



UNIONVILLE MEADOWS MESSENGER

September 2015

Principal - Leeanne Hughes-Fernandes

Vice Principal - Tina Diavolitsis

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

SEPTEMBER AT A GLANCE!

7- Labour Day (holiday)
8- First day of school
14 & 15- Rosh Hashanah
23-Eid-ul-Adha
23-Yom Kippur
28—Professional Training Day (no school for students)

Daily Schedule

Entry 8:25

Block 1 :8:30 - 10:10

RECESS 10:10 - 10:40

Block 2: 10:40- 12:20

LUNCH 12:20 - 1:20

Block 3: 1:20 - 3:00

Dismissal 3:00



Reporting an Absence from School

From time to time your child may need to miss school due to illness or an appointment, etc. You must call the school to report the absence. You can do this anytime as the answering machine is available 24 hours a day. Please phone **905-479-4795** and leave a message on the answering machine with the following information:
-your child's first and last name
-spell the name
-grade and teacher's name
-reason for absence

Message from the Principal's Desk

The start of the school year is a time of new beginnings. Staff, students and parents alike, view the beginning of the school year as a time to start anew, a time for second chances and a time to look at things with a fresh new perspective.



We are very thankful to our caretakers who have worked very hard over the summer to prepare our classrooms for a fresh start, as well as our office staff who are always at the frontlines of everything we do for students.

We are excited to welcome our new students, parents and teachers to our school. We also welcome those who have been with us and are returning again. Our staff is committed to creating welcoming spaces for their learners and preparing meaningful lessons. Many teachers participated in professional development courses, workshops, and did professional reading and cannot wait to implement all of the wonderful things they learned.

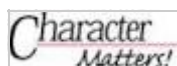
Unionville Meadows P.S. has also always had a strong legacy of academic success and has always been committed to the achievement and well being of our students. We will continue this legacy by preparing our students for the global workplace of the 21st century. We will also focus on the skills needed for our students to become successful global citizens. We are very excited to be a part of this journey, and look forward to celebrating the accomplishments and successes of our students together in partnership.

In order to ensure a smooth beginning for your child(ren), we ask that you read the start up package carefully regarding the homework policy, dress code, lunch expectations, etc. As well, please ensure you complete and sign the required forms and return them to your child's teacher as soon as possible.

As we look to the start of the new year, we hope each day allows our students to feel deeply, think clearly and critically, and act wisely through the things they learn daily at school. We look forward to supporting our students, teachers and parents and believe that through our partnership, we can make a difference in the lives of our students and accomplish anything we set our minds to.

We look forward to a great year of learning and growing together!

*Leeanne Hughes-Fernandes &
Tina Diavolitsis*



Respect

We respect ourselves and treat others with courtesy, dignity and positive regard. We Honour the rights of others. We respect their belongings the environment and the world around us.

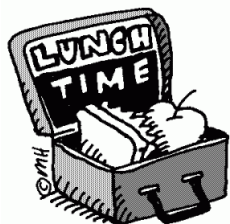
Forms to be Returned



A number of important forms have been included in the package that went home with students on the first day of school. Please take the time to read this material carefully and to return the forms that require a signature to your child's homeroom teacher no later than Monday, September 14th.

Thank you for your prompt attention!

School Lunch and Yard Assistants



If you are interested in becoming a School Assistant to supervise at lunch time (1 hour per day), please submit your name to the office.



PIANO LESSONS CONTINUE AT UNIONVILLE MEADOWS

Ms. Lukie will again proudly be offering piano class lessons **at Unionville Meadows**. The **\$8.50 weekly 1 hour** classes will instruct your children in reading and writing music, ear and rhythm training along with playing the piano.

By grouping the children in small classes at Unionville Meadows **after school on Mondays** it's possible to provide **top quality low cost** music instruction in a friendly, happy atmosphere. Lessons for Gr.1 to Gr.8 are for beginner and advanced. There are four terms of lessons with report cards, exams and a recital in June. A free piano app for home practice is available online. A piano/keyboard is not needed to start.

Leave a clear message anytime at: **905-513-0346** to register.

Get in depth info:

www.howmars.com

username: lukie

password: piano teacher

Email: e.lukie@gmail.com



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



Also please remember to label your child'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!



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 Entry: For Kindergarten Parents Only

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".

Please always be extra careful as you enter and exit the parking lot and drive or walk down the street. The safety of our children is imperative.



Visitors in the School

We welcome families and volunteers at Unionville Meadows Public School.

To ensure the safety of students, families and visitors are asked to use the main entrance and report to the office at all times. You will be asked to sign in and wear a visitor or volunteer badge if you are visiting the school for any reason (volunteering, appointments with teachers, etc.).

We also remind parents to drop off their children before entering the school yard or playground. For the safety of all of our students, the only adults permitted on the UMPS playground are UMPS staff and lunch assistants. Supervision in the yard begins at 8:15.

Thank you for your cooperation.



Check out our Website!



Please bookmark this website so you can check to see what is happening at Unionville Meadows P.S!

Our website aims to be more environmentally friendly by reducing the amount of communication sent home on paper.

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

SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK



Safety Drills

We will be reviewing safety issues and practicing some specific safety procedures/drills with all of our students. As you know from previous years, schools across the province have engaged in Lockdown Procedures which prepare students for occurrences such as an armed intruder. Schools are required to practice 2 Lockdowns in addition to 6 Fire Drills per year. Our first Lockdown will take place later in the month and our fire drills will randomly occur throughout the year, with the first one occurring within the first 2 weeks of school. Our teachers do a great job of preparing our students for these drills so that anxiety levels are kept to a minimum.



Keeping valuables safe

Valuable possessions, such as electronic games, toys and smart phones may interfere with the learning environment. Personal music players (M3Ps, Cell Phones and iPods) are not to be used inside the school building. Students are discouraged from bringing these items to school. If they are brought to school, it is at the students' own risk. If an item is confiscated, parents will be asked to pick it up at the school office. We are not responsible for loss or damage to personal effects that are not required for programming.



BACK TO SCHOOL TIPS



	Elementary School	High School
School Supplies	Check to see what supplies you still have available from last year. Check the dollar store for bargains or take advantage of back-to-school sales. Use a checklist to avoid duplication.	Check to see what supplies are usable from last year, work out a budget and then let teens buy their own supplies. Buy supplies just before school starts, to take advantage of back-to-school sales. Use a supply checklist and don't forget to get lock for their lockers.
Bedtime	About a week before the beginning of school, start a routine where children are going to bed earlier, especially if they have been staying up later over the summer holidays.	Establish acceptable hours for school nights that you can both live with. Despite what teens think, they do need a good night's sleep.
Healthy Living	Children need good food, daily physical activity and a healthy environment that supports learning and growth. Through Healthy Schools Initiatives, such as 20 minutes of daily physical activity and having healthy food in vending machines, the Ontario government is working with schools to ensure kids maximize their potential. Look for crunchy fruits and vegetables and low-fat food choices to tuck into lunch boxes and enjoy family walks, biking or hikes so everyone gets exercise.	Buy a variety of healthy food choices and ask your teens what they want to eat, so that lunches are enjoyable and nutritious. Breakfast is the most important meal of the day, so encourage teens to take time to eat in the morning. And remind them that daily physical activity is an important way to maintain their ideal weight and have a positive body image. A family run is a great way to spend quality time together and burn calories.
School Year Priorities	Figure out the ground rules for after-school activities, chores, homework, television and Internet use. By discussing priorities early, you can set a schedule and avoid confrontations later on.	Set priorities for after-school activities, job and chore hours, homework and leisure time. Encourage your teen to stick with the list, and revise it if priorities change.
Homework	Set up a well-lit, quiet place with a good work surface for your child to do homework. Encourage a regular homework time and discourage distractions.	Encourage a regular homework time with limited distractions. Establish appropriate times for phone calls, instant messaging, electronic games and other activities.
Bullying	Bullying is a serious problem, can be verbal, social, physical and electronic and needs to be dealt with promptly through dialogue. As well, children can speak directly with Kids Help Phone. The Ontario government recently provided funding to the helpline so additional counsellors are available to help with bullying problems. The government will also be producing a booklet on dealing with bullying that you can order from www.edu.gov.on.ca .	Bullying is a serious problem, can be verbal, social, physical and electronic and needs to be dealt with promptly through dialogue. As well, children can speak directly with Kids Help Phone. The Ontario government recently provided funding to the helpline so additional counsellors are available to help with bullying problems. The government will also be producing a booklet on dealing with bullying that you can order from www.edu.gov.on.ca .
Learning at Home	Parents can support the government's literacy and numeracy programs by incorporating learning into everyday life - for example, by having kids read package labels and weigh produce during grocery shopping trips. Reading to your child for just 20 minutes a day can amount to more than 1,420 hours by age 12.	Encourage reading for pleasure in the home and provide a variety of reading materials, from novels to magazines, you know your teens will enjoy. Your local library is a great place to start.

reach every student