

MILLIKEN MILLS HIGH SCHOOL

February, 2007

Newsletter

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

I am very pleased that I have this opportunity to communicate with the Milliken Mills High School community through our school newsletter. I am very pleased to be Principal of Milliken Mills High School. This is like coming home for me; I was the Department Head of Special Education when the school opened in 1988. I have such positive memories of the students and the community at large.

I know there is a history of rich and varied traditions at Milliken and I will do my best to honour and support them. I know our students, staff, and community partners will remain active and involved in our school life and I will support their efforts in as many ways as I can.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish Mrs. Kadri Mereweather all the best in her new venture as Principal of Bur Oak Secondary School.

In closing, I look forward to serving the Milliken community as Principal of Milliken Mills High School.

A Note from Mrs. Mereweather

I can't believe that it has been five years since I walked through the front doors of Milliken as your Principal. How time flies when you are having fun.....My message this time marks the end of my tenure as Principal of Milliken.

As of February, I will have left Milliken to open a new secondary school in Markham north.....Bur Oak Secondary School.

Leaving Milliken is indeed sweet sorrow, and while I look forward to the challenges that opening a new school presents, I will truly miss Milliken's students, staff and community members.

My tenure as Principal of Milliken, with so many rich and varied traditions, has been one of the proudest and most rewarding times of my professional career. I hope to carry some of these same traditions to Bur Oak.

Oh how you have enriched my life! I will always cherish the wonderful memories of my time at Milliken.....Winter Concerts, Yosa's Gala, Milliken Idol, Spirit Days, Holiday Assemblies, After School

Jams and the morning crowd of students lined up at the Attendance Office. However, the image that will stay most firmly in my mind is that of a school that celebrates diversity, inclusiveness and a Multicultural heritage. Milliken is truly a very special place.

To students, staff, and our community partners, I extend my appreciation and thanks for your support and tremendous efforts which have allowed us to achieve all of our goals over the last five years.

I have been extremely proud to be part of Milliken.....a multicultural school with a caring and supportive student body and staff.

A special welcome goes out to your new Principal, Mr. Reid Wilshire. I ask that all students, staff and parents welcome Mr. Wilshire.

I know that he too is committed to student success and to continuing to make Milliken such a wonderful place to work and learn.

Thank you for five fabulous years,

Kadri Mereweather

This Newsletter is also available on the Internet at
www.mmhs.ca



SALUT! ;HOLA!

On November 30th, 220 of our French students were treated to a delightful performance by Marc Tardif, “Le Magicien” from Quebec. For the past twenty years, Marc has been touring Canadian schools promoting the French language through his magic shows. He has performed over 4,000 shows, created over 20 thematic performances and starred in 15 television shows.

Speaking in both French and English, Marc showed the magic of one’s attitude and the power of the mind in the process of reaching goals. He also talked about choices, dreams, mind power, obstacles and having a plan of action. Marc is still on tour and sends his regards to everyone who attended the show.

The Moderns Dept. would like to sincerely thank our Principal, Kadri Mereweather, for helping to offset the cost to the students. Sincere thanks also go out to Harsh Thaker and his assistants for handling the AudioVisual aspect of the show. It was a successful afternoon and the students and Moderns staff enjoyed themselves. À la prochaine!

The Dept. would like to congratulate Neha Gupta. Neha is among the participants of this year’s trip to Ecuador through YRDSB International Co-op. We wish Neha well. She’ll be leaving on March 5th and will be returning in June, 2007. Any students interested in this wonderful opportunity may get information from the Moderns Dept. (Rm 225) or from the Co-op Dept. (Rm 125).

The Dept. is also pleased to announce that Joshua Banton, the young boy from Costa Rica that the Spanish classes had been supporting for 5 years, has now “graduated” from the program. Through sponsorship, he and his mom are now completely self-sufficient. Joshua is very thankful for the love and support he received over

the years from Milliken’s kind and generous students – his “padrinos” (godparents). As of Sept. 2006, Spanish students are now the padrinos of NUBIA VANESSA LOPEZ from Nicaragua. They recently received her “primera carta” (first letter). Les profs du département souhaitent un très bon semestre à tous. Bonne chance! Buena suerte!

GUIDANCE NEWS

All course selections for the school year 2007 – 2008 are due by Friday, March 2, 2007.

The potential Grad list will be posted in the guidance office in early April. Grade 12 students who are expecting to graduate should check to be sure that they are listed on the “Grad List”.

The guidance office has a list server which you are invited to join. All of the MMHS community is able to stay on top of opportunities and newsworthy possibilities by joining this list server. Send an email to : millikenlists@mmhs.ca In the body of the email include the command: **JOIN MMHS GuidanceNews@mmhs.ca** **This email command has to be exactly as it appears here.**

We are very proud to announce that 25% of the student body at MMHS is on the Honour Roll for the work which they had done in semester one. Congratulations to all of our hard working students.

“FEED THE MIND”



The staff of MMHS has recognized that students are in need of a healthy breakfast to enable them to stay focussed in class. We have started a club called “Feed the Mind” and hope to serve breakfast every day for students. Twenty two teachers have committed their time to supervise in the mornings, and a group of students will be serving breakfast (they will, in the process, earn community hours).

We have help from “Food for Learning” a York Region organization, but that is only a start. To offer nutritious food we will require help from parents and our community business partners. If you can help with a donation or would like to volunteer your time, please call the following teachers.

Mr. Joe Lefkowitz (905)477-0072 x 248 VM 548
Mrs. Saxena (905)477-0072 x 201 VM 589
Ms. MX Kim (905)477-0072 x 201 VM 537

MMHS老師及職員認為早餐是學生的必需，更能令他們在課堂集中精神。因此我們組織了一個學會叫”Feed The Mind”，藉此供應早餐給我們的學生。我們將會有二十二位老師和多位同學在此活動伸出援手，協助今次活動，

同時我們會得到”Food for Learning”，一個約克區組織的協助。但因這是一個開始，所以我們仍需要家長及社區商戶的幫助。請踴躍捐輸。如有善款或願捐出時間，請至電905 477 0072，內線248給Mr. J. Lefkowitz，內線201給Mrs. R. Saxena，和 Ms. M. Kim。電話是 905 477 0072。

DATES TO REMEMBER

March 9 – 18	Mid-Winter Break
March 19	School Council Meeting–7:00
March 21	Parent/Teacher Interview Night
March 29	Grade 10 Literacy Test
April 26	Report Card Distribution
May 11	YOSA Show
May 17	Grade 8 Orientation
May 18	Music Night
May 25	Meningitis Immunization Clinic
June 7 – 8	Math EQAO
June 19 – 26	Final Exams

Plenty of dynamic activities are underway in the Visual Arts Department. We have taken our classes and our art 'on the road' in Semester One, allowing us to more fully engage in the artwork of others and to present our own creations to a wider audience. Gr. 11 Sculpture class toured a range of innovative contemporary art at the Gardiner Museum, while Gr. 11 Photography and Gr. 12 Information Design classes completed photo shoots in downtown Toronto and took in the deep insights revealed through international news and documentary photography at World Press Photo show at BCE place. The Gr. 12 Comprehensive Visual Arts students had an opportunity to share their work with a recent showcase of over 40 art-pieces at The Varley Gallery, in the historic Main Street Unionville area under, an initiative organized by the Mayor's Youth Task Force. We are currently accepting technically superior submissions for the Ontario wide annual Agfa photo contest and York Region District School Boards upcoming calendar, featuring dates of faith and cultural observance. Our virtual web-galleries remain open for visits on the Visual Arts Department Page and allow students to share their creative expressions with friends, family and art aficionados around the globe.

Peace and creativity go hand in hand and it is a theme that our department often returns to. This fall, during commencement we were pleased to award the first annual memorial Kethees Nagarajah Art and Peace Bursary (and Artful Heart Award) to Vithangi Ramachandran as an individual who consistently exemplifies empathy, sincerity and personal creative direction. Watch out for the Art for Peace display on its way to Room 245. It will feature the works of various photographers using photography to inform the world and inspire peaceful resolution to national and international conflicts and the unveiling of the Art and Peace Award plaque. This year's yearbook, Peace by Piece, sums it all up. We each have a contribution to make in the creation and maintenance of harmony. (Yearbooks may still be purchased through Mr. Dalton-James.)

February is the time to appreciate our many accomplished African American artists like the photographers James VanDerZee and Gordon Parks, who offered us insight into the rich culture and diversity of different communities, and Jean-Michel Basquiat, who raised graffiti art to the status of fine art. Finding out more about these artists and many others is just a click away. Visit sites like real-blackartists.com, liunet.edu/cwis/cwp/library/aavaahp.htm, artcyclopedia.com/nationalities/African-American.html

and use your search engines to empower and educate yourself.

A record number of our students are currently enrolled in and pursuing creative directions in post-secondary education. Students are reminded to pay careful attention to admission requirements for various programmes and build portfolios of related work well in advance of portfolio submission due dates. Your art teachers are available for consultation as part of this process, but it is your responsibility to fully represent your abilities by building a strong portfolio with appropriate work, geared to varied admission requirements