

ST. DOMINIC CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER

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www.dom.schools.smcdsb.on.ca



ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY (PA) DAY - APRIL 8, 2016

As a result of the recent settlements with teachers' federations in the province, school boards across Ontario received direction from the Ministry of Education to add an additional PA day to their 2015-2016 school year calendar. In response to this requirement, the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board (SMCDSB) has identified **Friday, April 8, 2016** as a PA day for all of its schools (elementary and secondary).

Teachers and other staff will be using this PA day for occupational health and safety training as well as professional learning on Ministry of Education priorities.

We ask all parents and guardians to please make note of this change on their calendars. We are communicating this date well in advance so parents and guardians have ample time to make any necessary arrangements for their families.



HOCKEY CANADA SKILLS ACADEMY

Beginning in September 2016, St. Dominic Catholic Secondary School in Bracebridge will offer the innovative Hockey Canada Skills Academy (HCSA) for Grade 9 and 10 students. HCSA is a unique program and staff and students at St. Dominic are excited that it will now be offered at their school. Students can choose the program as part of their course selection and receive two physical education credits, while at the same time improving their individual and technical hockey skills. The program emphasizes hockey skills as well as fitness, nutrition and leadership. Students will be provided with state of the art training aids, ice time, elite level coaching from certified instructors, as well as the opportunity to take part in several other community involvement programs.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK

Catholic Education Week will take place this year May 2- May 6. The theme chosen for the upcoming 2016 Catholic Education Week is: **Catholic Education: Opening Doors of Mercy**



Pope Francis has declared 2016 a "Holy Year of Mercy" as a way for the Catholic Church to "make more evident its mission to be a witness of mercy". Throughout the year there will be a series of jubilee celebrations on the theme of mercy for teenagers, deacons, the sick and disabled, prisoners, catechists and clergy. Catholic Education Week 2016 combines both the theme of mercy and the act of opening doors of reconciliation, mercy, and forgiveness to all around us. Our Provincial Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday May 3rd where everyone is welcome to join us and our 'Spirit of Youth' breakfast will be on Wednesday May 4th.

"Jesus is waiting for us and wants to heal our hearts of all that tears us down. He is the God who has a name: Mercy" - Tweet by Pope Francis February 14, 2016

CHAPLAINCY NEWS

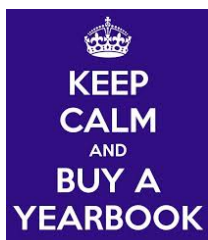
What a whirlwind the first week of Semester 2 has been and it is not letting up! On Tuesday February 9 we came together to have our Pancake Tuesday breakfast in the cafeteria. Thanks to Ms. Vandenberg and Christina for making all of the pancakes. On Wednesday February 10, we began our Lenten journey with Father Roy saying two liturgies for us based on grade levels. Thanks to the grade 9 students who read at both liturgies and for Tiffany-Rea who distributed ashes with Father Roy. We had 10 students experience the Poverty Challenge at Nipissing University in Bracebridge. We also had a few students walk in Huntsville at the Coldest Night of the Year fundraiser. Class masses will begin again this week with Father Roy in the chapel on Wednesday mornings.

I am reminded of a Lenten quote by Father Joseph F. Sica that in these busy days when our soul can lag, Jesus who nourishes our soul will whisper "I'll take care of you."

FSL

French students will be enjoying presentations. A Yes Canada presentation took place on February 22nd 2016, and Miryam Blasko from ISE Canada recently joined us on February 16th. YES Canada provides study abroad programs to over 20 exciting countries across the world! They give students the opportunity to fully immerse themselves in a brand new culture, language and environment while living with a host family and attending a host high school in their country of choice. ISE Canada will be accepting Host First student exchange applications with a due date of April 1, 2016. For more information, please call Madame Mahon at extension 516.

YEARBOOKS



The yearbook committee has some exciting news: You can now order your yearbook online! There are two formats to choose from:

Soft Cover Yearbook. \$35.00

Hard Cover Yearbook. \$40.00

Deadline to order is April 15th

Order yours today at ybpay.lifetouch.com Search for St. Dominic Catholic Secondary School

COURSE SELECTIONS ARE HAPPENING NOW!!

The course selection process is well underway for September 2016! This week, students will be choosing their courses for next year and placing them into the Career Cruising program. Instructions and links to Career Cruising have been sent to student's school email accounts. Please take some time to discuss the options with your student. Our course calendar and Career Cruising can be found on our website. Individual appointments can be made in Student Services should students have any questions. If you have any questions or concerns and would like to speak with Student Services please call 705-646-8772 x356.



GRADE 10 - ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL LITERACY TEST (OSSLT)

This year the OSSLT is March 31st. This provincially mandated test will be given to all the Grade 10 students and to students who missed it or were unsuccessful. **This very important test is a graduation/diploma requirement.** Please ensure that any appointments and vacations are not scheduled on these dates.

GRADE 9 REGISTRATION

Registration for all students starting in September 2016 is happening now. If you know anyone who is interested in joining our St. Dominic family please call Student Services at 705-646-8772 x306 for more information. Tours of the school and transition meetings with staff and administration to help introduce new students to our school are always available.



STUDENT ABSENCES

If your child is going to be absent from school, please contact the school at 705-646-8772 X301 or provide a note when your son/daughter returns by 8:45 to student services or your child will be considered truant. Students must sign in or out at the main office where your signature is required if your child is under 18.



REMINDERS...uniform and cell phones

As the cold weather continues, please remember that only white shirts are permitted under uniform pieces. Socks must be dark green or navy and tights, navy, dark green or neutral. Remember that each classroom teacher has a cellphone policy. If a cellphone is out without the permission of the teacher, the student and the phone will be sent to the office.

ST. DOMINIC STUDENTS LEARNING "IN THE CLOUD"



In an effort to support a 'personalized education' **every student** will have the use of a Samsung Chromebook or BYOD. This tool will travel with each student in an effort to offer a new approach to learning. The Chromebooks have been a great learning tool for students and teachers. Please continue to encourage your child to self-regulate their online use to educational purposes only. **Students can even continue to connect with their teachers while being away from school. Some of our students continue to conference with their classmates and teachers in real time while being absent due to a number of reasons: snowday, illness, tournaments.**

PARENT ENGAGEMENT MEETINGS

Our next parent Engagement Meetings will be held on Monday April 11th & May 9th at 6:30pm in the school library.

PROM 2015

The 2016 Senior Prom is starting to get planned, date, location and cost will be soon solidified. Listen for Early bird tickets.



ST. DOMINIC TO TANZANIA !

It's official...our mission trip destination has been confirmed and our team is off to Tanzania in the spring of 2017. Our entire team would like you to keep us in your thoughts and prayers over the next 18 months as we start to prepare for this journey. Our Team, consisting of Mr. Scarlett, Ms. Vandenberg, Mrs. Starratt and Mr. Strong PLUS 19 students are super-excited about bringing a little piece of Muskoka and Parry Sound to East Africa.

NEWS FROM STUDENT SERVICES

The Student Services Department has been taking advantage of the fact that all students have access to chromebooks and gmail on a daily basis. Information about scholarships, course selections, dual credits and leadership opportunities are sent to students' school gmail account regularly. Please encourage your child to check their school email account regularly. For up to date information and a glimpse into life at St.Dominic follow us on Twitter @StDomGuidance and @St_DominicCSS.

GRADUATION

Mark your calendar for Wednesday June 29th the night our grade 12 students have been waiting for! Please keep in mind that ALL graduates need to complete their 40 hours of community service prior to MAY 1st. Please keep the following dates in mind:



May 1st - Grad fees (\$50) and intent to graduate form due to Student Services/Community Service Hours due

June 6th - Grad Mass

June 3rd - Grad Retreat

June 14th @ 9:30 - Grad Rehearsal

June 29th - Graduation Ceremony @ St.Dominic CSS

*Graduates are to be at the school by 6:30 and the ceremony begins at 7:00.

Bursaries and Scholarships are posted and continually updated in Student Services. Dollar amounts and due dates vary so please check the board regularly.

EXAMS AND OTHER SUMMATIVE EVALUATIONS



Please note the dates for final exams this year (SEE BELOW). Full attendance during exams is essential to your child's success. The week prior to exams many classes have additional in-class exam components, in which attendance is also mandatory. The last 3 weeks of most courses is designated to completing Course Culminating Tasks. The summative mark in each course, consisting of the CCT assignment and final exams constitute 30% of your child's mark in each course. It is imperative that your child be in full attendance during these busy times.

Dates for both additional in-class exam components and final exams will not be rescheduled. Please do not book vacations, plan to attend tournaments, have job commitments, etc. during this time. A mark of zero will be assigned if your child does not attend on the date of their scheduled exam or additional in-class exam component. Should a major medical illness arise please contact the Main Office. A Doctor's note indicating the medical emergency and the impossibility to complete the exam on the scheduled date is required, or a mark of zero will be assigned. In most cases CCT dates in the last 3 weeks of the course will not be rescheduled. Please ensure that you are contacting both the teacher and the Main Office prior to absences during this time.

Your child's success is our priority, and we want to ensure your child has every opportunity to be successful not only throughout the semester, but also during the essential summative evaluations in the final weeks of each semester. Thank you for your co-operation.

NEWS FROM OUR CO-CURRICULAR DEPARTMENT-Dragon Athletics



As the winter sports season draws to a conclusion the Dragons have demonstrated plenty of school spirit as they have competed in the Muskoka Parry Sound League. The Senior Boys Basketball teams, coached by Mr. Albisser and Mr. Ager had very productive, developmental season and are looking forward to the MPS Championship at HHS. With most of the team returning next year they expect to put a competitive team on the court. The Junior Girls Volleyball team, coached by Mr. Blum were very competitive all season and missed out by two points to qualify for MPS Championship. The Senior Girls volleyball team coached by Ms. Vandenberg demonstrated strong improvement over the season and pushed the HHS team to a game four in their final match.

All of these athletes demonstrated a strong commitment to their teams and sportsmanship throughout their seasons. The coaches were very proud of the way they competed. The Badminton, Track and Girls Soccer team will be starting practices in the next few weeks.

GOOD LUCK TO OUR TEAMS, ATHLETES AND COACHES!!!!

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

<p><u>March</u> 9th – Parent/ Student Teacher Conference Night 5:00 – 7:30 pm 11th – Civvies Day 14th – 18th – March Break 21st – Classes resume 25th – Good Friday 27th - Easter Sunday 28th – Easter Monday 31st – Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test 29th – Palm Sunday</p> <p><u>April</u> 8th – NEW – PA day 11th – Parent Engagement – 6:30 – 7:30 19th – Term 1 Ends 20th – Term 2 Begins 29th – Civvies Day 29th – Midterms sent home</p>	<p><u>May</u> 2nd – 6th – Catholic Education Week 3rd – Provincial Wide Mass 4th – Spirit of Youth Breakfast 5th – Midterms Sent home 6th – PA Day 9th – Parent Engagement Night 6:30 – 7:30 23rd – Victoria Day Holiday 27th – Civvies Day</p> <p><u>June</u> 3rd – Grad. Retreat 10th – Grad Mass / Athletic Banquet Exams – June 21 29th - Graduation 30th – PA Day</p> <p><u>July</u> 1st- Canada Day 6th/7th – Final Reports Available for pickup 8th – Final Reports Mailed out</p>
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SPREAD THE WORD We want all of our parents to become ambassadors for our great school. Please spread the word that everyone is welcome at St. Dominic!



We are inviting all Grade 7 & 8 students from Bracebridge, Gravenhurst, Huntsville, Parry Sound and the surrounding areas to visit our school throughout the year. Tell your friends and neighbours to come and see what St. Dominic has to offer. Even though our values are based on Catholic traditions, we welcome all students who are on a faith journey.

Feel the difference and Share the experience.

For more information, please call student services at: [705-646-8772](tel:705-646-8772) extension 306.