



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!

Coding and STEM:

Lunch hour and class time are filled with STEM, construction and coding activities for our Intermediate students as they work through challenges in preparation for the Ontario Skills Challenge competition!



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 are initiated by students and supported by the teaching staff. Way to Go Eagles!

Here is a sample of this week's activities:

| Extra-Curricular Activities | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|--|---|---|---|
| | Day 1 | Day 2 | Day 3 Waste free Wednesday! | Day 4 | Day 5 |
| Morning Recess | Lego Robotics Coding Club Intermediate GIRLS Basketball Practice@10:30AM | -Lego Robotics Coding Club Intermediate BOYS Basketball Practice@10:30AM Clay Club in room 124 | -GSA meeting at 10:25am in Room 119, please bring your snack (every day 3) -Origami Club every Day 3 in Portable 1, Mme O'Driscoll's class. Please bring your own paper Cube-ing Club - Grades 3&4 in Room 113. Bring your Rubik's Cubes! Intermediate GIRLS Basketball Practice@10:30AM | Rainbow Club (every day 4 - snack recess) - Room 124 Cube-ing Club - Grades 3&4 in Room 113. Bring your Rubik's Cubes! Intermediate BOYS Basketball Practice@10:30AM | Crafting Club every day 5 at snack recess in Room 112 with Mme Weekes Intermediate GIRLS Basketball Practice@10:30AM |
| Lunch Recess | Lego Robotics Coding Club | Lego Robotics Coding Club Soaring Eagles Concert Band Rehearsal - Lunch Recess (every day 2) Junior Volleyball Practice. Please see posted schedule for details. Meet in the gym at 12:55. | -Newspaper Club in Room 206 (will resume next week on January 17 - day 3) -Reading Club at the library 2-3 and 4 every day 3 Junior Volleyball Practice. Please see posted schedule for details. Meet in the gym at 12:55. | Healthy & Eco Schools Club - Library Open to Gr 4-8 (every day 4) - bring a chromebook Junior Volleyball Practice. Please see posted schedule for details. Meet in the gym at 12:55. | Slime Club every day 5 at lunch recess in Room 112 with Mme Weekes EMPS Beginning Concert Band Rehearsal - Lunch Recess (every day 5) Junior Volleyball Practice. Please see posted |

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.





VAUGHAN TAMILS' HERITAGE & CULTURAL ORGANIZATION
invites you to the Thai Pongal

York Region DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Tamil HERITAGE MONTH GALA

FREE ADMISSION
FREE ADMISSION
FREE ADMISSION

An Evening Filled with Traditional Performances, Moving, Speeches and Reflection

JANUARY
20
2024

Saturday @
5.30 PM Doors Open
Venue:
MAPLE HIGH SCHOOL
50 Springside Rd, Maple, ON L6A 2W5

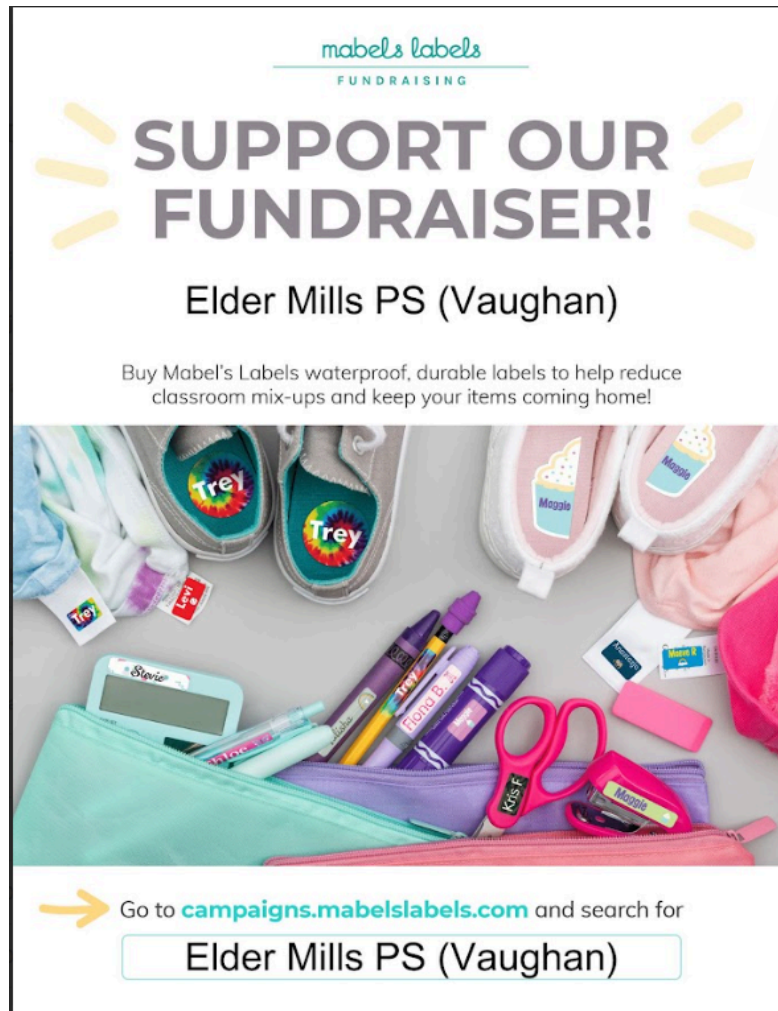
For Contact: 437.433.8800
Anpalagan (Kannan): 416.893.9342
Nagulan: 416.559.1260
www.vaughantamils.ca

School
Council

Please join us!

Our next School Council meeting is Monday, January 15, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. in the library. If you'd like to join us remotely, you may access the link through the school's web pages here: [School Council meeting](#)

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.




mabel's labels
FUNDRAISING

SUPPORT OUR FUNDRAISER!

Elder Mills PS (Vaughan)

Buy Mabel's Labels waterproof, durable labels to help reduce classroom mix-ups and keep your items coming home!



Go to campaigns.mabelslabels.com and search for

Elder Mills PS (Vaughan)



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](#)

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.

Notes From The Office:

Covid and Self-Screening:

Families are reminded that students should continue to self-screen before attending school using the [Covid Self-Assessment Screening tool](#). The assessment is taken when there are symptoms of illness and will provide a recommendation on whether or not your child should remain home.

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.

Do you need to pick your child up before the end of the school day?

Here are a few tips and guidelines to remember:

- **Pick up during instructional time:**
 - Your child will remain in class until you arrive
 - When you arrive, please buzz the front door and the office staff will call your child
 - Allow yourself wait time
- **Recess or Lunch**
 - Students are outside from 10:40 - 10:55 and 12:55 - 1:35
 - Arrive before or after these times if picking up your child to avoid prolonged waiting as your child will need to be paged from outdoor recess
- **Between 3:00 - 3:15 p.m.**
 - The office will not be calling students out of class at this time; you will need to wait
 - Pull up into the Kiss'n'Ride and your child will come out to you at 3:15



Bus Loop- NO ENTRY!!!

The first and most important priority for the use of this area is for the arrival and departure of school buses and the disembarking and loading of our students, your children, onto the buses at arrival and dismissal.

Vehicles WILL NOT enter the bus loop:

- When there is a bus present in the loop at any time
- Between 8:20 - 9:00 a.m.
- Between 3:00 - 3:45 p.m.



If you are driving your child to school, use the Kiss n Ride entry on Rota avenue. **DO NOT use the bus lane.**

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



Winter

Lunch Assistant Needed

If you or anyone you know would like to be a PAID Lunch Assistant please contact the office. We are seeking people to supervise students while they are eating lunch and then playing outside at recess. The commitment is one hour per day.

Lunch Assistants play a very important role in our school. Please email the school at elders.mills.ps@yrdsb.ca if you are interested.



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.



Week 17- Friday, January 12, 2024

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.

Professional Activity Day Plans - Friday, January 19, 2023

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.





Groups

Winter 2024

Parenting

Triple P 0-12

Triple P stands for Positive Parenting Program. This unique group has been proven to be effective in providing parents with tools to help their children with behavioural and emotional problems. This group is 8 weeks in length and requires the completion of a workbook and weekly homework tasks. Apply online at: www.fsyrr.ca/contact/get-started. A pre-group interview is required. Call Janice at 905-895-2371 ext. 108. Groups are virtual and require a \$35 workbook purchase.

Dates:

- English: 8 Thursdays, January 18 to March 7, 2024, Time: 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM
- Farsi: 8 Wednesdays, January 10 to February 28, 2024, Time: 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM
- Mandarin: TBD

Triple P Teen

Triple P stands for Positive Parenting Program. This unique group has been proven to be effective in providing parents with tools to help their teens with behavioural and emotional problems. This group is 8 weeks long and requires a workbook and weekly homework tasks. Apply online at: www.fsyrr.ca/contact/get-started. A pre-group interview is required. Call Janice at 905-895-2371 ext. 108. Groups are virtual and require a \$35 workbook purchase.

Dates:

- English: 8 Tuesdays, February 13 to April 9, 2024, Time: 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Fearless Triple P

This 6–8-week group is for parents of children 6-14 who are experiencing anxiety. Fearless Triple P supports parents and helps them to learn new cognitive behavioural strategies for anxiety management, encouraging them to apply these themselves for all their children. Apply online at: www.fsyrr.ca/contact/get-started. A pre-group interview is required. Call Janice at 905-895-2371 ext. 108. Groups are virtual and require a \$35 workbook purchase.

Dates:

- English: 6 Mondays, January 15 to February 19, 2024, Time: 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Family Transitions Triple P

This 5-week group promotes a healthy transition for parents going through separation or divorce. This course will address co-parenting, being a single parent, self-care and is designed to help parents manage the anger and resentment that often accompanies relationship breakdown. Apply online at: www.fsyrr.ca/contact/get-started. A pre-group interview is required. Call Janice at 905-895-2371 ext.108. Groups are virtual and require a \$35 workbook purchase.

Dates:

- English: 5 Tuesdays, January 9 to February 6, 2024, Time: 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

South Asian Outreach Program

South Asian Women's Support Groups

Ongoing virtual programs for South Asian Women. Topics include parenting, health & nutrition, family stress, immigration and legal information, health, exercise, Yoga, employment, and various other topics. Free.

Dates:

- **Urdu, Punjabi, Hindi & English: Thursdays, January to March 2024 Time: 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM**
Contact: 647-224-2083 to register
- **Hindi, Punjabi, Gujarati, Urdu & English: TBD**
Contact: 416 818 7075 to register

Groups for Adults

Emotion Regulation and Interpersonal Skills Development

An 8-week group for adults that focuses on skill development and experiential learning in the areas of emotion regulation and interpersonal relationships. This is an integrated and evidence-informed program where participants will learn and practice such skills as managing difficult feelings, using positive coping strategies, communication, assertiveness and setting healthy boundaries. Together in a supportive space, participants will help work through common life stressors. Apply online at: www.fsyrr.ca/contact/get-started. This group is virtual and requires a \$150 registration fee.

Dates:

- **English: 8 Thursdays, January 25 to March 14, 2024, Time: 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM**

Groups for Women

Farsi Women's Support Group

This virtual Free program will focus on self-confidence, assertiveness, communication skills, parenting, healthy relationships, immigration and settlement issues, self-care, health, and wellness, and will explore community resources. Apply online at: https://www.fsyrr.ca/farsi_womens_groups_application or call Poopeh at 647-243-9646 Monday or Wednesday.

Dates:

- **Farsi: 6 Wednesdays, March 28 to May 2, 2024, Time: 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM**

Groups for Youth

Emotion Regulation and Interpersonal Skills Development

This is an 8-week program for youth 13 to 17 years of age that focuses on skill development and experiential learning in the areas of emotion regulation and interpersonal relationships. This is an integrated and evidence informed program where teens will learn and practice skills such as identifying feelings, regulating emotions, positive coping strategies, communication, self-compassion/self-esteem, and assertiveness, and understanding boundaries. Apply online at: www.fsyrr.ca/contact/get-started. A pre-group interview is required. Groups are virtual and require a \$20 registration fee.

Dates:

- English: 8 Tuesdays, January 16 to March 5, 2024, Time: 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM

2SLGBTQ+ Groups

Transgender Support Group (Adults 18+)

A free monthly program for those questioning/exploring their gender identity or wanting more support during their journey. This group provides a safe environment to talk about things that matter and learn more about community resources. This group is free with in-person and virtual options. Call Liway at 905-895-2371 ext. 137 or register online at: www.fsyrr.ca/contact/get-started.

Dates:

- English: Fourth Thursday of each month, Time: 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM

Free to Be

This is a free virtual group for parents/caregivers of gender diverse children, regardless of age, which meets once a month. Free to Be offers an opportunity to meet for support and education. The goal of this program is to destigmatize gender diversity. Call Liway at 905-895-2371 ext. 137 or register online at: www.fsyrr.ca/contact/get-started.

Dates:

- English: Third Wednesday of each month, Time: 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM

Gender Galaxies

A free 8-week virtual group for youth 12 to 17 exploring their gender identity and gender expression. Learn about and discuss topics such as: self-care, self-advocacy, media, dysphoria, body image, coming out, gender affirming care and intersectionality. This group is free with in-person and virtual options. Call Liway at 905-895-2371 ext. 137 or register online at: www.fsyrr.ca/contact/get-started.

Dates:

- English: 8 Thursdays, February 1 to March 21, 2024, Time: 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM

On the Horizon....

January

Character Trait: Optimism

15 School Council meeting

17 Woodbridge College visits EMPS - Grade 8s

19 PA Day - School closed to students



Wishing you a happy weekend!

Eugenia Korinis and *Ayesha Mondal*

Principal

Vice-Principal