



UNIONVILLE MEADOWS MESSENGER

January 2016

Principal - Leeanne Hughes-Fernandes

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

Phone: (905) 479-4795 Fax: (905) 479-1105

Website: www.unionvillemeadows.ps.yrdsb.ca

Vice Principal - Tina Diavolitsis

JANUARY AT A GLANCE!

4- Welcome Back!

11-CMHA Workshop-Tackling Stress & Anxiety-Gr.8s

14- Gr.7 Immunization

15-PA Day-No School

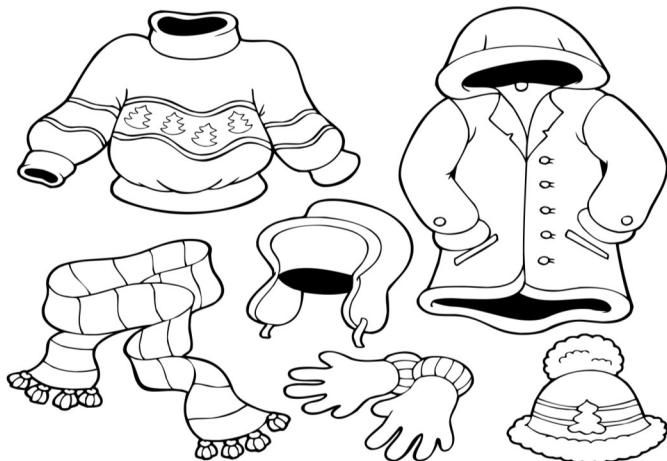
20- ARTS SERIES-Esmeralda Enrique Spanish Dance Company:
Journey to Spain-Gr.4-8; Wacky Sock Spirit Day

28- School Council Meeting 6:30pm UMPS Learning Commons



Dressing for winter

Now that the colder temperatures have arrived please make sure your children come to school dressed for the weather. We monitor weather conditions daily and will keep students inside during severe weather. The rest of the time the students will play outside during morning and lunch recesses. It is helpful if you label these items so they can be returned if lost.



Message from the Principal's Desk

Happy New Year to all of our families! We hope that you had a wonderful holiday filled with the love of family and friends. Thank you to all the families who came out to our Winter Wishes Concerts in December. Our gym was filled to capacity for both our evening performances. Our staff and students worked very hard to prepare their messages of Peace. As well, our Food Drive was an enormous success and we are very proud of our School Council who organized this initiative and our students and school community who donated generously. As we enter the New Year, we look forward to continued messages of peace and acts of goodwill.

As we approach the end of Term one, we remain committed to our learning goals for the year. We remind all parents of the importance of being involved in your child's school life and to support them in setting goals that are achievable and attainable. We look forward to working together on these goals in partnership over the next few months. Both teachers and the administration look forward to your continued support.

*Leeanne Hughes-Fernandes &
Tina Diavolitsis*



WOULD YOU ENJOY **COLLABORATIVELY** LEARNING THE ONTARIO CURRICULUM THROUGH **THE ARTS**?

If so, the York Region District School Board offers an **Elementary Integrated Arts Program** at Baythorn Public School. If you are currently in grades **four or five**, you may apply for the **arts@baythorn program**, where you will have the opportunity to explore the disciplines of Dance, Drama, Visual Arts, and Music in a **cooperative learning environment**.

To learn more about the arts@baythorn program, you and your family are invited to attend an information evening at Baythorn Public School on:

Wednesday, January 13, 2016 @ 7:00 p.m.

Applications will be available at bit.ly/arts_application2016 online after January 13th, 2016.

If you require further information, please call us at
Baythorn Public School
(905) 889-7992.

Kate Kurek
Principal

The Arts Team

Meytal Daniels
Vice Principal



Grade 8 Parent Information Night at Markville S.S.

Markville's Grade 8 Parents' Night will be taking place on January 13th, between 6:30 and 8:30 pm. Parents are invited to attend to learn more about the Grade 9 Program.



French Immersion Information Sessions and Registrations

Information sessions for the French Immersion (FI) program will take place at French Immersion schools on January 14, 2016 at 7 p.m. Please visit YRDSB's website in January 2016 (<http://www.yrdsb.ca/Programs/fi/Pages/Program-Locations.aspx>) to find the FI program location for your elementary school location. FI registration will begin January 15, 2016. Parents or guardians of Senior Kindergarten students entering Grade 1 in 2016, and wishing to enrol in the FI Program, can visit or call the school office and request an *Office Index Card - short version*. The Office Index Card must be signed by the principal of the home school. Parents or guardians then take this form, along with one piece of identification showing their address to the designated FI program location to register between January 15 and February 12, 2016. This eliminates the need to provide duplicate enrollment information or to pre-register.

YRDSB's FI Accommodation Plan provides long-term consistency and equity of access to all students in York Region and will enable YRDSB to continue to offer the FI program to all who wish to enroll. The FI program will be offered in Dual Track or Single Track settings, in a variety of configurations. In order to meet community needs and optimize available space in our schools, a community's Grade 1-8 FI program may be provided over more than one school during the course of a student's FI education. This will allow flexibility in addressing community needs and the opportunity to use existing space in schools. More information is available on the Board's website: www.yrdsb.ca. Please note: Some of the FI accommodation plans will require facility modifications or the development of new schools and will require short-term transition plans that might include overflow while we work toward the long-term vision. Overflow refers to situations in which the Board directs students to attend a school other than their community school or optional program for a specific period of time, as defined in Policy #108.

Kindergarten Registration to Commence January 15, 2016



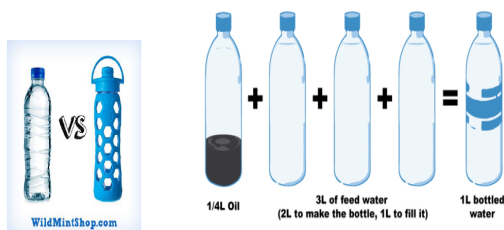
Kindergarten registration will commence on January 15, 2016 for the 2016-17 school year. Registration forms are available on YRDSB's website: www.yrdsb.ca. Children who turn four or five years old during 2016, live within the school boundary and whose parents are public school tax supporters will be eligible to register for kindergarten. A kindergarten information session for parents is being planned for this spring. For more information please visit the YRDSB website or contact the school.

ECO SCHOOL NEWS - KEEP THINKING GREEN!



Have you ever realised how much garbage we produce? Each person produces approximately 4.3 pounds of garbage daily! So far this year, we have already produced 2.6 trillion pounds of garbage! That would equal to 7,000 Empire State Buildings! Where does all this garbage go? The vast majority of our garbage goes to landfill sites. While only a few percentage of garbage will be recycled, composted, and made as a way of income. When we throw away all those candy wrappers, and chip bags, we automatically think that the garbage will be properly taken care of. While that is not a complete lie, just think about where most of the garbage goes - **into landfill sites!** Imagine this huge area full of just garbage. Is that really being taken care of? Landfill sites also create something called methane, a potent greenhouse gas. While humans are building up economies, and becoming more successful, the Earth is getting more and more waste-filled.

You can help relieve this by choosing to buy a reusable water bottle, instead of buying plastic ones.



Or, putting sandwiches and hamburgers into lunch containers, instead of wrapping them with plastic wrappers or sandwich bags. Money cannot buy the Earth, so while everyone is so busy focusing on building up strong economies, we should also focus on how to help create a healthier environment for all of us.

We only have one Earth, so we should learn to protect it, and treat it with "respect".



By:Alena

STUDENT COUNCIL FOOD DRIVE 2016

Every year our school collects and donates food to the Markham food bank, located on 190 Bullock Dr. In December, our school collected 766 items that were donated. We would like all families to know that in the season of giving, their contribution was appreciated. We were very grateful that such a large number of food was brought in because about 10 000 people use the food bank in Markham. If you would like to make a difference, you can volunteer at food banks or any other community services in your neighbourhood. Thank you for making a difference in our community!!

GO UMPS MUSTANGS!!!!

Written by: Angelene



Thank you to all that participated in the survey about community workshops! The response was strong and showed the interest in gaining information that will support your child, your child's teacher and the school. Please stay tuned for our first community workshop in the coming months. We look forward to you being there! If you haven't taken the survey, you still can.

Click here for Parent & Family Survey: <https://goo.gl/b5iftb>

Please remember to send forks and spoons with your child(ren). We can not provide these on a daily basis. Thank you!



We're starting our New Year off by celebrating healthy choices!

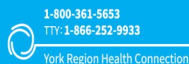
Our grade four students are taking the lead in spreading tobacco-free messages throughout our school as they learn about the health risks associated with tobacco use through their Health and Physical Education curriculum. Ask your children what they learned this week and start the discussion at home!

- Take advantage of opportunities to discuss the health risks of tobacco
- Talk about peer pressure and the role of the media
- Work with your child to practice saying 'no'
- Make the conversation meaningful by relating it to something they enjoy (e.g. the effects of smoking on their ability to play sports, dance, etc.)

Together we can make the healthy choice the easy choice!



For more information, visit **Health Canada** at www.hc-sc.gc.ca



Community and Health Services
Public Health

www.york.ca



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