



# UNIONVILLE MEADOWS MESSENGER

## December 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](http://www.unionvillemeadows.ps.yrdsb.ca)

### DECEMBER AT A GLANCE!

1- Grade 8 Mental Health Session #1-Myth Busting  
1- Music Orientation from Markville for Gr. 8s  
4- School Council Movie Night, UMPS Gym at 7:00 pm  
7- & 8- Gr. 3 Gifted Screening  
9-Kindergarten Winter Wishes Concert-6:30 pm  
10-Bring Bag 2 School Donation to UMPS  
10- Winter Wishes Concert-7:00 pm  
11-A RTS Series - Dufflebag Theatre - T'Was the Night Before Christmas for Grades 4-8  
11-Progress Reports Go Home  
18-Wacky Hair & Hat Day & Healthy & Effective Schools Assembly

### WINTER HOLIDAYS

**December 21- January 1**

**See you back at school on January 4th!**

**Happy Holidays!**



### 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](http://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.

### Message from the Principal's Desk

In a few short 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 and engaged in thoughtful discussions about your children'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. Our students are busy preparing for our Winter Concerts. We look forward to connecting with many of you at the Winter Wishes Kindergarten Concert on December 9th and the Winter Wishes Concert on December 10th! 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.

Finally, as 2015 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 2016!

*Leeanne Hughes-Fernandes &  
Tina Diavolitsis*

## 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 enrol. 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](http://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.

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



## 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.

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!



In efforts to work with parents/families in supporting the academic and social-emotional success of their child(ren), we would like to introduce parent workshops at Unionville Meadows P.S.

Please take a moment to complete a survey at the link below. Select your top three (3) topics of interest for upcoming workshops. We will use this feedback to plan for upcoming workshops. A paper version with Chinese translation will be sent home with your child with their progress report. Thank you for your support and we look forward to your participation in upcoming workshops!

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

## **YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!**

Unionville Meadows Public School's  
Student Council

is preparing its annual

## **FOOD DRIVE!**

November 30 – December 11, 2015.

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)
  - Macaroni & Cheese
- Snacks for school lunches: granola bars, fruit rollups, cheese/crackers, raisins/craisins, rice krispie squares

**THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION!**

**Reminder:** Please check expiry dates and make sure that only non-perishable food items are donated. Also all items must be shellfish/nut-free!

## **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".



# **It's time for our... Kindergarten Winter Wishes Concert**

**Wednesday, December 9, 2015**

Evening Concert: 6:30 pm

**Featuring...**

**Junior and Senior Kindergarten classes**

We look forward to you joining us in our Music making! See you there!



# **It's time for our... Winter Wishes Concert**

**Thursday, December 10, 2015**

School Concert: 9:00 am

Evening Concert: 7:00 pm

**Featuring...**

UMPS 6-8 String Ensemble

Ms. Doyle, Gr.2 Adatia, Gr 3 Hoselton, Leung,  
Love, Gr 4 Clarke, 4/5 Caplan, Gr 5 Patel, Piedimonte

We look forward to you joining us in our Music making! See you there!



## Message from Our Trustee

It is that time of year when our schools brim with energy and excitement for the many diverse celebrations taking place across our region. I am always happy to join the festivities happening in our schools and appreciate the efforts of our students, staff and community members to bring the holiday season alive.

As we wind down 2015, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our parents and guardians for their support of our students and staff over the past few months. A school community is only as strong and welcoming as the people who make up that community. Our students, staff and community members have continued to demonstrate respect, character and commitment in their work and interactions over the last few months. As a trustee, I consider myself very fortunate to work with such supportive community and staff members.

On behalf of all of the trustees and staff of the York Region District School Board, I would like to wish you and your families a very happy holiday season.

All the best for 2016!



Our Annual Seasonal Favourite is back!

### The 2015 Winter Holiday Lunch Special

**Roast chicken leg, Steamed veggies,  
Mashed potatoes with gravy & a Mini red velvet cupcake**

Available EACH day we service your school from **December 1<sup>st</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>**

Also available - our Lunch combo for December:  
**Salisbury steak with steamed veggies**

Many more choices available on our regular menu

Ordering is easy!  
Visit us at [www.kidskitchen.ca](http://www.kidskitchen.ca) to place your orders online.

Order up till 10am the previous business day.  
Valid credit card required.

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

905-944-0210  
[www.kidskitchen.ca](http://www.kidskitchen.ca)



## Winter sun safety

It's true. The winter sun contains UV rays and sunburns do occur, even though it is cold outside.

### Winter Sun Facts:

- Snow reflects up to 80 per cent of UV rays, which bounce off the ground, so sunburns can occur in unusual areas (e.g., under the chin)
- Sports at higher altitudes increase the risk of serious sunburn, as there is less atmosphere to block the sun's rays
- "Snow blindness" can occur if your eyes are unprotected - eyes can temporarily feel gritty and watery

### Protect Yourself:

- Cover up! When outside, wear protective clothing and a hat
- Wear sunglasses with 100 per cent UVA and UVB protection. Close-fitting, wrap-around styles can offer greater protection
- Use a sunscreen and lip balm SPF 30 or higher
- Remember to apply sunscreen 15 to 30 minutes before going outdoors and reapply every two hours

For health-related information visit [www.york.ca/healthyschools](http://www.york.ca/healthyschools)



1-800-361-5653  
TTY: 1-866-252-9933  
York Region Health Connection

Community and Health Services  
Public Health

[www.york.ca](http://www.york.ca)



# School Council News

for parents by parents

Unionville Meadows Public School

Dec 2015



## Bag2School

All donations need to be brought to the school on **Thursday December 10th**

### What to donate:

Clothing, belts, purses, shoes(tied together), stuffed toys

### Do not send in:

Books or regular toys

Contributing clothing to B2S directly reduces the volume of textiles sent to landfill sites. In most western countries, 6-12% of landfill waste is made up of discarded textiles. Instead of being thrown into landfills as garbage, quality textiles can be re-used as affordable second-hand clothing both in North America and overseas. Any items deemed unsuitable for resale will be taken to textile recycling facilities where they will be broken down and remade into useful materials, such as fleece jumpers and even US dollar bills.



## Winter wishes

Water & Popcorn Sale + 50/50 draw

**kindergarten: Wednesday December 9**

**The rest of the grades: Thursday December 10**

Popcorn and water: \$1.00/ea

50/50 draw tickets: \$2/ea or \$5/3 tickets

\* Please bring your change

Winner gets 50 percent of the money raised from the 50/50 tickets and the other 50 percent will go back to the school to support student learning and initiatives.



### Movie night

7:00pm, Friday December 4th  
@ School Gym

Movie: **Inside Out**

We will be selling popcorn & water



### Aussie X

Coming March 31  
Details to follow



### Popcorn days

Coming back in February  
Forms will be sent home  
in January



Direct monetary donations  
to the school are welcome



Next  
School Council meeting

6:30 - 8:00pm  
January 28th, 2016  
@ Library



[unionville.meadows.ps@yrdsb.ca](mailto:unionville.meadows.ps@yrdsb.ca)  
Email us! School Council will be in touch