

GEOGRAPHY NEWS

Students of Milliken attended the Children's Water Festival this year at Bruce's Mills in May. Our senior students rose to the occasion as they taught younger children all about water conservation. It was a proud day for teachers and parents.

This year, Geography once again participated in Markham's 20 Minute Cleanup. We had a record number of teachers and students join this year in making our school grounds and community a more beautiful place to live. Geography students were also proud to have Glenn Marais join us from Music in Mind, a character based education initiative, who spoke about the Power of One and what each student can do to improve the planet.

The Geography Department looks forward to increasing our VROC sessions, a joint university / high school partnership that allows our students to speak to university professors and professionals in the geography field. Students can speak via internet to field experts in real time and have all of their questions answered. - Mr. Watkin



ATCH US READING @ MMHS LIBRARY

A special thanks to Mrs. Qureshi and Mr. Cox for reading with the students on Wednesday mornings. Mrs. Qureshi invited her students to the reading club - "Readers In Action" this semester. Mr. Cox was awarded the "Teacher of the Year" for 2008-09 for being there every Wednesday morning and reading with the group.

The reading club is returning to the MMHS Resource Centre. Look out for a year full of fun activities & prizes. See you there on Wednesday mornings from 8:15-8:45



Mr. Hilland and his class enjoying the Read-a-thon held in April 2009

MMHS - CHINESE CULTURE CLUB

The goal of the Chinese Culture Club is to promote and showcase Chinese culture in the school. The club held several events throughout the 2008-2009 school year. In the fall, a movie night was held for all interested in watching Chinese movies. During the Lunar New Year, a booth was set up in the atrium, where students could play games. Traditional red pockets containing candy were given out to students. In the Spring, students had the opportunity to make their own spring rolls. Many thanks go to club president Haidan Dong and the rest of the executive committee. Milliken looks forward to the many events to come next year! - Mr. Tam

FROM THE FAMILY STUDIES

The Family Studies Department has been very busy this semester, focussing on a variety of events and instructional opportunities for students. Here are some of the highlights from our classes:

The Grade 9 Individual and Family Living class raised \$160 for Sick Kids Foundation by selling their handmade teddy bears. The Grade 11 International Cuisine course invited the sous-chef from The Old Spaghetti Factory to come in and created fusion food. The food was delicious and the students thoroughly enjoyed this unique experience!

On June 9th, 2009, the Managing Your Personal Resources class, in conjunction with the Co-op Department enjoyed a successful day at their job-shadowing experience. The students went to Shoppers Drug Mart, Apple, small claims court, and elementary schools among many other placements to shadow students in the Co-op Department.

In May, the Grade 10 Food and Nutrition classes went to the Daily Bread Food Bank, where students worked hard for several hours sorting food donations. To reward their hard work, the Food Bank provided a hearty meal in their cafeteria, then students had the opportunity to stroll through the St. Lawrence Food Market in the afternoon.

The Grade 12 Food and Nutritional Sciences class had the privilege of being filmed by our school board, as part of an instructional video meant to assist teachers who provide accommodations for ESL students integrated into a regular classroom. Our students were excellent on film; professional, intelligent and hard working. They are outstanding examples of our students here at Milliken! - Ms. Stryker

INFORMING EACH OTHER

Ms. Mayer and Mr. Lay are pleased to announce that their students entered the OSSTF Human Rights Contest for 2009. The students were all given recognition in the Human Rights 2009 Anthology of Works that was published. Neelam Asif had her story about a boy soldier published and Jeron Jones had his opinion essay about bullying published. The other students mentioned were Eric Wu, Tracy Chang, Jason Zhou, Lauro Ebor, Ushan Jogarajah, Wisam Siddiquie, and Ramroop Maraj.

Mr. Lay and Ms. Mayer's classes actively engaged in a presentation by Milliken Mills High School students involved in Kid's Help Phone. This was one of several interesting presentations by guest speakers to our students. Our guest speakers presented on topics such as, Bullying, Cyber-bullying, Technology Software, Volunteer Work, Dental health, Army Reserves, Managing your Money, and motivational speakers. However, the most interesting presentations were the ones presented by the students themselves. - Ms. Mayer & Mr. Lay



THE VISUAL ARTS NEWS

It's been another busy semester in Visual Arts, and we have plenty to report. Congratulations go out to Mr. Dalton James and the Information design class for another excellent, full-colour yearbook. This year's theme, Milliken in Motion, seems highly fitting, since copies have certainly been travelling throughout the building in the final days of classes. Look inside for a historically significant time capsule full of groundbreaking world events. Both Ms Skops junior and senior classes toured the newly renovated Art Gallery of Ontario, engaging with the established collection in its new architectural context, while also enjoying the new contemporary art displays, while her Anime Club, under the leadership of Anita Tai, held a fundraiser and games tournament. Ms Ware has assembled a new junior volunteer crew to help keep the department running smoothly, while students Jennifer Hau, Haidan Dong, and Natasha Stanarevic (with some help from Carmen Choi and our recent addition Fatima Mazhar), have been working with Ms Middleton on a major mural design commissioned by the Alternative Education Department. The theme is outdoor adventure, teamwork and personal growth. Drop by Alt. Ed. to 'experience the journey'.

The end of the year is awards time and in addition to each of our subject award winners, we congratulate those receiving additional acknowledgments this year. This is the fourth year, that our Department honours the memory of Kethees Nagarajah with our Art & Peace Bursary and Artful Heart Award. Kethees was a victim of violence; yet, he conducted his life in a peaceful, compassionate and creative manner. This year, the department has selected Natasha Stanarevic as our recipient, due to her outstanding personal qualities and creative vision. Congratulations are also extended to Ms Skop's students Nicole Zhang and Mandy Liu, as their artwork has been chosen to appear in the York Region District School Boards Annual Faith Days Calendar. Also, for the third time in four years of entries, one of Ms Middleton's senior photo students has placed in Henry's annual Ontario-wide photo contest. Tele Raj's portrait of student model, Janani Sundaralingam, was selected as one of the top three high school black and white photos in its category. Look for this and other student photos in the near future at henrys.com and be reminded of the special qualities that photography brings to the world of art.

As the school year closes for our graduating students, admission offers and decisions are rapidly exchanged amongst final projects, exams and other year end activities and we are not always fully aware of the final destinations of all of our students. However we do know that many of our students have succeeded through the daunting portfolio submission process to received offers of admission at post secondary visual arts related programmes at OCAD, Sheridan, Ryerson, York, York/Sheridan, York/Seneca and Humber. These students include:



Kerry C, Lisa C., Carol C., Carmen C, Devin D., Jennifer H., Shirley L., Darren K. Teresa M., Kinnari P, Alyssa S., Natasha S., Anita T. Dianne W, Vee W., Victoria Y, ... and a few that we think we think we might have missed, but congratulations go out to all... it has taken a lot of good effort and years of dedication for each of them realize their individual creative potential. We look forward to the ongoing creative development of our continuing students next year. - Ms. Middleton

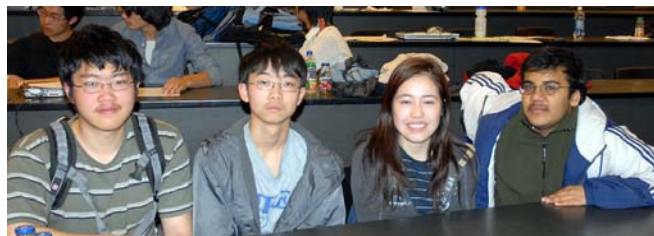
COMPUTER SCIENCE

Computer science is definitively NOT a spectator sport, BUT if you like problem solving, then there is nothing better than to write a programming contest. Our department each year enters into three contests. Each contest involves trying to solve four or five problems in three hours. Points are not awarded for style or effort, the only thing that counts is "does it work?"

The online programming contest DWITE is held 5 times a year: Oct, Nov, Dec, Jan and Feb. This year we had 3 teams compete. Our best showing was placing 22nd out of 197 teams from across Canada. That was the team of Swapan, Siva and Zerzar.

In late February eight brave students wrote the Canadian Computing Contest. One of our students, Kent was in the top 20% and Jenny was right behind in the top 22%, out of 653 students across Canada.

Then in March we had two teams participated in the York Region Programming Competition held downtown at the University of Toronto. The team of Swapan, Siva and Zerzar came in 8th place out of 25 teams, but the team of Harkamal, Wilson, Jenny and Jacky came in 6th place and went on to represent the school at the ECOO Regional Contest held at York University.



Left to Right: Jacky, Wilson, Jenny, Harkamal

With the end of June approaching, we are closing another chapter on our Student Lab Advisors who have assisted the department by diligently showing up each morning to monitor our computer labs, allowing students access to our computing facilities before school each day and providing us with the eyes and ears of the department, monitoring and reporting on equipment problems throughout the school. A number of our Student Lab Advisors will be graduating this June and while we wish them well in their future pursuits, we hope that we will be able to fill their shoes next September when we will be seeking new student volunteers.

Full details of past contest results and other interesting computer science links can be found on the Computer Science Department's webpage. (Follow the links for Depts and Computer Science from the school's website: <http://www.mmhs.ca>)
- Mr. Smith

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT



The **Department of Science** is pleased to report on the following events over the current Semester: Kamla Reid was appointed as the new Chair of the YRDSB Regional Heads Science Council for the new academic year 2009-2010. She was also reappointed to a fourth term as Department Head at MMHS.

Swapan Shah gained a certificate in the **2009 University of Toronto National Biology Competition** and helped Milliken to rank 103 out of 308 teams that participated across Canada. Over 6000 students wrote this exam across Canada in May, 2009.

Jacky Mao gained a certificate in the **University of Waterloo Chem 13 News Exam for 2009**. His rank was 108 out of 4000 students that participated. We congratulate him and all the students who wrote the competition for this year. The **Grade 11 Chemistry students wrote the Avagadro Exam**. We congratulate **Amrita Lamba** for placing in the 98th percentile out of 4800.

Wilson Zhao was Milliken's top student in the **Grade 12 Sir Isaac Newton Physics contest** with a 73.4 percentile rank. **Brandon Tran** scored an excellent 96 percentile placement for the **Grade 11 OAPT contest**.

Grades 9 and 10 Students under the guidance of **Marcel Vigneault** participated in the **2009 YRDSB Science Olympiad** at Bill Crothers Secondary School. The biology team placed second overall. Special congratulations are extended to the following students: **Brittany Chung, Jessica Lim, Don Pan, Edwin Wong** and **Adriane Yee**.

We extend our congratulations to all of our many students who accepted the challenge of participating in all of these science competitions.

We were able to advance student learning in Molecular Genetics principles at the Ontario Science Centre Forensic Science Lab. One of the techniques that students in the Grade 12 Biology University Preparation Program (SBI4U) practiced was using the Polymerase Chain Reaction technique and Polyacrylamide Gel Electrophoresis (PAGE) protocol to isolate their DNA, replicate a non-coding section, run a PAGE gel (refer to Figure 1 below). This figure shows an example of a bands of DNA after isolation from students' hair follicles and staining with Sybr Green dye. The two lanes that resemble ladders are reference DNA fragments of known molecular sizes (measured in kilo base pairs) against which students could compare their own DNA results to.

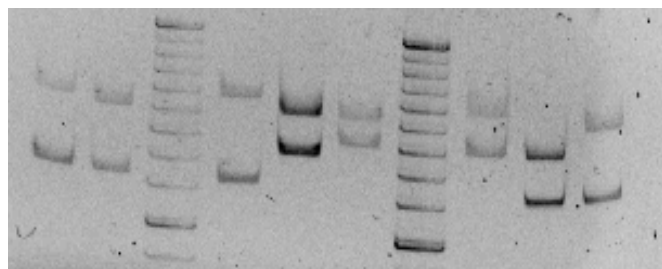


Figure 1

Students then predicted the frequency of this non-coding region of their DNA called the DS180 allele among their groups. They were able to make inferences on their findings and compare their results with other student groups.

I would also like to extend my gratitude to all teachers in the Department who have helped to promote the integrity of the vision of department and who continue to practice sound pedagogical principles. They have collectively embraced the challenge of rolling out our new Science Senior curriculum for the coming year and have engaged in distributive leadership in lesson planning.

Collectively, we also thank the members of the Caretaking Department who have all loaned their support and expertise to us in aiding us to solve a variety of maintenance problems.

Thank you all and well done everyone!

Have a safe and enjoyable Summer Break.

- Kamla Reid and Team!



CO-OP NEWS

Milliken students in high places: Tony Tran working as an electrician assistant with Evans Electrical. Tony has been hired as a full-time apprentice. Congrats Tony!!



Plan to meet with a co-op teacher in the fall to find out about exciting changes and additions to O.Y.A.P., Dual Credit Programs, and more. - Ms. Mitchell

SLAM

This year, SLAM (Student Leaders At Milliken) ran it's first ever grade nine transition day on the first day of school. This year, the grade nine students at Milliken attended a fun-filled day where they were introduced to their high school. Later in the month, SLAM took all 350 grade nine students to Camp Robin Hood for an exciting experience. Students, leaders and teacher alike enjoyed the day. We look forward to doing it again next year! - Ms. Greenglass