



Milliken Mills Public School Newsletter

January 6, 2015

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Character Trait of the Month

January—Justice

“All the great things are simple, and many can be expressed in a single word: freedom, justice, honor, duty, mercy, hope.”-Winston Churchill

A Message from the Principal

As we begin a new year filled with optimism after celebrating the beauty and goodness of the human potential through various Festivals of Light, we have much to be grateful for. The year ended with a school wide OPUS celebration of our community and a family Sing Along in the evening sponsored and organized by our dynamic School Council in conjunction with Mme Davydova, the teacher representative who galvanized the efforts of many helping hands. The children's sparkling eyes, smiles and joyful voices said it all!

We celebrate this daily as our students engage in powerful learning and achieve many milestones in their classrooms. The various classroom displays illustrate various areas of the curriculum including beautiful art work. The grade 8 students have visited high schools and are excited at considering what lies ahead. Our Safe School week highlighted many possibilities through the “Caught You Caring” campaign, earlier on.

We are always building on our past challenges to achieve an even better New Year. We would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our students and families happiness, health and peace in 2015!

Message From Our Trustee

I hope everyone has had a great school year so far and found opportunities to get involved with the life of the school. Partnerships with families are essential to student achievement and well-being, and to creating a caring and supportive learning environment in which students can thrive.

There are many ways for families to get involved – from volunteering with the school and getting involved with the school council to attending school events, communicating with your child's teacher and supporting learning at home. However you choose to get involved, know that you are making a difference.

Earlier this year, the Board of Trustees reviewed and revised our Multi-Year Plan, the plan which guides system direction. The plan continues to have a sharp focus on student achievement and well-being, the delivery of effective and sustainable educational programs and the stewardship of Board resources.

Thanks to your support and the hard work and commitment of our staff, students, families and community partners, we continue to move forward in achieving our goals. As an elected trustee and an advocate for high quality public education, I am committed to ensuring the highest quality public education possible for our students and their families.



Information sessions for the French Immersion (FI) program will take place at Coppard Glen Public School on January 15, 2015 at 7 p.m. FI registration will begin January 16, 2015. Families of Senior Kindergarten students entering Grade 1 in 2015 wishing to enroll in the FI Program, can request an Office Index Card. The Office Index Card must be signed by the principal. Families then take this form, along with one piece of identification showing their address to Coppard Glen Public School to register between January 16 and February 13, 2015. This eliminates the need to provide duplicate enrollment information or to pre-register. The FI program will be offered in a variety of configurations to meet community needs and optimize available space in our schools. This will allow flexibility in addressing community needs and the opportunity to use existing space in schools. More information is available on the Board's website: www.yrdsb.ca





On Wed. Nov. 19th 2014, Toronto Metro Police Officer PC Mark Borsboom graced us with his presence to talk about his profession in law enforcement, along with a slew of other topics such as: Media Literacy and how news items are often skewed, Bullying, and Perseverance as the most important Character Trait. Mr. Hanson's Class and Ms. Herman's Grade 8 Classes participated in this talk. PC Borsboom is a long time friend of Mr. Hanson's (over 32 years), a fellow Martial Artist as well, and charismatic public speaker. Mr. Borsboom's picture of him tying a shoelace of an old man went viral last summer over the internet, and he also came in to discuss how trivial an event like this can be, along with how important it is to show random acts of kindness.

OPUS is a great work in progress, emphasizing a hope for world peace and understanding through knowledge and appreciation of our multicultural country, province, community, families and schools. Our first OPUS celebration at Milliken Mills Public School took place during the 1999/2000 school year in December. We are happy to announce that 2014/2015 will be our 13th year celebrating OPUS.

Students rotated from room to room, the morning of Thursday, December 18, experiencing multicultural food and activities. Connections to curriculum were made, such as the study of traditions, celebrations, and diversity of our families and communities. Students, staff and parents were invited to dress up in a traditional costume.

OPUS is a time to say goodbye to the old year and hello to the New Year with all its hopes and new beginnings! OPUS is a time to engage one another in creating a cohesive bind full of optimism and promise. OPUS is a time for students to see themselves as 'change-makers', citizens contributing to the better understanding of one another – and ultimately to a better world for us all.

Our second Scholastic Book Fair was another success! Thanks to all who participated we raised \$2500.00. This increased the MMPS library collection by \$500.00! Our next and last book fair for the school year, will be in June. This will be a 2 for 1 sale with profits going to charity.

During Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week different events and initiatives took place. The intention of these initiatives was to heighten awareness of bullying and its impact, promote our character education, as well as encourage a safe, inclusive and equitable school climate. The primary students at M.M.P.S took part in a bullying awareness carrousel and participated in a variety of interactive activities learning about friendships and the meaning of empathy. The entire school participated in a "Caught you caring Campaign", signing a pledge to stop bullying, creating a visual display of what respect looked like in their classroom, making a human peace sign at recess, and wearing pink in solidarity to stop bullying. Students also participated in a Bookmark and Poster contest and submitted fantastic artwork that is currently on display!

Mme Leung's grade 6 F.I students have just celebrated a 'Chocolate Fiesta' in English literacy classes, in conclusion of the media unit on a study of the founder on Hershey Chocolates, Mr. Milton Hershey. As part of media studies, the students tried out making chocolates, creating eye-catching wrappers and advertising their own products. Fun and laughter ensued as many delicious, peanut free chocolates were devoured by the students and Ms. Levy (even though she moaned about the calories), as we watched many creative presentations. What a start to the festive season!

Our grade 4 students were treated to an incredible in-school learning opportunity with a visit from the Scientist in School program. Working in small groups and under the leadership of the programs staff, our grade 4's learned and explored many themes related to the grade 4 science curriculum. Through hands on work, experiments and working with science related manipulative they gained a better understanding of how pulleys and gears work while visiting five different and unique stations. This great learning opportunity was enjoyed by all.

Wow, what an awesome first half of the season it has been for the Milliken Mills Hockey League. All ten teams in the league continue to work hard and compete hard in every game they play in. We have seen some great plays and saves made by individuals as well as incredible playmaking done by each team. From the first drop of the puck to final blowing of the whistle great sportsmanship is always shown. As the season continues one questions remains, who will win it all this year?

KINDERGARTEN COUNTDOWN

Kindergarten registration will commence on January 16, 2015 for the 2015-16 school year. Registration forms are available on YRDSB's website: www.yrdsb.ca. Children who turn four or five years old during 2015, live within the school boundary and whose parents are public school tax supporters will be eligible to register for kindergarten. A kindergarten information session for parents is being planned for this spring. For more information please visit the YRDSB website or contact the school.



With the colder weather upon us, we would like to share our protocol for outdoor recess on extremely cold days. All students from Kindergarten to Grade 8 are expected to go out for recess unless the weather conditions are deemed to be severe. We always monitor the weather, and in extreme conditions (e.g., wind chill) we will keep the students inside or shorten the recess breaks. Please make sure that your child is dressed properly for our winter days. Boots, hats, mittens/gloves, jackets, snow pants, and scarves will help make recess an enjoyable time (please be sure to label all clothing). Children who are ill should remain at home until they are completely recovered. We are unable to accommodate requests for children to stay indoors as appropriate supervision is not available. Please support our home and school partnership by reminding your son/daughter that we ask that the snow remains on the ground and that it not be thrown as this is extremely dangerous. We often receive requests from parents asking us to keep their children indoors during recess times because they are not feeling well. Unfortunately, we do not have the staff or facilities to supervise students who are sick or still recovering from an illness. Students with heavy colds, etc., which are serious enough to prevent them from participating in physical education, recesses or other outdoor activities, should remain at home until their condition improves. This will likely benefit the students concerned and prevent the spread of this illness to others. Thank you for your cooperation.

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 YRDSB 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



- ✚ Please observe traffic laws, posted signs and the direction of our staff. We recognize that it can be hectic. At no time should a vehicle be left unattended or otherwise parked in the Kiss and Ride. We ask for your cooperation and we appreciate your patience in dropping off and picking up your children. For safety reasons, all children are expected to be picked up at the end of the day on time unless they are directly supervised by a teacher. Please do not drop your child at school before 8:05am. We thank you for your support in improving drop off and pick up procedures.
- ✚ All adults in our building are required to enter through the front doors of the school and check-in at the office. Those volunteering or visiting will be issued a badge. Please wait for your children after school outside of their regular entry doors. All students are dismissed from their regular doors, and are not to use alternate exits to avoid congestion. Thank you for your support.
- ✚ To ensure the safety of students, school busses may be cancelled due to inclement weather, extreme temperatures and/or poor road conditions. Ultimately, parents are responsible for deciding whether to send their child to school. Unless otherwise stated, schools will remain open and parents can make arrangements to transport their children to and from. If buses are cancelled in the morning, they will not operate in the afternoon.
- ✚ Please be aware that students will only be allowed to use the office telephone in emergency situations. Any student wishing to call home to ask to be picked up, or to inquire about going to a friend's house, will not be allowed to use the telephone. Please encourage children to make any special after-school



We hope you and your family enjoyed for whatever season you are celebrated: Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Winter Solstice, or just the arrival of a time of giving and celebration. Happy holidays! We send best wishes for a healthy and happy 2015. Whether you come to School Council meetings, participate as a parent volunteer, or come to special events-your involvement and presence matters. We value the time, treasures and talents you bring.



WeCare Café

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

我们诚意邀请所有**幼儿园到八年级**学生的父母、祖父母及保母一同来参加。

Café Goal

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

茶室宗旨

建立学校与家庭的合作性以达到改善学生的
成绩及福利为目标

Time: 8:20am—9:30am

时间：早上8:20—9:30

Place: Room 103 地点：103室

Languages: English (Chinese translation is available) 语言
：英语(设中文翻译)

January WeCare Café Topics & Events

No Meeting on January 7th

1月7日 茶室取消

Open Café (K—8): “Use of Technology” to take home / Q & A—January 14th

Open café (幼儿园至八年级): 使用科技资料派发 / 问与答 ~ 1月14日

J/I Café (4—8): Understanding preteen’s on-line social networking —January 21st

Junior and Intermediate Café (四至八年级): 了解青春期前的儿童的社交网络 ~ 1月21日

Open Café (K—8): “Healthy Eating Tips” to take home / Q & A—January 28th

Open Café (幼儿园至八年级): 健康和美味食物资料派发 / 问与答 ~ 1月28日