

289 Risebrough Cir.  
Markham, Ontario  
L3R 3J3  
T: 905.475.8143  
F: 905.889.6287

Principal: Nandy Palmer  
V.P.: Padmini Padiachy  
Superintendent: Erik Khilji  
Trustee: Jaunita Nathan



Website: [www.milliken.millsps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca](http://www.milliken.millsps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca)  
Email: [milliken.mills.ps@yrdsb.edu.on.ca](mailto:milliken.mills.ps@yrdsb.edu.on.ca)  
Twitter: @MillikenMillsPS

**Milliken Mills PS**  
**September 2016**

## A Message From the Administrative Team

Dear Families:

We hope that you all had a relaxing summer, filled with many happy moments, and that you are all ready for the 2016-2017 school year!

On behalf of the staff of Milliken Mills Public School, we would like to welcome new and returning students and families to an exciting new school year of learning and growing together! We 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](http://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. Curriculum Night will be on Thursday, September 29th. We will send out more information soon.

Yours in education,

Nandy Palmer & Padmini Padiachy



## Message from our Trustee

As we start another school year, we are very pleased to welcome all of our new and returning families. I hope you all enjoyed the hot summer months and are looking forward to the start of school.

There is a lot to look forward to in the months ahead and many ways for families to engage with their child's learning. There is a strong connection between parent and family engagement and student achievement and well-being, and I hope that you will find opportunities to get involved.

In the coming year, trustees will continue to focus on the priorities that we set out in our [Multi-Year Plan](#): student achievement and well-being; the delivery of effective and sustainable educational programs; and the responsible stewardship of Board resources.

We know that partnerships with parents and families are essential to achieving these goals. However you choose to get involved, know that you are making a difference to your child's learning.

I wish you all the best for the upcoming school year.

## 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.

## Milliken Mills PS Staff for 2016-2017

|                       |                 |                  |                     |
|-----------------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Nandy Palmer          | Principal       | Rita Leung       | 6\7 (F.I.)          |
| Padmini Padiachy      | Vice-Principal  | Barbara Herman   | 7 (F.I.)            |
| Angela Pun            | Admin Assistant | Andy Jean-Pierre | 8 (F.I.)            |
| Diana Singh           | Secretary       | Sandra Levy      | RR\SERT             |
| Spiridoula Spyridakis | JK/SK           | Pamela Boyd      | Library\ELL         |
| Chris Ritchie         | JK/SK           | Anna Hwang       | Music/Math          |
| Kathy Koukouves       | 1               | Kun Mio          | English\Art\Science |
| Florence Caplan       | 2               | Cheri Bronny     | English             |
| Devika Sharma-Singh   | 3               | Rashma Beharry   | P PLUS              |
| Jason Kellman         | 4               | Devica Rawana    | SERT\English        |
| Courtney Statten      | 5\6             | Angela Tantalo   | Math                |
| Chris Hanson          | 7\8             | Lesley Goodman   | SERT\Prep Coverage  |
| Sophie Momeni         | 3 (F.I.)        | Pouran Karimian  | P PLUS CYW          |
| Tatiana Davydova      | 3 (F.I.)        | Krystina Mayer   | DECE                |
| Ester Fejer           | 3 (F.I.)        | Amalia Tzemis    | DECE                |
| Alina Rosca           | 4 (F.I.)        | Kwame Frimpong   | CYW                 |
| Madiha Ahmad          | 4\5 (F.I.)      | Kailey Butler    | EA                  |
| Jean Sainte           | 5 (F.I.)        | Donald Tong      | Head Caretaker      |
| Cindy Chan            | 5\6 (F.I.)      | Rodrigo Santos   | Caretaker           |

## 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 and staff 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.



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

Robert Maynard Hutchins

## 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.

## 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



## Safety Awareness Week

---

We will be having Safety Awareness Week in September. 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 and Hold and Secure Drill. As with fire drills, students and staff will be well prepared for the Lock Down drill and Hold and Secure 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

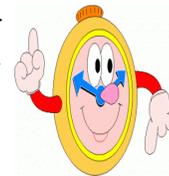
---

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 wait 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. 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 to be on time. If students arrive after the 8:15a.m. bell, they must check in at the office for a late stamp before going to class. We thank you for your cooperation in helping your child(ren) develop this important 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 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.

## 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 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

---

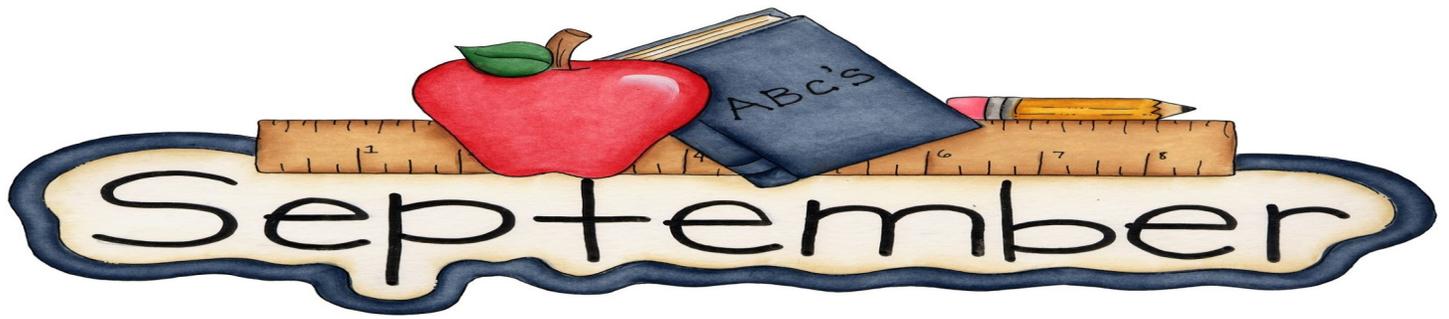
You will receive Student Office Index Card. We ask that you review this information and make any changes to the form as required. This form is used on a daily basis to relay important messages to parents, contact emergency numbers and contact parents at work when your child is too sick to stay at school. 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
- Consent/Agreement and Policy Agreement Form
- Guide to the 2016-2017 School Year for Students and Parents
  - Accident Insurance Forms
  - International Languages Flyer

### 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



Sun

Mon

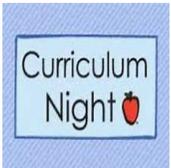
Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

|    |  |   |    |  |    |    |
|----|--|---|----|--|----|----|
|    |  |   |    | 1  | 2  | 3  |
| 4  | 5<br><b>LABOR DAY</b><br> | 6<br> | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 |
| 11 | 12   | 13<br><b>RETURN<br/>SIGNED<br/>FORMS</b>  | 14 | 15   | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19   | 20  | 21 | 22   | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26<br><b>PA<br/>Day</b>  | 27  | 28 | 29<br> | 30 |    |