

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. Gordon

Vice-Principal: J. Stone

Lead Caretaker: D. Nonis

April, 2018

Administrators' Message

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is incredible that April is upon us already and we are looking forward to the next three months. We know this will be a busy time for everyone. The York Region District School Board values positive mental health as fundamental to student achievement and well-being and our staff and students here at Elder's Mills have been hard at work focusing on our Mental Health initiatives.

We have been fortunate to have the West Interdisciplinary Team work with our students to develop their self-regulation skills. In the fall, the primary classes worked with the team to develop their understanding of self-regulation and particularly their understanding of Zones of Regulation. It is wonderful to hear students identifying what *zone* they are in, and articulating strategies they can use to keep themselves in the *green zone*. Over the past two weeks the junior students were involved in the workshop "Mind your Mind" where students learned about the parts of their brain that cause them to react and how to calm them using mindfulness strategies. Students explored mindfulness through the senses of sight, taste, touch, sound, and smell. The intermediate students were engaged in the workshop "Walk in my Shoes" that focused on how to show empathy towards others. Students participated in activities that challenged the way they view others, and ways to support peers when they experience difficult times.

On Tuesday April 10th and Thursday April 12th The York Centre for Children Youth and Families will be visiting the Grades 5 - 7s, to deliver an eight week program that consists of one hour weekly sessions to address the subject of bullying. The program is designed to empower children to respond assertively when confronted with a bullying situation. We are very excited about this opportunity.

Our Junior and Intermediate teachers will be participating in some professional development for the *Second Step* social-emotional learning program that they will be integrating into their classroom practice. This program focuses on empathy, emotion management and problem solving skills.

We are thrilled to announce that our school's *SpeakUp* grant was accepted and our students have already started to meet with the teacher facilitators to plan their projects to promote student well-being. Some of their ideas include "Mindful Mondays", "calming kits", youth wellness workshops presented by the Canadian Mental Health Association, and some community outreach. For more information about the Ministry of Education's *SpeakUp* projects, visit the Ontario Ministry of Education's Student Voice Page [Ontario Ministry of Education's Student Voice Page](#).

April promises to be an exciting month and we are looking forward to all the wonderful opportunities!

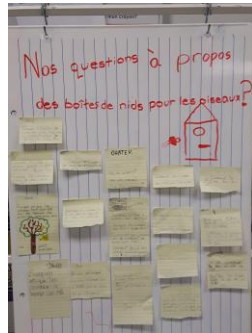
Mme Totino & Mme Stone

Upcoming Events

- April 12 - Lice Check
- 23 - Junior Boys Basketball
- 24 - May 1st Scholastic English Book Fair
- 25 - Grade 8 Grad Photo Day
- 25 - Earth Day Assembly, 1:45-2:30 p.m.
- 27 - Junior Girls Basketball

Bird Nest Boxes at EMPS!

We are very excited to introduce two of our very own Bird Nest Boxes at Elder's Mills PS. We are hoping that local birds will choose these boxes as their special home for nesting. During spring make sure to look for bird activity but remember to please not disturb the animals in the environment. If you see some activity or have any questions, please speak to M. Kouri. Thank you for supporting our animal conservation projects.



EcoFair 2018: Science Projects for Energy Conservation

At Elder's Mills students participated in an EcoFair for Grades 4 to 8. Students made amazing science projects with working models to show their innovations about energy conservation. Congratulations to all participants! The winners from the fair were selected to display their projects as part of the energy exhibits for Earth Hour at Vaughan City Hall. Here are the winners: Michelle L., Reese J., Mia N., Lilian W (5Z), Aanya A., Anfal B., Saanvi S. (5N), Kate S. (4B), Sandhya S., Eva E. (4S), Chimzurum I., Ivan S., Rivka Y. (5N), Ana B. (5N). The Earth Hour event was very exciting with many students, families and teachers in attendance. We were all very proud to see our students participate in the banner competition (Grades 7 and 8), the lantern walk as well as the energy pledge among other activities. Students and their families received giveaways, energy-saving tips and won prizes! Thank you to the Earth Hour Vaughan Committee for organizing this great free event. Thank you to all for your support at our school and in our community.





GRADE 1 FRENCH IMMERSION ORIENTATION
For Parents and new grade 1 Students
Thursday, May 17, 2018 @ Lorna Jackson P.S.
7:00-7:30 p.m.

Please join us for a short orientation session to learn more about:

- ✓ First Day Procedures-bussing, parent drop off and pick-up
- ✓ A “typical day” in grade 1 French Immersion class
- ✓ Routines and Expectations for respectful behavior
- ✓ How parents can support their child’s learning

Celebrating Diversity



April 1 CHRISTIANITY - Easter Sunday celebrates the resurrection of Christ. It is the most important festival in the Christian year (Western Calendar).

April 1 CHRISTIANITY - Palm Sunday The Sunday before Easter (Eastern Calendar).

April 6 CHRISTIANITY - Holy Friday (Eastern) commemorates the passion of Jesus Christ, i.e. his submission to death by crucifixion. The Eastern churches focus on his burial.

April 8 CHRISTIANITY - Easter Sunday in the Orthodox churches. The church calendar year begins with Pascha (Eastern Calendar).

April 13 SIKHISM - 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.

April 13 ISLAM- 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 13 HINDUISM - 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.

April 13/14 BUDDHISM - 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.

April 21 BAHAI FAITH - 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.

How to Help Your Child at Home with Math



Why is a belief in our children's ability to learn mathematics essential?

(Source: Doing Math with Your Child K to 6: A Parent Guide, Ministry of Education)

Understanding mathematics builds confidence and opens doors to many jobs and careers. Understanding mathematics enables us to:

- Solve problems and make sound decisions
- Explain how we solved a problem and why we made a particular decision
- Use technology (such as calculators and computer applications) to help solve problems
- Understand patterns and trends so that we can make predictions (for example, we can keep track of how much juice is consumed so that we know how much juice to buy each week)
- Manage our time and money (for example, we can calculate how much time we need to get to work, how much food we need to make meals and how much money we need to buy food)
- Handle everyday situations that involve numbers (such as figuring out when the next bus will arrive and dividing a recipe)

Before your child can learn mathematics, he or she needs to believe in his or her ability to do so. That's where you come in. You can be your child's first role model for learning. When you engage with your child in a supportive, relaxed atmosphere, your child will enjoy taking risks while having fun with math!

Top Tips for Parents

- Build strong, positive attitudes about math. When children feel positively engaged and successful, they are more likely to stick with an activity or a problem to find a solution.
- Begin with activities that meet your child's level of mathematical understanding. Early success in solving problems will build your child's confidence. Gradually move to activities that provide more challenge for your child.
- If you and your child are more comfortable in a language other than English, use it. Your child will understand concepts better in the language that he or she knows best.



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 organization and prepare class lists. Please notify the office if your child will not be returning to Elder's Mills P.S. for the 2018 – 2019 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.

Carnaval - Festival d'Hiver!

Carnaval at EMPS was a great success! The grade 8 and 7/8 students prepared activities for all our grade 1 to 6 students. Grade 7 students accompanied homeroom classes to the activities. The Intermediate Boys' and Girls' Volleyball Team were fierce competition against the EMPS teachers! Thank you to the Hot Chocolate Dads for making the hot chocolate, which is always the most popular activity of the day! Et félicitations à la classe de M. Kouri qui ont été les rois et les reines du Carnaval avec les plus de billets de français! Bravo!

Yearbook 2017-2018

It is that time of year again! Yearbook orders are available on School Cash Online. The Yearbook is a great keepsake filled with the memories of a great year at EMPS. Yearbooks will be delivered at the end of June. Order your copy now!

The Yearbook Cover and Back Cover Design Contest is now on! Students can design their version of the Yearbook Cover and Back Cover to win a free copy of the Yearbook! All submissions are due to Mme Esposito by April 24, 2018! Good luck!

Chess Team

On March 29, the EMPS Chess Team competed in the Vaughan Chess Challenge. Our team represented students from each grade, totaling 30 students! All students played well! Congratulations to Nima in grade 8 and Chimzurum in grade 5 who both achieved silver medals, as well as Stephen in grade 4 who achieved a bronze medal! Good luck to Nima and Chimzurum who will be participating in the Provincial Chess Tournament later this month! Go Eagles!

Remembrance Day Poster and Literary Contest by the Royal Canadian Legion

EMPS students once again participated in the Royal Canadian Legion's Remembrance Day Poster and Literary Contest. Congratulations to Laura in grade 5 who was selected as a 2nd place winner in the Poem category, and Renee in grade 5 who was selected as a 1st place winner in the black and white poster category. Bravo!

Battle of the Books

EMPS hosted its first ever Battle of the Books with teams of students from our grade 4 to 6 students. Ten teams participated in the EMPS Battle of the Books on April 3 at 1:35 p.m. in the gym! Students had been reading from a list of 25 books, and answered questions about these books. The winning team will go on to represent EMPS at the Richmond Hill and Vaughan Battle of the Books on April 12! Go Eagles!

Support our Scholastic Book Fair from April 24 to May 1

Our final Scholastic Book Fair for 2017-2018 will take place from April 24 to May 1. By supporting the Book Fair, a portion of your purchases will be given back to our school so that we can purchase books and resources for the library and the classrooms. Our goal from this Book Fair will be to purchase Makerspace kits and technology for the Library/Learning Commons, as well as more books for our non-fiction French section. The Book Fair will have a wide selection of English and French books! Students will preview the Book Fair and create a wish list on April 24 and 25. Purchases will begin April 25!

Code Mobile will be visiting EMPS!

In April and May, Code Mobile will be visiting EMPS to teach our students about coding! Code Mobile will be bringing in laptops and providing our students with a workshop on coding in the library. We look forward to having some fun learning and being inspired to build with code!

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



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:

Grades 1 & 2	Grades 3 & 4	Grades 5 & 6	Grades 7 & 8
Nikoleta S. Dylan V. Gabriel L. Mason M. Wyatt M. Naiya. S. Jayden. Z. Ridhyan K. Leah M. Julian P. Maya Y. Kevin C. Jaden P. Siddant K. Nikhil R. Gracie B. Alyssa L. Zoey W. Arya K. Brayden S. Myles B. Muneeb M.	Payaam R. Mohammad R. Eva E. Andrew F. Ibrahim K. Sophia S. Dani S. Neriah M. Romina M. Kasandra T. Ilyas F. Aarav S. Sidra W. Alyssa P. Riddhi V. J'Nathan P.	Daniel M. Lisha L. Chimzurum C. Melika C. Kaila P. Victoria V. Suravi N. Amel J. Kennedy D. Ajay S. Juliana T. Mia N. Raiya K.	Emily P. Ayush S. Nicola S. Achira I. Isaiah W. Francesco C. Aziyah R. Victor Y. Travis J. Elias L.