

Milliken Mills Public School Newsletter

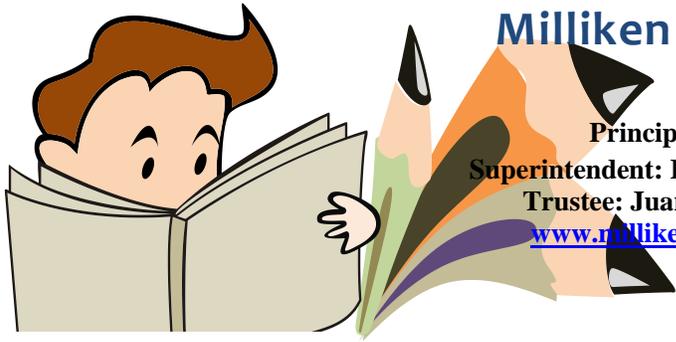
February 19, 2015

Principal: Catarina Burisch

Superintendent: Rashmi Swarup (905)940-7800

Trustee: Juanita Nathan (416)885-3479

www.milliken.mills.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca



Character Trait of the Month *February-Initiative*

“Do not wait for leaders; do it alone, person to person.” Mother Teresa

A Message from the Principal

Winter has been bright and crisp and we are looking forward to celebrating the sun, snow and cold weather before they melt into Spring! To this end, next Friday morning we will be hosting a school wide winter games event outside for the entire morning. I know we will be coming back into the school with rosy cheeks, smiles and tales to tell. We have just celebrated the 100th day of school and Term 1 has come to a close marking a successful five months of learning!

Report cards are going home next Wednesday, February 18 and communicate how well students have achieved the overall curriculum expectations for each subject and developed learning skills and work habits. Although there are no formal interviews scheduled you can always contact your child's teacher if you have any questions. We are looking forward to the next five months as students consolidate and extend their learning in various areas.

February marks the celebration of Black History/African Heritage Month and this past Wednesday, we welcomed Dez Sargeant, story teller, illustrator and author to share her lighthearted and joyful love of literacy. Today we will celebrate Chinese New Year with our dragon parade through the school. On Thursday February 26 at ten we will host our monthly parent Tea in the library. We look forward to seeing many of you then. We hope everyone had a beautiful Valentine's Day and Family Day on February 17!

Message from our Trustee

The arrival of February is an exciting and busy time in our schools. It marks the mid-point of the school year, the end of secondary exams and the arrival of mid-year report cards. February also brings us longer daylight hours, the beginning of the end to winter and of course, the excitement of the approaching spring break!

It is my hope that at this point, parents have seen signs of academic growth and development in their children. I encourage all parents to carefully review their child's report card and reflect on the learning that has taken place since September. Now is a good time to celebrate your child's accomplishments and set goals for the rest of the school year.

February may be the shortest of the 12 months, but it is a busy time. There is still learning, and opportunities for growth, ahead. With that in mind, I wish you all an enjoyable and successful second term.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me by email at Juanita.nathan@yrdsb.edu.on.ca or by phone at 416-885-3479. If you would like to be kept informed about various initiatives or topics that relates to your child's education and wellbeing, please send me your email address and I would be happy to keep in touch with you on a regular basis.



Report cards will be sent home on Wednesday, February 18. The Term 1 report card represents the assessed work completed by your child since the first day of school in September. The report card is only one of the communication tools used to inform families of their children's progress. Teachers are available through the year to discuss your child's progress. The report card describes how well your child has achieved the overall curriculum expectations for each subject and how well your child has demonstrated the development of learning skills and work habits essential to succeed in school and daily life.



“Family Literacy refers to the many ways families develop and use literacy skills, from enjoying a storybook together to playing with word games, singing, writing to a relative or friend, sharing day-to-day tasks such as making a shopping list or using a recipe, and surfing the Internet for fun and interesting sites.” Students and staff had fun celebrating Family Literacy Day by playing board games in the Library. In the afternoon the whole school participated in BINGO.



February is recognized as Black History Month across Canada. It is a time to celebrate the achievements and contributions of Black Canadians who have done so much to make Canada the culturally diverse and compassionate nation we know today. Dez Sargeant is an accomplished professional storyteller who writes, performs and illustrates her hilarious stories. She started performing her work in 1991, accidentally starting her career. Dez is internationally known for her 'Patchwork Teller' on-the-spot improvised stories. She was featured on CBC Radio One as one of the leaders in her profession, gaining public recognition as a passionate literacy advocate due to her one-of-a-kind performance & exceptional educational programming. We were very excited to have Dez visit Milliken's grades 1 to 8 students on February 11, 2015. Her multicultural theme that focuses on our similarities rather than our differences will be woven into her on-the-spot improvised story.



January was Tamil Heritage Month. Today's Tamil Canadian community is a flourishing one, boasting tens of thousands of entrepreneurs, professionals, and post-secondary students alongside active and engaged community organizations and a thriving arts and culture scene. Tamil Heritage Month, started in 2010, aims to celebrate the history of Canada's Tamil community and its contribution to the social, cultural, political and economic strength of Canada. We celebrated with a poster contest and special morning announcements highlighting the Tamil culture.



Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese New Year begins on today. It is an opportunity for us to learn about the experiences of Chinese/Korean/Vietnamese Canadians in our society and the vital role this community has played in our history. Gung Hey Fat Choy!



Our Snack program continues to provide our students with a nutritious snack every. Remember well-nourished students are better able to concentrate, remember, and apply the things they learn, and are more likely to show positive social behaviors. This week our students our students couldn't wait to bite into a juicy apples and crunchy cheerio's. Do you have a healthy snack idea? We would love to hear your suggestions for our snack program.

What is the 34 CREDIT THRESHOLD and how does it apply to me?

In the 2013-14 school year, the Ministry of Education put in place a 34 credit threshold.

- You need 30 credits to meet Ontario Secondary School Diploma graduation requirements. Most students will complete these credits within four years.
- You may earn up to 34 credits within five years.
- While enrolled in your first four consecutive years of secondary school, you may go beyond 34 credits.
 - After secondary school, going beyond the 34 credit threshold is possible with: E-learning, night school, summer school, independent learning centres and adult day school

It does not apply:

- If you have an Individual Education Plan (IEP).
- If you are not enrolled in secondary school
- To English as a Second Language (ESL) core language courses and/or English Literacy Development (ELD) core language courses.



All students are expected to go out for recess unless the weather and/or yard conditions are so poor that it would be detrimental for the students to be outdoors. We monitor the weather, and in extreme conditions (wind chill) we keep them indoors or shorten the recess breaks.

We cannot accommodate requests from parents asking us to keep their children indoors because they are not feeling well we do not have the staff or facilities to supervise them. Students whose illness prohibits outdoor activities should remain at home until their condition improves. This will benefit the student who is ill as well as prevent the spread of illness to others. Exceptions are made on an individual basis for children who may need to remain indoors for an extended period of time to recover after recess breaks. Please make sure that your children are dressed properly for our invigorating winter days. Please label all articles of clothing as our lost and found is often brimming with misplaced items.



If your child currently attends MMPS, but you anticipate moving between now and the new school year, please let us know your plans. Although it may seem early, we are already working on student numbers for next year so that we may plan our staffing according. Next year's classes are



organized based on the number of students we project for September 2015.

Host a student visiting from abroad

Can you offer ...

- a caring and secure environment
- an English speaking home
- a private room
- three meals (and snacks) daily
- a home within reasonable distance to a YRSDS school



Families are compensated \$900/month to cover the cost of hosting (effective July 1, 2013). A Police Vulnerable Sector Check (PVSC) is required for every member of the household over age 18. School year and summer placements are available.

homestay@yrdsb.edu.on.ca | 905 884 2046 ext 254
www.yrdsb-international.ca



The Ontario Ministry of Education is currently undertaking a consultation process, which may lead to changes in Ontario's Health and Physical Education curriculum. We at YRDSB value the voice of our parents and community members, and trust that Ontario Ministry of Education will consider all the input they receive as they review the Health and Physical Education curriculum. Parents with questions or additional feedback to this process may contact the Ministry directly:

Tel: 1-416-325-2929 or 1-800-387-5514

Address: 14th Floor, Mowat Block, 900 Bay Street, Toronto ON M7A 1L2

E-mail: Ministry: information.met@ontario.ca or Minister: minister.edu@ontario.ca



We would like to remind you that class begins at 8:20 a.m. It is important for students to arrive on time. Late arrivals disrupt students' learning and classroom instruction. Punctuality is an important organizational skill that is essential to success in school and in life!



WeCare Café

We invite all parents, grandparents and caregivers of **K-Grade 8** students to come and join us

Café Goal

Building school-home partnership to improve student achievement and well-being

Time: 8:30am—9:30am

Place: Room 103

Languages: English (Chinese translation is available)

February WeCare Café Topics & Events



Primary Café (K-3): Understand how kids learn math nowadays —February 4th

Open Café (Kindergarten) —Join our Kindergarten Family Fun Day — February 11th

J/I Café (4-8): Understand how kids learn math nowadays — February 18th

Open Café (K-8): Math in Action (hosted by Mme Fejer's Class) — February 25th