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Guardian Angels Catholic School

NEWSLETTER – October 2018 Edition

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| 650 Bennett Blvd.  Milton, ON L9T 6B1 | Telephone: (905) 876-2386  Fax: (905) 876-2658 |
| School Website <http://schools.hcdsb.org/grda> Twitter <https://twitter.com/GAngelsMilton> | |
| Principal: Mrs. R. LoPresti | Secretary: Mrs. A. Boyle |
| Vice Principal: Mr. C. Hawken  Vice Principal: Mrs. A. Sofia Starr | Office Assistant: Mrs. J. Tharby  Office Assistant: Mrs. C. Rivett-Rob |
| SCHOOL HOURS: 8:30 – 11:30 a.m./12:30 – 3:00 p.m. | |

***SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM***

**Please call the school to report all student absences and late arrivals before 8:30 a.m.** Dial **905-876-2386.**

If calling outside office hours, your call will be directed to our voicemail system. Please follow the prompts to leave a message: clearly state student name, grade, teacher, reason and length (if known) of the absence. If no notification is received, we will call home/workplace/emergency contact numbers to determine your child’s location. (Please keep contact numbers current.)

**Administrators’ Message**

**Mrs. LoPresti, Mr. Hawken & Mrs. Sofia Starr**

As the season changes, it is a perfect time to reflect upon our blessings and give thanks to God. We are reminded of God’s presence through the radiant glow of the sun, the majestic array of Fall colours in the trees, the calming rain, and the scent of harvest foods, all of which are examples of God’s abundant gifts. Let us continue to be thankful for all of God’s blessings.

September provided us all a number of opportunities to gather together as a community, to celebrate the start of another school year and to re-connect with one another. It was very nice to have seen so many of you throughout our first month and during our Curriculum Night and to meet many of our parents who are new to Guardian Angels Catholic School. The spirit of community, cooperation and support for one another continues to be a blessing we enjoy at our school.

†**Opening School Feast Day Mass:** On **Tuesday, October 2** at **9:00 a.m.,** we will celebrate the beginning of the school year with our annual Feast Day Mass in Guardian Angels School gym. Parents and parishioners are welcome to join us for this celebration of our Special Day.

†**Catholic School Council**: Thank you to our parents who have volunteered their time and energies - we have 15 parent members… we look forward to our first meeting and CS Council Commissioning on **Monday, October 1 @ 6:30 p.m**. in the library. All are welcome! All future meeting dates will be posted.

†**Hallowe’en** **Dance-a-thon**: We look forward to our one major fundraising event on **Wednesday, October 31**, our Hallowe’en Dance-a-thon. Pledge form envelopes to follow. The letter will also outline the projected expenditures for this year. Your generosity is most appreciated! This is a costume Spirit Day!

October is the month honouring Our Lady of the Holy Rosary. We enter into October prepared to honour our Heavenly Mother, Queen of Peace, and commit to dedicating ourselves to praying the Rosary in our school, in our homes and in our church.



Together we pray for peace…

***Mary, Mother of Peace, Your Son, and Creator, has given us a beautiful world.***

***Remind us that we are called to build a place of love, peace and justice for all people. Amen.***

**“ANGELS AMONG US”**

**MONTHLY CATHOLIC VIRTUES**

**October’s Virtue is EMPATHY**

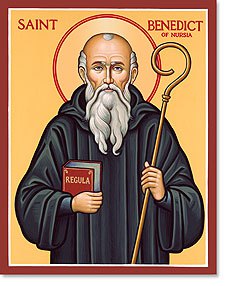
**What Is Empathy?**

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|    * understanding others by listening * forgiving others who make mistakes * giving and sharing God’s love with others (showing compassion and kindness) |
| ***How can I demonstrate Empathy?***  You can demonstrate empathy by actively listening to others when they are sharing their thoughts and feelings with you. Forgiving one another and reconciling your differences builds character and community with others.  Empathy is a character trait that is important to demonstrate each and every day. By showing compassion and kindness to others, you are becoming more like Jesus in your thoughts and deeds. |



**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION & CONFIRMATION UPDATE**

We welcome Father Jim on **Saturday, October 20, 2018** as our Grade 2 students celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the school gym at **9:30 a.m**. and **10:30 a.m**. **Our Grade 7 students** will be celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation at **10:00 a.m.** AND **12:30 p.m.** on **Saturday, November 10** in our school gym. Thank you to staff and parents who attended the meeting on September 19, 2018. As a community, we pray for those celebrating the sacraments this year and as they journey in their faith.

SAINT BENEDICT PARISH COMMUNITY

Mass Times: Saturday 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Mass Venue: Our Lady of Fatima School

709 Bolingbroke Dr., Milton

Reconciliation: Saturday 4:00 – 4:45 p.m. (or by appt.)

[](http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-s77BX0cCNI0/UK0kcwL1nOI/AAAAAAAAANA/phbfW0xOELo/s1600/Thanksgiving2.png)

From the staff at Guardian Angels Catholic School, we wish you all a beautiful Thanksgiving!

Our Father in Heaven,

We give thanks for the pleasure of gathering

together for this occasion.

We give thanks for food prepared by loving hands.

We give thanks for life, the freedom to

enjoy it all and all other blessings.

As we partake of this food, we pray for

health and strength to carry on

and try to live, as You would have us.

This we ask in the name of Christ,

Our Heavenly Father.

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| [http://www.raisingtowin.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/announcement.jpg](http://www.google.ca/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0CAcQjRxqFQoTCLOs3tHUw8gCFYlsPgod-SkNqw&url=http://www.raisingtowin.com/announcement-letter/&bvm=bv.105039540,d.cWw&psig=AFQjCNFbXcKmvUplwEaLdtzO3ofrU6TIRQ&ust=1444970373262598) | **SEAC SOUNDByTES**  *Raising awareness of the Special Education process at HCDSB*  *October 2018* |

**What is an IEP**?

An IEP is and Individual Education Plan for students who have been placed in a special education program whether or not they meet the formal definition of “exceptional”.

The IEP provides a series of **“educational targets” for a variety of children who may require accommodations, modifications and/or alternative programming.** The IEP includes several important features including **specific educational expectations** and outlines the **special education program and services** that will be received by the student.

The IEP must be developed in consultation with parents. Parental involvement in the IEP process is crucial and collaborative. Collaboration with parents and older students will help to ensure that the expectations are attainable. The IEP must be completed within 30 days after a student has been placed in a program and the Principal must ensure that the parent receives a copy. The IEP is a working document which is intended to be reviewed and updated as needed, with a minimum of once per term or semester.

Did you knowthat a plan for transition to appropriate post-secondary school activities, such as work, further education and/or community living must be included in the IEP?

You can also find information on the SEAC Parent Events page on our Board website, [click here](http://www.hcdsb.org/Community/SEAC/Pages/SEAC-Parent-Events.aspx) to access. Please feel free to reach out to us at our SEAC email: [seac@hcdsb.org](mailto:seac@hcdsb.org)

**ORANGE SHIRT DAY – October 4th**



Orange Shirt Day is an annual event of reconciliation, and legacy of the 2013 St. Joseph Mission residential school commemoration event, held in Williams Lake, B.C. It grew from a former student’s account of having her brand-new orange shirt taken away on her first day of school.

Wearing an orange shirt affirms that we honour the human dignity in all, recognizes the impact of the residential school system, and shows our commitment to the principle that every child matters.

Participating in Orange Shirt Day is a time for our Indigenous sisters and brothers, local governments, schools, and communities to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come.​   
As the day takes place on Sunday, September 30th, our Guardian Angels community is welcome to wear orange shirts on Thursday, October 4th. Thank you to our students, staff, parents and families for joining the movement!​



**PHOTO RETAKE DAY – October 24**

Our School Picture Retake Day is **Wednesday, October 24**

HALLOWE’EN FUN & 2018/19 SPIRIT DAY

AND SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

Get your dancin’ shoes ready! Our annual Guardian Angels Catholic School Fundraiser Hallowe’en Dance-a-thon is just around the corner.

For the benefit of student learning and program enhancement, the funds raised at this event will allow classroom resources and programs to be purchased and used during the school year. Our fundraiser pep rally will take place prior to the event. The Dance-a-thon itself will take place on **Wednesday, October 31,** and the students are invited to dress up in their Hallowe’en costumes on this day to move and groove to some fantastic music!

**Please remember to have your child/ren dress in costumes that reflect our Catholic values and are modest and non-violent in nature (no weapons, no face masks, no gore and no inflatables). Orange and black attire or uniform is also appropriate on this day.**

Prizes/donations for this event would be greatly appreciated. No “special treats” are required on this day. No prize is too big or too small…as the students will love them all. Please label and forward any prizes or donations to the school office before **Friday, October 19**…thank you!



HALLOWE’EN SAFETY TIPS from HALTON REGIONAL POLICE SERVICES

* Attaching reflective tape or other material to the costume helps make trick-or-treaters more visible.
* Children should be accompanied by an adult or trick-or-treat in groups.
* Children should be advised to walk on sidewalks and stay off roads, lawns and homes in total darkness.
* Children’s costumes should be bright and made of non-flammable material.
* Costumes should be kept short in length to prevent tripping.
* Ensure children trick-or-treat on one side of the street and cross only at corners.
* Facial make-up is the recommended means of disguise.
* For added safety, have your child carry a lit flashlight.
* Hallowe’en treats should be taken home and inspected by parents before being eaten.
* If masks are worn, ensure that eyeholes are large enough that vision is not restricted.
* Instruct children to stand at the door of a home, not to enter it under any circumstances.
* Trick-or-treating should occur in early evening hours.

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**SCHOOL UNIFORMS**

Our school uniform provider *ISW Uniforms* is located at 720 Nipissing Rd. (rear) in Milton. They can be reached at 905-864-4222 or by email at [miltonstore@iswuniforms.com](mailto:miltonstore@iswuniforms.com) .

Students must wear white/dark socks (navy or black) as part of the uniform. As part of our Physical Education program, running shoes with non-marking soles are required in the gym; outdoor shoes are not acceptable. Students must have indoor shoes for use during the school day for their own safety to avoid mishaps from the mud, snow, dirt and water tracked into the school.

KISS & RIDE PROGRAM

We would like to thank everyone for following the student drop-off and pick-up routines that have been established. **Please continue to use both Kiss & Ride drop off areas on either side of our school parking lots. Please do NOT park in the Kiss & Ride area for the safety of all students.** If you do need to park and there are no spots left in the school parking lot, don’t forget that you may park in designated sections on the north and south side of Bennett Boulevard and adjacent side streets. Your ongoing patience and support in this area is appreciated.

THANK YOU...

* To our Guardian Angels Catholic School community for their generous support of our annual **Terry Fox Run**.
* To the staff of Guardian Angels School for their dedication and commitment to Catholic Education and for their continual efforts on behalf of the children.
* To the families who have returned their family package of forms including the Emergency School Closure form.  **To those of you who have not, please do so A.S.A.P.**
* To our Cross Country coaches and participants.
* To our Volleyball coaches and participants.
* To our parent volunteers who organized another successful School Uniform Exchange in August.

INTERNATIONAL WALK TO SCHOOL DAY – WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3

International Walk to School Day is an annual global event taking place each October. It is a mass celebration of active transportation and its related issues are used to introduce communities to the Active & Safe Routes to School (ASRTS) program. Please consider walking to school on October 3 and during the month of October.



GUARDIAN ANGELS SCHOOL YMCA SCHOOL AGE PROGRAM

Guardian Angels YMCA School Age Program spaces are available in the before and after school programs. For more information on YMCA Programs, call **905-943-9622** **ext. 750** or **905-699-3000** or email [GuardianAngels@ymcagta.org](mailto:GuardianAngels@ymcagta.org)



P.A.L.S. PROGRAM

Playground Activity Leaders in Schools (P.A.L.S.) is a playground leadership program that encourages all children to participate in activities regardless of their gender or ability. P.A.L.S. is a peer-led program in which Grade 7 and 8 students are trained by *Miss Runstedler*, our Child and Youth Counsellor (CYC), to be part of the P.A.L.S. Squad.  The Squad will plan and lead fun and safe activities on the playground and within the school at lunch recess for younger grades. The P.A.L.S Squad motto is "There is always room for one more!"

GUARDIAN ANGELS SCHOOL SPORTS UPDATE

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**Interscholastic Volleyball**

Our Senior Volleyball Teams are well on their way! Most games throughout the month of October for both Boys’ and Girls’ Teams are on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Go Angels Go!!

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**Good Luck!**

**Best of luck** to all Grade 4-8 students who will be participating in the Cross Country Meet on **Tuesday,** **October 16** at *Kelso Conservation Area*. **Thank you** to our coaches: Mrs. Bark, Mrs. Landers, Mrs. Mannell, Mr. Stoetzel, and Mrs. Weber for all of their efforts preparing our athletes for this wonderful event!

HOMEWORK CLUB

#### ‘The Homework Club’ is an after-school tutor-mentoring program for students which runs from October to May on Monday afternoons from 3:00-4:10 p.m. in our Library. Students are matched with student-mentors from local high schools after consultation with the classroom teacher and support services here at the school. It’s a wonderful opportunity for student candidates to consolidate skills and work with a high school buddy in the library. You will be notified if your child is selected for this wonderful opportunity. Thank you to our staff supervisors, the Big Brother/Big Sister staff and High School volunteers!



GUARDIAN ANGELS SCHOOL UPDATE

Just a reminder, online payments for School Cash Online can now also be made by **credit card**. *School Cash Online* provides parents with easy access to make online payments for a variety of student activities, providing greater flexibility and control on how payments are made to the school. This new online payment method will also help reduce the risk of theft and cash misplacement. For safety and efficiency reasons, we want to reduce the amount of cash and cheques coming into our school. It’s easy to register online at <https://hcdsb.schoolcashonline.com>.



HEALTH AND SAFETY

***Supervision of Students before School***

Parents are reminded that supervision of students on the school yard begins at **8:15 a.m.** If you arrive at school with your child/ren prior to **8:15 a.m.**, please remain with them until the yard duty supervisor comes on the yard. Should you leave before a supervisor is present and an accident/injury should occur, there would be no one to assist your child/ren. This is a serious safety concern. We want all of our students to be safe at all times. For the safety of your child/ren, please ensure you respect the **8:15 a.m.** timeline. Thank you for your support and cooperation.

***Dogs on School Property***

Pets bring a lot of joy to their owners; however, they can sometimes react unexpectedly to other strangers and loud noises, or the sudden movement of children. To safeguard the well-being of our students and your pets: please do not bring your pets to the school. Thank you.

***Playground Balls***

Given the growing number of students on our schoolyard, we ask that students bring only soft nerf playground balls so that we avoid any concussions or other injuries during recess breaks. The only exception to this will be basketballs. Prior to the start of school or anytime that we have blacktop/pavement only play, students are reminded that playground balls should only be used in designated/painted court areas.

***Allergies & Nutrition***

Please remember that we are an **ALLERGEN-REDUCED** environment. For the safety of all students, please refrain from sending any pea/nut products with your child. For birthday treats, please consider non-food items for student sharing, such as pencils, stickers, erasers etc.

We are also a **SCENT-SENSITIVE** environment. Exposure to perfumes and other scented items can trigger adverse health effects in people with severe allergies. Please support our efforts in limiting the use and exposure to scented products in our school community.

***Physical Education Instruction***

A reminder**:** students participating in our Physical Education program require proper Physical Education attire (as outlined in our physical education curricular guidelines). Individual classroom teachers have reviewed these expectations with students. Running shoes with non-marking soles are required in the gym; outdoor shoes are not acceptable.

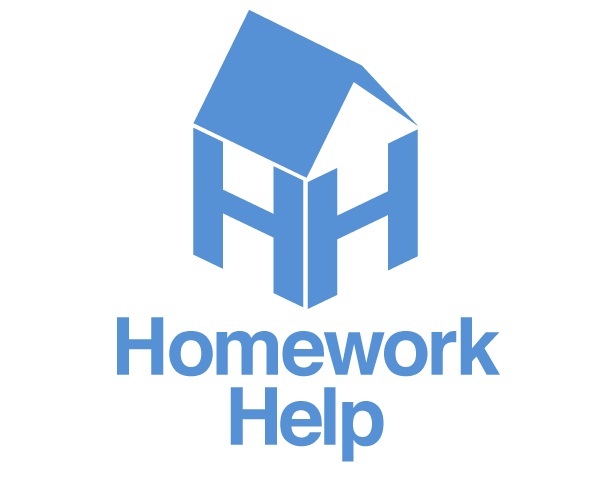
We also require that students have indoor shoes for use during the school day for their own safety so that we can avoid mishaps from the mud, dirt and water tracked into the school.

***Dismissal Requests***

Dismissal is a busy time in the office and around the school. Student safety is our top priority. Please contact the office only if your child/ren’s dismissal information is of an urgent nature. All other arrangements should be made well in advance prior to the end of the school day. Thank you.

***Retrieving Items Left at Home***

A reminder to send students prepared for the school day – if items are forgotten at home and need to be brought to school (ex. lunch, gym clothes, agenda, projects, etc.), please label it accordingly and put it on the entry shelf in the main foyer. Classes will not be interrupted for students to pick up individual items throughout the day. Students may come down to retrieve items at recess breaks or lunch hour. Thank you.

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HOMEWORK HELP – MATH SUPPORT FOR GRADE 7-10 STUDENTS

Back to school means the return of math homework.  If you’re a parent worried about how to support your child’s math homework questions, don’t worry!  An exciting online initiative designed to help students succeed in mathematics is available.   
    
The Ministry of Education and the Independent Learning Centre have launched Homework Help, a website for our students in Grades 7-10.  Students simply log-on at homeworkhelp.ilc.org and using an interactive chat room can obtain personalized tutoring from a certified Ontario math teacher. Homework Help is free, live and anonymous!



**ALL ABOUT ME (AAM) ONLINE PLANNER**

Our Primary and Junior students in Grade 1-6 are being introduced to a new piece of online technology. The program being used is called the **MyBlueprint—All About Me** (AAM) online planner.

The AAM planner is a HCDSB approved program that is being used to support the Ministry of Education’s *Creating Pathways to Success* document. Primary and Junior teachers across our Board have been trained for the use and implementation of the AAM planner in their classrooms. As such, students may be coming home and introducing the program to their parents/guardians.

Teachers will provide students who are using the program with a user name and password that allows them to access their AAM planner. We encourage families to take the opportunity to explore the AAM planner in order to increase both parent/guardian and student familiarity with the software. Regarding the login process, parents should be aware that students will use the following:

Students log in to their portfolio by following these steps:

1. Visit [www.myBlueprint.ca/aam](http://www.myBlueprint.ca/aam)
2. Enter Username: hcdsb
3. Enter Password: Ontario Education # (OEN)

Your child’s teacher will provide your child with their OEN number. However, if your child is unsure of their OEN it can be found on a previous report card or progress report.

The introduction of this new program also serves as an opportunity for families to remind their children of the importance of maintaining the standards for acceptable use of electronics as set out by the HCDSB.

myblueprint.jpg

Our Grade 7-8 students having been using the **MyBlueprint—Education Planner** over the last few years and have made great strides in creating pathways for future careers. They will continue to use this tool throughout this school year!



**CONGRATULATIONS**

**HALTON CATHOLIC TEACHERS - WORLD TEACHERS’ DAY OCTOBER 5**

We commend our teachers for the role they play in nurturing and developing the faith in students entrusted to them in such a way that the faith is understood, valued and integrated into the whole pattern of a student’s life. Our teachers’ commitment to developing critical faith, social, and civic values in our youth is essential to a caring and safe society. As a school, we are very proud of the commitment, dedication, and critical role our teachers play in shaping the future by developing the Catholic leaders of tomorrow. We salute our teachers, who so generously share the spirit of their profession and touch the lives of so many students and families each and every day.

*For the caring and generous ways**through which*

*you help our students**grow in their Catholic faith*

*and expand their knowledge,*

*while developing important life skills*

*and their love of learning.*

*Your dedicated service to students, families,*

*parishes and the broader community is*

*instrumental in helping our students to excel.*

*You inspire and help students to realize*

*their dreams to build a better world!*

*We commend you on this special day!*

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**IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES for NOVEMBER**

* November 9 – Rehearsal for Confirmation
* November 10 – Gr. 7 Confirmation 10:00 and 12:30
* November 11 – Remembrance Day
* November 12 – Remembrance Day School Service
* November 19 - 23 Bullying Awareness Week
* November 20 – Progress Reports go home
* November 22 – Interview Night
* November 23 – P.A. Day/Interviews