

Week 18- Friday, January 17, 2025



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!

It's
Here

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, MUSIC, 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'. Admission and Winterbucks are no longer available for purchase on School Cash online.

Ways you can help make Winterfest a success:

- **Themed Baskets - ALL DONATIONS FOR BASKETS DUE MONDAY, JANUARY 20!**
 - 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 - WE NEED YOUR BAKING TALENTS!!!**
 - **Calling All Amateur (or Pro) Bakers!**
 - We are excited to be selling baked goods donated by our Parent/School Community at **WinterFest 2025**. Thank you to all who already signed up!
 - Please let us know if you plan to bring any items (no nuts please). We are looking for variety and would love to include items with cultural significance, as well.
 - Don't miss this chance to showcase your baking abilities or cultural yummys! *Purchased items without nuts will not be refused :)*
 - *We are asking for ingredients to be emailed to us in advance so we can have them on-hand. Full recipe is a bonus :)
 - 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.



Notes from the Office - Worth Repeating...

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.mills.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!



School
Council

Upcoming Events to Watch For:

- ★ Jan 23rd WinterFest
- ★ Feb 6th Next School Council Meeting

- ★ Meetings Open to All School Community Members
- ★ Feb 11th Coffee Drop-In (10:30am-12)

If you wish to connect with School Council, please email elders.mills.ps@sc.yrdsb.ca

Messages from YRDSB

Dear families,

*Please see this important **message from York Region Public Health** about [reducing the spread of respiratory infections in schools](#).*

*For your information, here is information about learning that school staff will be participating in on the upcoming **elementary and secondary school PA Day** (except for Bill Crothers S.S.) on January 31, 2025. As usual, students do not attend school on PA Days. This information is also [available on our Board website](#).*

Elementary Schools

Length: Full Day – AM & PM

Topic: Violence Prevention and Intervention, and Achievement of Learning Outcomes

Entity Hosting: Elementary Schools

Presenter(s)/Facilitator(s): Educators

Description: Full Day of Professional activities focused on violence prevention tools and techniques, and equitable assessment practices and assessment in mathematics

Winter Weather

With winter weather here, we want to share a few important reminders.

Dress for the weather

Students should come dressed appropriately for the weather and for outdoor play. Students can stay warm by wearing layers of loose-fitting clothing, a hat, scarf, jackets, snow pants and mittens or gloves. Students may also want to bring extra pants and socks in case they get wet.



Recess

If students are well enough to come to school, they are expected to go outside for recess. Our students benefit from spending time outside and being active. We monitor weather conditions

throughout the day. If there are extreme weather conditions, we may consider a shortened or indoor recess.

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](#).

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.



Student Mental and Addictions Newsletter - January

Continuing the Journey: Supporting Mental Health and Well-Being

As we step into this new season together, we are reminded that every journey is unique. Whether we're celebrating milestones, tackling challenges, or simply finding our rhythm after the winter break, this time of year offers a chance to reflect and grow. Read more at this link: [Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter - January 2024 | York Region District School Board](#)



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

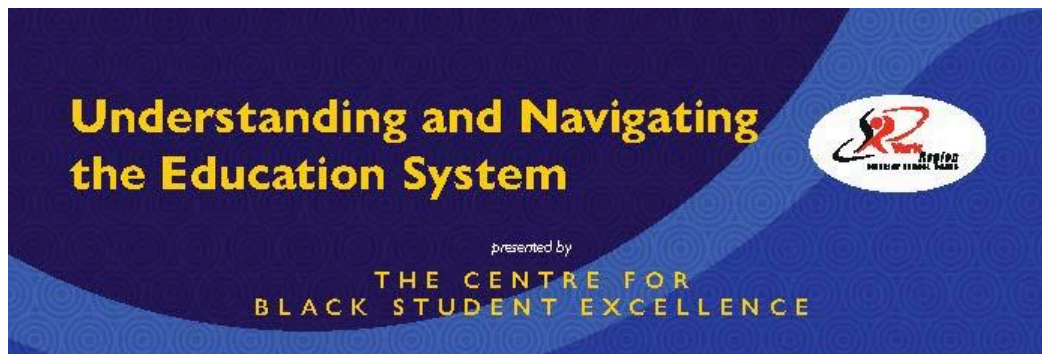
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Feb, 2025

**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



**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

In the Community

York Region Recreation Day Camps - Youth Overnight Camps Subsidies 2025

PLAY recreation programs, summer day camp and youth overnight camp subsidies provide children from families with low income the ability to take part in programs offered by the municipal recreation departments. More information on the [website](#).



On the Horizon....

January

Character Trait: Optimism
Tamil Heritage Month

23 Winterfest
27 Holocaust Remembrance Day (UN)
29 National Day of Remembrance of the
Quebec City Mosque Attack and Action
Against Islamophobia
29 Lunar New Year
30 PA Day - No classes for students

February

6 School Council meeting
11 Graduation Photos
11 School Council Coffee Drop-in
17 Family Day

Lunar New Year

Lunar New Year is a vibrant and meaningful cultural celebration embraced by many communities around the world. While it is particularly significant for individuals of East and Southeast Asian heritage, as well as other members of the Asian diaspora, its joyful spirit resonates with diverse cultures and families globally. This festive occasion marks the first day of the Lunar Calendar, with dates determined by the moon's cycles, typically falling between late January and early February. For some, this time of year also holds deep religious significance.

