



ST. DOMINIC SCHOOL—November 2018

Principal: Mrs. M. Braida
Vice Principal: Mr. P. Deoni
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"Learning, Serving and Praying Together"

****New Student Attendance Management System****

You should have received emails from the Halton Catholic District School Board regarding our new automated student attendance management system called **Safe Arrival**, offered through *School Messenger*.

Beginning **Monday, November 5, 2018** you can report your child's absence or late arrival in one of the following ways:

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| 1. using the SchoolMessenger mobile app | available on Apple App Store or Google Play store |
| 2. By logging into the SchoolMessenger website | go.schoolmessenger.ca |
| 3. By calling into an interactive toll-free phone line | 1-844-445-4505 |

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

St. Dominic Catholic School continues to be very busy and exciting with a number of initiatives underway and students and staff engaged in the process of learning. November will be filled with numerous activities and learning opportunities and will also provide times for reflection and gratitude as we celebrate Remembrance Day and prepare to begin the Season of Advent. As always, parents are invited to join us for our special celebrations / liturgies. We will also be recognizing Bullying Awareness Week (Nov. 15 – 21) with a variety of activities and discussions that will raise awareness and examine the effects of bullying in our school and society.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the parental and pastoral support of our school community. Thank you to the number of parents who have volunteered to be supervisors on class trips, joined us for liturgical celebrations, participated in activities such as pizza days, reading support programs, fundraising, Catholic School Council etc. and to Father D'Sa and the parish staff who support us spiritually. It is truly a blessing to witness and be a part of the partnership that exists between school, home and parish.

Later this month, parents will also have the opportunity to discuss the academic and social progress of their children. Progress Reports for students in Grades 1 to 8 and Communication of Learning – Initial Observations for Kindergarten students will be sent home on Tuesday, November 20th and Parent-Teacher interviews will be held on Thursday, November 22nd and Friday, November 23rd. We look forward to discussing your child's progress with you.

Yours in Catholic Education,
M. Braida
Principal

P. Deoni
Vice Principal

HALLOWEEN DANCE-A-THON

St. Dominic School's annual Dance-a-thon fundraiser was another great success! Thank you to our entire school community for supporting the dance-a-thon with your generous donations and contributions to theme basket raffle. A special thank you to the parent organizing committee and all volunteers who assisted in making our Super Hero extravaganza so successful. We are still calculating the total amount pledged and completing the theme basket raffle. Final details will be shared in the December newsletter and we will provide regular updates as to how the fundraiser dollars have been spent.





REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY

Canada marks Veterans' Week this year from November 5th to 11th. It is a time to honour and remember all those who have served, and continue to serve Canada in times of war, military conflict and peace. It is also a time to teach our youth about the importance of Remembrance in the Catholic tradition. We invite all of our families to join us for our **Remembrance Day** observance on **Friday, November 9 at 10:15 a.m.** in the large gym.

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS PARENT INFORMATION

On Thursday, November 8th at 6 p.m. grade eight students and their parents are invited to learn more about the opportunities St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School has to offer—from academics to the arts and athletics. The Parent Information Night includes a special presentation about high school, its programs and the registration process.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

November 19-23

The Book Fair is coming soon! We are looking forward to all the new and exciting books that will be available.

This is an excellent way to support the St. Dominic School Library and we will also introduce the "**Classroom Wish List.**" *Each teacher has chosen titles to add in their classroom library. Students/parents will have the opportunity to grant a Book Wish for their classroom from the "Classroom Wish List" which will be on display during the Book Fair, in the library. The student purchasing this donation will write their own name on the Bookplate which will go inside the book they have chosen. This will be available at the time of purchase.*

Hours for Book Fair:

Monday-Thursday - All students during the regular school hours.

*Thursday - 3:00 pm-5:00 pm and 6:00 pm- 8:00 pm. -
Parents are welcome*

*Friday-9:00 am-11:00 am. - **Parents are welcome***

PROGRESS REPORTS AND INTERVIEWS

Grades 1-8 Progress Reports and Kindergarten Initial Observations will be sent home on **Tuesday, November 20, 2018**. Interviews will be held Thursday, November 22 in the evening and throughout the day on Friday, November 23. **Information was sent home previously to request your interview time and day. Forms are due back Wednesday, November 7.**

ELEMENTARY PROGRESS REPORT (Gr. 1-8)

Learning Skills/Work Habits

The Learning Skills/Work Habits section of the Ontario Provincial Elementary Progress Report Card is a separate section for reporting on the student's development of the learning skills required for effective learning. The six learning skills identified on the progress report card are:

Responsibility	Initiative
Organization	Self-Regulation
Independent Work	Collaboration

These skills can be demonstrated by the student across all subjects and courses. The Board has provided teachers with sample success criteria for the learning skills/work habits. These success criteria can also be developed together with students in the classroom, and they should be communicated to students to assist them in improving their learning skills/work habits.

Part 3 of the Elementary Progress Report provides parents/guardians and students with an opportunity to comment on student achievement, learning skills/work habits, learning goals, and home support. This is located on the lower half of page 2.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL UPDATE

Our next Catholic School Council meeting is Thursday, November 8th at 6:30 in the school library. Parents are reminded that Council information and minutes are posted on the school website. All are welcome to attend School Council meetings.

Head Lice

Please call the school office to let us know if you find your child to have head lice, eggs or nits. It is very important that we have your child's class checked. If your child picked up lice from the class and we do not have the class checked it is possible that your child could catch it again. Once you have found your child with lice they must be cleared by CBI Home Health. The number to reach them is 905-507-6562. They will tell you the location of the closest school where you can take your child to be checked and cleared to return. It is School Board Policy that they do not return to school without a notice that they are free of lice, eggs and nits.

BUS CANCELLATION/SCHOOL CLOSURE

In the event of bad weather please check HCDSB.org or Haltonbus.ca for school closure and bus cancellation information. If buses are cancelled and your child is a bus student you **do not** need to report their absence. However, if buses are cancelled and your child **is not** a bus student but will be staying home you **DO** need to report their absence.

Please do not call the school for cancellation/closure information.

Also please go to haltonbus.ca to sign up for electronic notices of late buses or to check bus delays.

ANAPHYLAXIS UPDATE

Sabrina's Law, an *Act to Protect Anaphylactic Pupils*, came into effect in January, 2006 to protect students with life threatening allergies. **Please do not send your child to school with peanut butter or any tree nuts (almonds, walnuts, cashews etc) or any foods containing nuts or peanut butter.**

As well, please do not send PEA BUTTER/SOY BUTTER or any peanut butter substitutes that resemble peanut butter.

In order to minimize the risk for our anaphylactic students and to promote our school as a Healthy School, parents are also asked not to send their children with lunches from an outside provider (e.g. Tim Hortons, McDonalds, Subway). Lunches that are not guaranteed nut-free increase the potential for a life-threatening allergic reaction.

Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week

Ontario has designated the week beginning on the third Sunday of November as Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week to help promote safe schools and a positive learning environment.



During Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week – November 18 – 24, 2018. Ontario students, school staff and parents are encouraged to learn more about bullying and its effect on student learning and well-being.

Bullying is defined as a form of repeated, persistent and aggressive behaviour directed at an individual or individuals that is intended to cause (or should be known to cause) fear and distress and/or harm to another person's body, feelings, self-esteem or reputation. Bullying occurs in a context where there is a real or perceived power imbalance.

Schools are encouraged use this opportunity to explain the different forms bullying can take. These include:

- Physical** – hitting, shoving, stealing or damaging property
- Verbal** – name calling, mocking, or making sexist, racist or homo phobic comments
- Social** – excluding others from a group or spreading gossip or rumours about them
- Electronic** (commonly known as **cyberbullying**) – spreading rumours and hurtful comments through the use of cell-phones, e-mail, text messaging and social networking sites

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

We are excited for a new year of bringing peace and justice to our school and global communities. Our grade 7 and 8 students have been busy getting our action plan up and running this year.

Our school's fundraising goal this year is to raise money for the Halton Women's Place. Halton Women's Place provides a safe haven, information, and education to support a future without abuse for women and their children.

Popcorn Sales

We will begin our Papa Jack's popcorn sales the middle of November. Popcorn will be sold on Thursdays, beginning November 15th, for \$2.00 a bag.

Candy Drive November 1-9th

The student government will be collecting candy for Canadian Food for Children. Last year we collected over 107lbs of candy. This year, our goal is 200lbs. Please bring in any unwanted hard candy, chips and other items collected from Halloween.

SCHOOL SECURITY/ VISITOR INFORMATION

To gain entry to the school at anytime during the regular school day, **all parents, visitors and volunteers must enter through the front doors of the school.** Press the door buzzer (once only please, its very loud, we hear it but are not always right there to open it immediately) to be let in. You will hear a click indicating the door has been opened. Visitors must proceed to the office, sign in and collect a visitor's badge. Please be aware that all doors are locked during the instructional day. If your child is late, he/she must use the front door to gain entry to the building. With this protocol in place, please make every effort to be punctual. If you have something to drop off to your child, please leave it at the front office where we will be happy to assist. These are safety precautions which also minimize classroom interruptions.

Please do not enter the yard or visit the playground areas during the school day without signing in at the office. As well, do not walk your child to their class. Office staff will sign them in and get them safely to class. Remember that you are a stranger to other children, so always sign in at the office. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring the safety of our children.

KISS AND RIDE

The goal of the **Kiss and Ride program** is to allow students safe passage to the school upon arrival via the school parking lot entrance. As there is only one entrance to the school parking lot, you have the convenient choice of the Kiss and Ride or you may park your vehicle in the designated school parking. **The Kiss and Ride route allows you to let your children out safely and quickly in the morning.** In the afternoon, only buses are permitted in the Kiss and Ride area. The crosswalk is to be observed at all times. We ask all parents to please abide by the following guidelines:

- Follow the directions of the crossing guard.
- Do not pass cars ahead of you.
- Wait until your car has reached the Kiss and Ride sidewalk before allowing your children to leave your vehicle
- Unload on the right side of your vehicle, closest to the Kiss and Ride sidewalk.
- Have your child ready to leave your vehicle (i.e. Backpacks ready).
- Be patient with the students, parents and volunteers.
- Do not park/stop your car in the lanes beside the parking spots.

Thank you to our staff members who are on duty in the Kiss and Ride area from 8:05 until 8:20 each morning. Parents will not need to get out of the car or walk their child to the school door. We thank you in advance for continuing to drive with care and not pass cars that are parked in the Kiss and Ride area ahead of you. **The left lane is for busses only.** Consider walking if you are close enough and if you live on a bus route sending your child on the bus rather than driving to help alleviate congestion before and after school. Please help us make our parking lot a safe and friendly area for the whole St. Dominic school community.