



Roaring Wildcat News



German Mills Public School

61 Simonston Blvd, Thornhill, Ontario L3T4R5

Tel: (905) 889-8776 Fax: (905) 889-8725

Blog: www.germanmillsps.com

Twitter: @GermanMillsPS

Website: www.germanmills.ps@yrdsb.ca

November 2015

Principal
Krysten Cameron

Head Secretary
Jennifer Whitfield

Secretary A
Lory Bicic

Caretaking Team
Brent Marshall
Jaden Snodden
Josh Hernandez

Superintendent of Schools
Rashmi Swarup
(905) 764-6830

Trustee
Susan Geller
(905) 763-8682

School Council

General Meeting
Thursday,
November 26th, 2015
at
7:00 p.m.

All parents are welcome to attend.

German.mills.ps
@sc.yrdsb.ca

A Message from the Office...

School is well underway and with a new school year comes many changes. Changes in season, changes in temperature, and changes in routine have begun. We have also kicked off this month with our Cookie Fundraiser! Money from this fundraiser will go specifically to supporting our healthy snack program, enhancing technology and towards offsetting the cost of bussing for field trips and sporting events.

November has arrived and with it the cooler weather (except for this week!). Please be sure that your child is dressed appropriately. All of our students will be expected to be outside before, during and after school in the cooler weather temperatures. Students need to come prepared to play outside at recess and lunch recess.

Autumn is a great season to appreciate the beauty of Canada. Spending time outdoors is not only good for your health and wellbeing, but it is also a great way to provide natural learning opportunities and engage the curiosity of our kids. Learning together about why leaves change colour, using fallen leaves in our art and capitalizing on mathematical learning (clocks go back an hour) is ideal. Sometimes the ideal classroom is one with no walls at all.

This month's Character Matters Trait is Honesty. This is a trait that is valued in people of all ages. Dishonesty can cause problems with friends, family and co-workers. Children need to learn that no matter what they have done, they must always tell the truth and Honesty is the best policy! Our next Character Matters Assembly will be held at 12:00 p.m. on Monday November 30th.

Thank you for your continued support of German Mills PS.

Krysten Cameron
Principal

Is my child's bus running late?

For BUS Updates please go to:

www.schoolbuscity.com



ORDERING HOT LUNCHES? REMEMBER TO PACK A MORNING SNACK

Ordering hot lunches for your children? Don't forget to pack a healthy morning snack.



@GermanMillsPS

Information for Students who are English Language Learners (ELL) and their Families

Website for Families:

Are you new to Canada? If so, Welcome to Canada! You may find the following YRDSB website useful.

www.yrdsb.ca

Go to Newcomers:

<http://www.yrdsb.ca/AboutUs/Departments/ISCS/Pages/Newcomers.aspx>



Newcomers has:

- 1) General Information (i.e. Report Cards; School Year Calendar; Continuing Education...)
- 2) Videos (i.e. English as a Second Language; Parental involvement...)
These videos are in various languages.
- 3) Resources: (i.e. Citizen and Immigration Canada; Welcome Centre Immigrant Services...)



Website for Primary Children:

<http://www.starfall.com/>

This website is free. It helps children learn the sounds of the consonants and vowels. It also helps them to read with phonics.

Website for Junior/Intermediate Students:

<http://www.newslevels.com/>

Remembrance Day

Every year on November 11th, Canadians pause in a moment of silence to remember the men and women who have served, and continue to serve our country during times of war, conflict and peace. We honour those who fought for Canada in the First World War (1914-1918), the Second World War (1939-1945), and the Korean War (1950-1953), as well as those who have served since then. More than 1,500,000 Canadians have served our country in this way, and more than 100,000 have died. They gave their lives and their futures so that we may live in peace.

By remembering their service and their sacrifice, we recognize the tradition of freedom these men and women fought to preserve. They believed that their actions in the present would make a significant difference for the future, but it is up to us to ensure that their dream of peace is realized. On Remembrance Day, we acknowledge the courage and sacrifice of those who served their country and acknowledge our responsibility to work for the peace they fought hard to achieve.

At German Mills PS, we will be holding our Remembrance Day assembly on Wednesday, November 11, 2015 at 10:40am.

Parents and community members are welcome to attend.



Literacy/Numeracy Corner

*Understanding and knowing how to do mathematics makes our day-to-day lives easier.
Understanding and using mathematics to make decisions and to take action builds
confidence and joy!*

(Ontario Literacy & Numeracy Secretariat)

10 ways toward helping your child with Mathematics

Adapted from the Literacy & Numeracy Secretariat

1. **Play games and do puzzles with your child that involves mathematics.** Such activities may focus on direction or time, logic, reasoning, sorting, classifying, and/or estimating.
2. **Work with your child to solve mathematics problems.** Problem solving helps your child develop mathematical thinking and reasoning.
3. **Include your child in everyday activities that involve mathematics**– making purchases, measuring ingredients, counting out plates and utensils for dinner, measuring and calculating the area and perimeter of a room.
4. **Treat errors and misconceptions as opportunities** to develop reasoning skills and new ideas.
5. **When you and your child are trying to solve a problem, have your child share his or her thinking aloud** and talk about the strategies that he or she used to reach a solution. If some of the ideas are puzzling, ask your child to explain further. As children talk about their ideas and how they reach solutions, they are learning to reason mathematically.
6. **Point out the ways in which different family members use mathematics** in their jobs and at home.
7. **Let your child know that everyone** can learn mathematics
8. **Encourage your child to be persistent** when a problem seems difficult
9. **Let your child know that you think** mathematics is important.



Wonderful Websites

Primary:

Storyline Online: <http://storylineonline.net>

Brain Pop: <https://www.brainpop.com>

Junior:

Twine Tribune: <http://tweentribune.com/junior>

Lego Build: <https://www.buildwithchrome.com>

Intermediate:

Teaching Kid News: <http://teachingkidsnews.com/>

Education Place: http://www.eduplace.com/kids/hme/6_8/grammar/

Character Corner: HONESTY

Our Character Matters trait for the month of November is **Honesty**. Honesty is a very important character trait that we teach our children from a very young age. It is probably the first character trait we teach our children!

What is honesty?

- Being truthful in word and action
- Showing trustworthiness
- Being reliable in carrying out commitments, obligations and duties
- Telling the truth
- Admitting wrongdoing

What does honesty look like/sound like?

- Telling parents/guardians/caregivers or a teacher about a mistake and facing the consequences of the action
- Not getting angry at someone when they are honest with you in a respectful manner
- Refraining from gossiping and spreading rumours
- Turning in something that is lost

Cookie Fundraiser

This week we kicked off our first Fundraiser for the school year! The money from the sale of cookie dough and the Entertainment App will go to supporting the Healthy Snack program as well as to enhance our technology here at GMPS. In addition we are looking to raise funds for bussing to offset the cost of trips and sporting events.

Please remind your child(ren) that we do not go door to door and we only ask people that we know. Safety is always most important!

The last day to submit orders is November 20th. Orders will be delivered to the school at the end of the month.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school or school council.

Happy Shopping!



LATES and Kiss N' Ride

We continue to experience an unacceptable number of lates daily. A reminder that our instructional day begins at 9:00 am. Being late is disruptive not only to your child(ren) but also to the others in his/her class.

We have noticed that some parents are dropping students off outside of the drop off areas. A few reminders to ensure your morning is off to a great start:

- Parents are asked to drop students off along the curb side of the loop
- Please have students ready with their bags ready to exit on the passenger side.
- Parents are not to leave their vehicle if using the Kiss N' Ride.

Please do your best to ensure that your child starts each day on time.

German Mills School Council

We believe that collaborative and inclusive partnerships among schools, families and our communities, are essential to improving student learning and increasing a shared sense of accountability for public education. School Councils play an important role in building school, family and community partnerships by providing input into relevant Board and school-level decisions and by encouraging the involvement of all members of the school community in support of student learning.

The German Mills PS School Council met on Thursday, October 15th and elected the following parents to our 2015-2016 School Council:

Council Chair: **Fern Steinberg**

Vice Chair: **Anastasia Tsouroupakis**

Treasurer: **Ivy Shao**

Secretary: **Doinita Ciorma**

General: **Rania Mansour, Libby Hill, Avegail Vilela**

We are excited about the upcoming year. We welcome you all to our next School Council Meeting on

Thursday, November 26th at 7:00 pm

Meeting Minutes are available upon request.

We are looking for interested people to join sub-committees for fundraising, community engagement and parent education.

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

Inclement Weather Morning Entry

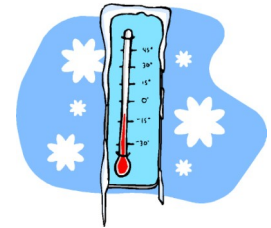
At times, it becomes necessary for students to come in from either the rain or extremely cold weather. German Mills PS begins daily supervision at 8:45a.m. If it is raining or extremely cold, we will call for indoor supervision. When it is indoor supervision all students will enter the school through 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.



SCHOOL ATTENDANCE- THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING AT SCHOOL

In their book *Instructional Rounds in Education* Clay, Elmore, Fiarman and Teitel make the obvious statement, "... hold onto your hats - *teaching causes learning*."¹ There is ample research to support the notion that classroom instruction has a significant impact on student learning. However, classroom instruction can have NO impact if the student is absent!

Research from school boards across the province has highlighted the importance of regular school attendance as well as the fact that relatively few days absent has a significant negative impact on overall student achievement. At the elementary level, absenteeism correlates strongly with grade 6 EQAO achievement. In particular, students with 20 or more absences were more likely than not to score below the provincial standard. Attending school and participating in the instructional program therefore matters. Put another way, "*teaching causes learning*." If you aren't present, learning is significantly impaired.

German Mills PS has a significant number of students who arrive late on a daily basis causing these students to miss portions of daily lessons and learning. It is imperative that we work together to ensure that all students arrive at the school between 8:45 and 8:55 to avoid missing important time for teaching and learning.

The Education Act places attendance as a parental responsibility. Certainly, encouraging regular attendance is a partnership between the school and the parent. Our core business involves creating the conditions that will allow each student to benefit from effective instructional practices and inspire them to learn. Creating a plan and rigorously monitoring its implementation to ensure that students are attending is part of that core business. Students who are frequently late, more than 3 times without cause (i.e., appointments, etc.), will be required to serve a detention at morning recess to catch up on the work missed.

We are asking for your help to get our students to school on time to allow each student to benefit from effective instructional practices while we inspire them to learn and reach their full potential.

1 Elizabeth A. Clay, Richard F. Elmore, Sarah E. Fiarman and Lee Teitel, *Instructional Rounds in Education*, Harvard Education Press, 2009, p. 28



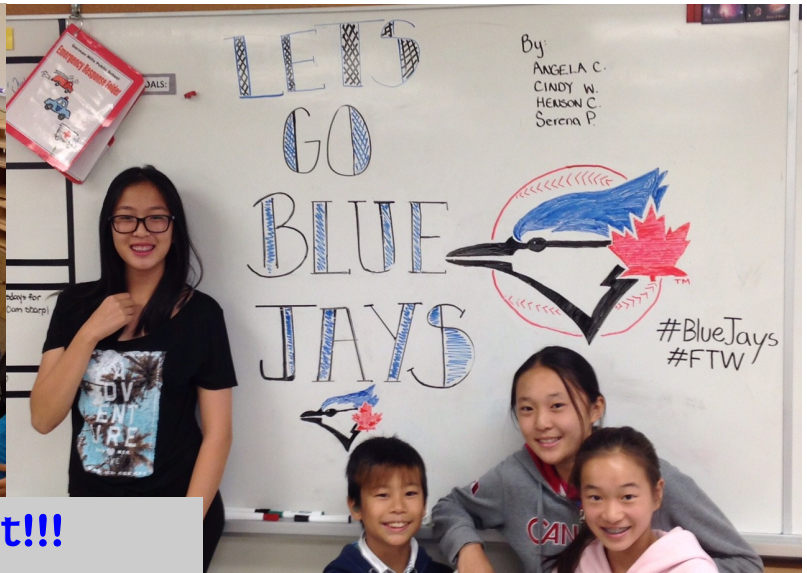
FOCUSING ON MATH

Math Homework Help

All students in Grades 7 to 10 can access free, online math tutoring from a certified Ontario math teacher. It is free, live, and anonymous. Chats take place Sunday to Thursday evenings from 5:30 pm to 9:30 pm. Other resources are available online 24/7. Students need their Ontario Education Number (found on their provincial report card) and date of birth to register. It is recommended that students use an anonymous username and password when registering.

Please visit <https://homeworkhelp.ilc.org/>

This resource is partnership between the Ministry of Education and TVO's Independent Learning Centre.



School Spirit!!!



Our Winners of the Responsibility Award

