

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

December, 2017

Administrators' Message

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Fall has flown swiftly by and we contemplate the planning of holiday celebrations and family time once again. We have experienced much success so far this year, both academically and in student involvement in extracurricular activities voluntarily provided by many of our teachers. We have sent out Progress Reports and students and teachers continue to put forth their best efforts toward the First Term Reports.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our families who attended the parent-teacher interviews in November. We certainly appreciated having you come to the school to have those important discussions with teachers about your child's progress to date. In the New Year, we will continue to provide programs to enhance literacy, field trips that complement learning in the classroom, valuable experiences with technology, participation in clubs and school life that make for a well-rounded school experience.

Much of what we celebrate is due to the efforts and contributions of our excellent students, staff and parents. We are also fortunate, as a school, to have remarkable volunteers, caretakers, secretaries and a School Council who give of themselves to further the learning and positive educational experiences of all our students.

As we reflect upon the learning so far this year, and as we look forward to a New Year full of promise, we would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you much joy and peace as you spend time with loved ones, enjoying this season of celebration!

Mme Totino & Mme Stone



Important Dates

December 23 - January 7: Winter Break

January 18 - Grade One French Immersion
Information Night, 7 p.m. at Lorna
Jackson Public School

January 19: - P.A. Day – No school



Mme Joseph is Retiring!

Mme Joseph, who served as Principal at Elder's Mills from 2009-2014 has announced her retirement effective December 31st. She has many fond memories of the time spent serving the students, families and staff at Elder's Mills. Please join us in wishing her a retirement full of new and exciting opportunities! Messages and good wishes are welcome at <http://bit.ly/michelinejoseph>.

Message from Our Trustee Anna DeBartolo

In November, about 1,000 students, staff members and community partners came together from across the Board to form a [Ring of Peace](#) and stand together against hate, discrimination and intolerance. The student speakers at the event shared meaningful messages about the importance of feeling welcome, valued and respected.

At York Region District School Board, we are committed to listening to the voices of our students and communities. We will continue working with our school communities to ensure our schools provide safe, welcoming and inclusive environments for everyone.

Last month, our annual [Quest conference](#) brought together educators from across Ontario, Canada and around the world to share, learn and discuss how to foster well-being in schools. Some of the themes covered included equity and inclusivity, and safe and caring environments.

It was a wonderful opportunity to learn more about some of the positive things happening in our own schools and other districts. In recent months, we have had several international visitors come to our system and schools to learn more about the work in our system to support student achievement and well-being, including Qatar, the Netherlands, Texas and the United Kingdom.

We are pleased to have these opportunities to continue highlighting and sharing the great things happening in our schools thanks to our outstanding students, staff members, families and community partners. Your engagement makes a difference in our schools and I encourage you to continue getting involved in the life of your child's school.

As we enter the holiday season, I am once again impressed by the generosity of our school communities and our students' commitment to helping others. Best wishes to everyone for a safe and happy holiday season and a wonderful start to 2018.

Anna DeBartolo

Celebrating Diversity

ISLAM December 1 Mawlid-un-Nabi celebrates the birth of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

CHRISTIANITY December 3 First Sunday of Advent begins the period of preparation for Christmas. In homes and churches, Christians set out special candle holders or Advent wreaths (Western).

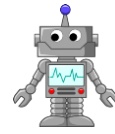
ISLAM December 13 Aga Khan (Ismaili) This marks the birthday of His Highness Prince Karim Aga Khan, the 49th hereditary Imam-of-the-Time descended from the progeny of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). It is referred to as Salgirah Khushiali and is a celebratory occasion for Ismaili Muslims to express love, loyalty and devotion to their Imam.

JUDAISM Dec. 13 - 20 Chanukah (Festival of Lights) celebrates religious freedom by commemorating the victory of the Jews over Antiochus who tried to outlaw the practice of Judaism. Starting on the evening of December 12, candles are lit in increasing numbers for eight nights in a "Chanukiah" which is a special candelabrum containing nine candles.

CHRISTIANITY December 25 Christmas (Western calendar) celebrates the birth of Jesus about 2000 years ago in Bethlehem. Christians believe that Jesus of Nazareth is the son of God, and accept him as their Saviour and Lord. In many families, Christmas Eve is celebrated with big dinners, visiting and carol-singing, often followed by midnight church services.

KWANZAA December 26 Kwanzaa named after the Swahili word for "first fruits" is a seven day cultural celebration initiated by African Americans starting on December 26th. Each day a candle is lit and placed in a seven-cup candelabrum called a kinara that sits on a straw mat adorned with fruit and vegetables. The participants discuss the principles or Nguzo Saba of Kwanzaa: unity, self-determination, collective responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith. On the final night of the celebration, friends and relatives gather for a feast known as Karamu.

ZOROASTRIANISM December 26 Death of Prophet Zarathustra who was the founder of the Zoroastrian faith. His dates are uncertain but Westerners believe he lived in the first or the second millennium B.C.E



LEGO Robotics Club

The LEGO Robotics Club is meeting on Mondays and Thursdays at lunch. Students from grades 4 to 8 have been working on building their EV3 robots, so that they can program them to complete several challenges. One junior team and one intermediate team of 4 students each from this club will be representing EMPS at the LEGO Robotics Challenge in February as part of a pre-tournament at the York Region Skills Challenge.



TV/Video Production and Character Animation

Junior and Intermediate students have been meeting on Tuesdays at lunch to work on creating a short video on how technology will affect a future career. These students will continue to work together to create other short videos with different themes. Teams from this group of students will also be chosen to potentially represent EMPS at the York Region Skills Challenge in these two categories.

Pom Team at the SantaFest Parade on November 12th



For the first time, students at Elder's Mills P.S. walked in the Santa Fest Parade in Maple on Sunday, November 12th 2017. Elder's Mills was represented by the Pom Team who worked very hard to prepare cheers, chants, and dance moves for the parade. The students got creative in making their own costumes and school banners to the theme Candy Land. They braved cold weather and long hours to show our school spirit and did an amazing job. The Pom Team was formed last year by Mme Nocera to raise school spirit and to encourage students to be positive ambassadors within, and outside of, our school. Thank you to all parent volunteers whose dedication and enthusiasm made a world of difference!



There is a very special opportunity this holiday season....

Each gift that comes to the Terry Fox Foundation before December 31st will be matched up to \$150,000.

More information available at <http://www.terryfox.org/>.



Caribou Math Contest

Our grade 3 to 8 students participated in the second Caribou Math Contest on November 15 and 16. The students were more confident about completing the second Caribou Math Contest, after having completing their first in October! The Caribou Mathematics Competition is a worldwide online contest that is held six times throughout the school year. The goals of the contest are to improve students' problem solving techniques by providing a variety of challenging math activities and to show that mathematical puzzles are fun. The next contest will be January 15 and 16 and it will feature Chess puzzles. Go to cariboutests.com, click on Games/History, and practice the Chess puzzles before the contest! Good luck to all our participating students!

Le Festival du Livre /The French Scholastic Book Fair was a great success!

Thank you to all the families who supported le Festival du Livre/The French Scholastic Book Fair! A portion of the purchases was given back to our school by Scholastic in the form of credits so that we can purchase books and resources for the library and the classrooms. Students were also excited about the contests and were happy to win a variety of prizes. Students were given the opportunity to guess how many books would be sold during this fair again, and were able to make a more informed choice based on the number of books sold at our last fair in September, which was 460 books. This time, data was collected again on the number of books sold, and also on the number of boutique items sold every day of the Fair. Mrs. Bassett's grade 6 Math students helped to organize the data and create graphs as part of their Data Management unit in Mathematics. Thank you!

Computer Science Week and Hour of Code

From December 4 to December 10, it is Computer Science Week! Students will be given the opportunity to participate in a variety of coding activities when they visit the Eagle's Nest – Library/Learning Commons during this time, and these activities will also be available to them throughout the year. For more information, and to try some activities at home, go to <https://hourofcode.com/ca/learn>.

RESPECT RESPONSIBILITY EMPATHY FAIRNESS INITIATIVE
PERSEVERANCE HONESTY INTEGRITY COURAGE OPTIMISM

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

Grades 1 & 2	Grades 3 & 4	Grades 5 & 6	Grades 7 & 8
Shaheen H., Sara R. Nikhil R., Suria M. Nathalia A., Sumaya P. Aidan T., Matthew S. Emma N., Ava O. Maliya M., Areli R. Alexander S., Seun F. Maxim C., Haron A. Adam.F., Gabriella A. Shayaan K., Leah N. Nicole Q., Daniel V. Sam W., Patrick M. Ryan T.	Dana A. Sarah P. Shreya E. Shayan M. Jacob H. Zara T. Quinn R. Theodore K. Jagaat R. Parsa D. Simon L. Jeziah L. Yusuf S. Milijana D. Ilyas F. Andrew L.	Chloe A. Amber G. Qumoia S. Sophia V. Masroor Hannah Anfal B. Olivia Y. Ivan S. Jood A. Zara A.	Puneet S. Matheus Paige Jennifer Nicholas F. Maya Abby Nima B. Alyssa F. Attilio R. Emily P. Sabrina L. Naresh G.

French Immersion Information Sessions and Registrations

Information sessions for the French Immersion (FI) program will take place at French Immersion schools on January 18, 2018 at 7 p.m. Please visit YRDSB's website in January 2018 (<http://www.yrdsb.ca/Programs/fi/Pages/Program-Locations.aspx>) to find the FI program location for your elementary school location. FI registration will begin January 19, 2018. Parents or guardians of Senior Kindergarten students entering Grade 1 in 2018, and wishing to enroll 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 the designated FI program location to register between January 19 and February 9, 2018. 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 enroll. 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. Space requirements at some schools may mean that siblings are in different schools for primary dual track French Immersion programs due to differing grade structures. Like any of our schools across the Board, changes to school boundaries, and/or the accommodation model for the French Immersion program may need to be considered when new schools open, a school experiences enrolment growth, and program changes occur. 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.



*From all the staff at Elder's Mills,
we wish you a safe and restful
Winter Break!*

Stay Warm Drive



in partnership with
Coats for Kids

Drop off your gently used
winter clothing
donations in the designated
box in front of the school
office between
December 4 and 11

Accepted items for
children or adults:
winter coats,
snowsuits,
snow pants, boots,
hats, tuques, mittens,
gloves, socks, and
scarves

E.M.P.S.



Toy Drive

in partnership with *York Region
Police*

Drop off any
NEW, UNWRAPPED TOYS
in the designated box in front of our school office
from
December 4-11