

Milliken Mills High School



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Superintendent: Rashmi Swarup
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November 2012 Newsletter

Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Guardians:

With this newsletter you are receiving a copy of your son/daughter's report card. We congratulate our students on their continued dedication to their studies and trust that you are pleased with their results. Hopefully, this will provide an opportunity to further discuss their academic progress and future plans and help them to set goals.

A strong partnership between home and school is essential to the success of our students. Teachers at MMHS are dedicated in their efforts to support your child's learning and make their high school experience memorable. Many of our staff contribute their time beyond the classroom as coaches, teacher advisors, and committee members in order to enrich our students' time in high school. We have already enjoyed many special events including: Grade 9 Day, Photo Day, Hallowe'en festivities, Awards Assembly, Terry Fox Run and many of our fall sports teams have already completed their fall seasons.

Our Student Activity Council and Milliken Athletic Council have planned a number of activities throughout this year and students' participation is key to the success of these

events. We strongly encourage all of our students to get involved and become part of the positive school culture that exists at our school. Daily announcements, bulletin boards and teachers are all sources of information for teams, clubs and other school activities. Please refer to the list of important upcoming dates in the life of MMHS

Staff will be contacting parents throughout the year as necessary and we encourage parents to do the same. Parents are always welcome to attend our School Council meetings which are held bi-monthly in the library from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. This year, remaining meetings are scheduled Mondays on November 26, February 25, April 22 and June 17.

On a personal note, it has been a pleasure to meet many of you and I look forward to seeing you at future school activities and events during the school year.

Lastly, both the administration and staff wish our students every success in their studies this year.

Catherine McGinley

MMHS Spirit!



More than 1300 MMHS staff and students unofficially shattered the world record for wearing "break cancer" temporary tattoos and most consecutive "high-fives" on our Spirit Day, October 10. Our attempts have been sent to the Guinness Book of Records and we are anxiously awaiting confirmation that we are the new world record holders!

After this, everyone participated in the making of the school "lipdub" video for presentation at the Ontario Student Leadership Conference and to our incoming Grade 8 students. Students kept to the beat of some of the past summer's most popular songs while our student leaders led the viewers through the halls, classes, and past signs representing our many clubs and teams.



Co-Operative Education

Once again a new school year has begun and our Co-Op students are out earning credits in a variety of work placements. New placements for this semester are **Michael J. Rombis Law, Clipindale Salon, Dr. Paul Hu Dentistry, Dr. Indira Optometry, NextMod, Markham Naturopathic Clinic, Scarborough Naturopathic Clinic, Legacy Medical Clinic, Fleet Tech Trucks, Nortown Air, and Fort York Armory**. Many of our long-term partners in the community continue to support the program. We thank all of them for their participation.

The Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) offers Grade 12 students who will be graduating this year a 4 credit Co-Op package where they will also earn their Level One in several trades at no cost. Students attend Community College for 8 weeks during the second semester.

If your company or organization can assist us in helping students get valuable on the job experience, please contact Miss Mitchell or Ms. LeBlanc at 905-477-0072 ext. 123.

ਇਹ ਇੱਕ ਜ਼ਰੂਰੀ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਹੈ . ਕ੍ਰਿਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਸਨੂੰ ਕਿਸੀ ਅਜਿਹੇ ਵਿਅਕਤੀ ਕੋਲ ਲੇ ਜਾਓ ਜੋ ਇਸਨੂੰ ਆਪ ਨੂੰ ਸਮਝਾ ਸਕੇ.

这是一份重要文件。
请您将它拿给可以向您解释此文件的人。

Dates ahead

November

- 19 Mid-Semester Reports distributed
- 19-22 Bully Prevention Week
- 21 Library Read-a-thon
- 23 P.A. Day (no classes)
- 26 School Council meeting
- 27 Full Disclosure

December

- 13 Music Concert
- 17-20 Grad Photos
- 21 Talent Show
- 26-Jan. 4, 2013 Winter Break (Holiday)

January 2013

- 7 Classes resume
- 9 Grade 8 Parent Info Evening
- 16 University Applications deadline
- 17-18 Grade 9 EQAO Math Test
- 24-30 Semester 1 Examinations
- 31 Exam Review Day

February

- 1 P.A. Day (no classes)
- 1 College Application deadline
- 4 Semester 2 Classes Begin
- 7 Semester 1 Report Cards distributed
- 15 P.A. Day (no classes)

March

- 11-15 Spring Break (Holiday)

School Council Meeting

November 26, 2012
6:30 pm in the library
All are welcome

Take Our Kids To Work

On November 7, we participated in the national "Take Our Kids to Work Day". Grade 9 students spent a day in the workforce to gain a better understanding of career opportunities and the world of work.

Take Our Kids To High School

Also on November 7, we hosted approximately 250 Grade 8 students from Aldergrove, Highgate, Milliken Mills, Randall and Wilclay Public Schools. Students had a chance to experience Grade 9 classes as well as learn about the variety of clubs and teams available and ask questions of senior students and our staff. More visits are planned for the spring.

Grade 8 Information Night

Grade 8 parents and students are welcome on January 9, 2013 for 2013-2014 course selection information night.

History Department

The History Department is off to a great start this year. On November 9, the History Department worked with the Music and Special Education departments to organize the commemoration ceremonies for Remembrance Day. Together, with the school, we took some time to remember our brave soldiers of past and present.

On November 12, the Grade 12 History students in the West and the World course and the Grade 11 students from World History to the 16th Century course visited the Royal Ontario Museum and participated in lessons conducted by the teachers of the Museum. Students gained hands-on experience working with artifacts and making connections to their classroom learning.

Finally, in the coming weeks, the Grade 11 Law students will be gaining a better understanding of our criminal justice system by participating in a re-enactment of a C.S.I. scenario and taking part in a mock trial.

It has been an incredibly busy start and we are looking forward to another great year.



Milliken's **Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM)** Programs are up and running! Our students earn special recognition for focusing their studies in **Environmental Studies** or **Business Studies**. The SHSM is for Grade 11 and 12 students. It offers **free** certifications in standard first aid and CPR, **free** WHIMIS Training as well as many special "**Reach Aheads**" to universities, colleges and workplace destinations. Students who complete the program over 2 years are recognized with a special red seal on their graduation diploma. Please see Mr. Lebedynsky in the Guidance office for more information on how to get started in one of our exciting new programs.

Our first SHSM certification event was a great success! Students in the **SHSM Environment Program** conducted Stream Assessment Protocols on November 7, 2012 at the Milne Park in Markham. Students earned one of the Certifications required for the SHSM program. The requirements included stream mapping, benthic study and water quality analysis. The weather was chilly but the enthusiasm kept us warm. Thank you to students from Mr. Kyriakou's Environmental Science class, the Green Inc. club and the T.E.A.M. Program and staff volunteers for braving the elements for a rewarding day. Special thanks to Deborah Silver and her team from our partner **Ontario Streams** for all their hard work and patience!

Free Math Tutoring from the Ministry of Education!

Are you in Grades 9 to 10? Need help with math homework? You can log in between 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. ET from Sunday to Thursday for **free** one-on-one tutoring from an Ontario Math teacher. You can also join your grade's tutor room to see what questions other students are asking and then watch teachers walk through problems on the group whiteboard. There are chat lines, video tutorials and question banks as well.

It's **free** and easy to sign up. To log in and register, you'll need your Ontario Education Number (OEN), found at the top of your report card near your name.

Sign In or register for Homework Help at the Independent Learning Centre

<https://homeworkhelp.ilc.org/>.

Homework Help is run by TVO's Independent Learning Centre with support from the Ontario government.

Homework Help is offered in English and is only available to students at publicly funded schools.



EcoSchools: Milliken Chases Gold and Litterless Lunches Taste Even Better!

After having been stalled at the silver level for the province's EcoSchools competition for the past two years, staff and students have rededicated themselves to the 3R's to make a push for gold this year. A recent waste audit at our school showed that about 30% of our recyclable waste is entering our garbage stream every year. This is unnecessary and unacceptable. This surprising information left our EcoSchools Committee with no doubt about the necessity of re-dedicating ourselves to the practices of **Reducing, Reusing and Recycling**. We will place seven new recycling bins outside to capturing recyclable waste before it is contaminated with organic waste and three new recycling bins will be in high volume waste areas inside the school. This will also remind all of us to recycle and help keep organic waste (i.e. food waste) from contaminating the recycling.

Other initiatives include GOOS boxes (Good On One Side Paper) containers that will be presented to every classroom to try and get more out of every piece of paper before it hits the recycling stream, and **Litterless Lunch Tuesdays** where students will be asked to take home all the lunch waste they produce every Tuesday. *Whatever garbage we bring in on Tuesdays we will be asked to take back home with us.* In this way we hope to develop awareness around all the waste we produce in a given day, with the goal of reduction. We will need everyone to support our efforts to become a more environmentally conscientious school, create less garbage and achieve that important gold level status!



Guidance News

Community Involvement Hours

As part of the diploma requirements, students must complete a minimum of **40** hours of community involvement activities during their secondary school years. Community involvement is intended to encourage students to develop an understanding of civic responsibility and the role they can play in supporting and strengthening their communities.

Community involvement activities may be completed at any time before graduation, beginning in the summer following grade 8. Students under the age of 18 must plan and select their community involvement activities from the list of approved activities in consultation with their parents/guardians.

Changes have been made to both eligible and ineligible community involvement activities, and to the forms associated with these activities. Students must submit the new *Notification and Completion of Community Involvement Activities Form* **before** starting volunteer activity. The forms and more information are available on the York Region District School Board website: www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/communityinvolvement

Grade 12 students should plan to have their 40 hours of community involvement activities completed, and the completed form submitted for processing, no later than **June 10, 2013**.

Post-secondary Information

Students who are planning to apply to university this year will be able to pick up their confidential Personal Identification Number (PIN) Access Letter from the Guidance Office in late November. This letter will contain the school number, student number and PIN they will need to log on to the university online application. Students should listen for morning announcements and may come to Guidance during their lunch, spare or before/after school to pick them up. Note - Students will be required to bring ID with them and to keep their PIN in a secure location.

Important Dates:

- *January 16, 2013* – Deadline to apply online to university for equal consideration
- *February 1, 2013* – Deadline to apply online to college for equal consideration

Full Disclosure Deadline

The last day for a student to drop a semester one Grade 11 or 12 course so that it does not appear on their transcript is **November 27, 2012**. All grade 11 and 12 courses dropped after this date will appear on the student's transcript with the mark that they achieved at the time the course was dropped.

Release of Information for University and College Applications

There will be a release of grades and other identifying information (name, date of birth, home address, telephone number, OEN, student number) for all eligible students in Grade 12 using secure transmission technology to the Ontario University Application Centre (OUAC) and the Ontario College Application Service (OCAS).

These transmissions are in support of the student's applications to college and university. If you would like more information about the upcoming release of grades, please contact your child's guidance counsellor.

OUAC release dates:

February 14, 2013 – Final semester one marks
April 25, 2013 – Mid-term semester two marks
July 9, 2013 – Final semester two marks and proof of graduation
August 23, 2013 – Final marks from summer school or night school e-learning

OCAS release dates:

February 12, 2013 – Final semester one marks
April 22, 2013 – Mid-term semester two marks
July 5, 2013 – Final semester two marks and proof of graduation
August 23, 2013 – Final marks from summer or night school e-learning

T.E.A.M. Adopts Markham Creek

The adoption papers finally came through! The sign is officially up! Milliken's T.E.A.M. Program and their long time local stream rehabilitation partners, **Ontario Streams**, cemented an historic relationship on November 1 by planting 350 trees and shrubs along the banks of Robinson Creek. The creek runs through the green space just behind Main Street Markham at Highway 7 and Highway 48.

The creek is part of the Rouge watershed and is especially significant because it is the fragile home of the endangered Redside Dace (*Clinostomus elongates*), a fish species deemed "at risk" by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. Interestingly, the Redside Dace are the only fish in Canada with the ability to jump out of the water to eat.

Adopt-A-Stream activities therefore involve habitat restoration activities which encourage clean and cold flowing water with sufficient overhanging grasses and



shrubs to encourage insects to alight close to the stream to provide a healthy food supply. T.E.A.M. staff and students are proud of their efforts to prevent habitat loss and degradation to our important local streams caused by intensive urban development in Markham over the past 19 years. Congratulations T.E.A.M.!

GO Knights GO! Thank you to our athletes and coaches for a great fall season!

MILLIKEN ATHLETICS



Senior Girls Volleyball

MILLIKEN ATHLETICS



Junior Boys Volleyball

MILLIKEN ATHLETICS



Senior Boys Volleyball



Senior Girls Basketball



Senior Boys Soccer



Varsity Girls Field Hockey

Photos were not available for the Cross Country team, the Junior Boys Soccer team – quarter finalists, the Varsity Boys Cricket team – York Region Silver Medalists, and the Junior Girls Basketball – quarter finalists.

આ એક અગત્યનું દસ્તાવેજ છે. یہ ایک اہم دستاویز ہے۔
મહેરબાની કરી તે કોઇ પાસે લઇ જાઓ જે આપને સમજાવી શકે. براہ مہربانی اسے اس فرد کے پاس لے جائیں جو آپ کیلئے اس کی وضاحت کر سکے۔

यह एक महत्वपूर्ण दस्तावेज है.

कृपया इसे किसी ऐसे व्यक्ति को दिखाएँ जो इसे आपको समझा सके .

இது ஒரு முக்கிய ஆவணம்.

தயவுசெய்து இதனை உங்களுக்கு விளங்கப்படுத்தக்கூடிய யாராவது ஒருவரிடம் எடுத்துச் செல்க.

Este es un documento importante. Llévelo a alguien que pueda explicarlo.