

Milliken Mills High School



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Vice-Principals: Kandeephan Ganeshalingam, Coretta Sampson
Superintendent: Rashmi Swarup
Trustee: Juanita Nathan

November 2014 Newsletter

Principal's Message

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, 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, Halloween 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 "Dates Ahead", below, for several important upcoming events 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 p.m. This year, remaining meetings are scheduled Mondays on November 17th, February 17th, April 20th and June 15th.

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

Dates Ahead

November

- 20 Canadian Math Competition
- 24 Full Disclosure Gr. 11 & 12
- 27 Library Read-a-thon

December

- 3 Drama Production
- 10 Gr. 8 Parent Information Night
- 11 Music Concert
- 15-18 Grad Photos
- 19 Talent Show
- 2-Jan. 2, 2015 Winter Break (Holiday)

January 2015

- 5 Classes Resume
- 14 University Applications deadline
- 19-20 EQAO Math (Grade 9)
- 23-29 Semester 1 Exams
- 30 Exam Review Day

February 2014

- 1 College Applications deadline
- 2 P.A. Day (no classes)
- 3 Semester 2 starts
- 6 Sem. 1 Report Cards distribution
- 16 Family Day (no classes)
- 17 Photo Retake Day

March

- 13 P.A. Day
- 16—20 Spring Break (no classes)

Community Based 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: Forever 21, Quality Improvement Team/Scarborough Hospital, Ridgid Auto Work, Business Innovations Technologies, Stitch It, and Chapel Ridge Funeral Home. Many of our long-term partners in the community continue to support the program. We thank all of them for their participation. 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 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 at 905-477-0072 ext. 123.



IVAN LIANG and DAVID LI:
Sheraton Parkway Hotel



CHANJICA PARAMESWARAN:
STITCH IT



PREETI TEWARI:
Shoppers Drug Mart

Social Sciences & Humanities: Family Studies

From October 6 to October 10, Ms. Syed-Rashid's Equity and Social Justice Class, "Spread the Love @MMHS" by organizing initiatives to team-build and create community among the students of Milliken Mills High School. Each of their campaigns encouraged their peers to embrace the positive social goals of creating empathy and building trust to foster a positive climate for learning. The Equity class students also organized an eyeglasses recycling program named "Project: Vision for Sight" to collect eyeglasses for those in-need. As a school, we were able to collect over one hundred pairs of glasses. Later in the semester, Ms. Syed-Rashid's students will be working with a class at Seneca College to neutralize the lenses in preparation for distribution to those in need of eye-care.



Library

The Library is pleased to announce our Read-a-thon, coming up on Thursday Nov. 27. This is a great push for individual student literacy, and is a fundraiser for our bursary, which will be awarded at the end of the school year to two deserving Grade 12 students who will be attending college or university next fall. The cost is \$2 per student to participate.

Healthy Schools

Improved Concentration and Grades with Healthy Snacks

Studies show that students perform better in school and have a greater ability for learning if nourished properly. Healthy Schools, in collaboration with our community partner "Whole Foods" provides a bi-weekly organic fruit snack. Healthy Schools challenges the entire Milliken Mills community to eat a healthy breakfast daily and to have healthy snacks during the day. Listen to the announcements for our next Healthy Schools initiative.



Guidance

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 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.**

Full Disclosure Deadline

According to the Full Disclosure Policy, 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 **Friday, November 21, 2014.** 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. If a grade 12 student wishes to drop a semester one course they should book an appointment with their guidance counsellor as soon as possible to ensure that the course is dropped before this deadline. Students are reminded that they must have 24 credits in order to have a spare and must maintain three courses on their schedule.

Post-secondary Information

Students who are planning to apply to university this year will be able to pick up their confidential PIN Access Letter from the Guidance Office by the end of the month. This letter will contain the school number, student number and personal identification number (PIN) they will need to log on to the university online application. Students should listen for morning announcements informing them when the PINs have arrived, 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.

EcoSchools Ontario



Classroom adopt-a-plant?, 'Get caught doing something green awards, Outstanding MMHS Eco-Hero awards', Even though we are at a gold standard provincially, Milliken Mills High School continues to try and improve our environmental and sustainable practices every single day. This year, all of our new incoming grade nine students made a pledge to change or improve one aspect of their daily lives that would contribute to a 'greener' Milliken. Here is what a few of them said:

"I am going to bring lunch to school in reusable containers" – Emily

"I am going to walk to school 3x a week instead of having my mom drive me everyday" – Johnny

"I am going to stop using plastic water bottles and get a reusable bottle I can refill at one of Milliken's two water bottle refilling stations" – Mr. Williams

"I am going to become a classroom Eco-Knight" – Amelia

"I am going to make the Green Inc Environmental Club at Milliken the best club ever!" - Charles

Want to know what your son or daughter pledged to do for the environment this year? Come on in to MMHS and read the pledges on the GREEN WALL right across from guidance. Stay tuned for more great initiatives from Green Inc. including: Classroom adopt-a-plant, 'Get Caught Doing Something Green Awards, Outstanding MMHS Eco-Hero awards', and much more. Get involved and help us make our school the greenest in Markham.



Students in the Environmental SHSM Program at Milliken Mills High School experienced a rare opportunity to speak with the reluctant star of the film "Oil and Water at the Planet in Focus" Film Festival on Friday

November 7th, 2014. Directed by Francine Strickwerda & Laurel Spellman Smith, **Oil and Water** is "the true story of two boys from different Americas. Hugo and David were born on opposite ends of the oil pipeline – the USA and Ecuador. Hugo comes to America to fight for the survival of his Cofan tribe in the Ecuadorian Amazon, while David goes to Ecuador to launch the world's first company to certify oil as "fair trade." Their journeys lead them to explore what could be a more just future, not just for the Cofan, but for all people around the world born with oil beneath their feet."

The film was shown at the Art Gallery of Ontario: Jackman Hall and the story was made especially genuine when Hugo 'skyped' into the auditorium for a Q and A at the conclusion of the film. The immediacy and authenticity of the incredible struggles of Hugo's tribe and family in their battle to survive in their traditional Amazonian jungle lands was a profound learning experience that no one who attended is likely to forget. Look for more great SHSM opportunities coming soon. ---Not a SHSM student yet? Don't miss out on these great opportunities. Contact Milliken Mills High School and find out how easy it is to get involved!

Phys. Ed.



Congratulations to the Milliken Mills Varsity Girls Field Hockey team on their amazing season. The team finished in 2nd place after regular season play and lost a close 0-1 match in the semi-finals. We wish our graduating players the best of luck in their future endeavours. Thank you to the entire team for their dedication to sport at Milliken Mills High School.

Guidance Continued

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 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.

ONTARIO UNIVERSITY APPLICATION CENTRE (OUAC)

Transmission Deadlines

February 12, 2015
April 23, 2015
July 7, 2015
August 21, 2015

e-learning

Information Sent

Semester one final marks
Semester two mid-term marks
Semester two final marks and proof of grad.
Final marks from summer school &

ONTARIO COLLEGE APPLICATION SERVICE (OCAS)

Transmission Deadlines

November 14, 2014
February 10, 2015
April 20, 2015
July 3, 2015
August 21, 2015

e-learning

Information Sent

Semester one mid-term marks
Semester one final marks
Semester two mid-term marks
Semester two final marks and proof of grad.
Final marks from summer school and

T.E.A.M



Milliken Teams Up with Trudeau to Create Unique Partnership for Well-Being, Teaching and Learning

With the support of the Ministry of Education and the Ontario Teachers' Federation, students and teachers from two Markham High Schools have partnered together to create a unique shared teaching and learning opportunity through a united project driven approach to creating the "Trudeau Terrace". The project, designed collaboratively with teachers and students from both Milliken Mills H.S. and Pierre Elliot Trudeau H.S., has wrapped up its' first phase and the results are exciting. The project, which began with a desire from the teaching staff at PET to learn how to effectively implement project driven learning in their own school to increase student engagement, well-being and ultimately achievement brought them to MMHS where the T.E.A.M. Program under the leadership of Stella Wang and Chris Williams has been innovating and leading the YRDSB with cutting edge experiential and project driven approaches to alternative learning since 1994. The development of the "Trudeau Terrace" is part of Ontario's Teacher Learning and Leadership Program (TLLP). The TLLP allows experienced teachers to assume peer leadership roles in curriculum, instructional practice, and supporting other teachers. Under this framework, Milliken's T.E.A.M. students and staff have begun an incredible journey in peer leadership and learning. Here is what one teacher from Pierre Elliot Trudeau H.S. said about the project:

"I am totally hooked on the TEAM approach of experiential education offered by "Coach" Chris Williams and Stella Wang from Milliken Mills High School - and feel compelled to sit down and write what I have observed on the Trudeau Terrace Site today. Students who were previously disengaged, marking time in the classroom were working together and actively engaged in finding solutions to questions which arose. It was wonderful to see problem solving in action. For example, Ron wanted to measure the depth of a hole that a group of students were digging for the planting of a tree. He put the measuring tape to the bottom of the hole. Jacob was having a hard time reading what the measurement was to the ground level. Martin took a shovel and laid it across the top of the hole for reference. Ron said to him, "good idea man", and they took their measurement from the base of the hole to the handle of the shovel."...

Phase Two of the Trudeau Terrace begins in the spring.

Dance Drama and Visual Arts

On the Dance and Drama scene, much is underway. Students in dance classes have recently completed dynamic workshops in both Latin and Urban dance. Both Drama and Dance students are currently developing new works to be revealed soon (more on that at the end of our items).

The Yearbook crew is hard at work on the current edition. A theme has been decided, but the rumour is that, so far, it's a secret. Stay tuned for more details. Forward any related items to Mr. Dalton James.

Visual Arts students show work both within and outside the school. Each year, photography classes show their work at Gallery 44, one of just a few professional photography galleries in downtown Toronto and, each year, some of our student work has been selected to be featured in the on-line gallery. This year, we have just been informed, that one of our students will also be featured in the Gallery 44 catalogue. Our current photo class will be showing work within the gallery, at 401 Richmond, in February.

The YRDSB Quest Conference is coming and Visual Arts students are part of the experience. Portrait work from Grade Eleven and Twelve students have been accepted for display throughout the conference. In addition, four of our students will be participating in Artonomy on **November 20th**, a live-streaming event from the Quest conference in which students from several schools co-create an interactive painting (while two other students will be supporting the event from within the school). Tune into the broadcast through the YRDSB website on the day of the event and communicate with the participants via Twitter. Don't miss the opportunity to see art-makers in-process and contribute to their efforts.

Many of our Visual Arts students have continued on to post-secondary study in arts related fields, in keeping with the GTA's designation as the third largest employer of arts professional in North America. An admissions portfolio is typically part of this process. Admissions portfolios are collections of the applicant's strongest artwork, related to the programmes of interest. Students are reminded to have their art collections reviewed prior to the winter break so that they may revise their work and address any requirements gaps. Portfolio consultations can be booked through your teacher. Be sure to bring the portfolio requirements for each intended application to the consultation, as each set of requirements differ, with some including very specific artworks and others including written statements and interviews. If planning to apply for programmes in Drama or Dance, consult with your teacher for assistance in the process. Post-secondary admission interviews, portfolios reviews and auditions begin in February.--

Arts Knight...meets the light. Yes, it is true. This semester, Arts Knight is in the day. By that we mean, that Drama, Dance and Music performances will take place in Periods Three and Four on **December 3rd**, fortified by Visual Displays from Communications Technology and Visual Arts as well as featured items from Alternative Education, Family Studies and related clubs. Check out the schedule that will be posted in the Atrium, to insure that you do not miss a performance and visit the artists and designers showcasing their work. Engage in the full-spectrum of creativity at MMHS.

School Bus Cancellation Notice

To ensure the safety of students, school bus service may be cancelled from time to time due to inclement weather, extreme temperatures and/or poor road conditions. In these cases, parents and students should develop alternate care/transportation arrangements.

Since some busing schedules begin by 7:00 a.m., cancellation decisions must be made by 6:00 a.m. to allow time to communicate this message to bus drivers. Cancellation decisions will only be made after thorough consultation with the Safety Officers of school bus companies servicing York Region and are based on several factors including precipitation, air temperature, road conditions and weather forecast.

Please note the following:

- A decision to cancel school bus service will be **region-wide** meaning all school buses, vans and taxis will not operate.
- When bus service is cancelled all school tests and/or examinations will be cancelled and rescheduled.
- Student trips involving the use of school buses will also be cancelled.
- **School bus routes may be cancelled when severe weather may not be affecting all municipalities in York Region.** Both the YRDSB and YCDSB operate many regional educational programs. Students attending these programs are transported over large attendance areas encompassing several municipal boundaries. This limits the ability to cancel bus service using a municipality or zone methodology.
- Unless otherwise stated, schools will remain open and parents can make arrangements to transport their children to and from school even if school bus service is cancelled. **If buses are cancelled in the morning, they will not operate in the afternoon. Therefore students transported to school by parents will require the same transportation home.**

Parents, students and school staff are asked to access the following radio and television stations after 6:00 a.m. to receive bus cancellation information:

RADIO

590 AM 640 AM 680 AM 860 AM 1010 AM 1050 AM 1540 AM 1580 AM CITY TV CTV Barrie CFTO TV CP24 GLOBAL NEWS
88.5 FM 89.9 FM 92.5 FM 93.1 FM 94.9 FM 95.9 FM 97.3 FM 98.1 FM
99.1 FM 99.9 FM 101.1 FM 102.1 FM 104.5 FM 100.7 FM 107.1 FM

TELEVISION

A bus cancellation message will also be available at www.schoolbuscity.com and by calling 1-877-330-3001, or by following the YRDSB on twitter. Please note that school bus charters (field trips) will not operate when home to school bus service is cancelled.

這是重要文件，若不明白，請找人翻譯。

இது ஒரு முக்கிய ஆவணம். இதைப் புரிந்துகொள்ள உங்களுக்கு விளக்கப்படுகிறதற்குரிய பாராக்கவு இருவரிடம் எடுத்துக் கொள்ளுங்கள். இதுவும் அதன் மூலம் உங்களுக்கு கிடைக்கக்கூடிய செய்தி.

Este es un documento importante.
Lléveselo a alguien que pueda explicárselo.

یہ ایک اہم دستاویز ہے۔
براہ کرم اسے کسی ایسے شخص کو دیا جائے جو اس کی وضاحت کر سکے۔
यह एक महत्वपूर्ण दस्तावेज है।
कृपया इसे किसी ऐसे व्यक्ति को दिखाएँ जो इसे आपको समझा सके।

આ એક અગત્યનું દસ્તાવેજ છે.
મહેરબાની કરી તે કોઈ પાસે લઈ જાઓ જે આપને સમજાવી શકે.