

# Milliken Mills High School



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

## November 2013 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, Spirit Day, Semi Formal, Take Your Kids To Milliken Mills H.S., 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 see below for several 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 p.m. This year, remaining meetings are scheduled Mondays on November 18<sup>th</sup>, February 18<sup>th</sup>, April 22<sup>nd</sup> and June 16<sup>th</sup>.

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

- 21 Canadian Math Competition
- 25 Full Disclosure Gr. 11 & 12
- 28 Library Read-a-thon

#### December

- 12 Music Concert
- 16-19 Grad Photos
- 19 Talent Show
- 23-Jan. 3, 2014 Winter Break (Holiday)

#### January 2014

- 6 Classes Resume
- 8 Grade 8 Parent Info Evening
- 15 University Applications deadline
- 20-21 EQAO Math (Grade 9)
- 24-30 Semester 1 Exams
- 31 Exam Review Day

#### February 2014

- 1 College Applications deadline
- 3 P.A. Day (no classes)
- 4 Semester 2 starts
- 7 Sem. 1 Report Cards distribution
- 17 Family Day (no classes)

#### March

- 7 P.A. Day
- 10—14 Spring Break (no classes)

### MMHS T.E.A.M. Program Recognized for "Green Leadership"

The T.E.A.M. Program at Milliken Mills High School has achieved the Green High Schools Award from ECO Canada for their leadership and outstanding effort in bringing environmental education and career awareness to their community with respect to the environment in Markham. This award highlights the important role this group has played in connecting students' environmental learning opportunities to higher education and inspiring the next generation of young environmental professionals. The certificate received recognizes T.E.A.M.'s unique blending of the SHSM and Dual Credit programs in the environment with practical fieldwork. Results have been both meaningful and measurable. T.E.A.M. and their long-time partners, Ontario Streams, led the way with an Adopt-A-Stream Program on Robinson Creek in Markham where activities were undertaken to improve watershed, stream and habitat quality. Students focused on stream mapping, benthic studies, electro-fishing, seine netting, garbage clean-ups, bio-engineering, tree and shrub planting and the construction of a cabled log jam to help control erosion.

The award also considered work done at MMHS. Here T.E.A.M. led in the research, development and implementation of an organic vegetable garden focusing on heritage seeds. As well, students in T.E.A.M. partnered with the Green Inc. Club and guided students from other PAE programs as well as keen students from the D.D. class through an engaging planting process to help create the garden. The harvest was shared in a celebratory salad.

### R.I.D.E. Kick-off & Red Ribbon Campaign Kick-off

On Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013, Milliken Mills H.S. is excited to be selected as the site to launch the Annual R.I.D.E. Kick-off & Red Ribbon Campaign Kick-off events. These activities will begin with an assembly in our cafeteria during Period 2 followed by a ribbon cutting ceremony at the front of the school. All grade 12 classes will be invited to attend this assembly. In addition to the Media, potential attendees/speakers include Kevin Frankish from CityTV News who will be the emcee, representation from YRDSB, Deputy Chief of Police Thomas Carrique, Minister of Transportation Glen Murray, MPP Michael Chan, Mayor Frank Scarpitti, Brian Patterson, representatives from the Ontario Safety League, YRDSB Superintendents and potentially someone from the Prime Minister's office. After the ribbon cutting ceremony, the York Regional Police will set-up a Ride Checkpoint on Kennedy Road.

## Arts Knight

Milliken Mills High School will be running its first ever "Arts Knight" event on Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm. This is a FREE EVENT that will showcase the many different arts programs that our school has to offer. Students will display and perform work throughout the evening. Come, mingle and enjoy the sights, the sounds and refreshments!

## Computer Studies

Why computer science? Computer science provides a foundation for virtually any career -everybody can benefit from learning the basics. Visit [Code.org](http://Code.org) for inspiration and links to YouTube videos from the likes of Will.I.Am, Bill Gates and Chris Bosh.

"Everybody ... should learn how to program a computer . . . because it teaches you how to think." — Steve Jobs

Did you know:

- Children who learn introductory computer science show improved math scores.
- Software jobs outnumber students 3-to-1.
- In many countries (including China, the United Kingdom and Australia), computer science is—or soon will be—a required subject.
- Anyone can learn the basics, starting in elementary school, but fewer than 10% of students take computer science classes

Computer Science Courses at Milliken Mills High School start in Grade 10 (ICS201) and are offered through Grade 11 and 12 (ICS3U/C and ICS4U). Computer Science is an elective subject, one which supports and enriches what is learned in many other disciplines. It is and will continue to be very difficult not to have a career that does not require one to know how to use a computer and many careers that will require you to manipulate or modify code to be successful. Even if one doesn't desire taking Computer Science; consider reflecting on and viewing what many successful entrepreneurs have to say on Computer Science during World Wide Computer Science Week, December 9-15, 2013. Visit <http://code.org>

## Co-operative Education



Ye Cheng Liu hard at work repairing electrical equipment at Scarborough Grace Hospital. 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: Shoppers Drug Mart/Beauty Boutique, A1 Fast Lube and Auto Repair, Samtack Inc, Brentwood Dental Lab, and Unionville Home Society. 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 or Ms. Marie Ramos at 905-477-0072 ext. 123.

## History

The History Department has had a busy but exciting couple of months. On Monday, November 11, the History Department worked with the Music Department to organize the Remembrance Day Observance. Together, with the school, we took some time to remember our brave soldiers of the past and present.

Recently, our grade 11 Law students gained a better understanding of our criminal justice system by participating in a re-enactment of a C.S.I scenario and will soon be taking part in a mock trial.

Our grade 10 students have also been actively involved in the learning of history. Each student adopted a character as we studied the 1920's and 1930's. Throughout the unit they used the historical perspective of the character they adopted to examine the events of the time period. The students enjoyed the authentic learning experience.

Finally, we are planning a trip to the Royal Ontario Museum for our grade 12 History students in the West & the World course and the grade 11 students from World History to the 16th Century. Students will be participating in lessons conducted by the teachers of the Museum and will also have an opportunity to walk through the museum exhibits. This is a great opportunity for students to gain hands-on experience working with artifacts and making connections to their classroom learning.

## Social Sciences & Humanities: Family Studies

Our courses are offered in grades 9-12 and are a popular option for students pursuing various pathways. This year we are excited to be working with a new curriculum for the first time in over a decade. The material is being integrated into our courses throughout the year with full implementation next fall.

Students in both the grade 10 and 12 food courses recently visited the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair where they learned about advances in agriculture and how our food gets from farm to table.

Students in the grade 9 and 10 classes enjoyed putting their decorative culinary skills to work when they created festive cupcakes to celebrate Halloween.

Our grade 11 fashion class is enthusiastically working on creating pieces for the arts showcase which will take place later in the year. This is the first time we will be involved in the event and the students are excited to highlight their work.

## Special Education

Our students participate in activities and programs designed to broaden their life experience and prepare them for the workplace, vocational college, college, university or apprenticeship programs. For some of our students work experience with local employers and within the school, coupled with transit training, helps prepare them to function more independently in the community. Field trips and athletic events such as SNAP and Special Olympics develop physical and social skills, and visits to Colleges and Universities help familiarize our students with the actual campus, programs offered, and services they may wish to access after graduating high school.

## Behind The Scenes

Another school year has started and BTS (Behind the Scenes) the Technology Department's film and photography club has begun its 3<sup>rd</sup> year at Milliken. We have just completed a successful Spirit Week photobooth with some great shots of student costumes on Halloween. The club continues to create short videos for the school as well as keeping its members involved with learning film and photography skills. BTS is just another way to learn and improve your skills and new members are always welcome Tuesdays after school in room 161, the Communications Technology lab.

# 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.

Please note that effective May 1, 2012 changes have been made to both eligible and ineligible community involvement activities, and to the forms associated with these activities. Information regarding these changes is available on the Board's website at [www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/communityinvolvement](http://www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/communityinvolvement). Specifically, students are now covered by the Board's insurance plan for liability losses arising from the completion of 40 hours of community involvement activities *only* if the new Notification and Completion of Community Involvement Activities Form, which can be downloaded online or obtained from the Guidance Office, is completed and approved by the school *prior* to the commencement of the volunteer activity.

Grade 12 potential graduates should plan to have their 40 hours of community involvement activities completed, and the form submitted for processing, no later than Tuesday, June 3, 2014.

## Take Your Kids To Milliken Mills H.S.

On Wednesday November 6, 2013, Milliken Mills H.S. hosted approximately 280 Grade 8 Students from Aldergrove P.S., Highgate P.S., Milliken Mills P.S., Randall P.S., and Wilclay P.S. Students had a chance to experience the pride and spirit that is Milliken Mills H.S. They participated in a spirit assembly, experienced Grade 9 classes, learned about the clubs and teams available and asked questions of our student leaders and staff. More visits are planned for the spring.

## Music News

It has been an exciting and busy start to the school year for the MMHS music department. We are happy to be running a variety of ensembles including Junior Band, Senior Band, Concert Choir, Stage Band, Women's Chorus, Men's Chorus and String Ensemble. Our grade nine play day was lots of fun and our movie night was a great success with more than 60 students attending the event. We are looking forward to participating in Milliken's very first "Arts Knight" on December 4<sup>th</sup> and are hard at work planning our Winter Concert "Solstice" which will be held Thursday December 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the Cafetorium. Please join us to celebrate the joy of the season!

## Senior Boys Soccer Team

The senior boys soccer team had a good season this year. The team played hard every game. Angajan and Rishikesh played great in net for Milliken. Solid defensive play was demonstrated by Mathusan, while Nilojan scored some key goals for the team.  
Coaches : Mr. Martin and Mr. Carducci.

## 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 in late November. 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.

- *January 15, 2014* Deadline to apply online to university for equal consideration
- *February 1, 2014* Deadline to apply online to college for equal consideration

## 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 22, 2013**. 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.

## 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.

### OUAC release dates:

February 13, 2014 –Final semester one marks  
April 24, 2014-Mid-term semester two marks  
July 8, 2014-Final semester two marks and proof of graduation  
August 29, 2014-Final marks from summer school

### OCAS release dates:

November 20, 2013-Mid-term Semester One marks  
February 11, 2014-Final Semester One marks and list of Semester Two courses  
April 25, 2014-Mid-term Semester Two marks  
July 4, 2014-Final Semester Two marks and proof of graduation  
August 22, 2014-Final marks from summer school

## Online Math Homework Help

TVO's *Independent Learning Centre* is pleased to partner with the Ontario Ministry of Education to provide free online math tutoring for students in grades 7-10. The tutoring is provided by Ontario math teachers every Sunday to Thursday from 5:30-9:30 pm on the Homework Help site. Key areas of the site include Tutor Chat Rooms, Listen & Learn presentations with certified teachers, Interactive Tutorials, and Best Sessions. Students have access to both guided and independent learning in a unique environment that combines technology and personal interaction. For more information visit <https://homeworkhelp.ilc.org/>.

## Girls Field Hockey

Early this year, field hockey was one of the first sports to begin its short but brilliant season. The girls varsity field hockey team worked tremendously hard and it showed with every passing game. The girls were committed and determined to make the season the best one yet. All the girls played to the best of their abilities, and while they did not make playoffs, they came very close! We wish the entire team good luck for the next season and a shout out to all the senior girls who are graduating: Rhamiya T., Ambreen H., Simra N., Premy S., Stephanie T., Amy P., and Leora K. A special thanks to our wonderful coach, Ms. Williams! Hey you! Check us out! GOOOOOOOO KNIGHTS! LADIES!  
By: Sandra and Shubhangi



## Visual and Dramatic Arts

Autumn is **World Press** time in Toronto, featuring an open gallery of the best photographs from news agencies around the globe, printed in stunning large scale format... and Milliken was there. Our Gr. 12 Photography and Information students walked the thought provoking maze of imagery and also surveyed fine art showings in the gallery district. They used the inspiration and energy from these encounters to work spontaneously within the urban environment to create their own 'decisive moments'. It seems that time is on the mind of the department these days...

**It's Time** has just been chosen as the title of the 2013-14 Yearbook edition. The Yearbook team will be exploring the many facets of time as their theme. Continue to send in the imagery that documents your best moments.

Congratulations to Ms Ware's creative crew for their wonderfully ghoulish mixed media gallery and becoming one of the Hallowe'en contest winners once again, continuing their annual tradition.

Mr. Dalton James and the drama team are busily involved in the production of an innovative one act play, entitled **Competition Piece** to be featured at Arts Knight. We hope to see you there.



Senior students apply to post secondary creative programs are reminded that most programs require an admissions portfolio of creative work. So, research the portfolio requirements for each program of interest and start strategizing now. Book a portfolio review session with Ms Middleton to help sequence, edit, streamline and refine your pieces... and remember, 'time flies'.

## "Next Generation": South Asian-Canadian Global Citizenship Project

Milliken Mills High School is the host of the Mosaic Institute's South Asian Conference. Students from Milliken Mills, Bur Oak, Pierre Elliot Trudeau, and Markham District High School are participants in workshops designed to increase their knowledge of the important contributions South Asian Canadians have made in Canada and abroad. Students are learning about Canada's promotion of peace and development worldwide. Students are examining what it means to be a Canadian, a South Asian Canadian, and their role as a Global Citizen.

As part of this experience, our students have committed to creating a fundraising campaign to support Rachel's Kids, an organization that builds schools and renovates orphanages in Sri Lanka. This is an excellent opportunity for our students to become active citizens in our community.

## 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.
- **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  
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

CITY TV CTV Barrie CFTO TV CP24 GLOBAL NEWS

**A bus cancellation message will also be available at [www.schoolbuscity.com](http://www.schoolbuscity.com) and by calling 1-877-330-3001, or by following the YRDSB on twitter. Please note that school bus charters 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。

यह एक महत्वपूर्ण दस्तावेज है।  
कृपया इसे किसी ऐसे व्यक्ति को दिखाएँ जो इसे आपको समझा सके।  
இது ஒரு முக்கிய ஆவணம். இது எங்கள் சிறுவர் சமூகத்திற்கு உதவியாக இருக்கிறது. இதை யாராவது ஒருவர் கண்டு கொள்ளும் போது, இதை நீங்கள் அல்லது உங்கள் குழந்தைகளுக்கு காட்டுவது மிகவும் முக்கியமாகும்.

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

یہ ایک اہم دستاویز ہے۔  
براہ مہربانی اسے اس فرد کے پاس لے جائیں جو آپ کی وضاحت کر سکے۔

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