



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!

BIG BAGS OF POPCORN!

The Big Bags of Popcorn Fundraiser starts April 5 - April 21.

New to our school this year, "the Big Bags of Popcorn" fundraiser event!

Get four Family Size Bags for only \$20.00.

Each bag is 125 grams and the flavours are:

- *butter and salt
- *white cheddar
- *chipotle cheddar
- *dill pickle

Locally grown! Locally popped! Peanut and Nut free! Gluten Free!

Individual bags cannot be sold. You must purchase all four bags.

All payments and orders will be placed on [School Cash online](#).

Many prizes for our top selling students.

Good luck and thank you for your participation.

Ready For Some Fundraising Fun?

Get 4 big family size bags for only \$20.00 including tax.

- ✓ Locally grown!
- ✓ Locally popped!
- ✓ Peanut & Nut free!
- ✓ Gluten Free!

Prizes for the top five sellers!

ELDER'S MILLS PUBLIC SCHOOL
Starts Friday, April 5

PEANUT FREE AND NUT FREE GLUTEN FREE AND GLUTEN FREE

Vaisakhi– APRIL 13, 2024

Vaisakhi is celebrated in April every year. Vaisakhi is celebrated in different parts of India and all around the world.

For Sikhs, Vaisakhi celebrates the birth of the Panth Khalsa order (the Order of the Pure Ones) established by Guru Gobind Singh in 1699. It is at this time that Guru Gobind Singh gave the Khalsa order the five distinct symbols of purity and courage which would make Sikhs identifiable: the Kesh (unshorn hair); Kangha (the wooden comb); Karra (the iron bracelet); Kirpan (the sword) and Kachera (underclothing). By abolishing the caste system and promoting gender equality within the Khalsa, Guru Gobind Singh challenged prevailing social norms, fostering a community based on principles of egalitarianism and fairness, in a historical context where caste and gender discrimination were prevalent. Establishing the Khalsa not only symbolized the commitment to the ideal of equality, it also inspired Sikhs to champion the cause of human rights, instilling a sense of duty to stand against oppression and promote justice for all.



Some of the ways that this day is traditionally honoured include visiting a place of worship (Gurdwaras) and partaking in vegetarian meals in the langar (the community kitchen), listening to kirtan (hymns and prayers sung using instruments) and receiving the sacred karah parshad (a sweet pudding-like food). Sikhs also mark this occasion by participating in nagar kirtans (religious processions) and gatka demonstrations (Sikh form of martial arts) throughout the month, where participants are encouraged to adorn themselves in traditional clothing and dastaars (turbans) of navy blue, black, white and saffron.

We extend good wishes to all staff, students and members of the Sikh and Indian communities who will be celebrating Vaisakhi.

Celebrating @ EMPS!

We have much to celebrate at Elder's Mills. We are a community of families, students and staff of diverse identities and we are reaching out to you to share the celebrations, traditions and stories, past and present, that are part of the Elder's Mills identities.

Families are invited to share artifacts and resources for Sikh Heritage Month, Passover, Orthodox Easter and looking ahead to May for Asian/South Asian Heritage Month and more! Please email elders.mills.ps@yrdsb.ca to indicate your interest.



April is Earth Month

Small Steps Can Make Big Change This Earth Month



It's Earth Month and there are steps we can all take to help reduce our environmental footprint.

Use active travel. Taking the school bus and walking, riding or biking to school helps reduce pollution and traffic congestion in our neighbourhoods. It's also great for your mental health, well-being and academic performance.

- If you drive, consider parking near the school and walking the rest of the way (obeying all neighbourhood parking rules). Even this small change can make a difference.
- The walk to school is also a great time to connect, look for signs of spring and appreciate the changing season.






Reduce your energy and water use. Turn off lights, TVs, computers, when you do not need them. Turn off the tap when you're not using the water.

Reduce your waste. Using a refillable water bottle for example, helps to reduce the use of plastic water bottles. Bring your own bags to the store. Reuse whatever items you can. Repair items that are broken instead of throwing them away. Recycle wherever possible instead of contributing to the landfill.

Plant a tree, native plant or vegetable garden. Learn about native species and plants that attract birds, bees and butterflies.

Explore the outdoors! There is no better way to celebrate Earth Week than going for a walk. Check out York Regional Forest to discover nature in your backyard. Want to take your Earth Day celebrations out of the classroom? Why not visit one of Ontario's 290 conservation areas?

EcoWeek @ Elder's Mills

Eco Week/Semaine Éco: 22-26 avril				
Monday/Lundi 22 avril	Tuesday/Mardi 23 avril	Wednesday/Mercredi 24 avril	Thursday/Jeudi 25 avril	Friday/Vendredi 26 avril
<p>*Earth Day* Wear blue or green to show your love for our planet!</p> <p>Bondar Challenge Students will learn about the art of photography to discover new perspectives of nature through a camera lens.</p> 	<p>Sit spot and mental health benefits A Sit Spot cultivates a connection between you and nature, improves observation skills, and well-being by visiting one specific place in nature on a regular basis.</p> 	<p>Waste Free Lunch Have a waste-free lunch to reduce environmental impacts of packaging by using drink containers, washable cutlery, and cloth napkins instead of prepackaged foods, juice boxes and pouches, and disposable utensils.</p> 	<p>Community Clean-up Every year in April, in honor of Earth Day, residents in Vaughan come together to take part in the City of Vaughan's 20-Minute Makeover community litter cleanup.</p>  <p>Map and materials provided</p>	<p>Pause to Play Challenge Students put aside technology and are more physically active by playing outside.</p> 

School Council

Meetings:

Our next School Council meeting is Thursday, April 25, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. in the library. If you are unable to join a meeting and would like to know the topics discussed, the meeting presentations are posted on the [School Council pages of the Elder's Mills website.](#)

EMPS School Council Daytime Social

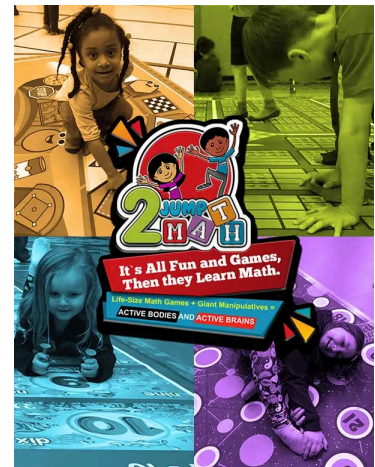
Mugs and Mornings is an opportunity to make connections with School Council members and other parents during the daytime. Topics for conversation range from 'getting to know you' icebreakers to discussion items from School Council meetings, upcoming opportunities, exchanging ideas and more! Please join us on Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. You bring the coffee or tea and we'll bring the treats!



Family Math Night with Jump 2 Math!

Thursday, May 16th

Details coming soon!



USED BOOK DRIVE

School Council is collecting used books, board games, and puzzles.

Books, games, and puzzles will be sold at upcoming school events to raise funds for the school!

Please ensure books are appropriate and games and puzzles are complete!

Books, games, and puzzles can be sent to the school with your child immediately!
Reusable bags also appreciated!

Thank you for your support!

Food Bank Cake Mix



Join our initiative to sweeten someone's day! **Donate cake mix** to support the food bank.

Spread joy with a simple gesture - **contribute cake mix**

Help us bake smiles! **Your cake mix donation** will make a difference in someone's life.



MESSAGES FROM THE OFFICE

Class Placements for 2024 - 2025:

In the upcoming weeks, homeroom teachers, support staff and administration will be working to develop balanced classes for the next school year that strive to best meet a number of criteria. In this process we rely on the professional judgment of the teachers and staff who have worked with your child.

We appreciate that parents/guardians may wish to share information about their child for staff to consider during the class placement process. If you wish to do so, please complete and submit the Google Form shared below by Friday, April 26, 2024. If you have more than one child at the school, please submit a separate form for each child.

Requests for specific teachers will not be considered.

As we make placement decisions, your input is taken into consideration; however, due to the variety and number of factors which inform class placement decisions, we cannot make any guarantees regarding placements.

Google Form: [Class Placement 2024 - 2025](#)

Thank you for your support.

Attendance and Safe Arrival:

Parents may inform the school office of their child's absence in three ways. Consistent, punctual attendance is very important. Learning occurs daily, right from the beginning of the school day. Frequent, repeated late arrivals and absences result in missed learning for students, disruptions to the routine of the classroom and missed opportunities to develop socially. A high volume of students are arriving late to school (not including late buses). Attendance impacts your child's learning in several ways. We request your support in getting your child to school on time and developing positive habits about school attendance. different ways:

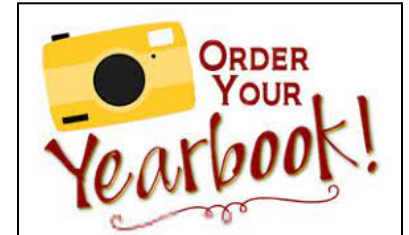


1. Absences can be entered into **Edsby** which is available 24 hours/day, 7 days a week. Future absences can be reported at any time;
2. Send an email to the school attendance email address at: elders.mills.ps.attendance@yrdsb.ca or;
3. Parents may choose to contact the school office at 905-893-1631 between 8:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. on the day of absence.

We invite all parents/guardians to create an EDSBY account, as this tool is also used as a form of communication from school and home. If you do not have an EDSBY account, please click on the link below to create your account. [Tip Sheet: Creating an Edsby Account](#)

Yearbook on sale now!

We have opened up [School Cash online](#) for families who wish to purchase a yearbook. The cost per yearbook is \$30.00. Delivery is expected mid-June. Place your order by April 30th, 2024.



Student Personal Information Consent Form - YEARBOOK:

Yearbooks chronicle the activities of the school and student body. They are produced for sale (hard copy or digital) to students and the school community. School yearbooks may be placed in the school library in hardcopy or electronic format.

Class photos, photos of your child's participation in school clubs, activities and events, work products by your child, and your child's achievements may be published in the yearbook along with their grade and full name.

Please complete and submit [this form](#) if you **DO NOT CONSENT** to your child's photo and/or name being published in the yearbook. Complete a separate form for each child. Submit by Monday, April 22nd.

This information was initially collected in the School Start Up forms shared with all families in September. If you did not complete these forms, please follow this link and complete them as soon as possible: <https://startupforms.yrdsb.ca/>

If you consent, there is no need to complete this form, but we do ask that you ensure the start up forms are completed.



Save the Date!
Wednesday, June 12, 2024
Show submissions start soon!





Family Engagement Evening



Understanding the Ontario Education Systems Part 2

Welcome to our second SEAS "Family Engagement Evening" event supporting families and caregivers to develop a deeper understanding of the Ontario Education System.

In this session, we are discussing report cards, assessment and evaluation, at both elementary and secondary levels.

Presentations will be available in English, Mandarin, Korean and Cantonese.

Thursday, April 25, 2024

6:30 - 8:00pm

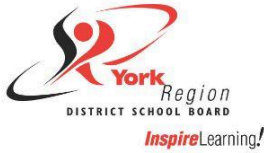
Markville Secondary School, 1000 Carlton Road, Markham, ON L3P 7P5

Please use the QR code or visit bit.ly/3vDz2qU to register by Monday, April 23, 2024



For additional inquiries, please contact:
bronson.chu@yrdsb.ca or pauline.quo@yrdsb.ca

This event is co-hosted by YRDSB Inclusive Schools & Community Services (ISCS), Community and Partnership Developers for East Asian Families and Supporting East Asian Students (SEAS) in collaboration with Network of Educators for Korean Students (NEKS), Curriculum and Instructional Services of YRDSB and community partner CCSYR



Supports for Students with Autism and their Families

This session will support parents, guardians and families with:

- Understanding Autism
- Process for diagnosis
- YRDSB referral process
- School supports
- Community resources

Date: Wednesday, May 1, 2024

Time: 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Location: Unionville High School, 201 Town Centre Blvd, Markham, ON L3R 8G5

Please use the QR code to [register](#) or visit <http://bit.ly/48JDldd> by Apr. 28!



This free information session is organized by Inclusive School and Community Services in partnership with Student Services of York Region District School Board. For more information, please email shani.blake@yrdsb.ca or pauline.guo@yrdsb.ca

Please note that childcare will not be provided.



On the Horizon....

April

April is Sikh Heritage Month

Character Trait: Respect

16 Mugs & Mornings - Daytime Social

17 Grades 4 - 6 Richmond Hill Performing Arts Centre

17 Grades 2 and 7 Dental Screening

17 Basketball Area Tournament - Jr. Boys

18 Basketball Area Tournament - Jr. Girls

18 Grade 8 Toronto Symphony

20 Ridvan

23 First Day of Passover

25 School Council Meeting

20 First Day of the Festival of Riḍván (Bahá'í Faith)

The Festival of Riḍván, termed by Bahá'u'lláh the 'Most Great Festival' and the 'King of Festivals,' commemorates the 12 days that Bahá'u'lláh spent in the garden of Riḍván outside Baghdad. The festival commemorates Bahá'u'lláh's public declaration of His mission to His family and closest followers. The first, the ninth, and the twelfth days of Riḍván are Bahá'í Holy Days on which work is suspended.

23 First Day of Pesah (Judaism)

Pesah (Passover) commemorates the departure of Israelites from slavery in Egypt. The festival of Passover is celebrated for eight days, the first two and last two days are observed as holy days. The evenings of the first and second days of Pesah begin with Seder meals (festive meals and the telling of the Passover story). The final day of Pesah marks the Israelites' crossing of the Red Sea, as related in The Book of Exodus.

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

To families celebrating Vaisakhi, we wish you happy celebrations!

Eugenia Korinis
Principal

Ayesha Mondal
Vice-Principal

