

# Milliken Mills High School



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## April 2015 Newsletter

### Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Happy Spring – finally! It is almost the end of April 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 MMHS speeds up as well with concert preparations, banquets, assemblies & ceremonies (including our Graduation on June 24<sup>th</sup>), field sports, student council elections, talent show, a carnival, and most importantly, culminating activities in courses.

Of particular note is a special upcoming event taking place on Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup> here at Milliken – the Environmental Wake-Up Call. Organized by students and staff in the Environment SHSM, EcoKnights and Green Inc., this event will focus around the viewing of an award winning film, *Oil and Water* which will be followed by a Q and A session with the director of the film and the principal protagonists. Guests will include SHSM students from across the Board as well as our elementary feeder school students in grades 5-8. Global warming and climate change are poised to become the defining issues of our time. This film is about the Cofan people of Ecuador who have been fighting a courageous battle with big oil for over 20 years to preserve traditional aboriginal lands and to stop the progressive destruction of the rainforest which threatens their people with the ultimate extinction of their culture. The struggles of the Cofan people closely parallel those of Canadian First Nations people closer to home and an examination of both in the context of our collective need to participate in the changes necessary to secure a sustainable future for the planet will encourage students to think critically and creatively about issues of local and global urgency. Authentic themes of social justice, equity, human and environmental rights and sustainability will underpin this event.

We are also proud to share that 7 students on our badminton team have qualified for the York Region Athletic Association (YRAA) championships to be held during the week of April 13<sup>th</sup> at the new Pan Am Centre in Markham. Poy Lo finished first in Boys Singles and Claudia Tai and Jeffrey Chui finished first in Mixed Doubles. We also have a Boys Doubles team that placed first and a Mixed Doubles team that came second in Tier 2 play. Congratulations to these students (and to their Coach, Mr. Martin) on their athletic achievements! Additional details are on page 4.

As well as 'One Match Swab Event' run by students and organized by the National registry, One Match Stem Cell and Marrow Network, was held at MMHS on Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup> in memory and honour of Sarah Watkin, daughter of Mr. Watkin who is our Geography Department Head. Sadly, Sarah passed away from acute myeloid leukemia at seven years of age last November. High school students have the opportunity to participate in a quick and painless cheek swab to see if they are a potential stem cell donor. Mr. Watkin has connected with the other 30 high schools in the Board and each one is hosting a similar event during the month of April. Mr. Watkin helped found the 'Sarah's Drive for Hope' to raise awareness of the need for people to get on the stem cell registry as there are approximately 1000 Canadians awaiting their perfect match from a stem cell transplant. Donors must be between 17 and 35 years of age. Sarah's Drive for Hope has expanded beyond York Region to other school Boards with schools in Uxbridge, Port Hope, Lindsay to name a few as well as a few local businesses.

Amidst all of the fun and pressures of school life, some students can feel overwhelmed and stressed out. As you may be aware, May 3<sup>rd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015 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. In teens, signs of stress 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 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. Please 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 Information Package 2014-2015. For instance, if you are planning to book a family vacation in late June, checking the school calendar (MMHS Student Agenda Supplement 2014-2015 - calendar pages) would help you and your child know to avoid booking any tickets before June 26<sup>th</sup>. Further, the section subtitled "Final Evaluations/Examinations" (page 38, YRDSB 2014-2015 Guide to the School Year for Students and Parents) reminds students that "All secondary students must participate in the final summative assessment(s)." As a result, students cannot leave early for vacations, employment, or other activities such as summer camps during the examination schedule as "a zero may be assigned for the missed portion(s) of the final evaluation assessment and used in the determination of the final percentage mark on the report card."

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 22 of the MMHS Student Information Package 2014-2015). 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 15<sup>th</sup> in our school's library. All are welcome.

### Computer



On February 10, 2015, nineteen Milliken Computer Science student enthusiasts participated in the University of Waterloo's Canadian Computing Competition. This is an International competition for high school students interested in Computer Science. This contest requires each student to work alone for three hours, being challenged to develop code solutions to five challenging problems. There is a Junior and a Senior Division. This year we had 5 Junior and 14 Senior student participants who were among the 2110 Junior and 1472 Senior participants that competed this year.

Our top Junior participant was Chathana Wickramasinghe who placed 771<sup>st</sup> out of 2110. Our top Senior participant was Jacky Xao who placed 314<sup>th</sup> out of 1472. Remember, this contest is a very challenging personal test under tough time constraints. Michael Zhang and Jordan Tram join Jacky Xao; being recognized with Certificates of Distinction from the University of Waterloo for being in the top 25% percentile in the Senior Division. Congratulations to these four individuals and the other fifteen students that chose to challenge themselves. This year's group was larger than in recent years; a testimony to our student's interest in Computer Science.

Congratulations to all 19 Milliken Students who choose to challenge themselves with this tough voluntary programming contest.

### Library

The next MMHS Library Read-a-thon will be held on Thurs., April 30th, all day. This literacy promotion event also raises money for the MMHS Library Bursary, which goes to two deserving graduating students each June. Students pay \$2 for each period in which they participate.

### Music

In the music department we are busily working toward our spring concert on Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 pm. This year's title is "Blossom." We invite all of our parents and staff to attend. Tickets are \$7.00 and can be bought from any music student. We are pleased to have a special performance by the dance class this semester.

Various ensembles will also be performing during "Arts Knight" on Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> between 6:00 and 8:30 pm. This event is free and will feature all of the arts departments showcasing their talents throughout the school.

On Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup> we are off to Niagara Falls and Niagara-on-the-Lake to take a tour of the Shaw Festival Theatre and watch a performance of "Sweet Charity".

Finally, preparations for the music banquet are already underway for Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup>. We hope that all of our music students will attend, as the music awards will be handed out on that evening.

### Community Based Education



Once again a new year has begun and our co-op students are out earning credits in a variety of work placements. New placements for this semester are The Sheridan Nursery, Friends of The Rouge, and Velocity Auto Repair. Many of our long-term partners in the community continue to support the program. We thank all of them for their participation!! Co-op

students will showcase their new career knowledge at the Bi-Annual Career Fair in the school library in May. The OYAP (Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program) coordinators at the board level have created more opportunities for second semester again this year. Students in grade 12 who will be graduating this year can once again take a 4 credit co-op package and also earn a portion of their Level One in several trades at no cost by attending Community College for 8 weeks during the second semester. If your organization would like to assist us in helping students get valuable on the job experience please contact Miss Robin Mitchell or Mr. Stephen Kolodziej at 905-477-0072 ext. 123. As well, students entering the workforce after High School graduation are invited to attend the FAST TRACK TO THE WORK-PLACE Symposium in May. Please come to the Co-op office in room 123 for more information.



### Arts

#### DANCE

Following up a wonderful session with renowned choreographer, dancer and company founder, Danny Grossman and workshops with several other choreographers, our dancers will be engaging in another world-class opportunity. Arrangements for a workshop in Afro-Cuban dance are underway, continuing the mandate to bring the world of dance to MMHS, and offer opportunities to increase the experience of tradition, trend and culture amongst our students.

#### DRAMA

Drama is active. Classes are always at work and in motion. It starts from the start as our Grade Nines have just demonstrated by engaging with creative process to explore, develop, refine and perform their own dramatic works. This type of work helps students to independently perform while building skills within group interaction. Engagement with the community is also part of the program as Drama students perform for other classes and our neighbourhood. To interact with the professional theatrical community, there is an upcoming trip to a downtown theatre for a live performance.

#### VISUAL ARTS

At MMHS, we make sure that our students are ready to meet the challenge of post-secondary admissions, working with students in-class and in extra-curricular sessions, to fine-tune strategies, artistic portfolios and admissions essays. Now, the results are in and we congratulate our students on first round admissions to top art programmes at OCAD U., Ryerson and York Universities. College offers will be rolling in soon and students will face the next challenge of choosing between offerings from various creative programmes and institutions. Our students know, that regardless of whether



## Arts - cont'd

they are continuing in the arts, the skills and aptitudes that they develop through the Visual Arts, will help them in their careers and futures. **Creativity** and **creative problem-solving** have been sited as the most sought-after requirement across employment fields, today. Creativity equals opportunity.

### ARTS KNIGHT

Set aside the evening of **MAY 13<sup>th</sup>** on your calendar. ARTS KNIGHT is on the way, featuring an extravaganza of artistic experiences and ventures from our MMHS students. See critical thinking and personal engagement in action as well as gain a sense of the skill sets and accomplishments developed through The Arts. Dance, Drama, Music, Technology and Visual Arts students are currently working within the creative process to develop and polish their creative endeavours. The evening will feature Dance, Music and Theatrical performances as well as visual displays and reels from Visual Arts and Technology.

ARTS KNIGHT official times are **MAY 13<sup>th</sup>** from **6:00-8:30**. Drop by early for some extra time to view our visual displays, chat one on one with our students and see their portfolios of artwork.

## Guidance News

### Full Disclosure Deadline

According to the Full Disclosure Policy, the last day for a student to drop a semester two grade 11 or 12 course so that it does not appear on their transcript is **Wednesday, April 29, 2015**. All grade 11 and 12 courses dropped after this date will appear on the student's transcript with the mark that he/she achieved at the time the course was dropped.

Grade 12 students wishing to drop a semester two course should book an appointment with their guidance counsellor as soon as possible to ensure that the course is dropped before this deadline. Students should have 27 credits in order to have a spare and must maintain three courses on their schedule.

### Release of Grades to Universities and Colleges

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 on the dates listed below using secure transmission technology to the Ontario University Application Centre (OUAC) and the Ontario College Application Service (OCAS). These data transmissions will be done in support of all upcoming post-secondary applications to college and university. If you would like more information about the upcoming release of grades, please feel free to contact your child's guidance counsellor.

**Grade 12 students who have applied to college and/or university are reminded to check their marks on the OCAS/OUAC websites for accuracy and report any errors to their guidance counsellor ASAP.**

### ONTARIO UNIVERSITY APPLICATION CENTRE (OUAC)

Transmission Deadlines	Information Sent
April 23, 2015	Semester two mid-term marks
July 7, 2015	Semester two final marks and proof of graduation
August 21, 2015	Final marks from summer school and e-learning

### ONTARIO COLLEGE APPLICATION SERVICE (OCAS)

Transmission Deadlines	Information Sent
April 20, 2015	Semester two mid-term marks
July 3, 2014	Semester two final marks and proof of graduation
August 21, 2015	Final marks from summer school and e-learning

### Marks for Continuing Education Courses

Graduating students who have successfully completed an Independent Learning Course (ILC), or a night school course taken with a board of education other than the YRDSB, must submit an original copy of their final report card to Mrs. Morrison in the Guidance Office.

Students who have completed a course through private school are responsible for ensuring that a final report card is mailed directly from the institution to the Milliken Mills High School Guidance Department. It is imperative that this documentation is received by **June 12, 2015** so that final grade(s) for completed course(s) can be entered onto students' transcripts in time for graduation.

### Community Involvement Activities

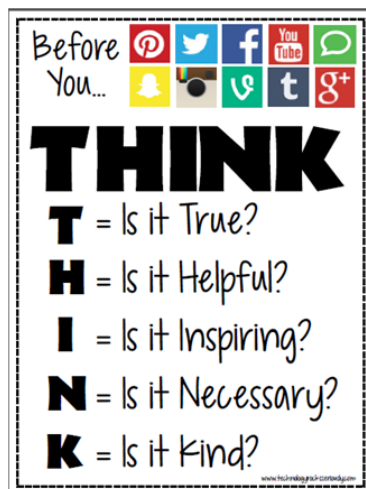
Students are reminded that their volunteer activities must be approved by the Guidance Department before they begin volunteering. Approved volunteer activities are covered by the Board's insurance plan for liability losses *only* if the Notification and Completion of Community Involvement Activities Form is properly completed and submitted to Guidance. This form can be downloaded at [www.yrdsb.ca](http://www.yrdsb.ca) or picked up from the Guidance Office.

Grade 12 potential graduates are reminded that completing 40 hours of community involvement activities is a diploma requirement that must be met in order to graduate. Students who need assistance in finding eligible community involvement opportunities should check the bulletin board in the atrium or the Volunteer Opportunities binder in Guidance for new postings. The deadline to submit completed community involvement hours to the Guidance Office is **Tuesday, June 2, 2015**.

### Graduation Ceremony

Graduation is a special time of celebration for our students and their families. Next month, all potential graduates will receive a letter of invitation to our 2015 graduation ceremony and reception, which will be held on **Wednesday, June 24, 2015** at the Markham Events Centre (MEC), located at 95 Duffield Drive, Markham. All students who have met the OSSD requirements (completion of 18 compulsory and 12 elective credits, 40 hours of community involvement activities, and the provincial literacy requirement) by the end of June 2015 will be welcome to attend. Each graduate may invite a maximum of two guests to the ceremony. Graduates will pick up their two guest tickets when they confirm their attendance in mid May.

The graduation ceremony will begin promptly at 7:00 pm. Graduates are asked to arrive at the Markham Events Centre by 6:00 pm to pick up their caps and gowns, and receive important instructions for the evening. Students who have not yet paid for their caps/gowns (\$45) should speak to Ms. Shanmugarajah in the Main Office no later than April 30<sup>th</sup>. Payment for caps/gowns cannot be accepted at the graduation ceremony. All graduates must wear a cap and gown to participate in the graduation ceremony. Graduates are welcome to keep their caps and gowns as a souvenir of the event.



## SHSM/Green Inc.



What does a Gold EcoSchool look like? Passion, Engagement and Action that's what. Milliken Mills High School is taking their SHSM programs to a new level with the outstanding leadership of the school's environmental club Green Inc. pictured below. With help from the T.E.A.M Program, Healthy Schools and some great art work from SAC. this April 24 marks the biggest environmental event in the school's 26 year history. 2400 hundred elementary

and high school students will converge on the large gym to join forces in efforts to understand how the economy and climate can interweave to create current issues of social justice and damage that threaten the health of all of us who consciously share the planet. Better yet, students and staff will get an opportunity to act to stand up and change the world. Still not an SHSM student? It's time to sign up and get involved!



這是重要文件，若不明白，請找人翻譯。

<p>Este es un documento importante. Léveselo a alguien que pueda explicárselo.</p>	<p>یہ ایک اہم دستاویز ہے۔ یہ ایک اہم دستاویز ہے۔ اسے اس کے پاس لے جائیں جو آپ کی وضاحت کر سکے۔</p>
<p>આ એક અગત્યનું દસ્તાવેજ છે. મહેરબાની કરી તે કોઈ પાસે લઈ જાઓ જે આપને સમજાવી શકે.</p>	<p>यह एक महत्वपूर्ण दस्तावेज़ है. कृपया इसे किसी ऐसे व्यक्ति को दिखाएँ जो इसे आपको समझा सके.</p>

## Phys Ed

The senior badminton team recently won the Westmount Invitational Tournament. The team won 4 gold medals and 1 bronze. Poy Lo, Claudia Tai, Jeffrey Chui, Katherine Gao, Jennifer Shi, Calvin Ma and William Chen all won gold medals for Milliken. Amanda Law won the bronze for girls singles. In round 1 YRAA play 14 players from Milliken advanced to Round 2. York Region Finals and OFSAA will be hosted at the new Pan Am Centre in Markham.

Poy Lo won the York Region Championship for boy's singles. Our mixed doubles team, Claudia Tai and Jeffrey Chui were also York Region Champions. We have 3 athletes who will represent our school and the YRAA at the OFSAA Badminton Championships.



Mark Yang



Jeffrey Chiu & Claudia Tai

## Dates Ahead

April	
20-24	Spirit Week
24	Environmental Wake-Up Call 2105
22	Mid-Term Report Card Distribution
30	Library Read-a-Thon
	Full Disclosure
May	
5	SAC Elections for Next Year
7	YOSA End of Year Event
8	PA Day (no classes)
13	Arts Knight
18	Victoria Day (no classes)
21	Spring Concert
22	Carnival Day
28	Prom
June	
4	Music Banquet
5	SAC Talent Show
9	Athletic Banquet
10	Library Resources due
10-11	EQAO Math (Gr. 9)
15	Locker Clean Out
17-23	Exams
24	Exam Review Day
	Graduation
25-26	PA Day (no classes)