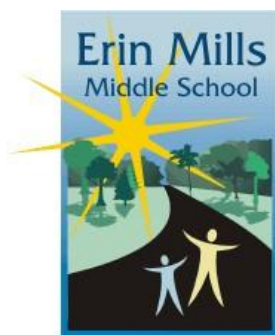


ERIN MILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL



PATHWAY November/December 2009



Home of the Mustangs

www.erinmills.net
telephone: 905-820-9777

"Our Passion is Success!"

Trustee: Mr. Brad MacDonald
905-828-6929

Thank You !!!

Thank you for everyone who supported our annual 5km fundraising walk this fall. The students participated in the walk on Wednesday October 21. The rain held off until we were safely back in the school. For the past several years this event has been a great opportunity for the staff and students of Erin Mills to get out and be visible in our community. It is also a great way to build a sense of community amongst teachers and students. The sense of accomplishment at the end of the course was palpable and everyone was in great spirits.

We were able to raise over \$3000, which will go directly to benefit our students this year.

This past week the first Mustang Awards were presented to several students who have earned an award through strong academic achievement, demonstrating good character, participating in extra curricular activities or a combination of both. This year we have formed a Character Education group, which is comprised of a student leader from every classroom. These students will not only lead character development activities in their classroom, but they will have a chance to make presentations to their grade level groups in our Awards Assemblies. This past month our focus was Responsibility. In November we will focus on Respect. Parents are invited to join us for our awards assemblies. The next awards will be presented in January. We are also looking for parents who might like to contribute to support character building in our school either through short classroom presentations or larger grade level assemblies. Should you have a story, experience or talent to share related to our focus, please contact Ms. Trinca or the front office if you are interested in participating.

Our web site is kept current and is a resource for both news and important documents. Please continue to visit www.erinmills.net regularly. If you would like to learn more about our school and have a voice on the School Council, please come out to the council's next meeting on Monday, November 23rd at 7 PM.

Sincerely,

Ken Diana
Principal

Clelia Trinca
Vice Principal

High Ropes Challenge

On Tuesday, October 6th, 17 members of the Erin Mills Student Council, accompanied by their principal, Mr. Ken Diana, traveled to the G.W. Finlayson Centre to participate in the High Ropes Challenge offered there.

After a safe one-hour journey, we were led into the centre and introduced to our instructors, Tammy and Lisa, who taught us how to properly and securely wear our harnesses and helmets. When everyone had finished putting on this equipment, we followed Tammy and Lisa to the High Ropes grounds.

There, our instructors introduced the first challenge: the Doubling Tower activity. We organized ourselves into groups of three. Each member of the group had – one at a time – to climb up one of the two ladders, the wooden log and the three thick platforms (ranging in size from small to large) in order to reach the top platform. There we had to stand still until every member of the group completed the same process, so that we were all standing together on the platform high above the ground. As each threesome did the activity, the rest of the students were on the ground, belaying the individual climbing the pole. After much determination and effort, every Erin Mills visitor managed to reach the top platform, which represented reaching their goal.

After a quick lunch break, we were grouped into pairs for the second challenge: the Rickety Bridge. Each partner had to climb a pole on opposite sides of the “bridge” and, with only a rope to hold on to, walk across the Rickety Bridge to meet their partner in the middle, giving them a high five or crossing past them. Most of us were able to complete this challenge, and many of us were able to meet our own personal goals of facing down a fear of heights, even if it meant climbing only 4 metres above ground level.

As there wasn't time to successfully set up for and complete a third challenge, we returned to the main building for a debriefing. We reflected on our day, the goals we accomplished and the fears we faced, the pride we felt at meeting the challenge, and the trust that we had built while performing these shared activities – such wonderful memories of our day at the Finlayson Centre!

Asalat Kamal - Co-president - 2009-2010 Student Council



Congratulations to the Girls Field Hockey team on their third place finish at their annual tournament held at Hillcrest Public School. After round robin play their girls were tied for second place. Their semi-final game was a hard fought battle against Thomas Street Middle School, which included overtime, sudden death overtime and finally a shoot out. When the dust settled the girls just missed out on an opportunity to play in the finals against the reigning champions, Hillcrest. The girls received many positive compliments from coaches and organizers and are to be commended for their excellent participation, enthusiasm and sportsmanship. Team members include: Erin K., Linea S., Sam D.S., Lesleigh C., Asalat K., Danielle W., Gina F., Michaelle Y., Naiyelli R., Chrystal G., Quidera S., Sabrina M., Jana T., Brenna W. and our goalie and MVP Sarah S.

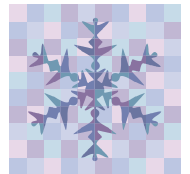
Thanks for a great season and we hope that our graduating grade 8 players continue their field hockey careers at Erindale High School.



Flag Football

On Wednesday October 28th the Erin Mills boys flag football team travelled to Meadowvale Secondary School. The coaches agreed that the team was one of the most mature, experienced and skilled teams they have coached. The team got off to a rough start against Lisgar and were defeated. Despite the loss the boys maintained their composure. With stunning plays and stellar defense, they won their next two games. The team made it to the semi –finals only to play Lisgar once again. After a close game, the team suffered a tough loss. Determined to finish on a high note the boys rallied to beat David Leader in their next consolation game to finish third. The coaches are so proud of all the players. Thank you to the following boys for a great season: Taivon R., Drew S., Keegan C., Danny K., Tisane B., Jake S., Osa O., Trevon G., Tarik S.J., Denmark G., Harris S., Jamal B., Anderson D., Tyrell H., Tommy B., Ryan C. and Andrew S.

Sincerely Mr. Morgan



Closing schools because of bad weather

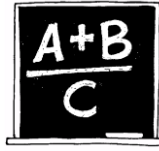
During the winter months, we may need to cancel buses or close schools because of bad weather.

The board decides by 6:45 a.m. whether to cancel buses or close schools. To find out if busing is cancelled or schools closed, visit www.peelschools.org or call 905-890-1010 or 1-800-668-1146. You will receive one of the following messages:

Peel District School Board buses are cancelled. Schools remain open for students and staff, but buses are cancelled. Buses will remain cancelled all day. All activities that require busing will also be cancelled. Permits, night school classes, daycare and other activities in schools will operate as usual.

All Peel District School Board schools and board offices are closed. Due to weather conditions, schools and board offices are closed to students and staff. All activities in schools and board offices are also cancelled, including daycare, night school and permits.

All evening programs and permits at the Peel District School Board are cancelled. Due to weather conditions, all activities in schools and board offices are cancelled, including continuing education courses and events. The buildings will be closed.



Children and parents can find math help on the web

The Peel District School Board provides an excellent math resource for parents, students and teachers. You can use *Math Online* on any computer connected to the Internet by going to <http://mathonline.peelschools.org>.

Math Online is a collection of math websites—picked by teachers and sorted according to the math learning expectations in the provincial curriculum. The website shows you topics by grade and by math strand—for example, number sense measurement, geometry, patterning and probability. It also lets you search for topics and activities of interest in the database.

Here are some of the other features that you and your child may find useful:

- **Resources**—Find the "Best of the Web" in this collection of the best math sites
- **Homework Helpers**—This button provides several sites for students who run into difficulty while doing their math homework
- **Math Tools**—Visit sites with online tools—such as calculators and pattern blocks—to help with assignments

Who called the police?

You might notice police at our school starting in October. This is because middle schools in Peel are part of a new Peel Regional Police program that partners community police officers from the neighbourhood police division with local schools. We're excited to welcome Constable Zuk and his partner to our school. From October to April they'll be stopping by on a regular basis to help strengthen our school's connection to the local police station, and also provide support for students and staff.

Important Dates!

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|------------------------------|---|
| November 9 th | PD Day – no school for students |
| November 11 th | Remembrance Day Assembly AM |
| November 17 th | Senior Girls Volleyball Tournament |
| November 18 th | Baby Sitting Course 4:30 – 7 PM |
| November 18 th | Junior Achievement Program – Grade 8's |
| November 19 th | Junior Boys Volleyball Course |
| November 23-27 th | Grade 7's to Old Britannia School House |
| November 23 rd | School Council Meeting |
| November 24 th | Senior Boys Volleyball Tournament |
| November 25 th | Baby Sitting Course 4:30 – 7 PM< |
| November 30 th | Junior Girls Volleyball Tournament |
| December 2 nd | Working with Clay – Grade 7's |
| December 3 rd | Poinsettias Pick Up – 3:10 – 4:00 PM |
| December 10 th | Winter Concert |
| December 11 th | Activity Afternoon |
| December 18 th | Staff Student Volleyball Game - PM |