior students to see an encore screening of Hamlet starring Benedict Cumberbatch. The stage production was broadcast from the Barbican Theatre in London; we saw it at the new Markham cinemas. Seeing a “live” performance of the play was useful for students studying the play, and this production had several inventive elements, including Hamlet dressed as a toy soldier, actors in slow motion as Hamlet delivers his soliloquies, and the stage covered in dirt after the intermission.

Earlier in the semester, Canadian author Don Aker spoke engagingly about writing to groups of grade nine students. His novel The First Stone is frequently read in grade nine classes.

The 4U students created some amazing creative explorations of Hamlet and Richard III, including paintings, videos, sculptures, and performance of original musical composition. Grade 11 students once again produced genre-specific film adaptations of a play.

Extra-curricularly, the student arts and literary magazine *expression* is selecting material from submissions for its spring publication. (Last-minute submissions may still be accepted!) Also, a small team of daring wordsmiths are preparing poems to perform at the Board’s Poetry Slam in February.

LIBRARY

Author visit: Don Aker

On Monday, October 19th, the library was very pleased to host author **Don Aker**, author of the novel *The First Stone*, among many others. Grade nine English students and Arts and Culture S.H.S.M. students learned about how Don makes his living as an author, where inspiration for his novels comes from, and what motivates him. There was also a Q and A session where our students asked some excellent questions!

Check out these resources on the Library Website

A new online resource has been provided by the board. This resource contains a wide variety of Canadian content(including many current news stories) which can be streamed.



U.H.S. Library à Databases à

Classes across all subject areas have come to the library to use print resources and learn how to access thousands of magazine, newspaper and journal articles via the **Gale database**.



U.H.S. Library à Databases à

We have also purchased a new database that allows students to evaluate information and explore different points of view

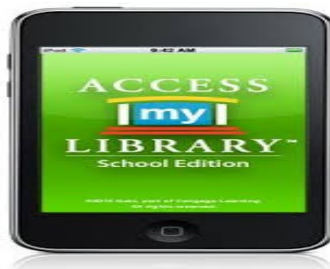


U.H.S. Library à Databasesà



Want all these resources in the palm of your hand? Go to **Access my Library (free app)**
select **Unionville High School**
enter password (**york**)

... and you're in!



MODERNS



The FSL & International Languages Department at UHS is in the midst of a very busy and exciting year! During the first semester, our classes engaged in several linguistically and culturally enriching activities. Some of our grade 10 students went downtown to enjoy an authentic French lunch at *Café Crêpe* while students from grades 10-12 went to watch a French film at the TIFF Bell Lightbox theatre. Also, students in the Classical Civilizations course went to the ROM to see the amazing Pompeii exhibit. Here at UHS, Ms. Suzanne Lefebvre of *Chef à l'École* came to do a baking workshop with 4 periods of Grade 9 students. As a culminating project, the grade 11 Mandarin class researched and presented a profession of interest to them while the grade 12 class did a comparison of two Chinese television shows. Our grade 12 French students presented a thesis based on their research of an important historical Francophone figure for their culminating assignment. Coming up this semester, French students will have the opportunity to see a different French film downtown at the Bloor Street Hot Docs Cinema. Ms. Castagna hopes to take her grade 11 French students to the ROM to see exhibits on the medieval culture of Europe in which *Molière* wrote his famous plays. *Le Chef à l'école* will also be back for another full day of workshops with the Grade 9 students. Finally, over the March break, Mr. Lansing and Mr. Clodd of the Visual Arts department will be leaving for Spain and Italy with over 40 students for an international European tour. We look forward to a busy and engaging semester 2!

ALTED

The Personalized Alternative Education (PAE) Department is committed to supporting individual student learning needs through various on site and off site school programs. Our FLEX (Flexible Learning **EX**perience) program combines secondary and post-secondary College learning, whereby students can earn credits in any of our five affiliated Colleges such as Seneca, Humber or Centennial. These post-secondary earned credits would be applied to both high school and post-secondary transcripts. With over 30 introductory post-secondary course options available, students have a wide range of choices in trade, tech, or professional related College programs.

The Quad is another PAE program initiative which supports student learning through accommodated scheduling. Students engage in two subjects per quarter semester while still earning the same number of credits by the end of one Term. With more personalized one-on-one time with teachers, students are just as successful in earning their credits through a Quad program and without the stresses of carrying a full timetable at any one time.

L.E.A.P. (League of Educational Ambassadors for Peers) is a new leadership initiative for students enrolled in the PAE program. L.E.A.P. was founded by the first Leadership and Peer Support Class at UHS. This program continues to support new learners to UHS and to the Markham area through mentoring and peer-support.

In other exciting news, our first ever Biology 11 College program were master surgeons in their pig dissections. We would like to thank the Science Department and Mr. Paschos for their support and guidance, and to Mr. Baig for his encouragement in making pig dissections a cool experience.

SCIENCE

Science @ UHS

Equipped with his five senses, man explores the universe around him and calls the adventure Science.

Edwin Powell Hubble

Excitement and Opportunities:

This school year, the science department brought about several new modern learning opportunities for our science learners.

On February 5, 2016, the Intermediate Science classes had the chance to correspond with Canadian Hero Chris Hadfield as he recounted his incredible journey to the stars and discussed the importance of Space Exploration.

In April/May of 2016, the Senior Biology classes will partake in lessons involving the recently acquired new Biotechnology Lab.

The Grade 11 Physics classes were "flipped" to create a flexible learning environment where students can benefit from a more student centered learning environment and teachers can respond better to the individual students' learning needs.

Contests:

Students should listen for announcements regarding upcoming science contests. Please note that many signup and payment will be done through School Cash Online. (The dates in brackets below are the registration deadline)

Grade 9/10: The Michael Smith Challenge (February 12, 2016)

Biology Grade 11/12: The University of Toronto Biology Competition (February 20, 2016)

Physics Grade 11: OAPT Physics Contest (Date – TBA)

Physics Grade 12: CAP High School Prize Exam (Date – TBA)

Chemistry Grade 11: Waterloo Avogadro Exam (Date – TBA)

Chemistry Grade 12: Waterloo CHEM 13 Exam (Date – TBA)

PHYS ED

The Physical and Health Education department has had an extremely busy first semester. With the weather being so unseasonably warm in the fall, our classes were able to remain outdoors a few extra weeks. This allowed our classes to participate in many more sports on our multiple fields than usual. Once returning to the our indoor facilities, our classes were introduced to the extremely popular "Fitness Friday" activity once a week. This activity involves every class during the period it is being run and has students working to their fullest while at the same time having fun! The extended warm weather was welcomed but most of our classes with the exception of one, our Outdoor Education class. This group of adventurous students couldn't wait for the first snowfall. Fortunately for them the snow arrived just in time for their winter camping trip. This trip really tests what the students have learned while preparing all semester!!



HISTORY

After over 29 years at UHS, Chris Unitas is retiring. Students in Mr. Unitas' history classes will miss his enthusiasm and the occasional trench war paper ball re-enactment. We wish him all the best.

We are also happy to welcome Mr. Cash who joins us as a history, geography and social science teacher.

Students at UHS once again participated in civics by taking part in the Student Vote, ably led by Mrs. Wong and Ms. Yu. UHS students followed the trend and voted in a Liberal government. UHS had one of the highest participation rates in all of York Region - great job!

Law is thriving at Unionville. Students from our Law classes visited the Superior Court of Justice where they witnessed the trials of two high profile defendants - Constable James Forcillio and Everton Biddersingh. Our Mock Trial team begins its competitions in February - good luck team!

Vimy 2017 - a reminder that there are a few spots remaining on the YRDSB trip to the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge in April 2017. Although it is over a year away, students are encouraged to sign up now to secure a spot on this once in a lifetime opportunity. The battle of Vimy Ridge is the first time Canadians fought together instead of being dispersed into British units. Thus this historic victory is often seen as the birthplace of Canada and students from across the land will be meeting in France to join the celebration. Students will also see the sites of London and Paris. Any UHS students interested in attending can sign up on line at <http://www.eftours.ca/tour-website/1681680RH> or pick up an application form from a History teacher. More information about the Vimy Commemoration can be found at <http://boardingcall.eftours.ca/category/the-road-to-vimy-100/> See you at Vimy!



DRAMA

The drama department once again has been busy rehearsing, writing and performing. The first semester started with our annual trip to Kinark. The grade 12's created a buddy system, and welcomed the grade 9's to the drama program. The talent night at the campfire was once again the highlight of the trip with contributions from all the grades!

Our performance season started with the grade 9's movement unit. Their contact performance *Krisalis* was an intense start to the program. The grade 10's followed with their Clown show, an eclectic mix of scenes with an alien Star Wars opening. The grade 12's then presented their original scenes, written, directed and performed by the class. The core program performed in class scenes based on fractured fairytales. Congratulations to all!





SEMESTER II CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2016

- February 9, 8:00am—Grade 9 Concert Band at Ontario Band Association Concert Band Festival at Le Parc Conference & Banquet Hall
- February 10, 8:00am—Symphonic Band at Ontario Band Association Concert Band Festival at Le Parc Banquet Hall
- February 11, 2:25pm—Wind Ensemble at Ontario Band Association Concert Band Festival at Le Parc Banquet Hall
- February 11, 4:40-5:15pm – UHS Chamber Winds at Ontario Band Association Concert Band Festival at Le Parc Conference & Banquet Hall
- February 12-21, – UHS Music Europe Tour 2016 to Vienna, Salzburg and Prague
- February 24, - Concert Choir/ Chamber Choir and Triple Trio at Ontario Vocal Festival
- February 29, —UHS Symphony Orchestra at Toronto Kiwanis Music Festival
- March 1, – Chamber Choir and Triple Trio at Toronto Kiwanis Music Festival
- March 2, 7:00pm—Arts Unionville Recital at UHS
- March 3, – AU Piano Grade 9/10 at Toronto Kiwanis Music Festival duet class
- March 6, —Wind Ensemble performs at the Greater Toronto Invitational Band Festival at York University
- March 8, —Arts Unionville Collaborative Showcase at Flato Markham Theatre
- March, – AU Voice Class presents “Song for a New World” TBA
- March—May, —Music Alive Festival
- April 5-7, – Arts Unionville Wind/Percussion class at Ontario Band Association Chamber Festival at U of T Scarborough Campus
- April 18, – AU Piano Class Grade 11/12 at North York Festival Concerto Class
- April 20, —Arts Unionville Recital. Location TBA
- May 6, – Spring Celebration I – 30th Anniversary Celebration at Flato Markham Theatre
- May 10, - 7:30pm – Spring Celebration II at Flato Markham Theatre
- May 18, —Arts Unionville Recital, at UHS
- May 31, 7:00pm—Strings/Choir Concert spring performance TBA
- May 25, —Art Show & Jazz Café at UHS
- May 26, —Music Awards Banquet
- June 9, —Arts Unionville Celebration at UHS
- June 28, – Unionville High School Graduation



Information for ticketed performances will be available from any music student. Admission to most of the above festivals and competitions is free. Please come out and support our ensembles. Further information is available by contacting our ensemble conductors directly or Jeff Wrigglesworth (Head of Music) at jeff.wrigglesworth@yrdsb.ca.

Course Selection:

As we look ahead to completing the course selection process for September, we encourage all students to take advantage of what UHS Music has to offer. An article from the Toronto Star on February 7, 2015 outlines the results of a study published in the Journal of Neuroscience that promotes the benefits of taking music in school. The study's lead author, Gavin Bidelman, says “musical activities are an engaging form of cognitive brain training.” The team concluded that “engaging in formal music training before the age of 14 and continuing for at least a decade produced the most positive changes in the brain.” This study is only one example of a growing list of results that scientifically explains how music helps develop the brain's ability to promote everything from cognitive development and motor skill to sensory perception, management of anxiety and emotional balance. We look forward to seeing our students next September in our band, choir, strings, guitar and musical theatre classes. Please do not hesitate to contact a music teacher for further information.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

This first semester in Special Education was extremely busy. The Special Education Resource Teachers (SERTS) connected with all of our students throughout the semester to support their needs, follow their progress and ensure they understand and are receiving their accommodations.



In the grade 9 Learning strategies course, the students learned a great deal about themselves, their learning needs and the accommodations and strategies they need to be successful throughout their years in high school and in life. In addition they worked on organizational skills, time management, and test taking and most importantly on becoming self advocates.



In the grade 12 Learning Strategies class, the student's were engaged in learning about career pathways and options, and applying to post-secondary institutions.

Our Life skills class has had a great start to the year! We went to the Magna Hoedown in September, hosted a SNAP Basketball Tournament in November and watched Ross Petty's final theater performance as Hook in PeterPan in December. We are looking forward to second semester!



Team 313

First semester of the P.E.A.K Program has proven to be a very successful one! Some highlights included offers of part time paid employment at Winners, Pickle Barrel, Pet Valu and Old Navy. Many of our students began brand new work placements and learned new bus routes and how to navigate the YRT transit system independently. Some exciting community outings included the Markham Fair, the Markham Theatre for the 21st Remembrance Day Ceremony, and the Community Safety Village, as well as our weekly Drama group with Community Living. This holiday season we participated in a funny rendition of the Twelve Days of Christmas and performed in front of friends and family at the Milliken Mills Community Centre.

As part of our fundraising goal this holiday season, P.E.A.K was able to raise money for Plan Canada's campaign to impact the lives of children and families in developing countries with brand new back to school kit, and in their anti bullying project.

FAMILY STUDIES

F A M I L Y is the most important organization ever created! In Family Studies we discuss, research, analyze and celebrate the role of the family in our personal lives and in society as a whole. With this in mind, here are just some of the highlights teachers in the department want to share.

Grade 9 students learned about their own development and how some new skills could help out their families as well--things like food preparation, sewing, financial responsibility and positive communication

Grade 10 Food and Nutrition students and parents alike were thrilled with the results of the "Meal at Home" assignment. Many parents had no idea that their kids had learned so much about kitchen skills and what it takes to plan and make a nutritious meal that it ended up being a pleasant surprise for many of them. We all enjoy this fabulous course tradition!

Grade 12 Nutrition and Health students helped the student council with the annual Christmas food drive for Markham Food Bank. They researched both the nutritional and social needs of food in our community and shared their findings with posters around the school. UHS reached its goal!



In addition to learning how to use a sewing machine and patterns to create their own garments, **Fashion students in grade 11 Understanding Fashion**, and **grade 12 The World of Fashion** examined the social, environmental and ethical issues of the trend of "fast fashion". Fun and cheap vs needs and responsibility.



GUIDANCE SERVICES

Post-Secondary Fair

On Thursday October 1st our school hosted this year's Post-Secondary Fair which was successfully attended by well over 50 colleges, universities and career institutes. Thank you Mr. Robichaud for organizing this wonderful evening for our parents and students!

University/College Application Process

Our Department hosted workshops on how to apply to University on Thursday, October 22. There were presentations every period in room 106 and students were encouraged to attend during their spare or lunch. On Thursday, October 29th there were workshops on how to apply to College during period 3 and 4.

Scholarships

Ms. Hawkins informally presented important information about the scholarship process to potential graduates in the Fall. Students learned about scholarship resources, tips for financing their education, types of scholarships, the application process and how to prepare for scholarship applications. All students are encouraged to explore the many types of scholarships available. Thank you Ms. Hawkins for all your hard work in assisting our potential scholarship students! You can visit the following websites for more information at: UHS Guidance Moodle, www.electronicinfo.ca, and www.scholarshipscanada.com

Study Skills and Exam Tips for Grade 9 Students

On November 18th, Ms. Farwell presented exam preparation workshops to our grade 9 students. The workshops were well attended and a *Study Strategies and Exam Tips* booklet was given to each student. The booklets are available in the guidance office for students and parents. Morning announcements focussing on exam tips were delivered to students daily for 2 weeks prior to our exams as reminders to our students. Thank you Ms. Farwell!

US Application Process

Students who wished to apply to schools in the United States were asked to do so through the on-line common application process. All counselors assisted students with this process. Students can now check the progress of their application at anytime.

Financial Planning Presentation

On December 7th, Elizabeth Henriques from Seneca College was invited to host a presentation for students related to post-secondary financial assistance. The workshop was very well attended by graduating students wanting to know more about the Scholarship and Financial Aid process. They also learned about other possible sources of financial aid including scholarships, bursaries and grants. Thank you Ms. McGill for providing this much needed session! Further information can be obtained at: www.osap.gov.on.ca and www.yconic.com.

COURSE SELECTION IS HAPPENING

Although the next school year is months away, we begin planning for next September this month. Course Selection is the most important ingredient in your child's recipe for a successful school year. Work together with your child to track his or her education and career/life planning using the Individual Pathways Plan (IPP) accessed through Career Cruising.

Course availability will be based on the number of students who request courses. Consequently, it is very important that students make careful and wise choices during the course selection process. Once classes begin in September, course changes will be considered **only** in extraordinary circumstances and where space permits. Therefore, it is important to take both time and care in the preparation of student education plans.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:

February 22 **Deadline for course requests to be submitted using career cruising.**

February 22 **Deadline for paper copy of course requests to be submitted to homeroom teacher.**

GUIDANCE SERVICES **Cont.**

Students should stay current by checking the Guidance Moodle regularly!

www.moodle2.yrdsb.ca

Username: UHS student number Password: student UHS login Search UHS Guidance



Wellness Day

This year UHS will be hosting its annual Wellness Day on Thursday May 5th along with our Mayfair celebrations. Grade 9 to 12 students will be participating in activities related to Wellness. More details will be available in the Spring through the E-Bulletin.

Grade 10 Career Course Guest Speakers

As part of the Grade 10 Career Course, our department organizes guest speakers to present valuable information to assist students with post-secondary planning. This past semester the following guests delivered workshops to our students: Johanna Barrett, Skills Ontario, presented a workshop on “Trades”; Krista Gallant and others from Seneca College presented ideas for post-secondary college education, while Alison Ozog from York University did the same for university opportunities; Constable Cartier and others from the York Region Police Department presented “Choices and Consequences”; Mirja Raita, volunteer co-ordinator for the City of Markham “Change the World” event spoke about volunteerism; Stephen Liu, Canadian Mental Health Association, presented workshops on “Coping with Stress” and “Depression/ Suicide Prevention”; Deborah Judges, franchise owner of a Home Hardware store, discussed how to be hired for an entry level job; and our own UHS teachers, Ms. Hall, Mr. Cook and Mr. Guldemonnd talked about “Co-operative Education”, “Specialist High School Major”, and Business course programs respectively. Our thanks to all our guests for contributing to UHS students’ ongoing learning about career possibilities and post-secondary choices.

Booking Appointments On-Line

That is correct – the UHS Guidance Department is fully on-line for booking appointments! Students can now book from the convenience of their mobile phone at any time through Teach Assist. The feedback has been very positive and the students greatly appreciate the ease through which they are able to stay connected to our department!

Bulletin Boards and Peer Tutoring

Thank you to Ms. Choi for keeping our bulletin boards current on updates regarding college and university information as well as Community Service Opportunities. In addition, Ms. Choi coordinates our Peer Tutoring program. Any student seeking extra help can pick up a form located on the North wall of our office.

Semester Two Course Changes

The Guidance Department has decided to put the timetable change request form online. The benefits of this are reducing lineups, date and time stamping, and increasing efficiency. The following link **bit.ly/uhschangeform** is the link you must use in order to access the form. Once you have submitted the form, you will receive an email confirmation with an attachment that you must print off, have your parent/guardian sign, and then when you are called down to Guidance you must bring this form with you. Last day to submit a form is **Friday February 5th**.