



**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 Omari White	Office Admin Team Cathy Consiglio Stella Ditri
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## What's Happening @ EMPS!

### Student Newspaper - First edition!!!

We are pleased to share with you our first edition of the EMPS student newspaper. Please find the full paper attached to this communication. Our group of writers, editors and teacher mentors met regularly to discuss and create content that communicates the pulse of the school from September to January. Felicitations!

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**Intermediate Speech Competition - Thursday,**  
 February 2nd - Congratulations to all of our  
 presenters

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### Coming up this week:

February	
8	Grades 4 - 8 Assembly - Dwayne Morgan Our kick-off event for our Black History Month Celebrations
10	Grades 5 - 8 International Day for Women and Girls in Science - online STEM presentation
13	Grade 5s to Ripley's Aquarium Grade 7 - 8 Skills Ontario Presentation
15	Grade 6 Scientists in the School
16	Grade 6 Scientists in the School

## Week 20 - Friday, February 3rd, 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/February					
	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
<b>Recess</b>	Equity Club - Room 207 with Mr. Kouri  Dance Club- Grade 4's- library  - Intermediate Boys Basketball practice 10:25-10:55  Gr 7 Construction Challenge Team Meeting Rm 212	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
<b>Lunch recess</b>	Glee Club 12:55 - 1:35pm (Music Room)	Eco Club - 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  Junior Concert Band 12:55 - 1:35pm (Music Room)	-Arts Club - Nosib Room 129- Gr. 2-5  Newspaper Club Library - <b>rescheduled for next Day 4 - Feb.7</b> 12:55 - 1:35  Intermediate Concert Band 12:55 - 1:35pm (Music Room)	Intermediate Boys Basketball practice 12:55-1:35pm  Yearbook meeting Rm 212 @ 12:55pm Bring your chromebook

### Every Student Counts Survey - Public Survey Consultation

York Region District School Board will be conducting the Every Student Counts Survey with students in Grades K-12 from April 24, 2023 - May 12, 2023. As part of the survey development, we are asking families to review our [draft surveys](#) and provide their feedback.



Student and family feedback is critical to the survey development process and helps to ensure that the survey is an accurate reflection of our school communities. Responses made through the feedback form are voluntary, confidential and anonymous.

The feedback form will be available from February 3, 2023 - February 10, 2023.

To learn more, please visit [www.yrdsb.ca/escs](http://www.yrdsb.ca/escs)

**Celebrating Black Excellence in YRDSB:**

As a continuation of our Celebrating Black Excellence campaign, YRDSB will be celebrating Black History Month with the Celebrating Black Excellence - Black Voices project.



Celebrating Black Excellence - Black Voices aims to centre and celebrate the Black members of our YRDSB community and share their voices. This Black History Month campaign asks students, staff and families who identify as Black to consider submitting a short video of themselves answering one or more of the following prompts:

- I am proud to be Black because..
- It's important to me that I see my identity affirmed at school/work because...
- What I need at school/work is...
- People need to know that...
- I love myself because...
- I am magic because...
- Do you have a story to tell? Let us know what it is.
- If these prompts don't resonate with you, please feel free to answer a prompt or question of your own making.

These videos will be shared as Reels on the @yrdsb.schools Instagram account throughout the month of February, and may be featured on the Black Excellence webpage or in a YRDSB video.

Submissions from students and staff can be made through an internal form. If your child is interested in making a submission, please ask them to contact a staff member or principal at their school for details.

Community members who are interested in making a submission can do so through our public submission form which is available on the [Celebrating Black Excellence webpage](#).



**Please join us for our School Council Meetings!**

Our meetings are hosted in the library from 7:00 p.m. For families who cannot join us face-to-face, a virtual meet link is shared on the day of the event. Our meetings for the remainder of the year are on the following days: **March 23rd, May 4th**

**Escape Room Night @ EMPS! - Thursday, February 16th, 2023**

Tickets now available for purchase on [School Cash Online](#)! **Advance purchases only.** Sales close February 10th.

**IMPORTANT:** How to place your order on School Cash online.

In School Cash online, you will see **24** options for 'Escape Room: Feb 16'.

**First:** Use the account for your **OLDEST** child. You are making your selection(s) under only **ONE** account.

**Next:** Find the option you'd like. Each option includes:

- Theme (Dungeon escape, Super spy decoders, Defeat the dragon)
- Room 1 or 2 (there are 2 rooms playing the same theme)
- The time you'd like to play (5:00, 5:30, 6:00, 6:30)

**Then:** Select the number of tickets you'd like. Each room has tickets for up to **6 players**. Each ticket is \$5.00.

**Note:** If you are bringing fewer than 6 players, **there may be other players in your room.** For example, if you purchase 4 of 6 tickets in a selection and another group purchases the other 2 tickets, the two groups will play the room together. **If you wish to have the room for your group only, consider purchasing all 6 tickets for that option.**

Here is an example of a selection you might see in School Cash online:

- ☐ *Escape Room: Feb 16 - Super Spy Decoders Theme 2 (Room 2) - 6:30 p.m. Max 6 players*

There will also be Popcorn and Water combos available for advance purchase for this event. This is what the selection will look like in School Cash online: *Family Fun Night - Escape Rooms - Snack Sales*

**To help with the distribution of tickets - PLEASE ONLY MAKE PURCHASES FOR THIS EVENT UNDER THE ACCOUNT OF ONE CHILD at the school - YOUR OLDEST CHILD .**

ELDER'S MILLS PS SCHOOL COUNCIL  
PRESENTS

# GREAT ESCAPE

Come for a good time...  
But will you be able to leave?

Thursday

**16**

**February**

5-7:30PM  
Elder's Mills PS  
120 Napa Valley Ave

Prizes will be given to the team that  
completes each level with the shortest time!

Three levels to play.  
Separate admission ticket required for each level.  
Minute to win it games in the gym.  
**Spots are LIMITED! Order now!**  
Popcorn and water combo available for \$3

**\$5/player**

Each room hosts up to 6 players  
If your group is less than 6, you may be grouped with others to work together.

Purchase tickets, popcorn and water on School Cash Online in advance ONLY



**Upcoming School Council events - SAVE the DATE!!!**

**NEW DATE FOR THE Winter Fair**

**Thursday, March 9th, 2023**

Stay tuned for details!



**YRDSB - Centre for Black Excellence**

- [February Newsletter linked here](#)
- **Black History Month events:**



## 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	<b>Family Cookout with Chef Maxine Knight - Open to All: Student &amp; Families</b> <a href="#">Register Here</a> Virtual or In person Experience Details to be shared upon registration
February 2, 2023	<b>Virtual Storytime For the Family By Sandra Whiting- Open to All Students and Families in K-6</b> <a href="#">Register Here</a> Virtual or In person Experience Details to be shared upon registration
February 17, 2023	<a href="#">Black Excellence Program Master Class 2</a> <b>Secondary Self-Identifying Black Students in YRDSB Schools</b> <a href="#">Register Here</a>
February 23, 2023 9:00-2:00p.m.	<b>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</b> <a href="#">Register Here</a>
February 28, 2023	<b>Black Excellence Program, Elementary- Specific Schools</b> <a href="#">Register Here</a>

Live registration links to the above events are listed below:

[Family Cook out](#)


[Virtual Storytime](#)

[Black Excellence Program Master Class](#)

[In Conversation with MARKTD](#)

[Black Excellence Program - Elementary](#)

### In Conversation with Dion Walcott and Dr. D'Wayne Edwards





presented by  
**THE CENTRE FOR  
BLACK STUDENT EXCELLENCE**

**Thursday, February 23, 2023  
at York University, Keele Campus**

Self-Identifying Black students in Gr. 7 -12 are invited to join the In Conversation with Dr. D'Wayne Edwards President of Pensole Lewis College and Dion Walcott, Director of partnerships for Pensole Lewis College in Detroit MI. This event will be hosted at York University Keele Campus and will include an interactive conversation with Dr. D'Wayne and Dion who will share their inspirational journeys in merging their identities, passion and creativity to develop and lead established careers in the sneakers, art and education industry. Additionally, students will have the chance to explore York University, and the many educational opportunities offered there.

[Register here.](#)



### Family Cookout with Chef Maxine Knight




presented by  
**THE CENTRE FOR  
BLACK STUDENT EXCELLENCE**

**Friday, February 24, 2023  
5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.**

Open to all students and families  
Light refreshments will be served.

[Register here](#) for the in-person experience, happening at Thornlea Secondary School.

Further details will be provided upon registration.



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### Go-Girls - Free Virtual Evening Programs for female identified youth

#### **The Big Brothers Big Sisters of York Region Sessions in February and March**

- Facilitated by trained female volunteer mentors aged 18+.
- Fun and interactive discussions and activities from the comfort of your home
- The program promotes physical activity, balanced eating, self-confidence and stress management.
  - Dates and times of the two sessions in February 2023: (Two different age groups)
  - Virtual Go Girls! (Age 10-14) on Fridays 6:00-7:00 pm:
    - First Session: Friday, February 3 from 6:00-7:00 pm
  - Virtual Little Go Girls! (Age 7-9) on Mondays 6:00-7:00 pm:
    - First Session: Monday, February 6 from 6:00-7:00 pm
- Delivered once a week during the evening for six to seven weeks. [Register Here](#)



## PARENTING SESSIONS

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.

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

**February 1, 2023 | 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**

**The Power of Positive Parenting**

For parents of children 0-12. This session will focus on ensuring a safe engagement environment for children. Strategies for creating a positive learning environment, using assertive discipline, having realistic expectations, taking care of yourself as a parent and available community resources and supports will be discussed.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

**February 7, 2023 | 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**

**Raising Confident Competent Children**

For parents of children 0-12. This session will focus on strategies to; encourage respect and cooperation, learning to be independent, developing healthy self-esteem and how to be a good problem solver.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

**February 14, 2023 | 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

**Raising Resilient Children**

For parents of children 0-12 years of age. This session will focus on how to ensure a safe and engaging environment for children with strategies to: recognize and accept feelings, express their feeling appropriately, build positive feelings, deal with negative feelings and deal with upsetting or stressful events.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

**February 21, 2023 | 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

**Nurturing Healthy Self-Esteem**

For parents of children and teens. This session will focus on how to create a supportive and engaging environment that helps your child develop and maintain confidence and healthy self-esteem.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

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



These free virtual parent presentations are brought to you in a collaborative partnership with  
York Region District School Board and York Hills Centre for Children, Youth and Families.



# GIVE!

## Get Involved. Volunteer in Education!

### Develop Skills to Support Your School Community

Research shows that parent and community engagement increases student achievement, wellbeing and success.

#### Learn more about:

- Role of the Volunteer
- Transferrable Skills
- Equity and Inclusive Education
- Communication Skills
- Human Rights
- Human Trafficking
- Self-care and Well-being
- Employment Readiness

#### Will help you to:

- Build confidence
- Communicate more effectively with students, staff and parents
- Contribute to student learning and parent engagement
- Gain volunteer experience in a school
- Build healthy communities
- Meet new people
- Boost Professionalism

**Where:** Vaughan Welcome Centre, 9100 Jane St. Unit #56, Vaughan ON L4K 0A4

**2023 Session dates:** February 10, 13, 17, 21, 24, 28    **Time:** 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

**[REGISTER HERE](#) FOR THIS FREE PROGRAM TODAY!**

**[bit.ly/3Rb2kTY](https://bit.ly/3Rb2kTY)**

For more information:

**Martha Samer**

[msamer@ccsy.org](mailto:msamer@ccsy.org)

437-217-1785

**Pauline Guo**

[Pauline.guo@yrdsb.ca](mailto:Pauline.guo@yrdsb.ca)

289-637-9901

**Oksana Majask**

[Oksana.majaski@yrdsb.ca](mailto:Oksana.majaski@yrdsb.ca)

416-568-2252





**MESSAGES FROM THE OFFICE**

**Do you need to pick your child up before the end of the school day?**

Here are a few tips and guidelines to remember:

- **Pick up during instructional time:**
  - Your child will remain in class until you arrive
  - When you arrive, please buzz the front door and the office staff will call your child
  - Allow yourself wait time
- **Recess or Lunch**
  - Students are outside from 10:40 - 10:55 and 12:55 - 1:35
  - Arrive before or after these times if picking up your child
- **Between 3:00 - 3:15 p.m.**
  - The office will not be calling students out of class at this time; you will need to wait
  - Pull up into the Kiss'n'Ride and your child will come out to you at 3:15

**Bus Loop- NO ENTRY!!!**

We continue to have parents/guardians driving into the bus loop at prohibited times. 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.

**Vehicles WILL NOT enter the bus loop:**

- When there is a bus present in the loop at any time
- Between 8:20 - 9:00 a.m.
- Between 3:00 - 3:45 p.m.



If you are driving your child to school, use the Kiss n Ride entry on Rota avenue. DO NOT use the bus lane.

Our staff on duty in the morning and the afternoon have made many attempts to redirect vehicles from the bus loop during this time. Unfortunately, they have been met with disrespectful responses. This tone sets a negative example for our students, your children. We expect your cooperation and understanding. Thank you.

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**On the Horizon....**

**February:**

16 - School Council Family Fun Night - Escape Room  
20 - Family Day - School Closed  
21 - Women in STEM presentation  
22 - Pink Shirt Day

**Week 20 - Friday, February 3rd, 2023**

Wishing all of our families a happy weekend!

*Eugenia Korinis*

Principal

*Omari White*

Vice-Principal