



# UHS News

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Website [www.yrdsb.ca/schools/unionville.hs](http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/unionville.hs)

February 2020



Dear families,

The past semester at UHS has been busy and exciting. Our Grade 9 Orientation on the first day of school followed by a day at Camp Robin Hood helped our incoming students build relationships that will support them in the years to come. Arts Unionville students also built relationships across all four grades in excursions to Kinark, Geneva Park and Medeba retreats.

Our Arts Unionville and Grade 7/8 Information Sessions showcased our outstanding Music, Art, Dance and academic programming. Besides featuring student work and performances, we shared information about our thriving STEM program, which is now in its second year.

As always, our staff and students have been busy facilitating and participating in school community events including Autumnfest, the Terry Fox Run, Clubs Fair (featuring more than 30 clubs), our live streamed Remembrance Day Ceremony, Alumni Panel, and Lunar New Year Market. In addition, the high calibre of student work in our AU program was shared with the Markham community in performances held at Flato Markham Theatre including *Winter Fantasia*, *Clara's Storybook*, and *The Drowsy Chaperone*. Our students have also participated in experiential learning opportunities within the greater community including trips to Stiver Mill Community Centre, Markham Fair, The Science Centre, McMichael Gallery, The Distillery, Speakout Conference, DECA Regionals, Crimestoppers Symposium, and Algonquin Park.

Just as our staff and students have been engaged in school, local, and greater community events, the theme of 'community' has been the central topic at our School Council meetings where parents and guardians have been engaged in defining what 'community' means, why 'community' is important, and how we develop a community that is healthy, safe, and inclusive.

As February comes to a close, we at UHS have much to celebrate. Most recently, our Senior Girls Volleyball and Senior Boys Basketball teams have advanced to the regional playoffs. As well, our team of 80 DECA students earned a combined total of 66 awards at the Provincial Competition held at the Toronto Sheraton Centre on February 6, 7, and 8. Moreover, 15 of our UHS competitors have qualified for the DECA international competition and will be travelling to Nashville, Tennessee at the end of April.

We are proud of the work and accomplishments of our staff and students whose optimism and enthusiasm continue to make Unionville High School an exciting place to learn, share, and grow.

Sincerely,

UHS Administration Team

## Message from Our Trustee

As we enter another month of winter, this is a good time to be thinking about our health, well-being and the importance of self-care. We know that, like all of us, our students can focus better when they feel better. Our schools play an important role in health and mental health promotion and education, and fostering well-being and mental health is one of our priorities as a school board.

There is a lot of work taking place in our schools and board to create healthy schools and promote mental health and well-being, including:

- Providing training and resources for educators on strategies to support mentally healthy classrooms for all students, including holding a mental health conference.
- Hiring identity specific mental health workers and developing partnerships with community partners to serve the diverse needs of our students.
- Developing a Student Suicide Intervention Protocol to help keep students safe in the event of suicidal thoughts or actions.
- Educating students about the risks of substance use and misuse, including vaping and cannabis.
- Providing strategies and supports for students in preparing for exams and managing stress.

This commitment is also reflected in Board policy like the Healthy Schools and Workplaces policy and procedures. Setting policy, which governs the operation of the Board, is one of the roles of trustees, and we greatly value the input provided by students, staff members, family and community members. I encourage you to look at the policies under review and share your feedback.

We have a lot to look forward to in 2020. At the Board meeting in December, trustees unanimously approved the addition of new permanent Indigenous Trustee and Indigenous Student Trustee positions. We are committed to Indigenous Education in our Board and it is important that these voices are represented at the table. We hope to fill the positions as soon as possible and will share more information as it becomes available.

A message from the Chair of the Board of Trustees is also available on the Board website at [www.yrdsb.ca](http://www.yrdsb.ca).

Ron Lynn  
Trustee, Markham, Wards 2, 3 and 6

# School News

**Good Luck...**

*TERRY WOLLENZIEN*

*LYN OGILVY*

*MAURIZIO FAVA*

*KIMBERLEY DE IRISH BAUGH*

*SARAH GILLET*

*SANDIE ZHENG*



**Welcome to our new staff for this Semester:**

*TEX TEIXEIRA*

*FRANCESCA NINICHUK*

*PETER MANNERS*

*ALEXANDRA FERGUSON*

*LUCY DAVIDSON*



**Welcome back to:**

*HEATHER HOUGHTON*



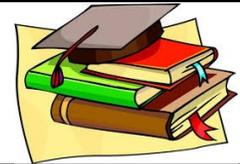
# DRAMA

The drama department once again has been busy rehearsing, writing and performing. The whole semester started with our annual trip to Kinark. The grade 12's welcomed the grade 9's to the drama program, and helped organize fun group building games. 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 was an intense start to the program. The grade 12's then presented original scenes in the show "The Works (shop)", written, directed and performed by the class. The grade 11's brought a variety of scenes to life in an eclectic day and night of theatre. The grade 10's followed with their Clown show "Wanted", inspired by Chaplin and clowns of the silent movie era. Congratulations to all!

Showtime's production of "The Drowsy Chaperone" ended the semester on a high - a wonderful night of song and dance with a dynamic orchestra that proved to be a huge success.

# ENGLISH



UHS students had a phenomenally rich first semester of learning in their English classes; check out some of the wonderful examples below!

In our Grade 9 classes, deep thinking and learning were on display in the form of critical meaning-making through both reading and writing poetry. Students read a variety of poems from a diverse group of authors and deliberated about the value and purpose of communicating messages figuratively, as opposed to literally.

In our Grade 10 classes, students weighed the pros and cons of a technocratic society and tapped into both their creative and logical sides in order to imagine how they might shape the world of tomorrow for the betterment of humanity. We can safely report, after viewing the projects the Grade 10s produced, that the future could not be in better hands!

At the senior-level, our Grade 11 thinkers and learners dove into how they could reimagine and remix texts. Specifically, our 11U students created short film adaptations of texts they had previously dealt with in their learning program. The results were beyond impressive and truly demonstrated that Unionville students are deep thinkers and mindful creators.

Last, but certainly not least, the Grade 12s began to try on different "lenses" through which they could view, critique, understand, and make better the spaces they move through in their current and future lives! Whether exploring what the world of literature and text looks like through the lens of gender, class, or history, our Grade 12 students are now better equipped to examine multiple perspectives as they enter their respective post-secondary worlds!

Hope that gives you an idea of the breadth and depth of learning happening in your young learner's English classroom, and please don't hesitate to contact the English department head, Mr. Teitel ([zachary.teitel@yrdsb.ca](mailto:zachary.teitel@yrdsb.ca)), if you have any questions about English at UHS!

# VISUAL ARTS

## Visual Arts News Letter

The 2019/2020 school year began with the unveiling of Unionville Main Street's 100' Instamural designed by last year's grade 12 Arts Unionville students. The unveiling was well attended by students, parents and guardians. Students received certificates of appreciation from the city of Markham Mayor's office presented by Ward three's Councilor Reid McAlpine and Deputy Mayor Don Hamilton.

Additionally, traffic control box wraps created by the same group of students have now been installed at various locations around Markham. Last year's theme was talent and technology.



As the semester unfolded the grade 9 AU students began designing four large dragon puppets for the Arts Unionville information night performance hosted at the Markham Flato Theatre. Inspired by the stage production War Horse, each puppet required two puppeteers to operate. Combined with black lighting effects, sound design and smoke the performance was an exciting introduction to the Arts Unionville program for our grade 9s.



AU audition numbers are up and interest in the Arts Unionville, Visual Arts, program remains strong. One hundred and eighty parents and guardians attended the info session.

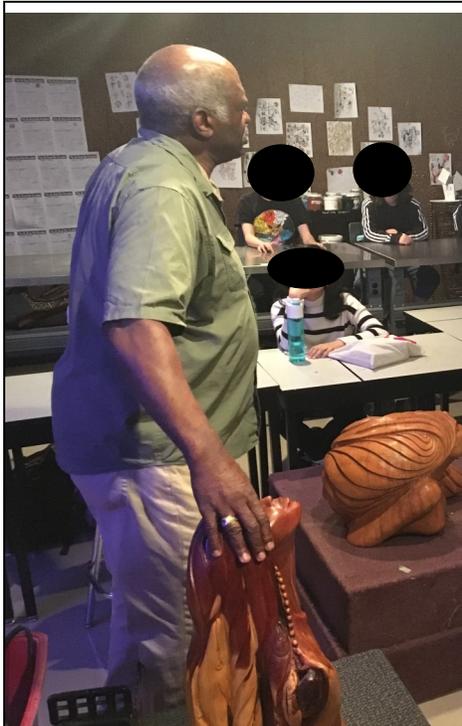
Jess Gill, Regional Manager for Canada representing University of the Arts London provided a one hour information session to interested UHS students who wanted to apply to this international recognized school. UHS has been identified as a school that develops creativity and talent. Moving forward, Ms. Gill and Mr. Clodd, Visual Arts Dept. Head, are planning to host a portfolio day at UHS next year. Prominent schools like the University of the Arts London and the Ontario College of Art and Design University, among others will attend to support our students in developing their portfolios.



# VISUAL ARTS CONT'D

Grade 9 AU students learned about archetypes and using symbols to construct a visual narrative. Master sculptor and educator, Dorsey James, shared his artistic practice while digital artist Patricia Claro conducted a one day digital painting workshop to prepare students for the unit of study.

Congratulations to Renee Fang and Grace Choi for winning several Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, namely the prestigious Gold Key award.



Grade 9 AU students, inspired by the works of LGBTQ+ activist Syrus Marcus Ware, created 28, 4' by 6' pencil portraits of Change Makers, individuals who advance social justice and equity in our world. The completed drawings are now hung in the school's atrium. SHSM Arts and Culture Club students are in the process of creating design concepts for a proposed 200' mural for the Thornhill Community Centre. The designs will be finalized early in second semester.



## Looking ahead to second semester:

- Grade 12 AU art show – Location: Markham Flato Theatre (March 2<sup>nd</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>)
- Alchemy performance (an Interdisciplinary performance involving Dance, Drama, Music and the Visual Arts dept.) - Location: Markham Theatre on March 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm
- Grade 12 AU end of year show – Location: UHS' atrium (May 28<sup>th</sup>)

# HISTORY & SOCIAL SCIENCE

## Election 2019

*"Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced."*

One of the most important outcomes of studying the Humanities and Social Sciences, is that they teach students the foundations for effective citizenship. To ensure this outcome, we continue to develop a program of study that is relevant and authentic for all our learners.



Students become critical thinkers who can understand and navigate the complex issues that face the world, and they become problem-solvers who will ultimately make positive social, political and economic changes that will shape the future.

Last semester, the Humanities and Social Sciences teaching team, comprised of Ms. Faulkner, Ms. Damji, Ms. Wong, Mr. Cash, Mr. Tsang and

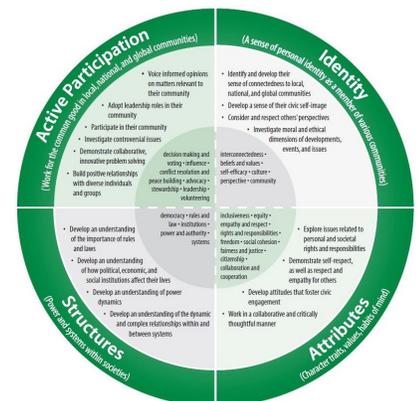
Mr. Sanchez, engaged the students at Unionville High School in the Student Vote program. This gave students their first taste of active citizenship as they voted in a mock election that paralleled the 2019 Federal Election.

While the results for Unionville High School elected the Liberal Candidate, Alan Ho, who took 34% of the vote, the overall results for the riding of Markham-Unionville echoed the actual federal results and elected Conservative Candidate Bob Saroya.

Meanwhile, our Civics students held their own elections! In a new assignment, the students create their own parties, run their own campaigns and compete for votes in their classroom mock elections. Check out the Frog Party website for more on their goals and party platform. If you are interested in the theories and ideas that inform our curriculum and classroom practices, you can find it here: Citizenship Education Framework



**COMING SOON!** Interested in a future in law? Our Mock Trial team will begin training for their competition soon. Talk to Mr. Struk or Mr. Cash for more information.



# LIBRARY



Students frequently used the Library Learning Commons during semester one to support their studies, accessing both online and print resources. UHS students know that the library's databases are a reliable way to research online; they conducted 213,731 GALE database searches first semester. In the EBSCO database, our students' top search terms included cancer therapy, social media algorithms, net neutrality, and identity theft.

Students are also accessing books to support their learning. Semester one saw 2,263 checkouts, with non-fiction books accounting for 60% of total books borrowed. UHS students also love to read for pleasure, evident in the 863 works of fiction they checked out.

Students can search for a book, access both the GALE and Ebsco databases, get help with MLA and APA citations, and much more on the Library tab of the UHS website. Keep up to date with the UHS Library Learning Commons by following us on Twitter: @libraryuhs



# DANCE



UHS Dance had a fulfilling semester 1 beginning with our technique units and having the pleasure to work alongside pianist Viktor Kortov and percussionist Sheldon DeSouza. Our students are very fortunate to work with live accompaniments in their training.



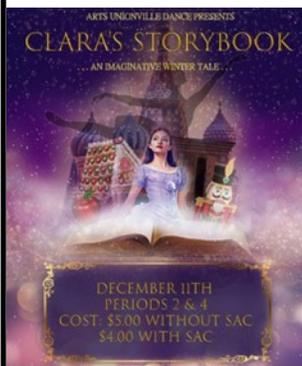
In early October, the grade 9's and 10's took a field trip to Toronto's Historic Distillery District for a collaboration assignment with the photography students. It was a beautiful crisp fall day and we all had a fantastic time in the beautiful surroundings of the district. Students challenged themselves to think of emotions they needed to represent in their photographs and the results were stunning! Check out some examples included in this newsletter...



Shortly into the semester, preparations were underway for our yearly December production of "Clara's Storybook...An Imaginative Winter Tale". The performance highlighted a magical take on a few beloved fairy tale classics represented through dance. With the



winter theme streamlined through the production, this prompted the warmth of the season and left the audience with the nostalgia of their childhood in their hearts.



The semester wrapped up with each of the classes sharing their individual research assignments. The grade 9's researched ballets pertaining to the Romantic Era, the grade 10's taught a workshop class centred around a cultural dance form, the grade 11's researched dance injuries, and the grade 12's created a conditioning assignment.



Semester 2 plans are already in line beginning with making connections among other disciplines for our integrated arts performance of "Alchemy" taking place on March 10<sup>th</sup>, as well as our production of "Dance Highlights" taking place in May





# GEOGRAPHY

Grade 9 Canadian Geography students have been busy throughout the semester striving to understand the intricate processes that have built this vast nation. They have developed; geologic history timelines, inquiry based research presentations on resource development, researched Canada's treatment of indigenous people, and planned cities of the future considering livability and sustainability. Students have been using various technology platforms such as Instagram, google mapping tools, and others to communicate their findings.

Grade 12 World Issues students were very busy throughout the semester trying to determine their impact, place, and role in the modern world. Students worked to create new measures for human development, uncovered the story of colonialism, and examined the need for renewed strategies for managing the global commons. Students also created an integrated installation project throughout the school to share knowledge about consumer behaviors and the impact of globalization.

These are some of the projects installed in vacant lockers this semester:



The geography department looks forward to more exciting projects and continued growth this semester.

# 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.

For instance, grade 9 French students created a profile of themselves (Autoportrait) which they shared with their classmates, they learned how to express their opinions and give suggestions on a number of topics and they explored a number of aspects of everyday life in Madagascar, Sénégal, Vietnam and Lebanon (Liban). Grade 10 French students reenacted scenes from *Le petit Nicolas*, recited poems, presented fun stories from their childhoods and learned about French and Belgian culture. Meanwhile, grade 11 French students planned and shared cultural itineraries in French-speaking regions, wrote critiques of famous paintings, conducted and analysed surveys on the use and impact of media on their peers and they did extensive character and thematic analyses through their reading and study of *Le Fantôme de l'opéra* and *Le petit prince*. Lastly, our grade 12 French students participated in debates, discussing engaging and relevant topics, wrote and studied poetry, read two plays set in historically significant contexts and wrote 1000-word researched essays and presented their topics to the class including the planning of interactive activities.

We had a section each of grade 10 and grade 12 Spanish running first semester and they participated in a number of cultural activities such as a Flamenco dance workshop, in which students learned about the history of the dance, as well as its various cultural origins. Our students also learned about the meaning and importance of flamenco in the work of Federico Garcia Lorca's "Bodas de Sangre", a play that the grade 12 students were studying. Students were able to dance while singing in Spanish to the Flamenco music. In addition, students also learned and participated in Day of the Dead celebrations. Many activities led up to the celebrations. Students learned about indigenous origins and connections related to the Day of the Dead. In addition to artistic (Papel Picado) and linguistic activities around the festival, we were also able to sample foods - in particular "Pan de muertos", a traditional bread eaten during the festival. Towards the end of the semester, we had another successful dance workshop. This time, students actively participated in three types of dances: bachata, salsa and merengue. During our food unit for Spanish-speaking countries, students researched specific cultural dishes, how to make them and their importance to that specific region. Students cooked delicious meals and desserts, created videos explaining how to make them, gave a history of their dishes, and explained where one can try these dishes within the GTA, thereby making community connections.



# MODERNS CONT'D

Our Mandarin classes have been quite interesting as we introduced one-on-one oral conferencing for individual tasks across the grades. These activities allow students to communicate and work on their rough copies with their teacher before submitting their written work. We also introduced indigenous teachings and compared them to traditional Chinese philosophies in the Grade 11 Mandarin class. Meanwhile, Grade 12 students created some short videos introducing current social issues using the FlipGrid platform. Finally, Grade 10 classes participated in Chinese New Year celebrations by hosting two booths in the school atrium this year.

As was inaugurated last school year, all language students participated in the Cultural Expo on December 5th, 2019 with several live performances, including musical performances in French, Spanish and Mandarin, skits and scenes from plays and interesting informational presentations. Students displayed their learning and learned from other students as they visited booths during the Expo, sampled traditional food dishes, played games and engaged in cultural activities.

We look forward to another exciting semester of language learning in Semester 2!



# PHYS ED

The first semester was, once again, a very busy time in the Physical and Health Education department along with UHS Athletics. Students have demonstrated year after year with their selection of healthy active living and fitness courses their interest in becoming more physically fit. Our fitness classes continue to be extremely popular with our senior level students. The combination of team activities, loud music, and lots of encouragement, has allowed UHS fitness students to always meet their goals!

Out of the gym, our grade 12 leadership class ran some amazing school wide events. They facilitated the annual Terry Fox Run, spirit wear sales, marketing for home games, updating the athletics display cases and hosting a 2-day elementary school volleyball tournament.

Unionville Athletics had another amazing fall and winter season. Our boys volleyball and girls basketball seasons ended with losses in tough playoff matches. Each team was comprised of competitive and hard working student athletes. We had an OFSAA qualifier in Cross Country as grade 10 student Alissa Chi travelled to Sudbury to compete on a snow filled course. Our swimmers had another strong showing at each of the YRAA swim meets.

Currently our Senior Boys Basketball team is entering their third playoff match as they travel to perennial powerhouse Vaughan SS to compete in the YRAA Quarter Finals. They've already upset the 5th ranked Stephen Lewis, and are looking to continue their run. The Senior Girls Volleyball team finished their season undefeated in league play. In their first playoff match, they easily handled the visiting team from St. John de Brebeuf in 3 straight sets. They now travel to play the second ranked Aurora HS team hoping for another big upset. GO WOLVES GO!!



# MATH



Students and teachers demonstrated their passion and excitement for math this past semester both inside and outside the classroom.

The Math Club, which meets every Tuesday after school in Room 245, is a very active club where senior students lead the exploration of mathematical concepts that are beyond the school curriculum. Thank you to our club advisor, Mrs. Chulkova, for her ongoing support. New members are always welcome to join!

We would like to acknowledge the many students who participated in various math contests this past semester and recognize their initiative and ability to take risks through their involvement. Thank you to Mr. Wong for his continued organization of the Math Contests. Students are invited to join the Math Contest Google classroom with code *ivab4n* to learn more about contests and registration deadlines.

The Canadian Open Math Challenge was written by 56 students. Congratulations to **Cindy Zhu** Gr.11 (97.62 percentile), **Thomas Liu** Gr.12 (97.31 percentile) and **Ruimian Zheng** Gr.9 (95.02 percentile) for their Ontario awards. Twenty-seven of our students received honours and distinctions.



The University of Waterloo's Canadian Intermediate Mathematics Contest was written by 48 students. Congratulations to our top student, **Ruimian Zheng**, as well as to **Yifei Wang & Runze Zhao** for placing on the Honour Roll. Sixteen of our students received the top 25% certificate.

The University of Waterloo's Canadian Senior Mathematics Contest was written by 77 students. Congratulations to our top student, **Cindy Zhu**, as well as to **Miaoxian Wang & Joline Cheng** for placing on the Honour Roll. Twenty-eight of our students received the top 25% certificate.

We look forward to the upcoming Math Contest Celebration Party to once again be held at the end of the school year. Details to be announced at a later time.

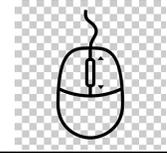
Last semester Mr. Fava retired and we thank him for his contributions to the Math Department and students at UHS. We would like to thank Ms. Gillett for stepping in and teaching with us this past semester and wish her well at her new school. For Semester 2, we welcome Ms. Davidson and Mrs. Ninichuk to our team.

Looking for additional math learning or support? Please login to a student gapps account and visit: <http://bit.ly/2RHWmi8>

For more information on Math course selection at UHS:



# COMPUTERS



It's been another year of excellence for the Computer Studies Department at UHS. UHS students recently wrote the University of Waterloo Canadian Computer Contest and advanced through to the Canadian Computer Olympiads which will be written later this year. Our CS students are supporting the UHS FIRST Robotics team which will be competing later this month.

In addition to traditional computer science courses the UHS Computer Department continues to provide innovative courses including 3D Visualization & VR, Pro-gaming, and app development. These courses use industry standard software such as Maya, Unity, Android Studio, C#, Python, and Java. With the world dependent on technology, computer studies students are well prepared to take on the challenges and changes of tomorrow.

We are excited to be an integral part of the UHS STEM program and look forward to giving students the opportunity of exploring computer science.



# 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 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 fall the groups had outstanding results, with profits of almost \$1400 being donated to 3 different charities chosen by the winning group of each class!

Our DECA business club team is having an excellent year, winning dozens of awards at the Provincial competition and qualifying 15 students for this year's international championship in Nashville!

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 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!

# CO-OP

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



This semester, Unionville High School students explored careers in a wide variety of occupational areas including physiotherapy, chiropractic care, automotive service, photography, accounting and finance, teaching, chef, pharmacy, human resources, public relations, graphic design, web design and digital media, medicine and related health care professions, veterinarian and animal care, computer programming, app development and networking, early childhood education, museum and art gallery curator, marketing, digital marketing, video production, event planning, dentistry and law.

Many of our students also continue to be successful in the Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) program. Currently, UHS offers **Business, Arts and Culture** and **NEW** this year is **Health and Wellness**. A Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) is a specialized program which allows students to experience a range of customized, career-focused learning opportunities while working towards their diploma. Field trips, guest speakers and workshops are fundamental to the program.

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



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

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



Follow us on INSTAGRAM @uhscoop to see our students in action! or visit us at [www.uhscoop.com](http://www.uhscoop.com) for more information on the program.

# SCIENCE

## Looking forward with 20/20 vision

### New Learning Experiences Coming to UHS



- Senior Biology students will have the opportunity to work with our new Infection Control Lab, a hands-on, teacher led activity teaching the skills required to protect themselves and others while investigating the spread of infection.
- 25 SHSM Science Students will share in a unique learning experience hosted by Markham-Stouffville Hospital's Addiction Recovery Department during which they will be able to gain insight from the Health Practitioners themselves about the issues and dangers surrounding substance abuse.



### Upcoming Contests

#### **Junior Science (Grade 9 & 10)**

- Michael Smith Science Challenge sponsored by the University of British Columbia (Wednesday February 26, 2020)

#### **Biology (Grade 11 & 12)**

- University of Toronto Biology Contest (TBA)

#### **Chemistry (Grade 11 & 12)**

- Avogadro Chemistry Exam sponsored by the University of Waterloo (TBA)
- CHEM 13 NEWS sponsored by the University of Waterloo (TBA)



### Wonderful Welcomes and Thoughtful Thank You

- Welcome Back Mrs. Heather Houghton! We're so very happy to have you with us again.
- Welcome to our new LTO Tex Teixeira.
- Going, Going, Go.... No Wait! He's back again. Thank you Mr. Howin Chang for your amazing contributions and upbeat attitude. We were lucky to have you and hope to see you again soon. Best Wishes on all your Future Endeavours.

### Say it Isn't So!

#### **Happy Retirement Lyn Ogilvy**

To say you will be missed seems like such an understatement. You are one of those rare people who instantly became a friend instead of "just" a co-worker. There are no words to truly reflect how much we will miss working with you. Your guidance and encouragement have helped so many students develop a passion for science, a moral compass for humanity and the courage to be creative. We, at UHS, have been so fortunate to have your expertise to rely on. May the next phase of your life bring you all that you seek and more.

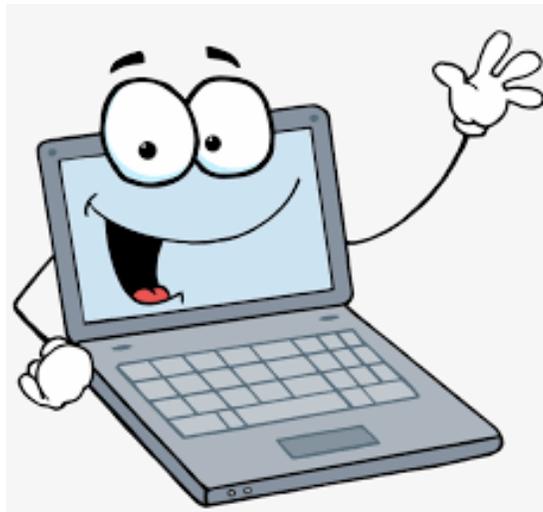


# TECHNOLOGY

Students taking Technology courses had another successful semester of learning valuable skills for the 21st century. Mr. Wood's Construction Technology students designed and built the set for the Showtime production of *The Drowsy Chaperone*. This year the students designed and built an elaborate wedding cake that transformed into an airplane for the play's final showstopping number.

Ms. McMillan's and Mr. Wood's Integrated Technology students designed and built bridges that had to support a minimum of 30 pounds. Many students designed bridges that far exceeded this minimum requirement: one bridge supported 140 pounds.

Students in Mr. Berridge's Yearbook class have been working on the yearbook all semester, recording memories that we will all cherish for years to come. Mr. Berridge's Communication Technology students also coordinated and managed the live broadcast of the school's Remembrance Day Ceremony.



# MUSIC



## SEMESTER II CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- February 11 – Grade 9 Concert Band at Ontario Band Association Provincial Band Festival
  - February 11 – Symphonic Band at Ontario Band Association Provincial Band Festival
  - February 11 – Wind Ensemble and UHS Chamber Winds at Ontario Band Association Provincial Band Festival
  - February 19 - Arts Unionville Recital No. 2 @ Unionville Presbyterian Church – 7:00pm
  - February 20 – Arts Unionville Grade 9 and 10 piano class duet performances at the Toronto Kiwanis Music Festival
  - February 26 (dress rehearsal), Feb 27, 28, 29, March 1 and 3 – Chamber Choir performs with the Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra in *The Indigo Project* at Trinity-St. Paul's Centre and Meridian Arts Centre.
  - March/April/May – Music Alive Festival
  - March 10 – Arts Unionville - Alchemy at Markham Theatre 7:00pm
  - March 25 - Arts Unionville Recital No. 3 @ Unionville Presbyterian Church – 7:00pm
  - April 8 - AU Piano class to TSO open rehearsal at Roy Thomson Hall
  - April 22 – UHS Music Spring Celebration I at Markham Theatre
  - April 29 - Arts Unionville Recital No. 4 @ Unionville Presbyterian Church – 7:00pm
  - May 12 (evening) – UHS Music Spring Celebration II at Markham Theatre
  - June 9 – Music Banquet
- June 11 – Arts Unionville Celebration

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](mailto: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 explain how music helps develop the brain's ability to promote everything from cognitive development and motor skills 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 very busy. The staff worked hard to reach all of our students throughout the semester to support their needs, follow their progress and ensure they understand and are receiving their accommodations.

We recently redesigned our office and classroom to make the environment more appealing for the many needs of our students. These changes have provided our students an inviting and comfortable space to do homework, come for extra help, relax and have their lunch.

**Strategies for Success - Grade 9 Learning Strategies GLE101 - Semester 1** We have had a very busy semester in the grade 9 Learning Strategies class. The course has helped our students transition smoothly to high school by supporting them in their coursework and focused on teaching them strategies they can use for success in all their courses. We also focused on mindfulness and wellness in our daily work. Students also started exploring the OSSLT (Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test) by looking at past tests and practicing different parts of the test. It was a busy semester and we look forward to working with these students again in their grade 10 year!

**Grade 11 Learning Strategies** - In the grade 11 Learning Strategies class students continued to work towards self determination (knowing themselves as learners) and self-advocacy (communicating their learning needs). We continued to strengthen Literacy skills this semester by reading the award winning Novel "The Woo Woo" by Canadian author Lindsey Wong. This was a novel that all students could find a connection with as the themes of the novel include family, relationships, coming of age, culture, race, immigration, mental health as well as being a Special Education student. Throughout the course students were also supported with their other coursework, and they continued to learn strategies to promote their success at school. We hope to see many of these students back in grade 12 Learning strategies where we will focus on being ready for their post secondary transition.



**Grade 12 Learning Strategies** - In the grade 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 specific mental health disorders, which culminated in informative and relevant presentations to their peers. As students begin to receive their acceptances they should be coming to see Ms. Caufield to further discuss how to identify themselves to the Post Secondary Institution. A website to explore what institutions provide Special Education students that may be useful to you is The Transitions Resource Guide: <https://www.transitionresourceguide.ca/>.

## **DD Program (Life Skills)**

The Community Class is staying true to its name by exploring some of the great things that the Markham Community has to offer. We have spent time with other YRDSB Community Classes at different events such as the Magna Hoedown and SNAP basketball and showed our independence when going to Markville Mall and Markham Library. The students performed at the UHS Winter assembly with a routine that warmed out hearts!

Second semester is sure to be exciting with many more community explorations and yoga and drumming sessions to name a few!

## **P.E.A.K.**

The P.E.A.K. (Pathways to Employment and Applied Knowledge) Program had a very busy and successful start to the 2019/20 school year, with a focus on Workplace Health and Safety, Job Preparation, Transit and Travel, and Health and Wellness. P.E.A.K students work in a total of 14 community work placements. Along with learning new routines, work skills, and transit routes/schedules, students continue to adjust to the newly implemented Presto Program.

Some Community outings included the Markham Fair, Special Needs Magna Hoedown, Remembrance Day Ceremony at the Markham Civic Centre, Special Olympics Basketball Tournament, Community Living Healthy Relationships course, and weekly outings to the YMCA. In Second Semester, we will visit the College Vocational Program at George Brown College and go to the Community Safety Village. We will also participate in the Community Living Day at Queen's Park, a bowling tournament, the end of the year outing to the Blue Jay's School Day Game, the Best Buddies Prom, and P.E.A.K. Graduate lunch.

# FAMILY STUDIES

Many exciting things happened in our courses this semester. Here are some highlights.

## Grade 9 Exploring Family Studies

Students learned many practical skills that they can put to use in their everyday lives. Students learned how to hand sew and express themselves by making emoji pillows. Some students learned how to use a sewing machine to sew pillowcases. Students learned about healthy eating and had a chance to challenge their cooking skills in a 'zero food waste' food lab. Students also had fun completing a 'Family Meal' assignment where they went to No Frills, shopped for themselves and cooked a healthy delicious meal on a budget.



## Grade 10 Food and Nutrition

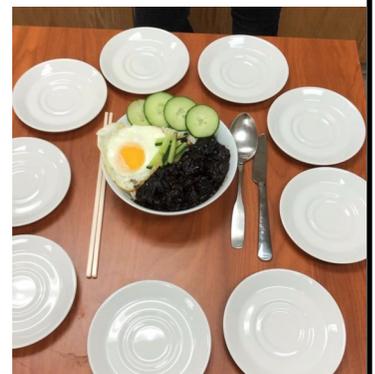
Students in Food and Nutrition semester one were very busy cooking delicious meals and learning about how our food choices impact health and our planet. One of the highlights in semester one was working with Mr. Guldemon's Grade 10 Business students. We helped them plan and prepare foods to be sold in a pop-up restaurant in the atrium. The money made went to charity. Mr. Guldemon's class helped Food and Nutrition students by being a part of a client/ nutritional consultant assignment. Food and Nutrition students collected information on their client's diet, analyzed it and made recommendations for change. Another highlight was learning from a representative from AgScape - an organization that informs students on a variety of agri-food issues. We learned about important issues impacting food security and recognized the role we all can play to make our food system more sustainable.



## Grade 11 Food and Culture

This semester brought out some inner chefs in our Food and Culture classes. This grade 11 course is designed to explore how food is influenced by culture and the various factors that impact what we eat. The students explored a variety of cultural foods and food practices from areas such as the Mediterranean, Middle East and French Cuisine. Some highlights of the semester included learning about Indigenous foods and incorporating those foods into a food lab. The semester also included a Chopped Challenge. Students worked in groups and were given mystery ingredients to create a meal connected to one of the countries that were studied. In

this Chopped Challenge, dishes were presented to 'celebrity' judges from our staff. Valuable feedback was provided. The semester ended with an International Food Hall where homemade food was brought in and new understandings of different cultures were shared.



# FAMILY STUDIES CONT CONT'D

## Grade 11/12 Fashion



Students in this course quickly went from not knowing how to work a sewing machine, to sewing infinity scarves, tote bags, pillows and shorts in only a couple of months. A major theme in this course was re-thinking our fashion choices to become more sustainable. Students were given a re-fashion challenge. As a result, many creative, clever and sentimental re-fashion pieces were created. Students learned how to read patterns and ensure steps were followed carefully. Many developed a new appreciation for all of the work that goes into making the clothing we wear. As well, many students expressed how they are now making more environmentally conscious fashion choices.



# GUIDANCE SERVICES

## ESL Classroom Visits

Our Counsellor, Ms. Choi, visited our 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 Ms. Choi for spending time with our ESL classes to give them this very important information!

## Post-Secondary Fair

On Wednesday October 16<sup>th</sup>, Bill Crothers S. S. hosted this year's Post-Secondary Fair which was successfully attended by students. Over fifty colleges, universities and career institutes were represented.

## University/College Application Process

On Wednesday October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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!

# GUIDANCE SERVICES Cont.

## Wellness at UHS

This year Ms. Farwell has continued her Wellness Lead role to work with the staff and students at UHS through a variety of events. Wellness initiatives were presented to parents and guardians at the January 14<sup>th</sup> School Council meeting. Wellness programs currently running at UHS include the daily Breakfast Boost program, the Wolfpack Snacks program, and a visit from the St. John's Ambulance Dog Therapy Program. In addition, the Student Wellness Council ran a successful "Cocoa Buddies" day before the holidays. For semester 2, the Wellness committee will run a "Live Well, Take Action" program that focuses on mental health issues for East Asian students. It will also begin working on an Indoor Garden initiative. We encourage students to visit the Wellness board and learn more about the Wellness council and its programs which include de-stressing strategies and mental health information for all students. There will be more initiatives for the Mental Health week in May, so stay tuned to the e-bulletin for more upcoming events in second semester!



## Scholarships

Ms. Hawkins has been providing important information about the scholarship process to potential graduates throughout the semester. On Tuesday October 8<sup>th</sup>, she presented information on scholarship resources, tips for financing post-secondary education, types of scholarships, the application process and how to prepare for scholarship applications to Grade 12 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](http://www.electronicinfo.ca) and [www.scholarshipscanada.com](http://www.scholarshipscanada.com)

# GUIDANCE SERVICES Cont.

## Study Skills and Exam Tips for Grade 9 Students

On October 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, 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 provided to each student. The booklets are also available in the guidance office for students and parents to pick up at anytime. 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 December 13th, UHS held its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual alumni panel. The panel consisted of students from The University of Toronto, St. James campus for Life Sciences, Ryerson University for Business and Media Production, Laurentian University for Criminology and Seneca College for Graphic Design.

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 look forward to having our future graduates return next year to share their experiences of post-secondary education. Current Grade 12 students interested in being part of next year's panel are asked to click on the link provided and complete the google form. <http://bit.ly/Alumnipanel2020> A big thank you to Ms. Riolo for organizing such a wonderful event for our Potential Graduates!



# GUIDANCE SERVICES Cont.

## Grad Google Classroom

Current Grade 12 students are encouraged to join the UHS Grad Google Classroom to receive important up-to-date information about graduation and post-secondary planning. Students can sign up using this **Google Classroom code: rhg0eyg**

## UHS Grade 8 Information Night

This year UHS held our Grade 8 Information Evening on November 7<sup>th</sup>, presented in English, Mandarin and Cantonese. The evening was very well attended and information included UHS programs such as STEM, Arts Unionville, Ontario Secondary School Diploma requirements and other important information related to high school. Following the presentation, guests were invited to participate in a self-guided tour of school and speak to individual departments. Thank you Ms. Riolo for organizing this very important event!

## Guidance TV Monitor

Please check it out for important dates and instructions regarding timetables, course selection, graduation, upcoming events, etc. A big thank you to Ms. Riolo for overseeing our department's communication with parents, students and staff! She continues to volunteer her time to the School Council, works with Community Partners, the Mental Health Team, the Transitions Team and in addition oversees many other vital aspects of our department!

## Bulletin Boards and Volunteer Opportunities

A big thank you to Ms. Choi for keeping our bulletin boards current with updates regarding college and university information. As well a big thank you to Ms. Hawkins for keeping information on Community Service Opportunities up to date. In need of a volunteer opportunity? Look into UHS Volunteer and Program Opportunities in the Google Classroom! It is a great resource for students looking for volunteer opportunities in our school and community both long and short term. The enrollment key is **bf1jq7**, so check it out! Volunteer forms are available in the Guidance office



# GUIDANCE SERVICES Cont.

## 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:

1. Log in to your Teach Assist account
2. Under the sub-heading, select "Appointment Bookings"
3. Choose your counselor (based on your last name)
4. Click on the day and time you want to have your appointment
5. If you need to cancel your appointment for any reason, click "cancel". If you have any trouble making your appointment, please let us know.

## COURSE SELECTION IS HAPPENING

Although the next school year is months away, UHS is beginning to plan for the school year. 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 "My Pathway Planner" (<http://www.yrdsb.ca/Pages/default.aspx>)

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 24 | <b>Deadline for course requests to be submitted using My Pathway Planner.</b>   |
| February 26 | Deadline for paper copy of course requests to be submitted to homeroom teacher. |

Students should stay current by checking the Guidance Moodle regularly!

[www.moodle2.yrdsb.ca](http://www.moodle2.yrdsb.ca)

Username: UHS student number

Password: student UHS login

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