



ST. DOMINIC SCHOOL

October 2018

Principal: Mrs. M. Braid
Vice Principal: Mr. P. Deoni

Secretary: Miss S. Talbot
Office Assistant: Mrs. C. Dunn

Phone: (905) 827 - 4401

Internet: www.haltonrc.edu.on.ca/schools/domi

SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM: A reminder to call in your child's absence or late arrival.

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Watch for emails from the School Board regarding our new online safe arrival system beginning in November!

PRINCIPALS' MESSAGE

The month of September has been an exciting month. It's hard to believe October is upon us and Thanksgiving is already just around the corner! We're happy to report the beginning of this year has been both successful and relatively smooth. A special welcome is extended to all our new students and their families. We sincerely hope they find St. Dominic Catholic School a safe and enjoyable place to learn and grow.

It was very gratifying to see so many parents attend our Curriculum Night held in September. Thank you again to all who took the time to visit us at the school and meet the teachers of their children, as well as learn about the academic programming. For those who were unable to attend, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns about classroom life.

We continue to work hard at making St. Dominic Catholic School a safe place for all our children. Parents are respectfully requested to drop your child off at the gate. Staff are on duty and identified by their safety vests. Please **DO NOT enter the school yard with your child**. It is difficult to identify someone who might not belong among many adults if on the play yard. Please always check in the office when visiting the school for any reason. All visitors must formally sign in and obtain a visitor badge if warranted. **Please do not escort your child to their locker if they are late. Please drop them to the office and we will deliver them to their class.**

Thank-you all for your understanding regarding the safety of our children. We look forward to another exciting month of safety, learning and growth together! As always all our teachers at St. Dominic Catholic School, bring life and joy to the curriculum they teach to your children every day.

We sincerely wish each of you a Happy Thanksgiving.

Your partner in Catholic education,
Ms. M. Braid, Principal



WORLD TEACHERS' DAY OCT. 5th



Congratulations to all our Halton Catholic District School Board teachers! Thank you for the caring and generous ways in which you help our students grow in their Catholic faith, 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!

St. Dominic Halloween Fundraiser!

St. Dominic's annual Dance-a-thon fundraiser will take place on **Wednesday, October 31st**. The gym will be transformed into a **"Super Hero City"**! Students in grades JK-8 are invited to dress up in a costume or wear black and orange. Please do not include masks or weapons as part of costumes.

This is our major fundraiser for the year. Our goal is to raise funds for items which will support all students in the areas of **technology, sports equipment, school events and clubs**. New this year, each class will be asked to create a gift basket with a given theme. Every student who participates in the fundraiser will have the **chance to win one (or more) of the themed gift baskets**. More information and pledge forms will be sent home soon. If you own a business or have access to donate a special prize or item, please feel free to contact the school office and we can create a special basket.

Please read the information for donating online as it is slightly different than purchasing online. Anyone can sponsor your child this way and will receive an instant tax receipt.

To help your donation dollars go further, the Catholic School Council is **seeking a volunteer to DJ** the event on Oct. 31st. Please **contact the office at 905 827 4401 by Oct. 10th** if you can DJ for the kids.

Looking forward to a fantastic event!! Thank you for your continued support!



LUNCH REMINDERS

In order to minimize the risk for our anaphylactic students and to promote our school as a Healthy School, parents are asked not to send 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. Students who bring these lunches will be required to eat lunch in the office.

Please do not include peanut/nut butters or any tree nuts including nutella and any soy nut butters in your child's lunch or snacks.

As well it is School Board Policy to not permit soy, wow butter or other non nut butters at school. It is not possible for staff to determine if these products are not peanutbutter.

PIZZA LUNCH AND MILK

Pizza lunch begins on **Tuesday, October 9** to Tuesday, January 29.

The milk program will begin Tuesday, October 9 to Thursday, January 31, 2019.

PITA LUNCH

The first pita session runs from Thursday, October 4 to Thursday, November 15.

SALAD CART

The first session for the salad cart begins, Wednesday, October 3 through to Wednesday, December 19.



CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL UPDATE



Our first council meeting will be held on October 4th at 6:30 pm in the school library. Our council members will be commissioned at this meeting. All are welcome to attend Council Meetings. Please see the school website for upcoming meeting dates.

Our Catholic School Council representatives will be announced on October 5th following our first meeting on Thursday, October 4th.

CROSS COUNTRY



On Wednesday, October 17 members of our grade 4 to 8 will participate in the School Board cross country team meet at Kelso Conservation Area in Milton. Good luck to the team and thanks to our coaches Mrs. Ricupero, Mrs. Grasso, Mrs. Makhlof and Mrs. DeMedeiros.

Rain date is Friday, October 19.

BUS ROUTE DELAY INFORMATION

Parents and guardians are encouraged to subscribe to receive bus route delay notification emails. To subscribe please follow this link <http://www.haltonbus.ca/delays/email-subscriptions/> which also includes instructions on how to subscribe.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Congratulations to our Student Government members! The student government will be advocating for the students, as well as local and global initiatives. The members travelled to Toronto on September 20th to listen to inspirational speakers. In the near future, we will announce our school's social justice project.

Picture Retake Day Wednesday, October 24. Original picture proofs will be coming home soon.

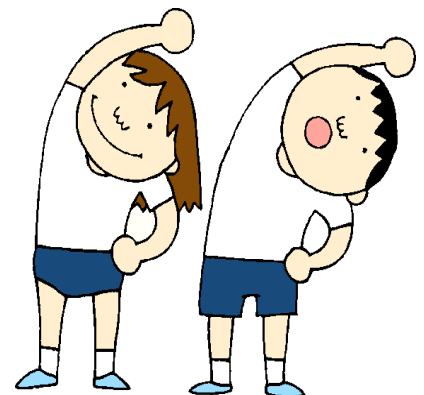


X-Movement is Coming to St. Dominic

During the week of October 15 to 19, St. Dominic Catholic School is going to be host to X-Movement. All of our students will take part in a self-regulation program that fuses high-intensity fitness, yoga and mindfulness to help students become masters of their feelings and emotions. Students will learn tangible tools and skills to help them navigate the through the ups and downs of life into a calm, focused and balanced state.

We will be hosting a parent/family evening on Thursday, October 18th at 6:30 pm when the leaders of X-Movement will review and highlight what students have learned with our parent and family community. We look forward to seeing you and hope that you will be able to join us for this special evening!!!

We thank our Catholic School Council for assisting with this student program and parent evening.



PROGRESS REPORTS

The Ministry of Education document, *Growing Success*, addresses the assessment, evaluation, and reporting of student achievement. Your child's *Elementary Progress Report Card* will be going home for students in Grades 1-8 and Communication of Learning for kindergarten students to show a student's development of the learning skills and work habits during the fall of the school year, as well as a student's general progress in working towards the achievement of the curriculum expectations in all subjects. Please note that this report will not contain marks or grades. The reports will go home on Tuesday, November 20.

Information regarding parent/teacher interviews on November 22 and 23rd will be forthcoming.

FIRE/LOCK DOWN/BOMB THREATS LOCK DOWN AND FIRE DRILLS

Being prepared for an emergency situation is critical to keeping everyone safe at school. We will conduct our required 3 fire drills over the next month. We will also be conducting one lock down drill and one bomb threat drill as part of our safe schools protocol. These drills are also repeated in the Spring. October 7 –13th is Fire Prevention Week. For more information on Fire Prevention Week information visit:

<http://www.oakville.ca/residents/fire-department.html>



Epipen Shortage

Due to the current shortage of EpiPens Health Canada has announced an alternative epinephrine auto injector Auvi-Q should be available to Canadians at pharmacies by September 7. Information regarding the Auvi-Q epinephrine auto injector is available on [Food Allergy Canada](http://FoodAllergyCanada.org) and has been approved by the HCDSB for use with students diagnosed with anaphylaxis. The Auvi-Q injector is similar to the Allerject injector that was recalled.

ECO UPDATE

A focus for October is "Waste Reduction". Staff and students goal this month is to reduce waste through promoting "**Litterless Lunches**". When packing snacks/lunches we encourage use of stainless steel cutlery, food storage containers, reusable drink bottles and reusable lunch bags. Try to avoid using paper napkins, single serve food items, water bottles and juice boxes.



HEADLICE POLICY

Please let the office know if you find your child to have lice, eggs or nits. A reminder that they must be cleared by CBI Home Health or a doctor to return to school. The number for CBI is 905-507-6562 to find the nearest school for a recheck.

HOME SCHOOL PARISH CONNECTION

St. Dominic Parish
2415 Rebecca Street
Phone: (905) 827-2373

Mass Times:
Saturday evenings: 5:00 pm
Sundays mornings: 9:00 am & 11:00 am





SEAC SOUNDBYTES

Understanding Accommodations, Modifications and Alternative Programs in an IEP

October 2018

The start of a new school year also means that soon classroom teachers will be working with their Special Education Resource Teachers (SERTs) to develop student Individual Education Plans (IEPs), which are usually ready for distribution to parents in the latter part of October.

Often times many of the terms used on the IEP can be confusing to parents. Terms such as **Accommodations, Modifications and Alternative Programs** as they relate to the Curriculum / Subjects Areas. What exactly does this mean and how does it affect the individual student?

Accommodations: When a subject is **accommodated** for a pupil nothing about the subject content changes. An easy way to explain this might be if you are reading a novel and you require reading glasses. Nothing about the content in your novel is changed but your reading glasses are considered an accommodation to be able to access the novel you wish to read. You require glasses as a support to see and absorb the material. Accommodations are categorized as instructional, environmental or assessment supports and are listed by category on the IEP. Accommodations that are routinely used by most teachers with the entire class are not listed. Accommodations include only those supports required by a student that differ from what is normally provided during classroom instruction. Some further examples include an alternative work space, duplicated notes, extra time, frequent breaks and reduction of tasks.

To reiterate nothing about the subject matter or level of instruction changes when a subject is accommodated only.

Modifications: When a subject is **modified** for a student there are aspects of the curriculum in that subject that DO change. In most cases the student may be presented with material below the grade level of their peers. In other subjects a modification can take the form of fewer learning expectations, simplified tasks or in some cases higher level activities. Because the material is being modified or changed from the regular curriculum for the student's grade, it is necessary to record the pupil's current level of functioning in that subject, an annual goal for the pupil, a sample selection of the learning expectations being presented, teaching strategies and assessment methods. A modified subject is one that has been changed to meet the level where the pupil can be expected to begin to progress.

Alternative: When a subject is **alternative** it is different curriculum from Ontario Curriculum. Samples of Alternative Curriculum include, Communication Numeracy, Communication Literacy, Daily Living and Employability Skills, Personal Care, Social Skills Training, Orientation and Mobility Training. Because this curriculum is different from regular grade curriculum, a current level of functioning, an annual goal, sample learning expectations, teaching strategies, and assessment strategies are outlined in detail in each subject area.

Some students may have IEPs with only alternative curriculum. Some pupils may only have accommodated subjects. Some students may have a combination of subjects that are modified, some that are accommodated only and some alternative subjects outlined in their IEP.

For more information, please visit <https://www.hcdsb.org/Programs/SpecialEducation/SpecialEducationPlan/Pages/Individual-Education-Plans.aspx>

Online Donations for Dance-a-thon

Donations can now be made online by parents and other members of the community by clicking on the "make a Donation" button on St. Dominic School's homepage. Complete the form by selecting a donation amount and the school you would like to donate to under the "Fund Destination" field. You can then "Add To Cart" and proceed to check out.

Please note: Tax receipts will be automatically generated and emailed upon payment.

School Cash Online

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. ***If you have not already done so, please take a few minutes to register!*** For more information, including FAQ, the benefits of this program, and how to register for School Cash Online, please visit: <http://www.hcdsb.org/Parents/Pages/School-Cash-Online.aspx>