

Week 15- Friday, December 15, 2023



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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School Spirit Week - December 18 - 22

Staff and students joined in on many of the Spirit Days planned for the week.



♥ merci ♥

Student Mental Health Addictions Newsletter - January 2024 edition

Dear Families, After the winter break we are welcomed back to school and to a new beginning of the 2024 calendar year. We recognize that many of our students and families follow various acknowledgements of the calendar year, and that new beginnings are happening all the time. This provides us with many opportunities to begin anew.

Continued in the [Student Mental Health Addictions Newsletter - January 2024 edition](#)

LOST AND FOUND:

Items not collected by Friday, December 22 will be gathered and donated.



NEWS for Intermediate and Secondary Students:

Students Can Now Explore Secondary School Opportunities by Sector

Our secondary schools offer courses and programs that let you explore your interests, build skills and gain experience in areas that interest you. You can now [search from 16 different sectors](#) to learn more about:

- career pathways in the fields that interest you
- courses and programs you can take in secondary school that let you gain sector-specific skills, knowledge and experience
- how you can earn certifications, post-secondary credits and job experience while in high school

Find out what courses and programs are available in the fields that interest you at your school. Visit www2.yrdsb.ca/experience-yrdsb.



We'd like to hear from you!

Please take a moment to complete the survey at this link. Ideas and input will be shared with the various school council committees: [School Council Family interest survey](#) If you'd like to join any of the committees please email us at our school

council email: elders.mills.ps@sc.yrdsb.ca

SAVE THE DATE!

Our next School Council meeting will be held on Monday, January 15, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

Volunteers! The School Council is already planning for **Winterfest!** Anyone interested in assisting with planning or volunteering please email us at elders.mills.ps@sc.YRDSB.ca.

IN THE COMMUNITY

Vaughan Public Libraries:

Debate Club:

We are excited to announce the launch of a new Debate Club session at Vaughan Public Libraries! It is hosted every Tuesday evening from 7:00-8:30 pm from January 9th to 30th at the Pierre Berton Resource Library. This club is designed for students in grades 6 to 12.

For this upcoming session we are also launching an opportunity for students to debate in French – the preferred language can be indicated on the registration form.

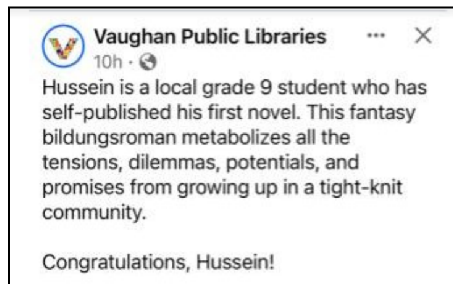
Debate Club is a fantastic opportunity for new and experienced students alike to hone their critical thinking skills in a fun and supportive environment. Participants will explore interesting topics related to current events, ethics, and philosophy. Many people find that the transferable skills learned during this program, including structuring an argument, listening to opposing views, and articulating a response, are beneficial to their classroom learning. We will also host a system-wide debate tournament in May as an opportunity for students to use their newfound skills in friendly competition.

Please feel free to encourage your staff members to share this opportunity with students and their families. A quick link to the registration page can be accessed using [this link](#) and this QR Code:



Congratulations! EMPS Eagle Graduate publishes his first novel!

Hussein is featured in a VPL blog post. He was a graduate of the EMPS Class of 2022 - 2023. Felicitations! Way to go Eagles!



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.



Looking ahead to January 2024

Arrive on time to school

Classes begin promptly at 8:45 a.m. It is important the lates and absences are reported to the school as soon as possible.



Reporting Lates and Absences: Parents may inform the school office of their child's absence or late arrival in three different ways:

- Absences and lates can be entered into **Edsby** which is available 24 hours/day, 7 days a week. Future absences can be reported at any time;
- Send an email to the school attendance email address at: elders.mills.ps.attendance@yrdsb.ca or;
- 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.

Communicating absences and lates using the above-mentioned options will support our school Safe Arrival process and minimize the need for automated call-outs. Thank you.

Hot Lunches

Families who enrolled in the January-March session of hot lunches are reminded that lunches begin the week of January 8th, the first week back. A reminder that if an inclement/severe weather day is announced by the YRDSB, hot lunch programs are also canceled on inclement/severe weather days.



A note about snacks and lunches - they must be NUT FREE!

To protect students with allergies, please help to ensure that lunches and snacks are free of nut and peanut products, and/or other allergens that may be a problem for students with allergies. We ask families and children to do their part to ensure our students with allergies stay safe. We can reduce the risk of accidental exposure with your help. Please:

- **DO NOT** send peanut/tree-nut containing products to school. This includes products like peanut butter, hazelnut/chocolate spread and their substitutes.
- Please read all labels of processed foods to ensure they indicate they are peanut/nut free.

Week 15- Friday, December 15, 2023

- 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).
- Please be advised that if you are providing or dropping off lunches (including from restaurants) to ensure they are nut free. Where there may be a concern, your child may be asked to consume them in a space separate from the classroom.

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



Winter

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

Preparing for Severe Weather - Stuff to Know:

School Transportation Cancellations:

School transportation (buses and taxis) may be cancelled due to extreme cold or inclement weather. On these days, schools will remain open unless otherwise stated. If school transportation is cancelled in the morning, it will also be cancelled in the afternoon. Any special or hot lunch days and field trips will also be cancelled.



Families should use their best judgment to decide whether to send their children to school on extreme cold or inclement weather days. Students will not be penalized for missing school on those days. For safety reasons, please let the school know if your child will not be attending school that day.

School Closures

Emergency closures will be considered when conditions may not be safe for students and staff members to attend school for the full day. This may include events that significantly limit school operations or access to the school site (e.g., widespread, prolonged power failures or downed power lines).

In keeping with our current practice, we will continue to keep our schools open as much as possible.

However, it is important that families have alternate childcare arrangements planned for the rare occasions when schools may be closed. Before and aftercare programs will not operate if schools are closed.

Communication to Families

Decisions about school transportation and school closures will be made as early as possible and no later than 6:00 a.m. We will do our best to notify families in advance when we may be considering closing school and Board offices. Transportation cancellations or school closures are communicated through:

- Student Transportation Services - www.schoolbuscity.com or 1-877-330-3001
- Board and school websites
- @YRDSB Twitter account
- Radio and TV media outlets

For more information on [severe weather days](#), please visit our website www.yrdsb.ca. **Sharing**

Professional Activity Day Plans - Friday, January 19, 2023

As per PPM 151, Administrators are required to electronically share their P.A. Day plans with parents/guardians and School Council Chair(s) and post a copy in a conspicuous place in the main office 14 days prior to the P.A. Day e.g., by December 22, 2023. P.A. Day plans are also posted on the Board's public website. For your convenience, a copy of the P.A. Day plan overview is shared below for administrators to use when communicating with their communities.



Length: Full Day

Topic: Report Card Preparation, Reporting to Parents, Ongoing Communication

Entity Hosting: All Elementary Schools

Presenter(s)/Facilitator(s): Teacher/DECE

Description: Full Day of Professional activities focused on reporting to parents and ongoing communication regarding student achievement and well-being.

Thinking about Math and Literacy over the Winter Break?

Here is a sampling of resources to explore:

Literacy resources - Reading:

- The SAG-AFTRA Foundation's award-winning children's literacy website, [Storyline Online®](#), streams videos featuring celebrated actors reading children's books alongside creatively produced illustrations.
- To encourage family engagement and a love of reading at home, [PBS KIDS](#)



Week 15- Friday, December 15, 2023

offers families a place to come together and read along with fan-favorites on YouTube.

- A digital library for preschool and primary learners that's free and easy to use for teachers and families alike. [Unite for Literacy](#) offers books that are read in several different languages including French.

Math resources: YRDSB Math Newsletter:

[December - Dice Games | York Region District School Board](#)

A Note about Progress Reports:

The distribution initially scheduled in November took place Wednesday, December 20- Thursday, December 21. This means that you should receive an electronic copy of the November Progress Report via your child's @gapps.yrdsb.ca account. Paper copies were distributed to all EMPS students in November.



On the Horizon....

December

23 - January 7 - Winter Break - School closed
25 - Christmas - Western Orthodox (New Calendar)
26 - January 1 - Kwanzaa

Winter Break:

December 25 - January 5

January

1 New Year's Day
7 Christmas - Eastern Orthodox (Old Calendar)
8 Classes resume

19 PA Day



Wishing you Happy Holidays! See you in 2024!

Eugenia Korinis and *Ayesha Mondal*
Principal Vice-Principal