

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: Miss Penny Uniacke
Secretary: Mrs. Diane Reggi	Office Assistance: Mrs. Anna Guzzo
Superintendent: Mr. Camillo Cipriano	Trustee: Mrs. Diane Rabenda

Administrator's Message

I would like to sincerely thank all those who welcomed me to St. Benedict Catholic Elementary School. We extend a warm welcome to our returning families and the new students who have joined us since June. We now have a school population over 700 students. During the summer we opened many new classrooms. Growth is expected to continue as our little area of Milton continues to grow. We would like to welcome Mrs. Anna Guzzo who has joined our office staff.

Over the last weeks our staff were busy preparing the classrooms to receive your children. All Kindergarten interviews began on Wednesday. We will have our entire St. Benedict Community together on Monday September 13 as all our Kindergarten students will be fully attending school.

We again thank you for your continued support this year as we work together to make St. Benedict School a place where students strive to achieve high academic standards in a safe secure Catholic environment. We will continue to work together to help all students reach their full potential.

We will be using e-mail and agendas as our main tools for communication. Announcements, newsletters and forms generated from the office will be sent to your e-mail address. If you have not received emails please call the school so we can confirm your proper e-mail.

We extend our wishes for a successful and fulfilling school year; one in which we continue to grow together and enjoy the wonders of learning.

God bless and take care,

Josey Guerin



Upcoming Events

September 7

First day of school for students

September 12

- First Reconciliation Meeting 7PM
- Confirmation Meeting 7:30PM

September 14

Opening Mass 9:30 AM

September 15

Curriculum Night -6:30 PM

September 28

School Pictures

Staff Directory

Teacher	Grade	Room
L. Messom/Moniz	FDK	101
R. Mastrangelo/K.Mifsud	FDK	102
C. Solimine/C. Davis	FDK	103
S. Wilson/N. Ponciano	FDK	104
W. Popa	FDK	105
R. Marquis/B. Bolanos	FDK	106
S. Bennett	Gr. 1 EFI	108
M. Figliomeni	Gr. 1 EFI	109
A. Kirkwood	Gr. 1	110
E. Trombetta	Gr. 1	111
J. Pace	Gr. 1	112
A. Melo	Gr. 2	107
A. Casera	Gr. 2	204
I. Carnovale	Gr. 2	205
E. Vanmarcke	Gr. 2 EFI	202
K. Chiappino	Gr. 2 EFI	203
A. D'Alonzo	Gr. 3	206
C. Kaino	Gr. 3	207
T. Ongolo	Gr. 3	211
M. Zehairi	Gr. 4	209
L. Costa-DaMaia	Gr. 4/5	210
R. Rivers	Gr. 5	P2
L. Johnston/M. Racine	Gr. 5 EF	212
T. Dolan	Gr. 5 EF	213
M. Puletto	Gr. 6 EF	214
A. Bitondo	Gr. 6 EF	215
S. Aas	Gr. 6	P1
K. Sinclair	Gr. 7 EF	217
M. Paul	Gr. 7 EF	218
M. Savel	Gr. 7	201
S. Deery	Gr. 8	216
J. Resendes/K Mahoney	Change	208
L. Switenky	Teacher of the Arts	
J. Carroll	FSL	
L. Johnston/M. Racine	EF/EFI Planning	
N. Eathorne	EF/PTM Planning	
L. Holland	PTM	
C. Scott-McKay	PTM	
A. Belcastro	PTM (0.5)	
J. Flanagan	SERT	
D. Palazzese	SERT	
C. Baillie	Educational Asst	
J. Blazina	Educational Asst	
M. Ryall	Educational Asst	
L. Sartori	Educational Asst	
J. Labuga	Educational Asst	
H. Wallage	Educational Asst	
L. Murray	Librarian	
D. May-Giron	CYC	
S. Marconato-Oresti	ESL	

St. Benedict Catholic School Council 2016/2017

Role of Catholic School Council: Ontario Regulation 612 states that every school must hold elections for the School Council within the first 30 days of each school year. The term of office is one year. We want to encourage every parent to consider volunteering to sit on the School Council this year. The school needs active and interested parents to maintain the quality of the school community we enjoy and to address the challenges the community will face in the future. **Nomination forms are available at the front office.**

Please note: Should we receive less than 8 nominations and candidates satisfy the requirements outlined in the regulations, they will be acclaimed.

If Elections are required, then the names of candidates and a one page information biography sheet, if available, will be posted on the School Community Bulletin Board located in the front hallway of the school.

This year, elections for our 2016/2017 Catholic School Council will take place in September according to the following timelines:

Nomination Forms Due: Friday, September 16th

Profiles Due (if required): Monday, September 19th

Council Elections (if needed): Thursday, September 22nd

First Council Meeting: Monday, September 26th at 6:30pm

All parents are welcome to attend regular Council meetings. Meeting dates will be posted in the monthly Newsletters and on our school web page. The meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will be held in the Learning Commons.

Student Accident Insurance

Student Accident Insurance provides a very economical way of insuring against the cost of expensive dental or medical treatment should your child suffer an accident either at school or at home. **Should you wish to obtain this coverage, please contact the office for an information package**

Bus Transportation Policy



Take the time to review with your child the safety rules and student expectations for riding the bus. Riding the bus is a privilege not a right and can be terminated for students who cannot abide by the HCDS Board & transportation company expectations.

The Board asks your understanding and patience during the month of September. On average the department responds to over 200 phone calls per day. For this reason, requests for the additional movement of bus stops will be reviewed during the month of October. When corresponding with the Transportation Department please refer to the route numbers only. (e.g., St. Benedict, Milton, route 718).

Inquiries for bussing can be directed to: www.haltonbus.ca
OR 1-888-803-8660X258

Opening Mass

We welcome Father Jim Petrie as we celebrate our opening school mass here at St. Benedict School on Wednesday, September 14th at 9:30. All Parents are welcome.

Concussion Protocol

Recent research shows that a concussion can have very serious implications on a child's cognitive and physical abilities. Parents and guardians are reminded that a comprehensive protocol, based on current research and best practices, has been developed to help parents, students, and staff prevent, recognize, and respond to a concussion. More information, including a [Parent Fact Sheet](#) and a [Student Fact Sheet](#) can be found on the Board's website at: <http://bit.ly/HCDsBConcussion>.

Family Information and Consent Forms

We have sent home our Family Information/Consent Forms and the Registration Verification form. These forms should be found in your child's agenda or backpack. A copy of the St. Benedict Code of Conduct can be found in the front of your child's agenda and also on our website, <http://schools.hcdsb.org/bene>

Please complete and return the Family Information / Consent Forms (**one per family except for the physical education form**) to the school as soon as possible. **We need to have up to date information in order to contact you in the case of an emergency.**

Safe Arrival Program

The Safe Arrival program has been established to ensure that your child arrives safely at school. We appreciate your cooperation in calling the school to let us know that your child(ren) will not be attending **289 851 9353**. When you call the school early in the morning, you will get our answering machine; **press 1**. Please clearly state your child's name, grade, teacher, and the reason and length (if known) of the absence. When we do not receive your call, we are concerned about your child. We then call home, your workplace or an emergency contact number. Please let the office know if your telephone numbers change. If we cannot determine an unexplained absence, as Principal, I will determine whether we must call the police department and report the unaccounted absence.

Prescribed Medication



If your child requires medication to be given during the school day please drop by the office and complete the appropriate documentation. Aspirin, Tylenol etc. will not be dispensed unless a permission form and parental signature is provided.



School Hours 2015-2016

9:02am	Warning Bell
10:35-10:50am	Recess (Gr 4-8)
10:55-11:10am	Recess (Gr 1-3)
12:10-1:10pm	Lunch
2:10-2:25pm	Recess (Gr 4-8)
2:30-2:45pm	Recess (Gr 1-3)
3:35pm	Dismissal

Yard Supervision begins at 8:50 a.m. For the safety of your child(ren) we request that your child NOT be on school property until a supervisor is on duty. Kindergarten supervision begins at 8:50 am. For safety, please see that your children leave home with ample time to ensure that they are in the schoolyard when the bell rings. Encourage your children to use appropriate crosswalks and walkways. Establish routines at home that will assist your child to arrive on time. Please be aware that the volume of traffic in the parking lot increases significantly just prior to the entry bell.

Children arriving late for school must first report to the office for a late slip.

Volunteers Needed

Our school is in need of volunteers with varying degrees of availability. In particular we need 4 or 5 people who can give one or two noon hours per month to help with our hot lunch program. For those who want to come for specific events like dances, trips, and fundraisers please know you are welcome however, we do need to have your Criminal Reference check on file in the office two weeks prior to the event. **All volunteers are required to have an interview with the Vice Principal.** In order to accommodate this, there will be a meeting for all those who would like to volunteer on **Thursday, September 22nd at 10:15am.** Attendance to this meeting will constitute your interview. Volunteer packages and forms will be distributed at this time. Please note that all school volunteers need to complete our volunteer package and have an initial criminal reference check or sign a renewal form each year. If you are unable to attend this meeting and are interested in volunteering, please contact Miss Uniacke at uniackepe@hcdsb.org or 289-851-9353.

Danger! Anaphylaxis Warning

Please be aware that St. Benedict School strives to be a **nut aware** environment. We have students with life threatening allergies to nuts and other allergens. No peanut butter or other nut products are allowed. Please check labels before sending items in school lunches and for snacks. Even a trace of nut oil from one child's fingers to a desk surface can cause a deadly reaction. **Please note that Wow Butter (soy product) is not allowed as well since we cannot distinguish between it and peanut butter.**



Spirit Day News

Welcome back! We hope everyone had a wonderful summer. Our first Spirit Day will be

Friday, September 30th. We are asking students to show their Blue Jays Spirit by wearing blue and white. A donation of \$2 will be greatly appreciated to support the Halton Catholic Children's Education Fund (HCCEF). This is a charitable organization which is committed to enhancing the educational experience and enriching the lives of students within our Halton Catholic school communities. Through your generosity HCCEF supports families in need within our school board. Thank you for your generosity.

Pizza, Milk & Hot lunch Programs

We will be running these lunch programs, please check your emails for updates. We have a milk dispensing machine and the cost is \$1.

School Supplies

We provide students with paper, notebooks, rulers, pencils and erasers to do their school work. Many students like to bring in their own extra pencils, pencil crayons, sharpeners, scissors and erasers and this is appreciated. Just a few reminders:



- * White out and liquid paper are not allowed in elementary schools.
- * Only markers from school are allowed in primary classrooms.

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 R.J. McCarthy's and all uniform pieces must be**

purchased through this supplier. Students are expected to be in navy and white and this is what you are directed to purchase through *McCarthy's* when you visit their store. 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 McCarthy's. 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.

Physical Education

All students are expected to participate in physical education classes. Running shoes need to have white or no-mark soles to prevent damage to the gym's rubberized floor. Teachers will also have a tub to hold jewelry and other valuables. Please note that aerosol deodorants and colognes are not allowed at school. There is a **permission form** to fill out before they can participate in activities.

Student Agendas

School agendas are available for all students from Grade 1-8 to support their learning and to assist with the planning and organization of their school year. The agendas also contain expectations for student behaviour and are the primary tool for communication between school and home. Thank you for supporting us with this important communication tool. Agendas were distributed during the first week of school at a cost of \$7.00 per agenda. Please pay using our preferred method by using the school's cash online payment system. We will also accept cheques payable to St. Benedict School.

Skateboards, Scooters, Roller-Blades, Wheelies



Please note that under board policy No.Iv-5c Playground Safety, skateboards, scooters and roller-blades are prohibited for use during the instructional day. Students will be allowed to use the roller-blades, wheelies, scooters and skateboards as a method of transportation to school as they would a bicycle. However, the same rules apply. They must ride them to the edge of school property and then walk. They are not allowed during recess breaks and they are not allowed on the bus.

Bicycle Safety

If your children ride bicycles to school, we remind you to ensure that your children's bicycles are roadworthy, that your children are familiar with the rules of the road, and that their bicycles conform to local municipal by-laws with respect to licensing, operation and equipment. All students need to wear helmets when riding a bicycle.

To ensure the safety of other students, cyclists must **walk their bicycles on school property at all times**. **Bikes need to be locked at the bike rack that will be installed later in the month.**

Visitors to the School

The doors of St. Benedict School are open to our parent community. However, please remember that to other children you are a stranger. When entering the school, please **report to the office, sign in, and take a tag**. Prior to leaving, sign out and return your visitor's tag. Individuals in the school without appropriate identification will be asked to go to the office. Please help us to monitor a safe and welcoming environment for your children. To keep classroom interruptions to a minimum, the secretary will be happy to relay a message or have the children come down at lunch to pick up a forgotten item if necessary.

As well, parents are asked to **bid your children farewell in the school parking lot**. Only students and staff are to be in the schoolyard, this is to ensure the safety of your children. Your attention to this routine is most appreciated.

Student Drop Off

Persons dropping off students in grade 1-8 are asked to use the Kiss and Ride on the east side of the school to drop off, or park in a marked spot and walk their child to the play yard. Please do not park in the Kiss and Ride, it is for drop off only. The JK/SK Kiss and Ride is located on the west side of the building. The front of the school is reserved for Bus access only. The Kindergarten **area will be supervised beginning at 8:50**. Gr. 1-8 supervision will also begin at 8:50 in the school yard. Please do not bring children any earlier as there will be no one to supervise them.

Parking

Parents are reminded to be mindful when parking, and when they are leaving their parking spot in their vehicles, to do so by driving out in a forward fashion instead of backing out. Driving out in a forward direction helps create a safer parking lot environment.

Grade 7/8 Immunization Program

All Grade 7 students and grade 8 students who did not receive their 2nd immunization last year will be offered free Hepatitis B and Meningococcal vaccines through school-based immunization clinics again this year. The Region of Halton Health Department administers this voluntary immunization program. The first scheduled date is **Tuesday, November 2nd for Grade 7 Hep B and HPV for Grade 8 girls**.

Curriculum Night

Thursday, September 15, 2016

We wish to extend an invitation to all our parents to take this opportunity to join us for our second annual Curriculum night on **Thursday, September 15**.

Curriculum Night is an adult focused evening. In consideration for educators who are addressing an audience and for fellow adults who are trying to listen, we ask that children remain home.

Teachers' curriculum overview will be presented in your children's classroom at 7:00 – 7:30 and repeated again from 7:30 to 8:00. This arrangement will allow for parents to visit more than one classroom. This is an excellent opportunity to review the curriculum and the teacher's academic and behavioural expectations. If you require specific information regarding your children's progress we ask that you contact the teacher at a later date to arrange a confidential interview at a mutually convenient time.

- 6:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Welcome & Introductions in Gym
- 7:00 p.m. – 7:20 p.m. Session 1 classroom presentations
- 7:25p.m.–7:45p.m. Session 2 classroom presentations

Child Protection & Duty to Report

All teachers, by law are required to report any suspicion of abuse or neglect to the appropriate child protection service. It is the role of the Children's Aid Society to determine if the suspicion is warranted and to investigate if appropriate. Should a report be made to the CAS

please understand that staff are complying with Ontario Law.

If your child is bruised or marked as a result of an accident you may wish to let the teacher know the circumstances.

Cameras & Electronic Recording Devices

Cell phones and all other forms of electronic video or audio recording and or transmitting devices are not to be activated on school property during the school day and school sponsored events. This includes recess and lunch. Recording devices of any kind are to be used only with staff member's permission and only for special class events. Please refer to our Board policy 1-43 with respect to use of technology and digital citizenship and the student agenda for further details.

St. Benedict Parish News



There is a Parent meeting for Reconciliation and Communion at 7:00 pm. and a Parent Confirmation meeting at 7:30 pm on September 12th at St. Benedict School.

All Sunday masses are held at Our Lady of Fatima School on Bolingbroke Dr. Mass takes place on Saturdays at 5:00pm and Sunday masses are at 9:00am and 11:00 am. Please visit the St. Benedict Parish website at: www.stbenedictparish.ca for more information.