



UHS News

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April 2018



Accomplishments, Challenges and Success

As Principal of Unionville High School, I'm excited to co-learn with the community, students, and staff. I am overwhelmed by our students' desire to innovate, create, and achieve over the past semester. We have over 40 clubs created and run by our student body, and an energetic Student Council always eager to build school spirit and provide students with opportunities to have fun and get involved! Some of these activities include spirit days, fashion shows, drama and music productions, fundraising and awareness to our most pressing world issues.

The Arts Unionville staff continues to grow our dynamic program with pioneering opportunities for our AU students to showcase their artistry. Exceptional student performances that parallel Broadway productions included: "Crazy for You" in January and "Alchemy" in March, which is a collaboration of all four disciplines. Our Music department participated in over a dozen local and provincial music festivals between February and April!

This Spring UHS embarked upon Wellness Wednesdays with St. John's Ambulance therapy dogs and by the Buddha Meditation Center offering student meditation sessions on love and kindness. Our students work hard and we are excited to offer them a chance to relax and be mindful of their mental and physical health.

UHS students continue to excel in both the academics and extracurricular areas. This year, our Senior Girls Volleyball Team attended OFSSA for a second year in a row and won YRAA silver medalists. Congratulations to Nick Lu and Sabrina Lu who were voted as YRAA All Stars for volleyball. Boys swimming relay finished 4th at OFSAA. Our outdoor education class went dog sledding, cross country skiing, an overnight canoe trip, fat biking, and outdoor rock climbing!

The UHS Skills Team earned 12 medals. Congratulations to the entire UHS Skills team for representing UHS at the 29th annual Skills Ontario competition this year. UHS won the most medals (including the most Gold) by a high school, a record held by UHS for the past 5 years. We were the only secondary school to receive Bronze medals in 2D Character Animation, IT Office Software Applications, Electronics and finishing off in Silver place in Web Design & Development. Our students continue to excel in all areas and we are proud of all of their achievements.

Thank you to our staff and students for your commitment and school spirit.

Message from our Trustee—Mr. Billy Pang

With report cards coming home, this is a good time of year to review your child's progress and to set goals for the rest of the school year.

As trustees, our goals are set out in the Board [Multi-Year Plan](#). In the coming months, trustees will be reviewing and updating this plan. This process will include opportunities for public input, and trustees will be out in the communities talking about this. More information will be shared about this in the spring.

Developing and reviewing the Multi-Year Plan is just one of our responsibilities as publicly elected officials. Trustee responsibilities also include hiring the Director of Education, setting [Board policies](#) and the [annual budget](#), and communicating with the public.

This is a good time to learn more about the [role of trustees](#) with the next [municipal election](#) taking place later this year on October 22, 2018. York Region District School Board has [12 trustees](#), elected by ratepayers. As a trustee, listening and communicating with families is an important part of my role. Students, families and members of the public are welcome to attend and observe any public Board, Advisory or Board Committee meetings and to share their views with us on policy and Board governance.

As we move into the second half of the year, I hope that you are seeing evidence of your child's learning and progress, and finding opportunities to get involved in their learning and the life of the school.

I wish you all the best for a successful second term.

Inspire Learning!

Happy Retirement...

Very warm wishes for a Happy retirement to, Deborah Burt and James Lynch.

Welcome....

Busuyi Afe

Anncy Varughese

Elizabeth Hawkley

James Tizzard

Mantelos Georgina

VISUAL ARTS

On September 18th, 19th and 20th the Arts Unionville (AU) Visual Art students attended our program's first biannual retreat to Taylor Statten Camp. Four amazing guest artists specializing in encaustics, fused glass, Indigenous woodland painting and photography provided the students with advanced instruction. Indigenous (FNMI) First Nation, Métis and Inuit storytellers and knowledge keepers compliment students' understanding of Indigenous Ways of Knowing during the evening programming while surrounded by the natural beauty of the Algonquin landscape. The artwork produced by the students were on display at the Markham Civic Centre in November.

In October, senior students presented two acts during the annual Arts Unionville Info Night presented at the Markham Theatre. The sand illustration performance was inspired by Indigenous teachings acquired during the Algonquin retreat, while the interactive animated projection illustrated the challenges of the AU program as a parody of a 1980s video game.



Students posing with their completed watercolour portraits

Arts Unionville students from Dance, Music, Drama and Visual Art collaborated in the design of this year's Alchemy show, performed on Wednesday, March 6th at the Markham Theatre. Visual art students explored the theme of student voice through costume design, video projects and soundscapes.

The grade 10 Arts Unionville students recently participated in the Memory Project. Students created and donated portraits to 28 youth from Haiti who have faced substantial challenges such as neglect, abuse, the loss of their parents or extreme poverty. Youth in challenging situations often have few personal items, and the portraits will provide the children with meaningful mementos.

VISUAL ARTS Cont.

[Unionville H.S.](#) is one of five Ontario schools participating in the Memory Project this year. The project allows students to learn kindness and global awareness while enhancing their portraiture [skills](#).

Arts Unionville is an intensive art program lasting all four years of high school that students must audition for in eighth grade. Thus, the students participating in the Memory Project are highly qualified and enthusiastic.

The art teacher in charge of this project, Ms. Gardham, estimates it will take the average student about 10 hours to complete each portrait, and her class intends to mail off the portraits on March 29th. Students at Unionville HS are creating and donating portraits to 28 youth from Haiti who have faced substantial challenges, such as neglect, abuse, the loss of their parents or extreme poverty.

<https://twitter.com/yrdsb/status/978323331056324609?s=12>

<https://markhamreview.com/unionville-students-paint-portraits-of-kindness/>

The Due North exhibit hosted by the Markham Museum invited English language learners (ELLs) and international students to share their experiences arriving and adjusting to life in the GTA. Grade 12 AU Visual arts students partnered with the newcomers to create a multimedia interactive art exhibit exploring individual experiences of arriving. These experiences are visually represented through fused glass and metal forms combined with recorded personal reflections using the Board's phone system. Twenty-six sculptures unpack the experiences of our ELLs, forming a narrative about changing perspectives on self-identity charted against moments of departure and arrival.



Example of fused glass and metal artwork
Artists: Ryan Ma & Tony Wand
Dial: 905 910 0035 ext. 15 to hear the artist statement.

VISUAL ARTS Cont.

For information about the Due North Project:

Myseum Intersections:

<http://www.myseumoftoronto.com/programming/due-north/>

Markham Museum:

<https://bit.ly/2GDftEj>

The City of Markham regularly invites Visual Art students from UHS to participate in numerous public art projects. This year, students from Unionville and Middlefield high school are collaborating with Indigenous Anishinaabe artist and Ontario College of Art and Design University graduate, Tessa Shank, on two large murals for the newly constructed Aaniin Community Centre.

The two plasma cut metal murals will embody the students' understanding of the Anishinaabe (Ojibway) Seven Grandfather Teachings: seven guiding principles commonly used as moral stepping stones and as the cultural foundation central to the spirit of community. Traditionally represented through seven animals and/or the form of seven figures, the teachings include respect, wisdom, humility, honesty, courage, love and truth.

VISUAL ARTS Cont.

The designs are now complete and ready for fabrication.



Concept rendering of the proposed Aaniin Community Centre murals

Top Mural: 55' by 6'

Lower Mural: 30' by 7'

Students in the school's STEAM club, an interdisciplinary approach to art making connecting science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics, are currently in the process of designing vinyl wraps for ten traffic control boxes that envision the City of Markham's next 150 years. This project is a continuation of last year's inspired designs that celebrated Canada 150. This club is also designing the vertical light post banners located in the Civic Centre's parking lot and those located along Town Centre Blvd.

These are but a fraction of the opportunities presented to our students during the 2017/2018 school year. On behalf of the Visual Arts Department, we thank the parents and guardians of the students for their support and encouragement in all of our department's artistic endeavours and adventures.

Please direct questions to Mr. Clodd (Visual Arts Dept. Head) shane.clodd@yrdsb.ca

DRAMA



The first semester was a busy one for the drama department. Of course, the whole year started with Kinark, the annual trip to Minden, the place where everyone learns what it really means to be part of the drama program.

The grade 9 Au drama class started everything off with a Contact/Mask/Mime show, with great focus and creativity.

The grade 10's followed with the annual Clown show, this year was "The End of The World", a different kind of New Year's celebration!

The grade 11 class rose up to the challenge of exploring and performing scenes from a relatively unknown playwright named Shakespeare.

The grade 12's managed to showcase their own writing in workshop performances of "Best 4", student writing directed and acted by the class.

Showtime this year was an amazing production of "Crazy For You"; great work by the entire cast, pit orchestra, and crew!

ENGLISH

The Grade 10 Academic English course has introduced a new unit comparing film and novel treatments of the same story. The grade 10 course also has been employing Divergent Thinking in the Culminating unit.

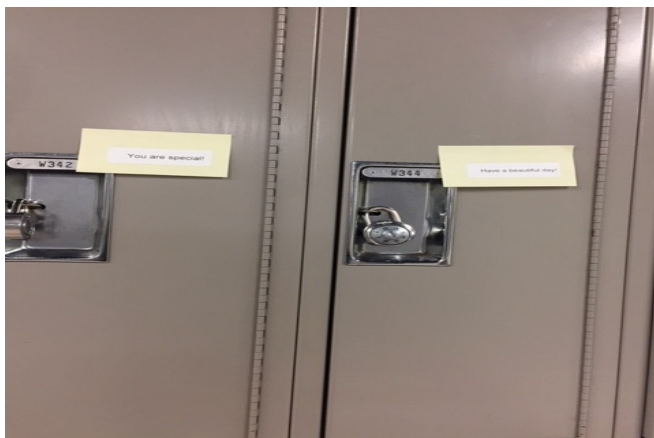
Grade 9 used Sherman Alexie's *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian* in a couple of classes in semester one, and will be using it again in semester two.

Grade 11 University English continues to have students adapt a stage play to film, and uses a Book Club structure for independent novel study.

Shakespeare in Action visited the school and ran Shakespeare workshops in November, and we plan to have them return in semester two.

HISTORY

Social injustice and cultural empathy has been an important learning focus in our history and social science classes this past semester. We have tackled some challenging themes in our courses, and encouraged students to explore the “difficult histories” and issues facing Canada and the world.



In September, our grade 10 students learned about the injustices of the residential school system, and reflected on the relevance of Orange Shirt Day (<http://www.orangeshirtday.org>). We continued our exploration of indigenous culture



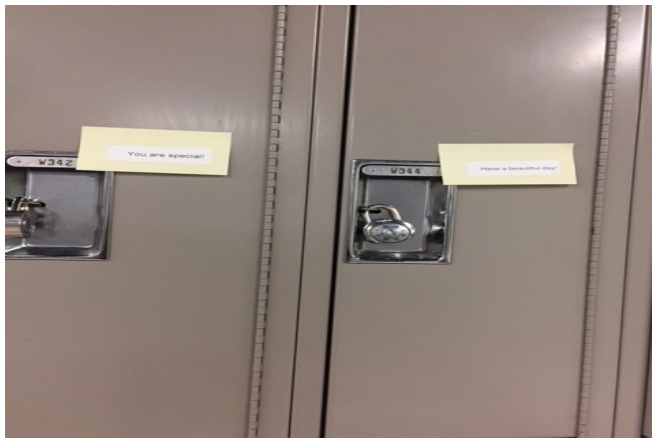
and perspectives with the art department during a visit from Brian Charles of the Chippewas of Georgina Island. Brian taught students the history of treaties between indigenous peoples and settlers

For an assignment in Mr. Sanchez's grade 10 history class, Carter Tam created a spectacular visual made up of “one thousand paper cranes” after learning about the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki at the end of World War II.

HISTORY Cont.

Meanwhile, students Samantha Ng and Dionne Li from Mr. Johnston's Becoming Fully Human class put social justice into action for an assignment by spreading positive messages on lockers throughout UHS to encourage mental health and well-being.

We will continue to empower our students through critical historical and political thinking and social justice as they apply their learning about these important is-



TECHNOLOGY

At the end of the first semester one of our Comm Tech teachers retired. Jim Lynch has taught in the tech department at UHS since 1999. Over the past 19 years he has been involved in many aspects of the school including directing Showtime, working with Arts York/Arts Unionville, Yearbook, and mentoring students and supporting them in various comm tech competitions and so much more. We wish Jim all the best as he starts the next chapter of his life.

LIBRARY

From your Library Learning Commons

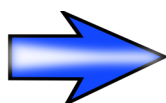
Have you looked at the **LIBRARY WEBSITE** recently? You will find subject support, including pathfinders and recommended websites; online resources, such as dozens of databases; M.L.A. and A.P.A. guides; information about Academic Honesty etc.

<http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/unionville.hs/library/Pages/default.aspx>

Check out two NEW TABS containing information on

FMNI Resources and **WELLNESS Resources**

Suggested websites, as well as fiction, non-fiction and dvds, are available from the U.H.S. library to support your learning. We also have a new search page!



Pages - Home | Online Tools | Search results - Google | February 2017 Newsletter | February 2018 - Google | Pages - Library

www.yrdsb.ca/schools/unionville.hs/library/Pages/default.aspx

Apps | Pages - Unionville H.S. | New Tab

Unionville H.S. | School Information | News & Events | Arts Unionville | Departments | Students | Parents | Guidance | Library | School Council

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Library Catalogues
Databases and Online Resources
Borrowing Resources
Subject Support
FMNI Resources
Wellness Resources
Academic Honesty
How to do M.L.A. Works Cited and Citations: Eighth Edition!
How to do A.P.A. References and Citations
Library Volunteers
White Pine Club

Library




NEW SEARCH PAGE

WELCOME TO THE U.H.S. LIBRARY LEARNING COMMONS

About the U.H.S. Library Learning Commons

- We are a teaching library—so classes are often booked in throughout the day.
- Students will come to the library with classes for resource-based learning experiences, created and facilitated by both the classroom teacher and the teacher-librarian.
- We provide a variety of lessons and student-friendly handouts to help you to find quality resources and document them correctly!
- The library has a computer/projector, smart board and document camera which can be used to support student learning, as well as 2 search computers to find resources in our collection (elibrary)
- We also provide supplies including a hole punch, stapler, paper cutter, GOOS/scrap paper

Library Staff



Ms. O'Brien | Ms. Lawton | Mrs. Cassano

12:27 PM 2/1/2018

LIBRARY Cont.



REMINDERS:

- You need your student card or timetable to take out materials.
- The loan period is 3 weeks---you may renew as long as there is no "hold" on the item.
- You are welcome to work in the library during your lunch or spare--but remember--DO NOT leave your items unattended.
- Guidelines for computer use, printing etc. are posted in the computer area



Have a question? Want a recommendation? We are here to help. Your Teacher-Librarians are **Ms. Lawton** and **Ms. O'Brien** and your Library technician is **Mrs. Cassano**. See you second semester!



MATH

The Canadian Open Mathematics Challenge took place on November 2, 2017. This enrichment opportunity encourages students to explore their love of math in a fun and challenging way. We are so proud of every student who participated in the Challenge. We would like to congratulate Bill Zeng for achieving the top score at UHS!

The Centre for Education in Mathematics and Computing, at the University of Waterloo, runs the Canadian Intermediate and Senior Math Contests every November. These contests are a lot of fun and they give students the opportunity to practice their problem solving skills. The two contests took place on November 22, 2017. We would like to congratulate all 105 students who participated in these contests, especially Joline Cheng and Bill Zeng, who achieved the top scores at UHS in the Intermediate and Senior categories, respectively. Way to go!

Our UHS Math Club continues to meet every Tuesday to work on exciting math problems together. The students in the Club demonstrate outstanding initiative, each and every week. Every month, the members of the Math Club participate in a contest issued by the Canadian National Math League. Congratulations to Kelvin Ho, who achieved a perfect score in January!

DANCE

The Dance Department's year began with preparation for our annual retreat to Medeba Outdoor Education Centre in West Guilford Ontario. At Medeba, students had the opportunity to build bonds and pursue community initiatives through team building activities. Our students participating in The Moccasin Project to raise awareness of child apprehension affecting Indigenous children in Canada. Adorable baby moccasins were handmade and sent to communities within Ontario. Students came together for this extremely valuable cause. It was also a great pleasure to see our senior students take lead in planning and implementing an exciting get away!

MOCCASIN PROJECT



Upon our return from Medeba, the Dance Department was underway with preparations for our production of "Neverland". This performance took place at Flato Markham Theatre early December and was a remarkable hit! Senior students and our resident dance companies Dance Infusion paved the way for an extremely successful show that intrigued audiences young and old with this creative take on the magic and tales of Peter Pan's adventures. Congratulations to all the dancers who brought this story to life!

DANCE Cont.



We were fortunate to have two guest workshops take place over the course of semester one. Jennifer Archibald from ArchDance in New York City taught a master class and dancers were pushed with her extremely physical movement which is based off classical ballet technique and hip hop dance. Dancers were challenged with her movement sequences and choreography in a captivating class. Natasha Poon Wu from Canadian Children's Dance Theatre (CCDT) visited us for a series of workshops as well. Natasha's class was infused with Limon modern technique and dancers had the opportunity to learn some repertoire from Gadfly's new work being presented on the company. It was a great pleasure to host both artists to our UHS dance community!



Our senior repertoire company Dance Infusion had the unique experience to work with acclaimed choreographer Robert Desrosiers in an original work he choreographed. In early February the piece and dancers were invited to perform this work at the Flato Markham Theatre's production of 3,2,1 Dance. It was an honour for the dancers to perform this work in this production alongside professional dance artists including Desrosiers himself.

The dance department has exciting plans underway for semester two! Stay tuned for updates!!!



ELL



Our English Language Learners began their semester with a visit from the staff of the Immigrant Youth Centre. The students learned about the Centre's programming and volunteer opportunities and participated in a card making activity. Staff from the Markham Public Library presented to our students on developing positive study habits, the Markham Fire Department ran workshops on fire safety and prevention, and our own Guidance Department spoke to the students about pathways planning. As well, our classes participated in wellness workshops, attended the Dance Department's production, the Remembrance Day Service, the Winter Assembly and Showtime's musical *Crazy for You*.



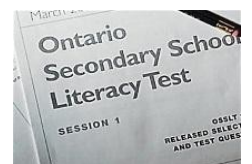
The York Regional Police Department organized NAS, a full day assembly to teach students about internet safety, fraud prevention, public transit, as well as other community resources and services.

Senior students from the Arts Unionville Program collaborated with students in the ESL Department to create an art installation of glass art based on our students' personal narratives. The students went on a field trip to a glass blowing studio to create these mosaics. Their art installation will be on display at the Markham Museum.



In January we held a two-day orientation for our twenty-one incoming VISA students. The students enjoyed a pancake breakfast, scavenger hunt of the school, art workshop, and participated in classes with their new English Language Learner buddies.

The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test is on Tuesday, April 10, 2018. There will be an After School Literacy Course offered in the spring. It will run twice a week for a total of five weeks. The classes will be 1 ½ hour sessions for a total of fifteen hours of class time. This course is free for everyone. Information about the Literacy Test is posted on the school website under ESL and also on the EQAO.com website. Passing the OSSLT (300/400) is a graduation requirement so now is a great time to start preparing. Remember to get involved in your community by finding volunteer opportunities which will help you practice your English skills. Completing your forty hours of community service is another graduation requirement.



ELL Cont.

Sadly, we said good-bye to Debra Burt, a thirty-two year teacher of Unionville High School, who retired at the end of January. Also, another member of our staff, Leyla Zarrion, has now joined the Math Department second semester. We welcome Keith Au-Yeung and Willy Cao to the Department as we continue to work with Raymond Fung, our Literacy teacher, and Ann Choi, our ELL Resource teacher.



GEOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHY



Welcome to **Geography**!

We would like to welcome Mr. Peter Triantopoulos, Ms. Polina Dronova, Mr. Willy Cao who were new to the Geography department semester 1 and Ms. Aancy Varughese who has joined us for semester 2!

What a fantastic year it has been in **Geography**! We have enjoyed learning with our students and we welcome our students semester 2!

We look forward to trying our new **VIRTUAL REALITY** kit and **GOOGLE EXPEDITION APP** this semester!

Our Grade 9 students have experienced new learning opportunities which have included working closely with working **urban planning documents from the City of Markham**. We strategized and redeveloped the community in hopes of **intensifying** prime locations in Markham.

The **Grade 12 World Issues** students embarked on a new learning journey focused around the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals**. We examined issues using the **engineering process** where we identified and researched a problem and pitched our innovative **solutions**. Students were required to collaborate and challenge their critical and creative thinking skills.

The 2018-2019 UHS course selection process starts this week! The Geography Department will be offering a variety of senior courses in Geography.



Grade 11 Physical Geography: RESPOND to natural and human disasters. Determine how Earth's water, land and air shape the planet. Tornadoes, earthquakes, landslides and tsunamis are just some of the disaster we will explore!

GEOGRAPHY Cont.

Grade 12 World Issues: Dive into current topics that impact our equitable and sustainable world! We will begin to **INNOVATE** and test solutions by following a design process. Students will begin to work with experts on determining the feasibility of their solutions to local, national and international issues!

Geography is much **more than MAPS!** It is a multidisciplinary subject. Students will use Geographic Information Systems and data analysis with topics that focus on physical and human geography.

IT'S YOUR
WORLD—
CHANGE IT!

Physical Geography	Human Geography
Climate and weather Landforms Natural disasters Plants and animals Oceanography Lakes and streams Soil Natural resources	Urban design Population density and distribution Cultures and religions Language, art and music Immigration and emigration Trade and globalization Quality of life

CO-OP



Co-OPERATIVE EDUCATION

EXPERIENCE • SKILLS • MODERN LEARNING

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

This past semester, Unionville High School students explored careers in a wide variety of occupational areas including: automotive service, chiropractic care, real estate, insurance, hairstyling, photography, accounting and finance, teaching, food service, pharmacy, human resources, public relations, graphic design, web design and digital media, medicine and related health care professions, engineering, veterinarian and animal care, computer programming and networking, early childhood education,

teaching, marketing, digital marketing, retailing, event planning, glass design and art, baking and optometry.



Many of our students also continue to be successful in the **Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM)** program. Currently, UHS offers **Business** and **Arts and Culture** in these specialized areas. 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.

CO-OP Cont.



As

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 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 Community Based Education Office here at UHS at 905-479-2787, Ext. 220 or jennifer.minos@yrdsb.ca

PHYS ED

The first semester in the Physical and Health Education department was fast paced. Our fitness classes noticed daily changes to their space as we upgraded everything. Some of the changes they may have noticed were the removal of the large machines and in their place they found a large 4 station crossfit rig. This allows for more small group activity exercise classes and is more in line with some of the more modern fitness competitions. The goal was to give alternate exercise options to students which could then offer better training to reach their goals. The fitness room also received more cardio equipment such as rowers and air assault bikes.

Unionville High School saw many more teams being run this fall than in recent years. We had Cross County, Jr/Sr Boys Soccer, Jr/Sr boys Volleyball, Jr/Sr Girls Basketball, Varsity swimming, Varsity Tennis. Each of those teams represented our school well in the YRAA with varying degrees of success. Some of the stronger results came from our swim team as we had a number of athletes qualify for OFSAA.

Currently we have our Boys Basketball and Girls Volleyball teams in the middle of their seasons. Our Junior boys basketball team has had a strong regular season and is in third place heading into playoffs. The Senior Girls Volleyball team has followed up their strong season from a year ago with another excellent showing throughout league play. They finished second in York Region and are headed to OFSAA next week to compete with the top 20 teams in Ontario. Go Wolves!!

SCIENCE

- **Staying Ahead of the Curve in Science**

Welcome to the new Semester at Unionville High School. It is time for students to reflect on which work habits contributed to their earlier academic successes and which habits might need some adjustment. Science is here to offer up some Keys to Success. Remember, helping the student in your life to follow these strategies at home may help them improve their overall confidence in their science courses.

Help Students Develop the Following Homework Ritual

- Review notes daily and write down things you don't understand to ask questions about the next day.
- Minimize distractions when completing homework. Put away entertainment devices and find a quiet spot to work.
- Complete any homework assignments thoughtfully.
- Do not copy answers directly from the text. Instead, try answering questions without referring to the notes.

Begin Early and Ace those Assignments

- Check the rubric/marking scheme carefully to make sure your final work meets the criteria.
- Work on assignment early so that you have time to edit the work
- Use your own word. Direct copy from sources (even if some of the words are edited) is plagiarism and will result in negative consequence.
- Most importantly, keep a detailed record of the resources for the bibliography.

Sticky Notes are Your Friend. Use them to...

- Make tabs to Organize notes/binders.
- Mark questions that are difficult.
- Find things with ease in textbooks.
- Write out questions to ask teacher the next day.
- Make a concept-map flipbook.

SCIENCE Cont.

Contests:

Students should keep tabs on announcements regarding upcoming science contests. Please note that signups and payments will be done through School Cash Online.

- Grade 9/10: The Michael Smith Challenge
Registration deadline: Feb. 9, 2018 Competition date: Feb. 14, 2018
- Biology Grade 11/12: The University of Toronto Biology Competition
Registration deadline: around end of Feb. Competition date: Apr. 26, 2018
- Physics Grade 11: OAPT Physics Contest
Registration deadline: around end of Apr. Competition date: May 23, 2018
- Physics Grade 12: CAP High School Prize Exam
Registration deadline: around end of Mar. Competition date: April 11, 2018
- Chemistry Grade 11: Waterloo Avogadro Exam
Registration deadline: middle to late Mar. Competition date: May 17, 2018
- Chemistry Grade 12: Waterloo Chem 13 Exam
Registration deadline: middle to late Mar. Competition date: May 10, 2018

BUSINESS

Business students raise over \$1400 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 Marketing class put their skills to the test by running their own companies. Our marketers in grade 11 took on the challenge of advertising and managing the ticket sales for the Showtime production of the musical "Crazy for You". Students worked in teams and individually to promote and sell tickets for the show, and it was a huge success, surpassing the previous sales totals and ensuring that the Showtime actors had the great audience support it deserved. In the grade 10 Intro to Business classes, student groups partnered with the Family Studies cooking classes and created food companies, competing with each other by selling food to hungry students in the atrium after school. This year's groups had outstanding results, 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 relevant and always changing, so our department looks for chances to connect students to business people from different industries. This fall, students in our Accounting, International Business, and Leadership classes all benefited from a number of guest speakers who shared about 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!

MODERNS

The FSL & International Languages Department at UHS is in the midst of another busy & exciting year! During the first semester, our classes engaged in several linguistically & culturally enriching activities. In our grade 9 academic and applied French classes continued to develop their language skills, learning to express ideas and opinions and make comparisons while exploring Francophone culture from other countries like Madagascar, Senegal and Vietnam. Meanwhile, we have a number of students who are new to the French language who learned how to say important things about themselves and engage in simple conversation. Our grade 10 French students are engaging with a brand new resource this year called *Tu parles!* where they are able to explore such themes as travel & tourism, French cuisine and theatre arts. Some of our grade 9 and 10 students also enjoyed making their own crêpes in class. Our senior French students in grades 11 and 12 honed their language skills while engaging with some classics of French literature such as *Le Petit Prince*, *Le Fantôme de l'Opéra*, and the plays *Florence* and *Fanny*. Coming up this semester, in February, French students from multiple grades will have the opportunity to see a French film called *La Mélodie* downtown as part of Cinéfranco, a French-language film festival and Mandarin students will be travelling down to Chinatown to research and experience some authentic examples of Chinese cuisine and culture. Spanish students will have the opportunity to participate in a cultural drumming workshop in April while students studying ancient Greece and Rome in the Classical Civilizations course will take a trip to the ROM perhaps combined with the History department. So we have lots to keep us busy and we look forward to an eventful and engaging semester 2!

MUSIC



SEMESTER II CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- * February 13, 2018 - 8:00am - Grade 9 Concert Band at Ontario Band Association
Concert Band Festival at Le Parc Conference & Banquet Hall
- * February 14, 2018 - 8:00am - Symphonic Band at Ontario Band Association Concert
Band Festival at Le Parc Conference & Banquet Hall
- * February 15, 2018 -8:00am - Wind Ensemble at Ontario Band Association Concert
Band Festival at Le Parc Conference & Banquet Hall
- * February 15, 2018 – 11:20am - UHS Chamber Winds at Ontario Band Association
Concert Band Festival at Le Parc Conference & Banquet Hall
- * February 21, 2018 - 7:00pm - Arts Unionville Recital at Unionville Presbyterian
Church
- * February/March 2018 - Arts Unionville Strings in Toronto Kiwanis Music Festival-
AU Piano Grade 9/10 at Toronto Kiwanis Music Festival duet class
- * February 26, 2018 - Concert Choir and Chamber Choir performance at the Ontario
Vocal Festival in Oshawa
- * March 2, 2018 - Wind Ensemble performs at the Greater Toronto Invitational
Band
- * March 6, 2018 - **Alchemy** - Arts Unionville Collaborative Showcase at Flato
Markham Theatre Festival at York University
- * March 28, 2018 - Arts Unionville Recital, at Unionville Presbyterian Church
- * March—May, 2018 - Music Alive Festival

MUSIC Cont.

- * April 20, 2018 – AU Piano Class Grade 11/12 at North York Festival Concerto Class
- * April 25, 2018 – 7:00pm – Spring Celebration I at Flato Markham Theatre
- * May 1, 2017 - 7:30pm – Spring Celebration II at Apple Creek Church
- * May 16, 2018 – Arts Unionville Recital at Unionville Presbyterian Church
- * May 31, 2018 – Art Show & Music Café at UHS
- * June 7, 2018 - Music Awards Banquet
- * June 14, 2018 – Arts Unionville Celebration at UHS

Information for ticketed performances will be available through 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.

SPECIAL EDUCATION



Newsletter from the Special Education Department

February 2018

This first semester in Special Education was exceptionally busy. The staff made huge strides in reaching 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. In addition they worked on organizational skills, time management, and test taking and most importantly on becoming self advocates. One main highlight was their Chill Fair. Ms. Caufield and Ms. Zamperin presented workshops and training on social emotional resiliency. This culminated in a fair where the students shared coping strategies and stress relief with their peers.

In the grade 11/ 12 Learning Strategies class, the students were engaged in learning about career pathways and options, applying to post-secondary institutions and how to budget for the future. In addition they researched and presented information on a specific mental health disorder, which culminated in presentations to their peers.

The Lifeskills class had a busy first semester. They continue to work on their transit skills by going to the Markham Public Library weekly. We went on a variety of field trips to practice our money, transit and social skills. The field trips included Ripley's Aquarium, Color Me Mine, Promenade Mall and the Hoedown Event. The students also participated in the SNAP basketball tournament at Milliken Mills High School in December and were also involved in the Winter assembly which gave them an opportunity to demonstrate their dance skills. The students continue to be involved in the school in different ways such as helping with recycling and attending school productions such as Neverland and Crazy for You.



In the P.E.A.K Program (Pathways to Employment and Applied Knowledge) the students continue to work on social skills particularly how it applies to the work environment. They also meet every morning to practice literacy and math skills that will assist them in their future endeavours. They are continuing to learn new skills in their work experience jobs and through transition meetings and will continue to examine a variety of opportunities geared to their interest and abilities. Over the course of semester one, the P.E.A.K. program's staff have noticed significant gains in students' mathematic, organization, culinary, concentration and communication skills. As a result of this progress and improvement in work ethic, several of our students have been offered full-time and/or part-time paid positions from their placements. In semester two, we will continue to support students in developing the skills needed to be successful, while working towards living an independent and fulfilling life.

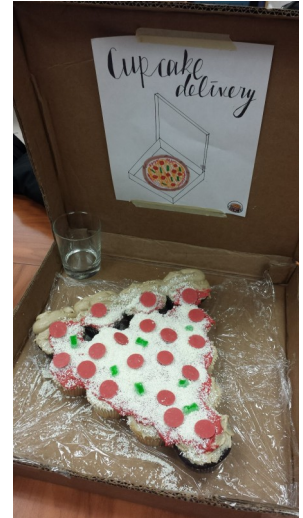


FAMILY STUDIES

The Family Studies department underwent many changes this year with lots of new faces. Mrs. Hatanaka joined us from Bur Oak Secondary School, Mrs. Damji returned from her maternity leave and Mrs. Parnell rejoined the department after a few years of working with the life skills class at UHS. Many exciting things happened in our courses

Exploring Family Studies

Students had a chance to design their dream bedroom using a set budget and various skills they learned in the course such as financial literacy, making informed decisions, deciding between needs and wants, resisting the urge to impulse shop and effectively manage their resources. Many students showcased their talents by sewing their bedroom sheets - a lesson they learned earlier in the semester while making sock monkey's. The picture shows our class apartment complex - an image of the finished dream bedrooms of every student in the room.



Grade 10 Food and Nutrition

This year students in Food and Nutrition learned about food preparation, health, financial management and environmental responsibility. Students participated in various food labs including one that allowed them to work with peers from the business department to create, serve and market a food item. Students also had an opportunity to apply their creative talents to decorating cupcakes in a friendly competition of Cupcake Wars. We had fun learned valuable cooking skills, and of course, ate lots!

Grade 11 Food and Culture

This semester Food and Culture students explored their inner chef by creating dishes with a variety of tastes and flavours including hummus, chicken souvlaki and paella. They shared in cultural practices through research and food sharing from countries through Europe, Asia and the Middle East; including sampling teas from various origins. Our food labs were full of creativity when students showed growing independence in their kitchen skills and used a variety of herbs and spices to create their own dishes! Next Steps...Chopped Canada!

FAMILY STUDIES Cont.



Grade 11 Working with Infants and Young Children

Ms. Minhas was very impressed with the way that the students transformed the classroom into a stimulating, creative and fun space for a special toddler visit in an effort to put into practise their learning regarding interacting with young children. The course ended with a group project where they created plans for a week long children's camp in which they chose a theme, planned daily scheduling, age based activities, meal plans and a field trip.



Grade 11 and 12 Fashion

The students in the grade 11 and 12 fashion class were very surprised at how quickly they were able to learn how to sew using the sewing machines. The grade 11 course ended with a refashioned fashion project where they took unwanted clothing items and turned them into something new. The jeans in the picture were turned into a laptop bag and the pillow represents the rights of garment workers. The grade 12's looked at social issues related to the fashion industry and conducted research on this issue. They then designed and created throw pillows that connected to the theme of their research.



Grade 12 Nutrition and Health

In class this semester students learned how to eat healthy at all stages of the life cycle. They learned how to cook a meal for someone with a specific health concern. We looked at issues such as food security, food and environmental responsibility and artificial sweeteners. We did many food labs, but the one that students learned the most from was the \$5 food lab. The students were challenged to create the most nutritious meal for a family of two for under \$5. We were impressed at the creativity it took to make healthy meals without wasting ingredients while at the same time tasting great!



GUIDANCE SERVICES

Welcome Mr. Triantopolous!

Our department welcomes our newest member, Mr. Peter Triantopolous. He has an extensive background in Alternate Education and brings an optimistic and dynamic energy that is both wise and caring. We are grateful to have his expertise in our department and we wish him a very warm welcome!

Grade 9 and ESL Classroom Visits

Counsellors visited Grade 9 and ESL classes during the month of October to welcome students and provide information about services offered by the Guidance Department. Students learned about the timetable process, booking appointments, graduation requirements, pathway planning, community resources, and counselling services available to them. Thank you Mr. Triantopolous for coordinating this very important event!

Post-Secondary Fair

Bill Crothers Secondary School hosted the post-secondary fair on Wednesday October 11th, which was successfully attended by students. Over fifty colleges, universities and career institutes were represented.

University/College Application Process

On Wednesday October 4th, the Guidance Department presented grade 12 students with information regarding the University application process. Information on both the University and College application process was given. Thank you Ms. Riolo for coordinating such a terrific event for our potential graduates!

Scholarships

Ms. Hawkins has been providing important information about the scholarship process to potential graduates throughout the semester. In the Spring she will be presenting information on scholarship resources, tips for financing their education, types of scholarships, the application process and how to prepare for scholarship applications to Grade 11 students. All students are encouraged to explore the numerous types of scholarships available and to check out the Scholarship Report located on the Guidance Moodle. Thank you Ms. Hawkins for all your hard work in assisting our potential scholarship students! For more information about scholarships, please visit:

UHS Guidance Moodle, www.electronicinfo.ca, and www.scholarshipscanada.com

GUIDANCE SERVICES Cont.

Study Skills and Exam Tips for Grade 9 Students

On November 8th and 9th, 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. Additional 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!

Post-Secondary Alumni Panel

On Thursday December 14th, UHS was honoured to have alumni return to share their experiences with post-secondary education. The panel consisted of students from York University - Shulich School of Business and Concurrent Education, Ryerson University—Media Production, Yale—NVS College in Singapore for Politics, University of Waterloo—Computer Engineering, and U of T—Humanities. The panel provided grade 12 students with valuable information regarding post-secondary programs, course work, and they shared important tips to assist our current students with their transition from high school to post-secondary schooling. We hope to make this panel a tradition at UHS and look forward to having our future graduates return to share their experiences after high school. A big thank you to Ms. Riolo for organizing such a wonderful event for our Potential Graduates!

Wellness Workshops

This year Ms. Farwell has been working with the USAC Wellness Council to promote Wellness at UHS through a variety of events. On October 8th, Ms. Prabhakar (a staff Wellness Committee member) brought in a Yoga instructor who completed a workshop for Period 1, 2 and 3 students.

GUIDANCE SERVICES Cont.

The St. John's Dog Therapy program ran on January 17th during our school's lunch period. Staff and students dropped in to "paws" for a while and de-stress with these wonderful animals. The USAC Wellness Council is also starting a "Hot Breakfast" initiative with our Aramark partners. Beginning Feb. 8th a free hot oatmeal breakfast will be served in the cafeteria for any student who could use a nourishing meal before school begins. Stay tuned to the e-bulletin for more upcoming events in second semester!

Grade 8 Parent Night

Unionville's Grade 8 Parent/Guardian information evening was held on January 18th. Our evening was very well attended as we presented formal information to our parents/guardians about UHS and the course selection process. The presentation was followed by a self-guided tour where parents/guardians could visit and speak to representatives from each department. Thank you Ms. Riolo and Ms. Hawkins for organizing this very important event!

Guidance TV Monitor & Bulletin Boards

Please check our monitor for important dates and instructions regarding timetables, course selection, graduation, upcoming events, etc. A big thank you to Mr. Triantopolous for keeping our bulletin boards current with updates regarding post-secondary information as well as Community Service Opportunities. In addition, Mr. Triantopolous is a great resource for students looking for volunteer opportunities in our community! Volunteer forms are always available in the Guidance office.

Booking Appointments On-Line

Just a reminder that students can book appointments from the convenience of their mobile device at any time through Teach Assist. To do so just:

- Log in to your Teach Assist account

- Under the sub-heading, select "Appointment Bookings"

- Choose your counselor (based on your last name)

- Click on the day and time you want to have your appointment

- If you need to cancel your appointment for any reason, click "cancel". If you have any trouble making your appointment, please let us know.

GUIDANCE SERVICES Cont.

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. 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:

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| February 8 | Course selection instructions and credit counseling summaries distributed through homerooms. Students with period one lunch/study hall may pick up materials in the Guidance office. |
| February 9 | Course selection presentations by counselors during grade assemblies. |
| February 23 | Deadline for course requests to be submitted using Career Cruising. |
| February 26 | Deadline for paper copy of course requests signed by student and parent/guardian to be |