



Elder's Mills: The Eagle Eye
Soaring on Wings of Character, Community and Diversity
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Superintendent Otilia Olteanu	Trustee Nadeem Mahmood	Principal Eugenia Korinis	Vice-Principal Omari White	Office Admin Team Cathy Consiglio Stella Ditri
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Dear Families and Students,

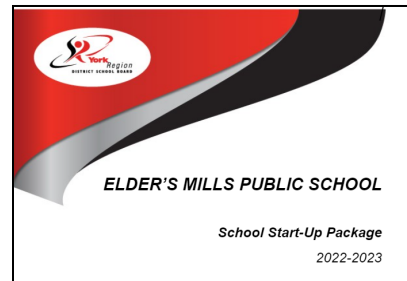
Please take the time to read through the information shared here about upcoming events, updates and reminders.

School Start up Package - Start-Up Forms:

This information was shared with all YRDSB families by email earlier this week. It is repeated here for your information:

Dear parents/guardians,

At the start of each school year, schools share with families a package of information about the school. Families will also receive a copy of the [Guide to the School Year](#) booklet in the coming weeks. We also ask families to complete some important forms. These forms are now available online.*



[Please complete and submit these online School Start-Up Forms](#) through your child's YRDSB Google account.

- You can access your child's YRDSB Google account via a web browser. For best results, use a computer rather than a mobile phone.
- The username is your child's YRDSB Student Number. Your child will receive their login information from the school at the start of the year. If you or your child do not know the password to log in to their Google account, please contact your child's teacher or the school office.
- Frequently asked questions and additional information on [how to complete the forms](#) are available on the Board website under [Family Resources](#) (click on the "Need Help" link for Family Start-Up Forms).

It is important that these forms are completed as soon as possible at the start of the school year. There are both mandatory and optional forms. The forms are to be completed for all students, whether they are attending school in person or participating in remote, online learning. Your child's school will access the information.

Please complete a separate form for each child attending our schools. Secondary school students will also

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be asked to review important school and Board policies and to indicate that they have reviewed this information on forms sent to their student GAPS account.

If you prefer to complete the forms on paper or have questions about the information in the forms, please contact your school office.

Thank you.

*The EMPS School Start-Up package was shared with families in our Week 1 email. It is available on our school webpages for your reference. Follow this link: [EMPS School Start-Up package 2022 - 2023](#)



School Council:

School councils play an important role in building school, family and community partnerships by providing input into relevant Board and school-level decisions and by encouraging the involvement of all members of the school community in support of student learning, achievement and well-being.

Our first School Council meeting for this year will be held on Thursday, September 22nd, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at Elder's Mills P.S. Please use this link if you would like to join us remotely:
<https://meet.google.com/mgw-ycda-mji>.

Child minding will also be available for children ages 4 - 11. Please complete this form to indicate your child will be joining us on the evening of the 22nd: [Child-minding request form](#).

If you are interested in holding a leadership position on our School Council or nominating someone, please complete the [School Council Nomination Form](#). This form is attached to this communication and was also shared in the School Start Up Forms link sent to families earlier this week (see communication shared above). You may also contact the office to request a form. **Please complete and submit this form by September 21st.** At our meeting on September 22nd, we will be reviewing the nominations and forming the Council for this year. All parents of EMPS students are invited to attend.

Please find more information on our School Council page in the Elder's Mills webpages. Here is the link: [EMPS School Council pages](#)

We look forward to seeing you there!

Caring and Safe Schools Presentations:



As we start a new school year, it is important to us that we provide a caring, safe and inclusive environment in our school that supports the academic achievement and well-being of all students. This week we held assemblies to talk about some of the important elements of a caring and safe school. You may want to have a conversation with your child about what they learned about and what we discussed. Topics covered included:

Inappropriate Behaviour

Students are learning about about racism, discrimination and bullying and this learning will continue through the school year. Instances of racism, discrimination and bullying, are not acceptable and are addressed through progressive discipline. Students also need to know about safe behaviours in schools including what not to bring to school such as no peanut products, vape products, weapons (including replica weapons).

Reporting Behaviour

Standing up for one another and reporting when something does not feel safe is part of a caring and safe school environment. Students should report incidents that make them or others feel unsafe or uncomfortable including acts of racism, discrimination and bullying. Students can report incidents by:

- *Telling a caring adult*
- *Using the YRDSB's ["Report It Button"](#) (located on our school website) YRDSB's online Report It button allows students and families to share information about inappropriate behaviour and/or incidents of hate or discrimination. Please see [this video](#) for additional information.*
- *Contacting [Kids Help Phone](#) (1-800-668-6868)*



Mental Health

We want to stress with students the importance of connection as we return to school. Students are learning about who they can talk to if they need support. Positive mental health is closely tied to a sense of identity and safety for each individual. As such, mental health initiatives are aligned with equity and safety in mind which includes culturally specific supports. YRDSB student mental health services are delivered by Board social work and psychology staff. These services are accessible through the school principal. [Mental health resources for families](#) are also available on the Board website.

Student Discipline

We use a progressive discipline approach for inappropriate behaviour. This means we consider a range of options to determine the most appropriate response to each situation to help students learn from their choices. In some cases, suspension or expulsion may be necessary. The Ontario Education Act and the Board's Caring and Safe Schools Policy (found on the [Board's Caring and Safe School Page](#)) outline the situations in which suspension and expulsion must be considered. These infractions are also outlined in the Guide to the School Year. When inappropriate behaviour occurs, information will be shared with the victim and parents/guardians of the victim to the extent that legislation allows.

Tobacco/Alcohol/Drug-Free Environment

The use of tobacco, electronic products (such as [vaping](#), [electronic cigarettes](#) and related products) and/or student possession of alcohol/illegal and restricted drugs, including cannabis, are prohibited on school property or within 20 metres of school boundaries. This is in compliance with the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, which is enforced locally by York Region Community and Health Services. A progressive form of discipline, including suspension from school and fines (up to \$5,000) may apply. In accordance with the Smoke-Free Ontario Act (SFOA), exceptions are made for the traditional use of tobacco that forms part of Indigenous culture and spirituality.

Online Safety and Appropriate Use of Technology

Students are reminded about the Appropriate Use of Technology agreement, including the importance of using respectful language and making positive choices when using electronic communications and social media tools.

Students are reminded that threats and comments made online are taken seriously and may have serious consequences, including potential criminal charges. Where there are concerns for the safety of students, staff, community members or Board property, the school board works with York Regional Police and appropriate actions are taken. The safety and well-being of students remains our top priority.

For More Information

For more details on each of these items, please read the Guide to the School Year or visit the [Caring and Safe Schools](#) section on the YRDSB website for details and resources for families to continue the conversation.

Thank you for helping us create a caring, safe, and inclusive school community.

Terry Fox School Run @ Elder's Mills PS:

We are excited to announce that our school will be proudly taking part in the 2022 Terry Fox School Run, scheduled to take place on **Wednesday, September 28th, 2022**. For families who wish to donate, please do so using the website link shared with you by your child's homeroom teacher. We hope that we can continue to show the great strength and resiliency of our school community through Terry's message of hope and strength. This year our fundraising goal is to surpass the \$7,000 we raised last year! Our students are excited! Please join us to support cancer research while building incredible school spirit for all of our students. Thank you in advance for your support!



Orange Shirt Day:

Orange Shirt Day is an annual Canada-wide event that began in 2013 to educate people and promote awareness in Canada about the residential school system and the impact it has had on Indigenous communities for over a century—an impact that continues today. All Canadians are encouraged to wear an orange shirt on September 30 to commemorate the history and legacy of residential schools and to recognize the resiliency and bravery of residential school survivors. **At EMPS, we invite all staff and students to wear an orange shirt on Friday, September 30th, 2022.**



Use of Non-Board Electronic Devices (Mobile phones, laptops, tablets...) at Elder's Mills:

- Students in our grades 5 - 8 classes may bring personal electronic devices such as a tablet or a laptop into the classroom for instructional purposes only.
- Personal computers and tablets are used when instructed by and under the supervision of the teacher - no personal gaming etc...
- **Mobile phones are discouraged and are not allowed to be used during the instructional day.**
- Cell phones and other personal communication devices **must be turned off and kept out of sight during the instructional day (including recess and lunch)**. Should students need to phone home, they may come to the office to use the phone.
- **At no time may electronic devices be used in washrooms or changerooms.**
- Please review [YRDSB's Information Technology Acceptable Use Agreement linked here](#).
- This information will be repeated in the forms requiring parent and student signatures found in the School Start-Up Package that will be sent home next week.

Students and parents/guardians must remember to sign and return the Appropriate Use of Technology Agreement in the School Start Up package prior to being granted access to school or Board technology, hardware or network.

Lunch Time Agreement:

Students who do not go home for lunch will remain at school throughout the lunch hour. We ask that you reinforce with your child that you are putting your trust in them to refrain from leaving school grounds without your knowledge.

Students who leave school property for lunch must be signed out by a parent/guardian, otherwise students must stay at school.

Medication And Health Needs:



Please provide the office with your child's medication from the first day of school. You may drop off the medication after morning arrival, by ringing the front bell and office staff will greet you to retrieve your child's medication.

If you have not already done so, please download any required medical forms and email the completed forms to Elder's Mills PS
<elders.mills.ps@yrdsb.ca>

- [Anaphylaxis Health Care Plan](#)
- [Asthma Health Care Plan](#)
- [Diabetes Health Care Plan](#)
- [Epilepsy Seizure Disorder Health Care Plan](#)
- [Staff Administration of Medication](#)
- [Self-Administration of Medication](#)

For students who are anaphylactic, please send your child to school with 2 epi-pens. One will be kept in the office and the other will remain with your child throughout the school day.

Consultation Process - Student Leadership and Student Voice:



The York Region District School Board regularly engages in reviewing its policies. Currently, the Board of Trustees has identified a need to review Policy #672 Student Leadership and Voice and Policy #635 Student Dress Code. As part of the review process The YRDSB consults extensively with students, staff and community members.

We encourage you to review this [slidedeck](#) to build some context around Student leadership in our Board and fill out the surveys to provide your feedback. You will find the surveys on our [Board's Policy](#)

[review page](#) along with an explanation of policy review. Scroll down the page and click on to find the links to the surveys.

We thank you for your participation and your voice in ensuring our policies are reflective of our community of learners. Participation in the survey is completely voluntary, anonymous, and confidential. Your input will be considered and used to help inform revisions to the policies.

Volunteers In Our School:

There are many opportunities to get involved. Please contact your child's teacher or message the school office for more information. All volunteers must comply with the Volunteers in Our Schools Policy and Procedure and:

- Complete the Volunteers in Our Schools Form, available through the school.
- Submit a Vulnerable Sector Screening completed within the last six months (requirement for new volunteers) OR sign the Annual Offence Declaration (returning volunteers).
- Sign a Confidentiality Agreement.
- Complete training, as required.

If you are interested in volunteering in our school, please complete and submit the Volunteers in Our Schools form attached to this communication.

Events and opportunities from our York Region Community partners:

[York Region Alliance of African Canadian Communities:](#)



York Region Alliance of African Canadian Communities (York Region AACC) provides programs for Black Students Across York Region. Check out and bookmark their events web page for details.

ANTI-BULLYING

PRESENTATION BY YORK REGIONAL POLICE

Monday, September 19
Vellore Village Community Centre, Room 3
From 5:30 to 7:30pm
All Kids aged 6-15 are Welcome



The

Power of Positive Parenting: [Register here](#)



THE POWER OF POSITIVE PARENTING

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.

Join us to share, learn and build a school culture where mental health and well-being is valued and promoted.

September 21, 2022 | 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

We welcome parents, guardians, caregivers and community members to attend this virtual session!

[Register](#) Today!

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

- creating a positive learning environment,
- using assertive discipline,
- having realistic expectations,
- taking care of yourself as a parent, and
- 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.

More Information:

Oksana Majaski, Community & Partnership Developer, YRDSB

Oksana.majaski@yrdsb.ca

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On the Horizon....

September 22 - School Council meeting @ 7:00 p.m.
September 26 and 27 - Rosh Hashanah (Judaism)
September 28- Terry Fox Event @ EMPS
September 30 - Orange Shirt Day
September 30 - National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
October 3 - XMovement returns to EMPS - stay tuned!

SAVE THE DATE!

MEET THE TEACHER NIGHT AND COMMUNITY EVENT - THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6TH!

Wishing you a wonderful weekend!

Eugenia Korinis and *Omar White*
Principal Vice-Principal