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Milliken Mills PS
September 2015

A Message From the Principal

Dear Families:

I hope that you all had a relaxing summer, filled with many happy moments, and that you are all ready for the 2015-2016 school year!

On behalf of the staff of Milliken Mills Public School, I would like to welcome new and returning students and families to an exciting new school year of learning and growing together! I would also like to extend a huge merci to our entire staff - caretaking, office support and teaching - for working together over the summer to prepare for the new school year. The school and classrooms look clean, inviting and engaging!

We look forward to working with all members of the school community to ensure that we attend to all the P.I.E.C.E.S. of our students. The acronym "P. I. E. C. E. S." refers to the needs of our children: physical, intellectual, emotional, cultural, environmental, and social. At Milliken Mills, we are most fortunate to have a staff that is professional and dedicated to teaching and learning. We are also lucky to have families who are involved and partner with school staff. Together, we will continue to facilitate and encourage a school culture in which all members care deeply about the success of all students.

Please note that all school and classroom newsletters here on in will be posted on our website, www.millikenmills.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca. We thank you for your support as we work to reduce our carbon footprint. You can also follow us @MillikenMillsPS on twitter starting this year.

We look forward to partnering with you over the next year, and to seeing you at all of our school events throughout the year.

Yours in education,

Nandy Palmer

Milliken Mills PS Staff for 2015-2016

Mme Palmer	PRINCIPAL	Mr. Hanson	Gr. 7/8
Mrs. Pun	OFFICE ASSISTANT	Mme Herman	Gr. 8 (F.I.)
Ms. Singh	SECRETARY	Mrs. Levy	RR/SERT/PREP
Mrs. Matthew	JK/SK	Mrs. Boyd	ESL/ LIBRARY
Mr. Ritchie	JK/SK	Ms. Hwang	MUSIC
Ms. Koukouves	Gr. 1	Mr. Mio	PREP
Ms. Caplan	Gr. 2	Ms. Sukumaran	PREP
Ms. Haranas	Gr. 3	Ms. Beharry	PERFORMANCE PLUS
Mme Ng	Gr. 3 (F.I.)	Mme Rawana	PREP/SERT
Mme Momeni	Gr. 3 (F.I.)	Mme Tantalo	PREP
Mme Fejer	Gr. 4 (F.I.)	Ms. Karimian	PERFORMANCE PLUS CYW
Mme Davydova	Gr. 4 (F.I.)	Ms. Pak	E.A.
Ms. Statten	Gr. 4/5	Ms. Rebeiro	CYW
M Sainte	Gr. 4/5 (F.I.)	Ms. Liu	DECE
Mme Chan	Gr. 5 (F.I.)	Ms. Tzemis	DECE
Mme Leung	Gr. 6 (F.I.)	Mr. Tong	LEAD CARETAKER
Mr. Thomas	Gr. 6/7	Mr. Santos	CARETAKER
Mme Salvagna	Gr. 7 (F.I.)	Mr. Shiels	CARETAKER

Safe Arrival Program

If your child is going to be away from school, please call the office at 905-475-8143. You can leave a message on our attendance line any time. If a future absence is planned, please send your child's teacher a note indicating the dates and times of the expected absence. If your child is absent from school and the reason is unknown, we will attempt to reach you. Failing that, we must contact the York Regional Police. We rely on you to help us account for all the children quickly and efficiently each school day. Please make sure that the school office has been provided with emergency contacts, and inform the office of changes.



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.

Important - Bus Passes Are Not Permitted

Many of our students take the bus. **Students are not allowed to have notes from parents for bus passes requesting students to ride a different bus.** Our school staff and the bus drivers must be able to account for all students assigned to all buses at all times. We appreciate your cooperation in getting all our students to and from school safely. For bus information please visit <http://www.schoolbuscity.com/> or contact Student Transportation Services at 905-713-2525.

School Yard Safety

For the safety of our children, the only adults allowed in the school yard are the teachers and school assistants on duty. Supervision begins at 8:05am. Please do not drop children off before unless Before School Program services are being used.

Kiss and Ride and Parking Lot

The front area and parking lot is intended for families who are dropping their child(ren) off in the morning and/or picking them up in the afternoon. To ensure the safety of all students:

- Please obey all traffic rules while driving through the one way parking lot and remember to "kiss 'n ride".
- Children need to enter and exit the vehicle from the right side of the vehicle.
- Move forward in the kiss 'n ride loop so other vehicles can pull in behind you.
- Never leave your car parked, idling or unattended.

Lunchtime Expectations

We ask your cooperation in sending your child to school with his/her lunch. If your child forgets to bring his/her lunch and you must drop it off at school, **please label it with your child's name and teacher's name** and leave it on the counter in the lobby where your child can pick it up when the lunch period begins. We would like to encourage parents to pack healthy, litterless lunches in re-usable containers. Due to allergies, students are not allowed to share lunches or snacks. **Students are not permitted to go off school property at lunchtime unless they are walking home and have written parent permission, or are accompanied by an adult.** Again, thank you for helping to keep our children safe.

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

Robert Maynard Hutchins

Safety Awareness Week

The York Region District School Board has designated September 25th to October 2nd Safety Awareness Week. Schools across York Region are featuring activities and events that highlight safety at school and in the community. Leading up to and during this time, we will be focusing on school safety by holding fire drills and a Lock Down drill. As with fire drills, students and staff will be well prepared for the Lock Down drill. If you have any questions about safety activities, please contact the school.

Medication

Children who need to take medication at school require a *Request for Administration of Oral Medication Form* signed by the parent before the medication can be given. If your child requires medication during the school day, please see the secretary in the office. Also, we ask that parents keep the school informed of any medical concerns they may have regarding their child. It is important that we work together to ensure the safety of all our students. Please ensure that the school has **2 epi-pens** for each student who requires this safety measure.

Search and Seizure Reminder

Protocol between the York Region Police and York Region District School Board mandates that school administrators remind parents of the search and seizure policy at the commencement of the school year. The Police Protocol states that “the school community needs to be made aware of the right of the school administrators to search school property, such as lockers and desks, without notice to or permission of any person. School administrators shall also make the school community aware that police may from time to time be invited onto school premises to conduct their own searches. These searches may be conducted without notice to or permission of any member of the school community other than the school principal.”

All Visitors to the School Must Report to the Office

In accordance with the Safe Schools Policy, we would like to remind you that all visitors to the school, including parents, are expected to check in at the office when entering the school for any reason. Parents who are dropping their children off or picking their children up are requested to abide by this policy. If you pick your children up after school, please at their designated door. **We thank you for not going in the hallways or to your children’s classrooms.** If you are working as a volunteer in the school or if you have a planned visit, we ask that you sign in at the office and wear a volunteer or visitor badge.

Punctuality

It is extremely important that all our students arrive on time for classes. Children who arrive late miss announcements, important instructions given at the beginning of the day, and disrupt the learning of others. We expect all students to arrive on time, by the **entry bell at 8:15 a.m.** Teachers are on duty at 8:05a.m. Students need to be in their classrooms for the start of O Canada in order to be deemed on time. If students arrive after the 8:15a.m. bell, they must check in at the office for a late admission stamp before going to class. We thank you for your cooperation in helping your child(ren) develop this important life skill.

Student Accidents and Insurance

All accidents at school or during any school related activities should be reported to a teacher and the school office so that a record of the incident is kept on file. The York Region District School Board makes insurance plans available with several options for insurance. Applications will be sent home the first week of school. If you are interested, please return these forms directly to the company, and not to the school.

Considerations for a New School Year

A new academic year brings about excitement and anxiety in both parents and students. Adjusting to a 'back to school' routine from a Summer routine' can be challenging for many. September brings about greater levels of activity, structure and sometimes even pressure. Parents can help their children make smoother transitions by helping to establish some simple routines.

Some of the routines to consider are the following:

1. Re-establishing an appropriate bedtime to ensure enough hours of sleep for your child. Research has proven that sleep is related to the overall well being of a child. A lack of sleep can cause a child to become hyperactive, disagreeable and display extremes in behaviour. For a detailed list on the number of recommended sleep hours according to age, visit: <http://www.webmd.com/parenting/guide/sleep-children>
2. Limit 'Screen Time'. Encourage your child to limit his/her hours of watching TV or playing video/iPod games. Instead, re-establish a routine of quiet bedtime reading and/or puzzles. Engaging in passive activities will prepare children to have longer attention spans in class.
3. Establish a routine of discussing the day's events with your child. Review the school agenda and check backpacks for communication. Keeping the lines of communication open will ensure success for your child.
4. Consider extra-curricular activities that are fun, reinforce social development and teach new skills. Over-programming children can cause stress and could potentially make it difficult for children to concentrate in school work.

School Council

School Councils act as advisory bodies that make recommendations to school principals. School Councils play an important role in building school, family and community partnerships by providing relevant input. Our School Council is comprised of the Principal, parents, community members and staff representatives. All parents are welcome to join the committee which is actively involved in supporting the school. If you are interested in serving on the School Council, please request a School Council Nomination form.

Learning Skills and Work Habits

The development of learning skills and work habits needed to succeed in school and in life begins early in a child's schooling. As students move through the grades, they develop and then consolidate their learning skills and work habits in preparation for post-secondary education and the world of work.

Teachers will work with students and their parents/guardians to help them develop the following six learning skills and work habits: Responsibility, Organization, Independent Work, Collaboration, Initiative, and Self-Regulation. Please review these with your child(ren).

Head Lice

After each school break, it is strongly recommended that parents check their children for head lice. Please check your child's hair regularly, as lice can come and go year-round. Please notify the school if you suspect head lice. Head lice nits look like dandruff that cannot be brushed off. It is usually the eggs that are noticed first; they are attached to the hair by a cement-like material and are difficult to remove. For more information about Head Lice, please call York Region Public Health at (905) 895-4511. You are encouraged to check for head lice regularly over the course of the school year.

Indoor/Outdoor Shoes

Please make sure your child has a pair of indoor shoes for the classroom and the gym. Thank you for helping us keep our students safe and the school clean by keeping the mud and slush outside!



E-newsletter

For your convenience, all school and classroom newsletters and pertinent information, as well as useful links, are available on our website: <http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/millikenmills.ps> Please add this link to your Favourites. **PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS THE ONLY NEWSLETTER THAT WILL BE SENT HOME (hard copy).** We appreciate your support in “going green”. Ongoing communication between home and school is critical to the success of your children, so we encourage you to keep yourselves informed of classroom and school activities and initiatives by checking our website regularly.



Office Index Cards

You will receive Student Office Index Card. We ask that you review this information and make any changes to the form as required. This form is used on a daily basis to relay important messages to parents, contact emergency numbers and contact parents at work when your child is too sick to stay at school. Please help us do our job well by adding any pertinent information and all essential contact numbers and returning the completed form promptly to the school. **If there are no changes, you do not need to return the form.**

Forms and Information Sent Home with Newsletter...

- Office Index Card
- Welcome Package
- Guide to the 2015-2016 School Year for Students and Parents
 - Accident Insurance Forms
 - International Languages Flyer
- Consent/Agreement and Policy Agreement Form

Please Return ASAP...

- Signed Consent/Agreement and Policy Agreement Form
- Completed Office Index Card (as it pertains to you)
 - Medical Forms (as it pertains to you)
 - 2 Epi-pens (as it pertains to you)
- School Council Election Form (as it pertains to you)
 - Volunteer form (as it pertains to you)
 - Religious Accommodation Form