



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!



The Winter Concert...

Felicitations! To all performers at Wednesday's Winter Concert Event!

Un grand, gros merci to the teachers and caretaking team who supported the event both at Elder's Mills and at Emily Carr SS!

Thank you to the Music department and Caretaking team at Emily Carr SS for their support!

Thank you to our School Council for their support at the event.

Thank you to our families for your participation and ongoing support!

What a fantastic event!



Elder's Mills Gives!

This year Elder's Mills PS staff and students supported the YRP Holiday Heroes Toy Drive. New, unwrapped toys were dropped off on Friday, December 13 at a local centre. Thank you for your generous support! Thank you to EMPS staff for arranging the delivery of the donations. Go Eagles!



Personal Mobile Devices in School.

Dear Parents,

*This letter is to inform you that there have been updates to student use of personal mobile devices in schools, in particular, students must now **store their mobile device out of view**, and power off or set to silent mode during the school day. 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 194.0 Appropriate Use of Technology](#) and many measures around personal mobile devices are already in place. The changes you may see 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.



All mobile devices, including cellphones, smart watches, and tablets, must be **stored out of view** and **powered off** or set to **silent mode** during the school day, including recess and lunch.

Elementary Schools



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 **stored out of view and 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*

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 **stored out of view and powered 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 **stored out of view and powered 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,

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 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!



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 next gathering for this year is planned for **January 14, 2025**



If you wish to connect with School Council, please email 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!



Winterfest is coming!

- ★ Thursday, January 23, 2025
- ★ At Elder's Mills PS!
- ★ Details coming soon!
- ★ Start thinking about Book donations



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



Understanding and Navigating the Education System



presented by
**THE CENTRE FOR
BLACK STUDENT EXCELLENCE**

Families of YRDSB Black Students Monthly Information Session

**Monday, December 16, 2024
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.**

Families, parents, caregivers, please join us for our monthly virtual meeting where families with Black children come together to learn about resources and upcoming programs for Black students in both elementary and secondary schools.

Agenda:

- Presentation - Ways to support our children
- Upcoming Programs and events
- Question and answer session



Please register ASAP.

A Zoom meeting link will be sent after registration.

Let us come together to empower our students and build a stronger community.

We look forward to seeing you there.



[Register now.](#)

If you require further information, please contact
BlackStudentExcellence@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

Questions?

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
(905) 895-5155 ext.5124

On the horizon:

December

16 Las Posadas

18 Emily Carr SS Band performance @ EMPS

20 School Spirit Day - Pyjama Day

20 Last day of classes for 2024

21 Pancha Ganapati

21 December Solstice

25 Christmas Day

25 - January 2 Hanukkah

26 - January 1 Kwanzaa

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.*

Week 15 - Friday, December 13, 2024

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.*