



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

October 2015

Principal
Krysten Cameron

Head Secretary
Jennifer Whitfield

Secretary A
Lory Bicic

Caretaking Team
Brent Marshall
Christine Mansz
Jaden Snodden
Josh Hernandez

Superintendent of Schools
Rashmi Swarup
(905) 764-6830

Trustee
Susan Geller
(905) 763-8682

School Council

General Meeting
**Thursday,
October 15th,
2015 at
7:00 p.m.**

All parents are welcome to attend.

**Elections for our new Executive will occur at the meeting*

A Message from the Office...

September has been a very busy month here at German Mills Public School. Students and staff have been busy building routines and norms that will last for the entire school year! As we build these new routines, we are trying to ensure that all students arrive safely to school and on-time. A late arrival is disruptive to the student, his/her classmates, and the staff. In order to set your child(ren) up for success on a daily basis, it is expected that all students arrive to school beginning at 8:45 a.m. and no later than 8:55 a.m. Instruction begins at 9:00 a.m. Thank you for all that you do to ensure your child(ren) arrive at school on time and ready to learn.

I would like to thank each and every one of you for making September a great start for all! As always, should you have a question or concern, please feel free to contact me at the office.

Your partner in education,

Krysten Cameron
Principal

Terry Fox Run

\$506.00 raised so far!!



If they haven't already done so, students are encouraged to bring a 'toonie for Terry' to support the Terry Fox Foundation for cancer research.



"Even if I don't finish, we need others to continue. It's got to keep going without me."

Terry Fox

Birthdays at GMPS

Please do NOT send any food to school to share with other students.

Birthdays are an important part of a child's life. Children love to be showered with celebration and attention on their birthday, and parents/guardians love to do this for them. German Mills will continue marking students' birthdays by announcing them during morning announcements. We are also going to provide each student with a birthday ribbon to mark the special day. Summer and holiday birthdays, as well as those that fall on weekends, will also be acknowledged.

German Mills does NOT support or allow the distribution of birthday treats coming from home.

Thank you for supporting German Mills in simplifying birthday celebrations at school and making it equitable for all students.

Student Verification Forms

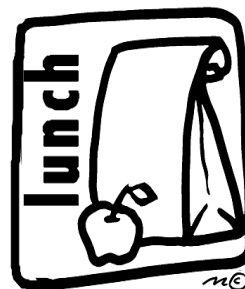
Earlier last week, each student received their computer generated Student Verification Forms. As you can imagine, this information is crucial for the safety of your child. Please ensure that all parental contact information is current and up to date.



Any changes to the information can be made right on the form in pen. Please return all Student Office Index Cards to school whether or not they require any revisions.

Lunch Drop Off

We encourage families to plan ahead and send lunches with their children daily. We recognize that **occasionally** we may have a busy morning and need to drop lunches off later in the morning.



A reminder that we have a table set up in front of the office.

Please label your child's lunch. We do not call kids out of class for lunches. Students who do not pick up their lunch by 12:40, will be called down.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Communication with Your Child's Teacher

Regular communication between home and school is important for student success. There are many ways to communicate with your child's teacher.

Agenda

The agenda is the primary method used to communicate with teachers. Please be sure to check your child's agenda daily. You can also use the agenda to notify your child's teacher of appointments, scheduled absences and questions regarding homework.

Phone calls

All staff are set up with voicemail. Parents are welcome to call the teacher and leave a message in their voicemail.

Meetings

Parents can arrange a time with their child's teacher to meet. Appointments can be made with teachers between regular school hours.

Safety Awareness Week September 30-October 2

The staff and students of German Mills PS will be observing Safety Week during the week of September 30th to October 2nd.

This week has been designated YRDSB Safety Awareness Week. All public elementary and secondary schools across the region will be featuring activities and events that highlight various facets of safety at school and in the community. Students will be participating in a wide variety of activities intended to increase awareness of safety hazards and how to avoid them.

Please join with us in helping to ensure that student safety is a top priority during Safety Awareness Week and throughout the year.

Our school will be involved in:

- Fire Drill
- Lockdown Drill
- Hold and Secure Drill



Character Corner: RESPONSIBILITY

During the month of October, we are focusing on the Character trait of Responsibility. Responsibility is an important trait to teach our students and we often hear the word echoed through the halls.

What does it mean to be responsible?

- Taking care of yourself and others
- Carrying out a duty or task carefully and thoroughly
- Being accountable for your own behaviour
- Demonstrating self-regulation and a strong work ethic
- Accepting personal accountability
- Acting without continual guidance
- Demonstrating commitment, pride, and a positive attitude in completing tasks
- Contributing to the class, school and community
- Doing things to build a better world
- Keeping promises
- Doing what you say you will do, even when it is difficult
- Accepting the consequences of your own actions

Having responsibilities gives us a sense of purpose and makes us feel like we belong. As we fulfill our responsibilities, our self-esteem improves because we feel as though we have accomplished a task and gained new skills. Also, we build trust with those around us because our behaviour demonstrates that we will complete a task when we say we will. Others know that we will do what we commit to with excellence.

"I'm sorry" is a statement... "I won't do it again" is a promise... "How do I make it up to you?" is responsibility.

Cell Phones at School

The possession of and use of a variety of electronics is definitely part of today's fast paced and ever changing society. However, at German Mills we would like to remind students and parents that the use of cell phones is prohibited at school without teacher supervision and permission. If your child needs to contact you during the day, please encourage them to come to the office to use our land lines. Lastly, should your child bring a cell phone to school, it needs to be turned off or silenced upon entering the building. Thank you for your cooperation.



Halloween

A reminder to parents and students that Halloween is approaching. **Please do not send Halloween treats or any food items for the entire class.** Our teachers will be planning alternative activities.

A reminder to parents to pay close attention when packing lunches with Halloween treats! Please remember to pack lunches that are nut free!

A friendly reminder that students celebrating this occasion in costume at our school must comply with the Board Policy. Costume accessories including, but not limited to, **toy guns, knives, axes, swords, masks**, etc. are not in compliance with York Region District School Board's Safe Schools Policy #668.0.



We wish everyone a **safe** and **happy**
Halloween!

YRDSB APP

Did you know that you can download the York Region District School Board app, *YRDSB Mobile*, using your iPhone, Android or Blackberry 10 device?

YRDSB Mobile provides parents and students with up-to-date news, access to student resources, school maps and contact information. Users are able to access the *Report It* tool, school year calendars, transportation information and much more.

To download the free app, search for "YRDSB" in your app store.

Letter Requests

At various times throughout the school year, the government of Canada may require attendance verification letters from our school to verify student enrollment. These letters are time consuming as we need to verify and print attendance data from previous years.

If you receive such a request, you need to bring in the request letter to Ms. Whitfield. Ms. Whitfield will process your request within a week's time. As the office is a very busy place, We DO NOT create the letter the same day as it is a time consuming process.

MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

Any medication that a child requires, e.g. inhalers, epi-pens, Benedryl, Tylenol, Advil, etc., must be stored in the school office.

The Staff Administration of Medication form must be completed for all students with epi-pens and/or medication that will be administered by staff, e.g. antibiotics. A Self-Administration of Medication form should be completed for all students with inhalers or other medications that are self administered, e.g. Tylenol, Advil, etc. Please contact the office if you require a copy of these forms.



Anaphylaxis Safety

This is a reminder that Nuts and Nut Products are not to be sent to school with your child.

Also, please avoid the use of substitute peanut butter products such as Wow Butter. These products tend to look, taste, and smell very much like peanut butter. While the product is nut free, it mimics a known allergen that causes anaphylaxis in some children to the degree that it is indistinguishable from the allergen. It is a convincing substitute, opening up the possibility that it can be confused as peanut butter, or worse yet, peanut butter could be confused as this soy-based product.

The same applies to Nutella and other cocoa spread products. We thank you for your cooperation to ensure our students are safe.

NO CHILD WITHOUT

The **No Child Without** program offers a free MedicAlert membership to students who attend our school and are between the ages of 4 up to their 14th birthday. If your child has a medical condition, allergy, or is required to take medications on a regular basis then you should consider a MedicAlert membership through this program.

Your child's voice in an emergency, MedicAlert membership:

- Gives emergency first responders immediate access to your child's medical information on their MedicAlert bracelet or necklet
- Enables first responders to quickly obtain the up to date medical information by means of the child's Electronic Health Record through the 24 Hour Emergency Hotline.
- Communicates with the parent or emergency contact upon activation of the Hotline
- Allows free updates of the child's medical record as needed.

For further information go to www.nochildwithout.ca.

If your child is already part of the **No Child Without** program and there have been changes to their medical condition, medications or emergency contact information, call Medic Alert at 1-800-668-1507 to update your child's file

VOLUNTEERING AT SCHOOL

Please note that ALL parents wishing to volunteer in our school must obtain a **Vulnerable Sector Screening (VSS)** check from York Region Police. This requirement is to protect your children at school. If you are thinking of joining a field trip, being a volunteer in the library, helping our school lunch assistants hand out pizza or helping in any other way that involves contact with students the VSS check must be carried out.

Once you have the Vulnerable Sector Screening check, please bring the original copy to the school office to be copied. It can be used for a period of three years.

GRADE 8 INFORMATION NIGHT

Bill Crothers Secondary School (BCSS) is a system-wide school with a focus on healthy active living and sport. The school is open for Grade 9 to 12 students. Students and parents from across the region are invited to attend an information evening. Information will be shared regarding the vision, mission, schedule, programs, the transfer policy, and application process.

All information sessions will occur at Bill Crothers Secondary School, 44 Main Street, Unionville, Ontario, L3R 2E4 from 7 – 8:30 in the cafeteria.

Wednesday October 7, 2015 – Students in the West & North Region

Tuesday October 13, 2015 – Students in the East Region

Thursday October 15th, 2015 – Students in the Central Region

Due to building capacity regulations, we request that only students and parents interested in attending BCSS for the school year 2016 - 2017, attend one of these evenings. Parking is limited so we ask that parents carpool or park at the GO Station. Markham By-law officers regularly enforce the parking regulations on school property, so please abide by the posted parking regulations.

BUSSING

Students **MUST** ride the bus to which they have been assigned. They must also get on and off the bus at their assigned stop. Students will not be allowed to switch buses or to take friends home on the bus unless their parent/guardian sends a written request to the school for that particular day. If there is room on the bus, the office will sign the note and the driver may allow the student on their bus.



Please keep the Board website (www.schoolbuscity.com) and telephone hotline (1-866-287-7837) handy to check route updates for your child. Each year, your child's bus number and route may change as students move in and out of the area. Once set for the year (usually by mid-September), the school will advise you of any changes to your child's route.

If your child's transportation to and from school is from a day-care or babysitter and the address is other than your home address, please notify the office. Our transportation information for your child is based on your home address, unless you specify otherwise. As a reminder, students attending German Mills on a transfer, are not entitled to bussing.

HELP WANTED:

Parents, Grandparents and Friends and Community Members...

If you love kids and books, and have some free time on weekdays, you could be a German Mills Library Volunteer! Our collection of about 20,000 books need care, including weeding and repairing older books and processing and labeling new materials. Additional jobs include picking materials for teachers and students, creating displays and caring for our bookroom of reading resources. If you're interested, please see Mr. Baumann in the library.

Book Donations - We love to receive new or gently used children's books, which may be added to our library, passed on to teachers for their classroom libraries. They may be dropped off in the office

DROP OFF & PICK UP REMINDERS

At GMPS, safety is paramount. Please note that the traffic patterns and rules must be adhered to. Please do not leave your vehicles in the bus loop and please demonstrate respect to all.

- No parking along the curbs in our 'loop'
- Daycare parents may use the loop to park before 8:30 a.m., but not after
- Parking is available on Simonston Blvd. just east of the school sign, all the way to Granada Court
- Parking is available on the South Side (odd numbered side) of Thurgate, Bucks Green, Six-penny and Cobblestone
- Our bus loop is shared with the busses for St. Michaels so it is imperative that we follow the rules for the safety of our own children as well as for our neighbours.

ATTENDANCE & SAFE ARRIVAL

If your child is absent:

Parents/guardians must telephone the school at 905-889-8776 before 8:30 a.m. to leave a message with your child's name, teacher, and the reason for the absence. Please speak clearly and spell your child's name when leaving a message.

Students must sign in and out of the school using the binder in the school office.

IF YOUR CHILD IS NOT AT SCHOOL AND IS NOT ACCOUNTED FOR BY A NOTE OR TELEPHONE CALL, THE SCHOOL WILL:

- 1) Call home to check (and if not accounted for)
- 2) Call the parents at work (and if the child is still not accounted for)
- 3) Call the emergency numbers (and if the child is still not accounted for)
- 4) **We will then telephone the York Regional Police, as per our safe arrival policy.**

Please Note that our school voice mail service is available outside of our regular office hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

STAYING CONNECTED

We are trying to ensure that everyone is up to date on 'The Latest', while being kind to the environment at the same time.



Please know that our newsletters and reminders will be posted on the Blog (www.germanmillsps.com) and tweeted out @GermanMillsPS

If you would still like a hard copy of the newsletter sent home, please return this slip back to the office.

Student Name: _____

Teacher: _____

OCTOBER 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Day 2	2 Day 3	3
4	5 Day 4 <i>Shemini Atzeret</i>	6 Day 5  <i>Simchat Torah</i>	7 Day 1  <i>Gr 6-8 Author Visit</i>	8 Day 2  <i>Cross Country Meet</i>	9 Day 3	10
11	12  <i>Thanksgiving Day—No School</i>	13 Day 4  <i>Navaratri Begins</i>	14 Day 5  <i>Grade 8 VIP visit First Day of Muharram</i>	15 Day 1 	16 Day 2	17
18	19 Day 3	20 Day 4  <i>School Bust Safety The Birth of the Bab</i>	21 Day 5 	22 Day 1  <i>Gr 7/8 Vaccinations</i>	23 Day 2 <i>Ashura</i>	24
25	26 Day 3	27 Day 4 	28 Day 5 	29 Day 1  <i>Photo Re-take Day</i>	30 Day 2	31  <i>Samhain Halloween</i>

Upcoming Dates

November	
11	Remembrance Day Assembly
27	PA Day—No School



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