



ST. DOMINIC CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2018 - Issue 3 of 4

FROM THE OFFICE

It has been a very busy startup for Semester 2 as you will see throughout this newsletter. We would like to welcome the following staff to our team: Miss Sek, Mrs. Cox, Mrs. Kowalska and Mrs. Johns. It is wonderful that we were recently featured in the Neighbours of Bracebridge January 2018 edition, *Community Spirit - Meet St. Dominic Catholic Secondary School*.



OUR STORY - OUR JOURNEY

Catholic Education Week is held each year in May in our 29 Ontario Catholic school boards. It will run from May 6 – May 11, 2018. The 2018 CEW theme and its five sub-themes are drawn from three contemporary Catholic documents that address the need for reconciliation and renewal – in our lives, with our families, in our relationships with others and in our relationship with our environment and our common global future.

The theme for CEW 2018, *Renewing the Promise*, draws upon previous documents on Ontario Catholic education, namely, “This Moment of Promise” (1989), “Fulfilling the Promise” (1993) and “Our Catholic Schools” (2006-2007). These three documents, while several years apart from each other, all speak of the unique mission of Ontario Catholic education, the importance of its shared leadership by all those involved in Catholic education and the critical role of Catholic education in contemporary society. Pope Francis continually reminds us in word and in action, that in imitation of Jesus, we are called to service in our work in Catholic education.

CHAPLAINCY NEWS UPDATE

School wide Christian Meditation is happening for 2 minutes each day during our Morning Reflection. Chapel Masses have also started up again and are running weekly in the Chapel at 10:30am with Father Peter Selvaraj and Father Roy Villas on alternate weeks. The chapel is also home to this year's Girls Unplugged program being run by the YWCA weekly on Wednesday afternoons.. Miss Sek's Drama class is preparing for the school wide Stations of the Cross on Holy Thursday.

Retreat planning is well underway with confirmed dates as follows:

Thursday May 4th - Places of Worship Pilgrimage

Wednesday May 16th - Grade 9 - Leadership Retreat - Morrison Meadows

Thursday June 7th - Grade 12 Grad Retreat Kerr Park -

Grade 10's Day of Service is TBD



GRADE 10 - ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL LITERACY TEST (OSSLT)

This year the **OSSLT is April 10th, 2018**. This provincially mandated test will be given to all the Grade 10 students and to any student who did not write it in the past. **This very important test is a diploma requirement.** Please ensure that any appointments and vacations are not scheduled on these dates. **This will be a MODIFIED day for all other students who are not writing the OSSLT, communication was shared in February with Semester One Final Report Cards.**

ST. DOMINIC MISSION TRIP

St. Dominic recently announced our staff leading the 2018-19 Mission Team. Staff leaders will include Mrs. Starratt, Ms. Vandenberg, Mr. Downey and Mr. Strong. This team will be again heading to AFRICA.

24 students have been selected for this mission trip, which is a record breaking number.. The school will be helping reduce student costs through fundraising, so students will be required to help participate in these initiatives over the coming months as part of their commitment to the trip. Watch for meetings and fundraising opportunities in the near future! If you are interested in supporting or sponsoring students, please contact the school (705) 646-8772.



ST. DOMS WELL REPRESENTED AT SMCDSB TECHNOLOGY COMPETITION

St. Dominic continues to have high hopes for the seven students selected to represent the school at the 2018 SMCDSB technology based skills competition at St. Peter's in Barrie on March 6th. Students spent the day competing against others in the school board for an opportunity to face the top secondary students in the province in Toronto on May 7th.

Categories include; Graphic Design (2nd Place), Video Production (2nd Place), and Robotics (5th & 8th) - WELL DONE. In the Graphic Design category students will be challenged in various aspects of Studio Production. Demonstrating practical skills in such applications as Adobe InDesign, Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator. Project planning, knowledge of design, and technical competence is a must. The winner of this individual category advances directly to the provincial competition this spring. Team competitors have an opportunity to win a chance to contend at the regional competition. In the animation category teams of two students are given a theme, provided a soundtrack, and are then challenged to tell a story.



The contest will focus on the competitors' abilities to tell their story on paper through storyboarding. They will then bring their story to life by creating and animating the depicted scenes. In the video category teams of two competitors are required to produce an informational/promotional video on a theme given at the beginning of the challenge. Competitors must use their time to plan, script, shoot and edit the final video, all in one day. To learn more about the contest and opportunities for young students in technology visit skillsontario.com

ST. DOMINIC'S RECORD BREAKING SEASON

Written by Ashley F (Student Journalist)

The Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea this February were record-breaking for the Canadian team. They placed third overall in the medal count: 11 gold, 8 silver, and 10 bronze. While Canadian athletes competed in South Korea, athletes at St. Dominic were also having a record-breaking season in curling and girls junior volleyball.



Athletes are dedicated to their sport, spending the majority of their days practising to be better. The St. Dominic teams are no exception; the girl's volleyball team practised every Monday and Wednesday after school, while their games against other Muskoka schools took place on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The curling team went to the rink every Wednesday between November and February to learn and develop their skills at the winter sport. Both the boys and girls curling teams competed in the local MPS championship at the South Muskoka Curling Club on Friday February 16th. The boys team went 1-2 on the day, while the girls finished 2-1 with two strong victories over Huntsville High, but a tough loss against Parry Sound.

Volleyball champs

St. Dominic Catholic Secondary school is both a family and a community, and as such every student and staff member supports our teams fully. While the GBSAA Girl's Volleyball championship was in full swing in Midland, staff and students got updates of the team's progress paying 5 sets. After the game came, the celebration, as the girl's team rallied after being down 2 sets to win the GBSSA championship. The St. Dominic community erupted with pride in the school and on social media. Mr Strong, our principal, went on Twitter to express congratulations to both our team and the Elmvale team." Congratulations to the GBSAA Champs - Way to go @St_DominicCSS Junior Girls Vball winning the 5th set. Congratulations to Elmvale for a great season and game."



With the track and field season coming up and the badminton season beginning, it is safe to say that St. Dominic's has more golden potential. Congratulations to both record-breaking teams! Go Dragons!

ST. DOMINIC RECOGNIZES THEIR ATHLETES

The junior girls volleyball team had an extremely successful season. The team won the BMLSS junior tournament in December, finished first in MPS with a record of 9 wins and one loss and had a strong showing at the Huntsville tournament in February. At the MPS championship the team defeated AHSS, 3 game to none in the semi's and defeated HHS in the finals 3 game to 1 to win the MPS Championship.

The girls then moved on to the GBSSA championship to play a strong team from Elmvale. The team dropped the first two games but battled back to win the next three games and were crowned GBSSA Champions. Awesome work ladies!

Check out *Overtime Magazine* for some GREAT coverage of DOM athletics

[Girls Basketball - December 2017 Page 6](#) & [Girls' Volleyball - January 2018 Page 13](#)

HOCKEY CANADA SKILLS ACADEMY

Coverage by *Overtime Magazine* includes: [Hockey Canada Skills Academy - November 2017 Page 15](#)



The second class of our HCSA was a great success. We have 20 grade nine/ten/eleven student-hockey players plus a coop student assisting with facilitating the program. All of the students continue to make a determined effort and have demonstrated significant improvement in their skating, puck handling and passing skills. The group had a very enjoyable field trip, attending an OHL game in Mississauga between the Mississauga Steelheads and the Erie Otters.

Students who are currently in grade 9/10/11 may continue to be enrolled in HCSA during 2018-2019.

JUNIOR DRAGONS BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM



The Junior Boys Dragons Basketball team had an amazing 2017-2018 season. One of our best in the past decade. The team finished the season with a winning record with many highlights throughout the season. The boys played strong games against some of the larger schools in the region, battling hard with tight defense and timely scoring. The Dragons had big wins against BMLSS and Parry Sound on their way to qualifying as the third seed in the MPS playoffs. The semi final game was very close with only a few points separating St.Doms and Gravenhurst at the half. Ultimately the Dragons finished the season in third place. St.Dominic was very proud

of the team's accomplishments and we look forward to building on that success next year.

ROBOTICS TEAM

The Robotics team began at St. Dominic in November.

The school board's contest is based on the Ontario Skills event taking place in Toronto in May. St.Dominic has two groups representing the school at the March competition at St.Peter's in Barrie. Each group designed and programmed a robot to build a mock Oil Pipeline. Students and staff continue to be very excited to experience the learning gained through the robotics program. Students primarily use Vex Robotics tools in the program. As the Vex mission states, "the world faces an unprecedented need for new innovators, thinkers, and problem solving leaders." Learn more about Vex Robotics online at vexrobotics.com.



WATERLOO MATH CONTESTS

On February 27 eleven students wrote the 2018 Pascal (grade 9) and Cayley (grade 10) contests. Results are released in a few weeks; the top 3 students in each grade count towards our team scores. Here's a sample grade 9 question--how would you have fared? Question 15 (of 25): "A digital clock shows the time 4:56. How many minutes will pass until the clock next shows a time in which all the digits are consecutive and are in increasing order?" A 458 B 587 C 376 D 315 E 518

YEARBOOK

Keep your memories of this school year along with highlights of school events and classmates by buying a 2017-18 yearbook that has been assembled by our school's Yearbook course participants and published by LifeTouch Photographers. Yearbooks on sale online now. Full colour yearbooks cost:

- Softcover = \$35
- Hardcover = \$40

To purchase your yearbook online, visit www.ybpay.lifetouch.ca (St. Dominic access code #12679418). Yearbook sales will also take place in the school's front foyer during 2nd semester. See Ms. Kidd for more details.



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. **GUESS WHAT?** Students who are away from school (Snow Days / Illness) can still connect with their teachers.

COURSE SELECTIONS ARE HAPPENING NOW!!

The course selection process is well underway for September 2018! By now, most students have chosen their courses for next year and have placed 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. 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. A printout of the subjects that students have chosen will be distributed after March Break for parents and guardians to sign and return.

GRADE 9 REGISTRATION

Registration for all students in Muskoka/Parry Sound starting Grade 9 in September 2018 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 - Going Away on Vacation?

The ministry mandates that schools have a plan in place while students are away on Family Vacation (3 days or longer). Please call attendance two weeks prior, so that we can support the family vacation with the necessary documentation.



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 8:45am to Student Services or **your child will be considered truant**.

Students must sign in or out at the main office if they leave during the regular school day. Your signature is required in the main office log book, if your child is under 18.

REMINDERS: CELL PHONES

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. We kindly request that parents do not text or call their children while in class, this disrupts the educational flow when a teacher is teaching. Thank you for your support.

COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS

GRADE 9s – Did you know that you can start collecting your hours as of July 1-2017?

Students are reminded to complete their 40 hours of community service as it is a Secondary School Diploma requirement. A good rule of thumb is to complete 10 hours for each year of high school. Remember to keep track of hours on the Community Service Tracking Sheet located in the Guidance office (and online via our website) and submit these forms as hours are completed.



EXAMINATIONS - EXAMS AND OTHER SUMMATIVE EVALUATIONS

2nd Semester Final Exams are June 21 to June 27/ 2018. These dates include In-Class Exams as well. 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 (CCT's). 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 (for Gr. 9 students this includes the Math EQAO) 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** may 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 may be required, or a mark of zero may 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 support.

GRADUATION

Mark your calendar for Thursday June 29th the night our grade 12 students have been waiting for! 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 7th - Grad Retreat

June 8th - Grad Mass

June 14th- 1:00PM Grad Rehearsal

June 28th - Graduation Ceremony @ St.Dominic CSS



*Graduates are to be at the school by 6:30PM (Ceremony begins at 7:00PM)

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

IMPORTANT DATES

March

- ❑ 8th - Early Communication Letters Sent home
- ❑ 10th-18th March Break
- ❑ 22nd Parent/Student/Teacher Conference Night 5:00 - 7:00 Pm
- ❑ 23rd Civvies Day
- ❑ 30th Good Friday

April

- > 1st Easter Sunday
- > 2nd Easter Monday
- > 10th Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) - MODIFIED DAY
- > 27th PA day

May

- ★ 3rd Midterms sent home
- ★ 6th - 10th Catholic Education Week
 - 9th Spirit of Youth Breakfast
 - 10th - Mass
 - 10th Ready for High School Presentation evening TBD

June

- 1st - Tentative Prom TBD
- 7th Grad Retreat
- 8th Grad Mass
- 8th Athletic Banquet
- 14th EQAO - Math - Grade 9
- 21st Exams Start
- 28th Graduation

July

- ❖ 4th/5th Report Card pick up

SPREAD THE WORD

We want all of our parents to become ambassadors for our great school. 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.

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.

New families can visit our school homepage (stdoms.ca) or click on [this link](#) to complete our **Student Registration** form

Feel the difference and Share the experience.

For more information, please call Student Services at: **705-646-8772 extension 306.**