



Elder's Mills Public School

Soaring on Wings of Character, Community and Diversity

120 Napa Valley Avenue, Woodbridge, ON L4H 1L1

Phone: 905-893-1631; 647-795-7705

Email: elders.mills.ps@yrdsb.ca Twitter [@EldersMills](https://twitter.com/EldersMills)



First Day of School - Information for Elder's Mills Families

WELCOME to our NEW & RETURNING Families!!!

We are looking forward to seeing you all on Tuesday, September 5th, and hope that you are too! We have been working hard to ensure a safe, smooth return to learning and to our building for all!

Please read below a message from our Trustee:



Message from Our Trustee

September 2023

Dear families,

It is my pleasure to welcome all new and returning families to school for the 2023-2024 school year. I hope everyone had a wonderful summer and wish you a positive start to the new school year. I know it can be a time of transition for many, and am grateful for the dedication and professionalism of our school staff for all that they do to support students as they start the new school year, and create a warm, welcoming and inclusive environment in our schools.

The education of your children is a partnership, and we recognize that you are our most important partner when it comes to your child's education. As a family member, there are many ways you can engage in your child's learning, from speaking with your child about school and connecting with school staff to volunteering or becoming involved with the school council. You know your child best and we place great value on the relationship we have with families. I look forward to connecting with you throughout the school year.

As your school trustee, it is my role to advocate for quality public education in York Region, and to ensure that our students remain at the centre of all of our decision making. The Board of Trustees has many [responsibilities](#), including making [policy](#) and [budget](#) decisions, and communicating with the public. Please feel free to [contact me](#) if you have any questions or concerns, and I will continue to keep you updated throughout the year on what is happening in the board. You can also visit our [newsroom](#), listen to our [podcast](#) and connect with us on social media to stay up-to-date on what's happening in the board.

This year, we are pleased to welcome our [new Director of Education Bill Cober](#), who took on the role on August 1 this year. He brings nearly 30 years of experience in public education in York Region, a commitment to student achievement and well-being, and a strategic and collaborative approach.

Later in the year, we will be undertaking a comprehensive strategic plan review. One of our roles as a board is to set the [Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#) that establishes our priorities and guides our direction as a school board. We will be reviewing that plan this year, and engaging with communities is a priority for us. Your input will be important and I look forward to sharing more information with you on this in the future.

I wish you all a great start to the school year and a happy, safe and successful year ahead.

Dr. Elizabeth Sinclair

Trustee, Vaughan Wards 2 and 3

Please continue reading for information to support the first day of school arrival, dismissal and other routines and expectations.

Teacher and Class:

Information about your child's class placement is scheduled to be available in EDSBY on the afternoon of Friday, September 1st.

On September 5th, when you arrive at school, teachers will greet students outside in our school yard. Teachers will have class lists and will assist students (and parents) in finding their classes. Please see below for details.

Arriving on the first day - Where to go:

- Students should not arrive prior to 8:30.
- Staff supervision begins at 8:30.
- When students arrive at school on the first day, they will go to their designated area to meet their homeroom teacher. See the list below for your grade and meeting spot.



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- If it is raining, students will enter the building at the designated doors. Staff will be available to direct students once inside. Adults are not permitted to enter the building.
- At 8:45, the entry bell will ring and teachers will escort their students into the building and to their classes.

Grade	Area in the Yard	Area if raining (parents are not permitted to enter the building)
2	Along the paved area at the back of the school	In the gym
3	Along the paved area at the back of the school - in front of the portables	Enter using the South door and meet in the gym
4	Along the paved area at the back of the school	Enter using the SouthEast door and line up in the hall by classrooms 110 - 113
5	Along the paved area at the back of the school	Enter using the SouthEast door, and go to the library
6	Along the paved area at the back of the school	Enter using the South West door, proceed upstairs and line up in the hall by classrooms 223 - 224 and 225
7	Along the side of the building (to the East between the tarmac and the grass)	Enter using the North East door, proceed upstairs and line up in the hall by classrooms 207 - 217

HOW DO YOU GET TO AND FROM SCHOOL AND WHAT TO DO:

BUS: Bus students will be dropped off in the bus loop and directed to the back of the school for entry with their teacher to their classroom.



If your child is eligible for bussing, it is best to put them on the bus right from the first day.

- Visit <http://net.schoolbuscity.com/> for information on your bus stop location, pickup and drop off times.
 - This information will be available on Friday, September 1st.
 - Check regularly for updates.
 - It is recommended that you arrive at your assigned stop 10 minutes early.
 - Please be patient in the first few weeks as it may take longer than usual for the bus to arrive as drivers become familiar with their riders and their routes.
 - Please direct any requests or concerns regarding bussing to the school email: elders.mills.ps@yrdsb.ca.
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DRIVE to school by parent/caregiver:

There is no parking for families in the staff parking area during morning drop off and afternoon dismissal times.

- Families who are driving their children to school will use the Kiss 'n' Ride (enter and exit on Rota Ave) to drop off their children.
 - This is a single lane entry.
 - Students will disembark from the car and go to the back of the school
 - Staff will support them to the schoolyard.
 - **Please do not leave your vehicle unattended** in the Kiss 'n' Ride.
 - We ask for your cooperation with this to ensure a smooth start to the school day.
 - Please follow road signs and staff directions.
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END OF DAY DISMISSAL - COMMUNICATION

Please let the school know how your child will be getting home by completing the form shared here and submitting it by **Friday, September 1st 12:00 noon.**

- CLICK HERE: [Dismissal Routine for My Child](#)
- The information gathered will be shared with office staff and your child's classroom teacher to support a safe, smooth end of day routine.

Bussed students will be dismissed to the gym to line up in their bus lines.



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- Please emphasize to your child the importance of lining up at their designated bus line during dismissal.
- This will avoid them missing their bus and having to wait for a parent/guardian to come and pick them up.

Students who get **picked up and driven home** from school:

- At dismissal, they will gather in the fenced area by the Kiss n Ride.
- Please do not park in the Kiss'n Ride lane
- Do not leave your vehicle unattended.
- Staff will be on duty in this area to support student dismissal.

LATE ARRIVAL TO SCHOOL:

You are considered late for school if you arrive after 8:45 a.m. If you are late for school, bring your child to the doors at the main entrance. Buzz the office and a staff member will sign-in your child.

WHAT TO BRING TO SCHOOL:

1. Backpack:

- a. One that is easy to carry and to open (no wheeled bags).
- b. Avoid hanging toys and other items from the backpack.

2. Snack and Lunch:

- a. Easy to open containers
- b. Boomerang snack and lunch - all waste returns home
- c. Ensure your child has enough snacks, food and drink for the day
- d. Peanut and nut-free snack and lunch

3. Change of clothes:

- a. Especially for younger students
- b. Recommended to put in a large resealable bag with child's name
- c. Clearly labeled and that can be left at school

4. Refillable water bottle - clearly labeled with your child's name.

5. Be prepared for outdoor activities throughout the day:

- a. Dress appropriately for the weather



6. **School supplies:** If you wish to provide your child's own school supplies (ex. a sturdy pencil case or box, crayons, pencils, erasers, markers or pencil crayons) please understand these are for your own child's use. The school will provide materials needed for daily instructional purposes. Please label everything.
 7. **Personal items:**
 - a. **DO NOT** send your child to school with personal items, such as toys and games from home (Poppits, trading cards etc...).
 - b. **Mobile phones are discouraged and are not allowed to be used during the instructional day.** Cell phones and other personal communication devices **must be turned off and kept out of sight during the instructional day (including recess and lunch).** Should students need to phone home, they may come to the office to use the phone.
 - Please review [YRDSB's Information Technology Acceptable Use Agreement linked here](#).
 - This information will be repeated in the forms requiring parent and student signatures found in the School Start-Up Package that will be sent home next week.
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MEDICATION AND HEALTH NEEDS:



Please provide the office with your child's medication from the first day of school. You may drop off the medication after morning arrival, by ringing the front bell and office staff will greet you to retrieve your child's medication.

If you have not already done so, please download any required medical forms and email the completed forms to Elder's Mills PS <elders.mills.ps@yrdsb.ca>

- [Anaphylaxis Health Care Plan](#)
- [Asthma Health Care Plan](#)
- [Diabetes Health Care Plan](#)
- [Epilepsy Seizure Disorder Health Care Plan](#)
- [Staff Administration of Medication](#)
- [Self-Administration of Medication](#)

For students who are anaphylactic, please send your child to school with 2 epi-pens. One will be kept in the office and the other will remain with your child throughout the school day.



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Self-Screening and Masking:

Staff, students and visitors to schools should continue to self-screen every day before attending school using [the COVID-19 school and child care screening tool](#), but are not required to complete a screening confirmation form.

Elder's Mills is a mask-friendly school. Mask use is optional for students, staff and visitors in schools, school board offices and on student transportation, except in circumstances outlined in the [Covid-19 School and Child-Care Screening Tool](#).

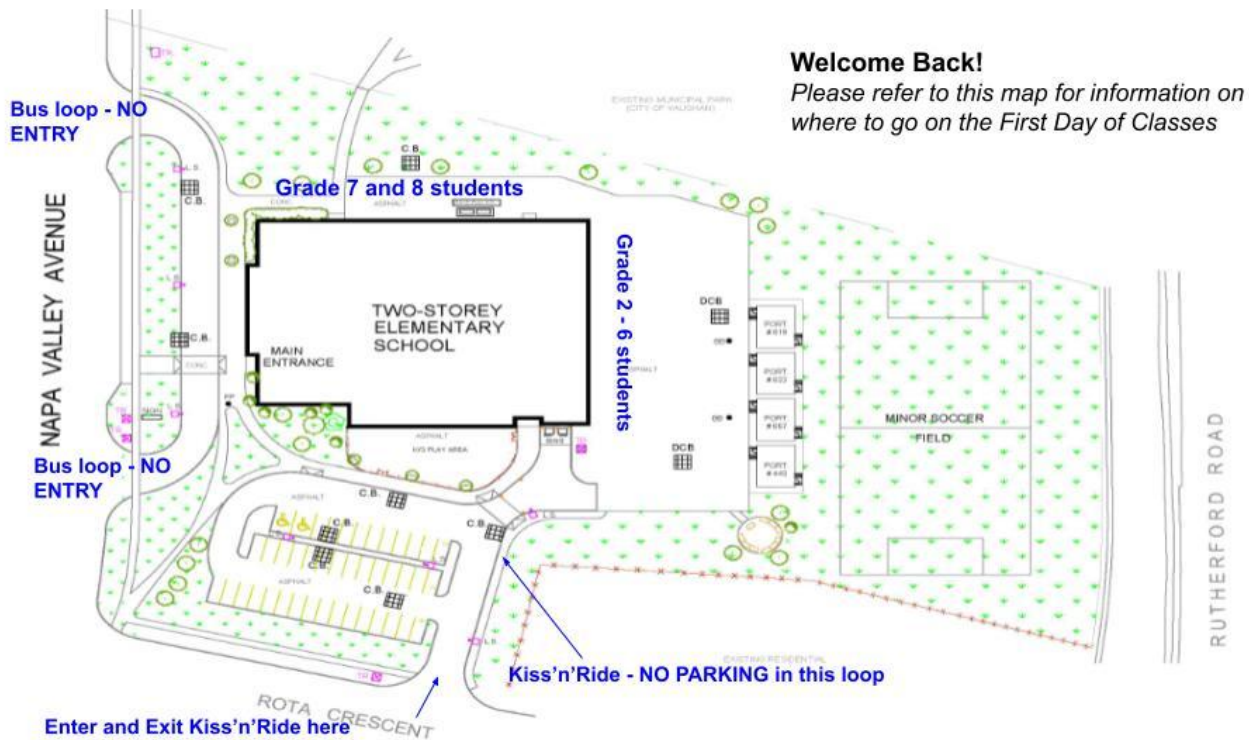
We know that many students may choose to continue to wear their own personal masks and expect that families provide their children with a supply of masks to use. Individual choices regarding masking will be respected. As a school community we will continue to promote a respectful, welcoming and inclusive environment.

School Assistants needed!

- School assistants are an important part of school daily operations. They support the supervision of students during the lunch hour. If you are interested in being a School Assistant at Elder's Mills, please email the school at elders.mills.ps@yrdsb.ca. This is a paid position.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Please visit this link on our website: [EMPS Welcome Newsletter](#). This information was shared with new and returning families in June. It contains details about our school hours, Safe Arrival & Attendance and other items to support a smooth start to this school year.
- Expect to receive the School Start-Up Package the first week of school. Please review, sign and submit the forms in this package as soon as possible after receiving them.



We look forward to seeing you on September 5th!

The staff and administration team @ Elder's Mills!