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Milliken Mills PS

October 2016

A Message from the Administrative Team

Dear Families:

The first month of this school year is over, and routines are being put in place - back to doing homework, early bedtimes and packing lunches! We are so pleased with how smoothly everything has gone thus far. We would like to congratulate our students, parents and staff on such a great beginning to the year! We would also like to extend our appreciation to all families for the warm welcome they have extended to the new staff and students joining the Milliken Mills team this year.

September was a busy month. Our staff and students participated in assemblies and safety week drills (fire, lock down, bus safety). Our families attended Curriculum Night. Thank you to our staff for putting together a fabulous evening for our families, and to School Council for organizing the pizza and drinks sales. The month of October promises to be equally full of interesting opportunities and challenges for students and staff alike. Our staff will continue to engage in professional learning around the 3 focus areas for our board: Mathematics, Modern Learning and Mental Health. Our students will be having opportunities for extra-curricular activities such as band (Merci, Ms. Hwang!), basketball clinics (Thank you, Mr. Kellman and Mr. Ritchie!), Martial Arts Club and Study Hall (Gracias, Mr. Hanson!), Library Crew (Thanks, Ms. Boyd), Play Leaders (Merci, Ms. Karimian and Ms. Butler!), and Dance Club (Thank you, Mr. Mio!). We are extremely thankful to our staff for providing these positive experiences for our students! Of course, learning continues daily in our classrooms as well.

As autumn gets into full swing, the leaves change colours and we celebrate fall, we would like to wish all of our families only the best for the season! This Thanksgiving, we encourage all of our staff, students and families to express gratitude for all the positive things that life offers.

Yours in education,

Nandy Palmer & Padmini Padiachy

Key Math Messages

York Region District School Board is committed to supporting students in becoming confident problem solvers who use mathematical knowledge, skills and processes to be contributing members of a changing society. The following points highlight some of the key messages of the Renewed Math Strategy:

- Math learning and teaching is responsive to students' strengths and areas of need to support the development of conceptual understanding, procedural fluency and application of problem solving strategies.
- Students will continue to learn basic skills and how to apply them to real world situations.
- Students in elementary schools will receive 60 minutes of math learning each day.
- YRDSB will have one to three Math representatives in each school to participate in professional learning opportunities and build their own learning and teaching. Further information to come.
- Release time will be provided to all schools to support the professional learning of elementary teachers, secondary math departments and administrators.
- The Renewed Math Strategy will include a focus on the strengths and needs of students with learning disabilities.
- Examples of some available resources for mathematics
 - [FAQs](#) for parents and school teams (YRDSB bww and www)
 - [Doing Math with Your Child](#) (Ministry of Education)
 - [Inspiring Your Child to Learn and Love Math](#) (Council of Directors of Education)
 - [Partnering With Your Teen in Mathematics](#) (Ministry of Education)
 - [Homework Help](#) (Community Partners)

EQAO

The Education and Quality Accountability Office (EQAO) is an organization that provides feedback to the Ministry of Education and Training and to schools about how students are performing on a province-wide basis. The results represent one measure of our students' achievement in Reading, Writing and Mathematics, and should be considered alongside school-based information.

The **darkest bar** represents the results for Milliken Mills P. S.

Please note:

* EQAO assessment data will be used as an **additional** of information to support the improvement of student learning.

* Improving student learning is a slow, gradual process. We need to look for sustained growth in achievement over time.

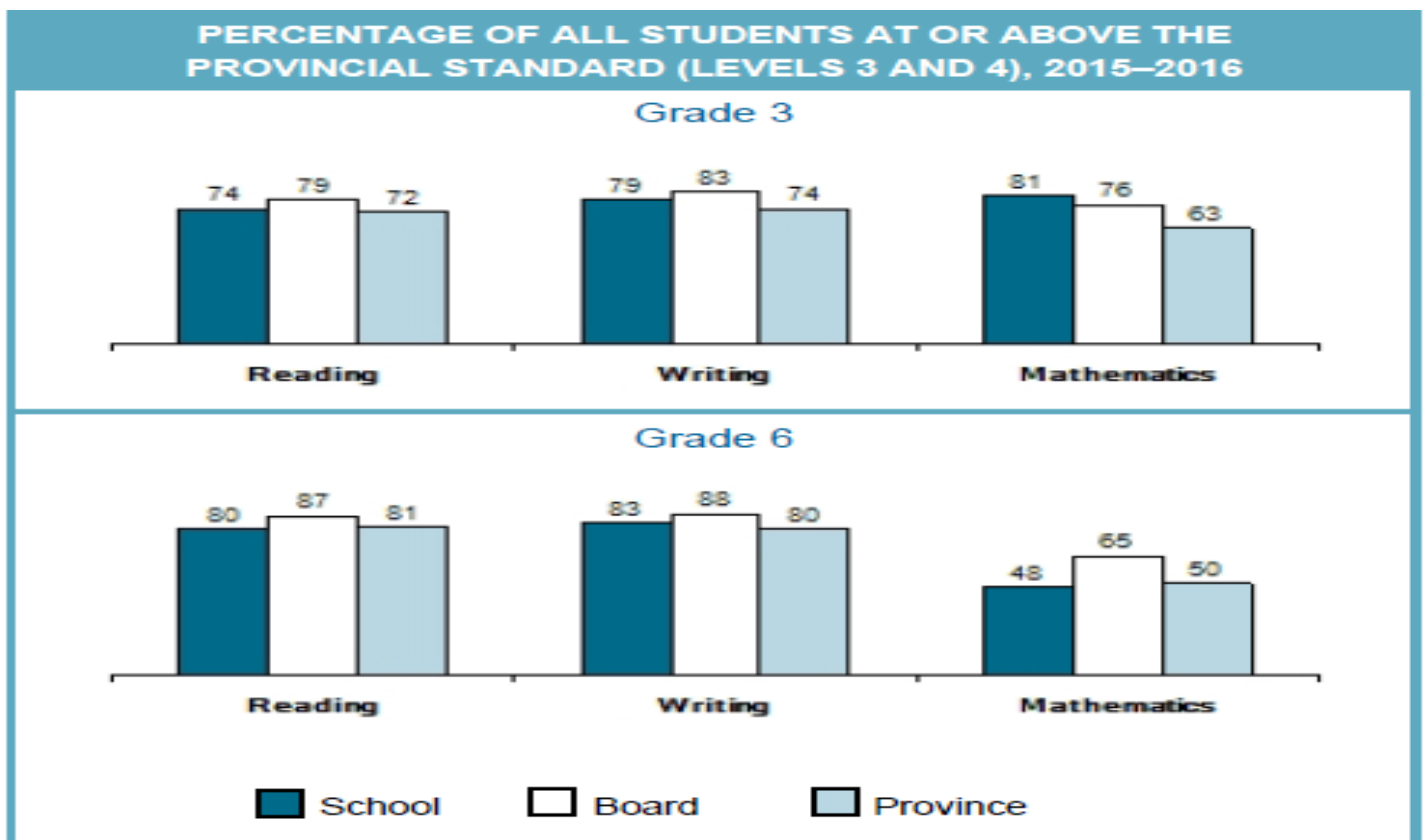
* The Board does **not** support the use of results to rank or compare schools.

* Thoughtful discussion with school and community partners about the results from the assessment and other classroom assessment

data will move the improvement planning agenda forward on behalf of **all students**.

For Grades 4 and 7 students (last year's Grades 3 and 6 students), the individual student report will be sent home this week. If your child is new to MMPS and was in a publicly funded Ontario school last year, your EQAO results will be sent from the previous school.

We encourage you to view samples of student work and to understand what work at each level looks like by visiting the EQAO website, www.eqao.com. Please contact the Principal or Vice Principal if you have any questions.



Safe Arrival Program & Bus Passes

Please remember to call the school if your child is going to be absent or late. When leaving a message, please state your child's full name, teacher's name and the reason for the absence. If a future absence is planned, please send your child's teacher a note indicating the dates and times of the expected absence. We rely on you to help us account for all the children quickly and efficiently each school day.

Please remember students are not allowed to have notes from parents requesting students to ride a different bus. We appreciate your cooperation.



SCHOOL HOURS

Supervision: 8:05 a.m.
Entry: 8:15a.m.
School Starts: 8:20 a.m.
Recess: 10:00-10:20
Lunch: 12:00-1:00
Dismissal: 2:40 p.m.

"The object of education is to prepare the young to educate themselves throughout their lives."

Robert Maynard Hutchins

Library

We have started our weekly Book Exchange Periods and students are excited to take out their two weekly books. Teachers encourage students to read a variety of text and record their readings on a weekly basis. Grade 7 and 8 students are now allowed to take out three books a week.

Our first French Book Fair has begun and is proving to be a great success. Available French books include fiction, non-fiction, and learning resources. All profits go directly back to Milliken Mills P.S. in the form of new French books which are added to our library collection. Thank you for supporting this fantastic event.

Please remember to visit our school website and click on the 'Library' link. You will find many wonderful online resources that you and your child can explore from home. Here is one example.



Our Library Leadership Team has been formed for the year. We welcome the following Grade 6 students to the Team: Anicca, Madelyn, Kaavya, Samantha, Alexia and Kaarunya.

October is International School Library Month. Throughout October International School Library Month is celebrated around the world. It's the perfect time for kids to browse through the hundreds of books available to them!

Our Annual Free Voluntary Reading Week will be happening at Milliken Mills Library/Learning Commons as a celebration of International School Library Month. Students will be welcome to sign up to come to the library every morning at 7:30 for the week and read. Dates will be announced at a later. Stay tuned!

Our Makerspace is open for the months of September and October. We kicked it off with International Dot Day where we celebrate our creativity. Students have been busy painting their 'dot' and making their 'mark'. The Dot Banner will be displayed in the Hall. Come and get inspired!

We are very fortunate to be participating in the Seven Series Prequel. On October the 25th Richard Srimger, the Canadian author of children and adult books, will be visiting MMPS to present to our grades 4 to 6 classes. That evening, all grades 4-6 families are invited to Wismer P.S. to listen to all of the authors presenting.

Don't forget - Milliken Mills Library/Learning Commons is open to all!

Ms. Boyd



Halloween

Each year, our students celebrate the long-standing tradition of Halloween. Students celebrating this occasion in costume at our school must comply with the Safe School's policy. Costume accessories including, but not limited to, toy guns, knives, axes, swords, etc. are not in compliance with York Region District School Board's Safe Schools Policy #668.0. Please note that this policy applies to all students at all levels, including Kindergarten. Thank you for your understanding. We look forward to having a safe and enjoyable Halloween. policy applies to all students at all levels, including Kindergarten. Thank you for your understanding. We look forward to having a safe and enjoyable Wear a properly fitted costume that is bright and non-flammable.

Here are some Trick or Treating Tips:

1. Use reflective tape on your costume so you can be seen in the dark.
3. Visit the front door of well-lit homes and never go inside.
4. Plan a route close to home and a time to be home.
5. Have a trusted adult check your treats before eating them.
6. Go with an adult or a group of friends.
7. If you need assistance, speak to a police officer or go to a Rogers Cable van.



We are a Nut-Free School

There are students and staff members in our school who have life-threatening allergies to nuts, tree nuts, latex, shellfish, seafood, fish, etc. which can cause an anaphylactic reaction.

Please check the ingredients label on any food you send with your child for lunch or snack. Ensure that foods with nuts and/or peanuts are not listed in the ingredients. Also ensure, for example, that there is no warning of "may contain traces of peanuts/tree nuts" or "manufactured in a facility that handles peanuts/tree nuts". The warnings may vary between manufacturers, but they will identify if there is a risk that the food product contains the allergen.

We respectfully ask that children wash their hands thoroughly before arriving to school to ensure that they are not bringing any trace amounts of the allergen to the classroom and common areas such as the library, playground and washrooms. Children are further reminded not to share their snacks and lunches.

Your cooperation and support in this important matter is deeply appreciated, and is critical to maintaining the safety of the students and staff in our school. Together we can all contribute to a safe environment for all.



Martial Arts Club

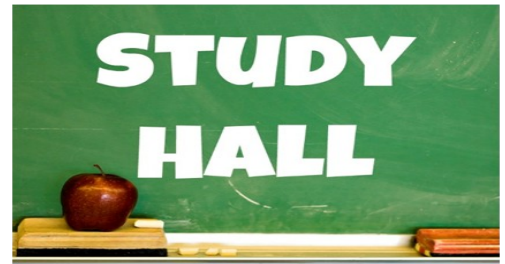
My name is Mr. Hanson, I'm a grade 7/8 Teacher here at MMPS and I also am a certified Martial Arts and fitness instructor with over 30 years of experience. I am planning to teach a free lunchtime Karate class starting first week of October in the gym grades 6-8. I encourage your child to consider joining as this opportunity has proven itself to improve character, discipline necessary to live a happy life. Students will get a chance to try out the class for a month, and afterward, they can commit to a regular schedule in the gym, all for free.



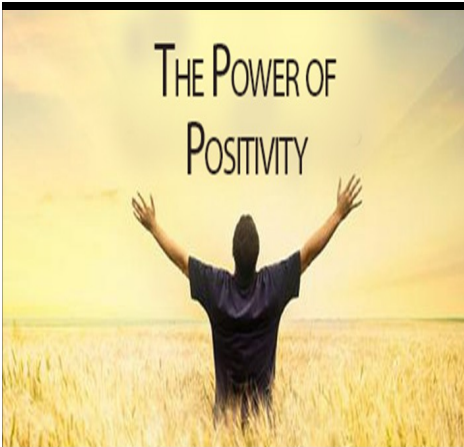
Study Hall

This year, during all lunch recesses, my room is open for any student wanting to time to complete assignments and/ or to seek extra help from me. It is my lunch time, but I am more than happy to provide assistance to the students while eating my lunch. I am offering this service to grades 6-8 students only. My room is located upstairs, room 214. Students are expected to come to complete work only and seek extra help. It is not a social time. Please encourage your child to attend this productive opportunity. Looking forward to seeing your children attend!

Mr. Hanson Gr. 7/8 Teacher



Positivity



I have initiated an old “new” concept to the children via our morning announcements. It’s called **POSITIVITY**. Every week, students will listen to a positive self-affirmation which will be played in the morning. The initiative is called “Pausing for Positivity”. The intention is to get students and teachers talking about positive mindsets which, in my opinion, is a great way to kick off any morning really. So far, some of the affirmations have been:

Be Brave

Use your time wisely

I will eventually involve the students in creating meaningful multi-media podcasts that convey positive messages.

Thank you, and have a positive day,

Mr. Hanson Gr.7/8 Teacher

The International Baccalaureate Program

The International Baccalaureate (IB) program is student-centred with a focus on developing intellectual, personal, emotional and social skills for students who live, learn and work in a rapidly changing world. The program emphasizes critical, compassionate thinking, community involvement and intercultural understanding. It is founded on international standards and assessment. Students who complete the program earn both an Ontario Secondary School Diploma and an IB Diploma.

We are pleased to announce the expansion of York Region District School Board’s IB Program offerings. In addition to [Bayview Secondary School](#)’s IB Program, YRDSB has four candidate school sites for the Diploma Program: [Alexander Mackenzie High School](#), [Dr. GW Williams Secondary School](#), [Maple High School](#), and [Milliken Mills High School](#)

Current Grade 8 and Grade 9 students and families interested in YRDSB’s IB Program are invited to attend an information session to learn more about the program and application process. No registration is needed.

IB Information Evening – Wednesday, October 26, 2016

Location: Le Parc

8432 Leslie Street, Thornhill, Ontario L3T 7M6

Hall: to be announced

Times:

Families living EAST of Yonge St. 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Families living WEST of Yonge St. 8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Students eligible for Grade 9 and Grade 10 in September 2017 may apply.

Assessment Dates – Saturday, November 19 or Tuesday, November 22, 2016

Admission to the York Region District School Board IB programs includes an assessment. At the time of application, students will select to write in either the a.m. or p.m. on Saturday, November 19 or in the evening on Tuesday, November 22.

There is a \$35 fee to apply to this program.

For additional information, please visit www.yrdsb.ca/IB.

Fight the bite!

What you can do...

Clean up

The best way to keep mosquitoes away is to clean up areas of standing water where mosquitoes like to breed.

Here are some tips:

- Clean up and empty containers where water collects (old tires, tin cans, flower pots, etc.)
- Change water in bird baths weekly
- Remove water that collects on pool covers
- Turn over items such as wading pools, wheelbarrows and small boats
- Clear eavestroughs and roof gutters
- Unclog drainage ditches
- Drill holes in the bottoms of containers so water can't collect
- Check that door and window screens are tight-fitting and in good repair

Cover up

Protect yourself and your family from mosquito bites.

- Wear light-coloured, long-sleeved shirts and pants
- Use insect repellent containing DEET when outdoors; apply according to manufacturer's instructions

For more information about West Nile virus or to report standing water, contact York Region Health Connection at 1-800-361-5653, TTY 1-866-252-9933 or visit york.ca/westnile

Community and Health Services
Public Health





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 ROSH HASHANAH	4 ROSH HASHANAH	5 School Council Meeting 7pm in the Library	6 String Ensemble	7 	8
9	10 	11	12 YOM KIPPUR	13 String Ensemble	14 	15
16	17	18	19 BAND Gr 7 & 8 	20 String Ensemble Fire Drill	21 	22
23	24 	25	26 BAND 	27 String Ensemble 	28 PA Day	29 DIWALI
30	31 					