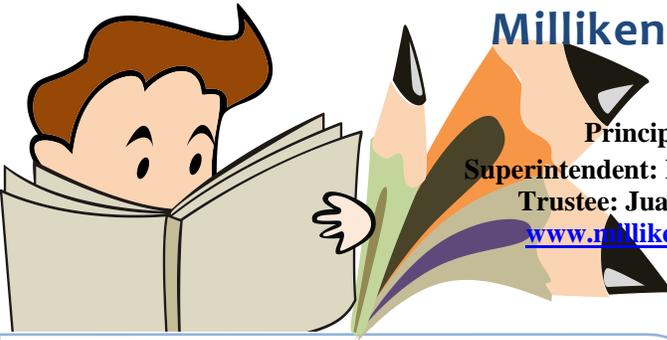


Principal: Catarina Burisch

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

March-Perseverance

“With ordinary talent and extraordinary perseverance, all things are attainable”. ~Thomas Foxwell Buxton

March is a great time, more daylight and gentler weather are here to lift people's spirits as we patiently wait for spring.

March being Nutrition Month provided a perfect opportunity to host our annual Great Big Crunch on Thursday as students go into March Break! Thank you to our Snack program and parent volunteers for providing the apples for our healthy snack and for organizing a fun event!

We are always talking and learning about best practices and how to meet the needs of each student. Students continue to work steadily towards their learning goals. We want to reiterate the importance of communication between home and school to support the success of each of our students. Your continued support is appreciated!

April will continue to be busy and filled with new experiences and information including : Getting Ready for Kindergarten, the annual Parent Symposium, the Together We Are Better conference for junior ambassadors, and the Skills Canada presentations to our intermediate students.

We wish everyone a relaxing and safe March Break. Enjoy and come back refreshed!

March Break

Remember, March Break will take place from March 16th to March 20th. There are no classes on Friday, March 13th. It is a PA Day. We wish families a relaxing and enjoyable holiday. Whether you are headed for sunny climates or the comforts of home, we look forward to seeing you when we return.

Delivery of Lunches, Indoor Shoes, Homework Etc

Children should be prepared for school. However, we do realize that sometimes life gets in the way! Please inform children ahead of time if you will be dropping something off. The item(s) can be placed on the counter next to the gym doors in the lobby.

Children may come down during recess or lunch to retrieve the item(s). If you are dropping something off unexpectedly, please let the office staff know, and we will inform them in a timely manner, to limit interruptions. We thank you for your flexibility and cooperation.



If a child is going to be away from school for any reason, please call the office at 905-475-8143. You can leave a message on our attendance line any time. On a busy day with many absences, confirming the whereabouts of every child can take awhile. We have been advised by the police that if a student has not arrived at school, and after all steps have been taken to contact the parents, emergency contact etc, they wish to be informed immediately. Please make sure that the school office has been provided with emergency contacts, and inform the office of changes.

Spirit Beads

Student council reintroduced their Spirit Bead Program. Everyone received a spirit bead bracelet with 2 beads representing our school colours. Students can earn beads by joining clubs, teams, groups or helping to plan or organize any school event.





February was an exciting month at the Library/Learning Commons! We had many wonderful student projects displayed in the Commons.

- In Visual Art, Mr. Mio's Grade 7 and 8 students and Mme. Momeni's Grade 5 and 6 students are learning how the element of 'texture' is used in art works in order to communicate ideas, messages and understandings.
- In Science, Mme Chan's Grade 5 students are learning to use technological problem-solving skills to design, build, and test a bridge that will withstand the application of a variety of external forces (i.e., weight, simulated strong wind, and simulated earthquake).
- In Social Studies, Mme Leung's Grade 6FI students, using the Social Studies inquiry process, are learning to analyze and present the physical, social and cultural characteristics of diverse Canadian communities who have influenced Canada's identity. The entire project consisted of a written report, an oral presentation using Prezi or Powerpoint, a Poster and the Diorama.
- In Social Studies, Mme Momeni's Grade 4/5FI students are learning to identify Canada's political and physical regions, and describe their main characteristics and some significant activities that take place in them.

Freedom to Read Week, from February 22 to 28, was celebrated with daily surprised announcements for Drop Everything And Read. Students and staff carried around reading material of their choice and read for 10 minutes wherever they were. "Freedom to Read Week is an annual event that encourages Canadians to think about and reaffirm their commitment to intellectual freedom, which is guaranteed them under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms."

Every Thursday, our Grade 6 students visited the Commons for an informational presentation by the York Regional Police called the Values, Influences and Peers (V.I.P.) Program. Constable Julie discussed several topics, such as drug safety and social media/internet use.

The last Thursday of each month School Council and staff meet in the Commons, during morning recess, to discuss several school topics. You are welcome to join us!

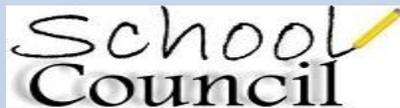
In the Commons, Mr. Grundman's grade 7 students conducted a debate around the controversy facing 'Uber' taxi in our community and other cities around the world.

Makerspace - what a success! Makers are having fun creating their own bookmark in different languages and displaying them in the Commons. Students are welcome to use their 'makerspace' passes during instructional time and morning recesses, day 1, 2 and 3, to get their imagination and creativity going. We will be embarking on a new 'product' after the March break. Stay tuned!

Join us for our Open Café, March 11 in the Library/Learning Commons. Ms. Boyd will be providing a guided tour of the space, demonstrating how and when parents can take out resources and how they can access the School Library Catalog from home.

The presentation begins at 8:30. Hope to see you there!

March 31st, we will be having the award winning Canadian author, Philip Roy, present to our Grades 4 to 8 students. Philip Roy is the author of the best-selling Submarine Outlaw series. He travels extensively to schools, fairs and festivals and carries with him a model submarine and helicopter made with found objects.



We will now be offering 3 healthy snacks to students each Thursday! The School Council is pleased to partner with the York Region Food for Learning - a diverse community partnership dedicated to supporting breakfast and snack programs in schools. Student nutrition programs link to the whole school approach to creating a healthy school nutrition environment. WE NEED VOLUNTEERS! If you can help on Thursday mornings from 8:15 to 8:45, with the preparation and distribution of snacks, please come directly to the school on Thursday mornings.

Your feedback and ideas are always welcome. If you are able to donate a product or have some ideas and thoughts to share with the school council, please email the Council Co Chair Anders: arawlins@gmail.com. School Council Meetings take place at 7 p.m. in the Milliken Mills School Library. The next meeting is on Thursday, April 16, 2015. Further info from meetings can be found online on the Milliken Mills School website under Council Meeting Minutes at:

<http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/millikenmills.ps/SchoolCouncil/Pages/Documents-and-Information.aspx>



February forced us to postpone our play day four times, but finally, on March 9th we had fun participating in 8 fun station activities. Classes from all grades mixed toboggan, play snow soccer and a variety of non-competitive games such as freeze tag. Thanks to our student council, Administration and all our staff for making this great day possible!



On March 9th and 10th our grade 8 students went on a Microsoft field trip. They learned to build an on-line gaming app using Microsoft's development tools at Yorkdale Mall. They also engaged in media study and analyzed the billboards at the mall.



Today is The Great Bug Crunch. The purpose of the Great Big Crunch is to:

- Promote, celebrate and enjoy healthy snacking
- Highlight availability of local produce all year round
- Celebrate Nutrition Month!

Notes from the Music Department

Rehearsals have started for Intermediate students auditioning for the York Region Elementary Enrichment Band. It is a unique opportunity. Successful applicants participate in a three day music camp where they rehearse high calibre repertoire, interact with other musically talented students and perform for large audiences. The Enrichment Band is under the direction of Dr. Jessica Kun, associate professor from Wilfrid Laurier University and conductor and artistic director of Richmond Hill Philharmonic Orchestra.

Our music festival season is beginning after March Break! We will be performing in the Music Alive Festival. It celebrates the joy of music and showcases the talents of students from across York Region schools and communities. It promotes an open environment of learning and fosters musical and personal growth. It is a non-competitive festival where ensembles are rated on a performance standard.

Stay tuned for festival results as our String Ensemble, Intermediate Band, Recorder Ensemble and Junior Band performs. All parents and guardians are welcome to attend and support our Milliken Mills musicians at the various venues. Let's keep music alive!



Intermediate boys basketball ended with our team competing in our area tournament. March signals tryouts for both our junior girls and boys. Good luck to everyone!



The *MedicAlert® Foundation Canada* is a charitable organization and provides emergency medical information services linked to customized medical bracelets and necklaces. We are pleased to offer MedicAlert memberships to our students through the *No Child Without®* program. The financial support of the Government of Canada and Lions Clubs allows membership for FREE.



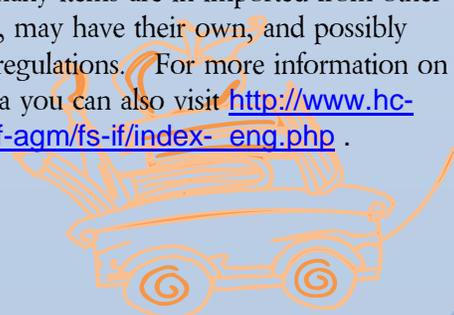
MMPS clubs have begun. From Equity to Chess, and from Ping-Pong to Debate, teachers are beginning to offer our students primary to intermediates a chance to meet new friends and try something new!



“GMO” stands for “Genetically Modified Organism”. A GM food is created by combining a gene (or set of genes) from at least two plants to create a modified version of that plant, or a brand new plant. Flavr Savr was the first genetically modified tomato sold commercially, altered to allow the tomato to ripen on the vine at a slower rate than normal without becoming soft, creating a richer more flavorful tomato. Scientists inserted an additional gene into the tomato before it was planted.

It is likely that the corn or carrots you might be buying have had their seeds modified. GMOs and GM foods have become controversial due to the unknown environmental risks and the untested potential health impacts, such as increased food sensitivities and allergic reactions. In Canada, over 81 GM foods have been approved since 1994.

It is difficult to know if the foods you purchase have been genetically modified. In other parts of the world, labeling GM foods has become mandatory. This is not a requirement in Canada, but something that producers can do voluntarily. Keep in mind that many items are imported from other countries that, again, may have their own, and possibly different, GM food regulations. For more information on GM foods in Canada you can also visit <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/gmf-agm/fs-if/index-eng.php>.





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: 8:25am to 9:30am

Place: Room 103

Languages: English (Chinese translation is available)

March WeCare Café Topics & Events



Primary Café (K-3): How to support your child with literacy development—March 4th

Open Café (K-8)—Learning / Library Commons by Ms. Boyd — March 11th

March Break—No Meeting — March 18th

Open Café (K-8): Literacy Resources to take home — March 25th