



GERMAN MILLS PUBLIC SCHOOL

61 Simonston Blvd. Thornhill, Ontario L3T 4R5

(905) 889-8776 fax: (905) 889-8725

Email: germanmills.ps@yrdsb.ca

Website: www.germanmills.ps.yrdsb.ca

FEBRUARY 2016

Principal

Krysten Cameron

Head Secretary

Jennifer Whitfield

Secretary A

Lory Bicic

Caretaking Team

Brent Marshall

Rhonda Allen

Daniel Yu

Superintendent of Schools

Rashmi Swarup

(905) 764-6830

Trustee

Susan Geller

(905) 763-8682

A message from the Office...

Can you believe that we are already at the end of Term One? It seems not long ago that I was sitting down to write a Welcome Back message for the school year—contemplating all of the wonderful things that were to unfold. Now at the halfway point, I continue to think of what is ahead, but I have also taken time to reflect on all that has been accomplished. When the report cards come home in a few weeks, I hope that each one of you, along with your children, will take time to also reflect on, and celebrate, what has been accomplished.

One of the highlights for me here this fall is our Character Matters Assemblies and recognition. Our students have learned a lot about what it means to be a contributing member of a community and about how to solve problems in meaningful and positive ways. This past month we focussed on Optimism. We live in a world and a time where it is important to see the good in others, the bright side in tough situations and how to make the most of what we have. Seeing things from an optimistic perspective can help us be resilient, and help us persevere in the face of adversity. This is one of the Character Traits that can have such a vast influence on all that we do.

As Term Two begins I am encouraging everyone to live out that 'Today is the perfect day for the perfect day!' I look forward to a FANTASTIC and productive second half of 2015-2016!

Krysten Cameron

WINTER CONCERT

Save the Date!

Feb 11th

Grades K– 5/6

More information
to come



Family Day

There will be NO SCHOOL on
Monday, February 15, 2016

FAMILY DAY

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Additional Elementary and Secondary P.A. Days

As a result of provincial labour negotiations, a P.A. Day has been added for all York Region District School Board elementary schools on Friday, May 6, 2016 and secondary schools on Friday, June 3, 2016. You can see the full updated school year calendars on YRDSB's [website](#).

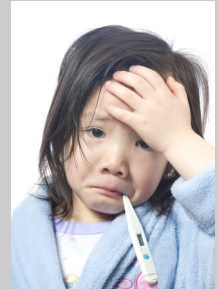
These additional P.A. Days are mandated by the Ministry of Education. On these dates, teachers will be taking part in professional development on provincial education priorities identified by the Ministry of Education.

Student Illnesses

If your child is ill, they put the rest of the school at risk of falling ill. Please keep your child at home until they are feeling better.

As you know, all students must be supervised at all times. Unfortunately, we do not have the staffing to supervise students who wish to remain indoors during recess. Students may not be sent to the office during these times.

Too sick for recess means too sick for school!



Triple P Tip of the Month ~ FEBRUARY ~ Coping with Stress

Being a parent is busy and demanding and it's normal to feel stressed at times. However, if parents have a high level of stress, it can be hard for them to deal with their children's behavior calmly and may be less likely to spend time with them. Children are likely to grow up happy and learn what's expected of them when parents are consistently calm.

KEY STEPS:

- Think about helpful changes you can make to your lifestyle
- Try to notice tension early
- Find a relaxation technique that suits you and use it when you feel tense
- Think of coping statements to say to yourself when stressful situations arise
- Make sure you believe what you are saying to yourself
- Catch and challenge any unhelpful thoughts that increase your stress and replace them with more realistic or helpful ways of thinking about the situation

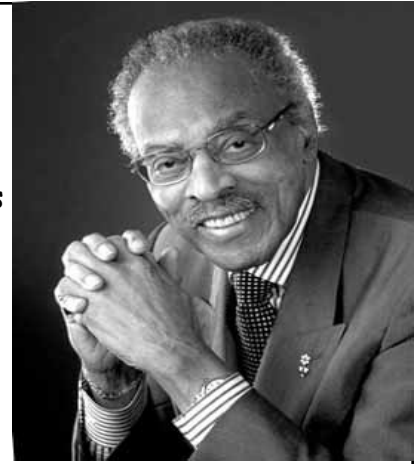


February is Black History Month

February is African Heritage Month and this is the time of year when we focus on activities, events and celebrations which remind us of the role African history plays in our communities. The history of African Canadians dates back to the early 1600's, however, this presence is not well-known.

It was in January 1993, when Lieutenant Governor Hal Jackman proclaimed February as Black History Month in Ontario by describing it as "*a time to celebrate the uniqueness, vitality and continuing contribution of the Black community in Ontario*". Since then, people of Ontario of all backgrounds have joined in honouring the historical and present day contributions made by persons of African Heritage, to the advancement of our society.

As we in the York Region District Board make a conscious effort to reflect upon the legacy of African history in all its forms, we once again join all Canadians in celebrating African Heritage Month.



The Honourable Lincoln Alexander was the first Black Member of Parliament when he was elected in 1968. He was later appointed as Lieutenant Governor of Ontario.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION: TAKING REGISTRATIONS NOW

Kindergarten registration commenced on January 15, 2016 for the 2016-2017 school year. Registration forms are available on YRDSB's website: www.yrdsb.ca. Children who turn four or five years old during 2016, live within the school boundary and whose parents are public school tax supporters will be eligible to register for Kindergarten. A Kindergarten information session for parents is being planned for this spring. For more information please visit the YRDSB website or contact your local school.

A HUGE Thank You to our School Council for hosting such a fantastic Movie Night. The turn out was amazing and a good time was had by all. We look forward to more movie nights in the future as well as our Annual Dance-a-thon.

THANK
YOU!

Don't forget that everyone is welcome at our Council meetings and our events. We are always looking for more people to add to our collective voice.



Kawasaki Disease Awareness

February is Heart Month. Kawasaki disease is the leading cause of acquired heart disease in children. It affects the lymph nodes, skin, and mucous membranes inside the mouth nose and throat. KD is a rare illness that mostly affects kids under age of 5. It is not contagious.

For a list of symptoms and further information, please visit:

www.kawasakikidsfoundation.org.

Kawasaki Awareness day was on January 26. Students will be encouraged to wear red on Friday, February 12.

REMINDER

GRADE 8 PARENTS

Upcoming Dates of Note:



Parent information night for Muskoka Woods trip, February 18, 7:00 PM

(Grade 8 trip is scheduled for June 8-10)



Graduation, Tuesday, June 21, 2016

Thornhill Golf and Country Club

GRADUATION PHOTOS

FEBRUARY 25TH, 2016



Don't forget to see what our Kinders are up to!
Follow us at:



@KinderTweets

to watch us learn through play and exploration.

Message from our Trustee

Although winter still feels far from over some days, we are now halfway through the school year. With report cards coming home, this is a good time to review progress and celebrate what your children have learned both inside and outside of the classroom. This is also a good time to set goals for the months ahead.

One of our goals set out in the Board of Trustees' [Multi-Year Plan](#) is to "continuously increase student achievement and well-being through a culture of caring and learning." Developing this supportive culture includes engaging parents/guardians and other members of the school community in public education and working together to create safe and supportive school environments that enable students to thrive.

As parents/guardians, there are many ways you can get engaged in your child's education and support their learning, including talking with them about school, communicating with teachers, attending school events or school council meetings, and volunteering in the school. However you get involved, know that you are making a difference.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I wish you all the best an enjoyable and successful second term.

Susan Geller



A group of amazing students have teamed up to take initiative and make our school a better place to learn and to have fun!

Follow the **Student Leadership Committee** at www.twitter.com to hear what's happening at German Mills from the people who matter most--the students!

@GMPSvoice

WEATHER ALERT Please be sure to dress your child for the variety of temperatures we are experiencing.

Inclement Weather Morning Entry

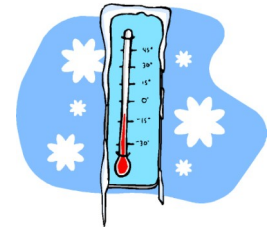
At times, it becomes necessary for students to come in from either the rain or extremely cold weather. German Mills PS begins daily supervision at 8:45a.m. If it is raining or extremely cold, we will call for indoor supervision. When it is indoor supervision all students will enter the school through their usual doors. Each door will be supervised by a staff member, who will direct students to their supervised location inside. Portable students come into the main floor hallway and wait until the 9:00 a.m. bell to proceed to their classroom.



To maintain safety, it is absolutely imperative that parents and other adults do not enter the hallways! Thank you for your cooperation.

ENJOYING THE FRESH AIR

All our students will be expected to be outside before, during and after school in all weather conditions. Students need to come to school dressed to play outside during recesses. If a student is too sick to go outside they are to sick to come to school. It is advisable for children to keep extra pants and socks at school in case they get wet. To avoid adding to our clothing collection in the Lost and Found Bin, please be sure to label all articles of clothing. Please remind your child about the importance of actually wearing the warm clothes you send at morning recess and lunch recess.



WANT TO KNOW THE WEATHER AROUND OUR SCHOOL?

Check out this direct link!



<http://www.theweathernetwork.com/forecasts/school-day/canada/ontario/german-mills-public-school>



BUS CANCELLATIONS

If the condition of the roads necessitates the cancellation of bus service, local radio stations will be informed as early as possible and will broadcast this information to the community. Please be advised that if buses are cancelled in the morning they will not run after school—regardless of the weather. Review your plans as to what your children will do in the event of late buses or cancellations.

The following radio stations announce cancellations:

AM 640 AM 680 FM 88.5 FM 90.3 AM 1010 AM 1540 FM 92.5 FM 93.1 AM 1050
FM 97.3 FM 98.1 AM 1530 FM 100.7 FM 104.5 FM 107.1 AM 590 FM 99.9

Alternatively, go to www.schoolbuscity.com for info.



Character Matters... FAIRNESS

This month, our character focus is **FAIRNESS**:

We are sensitive to the needs of each individual. We treat each other as we wish to be treated ourselves. We interact with others without stereotypes, prejudice or discrimination. We stand up for human rights.

Each and every person requires consideration and equal opportunity. We see our students, staff and community members demonstrating fairness when they share, play by the rules and treat others equitably. Marian Wright Edelman once said, "the future which we hold in trust for our own children will be shaped by our fairness to other people's children."

This month, and every month, strive to be fair and give equal opportunity to all, be sensitive to the needs of the individual, and treat others with sensitivity and understanding.



December's award
winners were
acknowledged for
their
EMPATHY



January's award
winners were
acknowledged for
their
OPTIMISM



GERMAN MILLS VOLLEYBALL TEAM

The Junior Volleyball team had an outstanding season this year. The team worked together in our short season to develop and show their skills, teamwork and sportsmanship at every game and practice. Their hard work paid off as they went on to participate in the all day tournament at Frechette P.S. They played very well and showed just how hard they have worked by making it to the semi-finals! The team made us all very proud to be a German Mills Wildcat. We cant wait to see what next year has in store for us! GO WILDCATS!

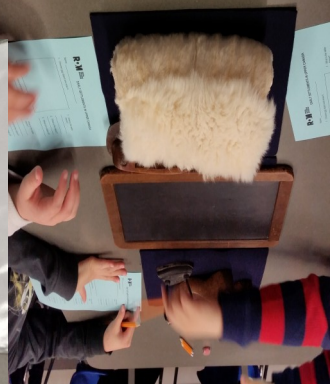
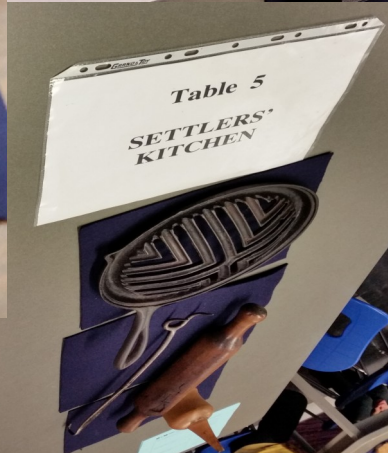
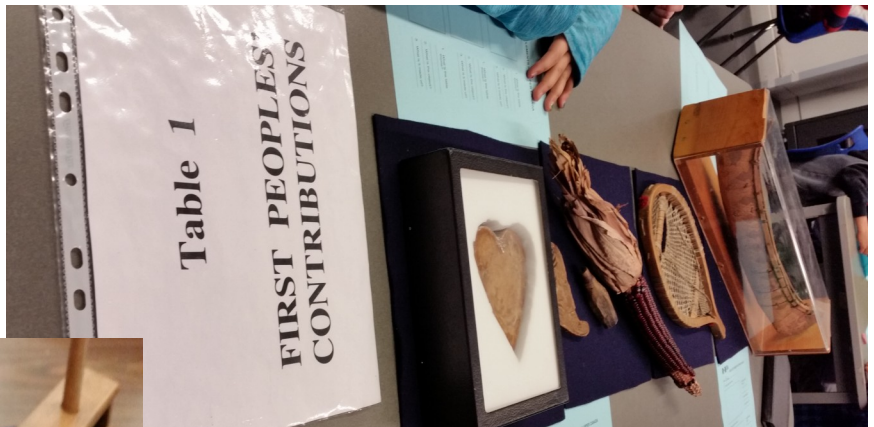


MATH MANIPULATIVES are a great way to help us solve problems in a variety of ways and with a variety of tools. The hands-on work helps activate our memory in ways that paper and pencil tasks don't. Have a look at the grade 5/6 class using some of our new math manipulatives!



Grade 3, 4, 5 Field Trip to the ROM

On January 25th, the Grade 3's, 4's, and 5's went on a field trip to the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM). First, we rode downtown on two school buses. When we got to the ROM, each grade went with teacher and parent volunteers to different 90 minute Social Studies lab sessions. The Grade 3's explored tools and artifacts used by the First Nations and Early Settler communities. After, we had lunch in the big cafeteria. Next, we split up into small groups and got to explore whichever areas of the ROM we wanted to investigate. Many of the Grade 3's went into a tepee and learned more about first nations groups, plus we saw a gigantic totem pole. We also visited an area of antique furniture, dishes, and silver from the Early Settlers. Other areas of interest were the "bat cave" to see what a bat's natural habitat is like, the dinosaur exhibit, digging and dusting off sand to find fossils, and ocean animal exhibits, and real honeybee hive with its queen bee inside. Some groups explored Early Civilizations displays from Ancient Egypt, Ancient China, and others. We were so excited to learn about world history at the ROM. All of us had an amazing day! Here are some pictures from the Grade 3 lab:



X DANCE

We had a FANTASTIC time together during the day and at our Community Night. What a great experience!!!



FUN IN THE SNOW



En Francais!

In French, we transformed the class into a movie theatre. The grade 6 students from Ms. Frohlinger's class created mystery films and the grade 7s ordered food! from the concession stand!



February 2016

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1 <i>PA Day</i>	2 <i>Day 1 Sub Day Milk</i>	3 <i>Day 2 Pizza Day</i>	4 <i>Day 3 Milk Ten Ten Sports</i>	5 <i>Day 4</i>	6
7	8 <i>Day 5 Spirit Week</i>	9 <i>Day 1 Sub Day Milk Spirit Week</i>	10 <i>Day 2 Pizza Day Spirit Week</i>	11 <i>Day 3 Milk Spirit Week CONCERT</i>	12 <i>Day 4 Spirit Week</i>	13
14	15 <i>Family Day</i>	16 <i>Day 5 Sub Day Milk</i>	17 <i>Day 1 Pizza Day</i>	18 <i>Day 2 Milk Grade 8 Trip Info Session</i>	19 <i>Day 3 Report Cards Home</i>	20
21	22 <i>Day 4</i>	23 <i>Day 5 Sub Day Milk</i>	24 <i>Day 1 Pizza Day</i>	25 <i>Day 2 Milk Grad Photos</i>	26 <i>Day 3</i>	27
28	29 <i>Day 4</i>					

Our next School Council Meeting is on **MONDAY**
MARCH 7th at 6:30p.m.

Before the meeting begins we will have staff here from NitWorks to teach us how to properly comb and check our kids heads for lice. We encourage you to come out for this 20 minute presentation so that you can help keep lice at bay.

F E B R U A R Y 8 - 1 2

GMPS

Spirit Week

Save the Dates!

Monday, February 8th

International Day

Tuesday, February 9th

Carnaval de German Mills

Wednesday, February 10th

Career Day

Thursday, February 11th

Winter Concert

Friday, February 12th

Pyjama Day/ Crazy Hair Day



Great things are happening at German Mills!

Thanks to the wonderful students here at GMPS, we have a week of exciting activities planned!

The Student Leadership Team has come up with very creative Spirit Days to look forward to.

Be sure to check our blog and Twitter for updates!

Germanmillsps.com

|

[@GermanMillsPS](https://twitter.com/GermanMillsPS)

A Few More Details...

International Day

Students are encouraged to wear or bring in cultural items that represent themselves!

Career Day

Time to dress for your dream job!

"What do you want to be when you grow up?"

Winter Concert

Starts at 6:45pm

Come out and enjoy songs, poems and stories from our primary and junior students!

Carnaval de German Mills

In teams, students from Kindergarten to Grade 8 will participate in a variety of festive activities. Students will learn about one of Canada's largest winter festivals!

Students should be prepared for both indoor and outdoor activities. Please be sure to send your children in appropriate winter clothing (i.e., snow pants, boots, mittens, etc).

As part of the sessions, there will be a warm-up station with hot chocolate and marshmallows. If you have any questions regarding the Spirit Week or Carnaval, please call us here at school.

Thank you!

