



**Elder's Mills: The Eagle Eye**  
*Soaring on Wings of Character, Community and Diversity*  
120 Napa Valley Avenue, Woodbridge, L4H 1L1  
Phone: 905-893-1631; 647-795-7705  
Email: [elders.mills.ps@yrdsb.ca](mailto:elders.mills.ps@yrdsb.ca) Twitter [@EldersMills](https://twitter.com/EldersMills)

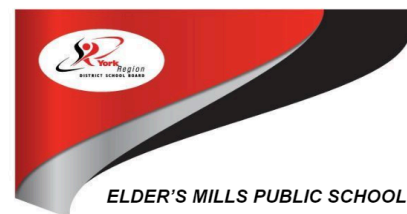


Trustee Dr. Elizabeth Sinclair	Superintendent Otilia Olteanu	Principal Eugenia Korinis	Vice-Principal Ayesha Mondal	Office Admin Team Cathy Consiglio Stella Ditri
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### School Start up Package - Start-Up Forms:

All families are asked to review [the School Start-up Package](#) linked here.

This start-up package includes important information about our school, and we encourage you to review it. Each year we ask families to complete some **important forms** to indicate they have reviewed and understand school and Board policies, and to indicate permissions.



*School Start-Up Package  
2024 - 2025*

This week, you received an email from the school board (YRDSB Update) with a link to these forms. Please take the time to review and complete the forms. If you prefer to receive and complete a paper copy, please let us know.

For your convenience, the message to parents and link to the forms is repeated below:

*Dear parents/guardians,*

*Each year, we ask all parents/guardians to complete important forms. These forms are available online. [Please complete and submit these online School Start-Up Forms](#) through your child's YRDSB Google account.*

*Translations are available in:*

- [Arabic - العربية](#)
- [Farsi - فارسی](#)
- [Gujarati - ગુજરાતી](#)
- [Hebrew - עברית](#)
- [Korean - 한국어](#)
- [Punjabi - ਪੰਜਾਬੀ](#)
- [Russian - Русский](#)
- [Simplified Chinese - 简体中文](#)
- [Tamil - தமிழ்](#)
- [Traditional Chinese - 繁體中文](#)
- [Turkish - Türk](#)
- [Urdu - اردو](#)
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*Please note:*

- 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.*

### **School Year Information**

*At the start of the 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](#).*

*Thank you.*

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## **Fundraising at EMPS!**

### **Hot Lunch**

At this time we are offering Hot lunch options through the Lunch Box program. Our new Lunchbox program is live through: <https://www.schoolcashionline.com/>. Details have also been posted on EDSBY.



**LUNCHBOX**  
by SchoolCashOnline

Ordering is open! The *first* delivery date is for Monday, September 23, 2024.

Please secure your order. The deadline for the week is Sunday, September 22, 2024. There will be **no cash sales**.

Below is a list of the providers and delivery dates: .

- Monday – Subway
- Tuesday – Pizza Pizza
- Friday – BarBurrito

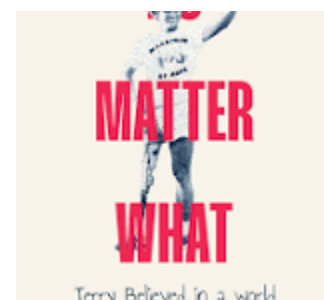
In addition, below is the link to a video which outlines how parents can place their orders and/or how to add students to our **LunchBox** program.

<https://share.vidyard.com/watch/HjdvidKGDALL4Gf11pv4Ag?>

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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 **Wednesday, September 25, 2024**. For families who wish to donate, please do so using the website link: <https://schools.terryfox.ca/68828>. 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 **\$4,196**. Our goal this year is to reach **\$4,410**! Let's





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spread the news and see if we can reach this goal! Our students are excited! Please join us to support cancer research while building incredible school spirit for all of our students.

All students are invited to wear Red and Blue, the colours of the Terry Fox Run this year or School colours/Spirit wear on Wednesday, September 25.

Thank you in advance for your support!

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### **Meet the Teacher!**

On Thursday evening **September 26**, you are invited to join us for **Meet the Teacher Night**. We are so excited to be opening up our doors to our families this evening!

Teachers will open their classrooms from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. for families to visit. Families will have the opportunity to meet the teacher and learn about classroom routines, expectations, hear about the learning themes and goals for the grade, and to see the classroom.



Our School Council will also be available to connect with families. Stop by their table in the main hall and consider joining one of the Council's subcommittees (e.g. Fundraising, Programming) or signing up to volunteer for a number of opportunities throughout the year.

The classroom visits will be organized into two blocks in an effort to allow families with more than one child in more than one grade to visit their children's classrooms. Feel free to visit classes in either one of two sessions:

- 6:00 - 6:25 - Visit 1
- 6:30 - 6:55 - Visit 2
- 6:55 - 7:00 - End of visits



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This evening is intended for an introduction to the classroom, the grade and the teacher. Please do not expect the teacher to speak to you about your individual child's progress during this visit. Should you wish to learn more about your child's individual learning, please arrange to meet or speak with your child's teacher at a different date and time. Formal opportunities to meet with and discuss your child's progress will be during the Parent/Teacher conferences in November, after Progress Reports are sent home.

We look forward to seeing you on the 26th!

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### **Caring and Safe Schools Presentations:**

As the new school year has begun, students attended Caring and Safe Schools Start-Up Presentations this past week. 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;
- Personal mobile devices such as cell phones, smart watches, and tablets;
- Vaping for grades 7 & 8; and
- Standing up for each other, including methods of reporting incidents of racism, discrimination and bullying.



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### 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.





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### 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.

### 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. 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.

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### **Safety Week - September 23 - 26 2024**

The York Region School Board is committed to ensuring the safety of students, staff, and visitors in the event of an emergency situation. As such, during Safety Week (September 23 to 27, 2024) and throughout the school year, schools in our Board





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practise various safety drills, including Fire Drills, Lockdown Drills, Hold and Secure Drills and the newly established Bomb Threat Drill. It is critical that all members of our school community become familiar with emergency protocols as they are designed to keep all of us safe at school. Please refer to [Board Policy #669.0](#) for more information about Emergency Preparedness and Crisis Management.

Practising drills may create some anxiety for some students. If you are concerned about how these situations might impact the mental health and well-being of your child, please contact school administrators, as we have school mental health professionals available to support your child.

#### General Supports for Emotional Well-Being

- 310-COPE: 905-310-COPE (2673) or 1-855-310-COPE (2673) - available 24/7
- [KidsHelpPhone](#): 1-800-668-6868, text 686868 - available 24/7
- Mental Health Helpline: 1-866-531-2600 - available 24/7
- [York Hills Help Phone Line](#): 905-503-9561 Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. for children and youth (0-18 years) and their parents, caregivers or adult supporters.
- [Trans Lifeline](#)
- [Black Youth Helpline](#)
- [Naseeha Helpline/](#)
- [2SLGBTQ+ Youthline](#)

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#### Medication And Health Needs:

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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## School Council

### 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](#) and submit it to the school. You may also contact the office to request a form. **Please complete and submit this form by October 3rd.**

**Join us for the first School Council meeting! At this meeting the School Council executive and members will be established.** All parents are invited to attend this and all School Council meetings. You do not need to hold a formal position to be present, engaged and involved! We look forward to seeing you then and there.

**Date:** Thursday, October 10th

**Time:** 6:30 - 7:30

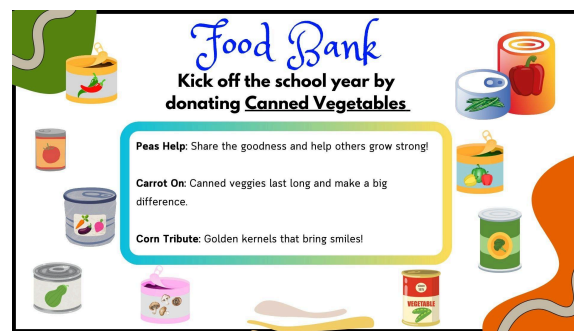
**In-person Location:** Elder's Mills school library

**Virtual Location:** connect by virtual meet link available on [the School Council pages](#) of the school website.

We look forward to seeing you there!

### Support the Vaughan Food Bank!

The School Council has a bin set up in the main hall of the school to collect donations all year long. The theme for the month of September is Canned Vegetables.





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### Message from Our Trustee - September 2024

Welcome to the start of the 2024-2025 school year. We are so pleased to welcome all of our new and returning students and families to a new school year.

## How Trustees Help

As school board trustees, we have a number of [roles and responsibilities](#), including setting policies and budget and advocating for quality public education. My responsibilities also include communicating with the public. I will continue to keep you informed throughout the school year through these regular newsletters. You can also reach out to me directly. Learn more about [how we can help](#) and [how you can reach me](#) if you have any questions or concerns.

You can also stay up-to-date with school board news and events through school communications, social media (X [@YRDSB](#) and [Instagram @yrdsb.schools](#)), our [newsroom](#) and Board podcast [TuneIn YRDSB](#).

## Our Priorities as a School Board

One of our responsibilities as a Board of Trustees is also setting the Multi-Year Strategic Plan. This plan outlines the priorities that will guide our work as a school board for the next several years. We want to thank the many students, family and staff members and community partners who shared feedback in the spring that was used to inform the development of the plan. Some key themes emerged in the feedback that families will see reflected in the plan, including a clear focus on student achievement and well-being. We look forward to sharing more with you very soon.

## A New School Year

The start of a new school year is a time of transition - whether your child is starting elementary or secondary school for the first time, entering a new program, moving to a new school or beginning a new grade. The caring, dedicated and professional staff members who work in our system are here to help support your child through this transition. Please feel free to reach out to your child's teachers or



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the school to speak about your child's transition and the supports that are available.

We also recognize that transitions can take place throughout September. Elementary schools may be required to adjust some classes due to enrollment changes and class size restrictions. In secondary school, schools may also see timetable requests and adjustments in the first few weeks. These are occurrences that happen each fall and schools do their best to be responsive and to minimize the effects of any changes on students.

## Partnerships with Families

We value the essential partnership between schools and families and want to ensure that families are aware of the many resources available. Our [family resources page](#), available from the homepage of [www.yrdsb.ca](http://www.yrdsb.ca), gives you quick access to platforms that we use, tips and information, the [Guide to the School Year](#) and [student learning resources](#). It also includes resources for [newcomers](#), [translation information](#) and much more. We are also working on a dedicated new family portal to make it easier for families to engage with their child's education. To ensure you receive notifications and updates, please make sure the school has your up-to-date email address. If you are not receiving emails, please contact your school to confirm. More information will be shared in the coming months.

I wish you and your family all the very best for a safe, successful and enjoyable 2024-2025 school year, and look forward to communicating with you in the months ahead.

*Dr. Elizabeth Sinclair*

*Trustee, Vaughan Wards 2 and 3*

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### **Ministry Survey: Launch of Life Skills Consultation**

*On May 30, 2024, the Ministry of Education announced that it would be launching consultations in fall 2024 with students, parents, job creators, educators and other stakeholders on the practical life skills students need to build a strong foundation for future success through modernized home economics education. To learn more visit [Province](#)*





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**Introduces New High School Graduation Requirements for a Stronger Ontario Diploma.**

The Ministry has asked school boards to assist in the promotion and collection of feedback on the practical life skills that parents, students and educators think could be included or strengthened.

The anonymous **Ministry Survey: Launch of Life Skills Consultation**, designed by the Ministry, will take approximately 10 minutes to complete and will remain open until September 24, 2024. Administrators can share this link in their communication with families.



**Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter - September**

Welcome back for another year of learning. As we transition back to school from the summer break, you may be reverting to a familiar routine or beginning a new one. The month of September is full of new things: new teachers, classrooms, grades, peers and sometimes even completely new schools. Big changes sometimes result in big feelings. To that end, we encourage you to take a moment and breathe. Try to practice grace and self-compassion as everything transitions back to a new school year together. We also encourage you to be patient, and practice kindness. Remember, starting a new school year may bring challenges at first, but can get easier with time. There are tools that people use to ease transitions. Some of them include: establishing and communicating a routine. Here are [\*ten tips from School Mental Health Ontario\*](#) to help make the most of this time.

The newsletter is available in full on the YRDSB website and is linked [here](#).

**Renewed Computer Technology Program - September 2024**

Dear Families,





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*As part of a partnership between YRDSB and Renewed Computer Technology (RCT), families with children enrolled in our Board have the opportunity to purchase quality refurbished computers at a reduced cost. Applicants must live in Ontario, have a student enrolled at YRDSB and either receive government assistance payments or qualify as a limited income earner under the limited income cut-off standards\*.*

*Below is a limited income grid for your reference.*

<b>Family size</b>	<b>Annual income*</b>
2 people	\$30,286
3 people	\$37,234
4 people	\$45,206
5 people	\$51,272
6 people	\$57,286
7 people +	\$64,381

*This year, there are different packages available for purchase. Please reference the [online application page](#) for the current available package offerings. Please note that there are three options for delivery.*

*If you would like for the computer to be delivered directly to your home, there is a \$25 charge for laptops and a \$35 charge for desktops. Families who choose this delivery option will have their order shipped when it is ready, roughly 3 weeks from date of order.*

*If you would like the device shipped to your child's school there is a \$20 delivery charge. If you choose this shipping option, the computer will be delivered to your child's school after the end of the promotion period. Please indicate the name of the school on the form when selecting this option.*

*You may choose to pick up the computer from the RCT Mississauga Warehouse, for free, located at 945 Meyerside Drive, Mississauga. Families who choose this option will have their order ready for pick up roughly 3 weeks after the date of order.*



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*Parents and legal guardians may apply for one computer per student, with a limit of two per household. Please see below for a full list of device specifications.*

*If you are interested in applying, please complete an online application at [RCT Order form](#) using the group code on the attached program flyer. The application period is from September 12, 2024 – November 22, 2024 with delivery to schools taking place in December.*

*Please note - There are sections in the RCT Online Application that are no longer applicable:*

*Requirement of Proof or Documentation of Income*

*Requirement to participate in training prior to receiving your computer/laptop*

*The Section on Course of Study can pertain to elementary or secondary. If you do not have access to a computer or the Internet, please contact the administration team at your school for assistance.*

*For inquiries related to the RCT application process, devices and delivery, please contact Alexander Oliver ([Aoliver@rcto.ca](mailto:Aoliver@rcto.ca)) and for inquiries related to support from YRDSB, please contact Yvonne Kelly ([yvonne.kelly@yrdsb.ca](mailto:yvonne.kelly@yrdsb.ca))*

*For more information, including complete application and payment instructions, please refer to the attached program flyer and checklist.*

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### **Powley Day Is Thursday September 19, 2024**

On September 19, 2024, 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.







**Elder's Mills: The Eagle Eye**  
*Soaring on Wings of Character, Community and Diversity*  
120 Napa Valley Avenue, Woodbridge, L4H 1L1  
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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 21 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 Government in Manitoba, Alberta, Saskatchewan and British Columbia.

Powley 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.

### In the Community





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### What's Happening at Elder's Mills !

Here is a list of some of the extra-curricular activities that have begun at EMPS!

- Intermediate Volleyball sign-up and tryouts
- Intermediate Boys Soccer Practice
- Intermediate Girls Soccer Practice
- Cross Country tryouts Grades 4 - 8
- Soaring Eagles Concert Band Grades 7 - 8
- Lunch monitoring teams Grades 5 -6
- Grade 8 Student announcers



Thank you to teachers for volunteering to coach and to run these activities and events!

### On the Horizon:

September

Character Trait: Courage

**19 Powley Day**

**23 Safety Week Begins**

**25 Le jour des Franco-Ontariens**

**26 Meet the Teacher Night!**

**27 PA Day - No classes for students**

**30 Orange Shirt Day; National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**



Wishing you a wonderful weekend!

*Eugenia Korinis* and *Ayesha Mondal*

Principal

Vice-Principal