

I would like to welcome our new Vice-Principal, Mrs. Teresa Steel, to Milliken Mills. Mrs. Steel began her teaching career in 1988 in the English Department at Milliken Mills. She then served 9 years as the Head of English at Alexander Mackenzie High School and Thornhill Secondary School respectively. In 2000, Mrs. Steel began her first appointment as a Vice-Principal at Markville Secondary School and has since worked as a Vice-Principal at Westmount Collegiate Institute and Markham District High School. Mrs. Steel is well known for her organizational skills, school operations expertise, practical and common sense approach to decision making, keen sense of humour, and dedication to student and staff success and well-being. I look forward to working with Mrs. Steel once again and I encourage you to introduce yourself to her and make her feel welcomed.

It is with mixed emotions that I say goodbye to Ms. Carmen Spiteri-Johnson. I have only worked with her for 1 year but she has left a lasting impression on me for the way she conducted herself as Vice-Principal at MMHS.

Ms. Spiteri-Johnson is passionate about students and their learning. Over the 3 years she has been here she has worked tirelessly to support student achievement. She has worked with the Transition Committee (students moving from Gr. 8 to Gr.9) and the Student Success Team (those teachers who work together to support our "At Risk" students.)

Important Board priorities such as literacy, and numeracy were also championed by Ms. Spiteri-Johnson. She has played a significant role in successfully promoting these initiatives throughout our school to support student achievement.

In closing I would like to thank her for her many contributions to students and staff at MMHS. I would also like to thank her for her support of me as principal as well.

I know our MMHS community joins me in wishing her well as she starts her new position as Vice-Principal at Huron Heights Secondary School in Newmarket.

Mathematics News

Congratulations to all the students who wrote the Canadian Open Mathematics Competition and the McMaster online Mathematics Contest in November 2007. There were some mind boggling and challenging questions to keep our students on their toes. The students worked really hard on their mathematical problems. We hope you had fun writing these contests.

In particular, congratulations to the following students who achieved excellent scores

McMaster Online Contest

Eddy Liu
David Yuan
Kent Ma

Canadian Open
Mathematics
Competition
Gong



Pathways Night: Information Update!

This semester the Grade 9 and 10 Pathways Information Venue moved temporarily from an evening forum to scheduled information sessions to parents at the January School Council Meeting and for all Grade 9 and 10 homeroom classes. Exciting pathways information with regards to Dual Credit Programs, Expanded Co-op, and Specialist High Skills Majors was presented and students were also offered an insight into career opportunities linked to their subject course! For more information about pathways and experiential learning opportunities in Ontario high schools, visit www.Ontario.ca/MoreStudentSuccess, or www.mmhs.ca, or visit us in the Guidance or Co-op offices!



Milliken Mills Leads the Way

In Canadian and World Issues, the word sustainability is frequently discussed. What does it mean for there to be enough in the world for me, for you, forever?

In February of 2007, the head of geography Mr. Watkin decided to better Milliken Mills High School and push for more sustainable products. After months of convincing staff, students, administration, and vendors, the school became the first test pilot site for Fair Trade Coffee in York Region. "I figured if we learned about it in class; why not make it a reality?"

Fair trade is an organized [social movement](#) and market-based model of [international trade](#) which promotes the payment of a fair price as well as social and environmental standards in areas related to the production of a wide variety of [goods](#); in this case coffee.

Since the pilot project commencement, the price of coffee has increased by 15¢ per cup at the school. Astonishingly, coffee sales have also increased by 15%, even with the higher cost.

We are proud to say that as a result of the success of Mr. Watkin's leadership, all York Region District School's this November began selling Fair Trade Coffee.



The Multiple Exceptionalities Class has enjoyed a wonderful semester. First and foremost, we extend our sincerest gratitude to the 35 students that are our Helping Hands buddies. For one day each week during the afternoon, these students interact with our students. They have freely given up their lunch period in order to spend time in our class. It has been an amazing opportunity for everyone involved.

We continue to take part in the Adaptive Aquatics programming offered at the Lebovic Leisure Centre in Stouffville. The staff at this facility continue to be first rate and our students enjoy this regular outing immensely. In addition, we have taken some terrific field trips that have been both stimulating and educational. These include, the Markham Museum, the Ontario Science Centre, Vaughn Mills Mall and the Woodbine Centre.

Finally, Milliken Mills High School is honoured to be hosting the Special Needs Athletic Program (SNAP) Floor Hockey Tournament on February 27th. This event will provide an opportunity for special needs students throughout the school board to gather together for some friendly and meaningful competition. Many thanks to the large number of teaching staff and students that will be assisting in organizing this day.



All members of the Milliken Mills High School community are invited to join our list server. We post information on scholarship, volunteer and summer possibilities for our students.

To join this mail server, send an email to: millikenlists@mmhs.ca
In the body of the email include the command:
JOIN MMHS GuidanceNews@mmhs.ca
Please use rogers, simpatico or the school webmail address.

March 21- The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was designated by the United Nations General Assembly in 1966 to pull together international communities in the fight against racial discrimination in all forms.

The Town of Markham celebrates this important day with the “Many Faces of Markham” event, organized by the Markham Race Relations Advisory Committee. Students across Markham have been invited to submit works of art, banners and essays to a contest that is part of this event. The theme for 2008 is: *Out of Many, We Are One*. Winners are presented with awards at Markham Theatre during the “Many Faces of Markham” event on Sunday, April 13th at 2:30 pm.

Please join us in celebrating this day! For more information on the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, please visit <http://www.ohchr.org/english/events/racism/>

MMHS Co-operative Education students have successfully completed another semester by positively representing our school in the community. We are proud to announce that two students in Semester One have been signed as apprentices in their chosen fields! **Joey Shen** was signed by Natural Hair Solutions as a hair stylist and **Justin Loh** was signed as an automotive service technician by Mercedes-Benz. Congratulations and good luck to them as they follow a pathway into the trades. As well, many Semester One Co-op students have secured part-time employment, gained valuable employability skills, and obtained well-deserved references! Here are what some of them had to say:

Jessica Ng at Scarborough Grace Hospital says,

“Throughout the past three months of my co-operative education placement at the Scarborough Grace Hospital in the Palliative Care unit, I have seen it all, heard it all, and smelled it all. The experiences that I have gained have greatly impacted me. For example, being able to interact with patients who are at their last stages of life and seeing their take of it. They see many things at a different point of view and are happy for with what they have. They have showed me to appreciate what I have and not take it for granted.”

Sivajan Gunasingam at Timex Inc. says,

“My placement at Timex to date has been a new experience. I’ve grown to be punctual. I’ve learned the strength of communication between two people who work with each other. I’ve learned how to become more responsible. I was the quiet type before until I learned you have to make a presence and communicate and become a person people can depend on. I am definitely interested in pursuing a career in this field. It seems like an interesting job at times, preparing for magazines and media shoots.”

Karen Yong at Aldergrove P.S. says,

“Taking co-op, I believe is one of the best decisions I have made throughout my high school years. The program has provided me with an opportunity to experience life in the workplace, and to learn more about what I want when it’s time for me to actually enter it. Through this program, I have acquired some new skills such as time-management and improved upon other skills such as communication. This program has allowed me to see and experience how great the career of teaching is, rather than hearing about it from teachers all the time. Co-op is one of the greatest experiences I have had, and I’m sure it will help guide me along the path to success.”



Triple P Teen Parenting seminars

Coming soon to Milliken Mills H.S.!
FREE SEMINARS – from 7:00 – 9:00 P.M.

The Triple P Parenting System

Small changes. Big differences.

Triple P stands for 'Positive Parenting Program'. It is a system that emphasizes the development of positive attitudes, skills and behaviour. This helps prevent problems arising and fosters family relationships that encourage children to realize their full potential.

Raising Responsible Teenagers

– focus on Home

Wed. Jan 23, 2008 7- 9:00 pm

Raising Competent Teenagers

– focus on School

Wed. Feb. 27, 2008 7- 9:00 pm

Getting Teenagers Connected

– focus on Community

Wed. April 9, 2008 7- 9:00 pm

Light refreshments will be served.

Join us for any or all of the sessions!



For more information or to register for a seminar, please contact York Centre for Children Youth, & Families at 905-883-9413 x229

