

Milliken Mills High School



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Principal: Catherine McGinley
Vice-Principals: Kandeephan Ganeshalingam, Patricia Obadia, Ken Shigeishi
Superintendent: Rashmi Swarup
Trustee: Juanita Nathan

April 2013 Newsletter

Principal's Message

Happy Spring! Unbelievably it is almost the end of April already and staff and students of Milliken Mills are all set for an exciting finish to the year. As the weather warms up, the pace at Milliken Mills H.S. speeds up as well with concert preparations, banquets, assemblies & ceremonies (including our Graduation on June 26th), field sports, student council elections, talent show, a carnival, our 25th Anniversary Reunion, and most importantly, culminating activities in courses.

For the remainder of this year and into the summer months, a construction project will be underway to replace all the exterior windows of the school. This work is beginning in our cafeteria and, as a result, while students will still be able to purchase food and refreshments as is currently the case, seating will not be available in the cafeteria. We anticipate that this portion of the work will take 2 – 3 weeks, weather permitting. Once the new windows have been replaced in the cafeteria, the replacement of windows will move to the South-East (front) side of the school and progress northward. Students may have their class(es) relocated for a day from time to time in order to accommodate the completion of this work. We are looking forward to the replacement of our present windows with more energy efficient ones.

Amidst all of the fun and pressures of school life, some students can feel overwhelmed and stressed out. In recognition that May 6th – 12th, 2013 is Mental Health Week, we urge parents to check in with their children to acknowledge and talk about any signs of stress they may be observing. Signs of stress in teens such as sleep disruption, outbursts, mild depression, nervousness and so on, are described on numerous on-line websites, along with strategies for coping with stress, and are worth reviewing by all. Parents and students are reminded to access the many supports available at Milliken for students experiencing stress or any other personal or academic concerns. Our students (and their families) have access to YRDSB Social Workers and Psychologists, Child Youth Workers, Student and Community Teacher Liaisons, School Resource Officers, Guidance Counselors, Student

Student Success Teachers, and more. Through referral processes, Milliken Students also benefit from the support of numerous agencies including Family Services York Region and Settlement and Education Partnership York Region. Whatever the concern, early and supportive intervention by home and school working together will help. Contact our Guidance Department or Administration Team to let us know how we can assist your child.

Parents and guardians, as you support your increasingly busy Milliken student, please be reminded that there is important and useful information worth looking at in your child's MMHS student agenda. For instance, if you are planning to book a family vacation in late June, checking the school calendar (MMHS generated Student Agenda pages) would help you and your child know to avoid booking any tickets before June 26. Further, the section subtitled "Final Evaluations" (page 21, YRDSB Guide to the 2012 – 2013 School Year for Students and Parents) reminds students that they "cannot leave early for vacations, employment, or other activities such as summer camps during the examination schedule" as "a zero may be assigned... and used in the determination of the final grade."

Once the really warm weather is here, MMHS staff will need the help of parents, guardians, and tactful students to remind all students to dress in accordance to our Dress Code Policy (page 18 of the MMHS agenda). Students, please remember that "shorts and skirts will be mid-thigh in length" or longer, and that pants must be worn in a way that covers undergarments. As always, hats are best stored in a locker. Students who dress in a revealing manner will be required to change their outfit.

As always, we depend on Milliken Mills families for assistance reinforcing and shaping school policies. Our next School Council meeting will take place at 6:30 pm on June 17th in our school's library. All are welcome.

Happy Spring,

C. McGinley

Literacy Test Rescheduled

Education Quality and
Accountability Office



The April 11 administration of the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) was postponed due to inclement weather. Students will write a new version of the test on Tuesday **May 15**. More information will be provided shortly.



MILLIKEN MILLS
HIGH SCHOOL



25th Anniversary

June 8, 2013 @ 1pm to 5pm

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT

www.mmhs25.ca

Dates ahead

26 Report Cards distributed

May

3 Full Disclosure for Grade 11, 12

6 P.A. Day (no classes)

15 Literacy Test – special timetable

20 Victoria Day holiday (school closed)

24 Student Council Carnival

June

12, 13 Grade 9 EQAO Mathematics Test

17 School Council meeting

19-25 Exams

26 Exam Review Day

Graduation

27, 28 P.A. Day (no classes)

Information Access & Privacy Protection resources for youth

There are excellent and relevant resources for students such as the one attached available at the Federal Privacy Commission's site.

www.priv.gc.ca

Youth can find information pertinent to them by clicking on "I am a youth". Information includes social networking, behavioural advertising, gaming consoles and personal privacy, etc. There are graphic novels, videos, and quizzes. The provincial site is also a treasure-trove of advice for youth including current information about bullying, online safety, etc. www.ipc.on.ca

School Council

All parents are welcome to attend.

The next meeting will be held on June 17, 2013.

2012-2013 Executive

Chair: Lilly Krstic

Parent Members: Alex Lazcano, Annette Chang, Asma Khan, Chody Deng, Christine Liang, Fatima Nusrat, Kowsala Arsulesan, Man Hon Chu, Shaheda Baig, Susanna Lai-Chu

Teacher Representative: Chris Williams

Student Council: Inesh Kainth, Anam Alvi

Support Staff Representative and

Secretary: Nadia Pinelli

Outstanding performance on the Canadian Computing Competition

The first stage of the 2013 Canadian Computing Competition was held on February 26. Andy Huang placed in the top 25 of all the nation-wide contestants and has been selected to go on to Stage 2 of the competition which will select Canada's Computing Olympiad Team. Thank you to our staff supervisors Mr. Robart and Mr. Smith

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 his/her transcript is **May 3, 2013**.

Student Records and e-mail addresses

In an on-going effort to keep our records up to date, please let us know if there are any changes to your address, contact numbers, emergency contact information or email by forwarding this information to: milliken.mills.hs@yrdsb.edu.on.ca

To ensure the health and safety of all of our students, please let us know if your child has a life-threatening allergy and ensure they carry their epinephrine auto-injector.

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.

Students should plan to have their community involvement activities completed, and the completed form submitted for processing, no later than **June 10, 2013**

Earth Week at MMHS

On April 22 students from our elementary schools, SHSM Environment students, selected Geography classes and T.E.A.M were treated to the Environmental Film Festival that features limited release environmental films from Planet in Focus.

On April 23, students planted a small number of indigenous species targeted to improve biodiversity on the property. It was also 'Litterless Lunch Tuesday!'

Donations for Green Peace for green initiatives were collected on April 24.

Thursday was dedicated for eco-transportation where students were encouraged to walk, bike, bus or carpool to school.

Friday was 'Lights Out' day and a school grounds garbage clean-up will be held during period 5

Thank you to all the staff and students, the Student Council, the Green Inc Environmental Club and our Eco Knights for working hard to help us earn our Eco Schools certification.



BUSINESS STUDIES

Our SHSM is up and running! See Mr. Lebedynsky for information. You get fully paid for certifications, trips, an SHSM diploma and more. We have applied to the Ministry of Education to be able to offer students an Environmental Studies SHSM.

FREE Math Help!



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.*