



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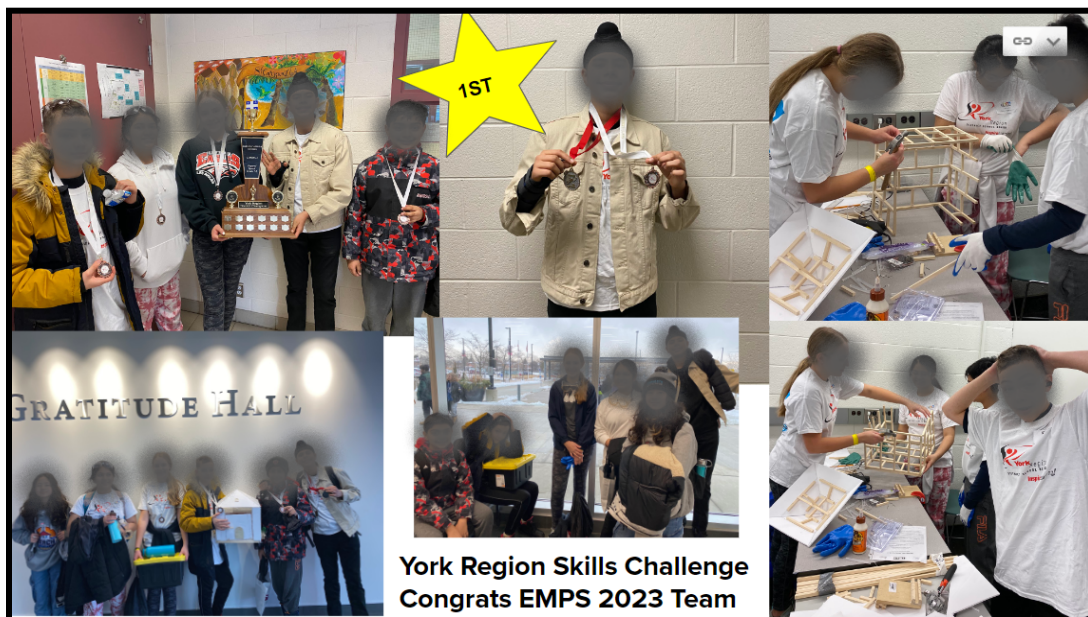
What's Happening @ EMPS!

Basketball! Congratulations to the Intermediate Girls' Basketball team for winning both of their exhibition games this past Thursday! Way to go girls!



York Region Skills Challenge! Way to go Eagles!!!

These events bring together students from across York Region elementary and secondary schools to compete against fellow students in skills-based challenges. Students showcase their skills and talents in individual or team competitions while building confidence and experience in areas that interest them. Congratulations to Bibek on winning **first place** in the Grade 7-8 Prepared Speech competition, making it 3 in a row for EMPS!!! Congratulations also to Sara on being a finalist and to Keira, Zahra, Dylan and Daniel for representing Elder's Mills for the Gr 7-8 Construction Challenge. This experience was funded in part by our School Council Escape Room fundraiser. We wish to thank our community and our School Council for their support.



Black History Month Celebration:

"During the month of February we deliberately reflect upon the legacy of African history in all its various forms, and we join all Canadians in celebrating Black History/African Heritage month. By contemplating on persons of African heritage, famous and not so famous, who have been of significant influence through their ideas, words and actions, we appreciate the place of African history in the history of the world." [YRDSB Web page - Black History Month](#)

On Friday, March 3rd, students and staff assembled in the gym to share and celebrate their learning. We heard presentations from many classes and students, in French and English. We learned about the contributions of Black inventors in the areas of STEM, about Trailblazers and about Black Canadians. We heard from our students about Black Excellence and why they are proud to be Black. We thank our group of student leaders and their teacher facilitators for a wonderful celebratory assembly!



Coming up this week:

Carnaval has arrived at EMPS! Our Student Leadership Team has planned a series of Spirit Days and activities during the week of March 6th, culminating in a Carnaval Activity Day on Friday March 10th. All students are invited to show their Eagles Carnaval Spirit by coming to school dressed in the theme of the day! Let's all be on the look-out for when Bonhomme comes to visit!



Carnaval de EMPS

Le 6 mars au le 10 mars 2023

Lundi le 6 mars Jour 2	Mardi le 7 mars Jour 3	Mercredi le 8 mars Jour 4	Jeudi le 9 mars Jour 5	Vendredi le 10 mars Jour 1
Portez un tuque !! Wear a hat!!	Portez votre chandail de sport plus preferee!! Wear your favourite jersey!!	Portez la ceinture flechee comme la Bonhomme!! Wear a scarf like Bonhomme!!	Portez un pull moche!! Wear a cozy sweater!!	Portez les couleurs du Bonhomme (rouge, blanc, et bleu)!! Wear the colours of Bonhomme (red, white, and blue)!!
				

Staff vs Students Volleyball Fundraiser

THURSDAY MARCH 9TH

BRING A LOONIE OR
TOONIE TO SUPPORT
THE VOLLEYBALL TEAM

LAST TIME, STAFF WON AGAINST
THE STUDENTS



WHO WILL WIN THIS TIME?!

Only those with a ticket will be allowed inside the gym
Stay tuned for more details

What else is happening at EMPS?

Hot Lunches for April, May, June

Families who are interested in continuing or joining the different lunch options for

April - June 2023, the deadline to place your order is **Sunday March 26th, 2023.**



Please go to [School Cash Online](#) for complete details.

We will be continuing with our Monday Subway Lunches and Tuesday Pizza Lunches. The Just Catering for Kids food service will also continue to be an option for families with a portion of proceeds supporting the school.

Please note the start days will be as follows:

Subway Lunches - Monday April 3rd

Pizza Lunches - Tuesday April 4th

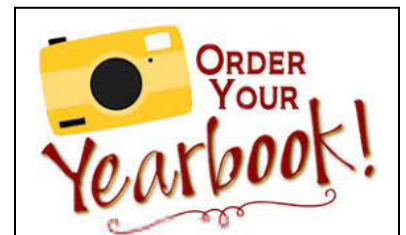
Spirit Wear Fundraiser

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 available from now until June 1. Deliveries will be made to Elder's Mills every 2 - 3 weeks and sent home with students. All proceeds will fund school enhancements and programs. Shop online by following this link:

<https://stores.inksoft.com/eldersmills/shop/home>



Yearbook on sale now! Even as the Yearbook Cover and Back Cover Design Contest continues, we have opened up [School Cash online](#) for families who wish to purchase a yearbook. This year's book will have 64 full- colour pages and will include class pages, graduation photos and pages of memories from this past school year. The cost per yearbook is \$28.00. Delivery is expected mid-June. Place your order by April 23rd, 2023.





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**

Winterfest! Thursday, March 9th, 2023

Details regarding events and ticket sales are available on [School Cash Online](#).

WinterFest is coming!

Join us on Thursday, March 9 from 6-8pm for a fun community evening.

Pre-order your WinterBuck\$ and Entry on School Cash Online
Use WinterBuck\$ at our fun activities!

Fun Activities to enjoy...

Pizza Slice \$\$\$	Raffle \$
Water \$	Snowflake Station
Snack Sale \$	Craft Table
Colouring Wall	Games
Face Painting	and more...
Henna Station \$	
Hot Chocolate \$	Musical entertainment
Photo Booth	provided by Mr. Mellor and his bands

Dress in white and blue

\$= 1 Winterbuck

Winterbuck\$ will be available for purchase during the event
This is a family event. Students must be accompanied by parents/guardians.
Supervision will not be provided

https://www.freepik.com/free-vector/snowy-light-blue

Elementary and Secondary Virtual School in 2023-2024

The Ministry of Education (MoE) mandated for the 2022-2023 school year that school boards were to provide a virtual learning option for students. While we continue to await specific direction from the MoE, we plan to proceed with a virtual learning option as this continues to be in the best interests of our students, families and staff. This will also align us with the decisions of other boards. For the 2023-2024 school year, YRDSB will continue to offer Elementary Virtual School (EVS). For secondary students, we are currently assessing the viable options in how to best offer virtual learning, taking into account the projected enrollment.

Elementary Virtual School (EVS)

- Please note that due to limited enrolment, French Immersion programming will not be offered in EVS in 2023-2024.
- Families currently enrolled in EVS are being asked if they wish to remain enrolled next school year.
- Students currently attending in-person schools may contact their home school to request a transfer to the Elementary Virtual School for the entire 2023-2024 school year.

Secondary Virtual School (SVS)

- YRDSB is investigating virtual learning options for secondary students for the 2023-2024 school year.
- Please note, due to the limited number of students expected in SVS it is possible that the virtual school program may include more asynchronous classes and fewer synchronous offerings.
- Families who have students presently enrolled in SVS have been sent a survey, asking for their preference of learning model for next year (in-person or virtual) with a response deadline of March 6.
- At this time, students in in-person schools are currently unable to choose to transfer to the virtual school for the entire 2023-2024 school year. Details will be shared once a process regarding the transfer to SVS is finalized

MARCH 8, 2022 IS INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

International Women's Day has been recognized for over a century, with the first IWD gathering of over a million people in 1911. In 1977, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution calling on member states to proclaim a day for women's rights and gender parity. Following the United Nations' lead, Canada declared March 8 as International Women's Day. To achieve a gender equal world, it is essential to notice and name the existing inequality and examine and challenge



unconscious biases and harmful gender-based stereotypes. The International Women's Day 2023 campaign exemplifies this commitment through the theme of [#EmbraceEquity](#).

*Imagine a gender equal world. A world free of bias, stereotypes, and discrimination. A world that is diverse, equitable, and inclusive. A world where difference is valued and celebrated.
Together we can forge women's equality.*

Read more at: [IWD: International Women's Day 2023 campaign theme: #EmbraceEquity](#)

After School and Evening Mental Health Supports in Light of Earthquakes in Syria and Türkiye 2023:

York Region District School Board in Collaboration with Naseeha Mental Health Presents Processing Disaster: Group Support Session for Parents and Community:

Naseeha Mental Health supports members of the Muslim Community, as well as those from identities marginalized by oppression. This session aims to extend support to families and caregivers of students affected by the earthquakes in Syria and Türkiye. Experiences related to natural disasters can affect individuals from all cultural and religious backgrounds, including Islam, and be exacerbated by pre-existing mental health needs and trauma. Seeking support from mental health professionals and using coping strategies such as self-care and social support can help individuals manage their symptoms and improve their overall mental health.

The presentation will be offered in English and Arabic. This event will include a brief presentation followed by discussion with conversation, and a question and response period.

Audience : Families, caregivers

Date : March 19, 2023, at 6 pm

Format : Virtual (meeting link to be shared through registration)

Registration : [link](#)





Mental Health Support in Light of the Earthquake Affecting Turkey and Syria

In light of the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria, Family Services York Region is offering four supportive mental health gatherings for parents/caregivers, students grades 6-8, and students grades 9-12.

The events are open to all parents, caregivers, and families across the community. The events will be interpreted in Turkish and Kurdish. At the events, families will hear about common reactions to stress and trauma and potential ways to cope and support their mental health and their child. Youth will hear about common reactions to stress and trauma, potential ways to cope and support their mental health and have a chance to share and support each other.

After School and Evening Event Dates and Times:

- Students Grades 6-8 Virtual session:
March 9, 2023, 6:00-7:00 pm
- Students Grades 9-12 Virtual session:
March 22, 2023, 6:00-7:00 pm
- Elementary Parent/Caregiver Virtual session:
March 23, 2023, 6:00-7:00 pm
- Secondary Parent/Caregiver Virtual session: March
30, 2023, 6:00-7:00 pm

The events will be interpreted in Turkish and Kurdish.

Click the below link to REGISTER

https://forms.office.com/r/ynpmxwHsEy_

Click the below ZOOM link to JOIN the Virtual session

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6812193741>

For more information about the After School and Evening Mental Health Supports in Light of the Earthquakes in Turkey and Syria

Please Contact:

Mahsa Ghayoumi, Outreach Supervisor, mghayoumi@fsyr.ca

[REGISTRATION LINK HERE](https://forms.office.com/r/ynpmxwHsEy_)

[ZOOM LINK HERE](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6812193741)

Supporting Students in the Aftermath of the Earthquakes

Date: March 7th, 2023

Time: 4:15-5:45 pm

[Register here](#)



Omar Zia

*Muslim Educators
Network of Ontario*



Aasiyah Khan

*National Council of
Canadian Muslims*



Huma Saeedi

*Registered Psychotherapist
Cedarway Therapy*

In this virtual workshop, participants will:

- Learn to recognize signs of grief, loss and trauma in students
- Access culturally responsive resources and community partners to support impacted students and families
- Deepen understanding of systemic barriers in education for students and families



[REGISTRATION LINK HERE](#)



The Centre for Black Student Excellence

The Centre for Black Student Excellence is a space of learning and discovery committed to the promotion of dismantling anti-Black racism and amplifying voices that have been historically marginalized.

Visit us at www.yrdsb.ca/blackexcellence to:

- Access videos, resources and information about community partners.
- Learn more about our work to dismantle anti-Black racism, guided by our strategy.
- Celebrate Black excellence through video, feature stories, podcasts and more.
- Find out about programs available to Black students and families.
- Check out our new community newsletter.
- And much more.

Mailing List

Want to stay up-to-date on programs, resources and events in our community that support Black student excellence?

Subscribe to the Centre for Black Student Excellence Mailing List today to receive information related to supporting Black students, celebrating Black excellence and dismantling anti-Black racism.

You can unsubscribe at any time.

Learn more at www.yrdsb.ca/blackexcellence.



March 6-12, 2023 is [Black Mental Health Week](#) in Ontario

This yearly event works to amplify the voices of Black communities and bring much-needed awareness to the historical and current effects of systemic, anti-Black racism on mental health and wellness.



Opportunities and Support

The following resources are available:

- Resources that can provide Black students with culturally appropriate mental health supports:
 - Black Youth Helpline: 1-833-294-8650, Naseeha: 1 (866) 627-3342, [Rise Up-Kids Help Phone](#), Taibu Community Health Centre: 416-644-3536, Tropicana Community Services: 416-439-9009.



The York Region District School Board, in collaboration with
The Alliance of Educators for Black Students, presents

Moving Forward Hand in Hand

Parent/caregiver workshops supporting students of African Caribbean
Canadian Heritage

Free Virtual workshop series for the 2022-2023 school year

Workshop 2

Exploring Internet Usage and Its Impact on Mental Health for Black Youth

March 29th, 2023, 6:30 PM

Join us for an evening of community, conversation and
knowledge exchange.

**Please Register using link or the qr code below by
March 24, 2023**

[Registration Link](#)



For more information, please contact the YRDSB Community Care Team School
Social Workers for the African Caribbean Diaspora Tracy Thomas-Elleston,
tracy.thomas-elleston@yrdsb.ca or Melanie Beckford melanie.beckford@yrdsb.ca.

[REGISTRATION LINK HERE](#)

IN OUR COMMUNITY



The poster is titled "March Break" in a yellow banner at the top. Below it, "DESTINATION" is written in large blue letters, followed by "MARCH 13-17 • ALL VPL LOCATIONS • 2 PM". The poster is divided into five columns, each representing a different activity: Imagination, Road Trip, Staycation, Future, and PJ Party. Each column includes a description of the activity, the day it takes place, and a small illustration. At the bottom, there are two sections for "Bilingual STEAM WORKSHOPS" and "RUBIK'S PIXEL ART WORKSHOP", each with a description, date, time, and location. The poster is decorated with various travel-related icons like an airplane, a camera, a suitcase, and a car.

March Break

DESTINATION

MARCH 13-17 • ALL VPL LOCATIONS • 2 PM

Imagination

Imagine any place you want to travel to! Use your creativity and design fantastical places, collaborate on a big mural and other fun activities.

Monday

Road Trip

Need some transportation for your vacation? Challenge yourself and build your own unique ride! Join us for some fun building activities at the library.

Tuesday

Staycation

There are many wonderful things to discover right outside your door! Try some fun experiments and activities that will wow you and your family!

Wednesday

Future

Have you ever wanted to travel to the future? Join us for some fun activities that will take you light years away!

Thursday

PJ Party

Do you love party games and pastimes? Join our Pajama Party for activities, games and more!

Friday

Bilingual STEAM WORKSHOPS

Optical Illusions / Illusions optiques

Creative kids can practice their French while completing an art challenge! Create an optical illusion or Agamograph picture in a supportive, bilingual environment.

For grades 2+. Registration is \$5.

Durant ce défi artistique bilingue, chaque participant aura la chance de créer un dessin de type agamographe (une illusion optique). Pour les enfants de la 2e année et plus. \$5 par participant. Inscription sur Eventbrite.

BCRL Sunday, March 12, 2 pm

Organic Plastic / Plastique biologique

Wonder what plastic is made of? Practice your French while making your own organic plastic from a surprising kitchen ingredient in a supportive, bilingual environment.

For grade 2+. Registration is \$8.

De quoi est fait le plastique? Découvre comment faire ton propre plastique biologique à l'aide d'un ingrédient très commun durant cet atelier STEAM. Pour les enfants de la 2e année et plus. \$8 par participant. Inscription sur Eventbrite.

CCRL Friday, March 17, 11 am

RUBIK'S PIXEL ART WORKSHOP

Have fun learning techniques to manipulate Rubik's cubes and creating some art with artist and official Rubik's Cube Ambassador Mikael Taieb. Beginners and experts are welcome! Registration is \$10.

CCRL Tuesday, March 14, 10:30 am
DC Monday, March 13, 10:30 am
PBRL Thursday, March 16, 10:30 am

Let's Enjoy!!

BCRL's Sensory Friendly Room will be available as a quiet space during March Break programs

6 | www.vaughanpl.info

MESSAGES FROM THE OFFICE

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: lders.mills.ps.attendance@yrdsb.ca;
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 continue to have to respond to a high number of unreported absences and lates. Please ensure you make every effort to communicate with the school if your child will be away or arriving after 8:45 a.m. If Edsby is not available (we recognize this may sometimes happen), please use one of the other two methods above to report the absence. When the school cannot confirm a child's absence, we do need to follow our Safe arrival procedures and this may include reaching out to York Regional Police to help locate and ensure the safety of your child. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Are you moving?

Is your family planning a move? If your child is currently attending Elder's Mills and you know that they will be changing schools for September, please let our office team know as soon as possible. This information will support our planning for September. Please send an email to elders.mills.ps@yrdsb.ca. Thank you.



On the Horizon....

6 - 10 Carnaval!!!

7 - Graduation Photos!

7 - Holi

7 - Purim

9 - Winterfest 6 - 8 p.m.

13 - 17 March Break

21 - NawRuz/Nowruz

22 - World Water Day Eco Fair @ EMPS

Holi (Hinduism) - A religious spring festival celebrated by people throwing colourful powder and coloured water at each other. Holi is dedicated to Krishna or Kama.

Purim (Judaism) - A celebratory and joyous holiday that commemorates the survival of the Jewish people from eradication in the ancient Persian Empire in 4th century BCE.

NawRuz/Nowruz (Islam, Bahai) - A festival that marks the beginning of the Persian New Year and the first day of spring. It signifies a time of spiritual renewal and physical rejuvenation, as well as a spirit of gratitude for blessings and an outlook of hope and optimism.

We wish our students and our families a very happy weekend!

Eugenia Korinis
Principal

Omari White
Vice-Principal