

L'école Elder's Mills

La Voix des Aigles



120 Napa Valley Ave., Woodbridge, ON L4H 1L1

Website: www.elders.mills.ps@yrdsb.ca

Tel: 905-893-1631 Fax: 905-893-7371

School Priorities: Well-being and Mental Health, Modern Learning, Math

Principal: R. Totino
Administrative Assistants: C. Consiglio, S. Ditri

Vice-Principal: J. Stone
Lead Caretaker: D. Nonis

April, 2019

Administrators' Message

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Restorative Practices

As part of our Board's focus on student achievement and well-being, the staff at Elder's Mills have been using restorative practices that foster and strengthen caring, safe and inclusive environments. Restorative Practices have consistently demonstrated positive outcomes in school settings where it is used as a part of a school-wide approach to discipline, behaviour management and the development of a positive school climate. These approaches provide a framework to address conflicts by focusing on prevention, intervention and resolution, ensures that relationships are restored, increases school safety and builds connectedness and a sense of belonging, and fosters the development of a positive climate for learning and working. Our staff use restorative approaches and questions that focus on learning from an experience. Below you will see a sample of the questions used.

Restorative Questions 1 (When things go wrong...)

- What happened?
- What were you thinking of at the time?
- What have you thought about since?
- Who has been affected by what you have done? In what way?
- What do you think you need to do to make things right?

Restorative Questions 2 (When someone has been harmed...)

- What did you think when you realized what had happened?
- What impact has this incident had on you and others?
- What has been the hardest thing for you?
- What do you think needs to happen to make things right?

Mme Totino and Mme Stone

Upcoming Events

- April 8 - EMPS Battle of the Books
9 - Eco-Fair, gym, 11:15 – 11:55 a.m.
11- Parent Presentation in the Gym, 7-8 p.m. on Gaming Addiction

- May 1 & 2 – Caribou Math Contest
1 – 8 Scholastic Book Fair
2 – Jump Rope for Heart
3 – Junior Boys Basketball Regional
9 – School Council Meeting, 7 p.m. Library

ACTIVE SCHOOL TRAVEL HELPS TO KEEP THE EARTH CLEAN!

EARTH DAY: APRIL 22

We are all stewards of the Earth and as such it is our responsibility to be aware of how our actions affect the environment, including ways that we can make a positive impact. One easy way to do this is by reducing the number of times children are driven to and from school. Active travel, including using the school bus, helps to lower our carbon footprint. Driving your vehicle, even for short distances, requires a lot of energy, which contributes to the burning of fossil fuels, creating pollution and sending greenhouse gases into the air we breathe. These gases harm the Earth's atmosphere and contribute to pollution, smog and climate change, which are all harmful to both our physical and mental health.

Earth Day is an annual worldwide event and is celebrated on April 22. Earth Day is a time to reflect on our habits and consider making small changes to our routines. Do your part to keep the Earth clean by using Active School Travel to get to and from school! For those who are unable to walk or cycle to school every day, you could choose an active mode of travel two or three times a week. You can also consider parking a short distance away from the school and walking a block or two to decrease the pollution around the school.



Are you moving?

Please let us know as soon as possible if your children will not be returning to Elder's Mills P.S. next September. This will help us plan for our classroom organizations. Please notify the office if your child will not be returning to Elder's Mills P.S. for the 2019 – 2020 school year. Thank you for your cooperation!

Electronic devices/Equipment/ Toys/Valuables



We ask students to keep all electronics, card collections, toys such as Lego and Beyblades, stuffed animals and other valuables safe at home! The presence of these items at school detracts from learning and toys have become at times cause of conflict among students. Tennis racquets, skateboards, footballs, hard rubber balls, mini-sticks and baseball bats are NOT to be used by students on the yard.

Celebrating Diversity



BAHA'I FAITH

April 21 ♦ **Ridvan.** Baha'u'llah, the founder of the Baha'i Faith, declared his mission as the most recent messenger of God. Baha'is observe the first, ninth and twelfth days of this period. The actual event occurred in a garden, called Ridvan (Paradise) in Baghdad, Iraq in 1863 C.E. Work and academic studies are suspended on this day.

BUDDHISM

April 13/14 **Saka** (New Year's Day). This is New Year's Day according to the Saka calendar. This day is both a religious and cultural celebration.

CHRISTIANITY

April 14 **Palm Sunday.** The Sunday before Easter, the beginning of the Holy Week celebrating Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. (Western Calendar)

April 18 **Maundy Thursday** (Holy Thursday) is the commemoration of the institution of the Lord's Supper (Western Calendar).

April 19 ♦ **Good Friday** commemorates Jesus' death by crucifixion (Western Calendar).

April 21 **Easter Sunday** celebrates the resurrection of Christ. It is the most important festival in the Christian year (Western Calendar).

April 21 **Palm Sunday.** The Sunday before Easter (Eastern Calendar).

April 26 ♦ **Holy Friday** commemorates the passion of Jesus Christ, i.e. his submission to death by crucifixion. The Eastern churches focus on his burial (Eastern Calendar).

April 28 **Easter Sunday** in the Orthodox churches. The church calendar year begins with Pascha (Eastern Calendar).

HINDUISM

April 5 - 13 **Navaratri** (Spring) is a nine-day celebration of the Divine Goddess for good health, happiness and knowledge.

April 13 **Ramanavami** On this day Lord Rama the 7th incarnation of Lord Vishnu is said to have been born.

April 14 **Chaitra/Chithirai New Year.** The first day of the Solar year is an agricultural festival celebrating the harvest. This day is also celebrated as the Tamil New Year, Varusha Pirappu, Vishu, Ugadi, Rongali Bihu and Naba Barsha.

JAINISM

April 9 **Mahavir Jayanti** is the celebration of the birthday of Lord Mahavira (meaning the Great Hero) of Jina (the Conqueror).

JUDAISM

April 20 - 27
♦ (April 20)
* **Pesach** (Passover) is a "Festival of Freedom" that commemorates the exodus of the Jews from slavery in Egypt. Symbolic foods, such as matzo, are eaten and leavened products are prohibited. First Seder is on the evening of April 19th. Although the second and last two days of Pesach are not identified as Diamond Days, they are also observed as full holy days by Jews. Staff are asked to take this into consideration when scheduling P.D. sessions, meetings, and other activities as some staff members may not be able to attend.

ISLAM

April 3 **Miraj-un-Nabi** commemorates Prophet Muhammad's (pbuh) famous night journey (al-Isra) from Mecca to Jerusalem and his subsequent ascension (al-Miraj) to paradise.

April 21 **Nisfu-Shaban** is known as the Night of Forgiveness or repentance. Many Muslims spend the preceding night in prayer seeking God's guidance.

SIKHISM

April 13 ♦ **Vaisakhi.** This day celebrates the founding of the Khalsa order (Sikh religion) in 1699 C.E. by Guru Gobind Singh Ji. Many Sikhs choose to be baptized into the Khalsa Panth (Brotherhood of the Pure) on this day. Also on this day, male Khalsa Sikhs are named Singh (lion), female Khalsa Sikhs are named Kaur (princess). It is the most important holy day of the year for Sikhs.

It's time to remind children about being safe in our community.

It's a good time for parents to remind children about personal safety.

Here's what children need to know:

- Their name, age, telephone number, address, city and province. This can be done through rhyme or song.
- How to contact their parents at any time, by memorizing cell or work numbers.
- How and under what circumstances to call 911.
- To never approach or enter a stranger's vehicle. A responsible adult would never ask a child for directions or any other question for that matter.
- Make sure they know they have a right to say "no" to an adult, especially when the adult is asking them to do something they have been taught is wrong or feels uncomfortable. Reminding children of this right is important because children are taught from a young age to respect adults.
- To always tell parents where they will be and to never enter someone's home without their parent's permission.
- If home alone, never admit it when answering the phone. Never answer a knock at the door or speak through it. Adults can be very persuasive. Teach your child to call you if there is a knock at the door and if they fear for their safety, teach them to call 911. Make sure they know that police officers are there to help them and would not get mad if it were a false alarm.
- If they think they are being followed or are in danger they should run home or to a public place. If someone grabs them, they should try to get away, yelling and screaming while doing so.
- It is important to play in safe areas, never take shortcuts and stick with a buddy whenever possible.

It is never too early or too late to teach children the importance of personal safety. Common sense, communication and consistency are the keys. Remind children to alert a responsible adult if something strange happens that makes them feel uncomfortable. Remember, crime prevention is everyone's responsibility.

For more information on this subject, visit www.yrp.ca

Scholastic Book Fair is coming to EMPS



From May 1 to May 8, we will be hosting an English Scholastic Book Fair, with many French books as well.

Have you ordered your yearbook yet?



Yearbooks are available to order from School CashOnline for \$30. Don't delay! Order your yearbook today! **Yearbook Cover and Back Cover Design contest is on now!** Students can submit their Yearbook Cover and Back Cover Design by April 11 to Mme Esposito. The winning entry will receive a free yearbook!

*Bienvenue à Simon Boulerice et Dominique de Loppinot!
French Authors Visit our grade 2 and 3 students!*

On March 28, two French authors, Simon Boulerice and Dominique de Loppinot, visited our grade 2 and 3 students. Both authors have had books nominated in the Forest of Reading Program, and their visit was facilitated through the Ontario Library Association. Our students enjoyed listening to the authors talk about the writing process, reading from their books and answering questions. Merci aux auteurs!



**RESPECT RESPONSIBILITY EMPATHY FAIRNESS INITIATIVE
PERSEVERANCE HONESTY INTEGRITY COURAGE OPTIMISM**

Teachers have celebrated the following students who have been demonstrating perseverance on a consistent basis. Congratulations go to the following recipients:



Author Philip Roy will be visiting EMPS on May 10

Award-winning Canadian author, Philip Roy, will be visiting and presenting to all students at EMPS on Friday, May 10th. Mr. Roy's books have been nominated for the Silver Birch, Red Maple, CLA, Hackmatack and Geoffrey Bilson awards, and his books have been chosen consistently by the Canadian Children's Book Centre for Best Books for Kids & Teens. You can find out more about Philip's books by visiting: <http://philiproy.ca/books/>. An order form will be coming home with your child if you would like to order one or more autographed copies of Philip Roy's books. *If interested, please complete the order form and return it in an envelope with cash or a cheque made payable to Philip Roy. This form should be returned to Mme Esposito by Thursday, April 25, 2019.*



EMPS Chess Team participates in Vaughan Chess Challenge

Félicitations à tous les élèves dans l'équipe des échecs! Congratulations to all our students on the Chess Team! They competed well on March 28 at the Vaughan Chess Challenge. Congratulations to Anthony in grade 2 who took silver, Andrew in grade 3 who took bronze, and Josiah in grade 3 who took silver, Jeziah in grade 5 who took gold and Stephen in grade 5 who took silver, Chimzurum in grade 6 who took bronze, Ethan in grade 7 who took bronze, Nicola and Francesco in grade 8 who took silver. Good luck to Josiah, Jeziah, Stephen, Nicola and Francesco who have qualified for the Provincial Chess Tournament! Bravo les Aigles!!



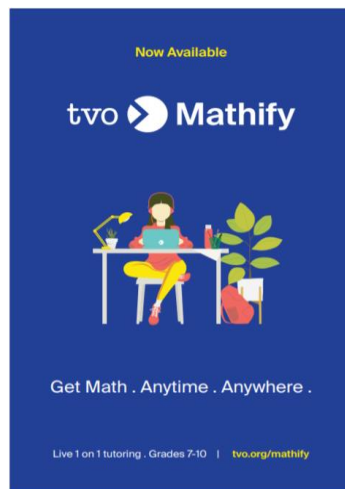
April is World Autism Awareness Month

On April 2, students wore blue for World Autism Day. The Peace Club prepared an assembly to foster awareness and understanding of Autism amongst our students. Each class also received a puzzle piece so that they could write a message about Autism to create a banner of puzzle pieces for the month of April.



Day of Pink! Elder's Mills is a safe and supportive school community!

April 10, 2019 is the **Day of Pink** which is the International Day against bullying, discrimination, homophobia and transphobia in schools and communities. It is an annual day in April where communities around the world wear pink to show respect for diversity and to demonstrate support for learning and working environments that are safe and inclusive of people regardless of their social identities.



For public school students in grades 7 to 10, TVO Mathify offers free one to one online math tutoring from Ontario certified teachers. Using any device, students can access interactive whiteboards, voice and text chats to receive personalized help from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. from Sunday to Thursday.