



ST. DOMINIC SCHOOL

April 2019

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

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

Phone: (905) 827 - 4401

website: <https://elem.hcdsb.org/stdomnic/>
"Learning , Serving and Praying Together"

Please report your child's absence or late arrival using the School Messenger system:

1. School messenger app (available from Apple App or Google Play)
2. SchoolMessenger website: go.schoolmessenger.ca
3. Call 1-844-445-4505

School Board policy is if we are unable to confirm the whereabouts of a child we call police.

ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE

As April begins, we find ourselves in a series of "celebrations". We celebrate the Resurrection of our Saviour and the Easter season, the arrival of spring, and the continual contributions of our students and staff that make St. Dominic Catholic School such an amazing place to learn and grow.

Just as the apostles were told "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised." (Matt. 28: 5-6), we celebrate the season of Easter with joy, proclaiming "Alleluia" in the knowledge that through the suffering and death of Jesus, our sins are forgiven and we can enter into eternal life with our God.

We also celebrate that the days are getting warmer and are getting longer, the piles of snow and ice have melted, and flowers have started to bloom in the garden. Spring is finally upon us!!!

We are continually amazed at the generosity, caring and creativeness of the students and staff of St. Dominic Catholic School and are blessed to be a part of such an amazing place of learning. Thank you to our parent community for your continued support of your child's academic, social and spiritual growth.

As you read through this newsletter please make note of the number of special events and accomplishments of our students – St. Dominic is truly a great place to learn!!!!

Mrs. M. Braid
Principal



Mr. P. Deoni
Vice Principal

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES PRACTICES:

During the Fall and Spring, we are mandated to practice our Emergency Procedures for Fire Drills, Lock Down and Bomb Threat. Before the end of the school year, we will be reviewing and rehearsing our procedures with the students and staff.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ADVISORY UPDATE

Our next School Council Advisory meeting will be held on Thursday, April 4 at 6:30 p.m. in the Library. Remember to check the School Council Bulletin Board at the school as well as the school website for Council information and for council meetings and minutes. All are welcome to attend Council Meetings.

JK REGISTRATION

If you have a child at home eligible for Junior Kindergarten in September (born in 2015) and have not yet registered them, we would appreciate it if you could do so as soon as possible. We are working on organization for the 2019/2020 school year and it is very important that we have accurate numbers so that we can set up classes and know our staffing needs. You can come by the school anytime between 7:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. with your child's birth certificate, and R.C. Baptismal of child.

**** IMPORTANT** MOVING?**



Please let the office know as soon as possible if you are moving and won't be returning in September 2019. We are beginning preliminary planning for next year's class sizes and this information is very helpful in the planning process.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK

This year Catholic Education Week will run from May 6 to May 10 with the theme "Living as Joyful Disciples". Information regarding events will be communicated shortly.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

Invitations will be sent by email for our Volunteer Appreciation Lunch that will be held on Friday, May 10, during Catholic Education Week.

This year we will not be sending personalized invitations. If you have volunteered in any capacity consider yourself to be invited.

We just ask that you please RSVP so we know how many to expect.

ST. DOMINIC SENIOR BASKETBALL TEAMS



Congratulations to our boys and girls senior basketball teams who ended a successful regular season. Both teams demonstrated incredible commitment, dedication and sportsmanship on and off the court. *A special thank you to our coaches Mr. Sajko, Mr. Petruccelli, Miss Corbacio and Mlle. Hicks. Your time and expertise is greatly appreciated!*

CELEBRATION OF SACRAMENTS:

Please join us in offering prayers of thanksgiving for our Grade 2 students as they receive their First Holy Communion during the parish masses on Saturday, April 27 at St. Dominic Church. We want to thank St. Dominic Parish and Fr. D'Sa for his assistance in preparation and our teachers: Mrs. Singer, Mrs. Makhlouf, Mrs. Hart, Mrs. Vasilak and Ms. Sas for the preparation of their students. We also thank our Grade 2 parents for your guidance and encouragement in the faith formation of your children.



Please join us in offering prayers of thanksgiving for our Grade 7 students as they receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday, May 25 at St. Dominic Church. We want to thank St. Dominic Parish and Fr. D'Sa for his assistance in preparation and the student retreat, and our teachers: Miss McNamara, Mr. MacPhail and Mr. Taraschi for the preparation of their students.



Healthy Snack Volunteers Wanted!

St. Dominic and community partner, Halton Food for Thought, have been providing healthy, nutritious snacks in classroom bins for 5 years now and through the "grab n' go" breakfast program for 4 years. The current parent volunteers will be "graduating" as their children move on to high school! If you're interested in ensuring that this valuable program continues at St. Dominic, please contact the office to learn more.

HOCKEY TEAM

Congratulations to our St. Dominic hockey team who participated in 4 tournaments this year and did an awesome job!

Thanks to Mr. Petruccelli, Mr. Taraschi and Mr. Sajko for coaching the team.

Congratulations!

RECOGNIZING STUDENT EXCELLENCE

We are pleased to announce that Kyra B. is this year's recipient of the **Award of Excellence** for demonstrating outstanding qualities in the following areas: Catholic leadership, family commitment, involvement in school affairs, involvement in community activities and dedication to a difficult situation or task. Kyra will be honoured at this year's awards ceremony on April 29th at Holy Trinity Secondary School.

We are proud of all of the accomplishments of our students at St. Dominic. As a staff, we thank the parents for your continued support!

EQAO ASSESSMENTS OF READING, WRITING AND MATHEMATICS

Similar to previous years, our Grade 3 and 6 students will participate in the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) Primary and Junior Division assessments of Reading, Writing and Mathematics.

Students will be required to complete three test booklets: one mathematics booklet, one reading booklet and one writing booklet. The types of questions in the booklets will be familiar to your child as they are based on the kinds of work your child has been doing throughout the year. The total amount of time that the students will spend on the testing will be six hours that is generally spread over the course of two or three days. Sample questions can be viewed on the EQAO website at www.eqao.com.

We ask that you make every effort to avoid holidays and booking appointments during the week of the assessment and to try to make sure your children are in attendance each day during the assessment. The EQAO assessment results help us to continue to improve upon the quality Catholic education offered to your children. Additional specific information regarding the assessments will be sent home to our Grade 3 and 6 parents. **The assessment has been scheduled to take place from May 22 to May 29.**

The Use of Technology and Digital Citizenship – HCDSB Operating Policy 1-43

The following reminder is in response to an increase in the number of issues brought forward to the Principal's attention with regard to the appropriate use of personal electronic devices.

The Board provides users with access to appropriate technology to support teaching and learning, and to enable efficient Board administration and communication. Technology, including personally owned devices, must be used appropriately for these intended purposes. This Use of Technology and Digital Citizenship policy supports the principles and expectations of the Board's Safe Schools policies (II-39, II-40), and the Board's commitment to providing education that is distinctively Catholic, nurturing the call to love and serve by creating positive climates for learning and working.

The policy applies to the use of personally owned technology, including personally owned computers and mobile devices, when used on Board property or when used to access Board resources. Inappropriate use of personally owned technology, while on or off school property, which has a negative impact on school climate will result in a full investigation and necessary action will be taken, where appropriate. Consequences for inappropriate use are outlined both in the Code of Conduct as well in the Board's Safe Schools policies (II-39, II-40).

EASTER BASKETS

Earlier this week a letter was sent by email regarding our Lenten Almsgiving Project. Thank you Miss Moscato for organizing this initiative.



ISW UNIFORM

The website to our uniform provider is www.iswuniforms.com. The code required for on-line ordering is SDEH.

PUBLIC SPEAKING FINALS

The Halton Catholic District School Board's annual Public Speaking Regional competition for English Speaking students was held on **Wednesday, March 20th**. Congratulations to Rachel M.. from Mr. MacPhail's Grade 7 class who represented St. Dominic School.

NUT ALLERGY ALERT REMINDER

Please DO NOT send in food items, as a treat for your child's class. We must protect the safety of our anaphylactic children. We appreciate the extra effort required to comply with this request and ask for your understanding as we enforce this very important protocol.

As well please do not send sunbutter or soybutter or any of the products that resemble peanut butter. Staff are unable to differentiate these foods from peanut butter.

EARLY PICK UPS

Please write a note in your child's agenda if you will be picking them up early.

If it is a last minute appointment come to the office, allowing for time for us to locate your child.

It is not necessary to call the office in advance.



PARKING LOT / KISS and RIDE / BUS Reminders:

Every school day, almost 700 students and staff make their way into and out of our school either by walking, being driven or taking a bus. This carefully choreographed movement of people and vehicles requires that all parties remember patience and safety as they move about the parking lots and Kiss and Ride. A few safety reminders for our families:

- There is lots of room in the main parking lot in the morning – if you need to get out of your vehicle to undo seat belts or car seats, please park and walk your child(ren) to the front sidewalk using the cross walk and “crossing guard”
- Kiss and Ride lane is meant for quick and easy drop off in the morning. We ask that drivers remain in the vehicle and that students exit using only the left side passenger door(s) directly onto the sidewalk. Please follow the directions of staff to move as far forward as possible when dropping off students and watch for the directions of the “crossing guard” and school buses.
- Our “Crossing Guard” staff member works hard to manage pedestrians from the parking lot, cars in the Kiss and Ride lane and school buses. Thank you to all for watching carefully and following the directions given so that everyone comes to school and back to home safely.
- Families who are walking from the main parking lot are asked to remember to follow the directions of the “crossing guard” and always check before heading across the “crosswalk”. Parents are kindly reminded that the “crosswalk” is the only way to travel between the school sidewalk and the parking lot.
- We have a number of buses that transport students to and from our school each day. In the morning, they use the right hand lane of the Kiss and Ride lane to enter the school area and their drop off zone. In the afternoon, they use the Kiss and Ride lane to get close to the sidewalk in front of the school. Thank you for giving them room to manoeuvre and safely unload or load students and not to block their access.

Please remember that yard supervision and staff who assist with Kiss and Ride and “crossing guard” begin at 8:05 am. Students should not be dropped off before 8:05 am as they are not supervised by school staff. Students from the YMCA program may be on the yard prior to 8:05 am, however, they are supervised by YMCA staff. Parents who walk their children to school are reminded to please refrain from entering the school yard in the morning and stay at the fence or gate. Parents dropping off students after the entry bell at 8:20 for the start of the school day, are reminded they must report to the office and not proceed to classrooms. We maintain this expectation for the safety of all our students.



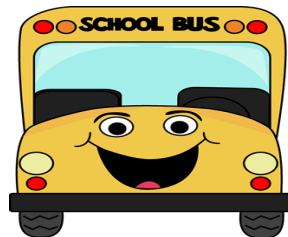
LUNCH PROCEDURES

A reminder that students are not permitted to leave the school premises without a signed and dated note from parents/guardians. Verbal permission by phone, emails and texts will not be accepted. Parents who pick up students for lunch are asked to meet them in the front lobby.



BUS PROCEDURES

Please note that Halton Student Transportation Service Operating Procedure HS-1-004 states that “Requests for changes made on an ad hoc basis or for a limited time, such as switching buses to visit friends or go to a babysitter’s house when parents are travelling or on holidays, shall **not** be considered as courtesy seat requests and **shall not be approved**.”



WALK WITH JESUS

The Halton Catholic School Board is pleased to announce our ninth annual **Walk With Jesus** student walkathon in support of Catholic Education Week.

Eighteen student representatives from each of our 55 schools will participate in this event on Thursday, May 9th. Students will exhibit a sense of community and solidarity in support of their Catholicity as they walk from Jean Vanier Catholic Secondary School to Mattamy National Cycling Centre (Milton Velodrome), at which point they will participate in Mass led by Father John Van Hees.

An important social justice focus of our Walk With Jesus is to provide students with fundraising opportunities in support of the Halton Catholic Children’s Education Foundation or a charity of choice as determined by individual schools.

The participation of students from throughout the Halton Catholic District School Board community in our annual Walk With Jesus will demonstrate that “children helping children” is an important and achievable goal of this board-wide initiative in support of Catholic Education Week. You can stay connected on the day of the event by following us on Twitter using the hashtag: #HCWWJ. Please keep us in your prayers on Thursday, May 9th.