



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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What's Happening @ Elder's Mills!

School Spirit Days! Every Friday until the Winter Break! All Staff and students are invited to participate. Go Eagles!

Friday Nov 29 Jersey or Team Color Day 	Friday Dec 6 Winter, Holiday, Cozy, Fun, Sweater Day 
Friday Dec 13 Dress like your favorite character from a book or a movie 	Friday Dec 20 Pajama Day 

The Winter Concert is here!!!

The Winter Concert is a fundraising event and will feature our Grade 5 Bucket Drumming Ensemble, Two Beginning Concert Bands (Grade 6), our Intermediate Band - the Soaring Eagles Concert Band (Grade 7 & 8) and many more smaller group performances!

- Date: Wednesday Dec 11th
- Time: Doors Open at 6:30pm
- Concert start time: 7:00pm and will end around 8:15pm
- Location: Emily Carr Secondary School - 4901 Rutherford Road, Vaughan
- Ticket price: \$5.00



All proceeds go to the Music Department. To make your payment go to [School Cash Online](#)

Please note that tickets and seating are limited. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

We thank you for supporting the EMPS Music Department and Music Education in our community!

High School Information night - Grade 7 and 8 Families of EMPS!

ELDER'S MILLS PS PRESENTS

HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION NIGHT

**FOR FAMILIES OF GRADE 7 & 8
STUDENTS**

JOIN US TO LEARN ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S
TRANSITION INTO HIGH SCHOOL!

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2024
AT 6 PM**

ELDER'S MILLS PS
120 Napa Valley Ave., Woodbridge, ON

MORE INFORMATION
Contact Mrs. Wright:
(905)893-1631 ext 217
[https://destinationgraduationemps.
weebly.com/](https://destinationgraduationemps.weebly.com/)

QUESTIONS?
Go to:
<https://bit.ly/EMPSQA> or
scan the QR Code below to
ask them!

Elder's Mills Gives!

This year Elder's Mills PS staff and students will be supporting the YRP Holiday Heroes Toy Drive. We will be collecting **new, unwrapped toys** between **Monday, November 26 and Thursday, December 12**. Please bring your donations to the front of the school and place them in the bins. See the poster below for details.

E.M.P.S.



Toy Drive

in partnership with *York Region Police*

Please drop off any
NEW, UNWRAPPED TOYS
in the designated area in front of our school office from
November 26 - December 12

Ideas for tweens and teens (10 and up): curling irons, hair dryers, hair kits, jewelry, electronics, books, sporting goods, backpacks, school supplies, board games

Ideas for babies: diapers, wipes, food pouches, formula, clothing, blanket and development games



Your new toy donations will help support these organizations.



Support the Vaughan Food Bank!

Help support greater food security for families in our community. Elder's Mills accepts donations for the Vaughan Food Bank. Drop off non-perishable items any time during school hours.

Thank you for your support!



School Spirit Wear

The online store is open. Merchandise ordered will be delivered to the school every 3 weeks. All proceeds will fund school enhancements and programs. Shop online by following this link: <https://stores.inksoft.com/eldersmills/shop/home>



Hot Lunches:

The Lunchbox program is live through: <https://www.schoolcashionline.com/>. Orders can be placed by Sunday of each week. You may order one week at a time or several weeks all together; there are many options!

Winter Weather

With winter weather here, we want to share a few important reminders.

Bus or School Cancellations

When an extreme cold or inclement weather day is declared, school transportation (including buses and taxis) is cancelled in the morning and afternoon. Schools will remain open. Please notify the school if your child will not be attending school on those days. Students will not be penalized for missing school on these days.



There may be rare instances when emergency weather events occur and we need to close all schools and Board locations. Please take the time to make plans in the event of an emergency school closure. Information about transportation cancellations and Board closures will be shared through local media, Board and school websites and on X @YRDSB.

Our process for extreme cold, inclement weather and emergency weather days is outlined in the [Board's Severe Weather policy](#).

Weather and Recess:

All students are expected to go out for every recess, weather permitting. **Students are to come to school ready for winter and prepared to be outdoors up to 15 minutes at morning recess and 40 minutes at lunch recess.** Please support conversations with your child at home about wearing their coats, hats, gloves etc... when they go outside



Please make sure that your children are dressed properly for the weather. It is advisable for students to bring a change of clothes (extra pants and socks). A change is often necessary due to the wet and cold weather of the winter months. Students are asked to have a pair of indoor shoes at school so that they may change out of their outdoor shoes/boots prior to entering the classroom. Indoor shoes should be closed toe and closed heel and non-slip (no sandals/crocs/slip-on shoes). Label all articles of clothing. Boots, hats, mitts/gloves, scarves, and snow pants will help make recess an enjoyable time.

Lost and Found

Last week, Elder's Mills donated more than 12 bags of clothing from the lost and found bins collected since the beginning of September. **Moving forward items in these bins will be gathered for donation on the last Thursday of each month.** Families are always welcome to stop by the school to check the bin for lost items. Please remember to begin your visit at the office.



Winter Vacation Plans?

With the Winter Break coming up, if you anticipate an extended absence from school for your child, please notify the office in writing (email elders.mills.ps@yrdsb.ca). Be sure to include the last day your child will be at school and your expected date of return.



School
Council

Our next School Council meeting is planned for **Thursday, December 5, 2024.** Details and a virtual meet link for families who wish to join virtually will be shared as the date approaches.

Coffee Drop-In:

The School Council is organizing a monthly daytime social. All parents/guardians of EMPS are welcome to drop in and connect with members of the council, meet and get to know one another. Topics of discussion will include school goals, making connections in the community and more. Our first gathering for this year is planned for **December 9, 2024.**

If you wish to connect with School Council, please email elders.mills.ps@sc.yrdsb.ca



Message from Our Trustee **December 2024**

As we approach the winter break, I am happy to share a few updates from the Board of Trustees and to wish you all the very best for the approaching break and holiday season.

Multi-Year Strategic Plan

In October, we launched our new Multi-Year Strategic Plan: Building Unity, Achieving Excellence. The plan sets out three priorities that will guide our direction and decision-making as a school board: student achievement, health and well-being, and human rights and inclusive education. It was developed by the Board of Trustees based on feedback received from the community, and we are grateful to everyone who shared their input. It was important to Trustees to ensure that this is a plan that serves the needs of our students and community. I invite you to [learn more about this plan](#).

Family Engagement

*Earlier in the fall, we hosted a series of **school council forums**, bringing together school council representatives for an evening of shared learning and discussion. It was a wonderful opportunity to recognize the important role school councils play in our system and to connect with families. Thank you to all of the family members who are supporting the work that we do in schools, including participating on school councils, volunteering in schools, attending events and meetings, sharing information and getting involved in any way to support and strengthen our schools and school communities. Your partnership matters and makes a difference both to your child and to our schools and school communities. Thank you for all that you do.*

Some families have asked for tips on encouraging their children to share more information about their school day. Here are [some tips](#) that I hope you find helpful.

*As part of our ongoing commitment to working in partnership with families to support your child's education, we also recently introduced the **Family Dashboard**. The dashboard will offer you secure, one-stop access to information and applications related to your child's education. If you have not yet signed up, you can find more [information on the Board website](#).*

Week 13 - Friday, November 29, 2024

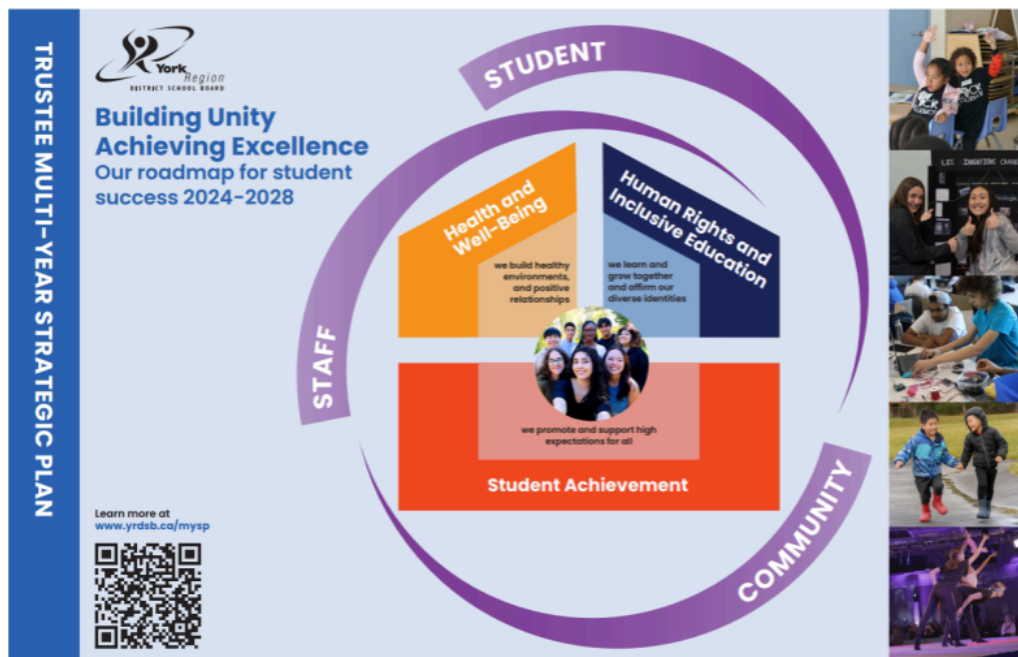
We hope you continue to see evidence of your child's learning. This year, that includes welcoming [school police](#) presentations in partnership with York Regional Police on community safety topics, such as road, bike and pedestrian safety for elementary school students.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank and recognize the outstanding, dedicated and professional staff members throughout our system who work hard to provide your children with clean, safe, caring and inclusive learning environments. They provide students with learning supports, resources and opportunities that will help them develop skills, knowledge and experiences that will benefit them now and in the future. They collaborate with families and community partners, knowing that these partnerships make a difference to student achievement and well-being. To our staff members, thank you for all that you do.

Happy Holiday Season and Winter Break

For many in our community, this time of year includes significant dates and celebrations. For those who are celebrating, I wish you a happy and joyous celebration. It is also a valuable time to connect with family and friends, as well as to rest and recharge. I wish you all a safe and enjoyable winter break and we look forward to welcoming you back in January.

Dr. Elizabeth Sinclair, Trustee, Vaughan Wards 2 and 3





Inclusive School and Community Services

Transit Assistance Program (TAP) For Those who Qualify

York Region is offering the Transit Assistance Program (TAP) to help make transit more affordable for eligible residents.

- Eligible TAP participants can receive a 50% discount on regular Adult single ride York Region Transit (YRT) fare using a PRESTO card. After 40 trips, rides are free for unlimited travel for the remainder of the calendar month.
- Anyone in the family can use the TAP card, including students going to high school
- Please Visit : [Eligibility and How to Apply for TAP](#)
- **New Applications and Renewals for 2025** are now being accepted by telephone. There are a limited number of new spots available so apply soon.
Please contact ACCESS YORK at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 75581. All Students turning 18 should apply in their own right.
- If you require language interpretation for this call, simply say the language you speak when connected at the number above and interpretation services will be put in place.

If you have any additional questions please contact:

Yvonne Kelly,
Community and Partnership Developer, YRDSB
Regional Portfolio on Poverty/Intersections of Poverty
Inclusive School and Community Services
yvonne.kelly@yrdsb.ca
(905) 895-5155 ext.5124

Kwanzaa Celebration

Students, staff and families, please join us as we come together to celebrate Kwanzaa! This special event will honour African heritage, unity and culture and will be a time to reflect on the seven principles of Kwanzaa, enjoy cultural traditions and foster community spirit.

Date: Monday, December 9, 2024

Time: 6:00 – 8:30 P.M.

Location: Dr. Bette Stephenson, 36 Regatta Avenue, Richmond Hill

Event Details:

- Storytelling on Kwanzaa's history and principles
- Music and performances celebrating African heritage and culture
- Crafts and activities for all ages
- A community feast

We look forward to celebrating this cultural holiday with you.

To Register

Please fill out a [registration form](#) by **December 2, 2024**.

If you have any further questions, please reach out to Blackstudentexcellence@yrdsb.ca



On the Horizon:

December

- 5 School Council meeting
- 6 School Spirit Day - Winter, Fun, Cozy, or Holiday Sweater day
- 11 EMPS Winter Concert @ Emily Carr
- 12 Grade 7 and 8 High School Information night for EMPS families
- 13 School Spirit Day - Character Day
- 18 Emily Carr SS Band performance @ EMPS
- 20 School Spirit Day - Pyjama Day
- 20 Last day of classes for 2024
- 23 - January 3 - Winter Break
- Save the Date! January 16 - Primary Winter Concert!