



December 2017

Principal—Alison Hall

Vice Principal—Nancy Tsang

Superintendent—Dan Wu

Trustee—Billy Pang

Unionville Meadows Public School

355 South Unionville Avenue, Markham, Ontario, L3R 5C8

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December at a glance

Dec 5 Reading Rainbow

Dec 6 Amazing Youth (Gr.7 & 8)

Dec 7 Scientist in School (Gr.3s)

Dec 8 Family games night

Dec 14 Winter Wishes (6:30—FDK)
Winter Wishes (7:00—Gr.1-8)

Dec 14 Bag2School

Dec 22 Spirit Day

Unionville Meadows Messenger

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 their full potential.

December promises to be an exciting month. We look forward to connecting with many of you at the Winter Wishes concert on December 14th. We are holding one performance this year at 6:30—7:00pm for the Kindergartens and from 7:00—8:00pm for Gr.1-8s.

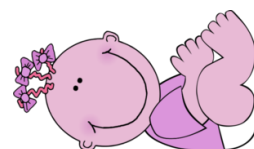
As 2017 comes to an end, the staff at Unionville Meadows P.S. would like to take this opportunity to extend its heartfelt wishes to all our families for a safe and happy holiday and to wish you the very best for the upcoming year of 2018!

Alison Hall & Nancy Tsang

Happy
Holidays!

BABY NEWS

Mr. Linforth welcomed his daughter, Rowan Linforth who was born on November 12th, 2017. She was 7lb 3oz, the family is doing well..



STUDENT ALLERGIES

Due to the severe allergy to peanuts / nuts and shellfish of several of our students, we are asking that NO peanuts / nut products or shellfish be brought into the school for snacks or lunches. As well, we have some students allergic to eggs. If you have received a letter indicating there is a specific allergy in your child's class to eggs, please refrain from sending that specific food item to school in your child's lunch. If you would like a list of nut free snack and lunch ideas please visit:

<http://snacksafely.com/>



FOOD DRIVE

On November 9th, 2017, our Executive Student Government delivered the collected items of non-perishable food. The items resulted from our school dance in which we had asked our intermediate students to hand in a non-perishable food item and in exchange they can attend. We donated the collected items to the Markham Food Bank. We are proud to say we have donated 6-8 large boxes full of items! Overall, the experience was very knowledgeable for our students and this showed them that all that matters in life is to give back to people instead of receiving.

Written by: Melina

(2017-2018 Executive Student Government Member)



Amazing YOUTH

Grade 7 and 8 students have been participating in the **Amazing YOUTH** after school program organized by Hong Fook MHA. Every Tuesday from 3 to 5 pm, they have been learning life skills and personal strategies that will prepare them for the demands and stresses of high school all while having fun with their friends. We are excited to continue our partnership with Hong Fook in the new year as we all work together to support our learners.



REMINDERS

Please send forks and spoons with your child(ren). We will not provide these at the office.

Please label your child(ren)'s lunch container and any clothing they may take off during the course of the day. This way, you will be sure to get it back at the end of the day!



Edsby Account

Using Edsby to sign up for Parent Teacher Interview / Student Led Conference was a success. We will continue to improve and troubleshoot when using Edsby.

Please continue to sign up for an Edsby account as it is form of communication between school and home.

Parents / guardians whom provided the school with their email will continue to be invited to set up an Edsby account.

If you have any questions about this process, please contact our main office.



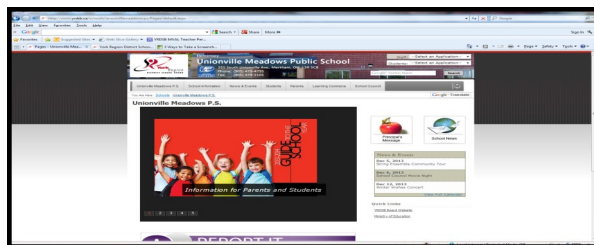
Follow us on
Twitter

@UMPSMarkham

Hear about special events, important days,
and celebrations of learning!

Also, check out our website:

<http://unionvillemeadows.ps.yrdsb.ca/>



Wanted

We are currently looking for a Community Liaison Lunch Assistant with:

- Fluent Cantonese and Mandarin speaking and writing skills
- Flexible hours (required to work at least 5 hours per week)
- Basic computer skills (emails, website, apps...etc.)
- Vulnerable Sector Screening (inquire at the office)
- This is a position to support our community and to increase parent involvement and engagement within Unionville Meadows Public School
- Please inquire by calling / emailing the school or visiting our office



DONATIONS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

UMPS is preparing its annual FOOD DRIVE, please donate non-perishable items between

December 4—December 15th, 2017.

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 fish (tuna, salmon)
- * Canned meats, stews, fruit
- * Juice (canned / boxes / crystals)
 - * Canned milk
 - * Rice (small bags)
 - *Pastas



*Snacks for school lunches—granola bars, fruit rollups, cheese / crackers, raisins, Rice Krispie Squares

HAT & MITT TREE

UMPS Student Government is encouraging families to donate mittens and hats to the school to dress up our Tree.

The donated items will be sent to a local charity to help keep children warm over the cold winter months.

Your support are greatly appreciated.

Please start keeping our tree warm from Dec 4—Dec 15th, 2017



FAMILY GAME NIGHT

Our guests Wood for Sheep are coming back again! Friday, December 8th, 2017 from 7:00—9:00pm.

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. Come join us in the Learning Commons.



A Season full of Spirit!

After an exciting and enthusiastic few weeks, the Intermediate Volleyball season has come to a close. Both teams practiced almost everyday — challenging other schools, each other and even the teachers to prepare them for their area tournaments that were on November 22nd and 23rd. At their respective areas, both teams won 2 games and lost 2 games, and were just shy of a few points to make it into the playoffs. Although they did not advance, we were very proud to have coached such dedicated and hardworking students! Until next season!



2017 UMPS Intermediate Girls Volleyball Team

Back row: Ms. Palmateer (coach), Mrs. Grace (coach), Helena Safdary, Lillian Zheng, Sophia Lieu, Alice Zhang, Paris Alexander, Ms. Huang (coach)

Front row: Lauren Hunter, Vanessa, Ashley Liu, Sherfie Lam, Mylinh Lam

Not pictured: Maggie Lu



2017 UMPS Intermediate Boys Volleyball Team

Mr. Yip (coach), Owen Cao, Sahil Noori, Mridhul Sri-ram, Richard Yu, Michael Bright, Alex Cai, Aiden Chau, Mrs. Grace (Coach)

Not pictured: Anoj Ahilan, Jawad Goraya, Jahlyde Lewis-Tate, and Patrick Paputsis

December 2017 – Trustee Greetings for School Newsletters

Message From Our Trustee

In November, about 1,000 students, staff members and community partners came together from across the Board to form a [Ring of Peace](#) and stand together against hate, discrimination and intolerance. The student speakers at the event shared meaningful messages about the importance of feeling welcome, valued and respected.

At York Region District School Board, we are committed to listening to the voices of our students and communities. We will continue working with our school communities to ensure our schools provide safe, welcoming and inclusive environments for everyone.

Last month, our annual [Quest conference](#) brought together educators from across Ontario, Canada and around the world to share, learn and discuss how to foster well-being in schools. Some of the themes covered included equity and inclusivity, and safe and caring environments.

It was a wonderful opportunity to learn more about some of the positive things happening in our own schools and other districts. In recent months, we have had several international visitors come to our system and schools to learn more about the work in our system to support student achievement and well-being, including Qatar, the Netherlands, Texas and the United Kingdom.

We are pleased to have these opportunities to continue highlighting and sharing the great things happening in our schools thanks to our outstanding students, staff members, families and community partners. Your engagement makes a difference in our schools and I encourage you to continue getting involved in the life of your child's school.

As we enter the holiday season, I am once again impressed by the generosity of our school communities and our students' commitment to helping others.

Best wishes to everyone for a safe and happy holiday season and a wonderful start to 2018.



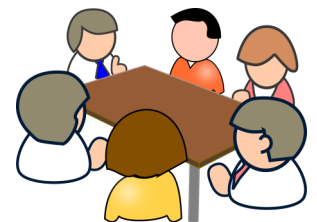
SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our second School Council meeting was held on November 17th. It was wonderful to have our trustee Mr. Billy Pang join us at the meeting. Parents were able to ask questions and provide suggestions to Mr. Pang.

Parents who are on our school distribution list will continue to receive our monthly minutes and agenda items in both English and Chinese.

School Council has sent out information about Bag2School. Please bring the Bags on December 14th which is the same night as our Winter Wishes Concert.

Our next meeting is Thursday, Feb 8th at 6:30pm in the Learning Commons.





From the desk of Ms. Phillips-

THANK YOU! A huge thank you to our staff, students, and community for your support with the book fair! We surpassed our goal and sold \$7742.60 in Scholastic products! This results in thousands of dollars coming back to our school in the way of Scholastic products and cash to support your children's learning. Thank you also to our great grade 7 and 8 Library Helpers who gave much of their personal time to help run the Book Fair. Without them, it wouldn't have been possible.

I would also like to extend congratulations to a few of our students who were the lucky winners in our Scholastic draws – **Mark** in grade 1, **Mishal** in grade 3, and **Ryan** in grade 7 who were all winners of \$20 in Scholastic books and product in our division draws and to **Matthew** in **Ms. Grace's class** who won \$25 in books for his family AND \$25 in books for Ms. Grace's class! Enjoy your new books!

Just in time for the holiday season, we have launched a NEW FUNDRAISER. This one is easy. Click on our fundraiser link and make purchases of E-gift cards and items at Indigo! A percentage of each purchase will come back to the school as CASH. When you purchase E-GIFT CARDS online, 15% of the value will come back to UMPS as CASH. When you shop Books, Style items, Paper, Home items, and Kids, up to 3% of the purchase will come back to UMPS as CASH. You can even buy E-GIFT CARDS online and use them yourself to purchase items to increase our earnings. This CANNOT be used in conjunction with any other offer (ie. Plum Rewards, store bought gift cards).

Help support UMPS all year long when you shop at Indigo! by clicking this link.

<https://indigofundraising.flipgive.com/f/550468>

During the week of December 4-10th a number of classes will be participating in the Hour of Code. This is an international program designed to introduce students to Computer Science and get them to begin thinking like computer programmers. Feel free to explore a variety of activities available to you at www.code.org. No computer programming background is required and it's a great way to explore computers with your child. Stay tuned for more information in the New Year about our coding clubs that will starting up.

HOURL
OF
CODE

IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW

Coming Up This Month

December 4 -10 2017 Participate in the Hour of Code
Check out www.code.org to find activities that will introduce you and your child to Computer Sciences

NEW FUNDRAISER – Just in time for holiday shopping at Indigo!

Winter Holidays – please help your children find overdue library books and get them exchanged for new books to read over the holidays

Check out our Learning Commons collection on our website by clicking this link

https://yrdsb.ent.sirsidynix.net/client/en_US/E449

Did you know we have e-books? Each student can log in to Overdrive using their computer login number. Try it out using the link below.



PARKING AT UNIONVILLE MEADOWS PS

We have noticed that many unsafe practices are happening as parents are trying to drop off and pick up their children before and after school. We have engaged the help of Markham Parking and Traffic Bylaw and York Region Police to support the safety measures we are taking for our students. You may have noticed them here before and after school talking to parents and giving out tickets for infractions. Please understand that we are not doing this to make things difficult for families; instead we are trying to ensure safety for our students and an equitable approach for all.

We highly encourage all families/students who are able to walk to school to do so. Not only is this a great form of exercise, it also supports our environmental goals and it reduces traffic congestion which helps our students to travel more safely to school. We have a Walking Wednesday program where students who walk help to earn points for their classrooms. Walking to school can also be a great time to have a conversation with your child(ren) about what they learned at school, or what they notice in their environment as they walk along. Due to the traffic congestion in the area at drop off and pick up, it also might actually take less time to walk with your child; or if they are old enough, to let your child walk alone to meet you at home.

Please see the map attached and notice the various colours/symbols which indicate:

Red – no parking/stopping at any time

Orange – no parking at fire hydrant

Blue – pick up and drop off zone – **parents cannot get out of their cars – No parking**

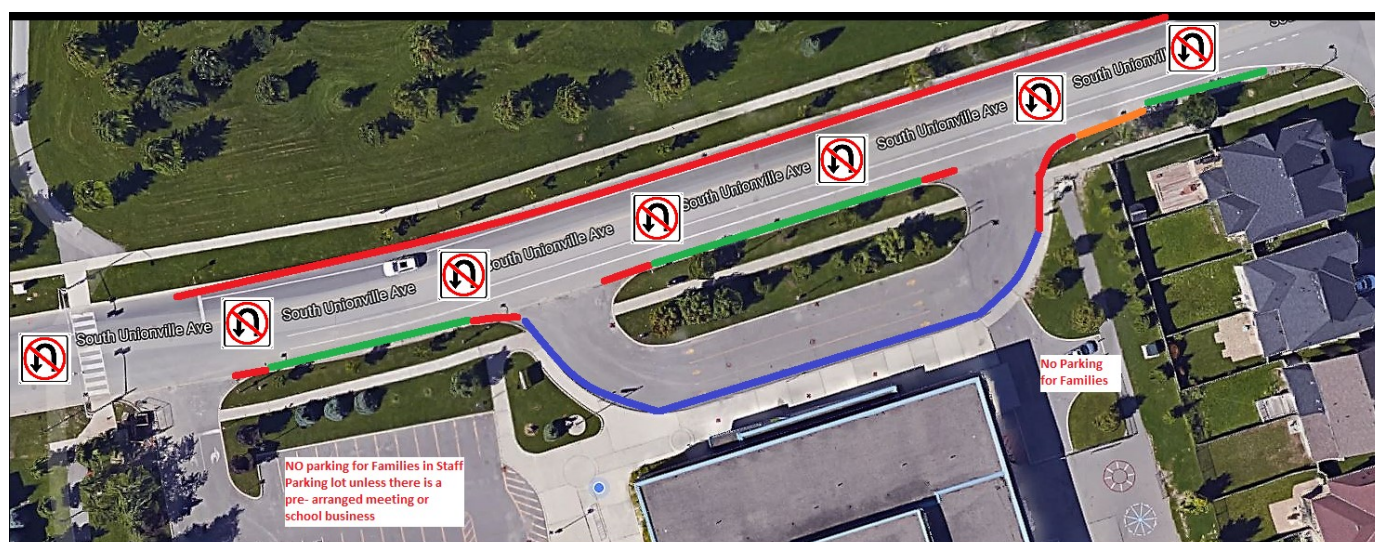
Green – parking permitted



No U- turns at any time in front of the school

No parking in staff parking lot on West side of building unless parents have a pre-arranged meeting in the school or school business .

No parking in staff parking lot on the East side of building at any time.



December 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	Day 5 2
3	4	Day 1 5 Reading Rainbow 3- 3:40pm	Day 2 6 Amazing YOLth 3-5pm	Day 3 7 Scientist in School (Gr. 3s)	Day 4 8 Family Games night	Day 5 9
10	11	Day 1 12 Reading Rainbow 3- 3:40pm	Day 2 13 Amazing YOLth 3-5pm	Day 3 14 Winter Wishes Concert FDK @6:30 pm Gr. 1-8 @ 7:30 pm	Day 4 15	Day 5 16
17	18	Day 1 19	Day 2 20	Day 3 21	Day 4 22 Spirit Day	Day 5 23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Winter Break, School starts on Monday, Jan 8, 2018						
31						