



UNIONVILLE MEADOWS MESSENGER December 2016

Principal - Leanne Hughes-Fernandes

Vice Principal - Nancy Tsang

Unionville Meadows P. S. 355 South Unionville Avenue, Markham, Ontario L3R 5C8

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Website: www.unionvillemeadows.ps.yrdsb.ca

DECEMBER AT A GLANCE!

- 1 — School Council Games Night at 7:00pm
- 9 — School Council Movie Night at 7:00pm,
Featuring Zootopia
- 14— Kindergarten Winter Wishes Concert at
6:30 pm (*Bring Bag 2 School Donation*)
- 15 — Winter Wishes Concert (String Ensemble,
Grade 1s, 1/2, Grade 2s, Gr.3 Palmateer,
Gr.4/5 and Gr.5/6) at 6:30pm
(*Bring Bag 2 School Donation*)
- 20 – Winter Festive Day
- 23—Pajamas / Lazy sweatpants day

Winter Holidays December 26 – Jan 6th, 2017

Happy Holidays!



UMPS is a Healthy School and therefore we don't celebrate students' birthday with food and snacks. Please do not bring in cakes, cupcakes, chips, etc. for birthday celebrations.

Thank you!



Message from the Principal's Desk

In a few weeks we will be off on our Winter Break! Teachers and students have worked hard these past few months and, have certainly earned this upcoming break! We hope you and your children take time to relax and rejuvenate and spend memorable moments together with family and friends!

Thanks to all of you who visited the school for Parent/Teacher Interviews or Student Led Conferences and engaged in thoughtful discussions about your child(ren)'s learning. We must continue to always work as a committed team in our efforts to ensure that all our students are working and achieving to their full potential!

December promises to be an exciting month. We look forward to connecting with many of you at the Winter Wishes Kindergarten Concert on December 14th and the Winter Wishes Concert on December 15th! We are holding 2 performances due to the large number of students we have in Kindergarten and to accommodate our parents with available seating. As well, there are fire code restrictions that dictate the number of people we have in the gym at any one time. We will be sending home an order form so that tickets (\$2.00 each) can be ordered in advance.

Finally, as 2016 comes to an end, the staff at Unionville Meadows P.S. would like to take this opportunity to extend its heartfelt wishes to all of our families for a safe and happy holiday and to wish you the very best for the upcoming year of 2017!

Leanne Hughes-Fernandes
&
Nancy Tsang

Winter Weather

With the coming of cold weather, students need to come to school dressed to play outside during recesses (hats, scarf, gloves/mittens, boots, etc.). It is advisable for children to bring extra pants and socks in case they get wet.

Being physically active during winter is an essential part of a healthy lifestyle. The school administration keeps a close eye on weather conditions, including wind chill. When conditions necessitate, students will remain inside for recess or reduced outdoor recesses may take place.

If a student is well enough to attend school, then he/she will be expected to go outside for recess.

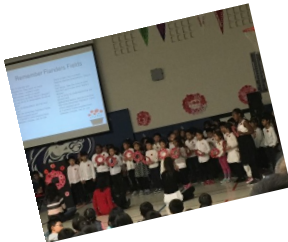
One of our Public Health Nurses Cindy O'Keefe came and educated our grade one students about safety in the house. Through the use of the model house, students were able to identify safety hazards and possible escape routes for emergencies. Cindy will return to UMPS in the spring time for Bike Safety.



Green Team Update

Hooray! We have completed 2 adult size mats and will be donating it to the Town of Markham who will then give it to an organization to deliver it to countries who have experienced disaster. Each adult mat is made up of 8 smaller mats using 60 milk bags making the total of milk bags to be about 480-500. We would not have been able to complete these mats within this short time had it not been for the help of 2 Markville students who came and did their community volunteer hours. Please continue to drop off clean milk bags at the front of the office, in the "MILK BAG" BIN.

Thank you for always thinking GREEN!



On Friday, November 11, 2016, UMPS had a Remembrance Day Assembly. Students were gathered in the gym to recognize those who brought peace to our country. The String Ensemble and the Gr.1s and 2s performed a few music pieces for us. We also had a parent who visited one of our Kindergarten class and shared with them his responsibilities in the Canadian Army.



Kindergarten Winter Wishes Concert

Wednesday, December 14, 2016

Evening Concert : 6:30pm

Featuring...

Junior and Senior Kindergarten classes

Winter Wishes Concert

Thursday, December 15, 2016

School Concert : 9:00am

Evening Concert : 6:30pm



Featuring...

String Ensemble and the following classes

*Ms. Surani, Ms. Mohammed, Ms. Christidis/ Ms. Dimilta, Ms. Karr,
Ms. Vogiatjis, Ms. de las Alas, Ms. Palmateer, Ms. Lee, Ms. Clarke
and a couple of surprise performances too.*

We look forward to you joining us!

Don't forget to purchase your tickets using School Cash Online!

See you there!

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

Unionville Meadows Public Schools' Student Council is preparing its annual

FOOD DRIVE!

December 6 - December 16, 2016

Please donate non-perishable items to our Food Drive!

The **Markham Food Bank** is in need of the following items:

- * Canned vegetables
 - * Jam
- * Hot and cold cereals
- * Hearty soups (canned / dry)
 - * Tea and coffee
 - * Canned fruit
- * Canned fish (tuna, salmon)
 - * Canned meats
 - * Canned stews
- * Juice (canned / boxes / crystals)
 - * Canned milk
 - * Rice (small bags)
 - * Pastas
- * Snacks for school lunches—granola bars, fruit rollups, cheese / crackers, raisins, Rice Krispie Squares

Kiss and Ride and Parking Lot Expectations

We believe strongly that UMPS students benefit from walking to and from school! However, for those parents/guardians who choose to drive their children to school, we would like to remind you of the procedures to follow at the beginning and end of the day to ensure everyone's safety.



Front Loop:

Safety pylons will be placed in the two left lanes so that only one lane is operable. When you enter into the loop, drive up along the inside curb lane as far up as the car in front of you. We expect a single file line with no passing. Please drive all the way to the east end of the kiss and ride loop. All students must exit from the passenger side of the car, directly beside the curb. No one shall let their child(ren) out of the car from the middle lane or the driver's side of the car, where they would need to cut in between cars. Your child(ren) will be directed to go to the playground and /or their proper entry door. No one shall enter the main doors. Please continue, by signaling, checking your blind spot and proceeding into the exit lane once the drop off has been made. Please do not get out of the car.

Parking Lot is ONLY for Parents with Kindergarten students, otherwise, PLEASE PARK ON THE STREET.

Drivers will enter the parking lot and continue along the sidewalk area, close to the Kindergarten playgrounds to drop off their children. Children will get out of the car on the passenger side (Like a Kiss'n'Ride) at the Kindergarten area and staff will direct them to their kindergarten yard. Please continue, by signaling, checking your blind spot and proceeding into the exit lane once the drop off has been made. Please do not get out of the car. When entering the parking lot to pick up kindergarten students, please do not block our handicap parking spots. Parking in the middle of the parking lot in the aisle also makes it difficult for cars to enter and exit the parking lot safely. The school bus and school transportation vans also enter to drop off /pick up students at the Kindergarten area. These vehicles have priority for entering and exiting. Please respect their "right of way".

School Bus Cancellation Notice

To ensure the safety of students, school bus service may be cancelled due to inclement weather, extreme temperatures and/or poor road conditions. In these cases, parents and students should develop alternate care/transportation arrangements.

Cancellation decisions will only be made after thorough consultation with the Safety Officers of school bus companies servicing York Region and are based on several factors including precipitation, air temperature, road conditions and weather forecast.

Please note the following;

- A decision to cancel school bus service will be **region-wide** meaning all school buses, vans and taxis will not operate.
- **School bus routes may be cancelled when severe weather may not be affecting all municipalities in York Region.**
- Both the YRDSB and YCDSB operate many regional educational programs. Students attending these programs are transported over large attendance areas encompassing several municipal boundaries. This limits the ability to cancel bus service using a municipality or zone methodology.
- When bus service is cancelled all school tests and/or examinations will be cancelled and rescheduled.
- Student trips involving the use of school buses will also be cancelled.
- Unless otherwise stated, schools will remain open and parents can make arrangements to transport their children to and from school even if school bus service is cancelled. **If buses are cancelled in the morning, they will not operate in the afternoon. Therefore students transported to school by parents will require the same transportation home.**

Parents, students and school staff are asked to access the following radio and television stations after 6:00 a.m. to receive bus cancellation information:

RADIO

590 AM	640 AM	680 AM	860 AM	1010 AM	1050 AM
1540 AM	1580 AM	88.5 FM	89.9 FM	92.5 FM	93.1 FM
94.9 FM	95.9 FM	97.3 FM	98.1 FM	99.1 FM	99.9 FM
101.1 FM	102.1 FM	104.5 FM	100.7 FM	105.9	107.1 FM

TELEVISION

CITY TV CTV Barrie CTV Toronto CP24 GLOBAL NEWS

A bus cancellation message will also be available at [School Bus City](#) and by calling 1-877-3303001, or by following @YRDSB and @YCDSB on twitter.

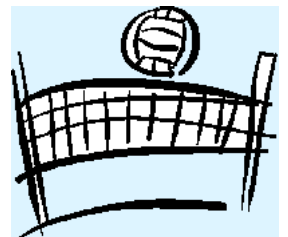
Success on the Court

The Intermediate Boys' and Girls' Volleyball teams wrapped up their respective seasons this week with their York Region Area tournaments last week. The tournaments allowed the students to showcase how far they had come as individual players and as teams.

The Girls team managed to dominate early play finishing with a 4-0 record with victories against Aldergrove, Highgate, David Suzuki and Wilclay that allowed them to finish in first place in their pool and receive a bye to the semi-finals. Strong play from all the girls and great communication allowed them to play at their best when it was most important. In the semi-finals, they showed well against a strong Armadale team eventually falling to the eventual Area champions. In the battle for 3rd place, the team once again played great volleyball and beat Wilclay for the second time in order to earn 3rd overall. The coaches are very proud of the success and development of Paris, Sophia, Julia, Ally, Sophie, Lillian, Tracy, Nicole and Erica. It was a great season that resulted in winning the Boxwood Invitational tournament and a 3rd place finish in our Area tournament.

The Boys team also had their share of successes. The team truly gelled and worked together in the Area tournament to showcase everything they had learned throughout the season. They remained positive and worked together in order to find success. The team had victories over Aldergrove, Highgate and Wilclay and finished second in their pool with a 3-1 record. They fought hard in the quarter finals and eventually lost to Legacy. Overall, the boys placed 5th in a very competitive Area tournament. Congratulations to Max, Omar, Joseph, Jeffrey, David, Raymond, Husni, Jonah, Keenan, Sahil, Patrick, and Mridhul!

Mr. McDonnell, Ms. Su, Mr. Irvine, Mr. Yip and Mr. Biesok



School Council News

From the Chair
By: Amanda G.

Hello everyone. My name is Amanda G and I am your school council chair. This is my 9th year on Council and my 8th year as Chair.

I joined Council because I wanted to have a better understanding of what goes on in the school. I also wanted to help with bringing fun and exciting events to the school for everyone to enjoy.

I have terrific memories from my days in public school and I really hope that our kids will be able to say the same when they have grown up and moved on.

Our council meetings are usually about 1 ½ hours long. We always provide free child care for families who come to the meeting. This child care is run by 2 older students and is located in one of the classrooms.

Thankfully our school has had an amazing group of core parents who have volunteered on Council for many, many years. Without these dedicated parents many of our activities throughout the years would not have been feasible. So I would like to say thank you to those parents for all that they do for our school and our kids.

Each year we are lucky enough to have one or two parents join the Council ranks. It is terrific to meet the people and great to have new ideas brought to the table.

School Council is a very relaxed group. We work as a team and if you are unable to make it to an event to help out; no worries. We all have families and obligations outside of the school so we understand. Our goal is to have fun; enjoy the volunteer experience; support our school and its team members and of course provide our children with terrific memories of their time at UMPS.

Parents are always welcome to drop by and sit in on a meeting. I hope to see you there.

Just a thought...

“The attitude you have as a parent is what your kids will learn from more than what you tell them. They don’t remember what you try to teach them. They remember what you are.”

– Jim Henson



School Council meetings...

All meetings are held in the school library. They start at 6:30 p.m. Babysitting services are always available. The tentative dates are:

January 26th, 2017

March 2nd, 2017

May 11th, 2017



Games Night -

Wood for sheep

Coming December 1st

Don't know how to play –
Don't worry they will teach
you!!! 7:00 – 9:00 in the school
library



We are pleased to announce that UMPS has organized a clothing collection with Bag2School to raise funds for the school.

By getting involved with this clothing collection you have an opportunity to help raise funds for your school as well as **helping the environment** by diverting unwanted textiles away from land fill sites. In addition, it will help raise the students' awareness of the benefits of the 3 "R's"—Reuse, Recycle and Reduce.

Please donate any unwanted clothing - hats, belts, purses, footwear (tied in pairs please) - and soft/stuffed toys. If your donation bag is not big enough for all of your items, you can use any other type of bag(s) as well.

To help raise the maximum funds for your school, please ask your relatives, neighbours and friends to go through their closets too – a team effort makes all the difference!

Please return your bags to Unionville Meadows P.S. on December 14th or 15th, 2016

Family Game Night

Our guests Wood for Sheep are coming back again! Thursday December 1st, from 7:00 – 9:00p.m.
They will be teaching you how to play amazing international games!
Don't know how to play – Don't worry they are happy to teach you!
It is great fun.



UMPS Movie Night

Join us for Zootopia
Friday December 9th
Starting at 7:00
In the school gym





Celebrate the season with our Annual Seasonal Favourite Lunch!
The 2016 Holiday Lunch Special

includes

Roast chicken leg, Mashed potatoes with gravy, Steamed veggies
& a mini Chocolate cupcake with candy cane sprinkles



Available only on the days we service your school
from Dec 1 – 23, 2016.

Also featured for the month of December:

Meatballs with mashed potatoes (regular, veg or halal)

Meat tortellini

Cheese tortellini

Gluten-Friendly Beef ravioli

Many more choices available on our regular menu

Online orders can be completed up until 10am the previous business day.

A valid credit card is required.

Ordering is easy! Visit us at www.kidskitchen.ca to place your orders online.

Enjoy more quality time with your children. Leave the lunches to us.

We're here to help.

905-944-0210

www.kidskitchen.ca