



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!

January Jingle - Thursday, January 16, 2025

An evening of song that will warm your heart

Presented by the Grades 2-4 students of Elder's Mills P.S.

Thursday, January 16th, 2025

6:30-8:00

Doors open at 6:00

Ticket sales are closed.

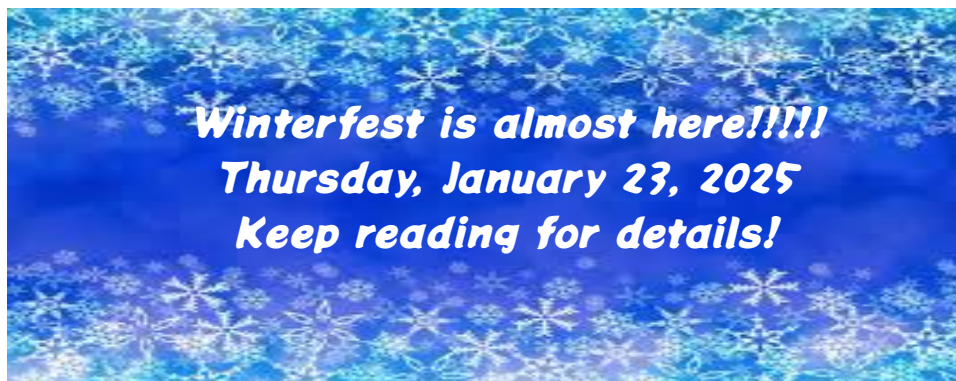
For information please contact your child's teacher or call the school office.

Thank you.



Roses and plushies for sale:

Are you coming to the January Jingle? If yes, celebrate the performance with a Fundraising opportunity! The School Council will be offering Roses and Plushies for sale on the night of the January Jingle, Thursday, January 16. Funds raised will support the school's Music program.





You're Invited!

JANUARY 23, 2025

WINTERFEST

@ *Elder's Mills*

ACTIVITIES FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY
BAKE SALE*, PHOTOBOOTH*, CRAFT TABLES,
STORYTIME CORNER, HENNA*, FACE PAINTING,
GAMES, COLOURING WALL, RAFFLES*, USED
BOOK SALE*, AMAZING RACE, DJ & KARAOKE,
DANCING AND MORE!

TIME: 6PM - 8PM / ADMISSION: \$2

Visit School Cash Online now to
purchase your admission, pizza
tickets, and Winterbucks!

this is a family event brought to
you by your school council

* Winterbuck required activity

What is Winterfest?

Winterfest is a family event hosted by the School Council for Elder's Mills families.

There are many different activities planned for this evening, some included with the price of admission and others offered for a fee. All events on-site will require 'Winterbucks'.

'Winterbucks', admission tickets and pizza need to be pre-ordered on School Cash online.

- ★ Admission is \$2.00
- ★ Pizza slice is \$3.50
- ★ Winterbucks are \$1.00 each

A detailed outline of the activities and 'Winterbucks' is available on [School Cash Online](#).

Ways you can help make Winterfest a success:

- **Themed Baskets**
 - All classes have been invited to come up with a theme for a basket to be raffled off at Winterfest
 - Families are invited to donate items related to the chosen theme
 - How can you help?
 - Donate an item or items for the theme selected by your child's class
 - Donate your time to help put the baskets together
 - Connect with School Council at elders.mills.ps@sc.yrdsb.ca if you would like to help
- **Bake Sale**
 - Volunteer to bake and donate the treats to be sold at the Winterfest Bake sale
 - Connect with Winterfest organizer Sonia, see Bake Sale poster below for details
- **Used Books**
 - Send in your gently loved but no longer used books to be offered for sale at Winterfest
- **Volunteer to run an activity at the Winterfest**
 - There are so many activities available to be offered, volunteers are needed to support them; for example help with Henna art, Arts and Crafts, Bake Sale, Used Books, Wall art, Games and more.
 - Reach out to the School Council at elders.mills.ps@sc.yrdsb.ca if you can help or if perhaps you have a high school student interested in earning volunteer hours
- **And... Most importantly, join us for a night of family fun filled with Elder's Mills school Spirit! Way to go Eagles.**

Fundraising and Winterfest

Funds raised by this event support goals in the school's fundraising plan which includes providing and supporting enhancements in areas such as technology, Music, Arts, Library, STEM, and student experiences such as field trips, workshops, events and more.



Keeping busy @ EMPS!

Our first week back did not slow us down! Extra-curricular activities are up and running each day at recesses in the morning and at lunch time. Students are reminded to listen to the morning announcements for the days' sessions. This information is also on display in the school's main hall TV monitor. Many of the clubs offered need registration and are supported by parent volunteers and teaching staff. Merci! Way to Go Eagles!

Here is a sample of this past week's activities:

Week 17- Friday, January 10, 2025

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Morning Recess	- Intermediate Boys Basketball Practice at 10:25AM	-Intermediate Girls Basketball Practice at 10:25AM	The Rainbow project, will meet during morning recess in Room 210 - please bring your snack. -Intermediate Boys Basketball Practice at 10:25AM	-Intermediate Girls Basketball Practice at 10:25AM	-Intermediate Boys Basketball Practice at 10:25AM
Lunch Recess	Junior Girls Volleyball Practice. Please meet in front of the gym at 12:55. Do not come to the gym before 12:55. Red Band will begin next week Chess Club for a primary and junior division	Soaring Eagles Concert Band Meeting in Music Room @ Lunch Recess Dance Club for a primary and junior division Junior Boys Volleyball Practice. Please meet in front of the gym at 12:55. Do not come to the gym before 12:55.	Gr 6-8 Chess Club is at 12:55 in the art room. Junior Girls Volleyball Practice. Please meet in front of the gym at 12:55. Do not come to the gym before 12:55. Chess club for a primary and junior division	Junior Boys Volleyball Practice. Please meet in front of the gym at 12:55. Do not come before 12:55 Creative Club for a primary and junior division	Newspaper club at 12:55 in Room 206 Green Band will begin next week -Intermediate Girls Basketball Practice at 12:55PM Coding Club for a primary and junior division

Notes from the Office:

Contact Information

We ask families to ensure the school office has the most up-to-date contact information. This is important in case of emergencies and to ensure you receive important school communications. If your contact information has changed, please contact the school office. This includes phone numbers, addresses and email addresses.

Important Reminders for Student Safe Arrival Procedures

We would like to remind families to report any student absences and ask that you contact the school to inform office staff of any absences. At Elder's Mills, absences can be reported in EDSBY, by calling the school or with an email to the school's attendance inbox: elders.mills.ps.attendance@yrdsb.ca



As per [Board Policy and Procedures #665.0. Safe Arrivals and Departures – Elementary and Secondary Students](#), if your child's absence is still not verified even after exhausting different steps to connect with the family, York Regional Police will be contacted and may be dispatched to your residence.

We remind parent(s)/guardian(s) to update the school with all emergency contact information when changes are made. Thank you for your cooperation in reporting student absences.

Requests for information - Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: Canada Revenue Agency has asked me to provide proof of attendance: how do I get this information?



A: Please send an email to elders.mill.ps@yrdsb.ca and provide details about the information being requested. A member of the school office team will provide you with a Parent Information letter and a copy/copies of the information requested. They will reach out to you when the request is ready for pickup.

Q: My child's physician is requesting that my child's teacher complete a survey to support next steps in their care; what do I need to do?

A: Teachers may complete surveys and forms requested by parents for clinical, medical needs. The completion of these forms is voluntary. Prior to providing this information, the school must receive a completed 'Request to Exchange Information form' from the parent/guardian. Please connect with your child's teacher to request this form prior to sending them the survey. Please expect that when these forms are completed by the teacher they will be forwarded directly to the requesting physician/clinician.

Kiss'n' Ride

- Entry into the school lot and moving through the drop off zone is **one lane and one way only**. Vehicles may not pass other vehicles through this area.
- Drivers **stop at the designated drop off point along the curb/sidewalk** lining the area by the fenced in play yard.
- Students **disembark when the vehicle reaches the designated drop off point and not before**. They should exit the vehicle as quickly and independently as possible.
- Students disembark from the passenger side and onto the sidewalk area.
- Vehicles do not pull out and drive off until the vehicle in front of them moves forward.



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. Send them to school with changes of clothes (socks, hats, mitts) and indoor shoes. Thank you.



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!



Please join us!

Our next School Council meeting is Thursday, February 6, 2025. You may attend in person at the school library or virtually at a link provided as the meeting date approaches. Child-minding is also available.

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



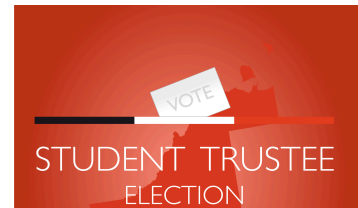
Winterfest is HERE!!

- ★ Thursday, January 23, 2025
- ★ At Elder's Mills PS!
- ★ Details and tickets available on [school cash online!](#)
- ★ We need your support with Winterfest events!
- ★ Reach out to elders.mills.ps@sc.yrdsb.ca to connect. Merci!

Messages from YRDSB

Students can vote now for Student Trustees

Students in Grades 5-12 will have an opportunity January 13-17 to participate in voting for the student trustee candidate who will represent our geographic area of the school board.



How to Vote

All students in Grades 5-12 will receive an email in their GAPPS account.

The email will include a link to a Google site where they will find information about candidates in our area, and a link to a form where they can submit their vote. Voting closes on January 17 at 8:00 p.m.

One candidate will be selected by students to represent each of the four areas of the school board in the final vote. In the final vote, scheduled for February, students can vote for two candidates who will represent them during the next school year.

Student Trustees

Student trustees play an important role representing students in the school board. They network with students, staff and the Board of Trustees to share information that gives students a meaningful voice.

This is an important opportunity for students to participate in the student trustee elections and vote for the students who will represent their voice, so we encourage students to check their email and take the time to vote.

Learn more about the role and the election process at www.yrdsb.ca/studenttrustees.

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.

January is Tamil Heritage Month

On October 5, 2016, Motion M-24 was passed in the Federal Parliament, officially proclaiming January as Tamil Heritage Month in Canada. Tamil Heritage Month aims to celebrate the richness of the Tamil language and its literature and highlight Tamil Canadians' vibrant traditions, histories, arts, and cultures. In addition, it seeks to recognize the significant contributions of Tamil Canadians in key areas of social, cultural, economic, and political Spheres.



Also, of significance is January 15, 2024. According to the Tamil calendar, January 15, 2024, begins the month of "Thai." On this day, people of Tamil heritage celebrate Thai Pongal, the Tamil harvest festival. Thai Pongal is the most important and widely-celebrated festival amongst Tamils around the globe. Thai Pongal is a time to give thanks for the previous year's blessings and a time to look forward to the new year.



Educators for Tamil Students' Success
invites you to:

TAMIL HERITAGE MONTH LAUNCH

A memorable evening on
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2025

[Register Here](#)



AT
MAPLE HIGH SCHOOL
50 Springside Rd, Maple

FROM 4:30 - 7:30 PM

**Arts & Literature Workshops, Cultural Performances
and refreshments**

Contact: Suhitta.prakalathan@yrdsb.ca





ELEMENTARY TAMIL STUDENT CONFERENCE

YRDSB brought to you in partnership with:
Educators for Tamil Student Success
Tamil Canadian Centre for Civic Action
Tamil Youth Organization.

WORKSHOPS

Each student delegate from grades 5 to 8 will attend
4 workshops:

- Ancient Art of Parai
- Our Identities
- Let's Get Cooking
- Kilithatu

Lunch Provided

THE EVENT WILL START ON

01
Feb, 2025

**Milliken
Mills HS**

9:30am - 2:30pm

[Click here to register](#)

For more information contact:

Contact Us

Sujeetha Thillaiampalam, Dr. G. W. Williams, sujeetha.thillaiampalam@yrdsb.ca

Dooshiv Thuraiarajasingham, Wismer P.S., dooshiv.thuraiarajasingham@yrdsb.ca

Nageswary Srikumaraguru, Inclusive School and Community Services,

nageswary.srikumaraguru@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, January 27, 2025
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:

- Inclusion Activity
- Course Selection and Pathway Planning
- 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

BUILDING HEALTHY KIDS

This winter reboot your family's routine!

A new year is here, and it's a great time to think about your family's routines!

As you start to think about your family's goals for 2025 be realistic. Make sure to incorporate things you already enjoy, build upon on what's already working well, and be patient with yourself and your kids.



Help your family to continue building healthy habits for 2025 through daily movement, nutritious meals, and mental health promotion strategies you can use with your children all year round! During the winter months, try foods to keep you warm including soups, stews, casseroles, curries, and chili. Enjoy some family meals together and cooking with your children – it's a great way to connect, spend time together, and learn new skills.

If you are thinking about getting more active, consider getting outdoors to play! When children and youth are outside, they move more, get curious, and find joy. Interacting with nature, even when it is cold outside, has many benefits. It helps restore our ability to concentrate and pay attention. It improves mood, focus and our stress response. Remember to dress for the weather, it's the first step to enjoying being outside and the best way to do this is to layer clothing you can remove easily when it is warmer or put back on when it becomes colder. Make sure gaps such as wrists, ankles, neck, back and waist are covered and even though it is winter - don't forget sunscreen and sunglasses!

If you find things are tough at the start of the new year for you or your family, you can try breathing, visualization, muscle relaxation, journaling, listening to music, practising gratitude to help you cope. Try a variety of activities to see what works best. As a parent or caregiver, it is essential to take care of yourself, so you can care and support others. Your self care will help improve your energy, focus, ability to cope with challenges and you will be a model to your children.

For more tips on how you can reboot your family's routine this winter routine visit york.ca/HealthyKids.

Public Health

1-877-464-9675
TTY 1-866-512-6228
york.ca/HealthyKids



Professional Activity Day Plans - Friday, January 17, 2025

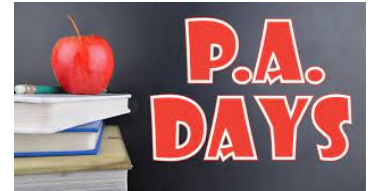
Length: Full Day

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

Entity Hosting: All Elementary Schools

Presenter(s)/Facilitator(s): Educators

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



On the Horizon....

January

Character Trait: Optimism

16 Primary Winter Concert!

17 PA Day - No classes for students

23 Winterfest

27 Holocaust Remembrance Day (UN)

29 Lunar New Year

30 PA Day - No classes for students
