

OCTOBER 12, 2007

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URSULA FRANKLIN ACADEMY NEWSNOTES

The start of a new academic year at Ursula Franklin Academy is always a special occasion. We were honoured to celebrate Dr. Franklin's birthday at our Family Night on September 18th. No one else but Ursula could compare education to the beauty and magic of Cirque du Soleil. Parent(s)/Guardian(s) also had the opportunity at this time to meet with their child's/ward's teachers.

Our working relationship with Western Technical Commercial School and THESTUDENTSCHOOL continues to be strong. The administration of the schools meets regularly to discuss and plan for events that affect all those housed in the building.

Back in early September, staff and students from Ursula Franklin Academy and Western Technical Commercial School enjoyed a morning playing baseball at the Rogers Centre, followed by an afternoon of teacher-lead activities. Once again, without parental support and generous contributions, this would not have been possible.

A number of our staff and our grade nine students went on a Retreat to Muskoka Woods for four days in September. We are hoping that this will become an Ursula Franklin Academy tradition. Please see page 3 for further details about this amazing experience.

We celebrated many of our students' contributions and accomplishments at our "Recognition Assembly" on October 2nd. I am pleased to say that 300 students received certificates and awards. The assembly was followed by a reception for students and parents/guardians.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new teachers. A warm welcome to: Jeff Caton – teaching Physical Education, Exercise Science and Science, Elizabeth Keay – teaching English, Monica Marques - teaching French, Gemsy Joseph – replacing Aivars Tannis who is on parental leave and Cinzia Scarano who is replacing Heather Strupat who is on maternity/parental leave. I would also like to welcome back, Ryan Kilgour.

The UFA Wednesday Enrichment sessions continue to offer students unique enrichment opportunities. I would like to thank the students, teachers, guests and parents/guardians for their contributions to this exciting program.

Our School Advisory Council continues to play an active and vital role in our community. Two of our dedicated co-chairs of last year, Eva and Elias Kyriacou are truly missed. David Lavin continues as co-chair and is joined by Angie Gei Walden. All parents/guardians are invited to attend our monthly meetings.

Tito Faria

IMPORTANT DATES

Oct. 17 th	School Council Mtg. @ 7:00p.m.
Oct. 30 th	Early Dismissal @ 2:41 p.m., (Staff Mtg.)
Nov. 2 nd	P.D. Day
Week of Nov. 5 th	Report cards mailed home
Nov. 7 th	Take Our Kids to Work Day (Grade 9 only)
Nov. 13 th	Grade 8 Information Night @ 7:00 p.m.
Nov. 20 th	Early Dismissal @ 2:41 p.m., (Staff Mtg.)
	School Council Mtg. @ 7:00 p.m.
Nov. 27 th	Parent/Teacher Interviews
Nov. 30 th	P.D. Day
Dec. 12 th	School Council Mtg. @ 7:00 p.m.
Dec. 17 th , 18 th , 20 th , and 21 st	Modified Schedule Days
Dec. 24 th to Jan. 4 th	Holiday Break

Please check the School Events Calendar on VUFA for the most up-to-date information regarding important dates and events.

NEWS FROM S.A.C.



As most of you know, the School Advisory Council [SAC] is composed of parents/guardians, principal, vice principal, teacher and student representation. We had our first very well-attended meeting on **Tuesday, Sept 25th**. It was [as always] a lively meeting, filled with discussion and information about what is happening at UFA. Please check out the minutes posted on VUFA. SAC is a large part of this community. It supports, informs and "airs out" concerns.

We are also part of a larger Ward 7 community of schools. Lorna, our Ward 7 rep, keeps us up to date on the political scene and lets us know what we can do, as a group of schools, to support public education. She also reports on People for Education.

Whether you want to know about what is happening politically, get involved in a committee [Gala, Landscaping, Uniform, Safety, etc.] or just want to come and listen, your support is appreciated. Please let us know if you want to add something to the agenda a week before the meeting date. We will always try to leave some time for discussion in "other business" and if we are time restricted, will carry the topic over to the next meeting. There is a "parent forum" on VUFA where guardians can "chat". This also can be used as another source of information.

To accommodate people with Tuesday night commitments, we are trying a Tuesday/Wednesday split this year. Our next meeting is **Wednesday Oct. 17th at 7pm** in the library. Hope to see you there!

Angie Gei Walden
David Lavin, [co- chairs SAC]

P.S. - Please mark April 22 on your calendars! It is the night of our fabulous GALA Variety Night! Tickets go on sale in January.

Message from the Vice-Principal

Students have been wearing the uniform with pride. However, as one would expect, from time to time they do forget to be in proper uniform. Ursula Franklin Academy has a selection of uniforms that students can, and have, borrowed when needed. Our students have been wonderful in returning these borrowed items fully laundered. We are asking you to support our staff and community in this respect by reminding your child/ward to come to school in full uniform. A full description of the uniform pieces can be found on pages 17 and 18 of the Student Agenda.

Teachers are meeting during their lunch time to discuss student success and to identify students that may need additional support. These meetings are chaired by teachers and organized by grade level. Teachers will be making phone calls home to parent(s)/guardian(s) of students identified at these meetings. The first official report card will be mailed home the week of **November 5th, 2007**. Following this mailing, parents/guardians will have the opportunity to set up interview times with teaching staff. These interviews will take place on **Tuesday, November 27th, 2007**. More information on this will be noted on the official report card.

Modified week will take place from **December 17th to the 21st**. Class periods will be twice as long this week to accommodate these assessments.

Lorraine Linton

GUIDANCE SPACE



Grade Nine Retreat in September

Thirty P.A.L.S. [People Acting as Leaders of Spirit] and student leaders ran a wonderful grade nine retreat at the Muskoka Woods Retreat Centre on the second weekend in September. Under the able leadership and coordination of grade twelve students **Charlotte Davies**, **Alex Dean**, and **Sarah Unterman**, grade nine students participated in a wide variety of games and activities that enabled them to get to know one another better and learn more about the school's values. Many staff members were instrumental in running and supervising activities. A huge thank you goes out to all who helped make the retreat such a success!

Grade Nine Guidance Sessions – How to Be Successful in High School

In September, all the grade nines attended guidance sessions with their guidance counsellors (**Anna Pesovar**, for students whose last names begin with **A-L**; **Ali Callegarini**, for last names **M-Z**). We went over graduation requirements with the students, clarifying the credit system, compulsory and elective courses, the 40 hours of community service, and the literacy test. We also asked students to reflect on their learning styles and on strategies that they need to adopt in order to be successful in their education.

Grade Twelves Preparing for Post-Secondary

This month, all grade twelve students are attending guidance sessions on Wednesdays with **Anna Pesovar** and **Ali Callegarini**, their guidance counsellors. Students are learning about post-secondary pathways and how to apply for university and college. They will also learn about scholarships and financing their education with OSAP. Students will be given Ontario college handbooks, and Ontario university programs can be researched at electronicinfo.ca.

Note: Students who take co-op on Wednesdays will be asked to attend alternative sessions to be held later in the month. These students should see Anna or Ali to confirm their attendance at these sessions.

Would You Be Interested in Speaking about Your Career?

Once again, we are looking for parents and other members of our community who would be willing to speak about their careers to a group of students during a Wednesday session. If you would be willing to share some of your experiences and wisdom regarding your career and the journey that brought you there, please call **Ali Callegarini** at **416-393-0430, ext. 20136**.

Take Our Kids to Work Day

UFA will once again be part of the many schools across Canada who will be taking part in Take Our Kids to Work Day on **Wednesday, November 7th**. Facilitated in cooperation with the Learning Partnership, the program encourages Grade 9 students to attend either a parent's or family friend's place of employment for the day.

This is an excellent opportunity for students to begin the career planning process that is progressively developed throughout high school.

Permission forms have already been sent home. These forms **must** be handed in to Heather in the Main Office by **Friday, October 26th**.

University Visits at UFA

October is a busy month in our Guidance department, with representatives from Ontario and Quebec universities delivering presentations to interested Grade 12 students.

Students are encouraged to sign up with Jason in the Main Office in order to attend the presentations. A list of scheduled visits is located on the School Events calendar on VUFA.

YOUR COMMUNITY



Fresh from the F.A.A.

The Franklin Athletic Association [F.A.A.] is off to a great start! We had a great turn out for our very first general meeting on September 18, 2007. F.A.A. is an organization that works with students not only improve Ursula Franklin Academy's Athletics Department but to also encourage healthy living. We organize a variety of school events throughout the year to get students involved and to promote school spirit! Some events to look out for include: Pasta Lunch, Candy Cane-O-Grams and UFA Idol. This year the F.A.A. will also be holding the Inside Ride event, an indoor cycling challenge that raises money for cancer camps for young children. If students are still interested in being part of any of the committees that organize these events they should contact the appropriate executive through VUFA.

2007-2008 F.A.A. Executive

Publicity Head: Kaela McDowell
Fundraising Head: Olivia Randall
Intramural Head: Hunter Domino
Athletic Banquet Coordinator: Alyssa Hodgins
UFA Idol Coordinator: Laura Viselli
.Candy Cane Coordinator: Alana Evanowich
Secretary: Anna Hutchinson
Vice President: Hadi Muhammad
President: Samia Qadir

PEACE: Helping Students Make the Right Decision at the Right Time

A new program supported by the TDSB is educating students about the dangers of gangs. Supported by the Government of Ontario, Toronto Police Service, Crime Stoppers, Toronto school boards, and community and youth leaders, the PEACE (Public Education and Crime Eradication) Project includes presentations in schools by community police officers and student facilitators. TDSB Safe Schools staff is working to have all grade 7 and 9 students see the presentation during the 2007-2008 school year.

The PEACE presentation includes an excellent short video called Step Up!, which was written, produced, directed and acted in by students, that illustrates where wrong choices can lead and emphasizes the importance of making the right choices early on.

Police Constable Jessica McInnis says the presentation shows students how important it is to make those positive choices early and often when faced with decisions about befriending gang members. "You don't get old in a gang. There is no pension plan," she says. "We want them to think about making the right decisions at the right time and sometimes you have to keep making the right decision over and over again." The personable police officer says it's important to establish a good rapport with youth and that the PEACE Project gives students a chance to connect with local police in a positive, non-threatening way. "It helps us to break down some barriers," she says.

For more information about the PEACE Project, visit www.peace-project.org.

Director's Letter to Parents

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the beginning of another exciting school year at the Toronto District School Board. On behalf of the staff of the Toronto District School Board, I hope the start of the school year was a smooth transition for your child(ren) whether they were returning, or starting at a Toronto public school for the first time.

As Director of Education for the Board, it is my responsibility, with the help of dedicated professional staff, to ensure the safe, successful operation of our schools for all of our students. Along with their safety, we are here to help your child(ren) achieve their highest level of academic success possible, each and every day. You have our commitment to these priorities.

The Toronto District School Board is one of the largest school boards in North America, celebrating students from more than 175 different countries, with more than 70 languages represented in our schools. It is this rich diversity that will make your child(ren)'s school experience even more interesting and rewarding.

We ask for your help in achieving our goal of success for every student. Please be sure to encourage your children, ask them what they are learning at school and ask to see their schoolwork. Most importantly, ensure they get a good night's sleep and praise them each and every day.

I look forward to working in partnership with you on behalf of our child(ren).

Yours truly,

Gerry Connelly
Director of Education

YOUR COMMUNITY



Student Uniform Association order forms are now available in our main office. Please hand in all forms and payments to Rita in the Main Office by **Thursday October 25** - cash or cheques only please, payable to "**Student Uniform Association**".

Delivery of the uniforms will be made mid to late November.

Student Uniform Association Wednesday Enrichment Grants have been allocated for this period.

Art News

We seem to have a bumper crop of talented art students this year in all the grade levels. Here are some things that we have been up to so far this year...

World Press Photo Exhibition

This year all of the grade 11 and 12 visual art classes went to see the World Press Photo Exhibition at BCE place and are currently working on studio projects related to this stunning collection of photojournalism.

Guest Artist Leads Clay Studio

UFA Media Arts students were chosen by the TDSB to work with ceramicist (and UFA parent) **Andrea Piller** to make clay centre pieces for a Board function this weekend at the Royal York Hotel. The final pieces were amazing! Students made a second piece that will be featured in our year end school-wide exhibition. Thank you Andrea Piller!

UFA Artwork Harbourfront Bound!

The grade 11 Visual arts class will be working with a variety of visiting artists to produce work for the annual Days of the Dead exhibition at Harbourfront. The Days of the Dead is a Meso-American celebration that corresponds with Hallowe'en. UFA students will be making an ofrenda to the spirit of Frida

Student Vote Results for UFA

If it's election time, UFA is participating in the Student Vote program. The program runs as a "mock election", in which students cast votes for the actual candidates in their school's riding.

Student Vote is endorsed by both levels of government and supported by both Elections Ontario and Elections Canada. Last night, the CBC broadcasted provincial results for the program. Over 1000 schools across the province participated. Some of the results mirrored the actual voting results in some ridings, while others were dramatically different. Parents can view the results for the province by visiting <http://www.studentvotes.ca/results/index.html>.

As for UFA, here is how we fared:

NDP	188 or 48%
Green Party	98 or 25%
Liberal	73 or 18%
PC	20 or 5%
Libertarian	13 or 3%
Family Coalition	3 or 0.7%

Voter Turnout: 81%

Referendum Results:

First-Past-the-Post 140 or 37%

Mixed-Member Proportional 234 or 63%

YOUR COMMUNITY



News from the Library

The 2007/08 academic year is off to a strong start and we're happy to report that the library is open every period except period C, lunch and after school. History, Philosophy and World Religions classes have already kept the library computers and written materials hopping with research projects.

Current library initiatives include developing a system for overnight loans of magazines and orienting every grade nine student in the school. Glenda will keep you posted regarding new developments as the year progresses. Here's to the success of a new year!

Teacher-Librarian:
Glenda Romano

A Note from Co-op

Cooperative Education is a course available to grade 11 and 12 students. It is a wonderful opportunity for our students to 'test drive' a career they feel they may be interested in pursuing in the future. Our students work in such diverse areas as research, medicine, photography and art studios, law offices, education and television studios as well as downtown office towers and Pearson Airport.

They attend their co-op placements each Wednesday instead of participating in the Wednesday programme but also meet occasionally in school to share experiences and make presentations to their classmates. Students also gain valuable experience in the process of seeking and securing employment as well as learning how to keep safe while on the job. They are evaluated on their performance on the job as well as school-based assignments/projects.

The co-op department is always seeking new placement opportunities. If you would like to offer your place of work as a potential co-op opportunity for one of our students in the future, please contact Steve at:
steve.griffiths@tel.tdsb.on.ca or phone him at 416-393-0430 x20135

TDSB Launches Parent Involvement Awareness Campaign

The Toronto District School Board (TDSB) and Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) launched a new public awareness campaign, Living and Learning Together. This initiative recognizes parents as important partners in their children's education.

"As parents, we want our children to be successful and we are looking for ways to provide support in a meaningful way," said Margo Cowie, Co-Chair of PIAC. "We are our children's first and most important teachers."

The Living and Learning Together campaign shows parents and caregivers how easy it is to get involved in their children's education by turning everyday family activities into learning opportunities. Everyday tasks such as counting cutlery, measuring ingredients, or reading recipes are learning opportunities that parents and children can share.

"Parents play a vital role in the education of their children," said Sheila Ward, Chair of the TDSB. "It is well documented that children achieve higher success when parents are involved in their children's educational experience."

"A home environment that encourages learning results in students doing better in school and in life. We are proud of this initiative and that it was developed for parents, by parents," Ward said.

"Parents are truly at the heart of this project. It extends learning from the classroom to the home and makes parental involvement part of everyday family life," said Gerry Connelly, Director of Education of the TDSB. "By keeping the passion and desire to learn alive, parents will contribute to their children's academic success and truly become partners in their children's education."

Visit www.LearnTogether.ca to find out more.

DIVERSITY



October 12–20, 2007: Navaratri (Hinduism)

In October, Hindus celebrate the Festival of Navaratri. Navaratri takes place over a period of nine nights. It is celebrated from the first to the ninth day of the Ashwin Shukla Pasha Calendar, for the worship of the Goddess Durga, the Divine Mother-Maa. These nine days are divided into three periods devoted to the worship of God in the female form. Three days are dedicated to Durga, the Goddess of Valour; three days are dedicated to Lakshmi, the Goddess of Wealth; and three days are dedicated to Saraswati, the Goddess of Knowledge and Art.

This is a time of music and devotion. Many Hindus perform Garba, traditional dances, during this time, wear colourful traditional clothing and sing Dandiya, traditional songs. In some communities, Ram-Leela, the story of Lord Rama, is performed during Navaratri.

On the tenth day, Vijaya Dasami, which means Victory over Evil, Dassera launches new activities that celebrate good winning over evil, and the start of activities that focus on learning. This is the day on which it is believed that Lord Rama killed the demon Ravana. Images of Ravana are customarily burned to celebrate the victory.

October 17, 2007: International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (United Nations)

In 1992, the General Assembly of the United Nations declared October 17 as the “Day for the Eradication of Poverty.” This day endeavours to promote awareness of the need to eliminate poverty and destitution in all countries.

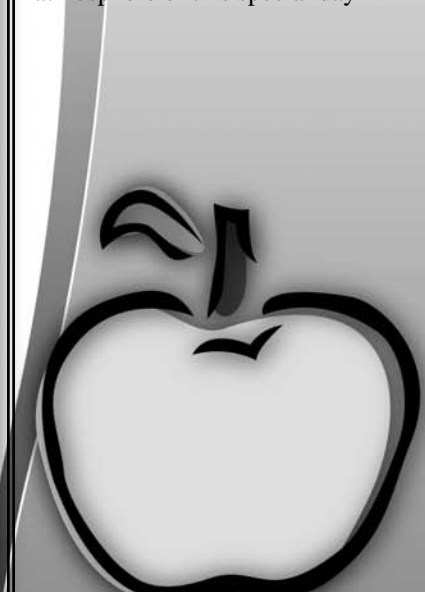
The devastating effects of poverty can be seen through the erosion of healthy development in individuals and communities. Poverty leads to inadequate standards of health, unsanitary housing, hunger, homelessness, unemployment, social exclusion, and illiteracy. The majority of people who live in poverty in the world are women, children, and the elderly.

During the ten years between 1996 and 2006, the United Nations honoured the Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, with the goal of reducing absolute poverty and overall global poverty through decisive national action and international co-operation. According to the Human Development Report, the eradication of poverty is a feasible and affordable goal. The Eradication of Poverty remains one of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals that has a target date of 2015.

October 13, 2007: Eid-Ul-Fitr (Islam)

Eid-Ul-Fitr falls on the first day of Shawwal, the tenth month of the Muslim calendar, and marks the end of the month of Ramadan. On this day, Muslims who have been observing Ramadan break their fast and celebrate its conclusion.

The day traditionally begins early with a prayer ceremony at the community mosque. Since this is a day to celebrate the renewal of one’s commitment to Islam, people may wear new clothes as a symbol of fresh beginnings. Families typically visit one another and exchange good wishes, hugs, and handshakes, and homes are often decorated to reflect the festive atmosphere of this special day



**Ursula Franklin Academy
146 Glendonwynne Road
Toronto, Ontario
M6P 3E3**

**Principal: Tito Faria
Vice-Principal: Lorraine
Linton**

Main Office: 416- 393-0430

Superintendent: Karen Falconer

**Trustee: Irene Atkinson
School Website:**

<http://www.ufacademy.org>

**Toronto District School Board
Website: <http://www.tdsb.on.ca>**