

# Milliken Mills High School



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**Superintendent:** Rashmi Swarup  
**Trustee:** Juanita Nathan

## February 2015 Newsletter

### Principal's Message

Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians,

With this newsletter you are receiving a copy of your son/daughter's final report card for Semester 1. This report card represents evidence of student learning that has been gathered from September to the end of January and reflects how well your child has achieved the overall curriculum expectations for each subject as well as how well they have demonstrated the development of learning skills and work habits essential to succeed in school and daily life.

At this time, we congratulate our students on their continued dedication to their studies and trust that you are pleased with the results as indicated on their report card. Hopefully, this report card will provide an opportunity to further discuss your son/daughter's academic progress, future plans and help his/her to set goals.

As we begin semester 2, we continue to encourage parents to contact their child's teachers and/or the Guidance Department staff early in the semester regarding any questions or concerns you may have about your son/daughter's progress at school. Guidance Staff will be hosting Course Selection Assemblies by grade beginning February 5<sup>th</sup> during periods 1 & 2 in order to assist students in choosing their courses for next year as well as to explain this process and answer any questions they may have regarding the course selection process.

We wish our students every success in their studies this semester and look forward to celebrating their accomplishments with them.

C. McGinley

### Dates Ahead

#### February

- 3 Semester 2 begins
- 6 Report Card Distribution
- 13 SAC Pre-Valentines' Activities
- 16 Family Day (no classes)
- 17 Photo Retake Day
- 18 Canadian Computing Competition
- 24 Math Contest (Pascal/Cayley/Fermat)
- 25 Grad Photo Retake Day

#### March

- 11 Locker Clean Out
- 12 SAC Evening Event
- 13 PA Day (no classes)
- 16 - 20 March Break
- 24 Interim Report Cards
- 26 OSSLT (Literacy Test)

#### April

- 1 Parent Teacher Interviews
- 3 Good Friday (no classes)
- 6 Easter Monday (no classes)
- 15 Math Contest (Euclid)
- 16 Math Contest (Gallois/Hpatia/Fryer)
- 20—24 Spirit Week
- 22 Mid-Term Report Card Distribution
- 30 Library Read-a-Thon  
Full Disclosure

#### May

- 6 SAC Elections for Next Year
- 7 YOSA End of Year Event
- 8 PA Day (no classes)

### Community Based Education

The First Semester Co-operative Education students were able to showcase their career/life knowledge at our Bi-Annual Career Fair hosted in our school library. Attendees gained valuable sector-specific information about careers in a variety of areas, all through the experiences of their peers! Be sure to come join us for our next event in May! A special thanks to **Yearbook's Kevin Ly** for his fantastic photojournalist coverage.

Course selection for next year is fast approaching. Please visit the Co-op office in **Room 123** and speak to Miss Mitchell if you have any questions about the application process. Students who are interested should contact the co-op office in Room 123 as soon as possible. If you, or an organization, are interested in helping a student get valuable hands on experience please contact **Miss Mitchell at 905-477-0072 ext. 123.**



### ARTS NEWS

#### DANCE

Dancers at MMHS showcases several cross-genre, inter-cultural pieces in semester one with both grace and professionalism, including African-Caribbean, mixed-regional Chinese and a mash-up fusion of break dance, soca, hip hop and bhangra. Performances occurred before a large *Arts Knight in the Light* audience and as an integrated event with selected Special Education classes. Internationally renowned dancer, choreographer and dance company founder, Danny Grossman, will be visiting Milliken Mills Dance for a special question and answer session this month. The students are very fortunate to have an opportunity to interact with an artist with such range of international experience across decades dance work. Anticipate more dance expressions and further connections with guest artists in semester two.

#### DRAMA

This semester, the drama students have been busy creating and performing. At *Arts Knight in the Light*, the senior students showcased a compelling scene from *CSI Fairy Tale*, while junior students performed original pieces called "The Dropouts" and "The Shoppers". Professionalism and dedication

were at the fore in a featured and riveting dramatic monologue as well as a spot-on rendition of the famous "Who's on First?". Expect more drama...at Art Knight, semester two.

Drama Drop-ins will begin on Fridays during period four in semester two as an opportunity for improv exploration and theatrical fun.

### VISUAL ARTS

The yearbook team is steadily and creatively marching toward completion of this year's theme, The start of May marks the end of yearbook production. Be sure to get any content for consideration to Mr. Dalton James in advance of this time.

February is about celebrating visual art. From Thursday February 26 to March 7, introductory photography students will be displaying their work in a show entitled *Here, Now, Today* running at Gallery 44, Centre for Contemporary Photography, one of a very few dedicated professional photo galleries in the GTA. The reception will be on February 26<sup>th</sup> from 3:00-6:00 pm at the gallery, located within the arts building at 401 Richmond Street West in Toronto. This follows a showcase of winter themed drawings, animations and painted photographs at the YRDSB headquarters in Aurora. Join us during lunch in Room 130 on selected Thursdays in February to view videos selected as a part of Black History month celebrations. We will feature work of Black Artists in a range of compelling approaches, considering cultural history through their own personal histories. Listen to the announcements for details. Also, consider a trip to the AGO to experience the art of Jean-Michel Basquiat, who, as a young man, was instrumental in bringing street trends to gallery settings.

February also marks the start of art portfolio submissions, interviews and auditions. For those applying to arts programmes, be sure to read the requirements, select, refine and sequence all work and related materials with a careful attention to detail. Recognize and showcase the individuality of your personal work with your written and spoken word and personal demeanor. Keep your dates organized and arrive early, to prepare. We wish you good luck and learning in your experience.

## Guidance News

### Course Selection and the Individual Pathways Plan

Students at Milliken Mills High School will choose their courses online for the 2015/16 school year using *Career Cruising*, an interactive guidance and pathways planning website designed to help students develop an Individual Pathways Plan (IPP).

Students can access the Career Cruising website at [www.careercruising.com](http://www.careercruising.com) (username is yorkregion and password is 50900). Once on this site, students will need to log in to the "My IPP" feature using their YRDSB district assigned *Career Cruising* account. The username for students is YORK-123456789, where 123456789 is the student's 9 digit ID number. When logging in for the first time, the password will be the student's birth date using the format mmddyyyy. The system will then prompt the student to create a new password.

The Individual Pathways Plan is a web-based career exploration and education planning tool. It allows students to assess their interests and skills, explore careers, investigate education options and develop a career plan. The IPP is a Ministry requirement and it is expected that students will log on and complete their grade level activities. The activities within the IPP are intended to help your child map out his/her initial post-secondary destination (i.e., apprenticeship, college, university, workplace or community living) and plan ahead for course selection.

Students must submit their online course selection and *Course Request Sign Off Sheets*, as well as complete their Individual Pathways Plan, no later than Monday, February 23, 2015.

### 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.

Grade 12 students who have applied to College and/or University are reminded to check their marks online on the OCAS and OUAC websites. **Students should check their marks for accuracy and report any errors to their Guidance Counsellor ASAP.**

### ONTARIO UNIVERSITY APPLICATION CENTRE (OUAC)

#### Transmission Deadlines

February 12, 2015  
April 23, 2015

#### Information Sent

Semester One final marks  
Semester Two mid-term marks

### ONTARIO COLLEGE APPLICATION SERVICE (OCAS)

#### Transmission Deadlines

February 10, 2015  
April 20, 2015

#### Information Sent

Semester One final marks  
Semester Two mid-term marks

### 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 important that this documentation is received as soon as possible so that final grade(s) for completed course(s) can be entered onto student transcripts in time for the mark transfer to OCAS and OUAC next week.

### Additional Admission Criteria for College/University

Both university and college-bound students are reminded to check whether the program(s) that they have applied to have additional admission criteria such as tests, portfolios, interviews or auditions. Students need to make sure that they meet the deadlines for any additional admission criteria, including due dates for supplementary application forms.

### 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 for new postings and/or speak with their guidance counsellor. The deadline to submit completed community involvement hours to the Guidance Office is **Tuesday, June 2, 2015**.

這是重要文件，若不明白，請找人翻譯。

இது ஒரு முக்கிய ஆவணம். இது எதற்கும் இது உங்களுக்கு விளக்கப்படுகின்றது யாராவது ஒருவரிடம் எடுத்துச் சொல்லித் தரவும். ਇਹ ਇੱਕ ਜ਼ਰੂਰੀ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਹੈ. ਕ੍ਰਿਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਸਨੂੰ ਕਿਸੀ ਅਜਿਹੇ ਵਿਅਕਤੀ ਕੋਲ ਲੈ ਜਾਓ ਜੋ ਇਸਨੂੰ ਆਪ ਨੂੰ ਸਮਝਾ ਸਕੇ.

<p>Este es un documento importante. Léveselo a alguien que pueda ayudarte.</p>	<p>یہ ایک اہم دستاویز ہے۔ یہ ایک महत्वपूर्ण दस्तावेज है. कृपया इसे किसी ऐसे व्यक्ति को दिखाएँ जो इसे आपको समझा सके.</p> <p>આ એક અગત્યનું દસ્તાવેજ છે. મહેરબાની કરી તે કોઈ પાસે લઈ જાઓ જે આપને સમજાવી શકે.</p>
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## EcoSchools News

Hello Milliken community. It is with great enthusiasm and even optimism that we look forward to the environmental challenges of 2015. As the world heads in mostly the wrong direction with global warming and climate change we at Milliken are staging small battles right here to do the right thing and the best we can for the planet and our little local corner of the world. In our clubs like Green Inc., SHSM Environment and EcoKnights, we endeavor to make these behaviours more than just idle talk by 'becoming the change we hope to see in the world. Education and awareness are important but action must be the result. You can have a great impact on our ECO Footprint as a school community by focusing on a few simple behaviours. To this end, please keep your child's lunch waste to a minimum. A recent waste audit conducted by the students confirmed that much of the landfill bound waste our school produces comes from your homes! You can help us by joining our **Litter less Tuesdays** campaign where you create no garbage at the school. In fact, please reduce the garbage you create in packaging your child's lunch every day of the week! Use recyclable/reusable containers in which to package lunch items and please avoid the use of plastic water bottles! Send your child to school with a reusable water bottle that can be refilled at any time for **FREE** at one of our school's two water bottle refilling stations. Also, don't forget to recycle batteries and cell phones at the battery recycling station inside the doors of the library. Encourage your children to walk safely to school where possible and to use a bicycle when the weather improves! Stay tuned for more information on Milliken's pursuit of Platinum EcoSchools status for 2015/16. We can be better...we need everyone to do the **Knight** thing!!!

## Library

### READ-A-THON!

The Library is delighted to announce that our next Read-a-thon will be held on Thurs., April 30, all day. This fun event is a great opportunity for teachers to bring their classes for some relaxed, quality reading time. The low cost of \$2 per student is used to fund a bursary award given to two deserving graduating students in June. Plus, great treats served to all readers

### York Regional Forest

#### Take The Biodiversity Challenge – 2015 Envirothon

Students in Milliken's T.E.A.M. Program in the Personalized Alternative Education Department (PAE), have registered to represent the school in the **York Region Envirothon Biodiversity Challenge** to be held in April. Students will get outside and explore nature, hands-on in two teams of five. **T.E.A.M.** students will take part in an interactive, curriculum-based event, testing both their theoretical and applied learning about forests, soils, wildlife, aquatic ecosystems and urban and community forestry. They will be competing to earn a chance to represent Milliken and York Region at the Ontario Envirothon Championship in May, 2015. In order to prepare for this challenge, T.E.A.M. students have enrolled in a **Dual Credit**, (a grade 12 high school credit as well as an Ontario College credit wrapped into one) which will focus predominantly on natural resources through the lenses of identification and sustainability. Good luck to T.E.A.M. students and staff as they take on this worthy challenge!

## Student Services Department

The Student Services Department has been actively working to support our students' transition to post-secondary programs. We visited George Brown College Waterfront Campus and The Apprenticeship Centre's (General Carpentry, Floor Covering installers, and Drywall Finishers) during first semester. Students had an opportunity to tour these facilities and discover more about programs and pathways available to them. We also attended a seminar about supports available for students with learning disabilities in post-secondary programs. Our students were inspired by these experiences.

During semester 2, we are planning a trip to another college or university. We are also inviting speakers to come into our school from various professions to discuss their educational backgrounds, career paths and daily lives with our students. The Student Services Department invites all our students to join us for these opportunities.



In other news, our community class students recently had an opportunity to attend a SNAP Basketball event. They had time to socialize and play basketball with community class students from other schools. A good time was had by all. Our students are looking forward to future Special Olympics and SNAP sporting events this semester.

## Literacy at Milliken Mills School High

In Grade 10, students take the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, (OSSLT) which measures if they are meeting the minimum standard for literacy across all subjects up to the end of Grade 9. Our students completed a practice booklet in November and had the opportunity to participate in the After School Literacy course in first semester. We are continuing to offer a great deal of support for our students in preparation of the test which will be written on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015. There will be an After School Literacy course running on Mondays and Thursdays from February 9<sup>th</sup> to March 12<sup>th</sup>. There is no charge for this course and it is an excellent opportunity for students to practice their literacy skills. Additionally, students can sign up for extra practice sessions during lunch throughout February and March. Milliken Mills High School is proud to be one of the schools taking part in the OSSLT field test on February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Students from across the province will be writing an OSSLT test in both booklet form and online. This is a great opportunity for our students to practice the test prior to writing the full test on March 26<sup>th</sup>. Students are also encouraged to visit [www.EQAO.com](http://www.EQAO.com) for additional practice and support.

## Music

After a successful winter concert and well-deserved break for exams, the music department is again gearing up for second semester. Despite a change of dates to the winter concert, the ensembles performed extremely well. Congratulations to all of our Milliken musicians. As of the beginning of semester two, all of our regular rehearsals have begun again, as we prepare for our spring concert. Also in the planning this spring are trips to our feeder schools, and hopefully a music trip, as the weather gets better in the spring. We look forward to seeing parents, friends and staff at the spring concert on Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>.