



L'école Elder's Mills

La Voix des Aigles

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December 2013

Principal:

Micheline Joseph

Superintendent of Schools CEC West:

Susan Logue
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



**WINTER
HOLIDAY
ASSEMBLY!**

December 19th at 1:35 pm
Hope you can join us for
student performances and
some wonderful holiday cheer!

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Dec.10 - Arts Performance
Dec.12 - House Colour Spirit Day
Dec.19 - Winter Holiday Assembly
Dec.20 - PA Day/No School
Dec 23- Jan 3- Winter Break
January 6- Back to School

Principal's Message Un mot de la Directrice:

We have had an incredibly busy but productive month. As we assess the progress of our individual students and share our observations with our families via our Progress Reports and Student-Led Conferences/Parent Interviews, we also look at our progress as a school and how we are meeting our School Improvement goals. As a staff we analyze many forms of data to determine our goals to improve student achievement and well-being. Our aim as educators is to help our children develop not only academically but socially and emotionally as well. With the support and assistance of our parents, we regularly teach them how to build positive relationships with each other.

We do this when we teach social skills and reinforce character education throughout the year to help our students develop character traits that support their well-being and establish a positive school climate in our school. Consistent and ongoing instruction on bullying prevention strategies reminds our students to treat each other with respect and deal with their frustrations appropriately. This extends onto the bus and how we treat each other, our bus drivers, our teachers, our lunch assistants and every adult that cares for us during the day. Our 'Random Acts of Kindness' or "Gestes de Gentillesse" campaign is another tool we use to reinforce a positive school climate. We are pleased with the response we have had so far from our students and know that with perseverance and encouragement, our students will consistently apply the strategies that we are teaching them and will remember the golden rule to always "treat others the way you want to be treated."

As we move into December, it is fitting that the character trait of "empathy" will be our focus. This trait needs to be taught and does not always come naturally to our students. It is reinforced through the demonstration of our concern for others within the school, in our community and around the world as well. It is a trait that naturally follows our work last month teaching the character trait of "respect". To show their empathy, our Student Leadership team initiated "Coins for the Philippines" to be donated to support those struggling with the tragedy in the Philippines and have partnered with our daycare for their fundraising efforts. To this end, we can also thank our School Council for sponsoring a Toy Drive to be donated to the CTV Toy Mountain and a Food Drive to be donated to the Vaughan Food Bank to help those less fortunate in our community. We thank those who are able to support these charities.

We want to thank our parent community for your support of our school as well and the special initiatives that we are seeking to provide for our students such as field trips performances, and special events such as those coming in our Arts and Athletics Packages. Thanks go to School Council for using fundraising to help our own community as well and keep the cost down for each family despite our smaller student population this year. You will be receiving our Athletics Package permission form and \$13 fee to prepare for the exciting events coming up in the New Year such as curling and Jungle Sport. We ask that you please send them back by Dec.16th. As always, you are welcome to speak to me or the office staff if you have any concerns or need assistance.

Respectfully yours,
Mme. Joseph

A Message from our Trustee

As 2013 draws to a close, I hope everyone has had a wonderful school year so far. As a trustee, I am always very proud to hear about the great things happening in our schools, thanks to the hard work of our students, staff and community members.

With the school year well underway I hope you have had an opportunity to get involved with the school community. There are many different ways to get involved. Our great schools become even better when everyone in the school community - families, students, staff and community partners - feels welcome and engaged in the school.

We will begin 2014 with a renewed Mission, Vision and Values statement. They are being updated to better reflect the school communities we serve, and the changes we have seen in education over the past decade. Thank you to everyone who took the time to share their views.

As we enter the winter months, on behalf of the trustees and staff of the York Region District School Board, I would like to wish you and your families a safe and happy holiday season, and a wonderful start to the new year.

*Anna DeBartolo,
Chair & Trustee YRDSB*



Vaughan Alive Awards! Eagles Soar!



Congratulations Eagles! On November 19th, our school was honored at the Vaughan Alive Celebrating School Spirit awards ceremony at Vaughan City Hall. We were awarded winners of the Vaughan Alive 2012/2013 in Ward 2 for our efforts in a variety of categories including Beautification, Environmental, Goodwill, Active Living and Arts and Culture.

We were honored for our excellence in Visual Arts but also for our contributions in the areas of Active Living and

Environmental Initiatives.

Mme. Joseph, Mrs. Fancy and Ms. de Silva (our former art teacher) were pleased to accept this award on behalf of all the past and present students of Elder's Mills. As part of our award, our school has been awarded an Art Workshop with Vaughan Arts Program artist, Andrew Testa, who will be working with our junior-aged students. We will be sharing more about this special project in our upcoming newsletter so stay tuned!



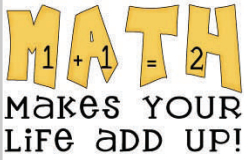
Student Voice—Let's Talk Science

Our Grade 5 students were lucky to get a special science presentation this month. Two university student volunteers from Let's Talk Science visited our classrooms to help teach us about science. We learned about the bones in our bodies, made skeleton models of our hands and even saw animal organs. We love science! Gr. 5J and Gr. 5P



Woo! Nous avons eu la chance d'avoir deux bénévoles du programme Let's Talk Science (Parlons sciences) avec nous ce matin. Kourtney et Muhammad ont travaillé avec nous pour créer un modèle des os dans notre main. Nous avons même vu des organes d'animaux comme un coeur, un cerveau, et des yeux! C'était chique et délicieux! Gr. 5J and Gr. 5P

MATH CORNER



Our Grade 3 Math Competition

Some of our Grade 3 students have joined The Caribou Mathematics Competition to enrich their math experience. This is a world-wide online contest that supports math concepts taught in Grades 3-12. It can be accessed in either French or English. Through this experience, our Grade 3 students will be given their results to learn from their successes as well as their mistakes. There are six contests through the year for those students who wish to participate. Each student's ranking in the Caribou Cup is determined by their performance in their best five of six contests through the school year. All of the previous contests are available for free online as [practice tests](#). Feel free to browse the website for more information: <http://www.brocku.ca/caribou/>

On November 13th, the following students in Mme Colonna's class demonstrated courage and participated in the competition: Abigail, Hasan, Maya, Lynette, Terry, Noah, Isaiah, Naresh, Hillary, Jordana, Nicola, Emma and Stefan. They are currently training for the next one, which will be held on January 15th, 2014. Hopefully more students will join them!

DreamBox Program for our Grades 4 and 5

All our Grade 4 and 5 students have been working with a new supplementary math program to support our mathematics curriculum. DreamBox (www.dreambox.com) is a web-based interactive online computer program which provides students with extra practice on concepts being taught. It is an adaptive tool which adjusts to the level of practice that each student needs to become more successful in mathematical concepts or ideas. Being game-based as well, it is very engaging for our students, who like that they can play games, while they practice their math. Parents can access this program online as well. Presently, it is only offered in English so we are only using it to supplement our English math programs in Grades 4 and 5. Math is fun!



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 16th, 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 17th 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.

Save the Date! Family Movie Night – January 30, 2014, 6:00 p.m.

Join us for Family Movie Night on Thursday, January 30th, 2014 @ 6:00 p.m. All family members are welcome, so bring your pillows, blankets or mats and get ready for a great kid-friendly movie and some family fun! Admission is free and pizza, popcorn and bottled water will be available for sale. Kids are welcome to come dressed in their pajamas. Stay tuned for dinner pre-orders in the new year.

The movies shown will be **Turbo and Epic!**

Next School Council Meeting Wednesday January 22nd, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

All are welcome to join our next school council meeting.

ECO CORNER...



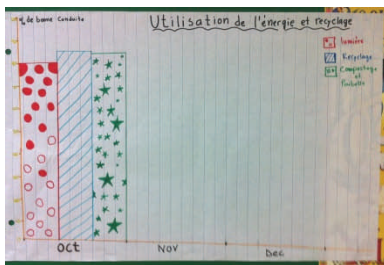
Boomerang Lunches:

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 or recycled at home 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.



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.

Energy Conservation and Recycling: L'utilisation de l'énergie et recyclage:



The use of energy and recycling during the month of October at Elder's Mills P.S.:

83% of classes use energy in an appropriate way (i.e. turning off lights, computers and other technology when not in use)

86% of classes recycle materials

85% of classes correctly separate waste, recycling and composting. We need to continue working hard and being conscientious in order to protect the environment. We can do it!

83% utilise de façon appropriée l'énergie

83% recycle les matériaux "

85% sépare correctement les déchets "

Nous devons améliorer notre comportement afin de protéger l'environnement. Courage!

ECO Camp!

On November 11, 2013, the Eco Team leaders went to Eco Camp located at Schomberg. We did four programs. The first program was called "Through The Camera Lens". We learned different techniques to take photos of the nature to produce works of Arts. The second was "Earth Sense". We learned how to make use of each of our five senses. The third one was "Call of the Wild". In this program, we learned how to imitate animals' sounds. The last program was called "Leadership In Action". We learned how to reinforce our confidence with others. We adored our first overnight trip away from home. Thanks to our teacher leader, M. Ghomffo for supervising us on this special trip. By Bianca, Stephanie, Megan, Stefano, Stephan and David

Le 11 novembre, les leaders du club Écologique sont allés au campement situé à Schomberg. Nous avons fait quatre programmes. Le premier s'appelle "Through the Camera Lens" dans lequel nous avons appris à prendre de belles photos de la nature. Le deuxième s'appelle "Earth Sense" dans lequel nous avons appris à utiliser chacun de nos cinq sens. Le troisième s'appelle "Call of the Wild" dans lequel nous avons appris à imiter le cris s des animaux et repère leur traces. Le dernier program s'appelle "Leadership In Action" dans lequel nous avons appris à renforcer notre confiance envers les autres. Pendant la dernière nuit de notre excursion, nous avons marches tous seul dans la foret pendant la nuit. Nous avons beaucoup aime notre première nuit hors de chez nous. Merci à M. Ghomffo pour nous accompagner.



French Immersion Registration for New Students—Information Night: January 16, 2014

Information sessions for the French Immersion (FI) program will take place at Elder's Mills PS on **January 16, 2014 at 7 p.m.** FI registration will begin January 17, 2014. In order to streamline the registration process, parents or guardians of Senior Kindergarten students entering Grade 1 in 2014, 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 Elder's Mills to register between January 17 and February 14, 2014. 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.edu.on.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 York Region District School 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. (Please check our lost and found box in our lobby regularly to retrieve lost items)

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:

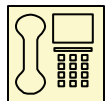


RADIO and TELEVISION

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**.



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. 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.

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



1 Mme Hendricks	Mia, Reese, Jordan, Aariana	3 Mme. Alberga	Sabrina, Hannah, Saina
1 Mme. Bergeron	Dylan, Julie, Artun	3 Mme. Colonna	Emma, Seif
1 Mme. Sampogna	Felipe, Presha	4 Mme. Constantin	Nathan, Areej
1 Mme. Trivedi	Hasher, Claire, Lindsay	4 M. Ghomffo	Puneet S., Paige
1 Mme. Yususf	Rivka, Mannat, Safoora	5 Mlle. Joachim	David, Bianca, Paige
2 M. Thompson	Noah, Isabella	5 M. Petrilli	Saketh, Samara, Calista
2 Mme. Ing	Emily, Petar	Golden Dustbin Award First Floor	Mme. Zuccaro's class
2 Mme. Bianchi	Suravi, Samay	Second Floor	Mlle. Joachim's class

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

Respect Honesty Fairness Perseverance Courage
Responsibility Empathy Initiative Integrity Optimism



Elder's Mills Public School



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
1	2 Hot Lunch	3 Lunch Lady	4	5 Gr. 3 Field Trip to Salon de Livre	6 Pizza Day 	7	
8	9 Hot Lunch	10 AKA Dance Performance Lunch Lady	11	12 House Colour Spirit Day	13 Gr. 5 Trip to Citizenship Ceremony Pizza Day 	14	
15	16 Hot Lunch Character Assembly "Empathy"	17 Lunch Lady	18 Friday Schedule	19 Winter Holiday Assembly @1:35 p.m. All welcome!	20 PA DAY NO SCHOOL		
22 	23	24	25 	26 Kwanza	27	28	
 WINTER BREAK BEGINS. BACK TO SCHOOL ON JANUARY 6, 2014 							
29	30	31	Happy Holidays!				
							