



L'école Elder's Mills

La Voix des Aigles

120 Napa Valley Avenue, Woodbridge, On L4H 1L1

www.eldersmills.ps.yrdsb.ca

email: elder's.mills.ps@yrdsb.ca

(905) 893-1631 Tel

(905) 893-7371 Fax

décembre 2014

Principal:

Kimberly Walke

Administrative Assistant:

Cathy Consiglio

Secretary:

Suzana Kil

Lead Caretaker:

David Nonis

Superintendent of Schools

CEC West:

Becky Green

(905)764-6830

Trustee:

Anna DeBartolo

(905)727-0022 Ext 2829

School Priorities:

Curriculum Implementation:
Effective Literacy and Critical Thinking Skills

School Climate

Positive, Safe and Inclusive Learning Environment and School Community

Student Engagement:

Student engagement in explicit and purposeful learning

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Dec. 2 - Author Visit

Dec. 5 - Gr.6 Trip to Science Centre

Dec. 16 - Crazy Hat Day

Dec. 17 - Author Visit

Dec. 18 - Winter Holiday Assembly/
Red & White Day

Dec. 22 - Jan. 2 - Winter Break

Jan. 5 - Back to School



Principal's Message/Un mot de la Directrice:

Dear Elder's Mills Families,



We are very proud of the school spirit our students show each day and the work our students have done this fall! Students have been engaged in developing their French language skills and in their instructional programs. We have been focusing on developing our students' oral language, reading, writing and critical thinking skills along with a deeper focus on problem solving in Math in which we are showing students various strategies to make their thinking visible. Teachers have been focusing on providing students with descriptive feedback through one-to-one conferencing and in written form to help students not only meeting curriculum expectations, but also move their thinking and achievement forward to the next level.

We are fortunate to have a great school in which there is a strong, supportive partnership between home and school. Thank you for supporting your child's learning at home and for supporting our work here at Elder's Mills. You are terrific partners to collaborate with! Thank you for your support of our annual toy, food and hat and mitten drive! Your generosity is very much appreciated and will go a long way to brighten the holidays for families in our community! Merci beaucoup!

We look forward to working with you and your children in 2015!
Happy Holidays from all of us at Elder's Mills Public School!
Bonnes vacances!

Kimberly Walke
Principal



WINTER HOLIDAY ASSEMBLY!

December 18 at 1:45 p.m.

Please join us for student performances and some wonderful holiday cheer!



A Message from our Trustee...Anna DeBartolo

As we near the end of 2014, I hope everyone has had a great school year so far and found opportunities to get involved with the life of the school. Partnerships with families are essential to student achievement and well-being, and to creating a caring and supportive learning environment in which students can thrive.

There are many ways for families to get involved - from volunteering with the school and getting involved with the school council to attending school events, communicating with your child's teacher and supporting learning at home. However you choose to get involved, know that you are making a difference.

Earlier this year, the Board of Trustees reviewed and revised our Multi-Year Plan, the plan which guides system direction. The plan continues to have a sharp focus on student achievement and well-being, the delivery of effective and sustainable educational programs and the stewardship of Board resources.

Thanks to your support and the hard work and commitment of our staff, students, families and community partners, we continue to move forward in achieving our goals. As an elected trustee and an advocate for high quality public education, I am committed to ensuring the highest quality public education possible for our students and their families.

Best wishes to everyone for a safe and happy holiday season and a wonderful start to the new year. I hope you are able to enjoy time with family and friends.

*Anna DeBartolo,
Chair & Trustee YRDSB*



French Immersion Information Sessions and Registrations

Information sessions for the French Immersion (FI) program will take place at Elder's Mills Public School on January 15, 2015 at 7 p.m. FI registration will begin January 16, 2015. In order to streamline the registration process, parents or guardians of Senior Kindergarten students entering Grade 1 in 2015, 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 Elder's Mills Public School to register between January 16 and February 13, 2015. 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. 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.

Inclement Weather and Dressing for the Weather



As the weather begins to change, please be reminded that **all our students will be expected to be outside before and during school in most weather conditions. Please make sure that your children come to school dressed properly for our invigorating winter days and play outside during recesses.** It is advisable for students to bring extra pants and socks. A change is often necessary due to the wet and cold weather of the winter months. To avoid adding to our clothing collection in the Lost and Found, please be sure to label all articles of clothing. Boots, jackets, hats, mitts, scarves, snow pants and a warm winter coat will make recess more enjoyable.



In the event of **inclement weather** (rain, or a significant wind chill factor) students will be kept inside during all or part of the recess break. The principal will keep a close eye on weather conditions and make decisions based on what is best for the students.

To ensure the safety of students, school bus service may be cancelled from time to time due to inclement weather, extreme temperatures and/or poor road conditions. In these cases, parents and students should develop alternate care/transportation arrangements. Parents, students and school staff are asked to access the following radio and television stations after 6:00 a.m. to receive bus cancellation information:

RADIO and TELEVISION

590 AM 640 AM 680 AM 860 AM 1010 AM 1050 AM 1540 AM 1580 AM 88.5 FM 89.9 FM 92.5 FM 93.1 FM 94.9 FM 95.9 FM 97.3 FM 98.1 FM 99.1 FM 99.9 FM 101.1 FM 102.1 FM 104.5 FM 100.7 FM 107.1 FM

Television: CITY TV CTV Barrie CFTO TV CP24 GLOBAL NEWS

A bus cancellation message will also be available at www.schoolbuscity.com and by calling **1-877-330-3001**



Please DO NOT CALL THE SCHOOL

LUNCH TIME



Please make every effort to send your child's lunch with him/her in the morning to ensure that a healthy snack is provided for a morning snack and to help reduce the amount of traffic at the office. Please make sure your child's name and homeroom teacher is marked on the lunch. Please also make sure you include utensils in your chil(ren)'s lunch if needed. The Office does not carry and supply these items.

Next session
Starts January 12, 2015

Don't forget to sign up and complete your Milk Forms

Drink Milk



ATTENDANCE



Attendance is an important part of EMPS and our Safe Arrival Program. If your child is sick, we ask that you phone the school to report it. Some parents have reported that they have told the homeroom teacher but not the office. It is important to inform the office of any absences or lates. **Please call the school at 905-893-1631 and press 1 to report an absence.**

SUPERVISION BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL

Staff members begin duty in the morning at 8:30 a.m. Students are asked not to arrive alone at school before supervision begins to ensure students safety. Our school day ends at 3:15 p.m. Students must be picked up at this time or go on their allotted bus. **Students are not to be left on their own.** In the event that parents/guardians are not able to pick up at 3:15 p.m., we ask that you make alternate arrangements and communicate this with your child's teacher prior to that time. Thank you.

School Lice Screening Program

Each year, our School Council sponsors three lice checks over the course of the school year. The next two checks will occur on: January 7 and April 1, 2015. On these days, qualified health practitioners come into the school and check each student's head individually and should they find lice, we discretely contact a student's parents or guardians. If you do not want your child's head to be checked, please notify the office in writing. If you have any questions about this program, please call the school office.

MATH CORNER

MATH
1 + 1 = 2

MAKES YOUR
LIFE ADD UP!

Our Grade 3 Math Competition

Several students participated in the Caribou Math Contest on November 12 from grade 3 to . Congratulations to all the participants! A special mention to Abigail in grade 4 for scoring the highest in our school for the grade 3 and 4 contest and Stephanie in grade 6 for scoring the highest in the grade 5 and 6 Contest. The next Caribou Math Contest will be on January 14.

Feel free to browse the website for more information: <http://www.brocku.ca/caribou/>



Health Tip...

Wash Your Hands!



Remembrance Day



On November 11, staff and students held a Remembrance Day assembly to honour our Canadian soldiers. Several classes participated by presenting songs, poems and posters.



Veteran Visit



On November 7, the Grades 4, 5 and 6 classes had an opportunity to meet a very special guest. Mr. Burt Hogue spoke to the students about his experience as a medic during WWII. The students enjoyed meeting Mr. Hogue and learning about our Canadian heroes.

Grade 3 Heritage Schoolhouse Trip



In November, the grade 3 classes went on an excursion to the Heritage Schoolhouse. Located in Markham, the Schoolhouse is the museum and archives for the York Region District School Board. At the Heritage Schoolhouse students re-enacted a typical school day in 1900. Students "stepped back in time" to experience various lessons, a recitation, a spelling bee and other aspects of classroom routine. By the end of the programme, students had a better understanding of what it was like to live and go to school in York Region in 1900.



ECO CORNER...

Since the beginning of the year, our Eco Team has been working hard to help ensure that Elder's Mills is conserving energy and reducing waste, recycling and composting appropriately.

A sincere thank you to all the Eco Club members in grade 3-6 for helping to make Elder's Mills a green place to be.

A thank you as well to all students and parents of the Elder's Mills community... without your support, our wonderful Eco practices and initiatives would not be possible.

Read below to learn about the December Eco Theme: Reduce Your Footprint

December Eco Theme: Reduce Your Footprint

With the onset of winter we need to be aware of our carbon footprint. Our Board's footprint increases in the winter time due to our boiler plants consuming fuel. To lessen energy consumption during the winter season and stay warm we recommend the following actions:

1. Keep heat in the building by ensuring exterior windows and doors are kept closed.
2. Ensure that all weather stripping is in place around doors and windows. If it is damaged, please let your Caretaking services team know so that they can have it repaired.
3. The use of personal heaters is discouraged (the use of electric heaters in rooms that already have heating systems offsets any savings that might be achieved through energy initiatives and programs such as the "Lights Out" program).
4. Ensure that all heating and cooling vents and radiators are clear of obstructions.
5. Wear fall/winter appropriate clothing to work in layers to keep warm and comfortable.
6. Use your blinds to assist with heating and cooling classrooms and offices.

Finally, thank you for collecting any of the following items and sending them to school with your child:

- Dead batteries
- Old cell phones and chargers
- Ink and Toner Cartridges
- Pop Can tabs

The items we collect will be sent off to a special facility for proper and safe disposal.



Boomerang Lunches:

At Elder's Mills we encourage students to participate in Boomerang Lunches. A Boomerang Lunch is when students return home items from their lunch to be disposed of by composting waste in order to reduce the contents of our garbage at school. We encourage students to refrain from throwing food waste in the garbage, but rather use our composters or bring their food back home to be properly disposed of in their residential compost bin. Remember, you can do your part for the environment by practicing the three R's: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

Recycling:

You may have noticed two recycling containers in our school front lobby. This is where we encourage members of the community to drop off their dead batteries, empty toner cartridges, old cell phones and empty printer cartridges. By disposing those items in the proper bins, we will be able to properly dispose of them on your behalf in an environmentally safe fashion. Please join our efforts in protecting our precious environment.



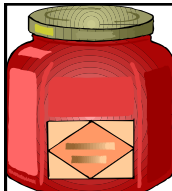
School Council Corner

Toy Drive for Toy Mountain Campaign



Help build our Toy Mountain! Elder's Mills will be collecting toys again this year in support of the Salvation Army's Annual Toy Mountain campaign. You can help brighten the holidays for a child in need by dropping off a new unwrapped toy between now and December 9th, in the toy collection box located in our school foyer. You are also welcome to join us when we present all toys collected to CTV host Tom Brown during a live broadcast from Vaughan Mills on December 9th at 6:00 pm.

Food Drive for the Vaughan Food Bank



In addition to the Toy Drive, we are also organizing a Food Drive. Please bring a non-perishable food item to school and it will be donated to the Vaughan Food Bank. We will be collecting until December 12, 2014.

Scarf and Mitten Drive



In honour of the season of giving and our chilly climate here in Canada, we are also organizing a Scarf and Mitten Drive. Your generous donation of new scarves and mittens, will be greatly appreciated.

Next School Council Meeting is on Wednesday January 13, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Can't Get Your Kids to Eat Their Fruits, Vegetables & Healthy Snacks?

Wednesday, December 3, 2014, 7:00 – 8:30pm
Good nutrition is essential for a growing body!



Elder's Mills School Council invites you to join Carolynne Crawley, Food Share School Educator on **December 3rd from 7:00-8:30pm** in the Elder's Mills School Staff Room for an educational and fun night.

In this interactive workshop, Carolynne will be showing you, first-hand, ways in which you can get your child excited about exploring and tasting fresh vegetables, fruits and healthier snacks. Using easy-to-use tips and tricks, along with quick, tasty snack recipes participants will leave this session feeling energized about integrating good food education into their homes!

- Carolynne Crawley has been working with FoodShare for the past five years as the Field to Table Schools Educator and now the FTTS Co-coordinator.
- Carolynne has more than 25 years working experience supporting children and youth.
- During her career she recognized a connection between a child's diet and his/her behaviour and emotions. This inspired her to return to school to study holistic nutrition.

This event applies to parents of children of all ages. Child Care is available.

We will have a movie for the kids to watch and enjoy a healthy snack.

LIBRARY CORNER

**On December 2nd, French children's authors
Mireille Messier and Isabelle Larouche will be visiting our school!**

Mireille will be presenting her books and talking about her craft to all the students in grades 1 and 2, as well as the grade 3 class of Mme Colonna. Isabelle will be presenting her books and talking about her craft to the grade 3 classes of Mme Nakhla and Mme Konjikusic, as well as all the grade 4, 5 and 6 students.



For more information about Mireille Messier's books, please go to www.mireille.ca/books

For more information about Isabelle Larouche's books, please go to www.isabellelarouche.com

**On December 17, English children's author of the best-selling
And Then It Happened series, Michael Wade, will be visiting our school!**



SALON DU LIVRE
DE TORONTO FRENCH BOOK FAIR

Don't miss Le Salon du Livre de Toronto at the Toronto Reference Library from December 2 - 6. This is a French Book Fair with activities for all! For more information: <http://www.salondulivredetoronto.ca>



Le Festival du Livre was a great success! Thank you to all! Your purchases have helped add more books to the library and classrooms. There will be another Book Fair in May.

Character Assembly: **November's Character Trait Recipients for "Respect"**

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Mme Yusuf | Jeziah, Hadia | 3 Mme Konjikusic | Samay, Juliana, Shaan |
| 1 Mme Bergeron | Karma, Dani, Alison | 3 Mme Colonna | Petar, Ajay, Huda |
| 1 Mme Sampogna | Alexander and Ananyaa | 4 M. Ghomffo | Trillium, Hasan, Emma |
| 1 Mme Trivedi | Romina, Edward | 4/5 Mme Fancy | Sophia, Tannaz, Liam |
| 1 M. Villa | Katelyn, Tauseef | 5 M. Petrilli | Noah, Amaya, Areej |
| 1 M. Kouri | Diva, Brendon | 6 Mme Ing | Jessica, Aliush, Aidan |
| 2 Mme Constantine | Bethel, Simon, Jaden | 6 Mme Bassett | Dhruv, Sabrina, Rougine |
| 2 Mme Bianchi | Felipe, Natalie | Golden Dustbin Award First Floor | la class de Mme Trivedi |
| 2 M. Thompson | Lilian, Michelle | Golden Dustbin Award Second Floor | la class de Mme Colonna |
| 3 Mme Nakhla | Raiya, Jeeya, Survi | | |

Character Matters!

We encourage our students to display positive character traits always and we celebrate their efforts at our monthly Character Assemblies.

December's focus is: Empathy/l'empathie



Respect/le respect

Optimism/l'optimisme

Integrity/l'intégrité

Honesty/l'honnêteté

Courage/le courage

Fairness/la justice

Initiative/l'initiative

Perseverance/la persévérance

Responsibility/responsabilité

l'école Elder's Mills



| dimanche | lundi | mardi | mercredi | jeudi | vendredi | samedi |
|---|--|--|---|---|--|--------|
| | 1 | 2 Author Visit Grades 1-6 | 3 | 4 | 5 Grade 6 Trip to Science Centre Pizza Day  | 6 |
| 7 | 8 Hot Lunch  | 9 Lunch Lady  | 10 | 11 | 12 Pizza Day  | 13 |
| 14 | 15 Hot Lunch  | 16 Crazy Hat Day Lunch Lady  | 17 Author Visit Grades 3-6 | 18 Crazy Sweater Day/Red & White Day Winter Holiday Assembly at 1:45 p.m. | 19 Pizza Day  | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25  | 26 Kwanza | 27 |
| <div>  WINTER BREAK BEGINS. BACK TO SCHOOL ON JANUARY 5, 2015  </div> | | | | | | |
| 28  | 29  | 30  | 31  | 1  |    | |