

Week 1 - Friday, September 6, 2024



Elder's Mills: The Eagle Eye
Soaring on Wings of Character, Community and Diversity
120 Napa Valley Avenue, Woodbridge, L4H 1L1
Phone: 905-893-1631; 647-795-7705
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Trustee Dr. Elizabeth Sinclair	Superintendent Otilia Olteanu	Principal Eugenia Korinis	Vice-Principal Ayesha Mondal	Office Admin Team Cathy Consiglio Stella Ditri
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Dear Families and Students,

We have had a great start to the school year! We have a lot to look forward to this month and this year!

Please take the time to read through the information shared here about upcoming events, updates and reminders.

What's Happening at E.M.P.S.!

New Pavement!!!!

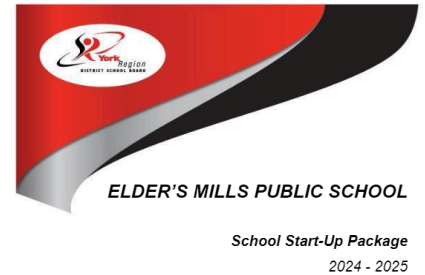
The school yard benefitted from a much-needed refresh over the summer! Brand new tar was poured down and freshly painted pavement games were added just as the year was about to begin. This was a provincially funded project. We thank the Plant Services department of the YRDSB for coordinating this and ensuring its timely completion. Recess is fun!



School Start up Package:

All families are asked to review the School Start-up Package **attached** to this email.

This start-up package includes important information about our school, and we encourage you to review it. Each year we ask families to complete some **important forms** to indicate they have reviewed and understand school and Board policies, and to indicate permissions. You will receive an email from the school board with a link to these forms in the coming days. Please take the time to review and complete the forms. If you prefer to receive and complete a paper copy, please let us know.



Allergies Alert!

At Elder's Mills, we are a nut-aware school. There are students in our school and in your child's class that have potentially life-threatening allergies. They have reactions that can be triggered by **peanuts and tree nuts and their by-products**. The medical term for this **anaphylaxis**.



Students with anaphylaxis are aware of how to keep themselves safe (e.g. not eating unknown foods, carrying an epi-pen, hand-washing, eating in a separate space in the classroom). Our staff is aware of the potential risk to students and receives training for administering an epi-pen. Unfortunately, we are not able to check all snacks and lunches to ensure they are nut-free.

We ask that all families and children do their part to help their allergic classmates stay safe. We can reduce the risk of accidental exposure with your help. Please:

- DO NOT send peanut/tree-nut containing products to school.
- remind your child that food in their snack or lunch is not to be shared
- do not send food to school for sharing with classmates (e.g. birthday or other celebrations)

Your cooperation and understanding of this matter is greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school.



School Council

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, achievement and well-being.

If you are interested in holding a leadership position on our School Council or nominating someone, please complete the [School Council Nomination Form](#) and submit it to the school. You may also contact the office to request a form. **Please complete and submit this form by October 3rd.**

Join us for the first School Council meeting! At this meeting the School Council executive and members will be established. All parents are invited to attend this and all School Council meetings. You do not need to hold a formal position to be present, engaged and involved! We look forward to seeing you then and there.

Date: Thursday, October 10th

Time: 6:30 - 7:30

In-person Location: Elder's Mills school library

Virtual Location: connect by virtual meet link available on [the School Council pages](#) of the school website.

Attendance and Safe Arrival:

Parents may inform the school office of their child's absence in three different ways:

1. Absences can be entered into **Edsby** which is available 24 hours/day, 7 days a week. Future absences can be reported at any time;
2. Send an email to the school attendance email address at: elders.mills.ps.attendance@yrdsb.ca or;
3. Parents may choose to contact the school office at 905-893-1631 between 8:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. on the day of absence. Due to the volume of calls in the morning, voicemail messages left during this time regarding lates and absences may not be picked up in time and you may receive a call out from the automated system. If you do not connect with a live person, please try again or try Edsby or email. .



We invite all parents/guardians to create an EDSBY account, as this tool is also used as a form of communication from school and home. If you do not have an EDSBY account, please click on the link below to create your account. [Tip Sheet: Creating an Edsby Account](#)

A note about parent/guardian contact information:

There are times when the office will need to contact you and we ask that you ensure your contact information is up-to-date and accurate. We need to know who to phone should your child need to be picked up from school (e.g. feeling unwell).

If the parent/guardian and other contacts are away (e.g. vacation) and your child is being cared for by other family members/caregivers, the office needs to have this information. Please send an email to elders.mill.ps@yrdsb.ca should you need a temporary change to the school contacts.

Drop off and pick up Reminders:

- If you are choosing to use the Kiss n Ride lane ensure that your child:
 - has their school things in the seat with them;
 - can independently open the vehicle door to exit and enter the vehicle;
 - exits and enters on the passenger side;
 - if you need to support your child's exit and entry to your vehicle, please park your car on the street, being mindful of traffic and road signs;
 - there is no parent parking in the school lot in the morning; if there are spots available at dismissal, you may park.
- When using the Kiss n Ride lane:
 - **pull as far up into the loop as possible;**
 - **do not leave your vehicle unattended;**
 - when pulling in to the school parking:
 - do not stop along the sidewalk at the entry and do not leave your vehicle unattended;
 - leave room for vehicles to make the right turn out of the loop;
 - do not block the exit lane;
 - this is a one lane only ; do not line up and leave your vehicle along the parked cars in the lot; staff and visitors to EMPS need to be able to access their vehicles



Parents/Guardians are reminded not to congregate in the Kiss'n Ride area or at the back of the building. Please leave school property once you have dropped off your child. Dogs must be on a leash and cannot be in the Kiss'n Ride area. You may wait with your furry friends along the side of the lot by the grassy area (lining the houses).

A reminder that your child is considered late to school if they are not in class and prepared for learning by 8:45 a.m. If you drive up after the 8:45 bell, you will need to escort your child to the front door for entry. Students arriving after 8:45 a.m will need to let the office know of their arrival.

School Bus Transportation



The first few days of bus routes can be challenging. With new routes, new drivers and new riders, bus pick-up and arrival times can be inconsistent. Please refer to schoolbuscity.com to confirm your child's bus route numbers for this school year as well as for information on pick up and drop off times, and for late bus notifications. Should there be instances where buses are extremely delayed or canceled, the school office will send an email to families of students on the affected bus route. Please email the school if you have any questions.

Early Reading Screening - Letter to Parents Guardians:

Is your child in Year 2 Kindergarten (Senior Kindergarten), Grade 1 or Grade 2? Please read below:

September 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Reading is a foundational skill critical to student success, both in the classroom and beyond. Beginning in 2024-2025, our school will be administering annual early reading screenings for all students in Year 2 of Kindergarten (Senior Kindergarten) through Grade 2. Early reading screening is newly mandated by the Ministry of Education through [Policy/Program Memorandum #168](#).

From language and social studies to science and math, reading skills are critical to student success across their entire educational journey and having strong reading skills can ensure future career success.

This new early reading screening will be an essential tool to identify students who are experiencing difficulties with reading so they can receive the support they need to improve their reading proficiency and give them the best opportunity for success. The purpose of early reading screening is to:

- monitor your child's development in early reading skills;
- identify children who need additional support; and,
- guide classroom instruction.

The newly instituted annual screening is completed one-on-one towards the beginning of the school year. Early reading screening is one valuable tool to help us understand and communicate your child's individual reading progress so that we can support their unique needs. This new screening is not evaluated as part of your child's grades, but instead will help identify the support they need in order to develop reading proficiency.

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The screening covers various foundational skills needed for reading proficiency. For example, your child might be asked to identify letters and corresponding sounds or sound out words. The specific details of the screening will vary depending on the grade. No additional preparation is needed nor expected for the screening.

Below are the skill areas and reading measures your child will be screened for through the ministry-approved early reading screening tool, Acadience Reading:

Foundational Literacy Skill	Acadience Reading Measures (Beginning of Year)	Description
Phonemic Awareness: <i>The ability to hear and use the small sounds in spoken words.</i>	First Sound Fluency <i>Year 2 Kindergarten</i>	Students say the first sound they hear in a simple word spoken by the teacher.
Phonemic Awareness: <i>The ability to hear and use the small sounds in spoken words.</i>	Phoneme Segmentation Fluency <i>Grade 1</i>	Students listen to a simple word spoken by the teacher, and then say the sounds in the word.
Predictor of future reading skills: <i>The ability to recognize and name letters of the alphabet is not in itself a foundational literacy skill, but it is a predictor of later reading success.</i>	Letter Naming Fluency <i>Year 2 Kindergarten Grade 1</i>	Teacher shows the student a page of upper and lower case letters. Student says the names of the letters.
Phonics: <i>The knowledge that written letters represent the sounds of spoken words, and how to use this knowledge to read and spell words.</i>	Nonsense Word Fluency <i>Grade 1 Grade 2</i>	Students use their knowledge of phonics to read a list of unknown, 'nonsense' words (e.g., "ib")
Phonics: <i>The knowledge that written letters represent the sounds of spoken words, and how to use this knowledge to read and spell words.</i> Accurate and Fluent Reading of Text: <i>Reading text accurately and with confidence, pace, and expression.</i> Reading Comprehension: <i>The ability to understand and draw meaning from what has been read.</i>	Oral Reading Fluency (including retell) <i>Grade 2</i>	Students read a short text. After reading the student tells about the story that was read.

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Early reading screening benchmarks indicate how students are doing on a specific set of reading measures. The screening only provides one piece of information about your child's language and literacy skills.

Educators will connect with you to discuss your child's strengths, areas of need, and to share examples of their growth and progress over time. Results of the first screening will formally be communicated to you in your child's first Kindergarten Communication of Learning or Elementary Provincial Report Card (issued in February) and will indicate whether your child has met or not yet met the screening benchmark at the time of their screening. Educators maintain ongoing communication with parents/guardians to discuss the results of classroom assessments, as needed.

Should you have any questions or concerns about your child's reading abilities, you are encouraged to reach out to your child's teacher and/or principal.

Thank you for your partnership in ensuring that your child has the best possible learning experience.

Provincial Regulations on Personal Mobile Devices in Schools

September 2024

Dear Elementary School Families

As you may know, in 2024, the Ontario Ministry of Education introduced a directive modifying the use of personal mobile devices in classrooms. YRDSB already has [Policy and Procedure 194.O Appropriate Use of Technology](#) and many measures around personal mobile devices are already in place. The changes you may see in September will bring alignment with the new Ministry Directive. The following expectations for students' use of personal mobile devices are outlined in the revised [Provincial Code of Conduct \(PPM 128\)](#), and the York Region District School Board's Policy #668 Caring and Safe Schools.

A personal mobile device is any personal electronic device that can be used to communicate or access the internet, such as a laptop, cellphone, tablet or smart watch.

Expectations

Students are responsible for their personal mobile device, how they use it and the consequences of not following the provincial or school board policy.

Students' personal mobile devices must be powered off or set to silent mode, except under the circumstances outlined below:

- *for educational purposes, as directed by an educator*
- *for health and medical purposes*
- *to support special education needs*

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Students in Kindergarten to Grade 8 can bring a personal mobile device to school, but will only be able to use it before and after school. They may not use personal mobile devices at school during the school day, including recess and lunchtime, unless students leave school property for lunch.

New Practices at School

If your child is in Kindergarten to Grade 6 and an educator sees a personal mobile device that is not turned off or set to silent mode, the student may be required to bring their personal mobile device to the school administrator for the school day. The personal mobile device will be placed by the student in a storage area in a location designated by the school administrator.

If your child is in Grade 7 or 8 and an educator sees a personal mobile device that is not turned off or set to silent mode, the student may be required to place their personal mobile device in a storage area designated by the educator for the class or period.

If your child uses their personal mobile device inappropriately, progressive discipline may apply and families may be notified.

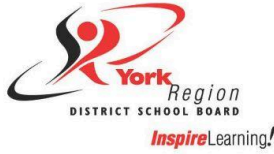
Resources

Families play an important role in teaching children about finding a healthy balance in using technology. You may wish to access the following resources:

- Media Smarts - [*Four Tips for Managing Your Kids' Screen Time*](#)
- School Mental Health Ontario - [*Helping Your Child Manage Digital Technology*](#)
- Centre for Addiction and Mental Health - [*Problem Gambling and Technology Use Treatment Services*](#)

*For additional information regarding Policy/Program (PPM) 128, please visit the Ministry of Education's [*Cellphones and other mobile devices in schools*](#) site or the York Region District School Board's website.*

Thank you.



Indigenous Languages and International Languages (ILIL) Program

The York Region District School Board offers language learning for students in the elementary level (SK to Grade 8) and at the secondary level (Grades 9 to 12).

Elementary

The elementary courses are extra-curricular language learning available for in-person or online classes. Classes are 2.5 hours and run once a week between Tuesday to Friday evenings (6:00 PM to 8:30 PM) or Saturday mornings (9:30 AM to 12:00 PM*).

Online registration opens on **Thursday, May 30, 2024**. To attend the full language program in its entirety, be sure to register by **Monday, September 9, 2024**.

* For more information about the elementary program, visit the ILIL [Elementary webpage](#) or scan the QR code:



Secondary

The secondary courses are credit-bearing, running once a week for 3.7 hours. Fall classes are year-long, running once a week on Wednesday evenings (5:45 PM to 9:25 PM) or Saturday mornings (8:45 AM to 12:25 PM).

Fall registration will open in mid-July and will close by the third week of classes.

For more updates and information about the secondary credit program, visit the ILIL [Secondary webpage](#) or scan the QR code:



Please Note:

- All courses offered are subject to enrolment and teacher availability.
- Stacked classes may be created based on registration numbers.
- Not all languages are offered at the elementary and secondary levels.
- Additional fees are required for international fee-paying visa students.

Languages Offered:

Arabic
Cantonese
Dari
Farsi
Filipino
German
Greek
Gujarati
Hebrew
Hindi
Italian
Japanese
Korean
Macedonian
Mandarin (Both)
Mandarin (Simplified)
Mandarin (Traditional)
Mohawk
Punjabi
Ojibwe
Russian
Sanskrit
Sinhala
Spanish
Tamil
Turkish
Ukrainian
Urdu
Vietnamese
Yoruba



GIVE!

Get Involved. Volunteer in Education!

2024 Fall Session

Join our workshop series and discover how you can make a difference in your child's education by volunteering in schools. Empower yourself to support our school community and enrich your child's learning experience!

You will learn more about:

- The role of a volunteer
- Transferable skills
- Equity and Inclusive education
- Self care and well-being
- Human Rights
- Employment readiness
- School information and community resources

We will help you:

- Expand your network
- Effectively communicate with school staff
- Contribute to student learning and parent engagement
- Gain volunteer experience in schools
- Build healthy communities
- Boost Professionalism

Location: Main Floor, 50 High Tech Road, Richmond Hill, ON L4B 4N7

Dates: September 23 to 27, 2024 (Monday to Friday)

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

All parents/guardians/caregivers are welcome to join this free training program!

Space is limited, please scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/3WWRsxz to register now!



This free information session is organized by York Region District School Board in partnership with Catholic Community Services of York Region. For more information, please contact:

Oksana Majaski
oksana.majaski@yrdsb.ca
416-568-2252

Pauline Guo
pauline.guo@yrdsb.ca
905-884-3434 #322

Victoria Chung
vchung@ccsyrr.org
416-358-2212

Eman Hasan
ehasan@ccsyrr.org
416-312-5173





Student Safety

while riding YRT

York Region Transit (YRT) cares about your safety and security. The dedicated YRT Transit Enforcement and Security team offers security, customer assistance and fare enforcement services throughout the system.



Practice the following safety tips when taking transit

- Take extra care when walking or cycling to or from your bus stop
- Always cross at a designated crosswalks or intersections; only cross when the designated light/walk signal is displayed
- Make eye contact with motorists when crossing the street
- Be aware of your surroundings at the bus stop and on the bus Board at the front doors, exit at the rear doors
- Keep an eye on your belongings
- Be alert and listen; heads up, phones down!
- Know where you are getting on/off the bus



Transit safety is everyone's responsibility; see something, say something

- Report any verbal, physical, sexual harassment or discrimination by alerting the driver, an enforcement officer or any YRT uniformed staff
- Report issues by calling the YRT Contact Centre at 1-866-668-3978 or [Live Chat](#) with a Customer Service Representative
- **If there is a true emergency call 9-1-1 immediately and notify the driver or any other YRT personnel when safe to do so**



Technologies with your safety in mind

- Security cameras to deter vandalism and provide evidence
- Emergency call boxes at vivastations and terminals
- Travelling at Night Request-Stop Program

These technologies assist in creating a safer environment for all travellers.

There's a seat for everyone.

YRT supports a positive travel community. **Please be respectful and courteous towards others.** All travellers are encouraged to follow YRT's [travelling etiquette tips](#) on how to conduct yourself in a way that ensures a positive travel experience for everyone.

For more information on transit safety, visit yrt.ca

T-24037_08-24



1-866-MOVE-YRT (668-3978) | TTY: 711 | yrt.ca



"Hanging Out Together"

The focus of this free Hanging Out Together program, for individuals who have special needs and who are 16 years of age and older, is to bring them together so that they too feel they are valued members of the community. We provide stimulating social and recreational experiences that challenge the body and the mind. Socially, the members enjoy various games that help them to stay mentally sharp. Recreationally, the members participate in fun-filled excursions, some local and some farther away, that become memories that they will treasure for years to come. Over the years, the program has become a safe haven for our members.



Contact founder
Charles Camilleri
camilleri29@rogers.com

Where: Father Ermanno Bulfon Community Centre
8141 Martin Grove Road, Woodbridge

When: from mid-September to mid-June

Days: Tuesdays and Thursdays

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Elementary School Calendar

Visit this link to download or import YRDSB School Calendars, including Holidays and PA Days and the 5-day cycle calendar.

On the Horizon:

September

Character Trait: Courage

26 Save the Date! Meet the Teacher Night!

27 PA Day - No classes for students

30 Orange Shirt Day

30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation



Wishing you a wonderful weekend!

Eugenia Korinis and *Ayesha Mondal*

Principal

Vice-Principal