



# ST. MILDRED'S-LIGHTBOURN SCHOOL

The Educational Journey of a Lifetime  
An Oakville Day School for Girls – JK to Grade 12

# She's ready!

## What's Inside

- Making the grade
- Foundation for success
- She'll be ready!
- The best of everything
- An exceptional learning environment

Open House January 23<sup>rd</sup>

10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

1080 Linbrook Road, Oakville, ON L6J 2L1 905-845-2386

[www.smls.on.ca](http://www.smls.on.ca)



# Making the grade

## The single gender way



At St. Mildred's-Lightbourn School we provide the "Educational Journey of a Lifetime." I am often asked how.

The National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) conducted a parent opinion survey identifying the key factors that prospective parents are looking for in an independent school. At St. Mildred's-Lightbourn School (SMLS) we meet the needs identified in this survey and exceed parent expectations for:

- A safe environment
- High quality teachers
- Keeping students motivated about learning
- Supporting a climate that says it's okay to study and excel
- Preparing students academically for university
- Encouraging parents to participate in their child's education
- Preparing students for a life and career in a global economy
- Using computers and other technology to enhance learning

Class size, innovative programs, wonderful facilities and caring faculty and staff all make a difference. It is our commitment to see each student reach her full potential that is at the heart of how we ensure each child experiences a successful educational journey.

For more than 118 years, SMLS has taught young women to explore beyond the curriculum, discover confidence in their abilities, remain open to learning beyond the classroom, and become leaders in their community.

Long before research indicated that girls' brains develop differently than boys', St. Mildred's-Lightbourn School was guiding young women to reach their full potential. Researchers Myra and David Sadker stated that "when girls go to a single gender school they stop being the audience and become the players."

Our mission to "Inspire, challenge and support girls...To develop into exceptional young women who have the resilience and character to excel and contribute to society throughout their lives" remains the key to our success.

When the world is calling your daughter's name, she'll be ready! What more could you hope for when choosing an educational journey for your child?

*Jane Wightman*

Jane Wightman  
Head of School

# Foundation for Success

“Dreams a reality” for SMLS Grads



“I set out a number of goals and envisioned a life for myself...I have achieved everything, or at least am on the track to achieving everything that I said I would,” Lo noted. “I wanted to have a career that afforded a certain lifestyle and I wanted to have a successful relationship. And as a bonus I have a baby too.”

Lo attributes her success to knowing how to find the balance in life. While she admits she planned ahead, studied hard, and took time to play, she believes that it is important for women in particular to know where to draw their boundaries and find that balance.

“I think that being successful in life requires being successful in relationships,” noted Lo. “Attending St. Mildred’s really allowed me to build many lifelong friendships and learn how to foster good communication and good relationships. The people at St. Mildred’s were always very supportive and encouraging to me. I think they instilled very strong self-confidence, and, more importantly, they instilled very strong morals and core values. I think it’s fundamental to being successful.”

Other SMLS graduates share their thoughts on their experience:

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“I am grateful for the strong academic foundation I was provided with. The challenges posed by the teachers and staff prepared me for the years ahead.”

– Dr. Amy Gilgan, SMLS Graduate ‘97, Psychologist,  
Capital District Health Authority and Fenwick Psychological Associates, Halifax, Nova Scotia

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“I believe my years at SMLS were the perfect foundation for my career path. The Faculty inspired me to try new things, be passionate about those subjects close to my heart and gave me the skill set and confidence in myself to make my dreams a reality.”

– Heidi Scholfield McMeekan, SMLS Graduate ‘86,  
Director, Owner – The Oakville Academy for the Arts, Oakville, Ontario

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“A strong sense of belonging to a community, being encouraged to strive for excellence and academic challenge are all elements of the foundation that the school gave me. With the basic tenets of education deeply engrained at a young age, my desire to continue learning has never stopped.”

– Lois P. Smith, FCSI CIM, SMLS Graduate ‘77,  
First Vice President and Investment Advisor, CIBC Wood Gundy, Toronto, Ontario

“I’m not intimidated by any challenge. If someone says that something is too difficult, it never stops me.”

- Dr. Janice Lo, SMLS Graduate ‘94, Dentist

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Dr. Janice Lo is a 33- year-old practicing dentist. She is also a St. Mildred’s-Lightbourn School (SMLS) graduate. Lo reflected on how SMLS helped her to achieve personal and professional goals in a recent interview from her downtown Toronto dental office at Dr. Judy Sturm and Associates. As with many St. Mildred’s-Lightbourn graduates, the educational journey of a lifetime provided a solid foundation for success.

At the age of 20, Lo had already identified what she wanted from life. At the age of 30 she was well on her way to getting it.



# She's ready!

Supporting the three "A"s of learning:  
**A**cademics, **A**rts, **A**thletics



SMLS 2009 Graduate Archanna Surendran is one of a select group of Canadian students recognized as a National Advanced Placement Scholar.

"Taking Advanced Placement Courses (APs) has definitely given me an advantage in university. By preparing for the AP exams, you obtain the ability to read and understand material efficiently, as well as apply it. Understanding and applying concepts are the key factors to any academic endeavour, so if you can master this in high school, it becomes a lot easier in university...each AP has contributed to the efficient study skills that I possess. As a National AP Scholar, I feel very accomplished. I have always believed that this designation reflects a well-rounded individual who has a genuine interest in understanding various topics."

– Archanna Surendran, SMLS Graduate 2009, National AP Scholar

## Academics

She's ready to succeed!

Small class sizes, personalized learning, access to technology and high standards all make up the curriculum in St. Mildred's-Lightbourn School's Junior and Senior Schools. At SMLS, beginning the "educational journey of a lifetime" starts in the fun and engaging environment of our Junior Kindergarten classes. Each year in the Junior School (JK to Grade 6) helps girls to develop as critical thinkers, creative problem-solvers, and confident, competent young women. Classes that bring math, literacy, technology, science and social studies alive all offer Smart Boards to enhance learning. Each girl at the Grade 6 level and beyond takes part in the School's laptop program.

Building on the Junior School experience, SMLS' Senior School is structured with meaningful cross-disciplinary integration of core subjects and innovative use of technology. The School spans Grades 7 to university entrance, with students in Senior 1 and 2 completing the equivalent of Grades 7, 8 and 9 in two years. This allows students to take full advantage of our Advanced Placement (AP) program and complete more university admission credits in their final two years at SMLS.

Students like Archanna Surendran, a 2009 Graduate who was recognized as a National Advanced Placement Scholar, further their success in this enriched program at SMLS.

Not all learning takes place within the walls of our school. At SMLS, a world of educational opportunities is open to our students through our Global Studies, Round Square and Duke of Edinburgh's Award programs. Senior School students gain experiences through travel, exchange programs, cooperative education placements and leadership roles in the School. In 2009, 98 percent of the students in our graduating class were Ontario Scholars, with all being accepted at the university or college of their choice.

## Arts

She's ready to create!

The art of learning to be creative is integral to the curriculum offered at St. Mildred's-Lightbourn School. Students are engaged in meaningful activities that enable them to explore and demonstrate individual creativity and personal



## Athletics

### She's ready to win!

Maddie Goodall, SMLS Senior School student whose photograph is currently touring nationally with the PhotoSensitive *Cancer Connections* exhibit.



accomplishment through music and visual arts. With access to two on-site art studios and the Three Sisters Studio Theatre performing facility, SMLS students learn in modern spaces, while being encouraged to think beyond the classroom. Students like Maddie Goodall have taken learning to a national level.

Photography is the lens through which Grade 12 student Maddie Goodall is developing her artistic skills at SMLS. Maddie spearheaded the School's involvement in PhotoSensitive's *Cancer Connections* project, which focuses on harnessing the power of black and white photography to raise public consciousness of critical global issues. As part of a multi-media course offered at SMLS, Maddie explored her skills as a photographer capturing images that would help to deliver important messages about cancer.

One of six submissions Maddie sent to *Cancer Connections* was recently selected to tour nationally with the exhibit. St. Mildred's-Lightbourn School supported Maddie's interest and launched the *Cancer Connections* project amongst Canadian independent schools.

Whether it is photography; the study and application of contemporary or classic visual arts; singing; playing an instrument; participation in a large-scale musical or drama production on stage or behind the scenes; learning the Kodaly and Orff music techniques; or building a robot as part of FIRST Robotics or FIRST LEGO® League, at St. Mildred's-Lightbourn School, students learn to appreciate visual and artistic expression.

SMLS Junior School student Chloë Currie is driving to the top of her game representing Canada internationally as a member of the Canadian Junior Golf Association.

At SMLS, we are committed to helping each girl get active to achieve her own best personal level of fitness and health. Students are provided with diverse opportunities to participate in intramural sports – hockey, soccer, swimming, basketball, field hockey, cross-country, track and field, and golf – and are encouraged to find activities they can enjoy throughout their lives.

Supported by a fully equipped double gymnasium, two soccer fields and a fitness room, SMLS students discover active learning and the importance of active lifestyles. Whether it is reaching the top of the on-site climbing wall, paddling down the river on a field trip, or pushing each student's physical limits at an adventure camp, SMLS' athletic curriculum offers diversity and challenge for all skill levels.

We are proud of our athletic success – 15 gold School championships last year alone – and encourage achievement in individual and team sports. While we help athletes develop their skills and strive for their personal best on our teams, we also support students who are achieving great things after school hours.

Junior School student Chloë Currie is driving to be her best both in and outside of school. Working with the Canadian Junior Golf Association, Chloë has represented Canada at international tournaments. A passion for golf that began at the age of four while visiting with her grandmother in Florida, has developed into an opportunity to excel athletically in the world, while attending school.

"The strong academic structure at St. Mildred's-Lightbourn School has allowed Chloë time off to train," noted Chloë's mother Anne Currie, adding that "the School has always been very cooperative" and helped Chloë balance school and sport.

Every girl should have the opportunity to reach her greatest potential. At SMLS, athletes are encouraged to achieve great things in the world.





# The best of everything

## Meeting the needs of parents and students

St. Mildred's-Lightbourn School has a 118-year reputation for excellence in education. Guaranteeing the "educational journey of a lifetime" means keeping in touch with student and parent needs and providing enhanced learning opportunities.

### Why choose St. Mildred's-Lightbourn School?

There is a growing body of research that suggests that girls' brains learn differently from boys' brains. At St. Mildred's-Lightbourn School, we plan our programs around the learning needs and preferences of girls.

Our strong academic program is designed to develop critical thinking, problem-solving, cooperation, flexibility, adaptability, communication skills and the ability to use new technologies. Students participate actively in the classroom and assume leadership roles and explore areas that are not traditional for women. Between 2002 and 2008 over 30% of our graduates chose programs in science and engineering – a remarkable result!

With its state-of-the-art Athletic and Fitness Facility, Three Sisters Performing Arts Studio Theatre and Visual Arts Centre, our School offers students enriched programming. Students are put at the centre of teaching and learning through differentiated instruction.

### The value of differentiated instruction

Differentiation is a philosophy that helps teachers to plan strategically in order to reach the needs of the diverse learners in classrooms today toward targeted standards.

Not all learners are alike. At St. Mildred's-Lightbourn School we focus on the individual needs of students and their learning styles. Through differentiated instruction students acquire, manage and utilize information at the level at which they function, making learning meaningful and allowing students to be successful.

### How can we support your family?

Students travel locally and from across the Greater Toronto Area to attend our day school. To help support our School families we offer the following:

- Extended day program
- Bursaries
- Bus transportation
- Scholarships
- Strong partnerships between families and the school



The laptop program begins in Grade 6 at St. Mildred's-Lightbourn School. All students in the Senior School are assigned a computer for their use.

### What is the return on your investment?

Choosing St. Mildred's-Lightbourn School is an investment in your daughter's future. Here are just some of the valuable returns:

- Virtually all "Millies" go on to university after graduation and many receive entrance scholarships in recognition of academic achievement.
- In 2009, 98 percent of our graduates were Ontario Scholars.
- SMLS students persist and excel in higher level Advanced Placement courses.
- Our sister and partner schools cover the globe and offer the chance for your daughter to gain cultural and "real life" experience while completing her education.

# An exceptional learning environment

Pairing the finest facilities with the finest programs

## One of Canada's Premier Girls' Schools

St. Mildred's-Lightbourn School is proud of its 118-year-old reputation for maintaining high standards so that students can reach their personal best. Pairing the finest programs with the finest facilities has been key to our ongoing success.

In the past 10 years, we have added a soccer field, athletic complex, double gymnasium, studio theatre, arts centre and Junior Resource Centre to our school to ensure that students who attend St. Mildred's-Lightbourn School are provided with the facilities for the "Educational Journey of a Lifetime."



Olympic gold medalist and SMLS Physical Education teacher, Larry Cain, explains how to use the climbing wall, located in the Athletic Complex.



## Staying Current in Changing Times

We continue to keep current with changing needs and the facilities required to meet those needs.

We have embarked on a school expansion that uses Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) principles to create additional positive learning spaces. In early 2011 we will take occupancy in a fabulous new addition that includes:

- Four new multi-purpose Junior School classrooms
- Two new music rooms
- A Senior Resource Centre
- Student lounge
- Dining hall and kitchen

St. Mildred's-Lightbourn School offers your daughter an exceptional learning environment.

To discover the opportunities available to your daughter, call us for a tour – 905-845-2386.



Artist's rendering of the new SMLS servery being built for occupancy in March 2011.

There's a world calling your daughter's name.  
**She'll be ready!**



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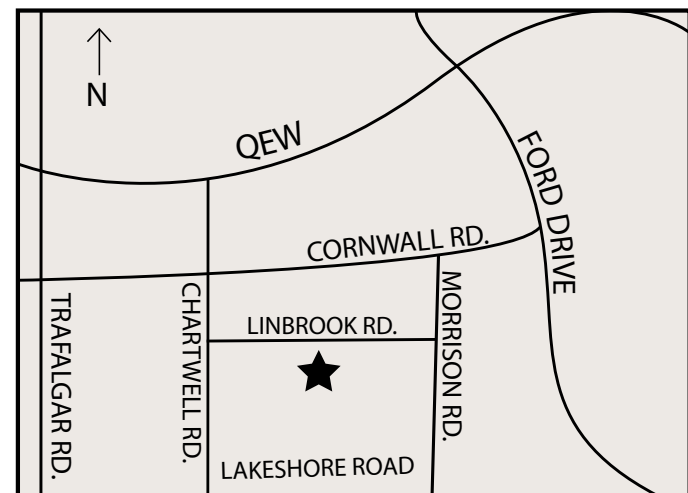
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**OPEN HOUSE**

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