



**Elder's Mills: The Eagle Eye**  
*Soaring on Wings of Character, Community and Diversity*  
120 Napa Valley Avenue, Woodbridge, L4H 1L1  
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<b>Trustee</b> Dr. Elizabeth Sinclair	<b>Superintendent</b> Otilia Olteanu	<b>Principal</b> Eugenia Korinis	<b>Vice-Principal</b> Ayesha Mondal	<b>Office Admin Team</b> 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 Dec 13

Dress like your favorite character from a book or a movie



Friday Dec 20



### 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



## Week 14 - Friday, December 6, 2024

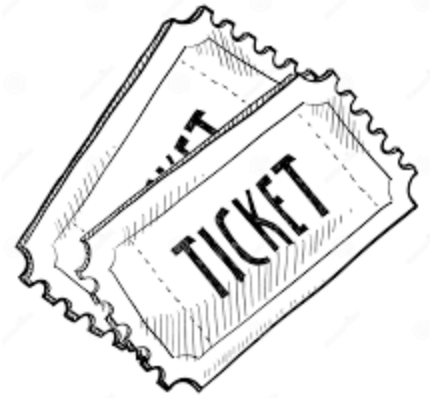
All proceeds go to the Music Department. To make your payment go to [School Cash Online](#)

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!

### **A few more 'notes' about the Winter Concert:**

- **Did you purchase tickets 'by accident'?**
  - Performers are students in grade 5 - 8. We had an outpouring of interest in this event and noticed that many tickets purchased were from families of students in grades 2, 3 and 4. We are so happy for your support and would love for you to join us! Having said this, we understand from calls we've been receiving that you may have purchased tickets for this event on the understanding that your grade 2,3 or 4 child was participating. If this is your situation and you would like to have your tickets refunded, please email the school at [elders.mills.ps@yrdsb.ca](mailto:elders.mills.ps@yrdsb.ca) and put 'Winter Concert Refund' in the subject line and make your request. We will not be refunding tickets after December 10th. We are planning a Primary Winter Concert event for January.
- **Do you still need to buy tickets?**
  - We have the opportunity to open up ticket sales this weekend for a limited number of tickets and for a limited time. School Cash online will re-open for this event on the morning of Saturday, December 7 and close on the evening of Sunday December 8 for families who have not purchased tickets.
- **Fundraising opportunities on the night of the event:**
  - The School Council will be offering Roses and Plushies for sale on the night of the Winter Concert. Due to the tight timelines, this will be cash purchase only. Funds raised will augment our support for the school's Music program.
  - The Emily Carr SS Music Program has been very generous with their support for this event. Their Music ambassadors will be helping our students with instruments, moving from stage to back stage, set up and more. We have an opportunity to support Emily Carr's music program through snack and drink sales on the night of the Winter Concert. These will be available for cash purchase and funds raised will go to support Emily Carr's Music program.



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.





### 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!

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### 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](#).

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### 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



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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.

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### 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](mailto:elders.mills.ps@yrdsb.ca)). Be sure to include the last day your child will be at school and your expected date of return.



### 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](mailto:elders.mills.ps@sc.yrdsb.ca)



### 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.

The theme for December is Canned Corn. All items are accepted. Thank you for your support!





## **Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter - December 2024 - Windows to Wellness**

Dear Families and Caregivers,

Over the past few months, students of the YRDSB have been busy learning, engaged in activities, relationship-building and forming new connections and now it is time for a break. December is a month of many things - beginnings - like a new season and endings - for some, the end of another calendar year.

Continue reading at this link: [Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter - December 2024 | York Region District School Board](#)

### **Integrated Elementary Arts @ Baythorn!**



At YRDSB, we are committed to continuous improvement, and we continue to focus on **Student Achievement**, promoting and supporting high expectations for all, **Health and Well-Being**, building healthy environments and positive relationships, and **Human Rights and Inclusive Education**, learning and growing together, and affirming our diverse identities.



There are 4 Regional High School Arts Programs and 1 Regional Arts Elementary Arts Program in YRDSB. The Arts@Baythorn invites students to explore Dance, Drama, Visual Arts and Music integrated into learning each and every day in a collaborative and cooperative learning environment.

**Applications are open** on [Edsby](#) from January 13 - 26, 2025.  
Please note that late applications will not be accepted.

**Collaborative workshops** are being held February 18 - 20, 2025.  
These dates are firm.

#### **To apply or for more information**

Please visit the [Baythorn Arts webpage](#).

\*The [Edsby application link](#) will open on January 13, 2025.

If you have any further questions, please reach out to [baythornarts@gapps.yrdsb.ca](mailto:baythornarts@gapps.yrdsb.ca)





## Red Cross Babysitting Course

(with first aid & CPR)

Offered by Stayin Alive with First Aid, CPR & AED

COURSE NOW OFFERED IN PERSON

On PA Days (8:30am to 3:30pm)

For youth in grades 5, 6, 7 and 8

Caregiver and first aid skills for youth in grades 5 to 8.

Participants learn how to manage difficult behaviour, recognize and prevent unsafe situations, how to care for babies and children, and leadership skills. Babysitting promises to deepen and enhance the responsibility that older youth feel when caring for younger children. The curriculum includes new science for giving appropriate care in an emergency.

**Babysitting course January 31st, PA day**

**Located at: Forest Run PS, 200 Forest Run, Concord,**

**8:30am to 3:30pm**

**Instructor:** Stayin Alive Certified Red Cross Youth Instructor

**Cost:** \$65 + \$5 (for the book) per participant + HST = **\$79.10**

### Course content:

- Check, Call, Care (including phoning 911)
- Conscious choking (adult/child/baby/alone)
- Introduction to CPR (baby/child)
- Asthma (includes use of inhaler and spacer)
- Anaphylaxis (includes use of EpiPen), poisoning and insect stings
- Wound care (minor cuts and scrapes, splinters, nosebleeds, bumps and bruises, life-threatening bleeding, and burns)
- Broken bones, head, neck and back injuries, seizures

Course materials handed out on the day of the course.

No need to put your address on the registration

Red Cross Babysitter's Manual and Materials

Red Cross Babysitter Certificate



**Registration is limited to  
26 students per course**

[www.StayinAliveWithFirstAid.ca](http://www.StayinAliveWithFirstAid.ca)

**Questions?**

[info@StayinAliveWithFirstAid.ca](mailto:info@StayinAliveWithFirstAid.ca)



## 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](mailto:yvonne.kelly@yrdsb.ca)  
(905) 895-5155 ext.5124

## On the horizon:

### December

- 8 Bodhi 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
- 14 Last Day for Holiday Heroes Contributions
- 16 Las Posadas
- 18 Emily Carr SS Band performance @ EMPS
- 20 School Spirit Day - Pyjama Day

Hanukkah (Judaism): *Hanukkah - The Festival of Lights (and Feast of Dedication), commemorates the victory of Judah the Maccabee, religious freedom, and the rededication of the Holy Temple in 165 BCE*

Bodhi / Rōhatsu (Awakening) Day (Buddhism): *Anniversary of the historical Buddha's awakening. Rōhatsu is Japanese and literally means 8th Day of the 12th Month.*

Pancha Ganapati (Hinduism): *Pancha Ganapati is a modern Hindu festival held over five days in honor of Lord Ganesha, Patron of Arts and Guardian of Culture.*



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20 Last day of classes for 2024

21 Pancha Ganapati

21 December Solstice

25 Christmas Day

25 - January 2 Hanukkah

26 - January 1 Kwanzaa

### **Winter Break**

December 23 - January 3

Classes Resume January 6

### **Save the Date!**

January 16 - Primary Winter Concert!

January 23 - Winterfest

Christmas (Christianity): *Christmas celebrates the anniversary of the birth of Jesus.*

Las Posadas: *One of the most popular Christmas traditions in Mexico is Las Posadas (Spanish for lodging or accommodation), a nine day celebration/observance. The ritual has been a tradition in Mexico for over 400 years.*

Kwanzaa is celebrated by many North Americans of West African descent in recognition of their African heritage. The candles of a seven-branched candelabrum representing attributes such as unity, self-determination, responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith, are successively lit over the seven days of the festival.