

ST. DOMINIC SCHOOL

March 2019

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

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

Phone: (905) 827 - 4401

"Learning, Serving and Praying Together"

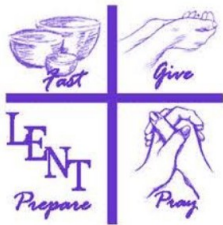
Please continue to use School Messenger when your child will be absent or late by:

1. Using the School Messenger mobile app (available from 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

It is school board policy that we call police if we are unable to confirm the whereabouts of a child.

ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE

As a Catholic faith community, we will begin our Lenten journey on Ash Wednesday, March 6th. Lent is the time of the church year in which we are called to deepen our relationship with God through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. These actions help prepare us for the celebration of Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday.



Our school continues to be a very vibrant and busy place with a number of student-organized activities and initiatives. We are thankful for the support of the staff

and the parent community in these activities and allowing our students the opportunity to witness and be a positive, responsible citizen of change.

On behalf of the staff, we wish you a peaceful and restful March Break!

7 WAYS TO MAKE LENT JOYFUL:

- *Start all prayers with praise
 - *Take time with God in a beautiful place
 - *Don't carry the world's pain on your own back
 - *Fast for the sake of richer food – the daily Eucharist
 - *Take flowers and a smile to a sick person
 - *Reconcile with an estranged friend
 - *Compliment someone on making the world better
- from Catholic Update, 2/95 St. Anthony Messenger*

MOVING—IMPORTANT PLEASE READ

Please let the office know if you are moving and/or won't be returning to St. Dominic in September 2019, **including those who's child has been accepted for grade 1 or grade 5 French Immersion.** We are beginning preliminary planning for next year's class sizes and this information is very helpful in the planning process. It is crucial that we have as accurate a count as possible so that we are able to structure our classes accordingly. If your child will not be returning in September please email talbots@hcdsb.org

NOTES TO PARENTS

Recently we have had issues with students bringing in a variety of toys and games to school. Although we appreciate that these bring entertainment to your child during recess periods they have presented us with some challenges. We have had incidences of Beyblades, Pokeman Cards, My Little Pony, etc being lost and or broken. Staff are spending a great deal of time attempting to investigate such incidences. Moving forward, we will not ban such items at school but will not be responsible and not continue to investigate such issues. We thank you for your understanding with regard to this matter.

The expectation of students at St. Dominic School is one of respect and compliance to requests from staff. Throughout the year, we have repeatedly asked students to remove their hoods once inside the school and to refrain from the use of any Air Buds and or earphones as well as the unauthorized use of cellphones while at school. Please be made aware that if your child does not respect these rules that appropriate consequences will be applied. We would appreciate your reviewing this information with your child.

MARCH BREAK

The annual spring break will be from **Monday, March 11 to Friday, March 15.** School will resume on **Monday, March 18.** Enjoy a safe and restful March Break.



Spring Break

PEANUT ALLERGY ALERT



REMINDER

As a school, we can never guarantee an allergen free environment but have strategies in place to provide a "minimized allergen environment".

Please do not send your child with any peanut or nut products.

As well please do not send any pea butter or soy butter. It is impossible for staff to differentiate between these products and peanut butter.

Please DO NOT send in food items as a treat for your child's class. Let's avoid disappointment by creatively considering other ways to celebrate birthdays and other occasions at school (i.e. pencils or stickers). 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.

MISSED LUNCHES



Please note that to replace the salad lunches from the snow days in February, the salad lunch will be extended to Wednesday, May 15, 2019.

The Pizza day from February 12 will be held on Wednesday, May 22. The students did receive their cookies from the cancelled pizza day.

The next Pita Pit session begins on Thursday, March 7.



STUDENT INFORMATION

Please note that it is very important that you advise the school office immediately of any change in phone numbers, emergency contacts, address or e-mail address. We must have up to date information in order to respond promptly in an emergency situation and to share school information with you.

PUBLIC SPEAKING FINALS

St. Dominic's Public Speaking Finals were held on **Friday, February 22nd**. The speech topics were varied and engaging and all the finalists spoke with poise and eloquence. Well done! Congratulations our winner, Rachel M.! Rachel will be representing St. Dominic School at The Halton Catholic District School Board's annual Public Speaking Regional competition for English Public Speaking students. The competition will be at St. Teresa of Calcutta School on Wednesday, March 20 at 7 p.m..



CELEBRATION OF SACRAMENTS FIRST RECONCILIATION

Please join us in offering prayers of thanksgiving for our Grade 2 students as they receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturday, March 2 at 11:00 am at St. Dominic Church. We want to thank St. Dominic Parish and Fr. D'Sa for their assistance in preparation and our teachers: Mrs. Hart, Mrs. Makhoul, Ms. Sas Mrs. Singer and Mrs. Vasilak for the preparation of their students.

IMPORTANT REMINDER—ILLNESS

If your children are unwell please keep them at home. If your child has been vomiting in the night or the morning of the school day they need to be at home. If they are coughing and congested they need to be at home. Not only will they not be up to learning and activities of a normal school day but it is best to stay home when sick to avoid sharing viruses with the many other children in the school. There are certain illnesses (pink eye and strep for example) that **require** 24 hour exclusion from the start of medication. These illnesses are highly contagious.

Please keep in mind as well there is no supervision for children to remain indoors at recess. If they are unable to go outside, they should not be in school.



EARTH HOUR

This is a reminder that **Saturday, March 30, 2019** from **8:30 – 9:30 p.m.** is **Earth Hour**. This event is more than switching off lights for one hour, once a year. It's a reminder that we can go **beyond the hour** by committing to conserve energy 365 days a year.



UNIFORM UPDATE

A reminder that our school uniform provider is ISW. You can order online at iswuniforms.com.

The St. Dominic code is "SDEH"

As well our Uniform Exchange Program is always available. If you have any gently used (no tears or stains please) uniform items that your children have outgrown please wash them and bring them in. You are welcome to come look through what we have at anytime and take what you need.

REPORT CARD ENVELOPES

Along with page 3 of your child's report card please remember to return the report card envelope. It is meant to be reused for the entire year.
Thank you.

PANCAKE TUESDAY

On Tuesday, March 5 students who returned permission forms will receive either a pancake or gluten free waffle. This is a snack only students still need to bring a lunch.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE

Remember to check the school website for School Advisory Council information and for council meetings and minutes. All are welcome to attend council meetings.

CLASS PLACEMENT 2019 – 2020

The planning process that will result in the school / class organization for the 2019-2020 school year will be beginning in the coming months. It is our hope that by sharing the information concerning school organization, you will understand the care and thought that is required to develop a plan for each of our students.

The task is complex, time consuming and because it is consensus seeking, must be the subject of many revisions. The process will begin soon and will continue right up to the final publication of class lists in September.

Our primary goal at St. Dominic Catholic School is to develop balanced classes. A balanced class reflects the diversity of our community and allows the variety of interests and talents of our learners to emerge and be appreciated.

It is our hope that each new school year brings opportunities for students to meet new friends and expand their circle of acquaintances. We try to place the child where he or she will be able to work best and achieve the most success. In building classes we use the following criteria:

1. Heterogeneous groupings—a balance of abilities in each class.
2. A balance according to gender.
3. Social blending—we attempt to place students in groupings where they will learn effectively. This should not be viewed as a grouping of friends. At particular stages, some close friends learn best in separate classes.

The staff at St. Dominic Catholic School are a group of dedicated professionals. Years of meeting the learning needs of children gives them the unique qualifications to make these decisions. It takes many hours of discussion, reflection, revision and consideration of alternatives to arrive at the best organization for our school.

The Halton Catholic Children's Education Foundation Wants to Hear from You!

The Halton Catholic Children's Education Foundation (HCCEF) is charitable organization that supports students and families in need across the Halton Catholic District School Board (HCDSB). HCCEF is currently seeking input from all members of the HCDSB community.

Please take a few minutes to share your feedback through this brief online survey: <http://bit.ly/HCCEF-Survey2019>.

The survey will remain open from Sunday, February 24 to Friday, March 8, 2019.

The feedback you provide will assist the HCCEF in helping more students and families. For more information about HCCEF, visit [their website at: https://www.hccef.org](https://www.hccef.org).

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

If you have a child at home eligible for JK in September 2019 and have not yet registered, please come into the school office to do so as soon as possible. It is **very important** that we have an accurate count of students for September.

Dear Parents and Guardians,

You may have read recent reports in the media about an internet hoax called the 'Momo Challenge' that is presumably being shared on social media platforms.

The existence of the 'Momo Challenge' has not been verified, however the phenomenon has been getting a lot of attention in the media, and as a parent you may have some questions or concerns.

The Momo Challenge is a recurring viral hoax that first surfaced in 2016 in relation to a mobile instant messaging application called *WhatsApp*. Allegedly, the interactions usually started out with an invitation to play a game, but then evolved into Momo encouraging the child to complete dangerous dares and potentially self-harm. There is no evidence to verify that this Momo Challenge ever existed.

Earlier this week, rumours started to circulate again online and in the media about the Momo Challenge, this time in relation to the online video-sharing application, *YouTube*. YouTube has confirmed that despite media reports, they have not seen any evidence on its platform to support that the Momo Challenge is real. They have also confirmed that the Momo image is not allowed on the YouTube Kids app.

As a parent, it is natural to feel worried or concerned about what you see and read in the media that may be harmful to your child. From time to time, internet hoaxes will go viral, and while the threats may not be real, they provide an opportunity to remind children about online safety.

Tips for Parents – Speaking to Your Child About Online Safety

- Talk regularly with your child about their online activity. Just like asking your child about their day at school, it is equally important to keep the conversation going about their social media interactions.
- Get to know the online environments or social media platforms your child uses and teach them how to deal with inappropriate material.
- If your child asks about 'Momo', reassure them that 'Momo' is not real. Similar to an urban legend or horror story, the concept of Momo, and even the image itself, can be quite frightening and upsetting to many children or youth.

Additional Resources

In addition to the above tips, additional information for parents is also available on the Government of Canada website at: [Get Cyber Safe – Keeping Your Child Safe Online](#) .

As always, the safety and well-being of our students is our highest priority. If you have any concerns about your child, please do not hesitate to contact me.

M. Braid
Principal



Help Your Child Succeed in School: Build the Habit of Good Attendance Early

School success goes hand in hand with good attendance!

DID YOU KNOW?

- Starting in kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10 percent (or about 18 days) can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two days every few weeks.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- Absences can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Start building this habit in preschool so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important. Good attendance will help children do well in high school, college, and at work.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Set a regular bed time and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Don't let your child stay home unless she is truly sick. Keep in mind complaints of a stomach ache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home.
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors, or other parents for advice on how to make her feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor, or another parent.
- Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.

When Do Absences Become a Problem?



Note: These numbers assume a 180-day school year.