



Elder's Mills: The Eagle Eye
Soaring on Wings of Character, Community and Diversity
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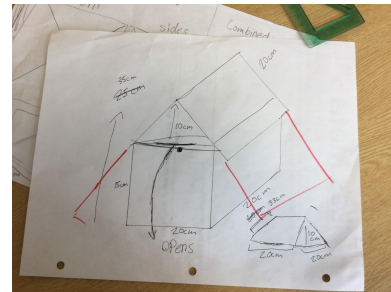


Trustee Dr. Elizabeth Sinclair	Superintendent Otilia Olteanu	Principal Eugenia Korinis	Vice-Principal Omari White	Office Admin Team Cathy Consiglio Stella Ditri
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What's Happening @ EMPS!

STEM and Skills in Grade 7 @ EMPS

Our Grade 7 classes rose up to the challenge of building structurally sound structures using found materials. Students are preparing for the Ontario Skills Challenge competition.



This week @ EMPS:

Monday, January 30th	Forest of Reading
Tuesday, January 31st	
Wednesday, February 1st	Skills Ontario Presentation Grades 7 & 8
Thursday, February 2nd	Intermediate Speech Competition
Friday, February 3rd	P.A. Day - School closed to students

Week 19- Friday, January 27, 2023

What else is happening at EMPS?

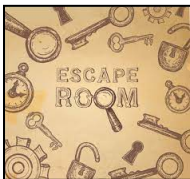
Our students keep very busy at lunch and recess and during class time, of course! We have many extra-curricular activities ongoing at various times throughout the week. Here is a glimpse of what's on, shared in our Announcements this week:

Extra-Curricular Activities- January					
	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Recess	Equity Club - Room 207 with Mr. Kouri Dance Club- Grade 4's- library - Intermediate Boys Basketball practice 10:25-10:55	-Equity Club - Room 207 with Mr. Kouri -GSA for Grade 6-8 - Library with Mme Hill (starts at 10:25am - bring your snack)	Primary French reading club room Rm 122 - Gr 3/4 - Intermediate Girls Basketball practice 10:25-10:55	- Intermediate Boys Basketball practice 10:25-10:55	Intermediate Girls Basketball practice 10:25-10:55
Lunch recess	Glee Club 12:55 - 1:35pm (Music Room)	Eco Club will meet on Feb 2 in the library - 12:55-13:35 Wanna do some drama? Come in Room 129@ 12:55pm. - Intermediate Boys and girls Basketball practice	- Intermediate Boys Basketball practice 12:55 - 1:35	-Arts Club - Nosib Room 129- Gr. 2-5 -Newspaper Club Library 12:55 - 1:35	Intermediate Boys Basketball practice 12:55-1:35pm Yearbook meeting Rm 212 @ 12:55pm Bring your chromebook



NEW Meeting dates:

Thank you for joining us at our School Council meeting this week. Meeting presentations can be found on the [School Council pages of the school website](#). Our next meeting dates are planned for: Thursday, March 23rd and Thursday, May 4th.



Escape Room Event - Thursday, February 16th, 2023

This fundraising event will support STEM activities at Elder's Mills PS. Families work together to 'escape' a room, using a series of clues. Details coming soon!

WinterFest - Thursday, March 9th, 2023

Join us for an event filled with food and fun! Activities such as musical entertainment from our very own student groups, raffles, games, crafts, face painting, and more! Details coming soon!





We need you!

If you are available to volunteer your time to support these or other events, please email School Council at elders.mills.ps@sc.yrdsb.ca

Message from Our Trustee

February 2023

I hope everyone has had a wonderful start to 2023, and enjoyed their winter break.

One of the most important roles of school board trustees is communicating with the public. I hope to use this newsletter as one way to keep you updated on Board news, to communicate my role as trustee and how I can support you, and to answer some of the questions I am often asked as a trustee.

Communicating with the public includes both sharing information and attending events to build relationships with families, but also ensuring I am available to you. If you have questions about Board policies or budget, concerns about your community, ideas and suggestions, or have a question and don't know [who to call](#), please feel free to reach out. I am happy to assist you.

Please find the full newsletter attached to this communication. Thank you.

Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter - February

Feeling the Warmth in Winter

Dear Families,

In this edition we will focus on acknowledging both the transition and limitations of the Winter season. As many highschool students have finished exams and begin a new semester and our elementary school students continue to grow and develop, we hope to share some tips for maximizing enjoyment with your family, and ways to find support at this time. We will also be sharing some helpful tips about March Break, Family day, and available recreational community resources.



[Link to Newsletter here](#)

February is Black History Month:

The celebration of Black History Month has been a part of Canadian society since the 1950s. Lieutenant Governor Hal Jackman declared February as Black History Month in Ontario in 1993, and in 1995, the Honorable Jean Augustine made the same declaration in the House of Parliament in Ottawa.





These declarations set the stage for acknowledging the contributions of Black people of African Heritage to the cultural, economic, political and social fabric of Canada dating back to the early 1600s. They have also increased our awareness that people of African and Caribbean Heritage are an integral part of Canadian history.

During the month of February, we deliberately reflect upon the legacy of African history in all its diversity, and we join all Canadians in celebrating Black History Month. During this month we are able to appreciate the significance of African people in world history by centering people of African, Caribbean, and Canadian heritage, famous and not so famous, who have influenced the nation and the world through their ideas, words and actions.

Celebrating Black History Month Events

* Dates and Events subject to change

Student Events and Family Engagement (please share with your school community)	
Date and Time	Event Information
February 24, 2023	Family Cookout with Chef Maxine Knight - Open to All: Student & Families Register Here Virtual or In person Experience Details to be shared upon registration
February 2, 2023	Virtual Storytime For the Family By Sandra Whiting- Open to All Students and Families in K-6 Register Here Virtual or In person Experience Details to be shared upon registration
February 17, 2023	Black Excellence Program Master Class 2 Secondary Self-Identifying Black Students in YRDSB Schools Register Here
February 23, 2023 9:00-2:00p.m.	In Conversation with MARKTD, Dion Walcott and Dr.D'Wayne Edwards at York University for Self-Identifying Black Students Gr. 7 -12 York University Trip- Specific Schools Register Here
February 28, 2023	Black Excellence Program, Elementary- Specific Schools Register Here

Live registration links to the above events are listed below:

[Family Cookout](#)

[Virtual Storytime](#)

[Black Excellence Program Master Class](#)

[In Conversation with MARKTD](#)

[Black Excellence Program - Elementary](#)

Green Square Campaign - The National Day of Remembrance of the Quebec City Mosque Attack:



January 29 is the The National Day of Remembrance of the Quebec City Mosque Attack and Action Against Islamophobia. YRDSB joins Muslim communities across York Region and Canada in mourning and in standing together against Islamophobia and anti-Muslim hate.

On January 29, 2017, a tragic and violent act of anti-Muslim hate took place at the Islamic Cultural Centre of Quebec City. A gunman opened fire on worshipers, killing 6 and seriously injuring many more. In 2022, the federal government officially designated January 29 as a National Day of Remembrance of the Quebec City Mosque Attack and Action Against Islamophobia. The National Day of Remembrance of the Quebec City Mosque Attack and Action Against Islamophobia serves as a reminder of the importance of taking an unwavering stand against all forms of hate, racism, and discrimination and the work needed to recognize and eradicate anti-Muslim hate.

We encourage [your participation] in the National Council of Canadian Muslims' (NCCM) [Green Square Campaign](#).

Please see below a list of culturally responsive supports to support families:

- [Khalil Center](#): is a psychological and spiritual community wellness center advancing the professional practice of psychology rooted in Islamic principles.
- [Cedarway Therapy](#): trained and experienced clinicians from diverse backgrounds, speaking different languages (English, French, Arabic, Urdu, Gujarati, Hindi, Punjabi), and offering culturally and spiritually responsive services.
- [Naseeha](#): provides an anonymous, non-judgmental, confidential and toll-free peer support helpline for youth experiencing personal challenges. Naseeha's services are open to all regardless of age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, family makeup, social status, income, ability, physical and mental health, and religion.



Inclusive School and Community Services

Federal Housing Benefit for Renters Who Qualify

The Federal Government has introduced a one-time, \$500 tax-free benefit.

- **It is for low-income renters who:**
 - Have an Adjusted Family Net Income (AFNI) for 2021 of \$35,000 or less for families, or \$20,000 or less for individuals.
 - Spent at least 30% of their adjusted family net income on renting their principal residence in Canada in 2022

This is a one-time benefit administered by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).

- To be eligible you do not need to already be receiving other housing benefits
- **Applications are open until Friday March 31, 2023.**

For eligibility and additional details please visit:

[One Time Canada Housing Benefit for Renters](#)

If you have any additional questions please contact:

Yvonne Kelly,
Community and Partnership Developer,
Regional Portfolio on Poverty/Intersections of Poverty
Inclusive School and Community Services
yvonne.kelly@yrdsb.ca
(905) 895-5155 ext.5124

[Link to web pages here](#)



Meet and Greet for Farsi Speaking Families at Alexander Mackenzie H.S.

By attending this Farsi session, you will:

- Meet with a psychotherapist and psychologist and learn about healthy relationships between parents and students and various relevant topics for future workshops
- Meet with the school Social Worker and learn about mental health services for students within the YRDSB
- Meet with the Afghan/Iranian Community and Partnership Developer
- Learn more about your child's report card, board policies and communication with the school
- Learn about the education system
- Participate in a survey for future workshops

Speakers from Inclusive School and Community Services, Mental Health & Psychology Services, Alexander Mackenzie H.S., and partners from Family Services York Region and Settlement and Education Partnership in York Region.

Date: February 15, 2023

Time: 6:00pm - 7:30pm

Location: Alexander Mackenzie H.S

For more information, please contact: Maryam Jariani (Afghan/Iranian CPD)

maryam.jariani@yrdsb.ca 905-727-0022ext. 3512



RAISING CONFIDENT COMPETENT CHILDREN

Let's talk about it!

Kids don't come with an instruction manual! Many familiar parenting problems have very simple solutions that can be applied with some effort and focus. Triple P's easy-to-understand and practical strategies have been shown to help families in all types of situations.



January 31, 2023 | 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

**We welcome parents, guardians, caregivers and community members
to attend these virtual sessions!**

Register Today!

This session will focus on how to ensure a safe and engaging environment for children by:

- Encouraging respect and cooperating
- Learning to be independent
- Learning how to develop healthy self-esteem
- Available resources and supports in the community.

Facilitator: Uma Bhatt, R.S.W. York Hills Centre for Children, Youth and Families



This free parent presentation is brought to you in a collaborative partnership with York Region District School Board and York Hills Centre for Children, Youth and Families.

For more information:

Oksana Majaski, Community & Partnership Developer, YRDSB

Oksana.majaski@yrdsb.ca

[Register here](#)



Inclusive School and Community Services is hosting A Guardian/Parent Engagement Event

Advocacy and Allyship

YRDSB is hosting a 3 part Information series that looks at how to engage and help build shared solutions. Families will build on knowledge about discrimination, racism, bias, stereotypes and how to advocate and become an ally.

1. Understanding and Challenging our Bias

Learn how to understand and challenge our biases. Challenge our Comfort Zones in order to change and grow in a positive direction. Connect with other parents and caregivers and share our ideas and experiences.

Presented by: Shafiq Aziz from Harmony Movement

When: January 31st 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

2. Recognizing and Responding to Hate

Learn how to recognize and respond to hate and discrimination, through looking at data, talking through examples and further understanding bias.

Presented by: Shafiq Aziz from Harmony Movement

When: February 22nd 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

3. Becoming an Ally

Learn how to become an ally through engaging and listening to lived experiences of discrimination and hate.

Presented by: Soha Mohammad from Working Women

When: March 22nd 6:30pm – 8:00pm

Registration at <http://bit.ly/3VZpttx>

Registration closes: January 27th, 2023

Please reach out to Harpinder Kaur or Kenzie Wass if you have any questions

Harpinder.kaur@yrdsb.ca, Kenzie.Wass@yrdsb.ca

[REGISTRATION FORM CLICK HERE](#)



Inclusive School and Community Services

Parent/Guardian Virtual Workshops

POVERTY in York Region 2023

All parents, guardians and staff are welcome to attend any **or all** of the free virtual workshops about poverty, housing rights and resources in York Region.

1. Making Ends Meet during COVID, Inflation and a Housing Crisis – Presented by Community and Partnership Developers Yvonne Kelly and Pauline Costello

Completed : Tuesday, January 24th 7:00 - 8:30 pm

2. Tenant Rights to Housing – Guest Speaker Margaret Flynn with the Canadian Centre for Housing Rights

Wednesday, Feb 8th, 7:00pm-8:30pm

3. The Impact of Poverty, Intersectionality and Classism on our Students, Parents and Family Engagement - Presented by Community and Partnership Developers Yvonne Kelly and Pauline Costello

Monday, February 27th 7:00pm - 8:30pm

[Register](#) for any or all three workshops.

A virtual link will be provided prior to each event.

For more information, please contact Yvonne Kelly

yvonne.kelly@yrdsb.ca

[Register here](#)

MESSAGES FROM THE OFFICE

Parking lot entry and exit

Please do not stop at the top of the entrance to the parking lot. The traffic cones are placed there as a visual reminder. Vehicles stopped here reduce the area to one lane and makes exiting the lot difficult, causing a backlog.

Our parking lot has **the same entry and exit**. When you enter the parking lot, it is **one way in and around**. Please DO NOT turn into 'outgoing' traffic. Follow the One Way and 'Do Not Enter' signs posted. Thank you.



Student Pick-Up During School Hours:

- Parents/guardians need to pre-arrange pickup with the office.
- Parents/guardians must ring the front door buzzer when they arrive at school.
 - please **do not pull up** into the bus loop between 8:20 - 8:50 & 3:00 - 3:30
- Your child will be called down from class upon your arrival at the door
- Office staff will ensure your child meets you at the door

On the Horizon.... February

3 - PA Day - No classes for students

8 - Black History Month Kick-off Assembly - Guest speaker Dwayne Morgan - Grades 4 - 8

10 - International Day for Women and Girls in Science presentation

15 - Scientists in School program (Grade 6) & Caribou Math Contest

16 - Scientists in School program (Grade 6) & Caribou Math Contest

16 - Escape Room Family Night

20 - Family Day - Schools Closed

21 - Report Cards - Electronic Distribution this week

22- Pink Shirt Day

Wishing all of our families a happy weekend!

Eugenia Korinis

Principal

Omari White

Vice-Principal