



Elder's Mills: The Eagle Eye
Soaring on Wings of Character, Community and Diversity
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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.

Introductions and Farewells:

The last two weeks have been very busy at Elder's Mills. Staff worked tirelessly to ready the school and classrooms to welcome back students. We also had some organizational changes. Here's the news:

Congratulations to Mme Loredana Merches! Mme Merches is expecting her first child and will be on leave this year.

Congratulations to Mme Sandrine Kamwiziku! Mme Kamwiziku has accepted contract positions in our School Board.

Welcome to Mme Wijesundara! Mme will be with us this year while Mme Ghaly is away on leave.

Welcome to Mme Mastragostino! Mme will be with us while Mme Bonofiglio is away on leave, and in the place of Mme Kamwiziku.

Welcome to Mme Sierra Dockery! Mme is joining the EMPS team as Grade 7 French Immersion teacher.

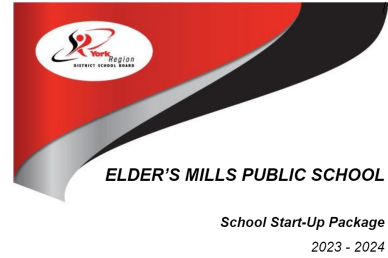
Welcome to Mme Leayah Weekes-Graham! Mme will be with us this year while Mme Merches is away on leave.

Bienvenue et Félicitations à tous!

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.



Message to Families from the Chair and the Director

This message was emailed to families on Thursday and it is repeated for you here:

Dear families,

Welcome back to school, and a very special welcome to students and families who are new to York Region District School Board. We hope that everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable summer, and is looking forward to the new school year ahead. For our students starting elementary or secondary school, we would like to let you know that our skilled staff and educators are working hard to ensure a positive transition experience that helps students feel supported, energized and engaged.

Our staff members have been working hard to prepare to welcome our students back to school. We want to thank staff members for all that they do to help make this a positive and supported transition for all students and families. We look forward to partnering with you to support your child's learning, achievement and well-being.

We want to take this opportunity to let you know that as a school board, we will be engaging in a process to refresh the Trustees' Multi-Year Strategic Plan this year. This plan outlines our priorities and sets our direction as a school board. This review process will involve community consultation and we look forward to sharing more information about this process and opportunities for you to provide input.

At the start of each year, families receive important start-up information about your school and the school year. Please take the time to review this information and the online [Guide to the School Year](#) and to complete the important start-up forms you will receive by email.

We are committed to partnering with you. The [Family Resources](#) page on the Board website provides helpful links to online tools and resources for families in support of student learning and well-being. You can also find information about [community resources and supports](#).

In addition to the communications you will receive from your school and the board, we encourage you to stay up-to-date with what's happening in York Region District School Board throughout the year by visiting our website at www.yrdsb.ca, or following us on Twitter [@YRDSB](#) or Instagram [@yrdsb.schools](#).

Week 1 - Friday, September 8th, 2023

Please take a moment to read this message from the [Ministry of Education and the Hon. Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education](#).

We wish everyone a successful and enjoyable school year.

Ron Lynn
Chair of the Board

Bill Cober
Director of Education



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 attached to this communication and included in the forthcoming system email. You may also contact the office to request a form. **Please complete and submit this form by September 22nd.** At our first School Council meeting, we will be reviewing the nominations and forming the Council for this year.

A separate communication with the date and time of our first School Council meeting will be sent to families.

Terry Fox School Run @ Elder's Mills PS!

We are excited to announce that our school will be proudly taking part in the 2023 Terry Fox School Run, scheduled to take place on **Thursday, September 28th, 2023**. We hope that we can continue to show the great strength and resiliency of our school community through Terry's message of hope and strength. Our Terry Fox Run organizing team will be sharing more information through your child's teacher. Please join us to support cancer research while building incredible school spirit for all of our students. Thank you in advance for your support!



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.

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. presenting with Covid symptoms). 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.mills.ps@yrdsb.ca should you need a temporary change to the school contacts.

Drop off and pick up Reminders:

- **Do not park in the Kiss'n Ride**
- Help us maintain the flow of traffic through the loop:
 - **pull as far up into the loop as possible**
 - ensure your children exit and enter your vehicle from the passenger side;
 - do not leave your vehicle unattended;
 - when pulling in to the school parking, leave room for vehicles to make the right turn out of the loop;
 - do not block the exit lane;
 - If you prefer to walk your children to and from the drop-off area, please park on the street, being mindful of traffic and road signs.



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.

A reminder that 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. are considered late and 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.



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.

Use of Non-Board Electronic Devices (Mobile phones, laptops, tablets...) at Elder's Mills:

- Students in our grades 5 - 8 classes may bring personal electronic devices such as a tablet or a laptop into the classroom for instructional purposes only.
- Personal computers and tablets are used when instructed by and under the supervision of the teacher - no personal gaming etc...
- **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.

- At no time may electronic devices be used in washrooms or changerooms.
- 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.

Students and parents/guardians must remember to sign and return the Appropriate Use of Technology Agreement in the School Start Up package prior to being granted access to school or Board technology, hardware or network.

Indigenous Languages and International Languages:

[Information and link to ILIL webpages here](#)

Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter:

Dear Families,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! We are happy to see all of you.

At YRDSB, we are committed to fostering a positive and supportive environment where mental health is prioritized and nurtured. Together, let us create a school community that embraces mental wellness, celebrates diversity, and supports one another on this incredible journey of education and personal growth.

We acknowledge that many feelings and emotions accompany the start of a new school year for students, parents and educators. From excitement to nervousness, anxiety to joy and everything in between. Whatever feelings and emotions accompany your child(ren) or family, know they are valid, important and okay. Talking to your child(ren) about their first day feelings can be a great way to

encourage conversation about experiences and emotions all year long!

In this edition we will focus on the firsts of the new year- new school, first drop-off,

kindergarten or high school.



Follow this link for the full newsletter:

<https://staffweb-yrdsb.msappproxy.net/services/student/Documents/Newsletters/MH%20Newsletter%20September%202023.pdf>

Fun Fair and Meet & Greet

Celebrating Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Sukkot



Please join us to foster cultural understanding to celebrate the Jewish holidays in September. Come meet fellow families and community members and help to create an identity affirming environment for Jewish learners.

This celebration is for YRDSB students, parents/caregivers and community members to learn about Jewish traditions, customs and practices.

Date: Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Time: 4:00 – 6:00 PM

Location: Westmount Collegiate Institute

Fun Activities

Acknowledgment of holiday traditions and games

Holiday related art activity

Jewish community questionnaire/survey

Kosher food will be available for purchase sold by Kosher Pickle food truck

Jewish resources

Jewish holiday dance performed by Bounce Entertainment

You will also have an opportunity to meet the YRDSB Jewish Community and Partnership Developer from Inclusive School and Community Services, Diana Talis

To Register

Scan the QR code or fill out the [Registration Form](#)

If you have any further questions regarding this community event, please reach out to diana.talis@yrdsb.ca or iscs@yrdsb.ca.



September Character Trait: Courage



On the Horizon....

September 16 and 17 - Rosh Hashanah (Judaism)
September 22nd - PA Day - No classes for Students
September 28- Terry Fox Event @ EMPS
September 30 - Orange Shirt Day
September 30 - National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

*Rosh Hashanah
New Year's Day, year
5784, and anniversary
of the creation of the
world. The first of the
Ten Days of Awe (or
Repentance).*

Wishing you a wonderful weekend!

Eugenia Korinis and *Ayesha Mondal*
Principal Acting Vice-Principal