



**Elder's Mills: The Eagle Eye**  
*Soaring on Wings of Character, Community and Diversity*  
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<b>Trustee</b> Dr. Elizabeth Sinclair	<b>Superintendent</b> Otilia Olteanu	<b>Principal</b> Eugenia Korinis	<b>Vice-Principal</b> Ayesha Mondal	<b>Office Admin Team</b> Cathy Consiglio Stella Ditri
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Dear Families,

As the new school year is beginning, students will be attending Caring and Safe Schools Start-Up Presentations. These presentations are designed to underscore behaviour expectations as we create a caring, safe and inclusive school environment. As families are critical partners, please continue discussions about school safety at home by asking your child what they have learned in the Start-Up Presentation.



Presentation topics include:

- Racism and types of discrimination;
- Bullying;
- Progressive discipline; and
- Standing up for each other, including methods of reporting incidents of racism, discrimination and bullying.

### **Inappropriate Behaviour**

In the Start-Up Presentation, students are learning about anti-Black racism, other forms of racism, discrimination, and bullying. This learning will continue throughout the school year. Instances of anti-Black racism, other forms of racism, discrimination and bullying are not acceptable and are addressed through progressive discipline. In some cases of racism and discrimination, York Regional Police may be involved.

Students will also be reminded about safe school behaviours, including what items must never be brought to school, such as peanut products, vape products/drug paraphernalia, weapons/replica weapons and knives/replica knives.

### **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's website, the online Report It button allows students and families to share information about inappropriate behaviour and incidents of hate or discrimination. Please see [this video](#) for additional information);
- Contacting [Kids Help Phone](#) (1-800-668-6868).



### **Mental Health**

We will stress to students the importance of connection as we return to school. Students are learning about who they can talk to if they need support. In addition, positive mental health is closely tied to each individual's sense of identity and safety. 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 on and off school property. This means we consider various 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 situations where suspension and expulsion must be considered. These infractions are also outlined in the Guide to the School Year. In addition, when inappropriate behaviour occurs, information will be shared with the student(s) who were harmed and the families of the student(s) who were harmed 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 student possession of alcohol/illegal and restricted drugs, including cannabis, are prohibited on school property or within 20 metres of school boundaries. This complies with the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, enforced locally by York Region Community and Health Services. A progressive form of discipline may apply, including suspension from school and fines (up to \$5,000). 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. This agreement is also included in the start-up package that all families receive at the beginning of the year.

Students are reminded that online threats and comments are taken seriously and may have 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 remain our top priority.

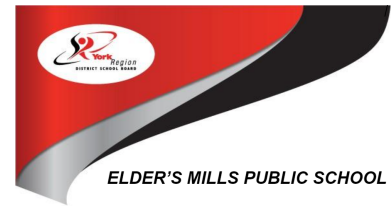
### **For More Information**

For more details on these items, please read the Guide to the School Year or visit the [Caring and Safe Schools](#) section on the YRDSB website for more information and to access family resources to continue these conversations at home.

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

### **School Start up Package - Start-Up Forms:**

*At the start of each school year, schools share with families a package of information about the school. Please ensure you review this important information. Families are also encouraged to review the online [Guide to the School Year](#).*



School Start-Up Package  
2023 - 2024

*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. Translations are available.*

- *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. Your child's school will access the information.***

***Please complete a separate form for each child attending our schools. Secondary school students will also be asked to review important school and Board policies and to indicate that they have reviewed this information on forms sent to their student GAPPS 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 2023 - 2024](#)*

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### **Fundraising at EMPS!**

Our Fundraising programs are up and running at EMPS. All funds raised from these programs support our school fundraising plan.

### Hot Lunch

At this time we are offering Hot lunch options for Mondays and Tuesdays. If you are interested in participating, please place your orders by September 24th. Check your email for a message from School Cash online for details. You may also access the site by clicking this link: [School Cash online](#)



### School Spirit Wear

**Students, Families & Friends** have an opportunity to soar with their fellow Eagles!!! Spirit Wear such as **hoodies, t-shirts, sweatpants and caps** will all be available to order for all. Create and share memories with purchases any time. The online store is now 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>



### Mabels Labels:

Our School Council is pleased to offer this amazing opportunity for our families. Please follow this link for details and see the flyer below.

[https://mabelslabels.ca/en\\_CA/fundraising/support/](https://mabelslabels.ca/en_CA/fundraising/support/)



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](https://campaigns.mabelslabels.com) and search for Elder Mills PS (Vaughan)

### 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.

If you are interested in holding a leadership position on our School



Council or nominating someone, please complete the [School Council Nomination Form](#). You may also contact the office to request a form. **Please complete and submit this form by September 22nd.** At our first meeting, we will be reviewing the nominations and forming the Council for this year. All parents of EMPS students are invited to attend.

**School Council Meeting:**

Thursday, September 28th  
Library @ Elder's Mills P.S.  
7:00 p.m.

A separate communication with further details will be shared with families. In-person and remote options for attending will be available.

We look forward to seeing you there!

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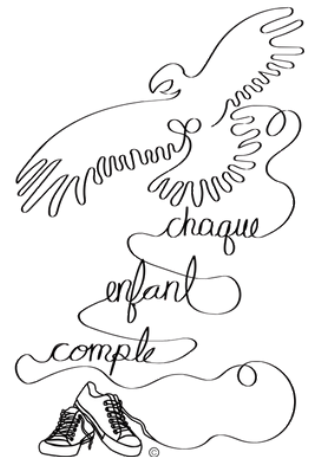
**Terry Fox School Run @ Elder's Mills PS:**

We are excited to announce that our school will be proudly taking part in the 2023 Terry Fox School Run, scheduled to take place on **Thursday, September 28th, 2023**. 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. Last year we raised \$5,765.65 and our goal this year is to raise \$6, 055! 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 29th.**



**Powley Day:**

On September 19, 2023, Métis Peoples from all over Canada will celebrate Powley Day. Powley Day is a day of political and cultural significance for Métis communities throughout Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta, Saskatchewan and British Columbia. Powley Day marks the anniversary of the 2003 Supreme Court decision in the matter of R v.



Powley, a Métis family from Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. R. v. Powley was the first major Indigenous rights case concerning Métis peoples. The ground-breaking decision in 2003 affirmed that there were, and continue to be, distinct Métis people and communities on the land now known as Canada prior to 1867. The Powley Decision resulted in “the Powley Test,” which laid out a set of criteria to not only define what might constitute a Métis right but also who is entitled to those rights. The Powley decision recognizes and affirms Métis as distinct Indigenous peoples with a unique culture and identity. Métis’ inherent rights as Indigenous peoples are entrenched within Section 35 of Canada’s Constitution, which has opened the path forward to full [Métis self-government](#).

It has been 20 years since the Supreme Court of Canada made the unanimous decision to recognize and enshrine Metis rights in the Canadian Constitution. Since then, the [Métis Nation of Ontario \(MNO\)](#) has celebrated the decision alongside the Métis Governments in Manitoba, Alberta, Saskatchewan and British Columbia. Powely Day is recognized on September 19th every year and is an opportunity for educators and students to engage in learning about Métis resistance. culture, and Identity. Please take time on Powley Day and throughout the year, to learn about, with, and from Métis peoples.

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### **Tune In YRDSB Podcast - Indigenous Education: A Students’ Perspective**

Hear Indigenous student trustees share their experiences and perspectives on Indigenous education in York REgion on the latest episode Tune In YRDSB.



### **Tune In YRDSB**

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### **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](#).

**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.

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**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](mailto: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.

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**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 in the Start Up forms or request a paper copy from 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.



### **Rosh Hashanah Greeting**

To all those celebrating *Rosh Hashanah*, I would like to wish you and your families a very happy celebration.

Please see my [video message](#) to mark this important day.

Bill Cober (he/him/his)  
Director of Education  
Education Centre – Aurora



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### **September 22nd - PA Day Plan overview:**

**Length: Half Day - AM**

**Topic 1:** Student Well-being, School Safety, and Violence Prevention

**Entity Hosting:** All Elementary Schools

**Presenter(s)/Facilitator(s):** Online modules developed by Board staff. Facilitated by School Administration.

**Description:**

- School teams will engage in compliance training including:
  - occupational health & safety;
  - student safety and violent incident prevention;
  - training on supporting student mental health and well-being; and
  - understanding cybersecurity and online privacy.

**Length: Half Day - PM**

**Topic 2:** Literacy/Mathematics Instructional Strategies

**Entity Hosting:** All Elementary Schools

**Presenter(s)/Facilitator(s):** Online modules developed by Board staff, self-directed and/or group-directed in grade/division groupings.

**Description:**

- **Literacy:** Kindergarten to Grade 8 educators will participate in a module providing an overview of literacy in YRDSB, an orientation to the new Ontario Language curriculum, Early and Emergent Reading Instruction, Universal Design for Learning, Equitable Assessment, and Screening Tool information.
- **Math:** Kindergarten to Grade 8 educators will participate in a module on the nine High Impact Instructional Practices identified by the Ministry of Education and their connection to our board's Comprehensive Math Program.

**On the Horizon....**

September 16 & 17 - Rosh Hashanah  
September 22 - PA Day - No classes for students  
September 27 - Photo Day  
September 28- Terry Fox Event @ EMPS  
September 28 - School Council  
September 30 - Orange Shirt Day  
September 30 - National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

**SAVE THE DATE!**

MEET THE TEACHER NIGHT - THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5TH!

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Wishing you a wonderful weekend!

*Eugenia Korinis* and *Ayesha Mondal*  
Principal Vice-Principal