



Elder's Mills: The Eagle Eye
Soaring on Wings of Character, Community and Diversity
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What's Happening @ Elder's Mills!

School spirit Days!



Supporting the Food Bank!

Grade 8s in Mme Wong's class were given a challenge to bring in as many items as possible to support the food drive. Here is what they were able to accomplish! Way to go Eagles!



Coming Soon - January 16!

The January Jingle! Presented by Grades 2 - 4 Students of Elder's Mills

Tickets are available for purchase on [School Cash online](#). All funds raised will support the Primary Music and Arts programs.



Winter Vacation Plans?

With the Winter Break coming up, if you anticipate an extended absence from school for your child, **please notify the office in writing (email elders.mills.ps@yrdsb.ca).** Be sure to include the last day your child will be at school and your expected date of return.



Looking ahead to January 2025

Arrive on time to school



Classes begin promptly at 8:45 a.m. It is important the lates and absences are reported to the school as soon as possible.

Reporting Lates and Absences: Parents may inform the school office of their child's absence or late arrival in three different ways:

- Absences and lates can be entered into **Edsby** which is available 24 hours/day, 7 days a week. Future absences can be reported at any time;
- Send an email to the school email address at: elders.mills.ps@yrdsb.ca or;
- 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.

Communicating absences and lates using the above-mentioned options will support our school Safe Arrival process and minimize the need for automated call-outs. Thank you.

IMPORTANT REMINDER - Personal Mobile Devices in School.

Dear Parents,

*This letter is to inform you that there have been updates to student use of personal mobile devices in schools, in particular, students must now **store their mobile device out of view**, and power off or set to silent mode during the school day. As you may know, in 2024, the Ontario Ministry of Education introduced a directive modifying the use of personal mobile devices in classrooms. YRDSB already has [Policy and Procedure 194.0 Appropriate Use of Technology](#) and many measures around personal mobile devices are already in place. The changes you may see will bring alignment with the new Ministry Directive. The following expectations for students' use of personal mobile devices are outlined in the revised [Provincial Code of Conduct \(PPM 128\)](#), and the York Region District School Board's Policy #668 Caring and Safe Schools.*



All mobile devices, including cellphones, smart watches, and tablets, must be **stored out of view** and **powered off** or set to **silent mode** during the school day, including recess and lunch.

Elementary Schools



Week 16 - Friday, December 20, 2024

A personal mobile device is any personal electronic device that can be used to communicate or access the internet, such as a laptop, cellphone, tablet or smart watch.

Expectations

Students are responsible for their personal mobile device, how they use it and the consequences of not following the provincial or school board policy.

*Students' personal mobile devices must be **stored out of view and powered off or set to silent mode**, except under the circumstances outlined below:*

- *for educational purposes, as directed by an educator*
- *for health and medical purposes*
- *to support special education needs*

Students in Kindergarten to Grade 8 can bring a personal mobile device to school, but will only be able to use it before and after school. They may not use personal mobile devices at school during the school day, including recess and lunchtime, unless students leave school property for lunch.

New Practices at School

*If your child is in Kindergarten to Grade 6 and an educator sees a personal mobile device that is not **stored out of view and powered off or set to silent mode**, the student may be required to bring their personal mobile device to the school administrator for the school day. The personal mobile device will be placed by the student in a storage area in a location designated by the school administrator.*

*If your child is in Grade 7 or 8 and an educator sees a personal mobile device that is not **stored out of view and powered off or set to silent mode**, the student may be required to place their personal mobile device in a storage area designated by the educator for the class or period.*

If your child uses their personal mobile device inappropriately, progressive discipline may apply and families may be notified.

Resources

Families play an important role in teaching children about finding a healthy balance in using technology. You may wish to access the following resources:

- *Media Smarts - [Four Tips for Managing Your Kids' Screen Time](#)*
- *School Mental Health Ontario - [Helping Your Child Manage Digital Technology](#)*
- *Centre for Addiction and Mental Health - [Problem Gambling and Technology Use Treatment Services](#)*

For additional information regarding Policy/Program (PPM) 128, please visit the Ministry of Education's [Cellphones and other mobile devices in schools](#) site or the York Region District School Board's website.

Thank you,

A note about snacks and lunches - they must be NUT FREE!

To protect students with allergies, please help to ensure that lunches and snacks are free of nut and peanut products, and/or other allergens that may be a problem for students with allergies. We ask families and children to do their part to ensure our students with allergies stay safe. We can reduce the risk of accidental exposure with your help. Please:

- **DO NOT** send peanut/tree-nut containing products to school. This includes products like peanut butter, hazelnut/chocolate spread and their substitutes.
 - Please read all labels of processed foods to ensure they indicate they are peanut/nut free.
 - Remind your child that food in their snack or lunch is not to be shared.
 - Do not send food to school for sharing with classmates (e.g. birthday or other celebrations).
 - Please be advised that if you are providing or dropping off lunches (including from restaurants) to ensure they are nut free. Where there may be a concern, your child may be asked to consume them in a space separate from the classroom.
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Weather and Recess

All students are expected to go out for every recess, weather permitting. **Students are to come to school ready for winter and prepared to be outdoors up to 15 minutes at morning recess and 40 minutes at lunch recess.** Please support conversations with your child at home about wearing their coats, hats, gloves etc... when they go outside



Winter

Please make sure that your children are dressed properly for the weather. It is advisable for students to bring a change of clothes (extra pants and socks). A change is often necessary due to the wet and cold weather of the winter months. Students are asked to have a pair of indoor shoes at school so that they may change out of their outdoor shoes/boots prior to entering the classroom. Indoor shoes should be closed toe and closed heel and non-slip (no sandals/crocs/slip-on shoes). Label all articles of clothing. Boots, hats, mitts/gloves, scarves, and snow pants will help make recess an enjoyable

Preparing for Severe Weather - Stuff to Know:

School Transportation Cancellations:

School transportation (buses and taxis) may be cancelled due to extreme cold or inclement weather. On these days, schools will remain open unless otherwise stated. If school transportation is cancelled in the morning, it will also be cancelled in the afternoon. Any special or hot lunch days and field trips will



also be cancelled.

Families should use their best judgment to decide whether to send their children to school on extreme cold or inclement weather days. Students will not be penalized for missing school on those days. For safety reasons, please let the school know if your child will not be attending school that day.

School Closures

Emergency closures will be considered when conditions may not be safe for students and staff members to attend school for the full day. This may include events that significantly limit school operations or access to the school site (e.g., widespread, prolonged power failures or downed power lines).

In keeping with our current practice, we will continue to keep our schools open as much as possible. However, it is important that families have alternate childcare arrangements planned for the rare occasions when schools may be closed. Before and aftercare programs will not operate if schools are closed.

Communication to Families

Decisions about school transportation and school closures will be made as early as possible and no later than 6:00 a.m. We will do our best to notify families in advance when we may be considering closing school and Board offices. Transportation cancellations or school closures are communicated through:

- Student Transportation Services - www.schoolbuscity.com or 1-877-330-3001
- [Board](#) and school websites
- [@YRDSB](#) Twitter account
- Radio and TV media outlets

For more information on [severe weather days](#), please visit our website www.yrdsb.ca.

School Spirit Wear

The online store is 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>



Hot Lunches:

The Lunchbox program is live through: <https://www.schoolcashonline.com/>. Orders can be placed by Sunday of each week. You may order one week at a time or several weeks all together; there are many options!

School Council



Coffee Drop-In:

The School Council is organizing a monthly daytime social. All parents/guardians of EMPS are welcome to drop in and connect with members of the council, meet and get to know one another. Topics of discussion will include school goals, making connections in the community and more. Our next gathering for this year is planned for January 14, 2025

If you wish to connect with School Council, please email elders.mills.ps@sc.yrdsb.ca

Lunch Time Clubs - Beginning January!

Invite your child in grade 2 - 6 to indicate their interest on google form at this link: [Lunch Time Clubs at Elder's Mills PS](#). See flyer below for more information:





Winterfest is coming!

- ★ Thursday, January 23, 2025
- ★ At Elder's Mills PS!
- ★ Details coming soon!

We need your support with Winterfest events!
See flyers below and reach out to elders.mills.ps@sc.yrdsb.ca to connect. Merci!



On the horizon:

December

21 Pancha Ganapati
21 December Solstice
25 Christmas Day
25 - January 2 Hanukkah
26 - January 1 Kwanzaa

Winter Break

December 23 - January 3
Classes Resume January 6

January

1 New Year's Day
6 Classes Resume
7 Christmas - Eastern Orthodox
9 Scientists in the School - Gr 8
10 Scientists in the School - Gr 8
16 Primary Winter Concert!
17 PA Day - No classes for students
23 Winterfest
27 Holocaust Remembrance Day (UN)
29 Lunar New Year
30 PA Day - No classes for students

