



MILLIKEN MILLS HIGH SCHOOL

November 2006

Newsletter

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

The 2006/2007 school year is now well under way at Milliken.

The first few months of this school year have been very busy ones for both students and staff with a flurry of activities including the Grade 9 Orientation Day at Camp Green Acres, Take Your Kids To Work Day and an array of Student Council activities.

As well, our co-curricular activities continue to flourish at Milliken thanks to the many staff advisors and coaches who give so generously of their time.

Commencement 2006

On November 9th, we hosted our 18th annual Commencement ceremony to celebrate the graduating class of 2006 consisting of 343 students, including 149 Ontario Scholars and a record number of scholarship recipients. It was truly an enjoyable evening and a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of our graduating students.

We are proud to report that our graduates are excelling at college and university and are continuing the Milliken Mills tradition of academic excellence.

New faces in the main office

On behalf of the Milliken community we would like to extend a warm welcome to Ms. Rosalinda Troia who has joined the office staff as our new attendance secretary.

We also have another new face in our main office. Joining the administration as our new Vice-Principal is Ms. Rose Li, who previously served as Vice-Principal at Sir Ernest MacMillan Senior P.S. We extend a warm welcome to Ms. Li.

Although Ms. Li has only been here for a short time, she is already working very closely with our team to maintain a positive school tone and to help create the necessary conditions for student success.

We also extend a warm welcome to our new staff members:

Mr. Keith Auyeung	Mathematics –Assistant Head
Ms. Elynn Azan	ESL
Ms. Christina Bazzo	ESL
Ms. Kathy Brown	English
Mr. Chris Heath	Geography
Mr. Bryan Pardatscher	History/Geography
Ms. Vrinda Parunjanwala	Special Education
Ms. Kristy Webster	English LTO

You'll have a great time here at Milliken!

I encourage parents to continue to be active partners in the education of their children. Together, we can work towards an enjoyable, successful high school experience for our students. I would like to invite all parents to attend our School Council meetings, parent interview nights and other school activities that involve your children.

I look forward to meeting parents at our various school functions and I wish each of our students a very successful year.

Report Cards

The Mid-Semester report card that you are receiving today will give you an indication of your son or daughter's progress and any areas of concern that need to be addressed.

Please read the reports carefully and do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions or concerns. Now is the time for your son or daughter to get the extra help that they may need to meet their goals of academic success for the end of the semester.

Our staff will also use the report results to help determine the actions that we need to take to help students have a successful balance of the semester.

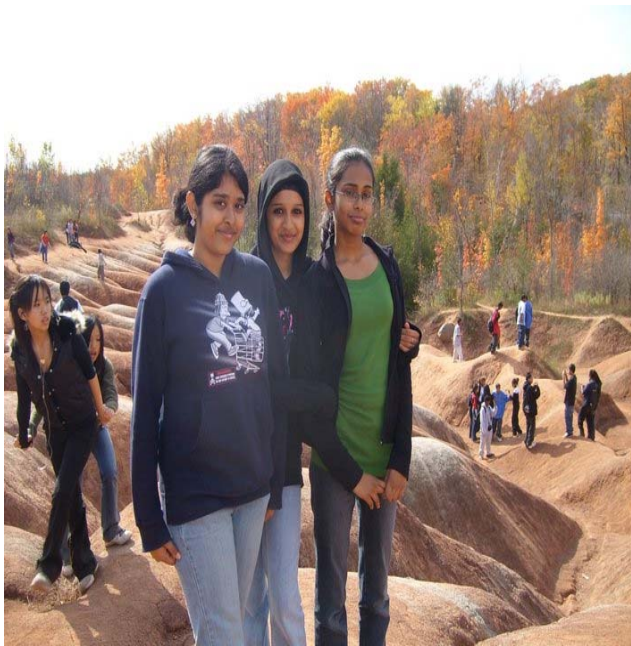
The administration and the guidance department will meet with students who have failed two or more subjects to develop a plan to correct the situation. Subject teachers will also make a concerted effort to assist these students.

Community News!!

On Friday, October 20th, teachers from all over the York Region District School Board were invited to observe York Regions recycling and composting facilities. It was a real treat to see first hand what happens to the material we throw into the blue box. Teachers were proud to say that over 95% of the material that gets thrown into the recycling box gets recycled. This allows members of Milliken Mills and other communities to divert over 40% of their garbage from landfill sites. Mr. Watkin and Mr. Delyzer can hardly wait to share valuable information with the Milliken Mills High School Community.

From the Phys. Ed. Department

The senior boy's soccer team finished the regular season in 2nd place. The team had a good season with Jorge Ramirez and Gagan Bhatti leading the way. The team lost to Unionville in the playoffs. Good luck next year!!!!



Geography Department –Grade 9 Field Trip

On October 10th, approximately 150 exuberant grade 9 Geography students participated in a field trip to study and explore some of Southern Ontario's landforms created by glaciation and erosion. The students thoroughly enjoyed a hike along the Bruce Trail and visited Ontario's Badlands, an unusual "painted desert" surrounded by fields and forests. This striking topography, composed of layers of red and green shale, is the result of early settlers clearing forests and allowing uncontrolled grazing by hooved farm animals. The Badlands attracts thousands of tourists, and have been the destination for many geology students. The trip also took us through the Oak Ridges Moraine, where students saw rock quarries that provide the sand

and gravel for Southern Ontario's construction industry, but are also contributing to environmental degradation. At Belfountain Conservation Area in Caledon, the students had lunch, saw the local waterfall and caves, a suspension bridge, and visited the local ice-cream shop.

Teachers and students enjoyed this chance to see Ontario's distinctive landscapes. Thank you to Ms. Scott, Ms. Kim, Mr. Heath, Mr. Watkin, and all the students for a fantastic day!



Notes from Music!!!!!!!!!!

A core group of 35 singers from the Milliken Mills concert Choir will be the guest performing artists at the Quest Conference, November 16th at the Sheraton Parkway Hotel. It was a tremendous honour to be invited and, although we would like to take the full choir (110 singers!), the ballroom would only accommodate a smaller group once all the audience was assembled. Wish them well as they represent M.M.H.S. with their music. The Choir, as well as our Concert Band, performed at Commencement on November 9th.

Ms. Batson has started a string chamber ensemble for experienced string players. The response has been very exciting for the music department. They will be performing with the Concert Choir at our winter concert on December 1st (yes, it's also a P.A. Day!) Come out and hear our wonderful bands, choirs and the new string ensemble on December 1st at 7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria!

News from Guidance

Post Secondary Information Nights: Milliken Mills High School hosted a university/college information night on October 25th. Students were able to listen to presentations about the schools and ask the representatives questions. University and College information guides have been available in the Guidance Office since early October that outline the different programs and prerequisites needed. It is important for students to do their research before applying to college or university! Students should try to attend Open Houses at the colleges and universities that they are considering.

College and University Applications: are due at the end of first semester. The deadline for university applications is January 10th, 2007. College applications

must be completed no later than February 1st, 2007 for equal consideration. If students are applying for Joint Programs or Applied Degrees, they must apply through the college application process.

Applications will be completed on-line at www.ouac.on.ca for university applicants or www.ontariocolleges.ca for college applicants. Students applying to college will need to use their OEN. This can be found on their credit counseling summaries. Students applying to university will be provided with a PIN by Guidance. This should be available to students by the end of November or early December. The Guidance Department will also be running an on-line application workshop at the end of November. This workshop will provide valuable information about how to apply to university. Stay tuned for information about on-line college application workshops.

Grade 12 students that would like to keep informed about scholarships, upcoming workshops, post secondary updates and graduation information should send an email to Lists@mmhs.ca and in the message write JOIN MMHS GuidanceNews@mmhs.ca

Take Our Kids to Work: On Wednesday November 1st Grade 9 students participated in Take Our Kids to Work Day. This was an excellent opportunity for students to make connections between what they are learning at school and the workplace. This experience allowed students to explore the many occupational choices available to them after high school.



The Team Program
By: Faisal Malik

The 13th year of the TEAM program started off as a very busy one. From the first day onwards, the teachers and students have been working on phase two of our boardwalk at the Holy Trinity school, and at the same time, we have two students break off twice a week in order to fulfill our commitment with our long time partner, Ontario Stream's. Those two projects alone would seem like a lot to your average teachers or students, but to members of the TEAM program, it's

just every day life. Let me start by saying our teachers are far from average, having come from diverse backgrounds. Mr. Williams (a.k.a. Coach) is a former journeyman carpenter with many years of experience in the construction crafts field. In 1994, he started the TEAM program in order to help kids struggling in the main stream. He took core academics and mixed it with practical carpentry to form a winning formula for getting kids back on the right track. Our other highly accomplished teacher is Ms. Wang, simply known as Miss W. After teaching in Taiwan and working for the RCMP, she finally settled into a career with the YRDSB where she met our Coach. The rest, as they say, is history.

The TEAM program, however, isn't all about hard work. It's about having fun too. And fun is exactly what we had on our three day camping trip to Haliburton Forest. The trip spanned October 4th, 5th, and 6th. We left early on the 4th and arrived at Haliburton around 1:30 p.m. We immediately took off on a four hour bike ride towards our campsite. Although it was cold and wet, it didn't stop most of us from having fun on the trails. By the time we got to our campsite, it was getting late and everyone was pretty tired from the ride. We quickly ate and called it an early night. The next morning, following breakfast, we were driving to the rock wall where we took turns scaling a 40ft climb for the entire morning. Afternoon came and it was time for us to move on to our next activity which was the high ropes course. For the most part, it was a pretty fun experience, although a few people did struggle. The day flew by quickly and before we knew it, we were back at our campsite. That night was a festive one with a raging campfire and a few games of manhunt in the surrounding forest. The next morning, it was time to leave, but in order to leave, we had to canoe out of the park. This was a totally new experience to many of the teamsters. It went pretty well though, with minimal struggle from the new people. After the moderately lengthy canoeing and a couple of baby portages, we reached our final destination, which is where the cars were parked. The ride home was mostly quiet, thanks to our rental minivan having a family entertainment centre which included a 7" LCD TV screen.

The week after the trip we were right back to the grind at the boardwalk. There's never a dull moment here at the TEAM program. It seems that every day the boardwalk has made some progress, and the second half is actually starting to look like something now. If things keep going the way they are now, we should be able to complete the project by our November 30th deadline. As we approach this deadline, there are already talks about future projects. So where will the

TEAM program be in a few months? Stay tuned for the next newsletter to find out!



From The Library

Members of “Readers In Action” have decided to adopt a project of “Room to Read” and donate money to build a “Library Room” in a developing country. They have to raise the equivalent of US\$2,000 to be able to make a notable change in the lives of children deprived of libraries and books.

They have brainstormed many fund raising ideas, one of them being to run a “Read-a-thon”. This, they hope, will be an in-school field trip for the whole day. They will also need sponsors from school and the community to support them in reading and raising money.

If you are interested in helping out with this good cause, please contact the school library: (905) 477-0072 Ext 201.

History News

First semester is off to a great start for the Milliken Mills History Department. In September, four senior level History students were chosen as Youth Curators at the Markham Museum: Karey Fan, Michelle Chung, Neha Gupta, and Terry Lee. These students will be involved in a program that seeks to educate the community about the Rwandan genocide of the 1990’s. In October, history came alive for our Grade 10 Canadian History students, as they attended a presentation of the film “Flyboys”, which told the story of aviation aces in the First World War. Also, the grade 12 students experienced the realities of university life, during a trip to a York University Social Science lecture. In November, students in the Grade 11 and Grade 12 Law classes will be participating in a field trip to the Ontario Court of Justice. This trip will be enriched by visits to Milliken from both the Yellow Brick House Abused Women’s Shelter and by a legal professional guest lecturer. Finally, all history students were involved in the Remembrance Day in-school ceremony on November 10.

News From Girls’ Phys. Ed.

Congratulations to the Varsity Girls’ Field Hockey Team for leading an amazing season this year! The players redefined the meaning of sportsmanship, teamwork, and aspiration. Working hard, they won fighting an uphill battle. Defeating King City in the crossover game with a devastating score of 2-0, the hard work the girls put in definitely paid off. With early morning practices three times weekly and a revamping of the team structure, the players helped one another and were determined to succeed. Their passion and love for the game is exhilarating both on and off the field. In the end, they showed everyone exactly what Milliken is all about. Making it all the way to quarterfinals as a Tier 1 team, our girls made it further than any of their precursors. Way to go Knights!

Special honorary mention goes out to coaches Mrs. Williams and Ms. P.

Shad Valley!!!!



Shad Valley is a wonderful experience and these very lucky and talented nine students attended Shad centers in July 2006.

Dhaval Bhavsar and Sahil Koppikar both attended Lakehead University, Aditi Marisetti went to Queen’s University, Jennifer Yip went to Trent University, Jacqueline Mok went to the University of New Brunswick, Catherine Pak went to Memorial University, Janet Su went to The University of Waterloo, Tinya Lin went to Carleton University, Kanika Aggarwal went to McMaster University. Shad Valley is a program which encourages talented science, mathematics, business and science students to problem solve and come up with solutions to help make this world a better place.

Interested students currently enrolled in grade 11 or 12 are invited to see Mrs. Mantell in the guidance office for further information and an application.