



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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Message from Our Trustee - February 2024

As we start the second semester and second half of the school year, I want to take this opportunity to share some updates about upcoming dates, events and initiatives taking place across our system with you. I also want to thank everyone who contributes to building a strong educational community in York Region District School Board - the students, families, staff members and community partners who come together in support of student learning, achievement and well-being.

February is Black History Month. In addition to a number of [events taking place](#) within the school board and local community, the school board is once again Celebrating Black Excellence through its Black Voices campaign. [Black Voices](#) aims to centre and celebrate the Black members of our YRDSB community and share their voices. For families looking to learn more about school board and community events and programs for Black students and families, you can [subscribe to the Centre for Black Student Excellence mailing list](#) to receive regular updates.

Later this month, we will also recognize the [Lunar New Year](#) and wish all students, staff and community celebrating Lunar New Year a happy and joyful celebration.

While we have seen milder winter weather this year, I also want to remind families that we have protocols in place for [severe weather](#) and school transportation cancellation in the case of inclement weather, and want to ensure families are aware. You can find more information on the Board website. We also continue to encourage families to use active school travel all year round, including during the winter months. Early in February, we will be celebrating [Winter Walk Day](#), and be sharing tips as well as the benefits and joys of winter walking.

This month, students in Grades 5-12 will have an opportunity to vote in the [Student Trustee Elections](#). I want to congratulate and thank all of the students in Grade 10 and 11 who applied for this position. Student Trustees play an important role representing student voice at the Board meetings and we greatly value their voice and contributions. Students who are eligible to vote will receive information in their GAPPS accounts about how to vote. This is a great opportunity to participate in the democratic process and to have their say about who will represent their voice in the next school year.

Week 19 - January 26, 2024

Kindergarten and French Immersion registration opened in January for fall 2024. For students looking at course selection in secondary school, there are lots of great resources available at www.yrdsb.ca/experience-yrdsb that let students learn more about courses, programs and opportunities that relate to their interests.

You can also stay up-to-date with what's happening around the Board by visiting our [newsroom](#) or by listening to the Board's award-winning [podcast Tune In YRDSB](#), including recent and upcoming episodes on what to expect in Kindergarten, how Student Trustees represent student voice, Tamil Heritage Month, Hindu Heritage Month and more.

As the governing body of the York Region District School Board, trustees are required to establish an annual Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP) to guide system direction for a four year period. The MYSP is a reflection of emergent priorities identified by our educational communities. Over the coming months, we will be conducting extensive consultations with YRDSB students, staff, families and community members to collect input and feedback to develop our revised MYSP. We look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for all that you do to partner with us in building a strong publicly funded education system that delivers a high-quality education for your children. You can learn more about my role as a school trustee and [how you can reach me](#) on the Board website www.yrdsb.ca.

Dr. Elizabeth Sinclair, Trustee, Vaughan Wards 2 and 3

What's Happening at EMPS!

Let's Talk!

Grade 8 classes have been spending time talking about Mental Health. Students then choose a word that helps them get through tough times (ex. Family, courage, resilience, etc., but in French!) and made their own bracelets with these words of affirmation. They had a lot of fun! What word might you choose?



February is Black History Month

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.



The Centre for Black Student Excellence - Newsletter

“Welcome to a new year! We are continuing to share information that supports families of Black children and stay tuned for other events coming up in February for Black History Month throughout the community and the YRDSB. “

Visit the [January 2024 Centre for Black Student Excellence Newsletter](#) for events, updates, resources and more.

Celebrating @ EMPS!

We have much to celebrate at Elder’s Mills. We are a community of families, students and staff of diverse identities and we are reaching out to you to share the celebrations, traditions and stories, past and present, that are part of the Elder’s Mills identities. As we look forward to February, families are invited to share artifacts and resources for Lunar New Year and Black Heritage/Black Excellence . Please email elders.mills.ps@yrdsb.ca to indicate your interest.

Thursday HERO Burgers are back!

Due to popular demand, lunch on Thursdays provided by HERO Burgers will return. This lunch program will take effect every Thursday beginning February 8 and will end March 28.



Options include:

- Hero Burger (4oz)
- Grilled Chicken Sandwich (3.9oz)
- Plant-based Soul Burger(4oz) Vegan-friendly, made from pea protein
- Chicken Strips (6 pieces)

All proceeds will go towards school initiatives.

PAYMENT DEADLINE is February 4. Please go to [School Cash Online](#) for more details and to place your order.

Late Arrivals - Please note!

Consistent, punctual attendance is very important. Learning occurs daily, right from the beginning of the school day. Frequent, repeated late arrivals and absences result in missed learning for students, disruptions to the routine of the classroom and missed opportunities to develop socially. A high volume of students are arriving late to school (not including late buses). Attendance impacts your child's learning in several ways. We request your support in getting your child to school on time and developing positive habits about school attendance.

Attendance and Safe Arrival:

Parents may inform the school office of their child's absence in three different ways:

1. Absences can be entered into **Edsby** which is available 24 hours/day, 7 days a week. Future absences can be reported at any time;
2. Send an email to the school attendance email address at: elders.mills.ps.attendance@yrdsb.ca or;
3. 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.



We invite all parents/guardians to create an EDSBY account, as this tool is also used as a form of communication from school and home. If you do not have an EDSBY account, please click on the link below to create your account. [Tip Sheet: Creating an Edsby Account](#)

NO ENTRY IN BUS LOOP!!!

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.



This area is also used by emergency vehicles. It must stay clear.

We continue to have vehicles driving into the loop in the presence of buses, or parking and leaving vehicles unattended.

From this point forward, with the exception of emergency vehicles and buses, NO VEHICLES will be allowed to enter the bus loop at any time.

If you are dropping off your child in the morning, you will use the parking lot entry off Rota avenue, park your vehicle and bring your child to the front door OR, stop in the Kiss'n'Ride, drop your child off and they will walk to the front door.

If you are picking up your child throughout the day, you will park your vehicle in the parking lot or on the street (following city signage), come to the front door, buzz and connect with the office team. Your child will be called down and will meet you outside.

If you arrive to pick up your child between 3:00 - 3:15 p.m., you will be asked to park and wait until 3:15 dismissal time.

Please do not stop on Napa Valley Ave to drop off your child/children.

We appreciate your cooperation to ensure the safety of our students, your children.



Meetings:

Thank you for coming to our School Council meeting this past Monday. If you are unable to join a meeting and would like to know the topics discussed, the meeting presentations are posted on the [School Council pages of the Elder's Mills website](#). Our next School Council meeting is Thursday, February 29, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. in the library.

EMPS School Council Daytime Social

Mugs and Mornings is an opportunity to make connections with School Council members and other parents during the daytime. Topics for conversation range from 'getting to know you' icebreakers to discussion items from School Council meetings, upcoming opportunities, exchanging ideas and more! Please join us on Tuesday, January 30, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. You bring the coffee or tea and we'll bring the treats!



SAVE THE DATE!
THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2024

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.

EMPS 'USED BOOKS SALE'

Cleaning out closets? Olds books and toys?

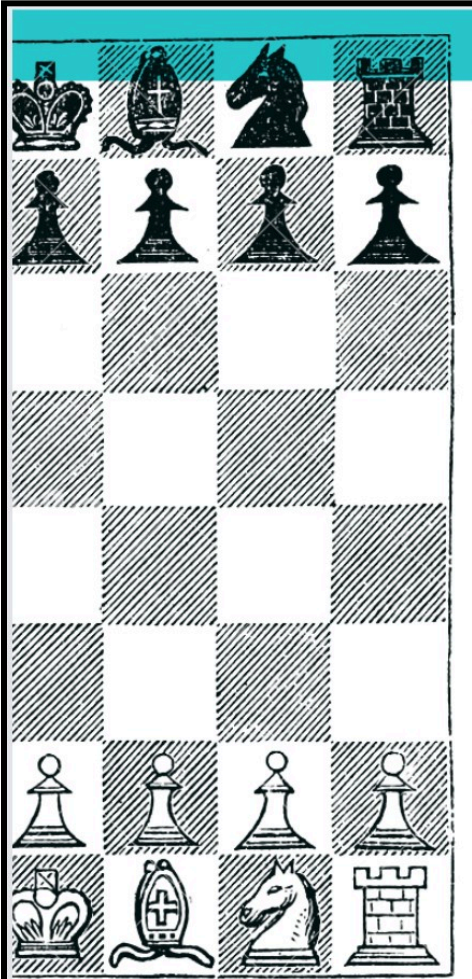
Don't donate your used books just yet! Please hold on to them a little bit longer. Elder's Mills will be hosting a donation drive and sale with your used or new unused books. This is a great opportunity to pass on some wonderful french books, puzzles and games that your kids may have outgrown as well as any other books that can be enjoyed by other. .

Stay tuned for details regarding when and where to drop off books and how you may support the collection.

Family Fun Night - Thursday, February 22nd!

See the flyer below for more details!

- Join us on Thursday February 22nd and learn how to play chess from a Master teacher.
- Join us for some crafting and games!
- Please bring items for our Food Bank collection.



FAMILY FUN NIGHT

FAMILIES AND STAFF ARE WELCOME

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22

6:00-8:00 PM

WE WILL BE COLLECTING NON PERISHABLE FOODS, DIAPERS, WIPES, AND FORMULA FOR THE VAUGHAN FOOD BANK.

WE ARE ALSO BEGINNING TO COLLECT FOR OUR USED BOOKS SALE.

PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

CHESS

6:00-6:30PM BEGINNER LESSON

6:30-7:00 INTERMEDIATE LESSON

7:00-7:30 ADVANCED LESSON

GAME PLAY THROUGHOUT
ATTEND ALL THE LESSONS OR
NONE OF THE LESSONS!

IF YOU HAVE A CHESS SET THAT YOU
COULD BRING WITH YOU PLEASE DO

CRAFTS & GAMES

COME AND ENJOY CRAFTS AND GAMES
AVAILABLE FOR ALL SKILL LEVELS AND
INTERESTS.

IN THE GYM

THIS IS A FREE FAMILY EVENT. PLEASE
SUPERVISE YOUR CHILDREN.
SNACKS AND BEVERAGES AVAILABLE FOR
PURCHASE.
ALL FUNDS RAISED GO TOWARDS THE SCHOOL
FUNDRAISING PLAN.

Students, Families & Friends have an opportunity to soar with their fellow Eagles!!! Spirit Wear such as hoodies, t-shirts, sweatpants and caps continue to be available and on sale at the link below. 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: [EMPS Spirit Wear Store](#)



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)

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.



Babysitting Course - Grades 6, 7 and 8

PERFORMANCE DEVELOPMENT
Special Interest Service Provider for YRDSB

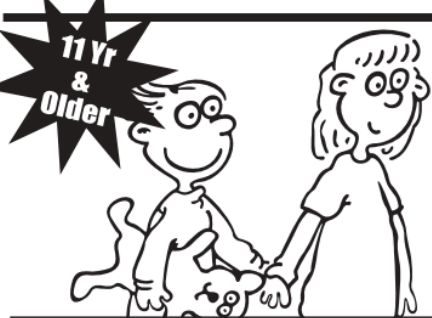
 Canadian Red Cross

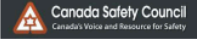
Authorized Provider

BABYSITTING

CERTIFICATE COURSE

\$80.00 HST Inc.
Manual and Certificate per Student


 11 Yr & Older


 Canada Safety Council
Canada's Voice and Resource for Safety

P.A. Day Course Feb. 2, 2024	PERFORMANCE DEVELOPMENT PAULINE PEARSELL 905-478-1744 JANET PEARSELL 289-231-9244 pdbabysitting@hotmail.com
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The Life Skills / Babysitting course registration has been extended to Monday Jan 29/24. Fossil Hill Public School is Hosting this course and we require some more students to register to proceed. If you require any further information please call the numbers shared in the flyer.

[AEMS Storytime Event Registration Link](#)



 THE ALLIANCE OF EDUCATORS
FOR MUSLIM STUDENTS

AEMS STORYTIME

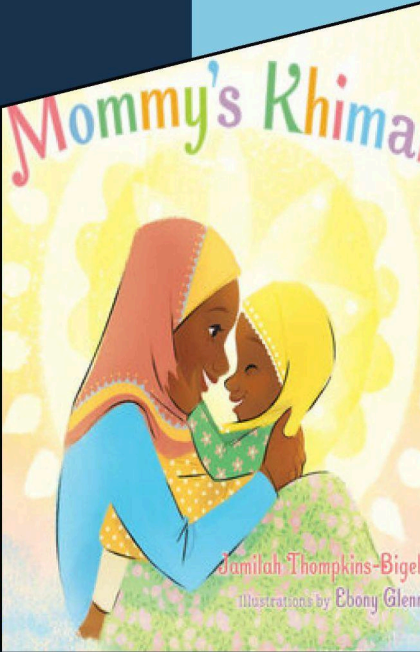
Communities Coming Together

VIRTUAL SESSION

WEDNESDAY
31 JANUARY, 2024
5:30 - 6:30 PM

AEMS invites students, families, and educators to join us in listening to and exploring affirming texts from a diversity of authors!

Following the read-aloud, students and families will have the opportunity to engage in related activities, while educators participate in a panel discussion and explore K-8 lesson plans and other resources for integrating identity-affirming texts into daily teaching practice.



Students, families and educators of all identities are welcome!

Student/Family Registration: <https://forms.gle/ix282GZkRGxm3j5QA>

Educator Registration: <https://forms.gle/UYqY4dkZtchHfBhJ9>

***Registration
closes January
29, 2024**

Math Corner!

[February 2023 - Problem of the Month | York Region District School Board](#)

Follow the link for the solution and further challenge.

This Month's Problem

Consider the following pattern.

Stage 1 Stage 2 Stage 3

How many squares will there be in stage 7?

Elementary PD Day - Friday, February 2, 2024

Length: Full Day

Length: Half Day - AM

Topic: Violence Prevention Training on Student Safety and Violent Incident Prevention

Entity Hosting: All Elementary Schools

Presenter(s)/Facilitator(s): Online module developed by Board staff, facilitated by Administration.

Description: Staff will be engaging in learning related to:

- developing relationships and identity-affirming working and learning environments;
- identifying warning signs that a person's behaviour may be escalating;
- responding to escalations using specific strategies;
- exploring case studies;
- following reporting procedures; and
- accessing support and resources.

Length: Half Day - PM

Topic: Literacy/Mathematics Instructional Strategies

Entity Hosting: All Elementary Schools

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

Description: Staff will engage in self-directed learning to support instructional strategies including areas of literacy and mathematics.

On the Horizon....

January

Character Trait: Optimism
Tamil Heritage Month

27 International Holocaust Remembrance Day
29 National Day of Remembrance of the Quebec City
Mosque Attack and Action Against Islamophobia
30 Mugs and Mornings @ EMPS

February

Character Trait: Initiative
Black History/African Heritage Month
2 PA Day - School Closed to students
10 Lunar New Year
15 Grade 8 Graduation Photos
19 Family Day
20 Jeff A.D. Martin @ EMPS
22 Family Fun Night @ EMPS
29 School Council meeting

Jeff A.D. Martin, Motivational Speaker, Author, Coach is coming to Elder's Mills on February 20th, 2024!



Photo of the week! Recess fun! Creativity at play!



Wishing you a happy weekend!

Eugenia Korinis

Principal

Ayesha Mondal

Vice-Principal