

URSULA FRANKLIN ACADEMY

NEWSNOTES

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 1 NOVEMBER 12, 2009

FROM TITO

Dates to Remember

While classes have only been in session for six weeks, there is already so much to report. On the first day of school, our grade nines were welcomed to Ursula Franklin Academy by our P.A.L.S. We held a welcome assembly in the gym and activities in the afternoon organized by the P.A.L.S. and supported by school staff.

On September 25th, one hundred and fifty-two students, including our P.A.L.S., boarded buses to Muskoka Woods for our 3rd annual Grade 9 Retreat. The weather was sunny and warm and the students were amazing. A special thanks goes out to Ali and our Student Leaders for organizing the entire weekend. Thanks, also, to the teachers who shared their weekend with this fine group of students.

On September 15th Ursula joined us for Family Night and to celebrate her birthday. We are always grateful for her inspired conversation and her presence. The celebration was followed by a mini curriculum night.

To date, we have had a welcome assembly for the entire school that found many members of staff on stage singing to the students. We also held a MADD assembly for the school.

The School Advisory Council, along with the administration, neighbouring schools and, for the first time, the residential neighbourhood, met with the Bloor West Village Business Association to plan for a February Eco Fair. The School Advisory Council is a vital part of our community. We continue to meet once a month. Our next meeting is October 21st. Our School Council has shown their unwavering support of all issues, particularly our pool. In spite of this heroic effort by parents, students and staff, Ursula Franklin Academy is one of seven schools where the pool has been emptied and de-commissioned.

I start my fourth year as principal of Ursula Franklin Academy secure in the knowledge that I am part of an extraordinary community.

There is more, so I encourage you to read on, ask your children questions about their day as you share a walk or a meal, navigate throughout VUFA, join us at SAC, come to our many events, or speak with our teachers and office staff before Parent/Teacher interviews in early December.

October 21	Student Uniform Association Meeting, 5:00 pm
October 21	School Advisory Council Meeting, 7:00 pm
October 27	Staff Meeting, 2:40 pm Early Dismissal
November 3	Options Fair
November 4	"Take Our Kids To Work" Day
November 10	Open House, 7:00 pm
November 13	Rendezvous With Madness Film Festival
November 17	School Advisory Council Meeting, 7:00 pm
November 24	Staff Meeting, 2:40 pm Early Dismissal
November 26	REEL Canada
December 1	Parent/Teacher Interviews
December 16	School Advisory Council Meeting, 7:00 pm
December 21 to January 1	Holiday Break
January 4	School Resumes

FROM THE GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

Post-Secondary Planning

This past month, grade twelve students have been taking mandatory Wednesday sessions helping them to prepare for university and college applications. Students have had the chance to research and learn more about programs, open houses, scholarships, and financing. Sometime in November, students will receive their P.I.N. numbers to apply to the Ontario University Application Centre (OUAC) and they will be shown how to use the on-line application at an assembly.

Grade Twelve students should be planning to submit their applications to colleges and universities during the month of December. The closer to the due date students apply, the more likely they will encounter delays due to high website volume.

The deadline for applying to Ontario universities at www.ouac.on.ca/101/ is January 13, 2010. These applicants will hear back from the universities no later than May 25th, 2010, and the earliest date that the universities can require a response from students is May 28th, 2010. Remember that students can't apply until they have a P.I.N. number, which they will receive in November.

The deadline for applying to Ontario colleges at www.ontariocolleges.ca is February 1st, 2010. Colleges will expect students to accept or decline offers by May 3rd, 2010. No P.I.N. number is required for this application.

Grade Nine Guidance Sessions

Grade Nine students have all had a class visit from one of the guidance counsellors. The high school credit system was reviewed, and students had a chance to discuss the many factors that contribute to school success. Discussion was lively, and students had many questions! The students were reminded that they can discuss any issues they might have with their guidance counsellor. Anna Pesovar sees students with last names that begin with A to L, and Ali Callegarini sees M to Z.

MyBlueprint.ca

Ursula Franklin Academy is pleased to provide an exciting education planning resource available immediately to students at school or from home.

MyBlueprint Education Planner (www.myBlueprint.ca) lets your child create an engaging and interactive education plan. They can build customized high school course plans, instantly identify the post-secondary options that are available to them and explore valuable information about apprenticeships, college programs, university programs and workplace opportunities across Canada!

With direct access from home, now you can also get more informed and involved with your child's education. Log in and learn about courses, graduation requirements and the endless options available to your child. The My Profile feature allows you to set goals, save unlimited plans, short-list programs and occupations of interest, record extra-curricular activities and more.

To access the site, visit www.myBlueprint.ca and input the Activation Key.

Activation Key for Ursula Franklin Academy students and parents: ursulafa

MyBlueprint helps ensure you can assist your child in making the most informed decision about their education. We encourage you to get started today and explore the website with them.

Please contact the guidance department with any questions.

Interested in Speaking About Your Career?

We are looking for parents and other adult members of the Ursula Franklin Community to speak about their careers at a Wednesday Session. Students are interested in hearing not only about different careers, but also the journey that you've been on to get to where you are today. If you think you would be willing to share your experiences, or for more information, please call Ali Callegarini at 416-393-0430, ext 20136.

ENRICHED WEDNESDAY PROGRAM AT UFA

The Enriched Wednesday Program, an important component of the curriculum at Ursula Franklin Academy, is structured on the premise that student choice and student-centred learning are valuable educational principles. In addition, students demonstrate leadership qualities when they propose, plan, facilitate and lead Enriched Wednesday Sessions under the supervision of a teacher, prior to graduation.

The Enriched Wednesday Program has **three essential categories to guide student choice**. Refer to Student Day Timer (Student Agenda) pages 5-7 for more information.

Connected Knowledge

Health and Well-Being

Community Building

Student responsibilities:

Students read Session descriptions along with criteria for evaluation.

Students choose and sign-up for two double or four single Sessions (A, B, C, D), selecting at least one Session from the above-listed categories.

Program marks:

A student's achievement in the Enriched Wednesday Program is averaged and forms 10% of the 70% term mark. The remaining 30% mark is composed of culminating activity marks and evaluations completed in May and June.

Enriched Wednesday Program Dates:

- Session 2** Students sign-up from October 1st to 6th, 2009
Wednesday sessions: October 21, 28, November 4, 11, 2009
- Session 3** Students sign-up from October 19th to 21st, 2009
Wednesday sessions: November 18, 25, December 2, 9, 2009
- Session 4** Students sign-up from November 30th to December 5th, 2009
Wednesday sessions: January 6, 13, 20, 27, February 3, 2010
- Session 5** Students sign-up from January 18th to January 21st, 2010
Wednesday sessions: February 24, March 3, 10, 24, 2010
- Session 6** Students sign-up from March 1st to March 14th, 2010
Wednesday sessions: April 14, 21, 28, May 5, 12, 2010

**We appreciate the financial support from the
Student Uniform Association
which helps fund our Enriched Wednesday Programs.**

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL PRESENTS:
Stress Reduction for Parents and Students, an Evening with

Dr. Patricia Rockman

Wednesday, October 21st, 7:00 pm

Ursula Franklin Academy Media Room, first floor, across from the main office

Please join us for our next School Advisory Council meeting featuring a presentation by Dr. Patricia Rockman on stress and anxiety reduction strategies for parents and students.

Toronto, Department of Family and Community Medicine, cross-appointed to Psychiatry. She has extensive experience teaching both health care providers and the public in mindfulness and stress reduction strategies. Everyone is welcome.

Dr. Rockman, a family physician with a practice focused on mental health (and a former Ursula Franklin Academy parent), works in the areas of cognitive behaviour and mindfulness therapies. She is also an assistant professor at the University of

Virtual Ursula Franklin Academy (VUFA)

If you do not have a VUFA account and wish to have one, please contact Rita at 416-393-0430. Rita will open an account for you and will send you a user ID and password. Please note that there is a \$10.00 fee for each additional account. If you need assistance with using VUFA, please go into the Parents' Room in VUFA and go under the subject line "Info for Parents about VUFA", posted by Sam Scott.

Innovation at Ursula Franklin Academy

We are offering an IDC course called "The Real World of Technology", the same name as Dr. Ursula M. Franklin's CBC Massey Lectures Series book. The course has several distinct yet intersecting strands:

1. The Philosophy of Technology
2. Technology in Education: Application
3. Ursula Franklin: Information and Communications Technology for Social Justice, and

4. An Integrated Project revolving around key course themes. The course is inquiry-based and is not a "computers" course. Students have the opportunity to build on previously-acquired tech skill-sets and focuses on investigating technology and the relationship between ourselves and the world.

A GENERATION AFTER GENOCIDE

Former UFA student Jon Weiman came in to the school to talk to Grade 12 students from UFA and Parkdale CI about his documentary currently under production called A Generation After Genocide (<http://www.agenerationaftergenocide.com/>). The documentary chronicles the healing that is taking place in post-genocide Rwanda through soccer. Children orphaned by the

genocide, either because their parents were killed, or because their parents are in jail, have forged friendships with each other against seemingly impossible odds. Jon will be travelling back to Rwanda in November to complete filming, and plans to release the documentary next year. Our students will be following his journey via the web, and will meet with him again when he comes back in the new year. Students have also been exploring some of the more complex

and difficult issues surrounding the genocide in this month's Wednesday sessions.

HEALTH

My name is Cheryl Silveira and I'm currently studying Nursing at the University of Toronto. I am here doing a community placement till the 2nd week of December. My goal is to strengthen and promote a number of health initiatives at UFA.

I would like to start by forming a "Health in Action Committee" and the best part is that anyone can join! Preferably, I would like to have 1 or 2 students represented from each Grade (i.e Grade 9, 10, 11 and 12). I would also like to have a teacher or two present as well as a parent.

For those interested, please email me via VUFA. I will email those interested as to time and place of the next meeting.

THE QUEEN ELIZABETH II AIMING FOR THE TOP SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Queen Elizabeth II Aiming for the Top Scholarship Program is a program of the Ontario Government that awards students who graduate with top marks at their high school, and who plan to continue their studies at an Ontario college or university.

Students who maintain an 80 per cent average at the post-secondary level can receive these scholarships, which are worth up to a maximum of \$3,500.00 per year, for up to four years in total. This year, the Government is investing \$35 million in Queen Elizabeth II Aiming for the Top Scholarships that are being issued to 14,218 students across Ontario.

We are pleased to announce that 4 students from UFA have won the Province's Queen Elizabeth II Aiming for the Top Scholarships. The students who will receive this scholarship are:

Anthony Bai
Abdul Hadi Muhammad
Sean Ngo
Bronte Wright

BETWEEN THE STACKS: *LIBRARY NEWS*

We are working hard to keep the UFA library a hub for student research and school events again this year. The library is regularly open most periods, at nutrition break and lunch, and before and after school most days, thanks to the fact that Glenda and Luke have each been assigned 3 library periods this year.

There are many ways students can access school resources for doing research. The library catalogue is accessible from any computer in the school and most of the online databases provided for student research can be accessed from home with an internet connection (see below). The Toronto District School Board has invested in new central resources available to all our students, including a large collection of reference books that are available electronically through the school library homepage. These eBooks are easy to search, easy to cite, and easy to access through any internet connection. Best of all they are available anytime!

Our library homepage is a powerful gateway to countless sources of information and we strongly recommend that every student bookmark the page on all computers they use regularly. The easiest way to find the UFA library homepage is to visit the school website at www.ufacademy.org and follow the link to the library website.

If you have questions or comments, please call us at 416.393.0430 x20021 or send an e-mail to:

glenda.romano@vufa.tdsb.on.ca

OR

luke.wintjes@vufa.tdsb.on.ca

Glenda and Luke

UFA Teacher-Librarians

Accessing Resources from Home:

Britannica Encyclopedia On-line

Username: **ursula**

Password: **flames**

EBSCO (Canadian Points of View)

Username: **tdsb**

Password: **second**

ESTAT (Canadian statistics)

Username: **tdsbstu**

Password: **estat**

Gale Cengage (eBooks & databases)

Password: **trillium**

Grolier Encyclopedia

Username: **torondb2**

Password: **toro1264**

Naxos Music and Spoken word

Password: **trillium**

Novelist (On-line guide to fiction)

Username: **tdsb**

Password: **tdsb**

Student Research Guide

Password: **tdsbresearch**

Actualité Francophone Plus

Password: **trillium**

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL (SAC)

VUFA FOR PARENTS

As part of our school community, we use VUFA for communication. If you want to be able to access this valuable resource and missed the training on Family Night, please contact andreadis@sympatico.ca.

The next School Advisory Council Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 21, 2009.

NEWS FROM THE STUDENT UNIFORM ASSOCIATION

The next Student Uniform Association meeting will be held in Room 221 on Wednesday, October 21, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.

There will be a Used Uniform Sale on Wednesday, October 21, 2009 from 3:30 pm to 4:00 pm.

ON THE GO

UFA ARTISTS @ WORLD PRESS PHOTO	VISITING ARTIST @ UFA	UFA @ WE DAY CANADA
<p>On October 9th grades 11 and 12 visual arts and world issues students attended the acclaimed World Press Photo exhibition while on it's Toronto stop at BCE Place. All are encouraged to visit this incredible show while it is in town. The show runs from October 6 through October 24.</p>	<p>We welcome back, to Toronto artist Wenyn Hua who is currently creating Chinese Brush Painting with grades 9 and 10 Media Arts students.</p>	<p>A group of senior students attended We Day Toronto on October 5th to learn about Free The Children social action initiatives that they will lead the school in over the year.</p>

TAKE OUR KIDS TO WORK

On November 4, 2009, hundreds of thousands of Grade 9 students across Canada will spend the day at work, job shadowing a parent, relative, friend or volunteer host. Take Our Kids to Work day provides these students with the opportunity to "live their learning" while spending a day at a worksite.

On October 9th students were given Take Our Kids to Work permission forms. The deadline to return permission forms is October 20th.

SKI TRIP TO MONT TREMBLANT—UNSUPERVISED

It has come to UFA's attention that a few students are planning to attend a ski trip this winter to Mont Tremblant. **The trip was NOT organized, sponsored nor sanctioned by Staff and UFA.** Distribution of any material promoting any activity not directly sanctioned by UFA/TDSB is prohibited on TDSB property.



URSULA FRANKLIN ACADEMY

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WE'RE ON THE WEB:
WWW.UFACADEMY.ORG

SCHOOL WITHOUT BORDERS

GIRLS' TENNIS TEAM

The Girl's Tennis team got off to a great start this season. With Andrew's departure to THESTUDENTSCHOOL, Katharine luckily stepped in as our new supervisor. Try-outs were held in the second week of school, where we got a very strong showing. We made the tough choice to narrow it down to eleven girls; Vanja Adzovic, Tessa Chapman, Riley Connor, Chelsea Dalmazell, Kara Dunal, Ela Kuzma, Quinn Roffey, Sydney St. Louis, Clare Storms, Julia Toadere and Lindsay Trajkovich, Drew Wolfson Bell. We played our first game on September 24th against University of Toronto Schools. Even with one court defaulted we managed to come out with a win. Currently we are now 3 and 0. If you would like to follow our progress, just go to the TDSB sports page and click on tennis. We are very lucky to have a great support team. Katharine Rowland is our teacher supervisor, while Julia Toadere and Heather Andreadis are the student coaches. We are really looking forward to the rest of the regular season and, hopefully, the play-offs.

FAA Members:

President: Laura Viselli

Vice-President: Alana Evanowich

Secretary: Kathryn Schulze

Finance: Anna Hutchinson

Intramural Conveners: Colin Outridge, Nikki Markham

Banquet Coordinator: Gabriella Cook

Fundraising Head: Rebecca Lasagna

Publicity Head: Natalie di Felice

UFA Idol Coordinator: Hailey McKelvey

Candy Canes Co-ordinator: Wyeth Wright

STUDENT COUNCIL EXECUTIVES FOR 2009-2010

The following are the results from the recent elections:

Internal Affairs/Spirit:
Maddie Lusk

External Affairs:
Hilary Lum

Social Activities:
Ariya Andrighetti

Administration:
Alex Leosis

Finance:
Harold Treen

Student Advocate:
Jorgen Walden

Chairperson:
Ben Le

Congratulations to all!

GRADE REP ELECTION RESULTS ARE IN!

Here are your new GRADE REPS!

Grade 9: Jackson Ainsworth, Tenzing Kuyeo and Wyatt Shorter

Grade 10: Oliver Treen, Elliot van Woudenber and Adriana Pineda

Grade 11: Kwame Dice, Austin Thornberry and Luke Murray

Grade 12: Robbie Sakamoto, Luke Stratakos and Haley Bowes.

Congratulations to all