

St. Benedict Catholic School

80 McLaughlin Ave., Milton ON L9T 8N2

Website: <http://schools.hcdsb.org/bene> T: 289-851-9353

Principal: Mr. Josey Guerin	Vice Principal: Ms. Penny Uniacke
Secretary: Mrs. Diane Reggi	Office Assistant: Mrs. Anna Guzzo
Superintendent: Mr. Camillo Cipriano	Trustee: Mrs. Diane Rabenda

Administrator's Message

Half the school year has already gone by! Curriculum Night seems only like yesterday and now we are already finishing our first term! Our staff is busy learning about ways to help students improve their self-assessment practices to help support our School Improvement Plan. February is the month of hearts and flowers, and promises to be a very active month here at St. Benedict. We will be holding our classroom public speaking presentations; our many clubs and activities for students are in full swing and we will be celebrating Family Day and Shrove Tuesday together.

We will be flipping pancakes for the entire school on Shrove Tuesday, enjoying movie night with our community, and kicking off our mental health week with many activities planned for our students. We also will have a Valentine's Day Liturgy on February 14th. St. Benedict continues to be a busy place to learn and grow in our faith!

The month of February is designated as Black History month. Each day throughout the month, we will be highlighting some important Canadian people over the PA system in honour of their contributions to our country and their culture.

Mr. J. Guerin and Ms. P. Uniacke



Upcoming Events

February 2

- Family Movie Night
- Youth Speak Assembly
(Kick off to Mental Health week)
- Book Fair takes place from
Monday (Jan 30) – Thursday (Feb 2)

February 3

P.A. Day (no school for students)

February 6

School Council Meeting @ 6:30PM

February 14

- Valentine's Day Liturgy
- Red, Pink & White Day

February 15

Coffee Chats with Public Health
Nurse @ 9:45 AM & 6:45 PM

February 20

Family Day (No School)

February 23

Term 1 Report Cards go home

February 28

Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Tuesday)

Follow St. Benedict on Twitter:
[@StBeneHCDSB](https://twitter.com/StBeneHCDSB)



St. Benedict Catholic School Council News

Our next Council Meeting is February 6th at 6:30pm. All parents are welcome!



If there are any ideas or suggestions that you wish to be considered by Council they must be presented in writing to the Chair a minimum of 48 hours prior to the next meeting

Safe Arrival

Thank you to all parent/guardians for calling in their child's absence. Just a reminder that if your child will be absent to call the school at (289) 851-9353 and press 1 to be directly linked to our Safe Arrival Program.

If you need **to pick up your child early** for an appointment, please send a note to your child's teacher indicating the time of pick up. This will minimize interruptions to the learning in our classrooms.

Shrove Tuesday February 28th

We will be celebrating Shrove Tuesday on February 28th. Each class will be given pancakes at some point throughout the day. In order to stay ECO friendly, we ask that **students bring in their own plastic plate and fork from home** in a large Ziploc bag. Thank you to the parent volunteers assisting us in flipping the pancakes!

Family Movie Night February 2nd

We are pleased to host our first Family Movie Night on February 2nd at 6:30 PM in our gymnasium. We will be showing the movie, Moana. Due to the high number of students who have anaphylactic food allergies, please do not bring any snacks from home.

DO bring your blankets for comfortable seating and indoor shoes or slippers!

Students **MUST** be accompanied and supervised by parents. Come to experience our "BIG SCREEN" in the school gym.

Thank you to our Catholic School Council for arranging this fun family event.

School Uniforms

According to our school board policy (II-41), the Halton Catholic District School Board determined that all elementary schools adopting a uniform will have one that consists of a combination of navy blue and white only.

The uniform supplier for the Halton Catholic District School Board is InSchoolWear and all uniform pieces must be purchased through this supplier. Students are expected to be in *InSchoolWear* navy and white. All shirts and tops have the St. Benedict crest on them and are the only approved tops. Pants, shorts, skorts, and tunics must also be purchased through *InSchoolWear*. You are welcome to choose appropriate footwear for your children, however, please be aware that flip flops, crocs and some styles of boots pose a significant risk to children at play.

Winter Weather

The weather has certainly turned colder. Please ensure that your children come to school dressed appropriately for outdoor weather conditions. A warm jacket, hat and mitts are essential. When weather conditions present a hazard to health as reported by Environment Canada Weather the children will remain inside.

Inclement Weather Guidelines

The Halton Catholic District School Board provides us with information, guidelines, and specific websites to refer to regarding various inclement weather situations. They are as follows:

- a) warmer than -15 C: students may remain outside for all regular activities
- b) between -15 and -20 C: students may remain outside for no longer than 20 minutes at a time
- c) colder than -20 C: students remain inside

Please ensure your child(ren) come appropriately dressed for changing weather.

Weather Watch

Please note that for news about HCDSB school closures and/or bus cancellations due to inclement weather you can tune in to the following radio stations commencing at 6:30 a.m.

CFRB TORONTO 1010 AM
CHFI TORONTO 98.1 FM
CJOY GUELPH 1460 AM
CHWO OAKVILLE 1250 AM
CHML HAMILTON 900 AM
CKOC HAMILTON 1150 AM
CKMW BRAMPTON 790 AM
CJBC (French) TORONTO 890 AM
CING BURLINGTON 108 FM
CKDS HAMILTON 95.3 FM
CKLH HAMILTON 102.9 FM

Book Fair

Our school will be hosting a Scholastic Book Fair in our Learning Commons from Monday, January 30th, 2017 to Thursday, February 2nd, 2017. The Book Fair is an ideal way to encourage reading and add



extra income to the school library budget!

The students will visit the Book Fair on Monday and Tuesday to view the selection and create a wish list and come back Wednesday and Thursday to buy. Books range in price from \$6-\$15. You are under no obligation to buy anything, however, if you wish your child to purchase a book or two, please send money on their book buying day. The kindergarten classes will complete their wish lists on Monday. Orders received on Tuesday will be filled and delivered to classes on Friday.

The Book Fair will also be open on Thursday evening until 8:00 p.m. during our Family Movie Night. Please come by and visit us.

P.A. Day February 3rd

Please note that Friday, February 3rd is a Professional Activity Day. There will be no classes for students.

Family Day February 20th

School will be closed and there will be no classes for families to enjoy the province-wide statutory holiday.

First Term Report Cards Gr. 1-8

Please note the first term report cards will be going home on **February 23rd**. Please take the time to go over them carefully with your child. Please feel free to contact your child's teacher to further discuss their progress.

All About Me & My Blue Print

All About Me Catholic Edition

As educators, we work to deliver the provincial curriculum in a way that is consistent with Catholic values. One of the resources that we provide to all students in Halton Catholic is **All About Me**; an interactive portfolio tool that supports K-6 students with

the inquiry process, self-discovery, and reflection. As of January 2017, we have access to the new Catholic Edition of the program that includes a new My Faith section; inviting students to add daily prayers, reflect on the Sacraments, and explore the Catholic Graduation Expectations.

myBlueprint's Who Am I? Surveys

The Student Success Team at Halton Catholic works to ensure that every student's diverse interests, goals, and strengths are supported in and outside of the classroom. One of the programs that we license to support student success, as well as the Individual Pathways Plan and inquiry-based learning, is **myBlueprint Education Planner**.

Built from the ground up for grade 7-12 students, myBlueprint promotes self-discovery and exploration through various features including the Who Am I? surveys. Students can complete six comprehensive assessments (including Learning Styles, Personality, Interests, Knowledge, Motivations, and Compatibility) to learn more about themselves and potential high school courses, post-secondary programs, and career opportunities related to their interests and passions. The interactive design and realistic insight provided by the surveys help students gain self-confidence and sparks their curiosity into planning for the future.

SEAC – Raising Awareness of Special Education Services at HCDSB

WHO is your team at school?

When most people think of special education, they think of **Special Education Resource Teachers (SERTs)**. While SERTs certainly play a key role, there are many other team members involved in helping to achieve the best possible outcomes for our students with special needs.

Besides parents, perhaps the most significant team member is the **classroom teacher**. The classroom teacher should always be the first point of contact for questions or concerns regarding your child's progress, whether or not they have been identified. As the educational professional who knows your child best, they are significantly involved in developing and revising programming to continually meet the ongoing and changing needs of students receiving special education programming. Open dialogue and a collaborative relationship between parent and teacher is critical to ensuring every student's success!

Exceptional students sometimes require additional support beyond what the classroom teacher can provide.

Educational Assistants (EAs) work directly with those students throughout the school day.

While **SERTs** are primarily responsible for coordinating special education programming and services, they too may provide extra support to students withdrawn from the classroom for part of the day. SERTs can also assist parents who have programming concerns. **Itinerant SERTs** and **Special Education Consultants**, operating at the Board level, provide additional support to school level SERTs.

Principals have ultimate responsibility for successful program delivery and would be the next point of contact for issues not resolved at the teacher / SERT level.

Every elementary school has a **Child & Youth Counsellor (CYC)**, either full or part time. They are there to assist with social, emotional and behavioural issues and play

a key role in the mental health of our students.

There are many other professionals who may provide support to students, depending on their individual needs. These include: **Communicative Disorder Assistants, Speech-Language Pathologists, Social Workers, Psych-Ed Consultants, Sign Interpreters** and **Audiologists**, to name a few!

School Cash Online

Please note that payments (field trips, pizza, etc.) are available through our schools Cash Online System found at:



<https://hcdsb.schoolcashionline.com/>

FDK Report Cards Postponed

Please note that report cards for FDK students will not be given out this month. The Ministry of Education has communicated to School Boards that they may delay the implementation of the Kindergarten Communication of Learning (Report Card) until the last reporting period. The Halton Catholic District School Board has made the decision to implement the Communication of Learning for the final reporting period in June rather than February. Subsequently, interviews for parents of FDK children will not take place this month.

ECO Raven News

Wednesdays are litterless lunches. We encourage all students to bring in snacks and lunches that have minimal waste. Some examples include re-useable water bottles, plastic containers, fruit and vegetables. For more ideas, please see the last page of our newsletter.



Thursday February 2nd is Winter Walk day and Sweater Day. We encourage all students that are in walking distance of the school to participate. Please obey street signs and look both ways before crossing the road. Sweater Day is in support of the World Wildlife Fund. National Sweater Day is a fun way to learn about the importance of saving energy. All students must wear their uniforms. However, we encourage all students to wear any sweater over their uniforms since we will be turning down the heat. Don't forget to wear a sweater, it may get cold in the school!

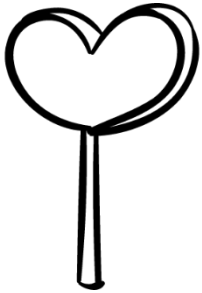


We have started to collect plastic bags to ensure they are being properly recycled. Send in your unwanted plastic bags with your child for them to put in our collection box. You can also bring them to Family Movie Night and place them in the collection box. Thank you for all your support.

Speeches

This year, students wishing to participate in the Halton Catholic District School Board Regional Speeches will do so on a voluntary basis. Oral presentations will still be part of classroom instruction in grades 4-8. Those students wishing to move on to the Regional competition will be asked to work on the delivery of the speech at home. There will also be an Orator's club (during recess/lunch) at school to assist students on developing and refining their speeches. A panel of staff members will judge entries. One student in English and one in French will be chosen to move on to represent the school at the Regional competitions.

Send a Candy Gram – Create Change – Change the World!

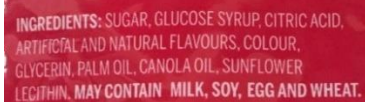


As a part of our school's wellness initiative, St. Benedict School Wellness Club will be selling candy grams and donating the proceeds to WE

Create Change. Your small change could help families in developing communities make big change for the next generation through Free the Children's WE Villages model. Small change truly **can** make a difference.

A Candy Gram is a packaged heart shaped lollipop with a To/From card attached. Each lollipop costs \$0.50 and you can order as many as you like. The Candy Grams will be addressed to the students in their homeroom classrooms and delivered on Valentine's Day (Tuesday, February 14th).

The lollipops are made in a peanut free facility and the ingredients are listed as follows:



INGREDIENTS: SUGAR, GLUCOSE SYRUP, CITRIC ACID, ARTIFICIAL AND NATURAL FLAVOURS, COLOUR, GLYCERIN, PALM OIL, CANOLA OIL, SUNFLOWER LECITHIN. MAY CONTAIN MILK, SOY, EGG AND WHEAT.

Candy Grams will be sold starting Monday, February 6th until Friday, February 10th. WE can make amazing impacts when we take action together!

Valentine's Day Around The World



Vietnam: Couples wear the same style and/or colour of clothes.

Japan: There are two Valentine's Days. On February 14 there is a tradition of women giving chocolates to men. On March 14th, men give cookies or white chocolates to the women they like.

Dominican Republic: Family and friends play games. The game played in the Dominican Republic is called "Angelito". Dominicans rip pieces of paper and write the name of another person, either boy or girl. A name is chosen and each player gives his/ her "angelito" a present.

China: The equivalent of Valentine's Day is the "Oixi Festival," which means "The Night of Seven", and is usually celebrated in early August, in the seventh day of the seventh lunar month.

Spain: Only people in love get and give presents. Friends or family don't exchange notes or presents.

Italy: On Valentine's Day couples get together to enjoy music, poetry and exchange gifts like the "baci perugina," a box of small hazelnut-filled chocolate "kisses" (baci means "kiss" in Italian).

Brazil: "Dia dos enamorados" is on June 12th. Brazilians love to exchange chocolates, flowers, cards etc... but in addition, musical performances are held throughout cities and towns, bringing together couples and families from all elements of society.

France: Paris is considered the Capital City of Love and couples from around the globe flock here for the special day.

Love is a global phenomenon and Valentine's Day is celebrated around the world in fascinating and different ways.

St. Benedict Parish News

All Masses are celebrated at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary School (709 Bolingbroke Drive in Milton. L9T 6Z3). Please visit our webpage for more information at: <http://www.stbenedictparish.ca>



St. Vincent De Paul

St. Vincent De Paul offers assistance to the community in a number of ways. The number to call for assistance is 905-875-7995. Please visit the St. Benedict Parish website at: www.stbenedictparish.ca for more information.

Kidssentials Hot Lunch Program

THE MENU FOR January to March IS AVAILABLE. **To place an order and view the menu:** Visit www.kidssentials.com/parents and create your family account.

For more information about Kidssentials meals and any allergy related inquiries, visit the website at www.kidssentials.com. Kidssentials can also be reached by phone at 905-855-1914 or by e-mail at mail@kidssentials.com

Student Articles

Family Day

By: Ana.R

Family day is a special day in February. It's when we take a day off from work or school to spend time with our family. This year Family day will be taking place Monday, February 20th, 2017. Sometimes we might take our family for granted or get in a fight with a sibling, but on Family Day we should really reflect and think about how lucky we are to have a family that supports and loves us. Some facts about Family Day: Family Day was first introduced in 1989 in Alberta. Family Day is celebrated in some Canadian provinces. Some things to do during the Family Day weekend are: watch a movie together as a family, have a family reunion, and play games. If you want to do things outside of the house you could: go indoor swimming, ice skating, and take a walk outside. Just remember,

"The most important thing in the world is family and love" -John Wooden

Litterless Lunch Wednesdays

When packing a lunch for your child, consider the following ideas.

Not only is this better for the environment but it can save you money as well.

Here are some ideas

- » REUSABLE lunch carrier
- » REUSABLE containers (Tupperware, Rubbermaid, Lockable)
- » REUSABLE drink bottle or thermos
- » CLOTH NAPKIN to wash and re-use
- » SILVERWARE to wash and re-use
- » HEALTHFUL snacks

Why Pack A Litter-Less Lunch?

- It reduces packaging waste
- It's cheaper
- It's healthier

Please remember:

- NO paper or plastic bags
- NO plastic wrap, foil, wax or Styrofoam
- NO single-use cans or juice boxes
- NO paper napkins
- NO plastic forks/spoons
- NO overly packaged snacks

