

ST. DOMINIC CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER

2019-2020(1 of 4)

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www.dom.schools.smcdsb.on.ca

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STAFF NEWS – WELCOME & THANK YOU

Welcome to Mr. McMillan, Mrs. Millen and Ms. Jones who have joined our St. Dominic staff this year. We would like to welcome all of our new students and their families. Many thanks to our office administrators and custodial staff for getting our school prepared for a smooth start up! We do ask parents to notify the school if any personal information has changed (phone numbers, addresses, etc). Thank you for entrusting our wonderful team to prepare your child for their future. We look forward to working with you. God Bless



SIMCOE MUSKOKA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD 2019/2020 THEME - CALLED TO BE OUR STORY

"We are always struck by the strength of the young Mary's 'yes', the strength in those words, 'be it done', that she spoke to the angel. This was no merely passive or resigned acceptance, or a faint 'yes', as if to say, 'Well, let's give it a try and see what happens'. Mary did not know the words, 'Let's see what happens'. She was determined; she knew what was at stake and she said 'yes' without thinking twice. Hers was the 'yes' of someone prepared to be committed, someone willing to take a risk, ready to stake everything she had, with no more security than the certainty of knowing that she was the bearer of a promise." (Pope Francis, Exhortation "Christus Vivit," #44)

Every year, our Board chooses a spiritual theme. For the 2019-2020 school year, we have reintroduced the theme, "Called To Be Our Story". This was also the theme for the 2019-2019 school year, and many students and families may be familiar with this theme.

Message from our Trustee

Catholic schools which always strive to join their work of education with the explicit proclamation of the Gospel, are a most valuable resource for the evangelization of culture. Pope Francis

Welcome back! I hope you had a chance to spend time with family and friends this summer, and that you have had a smooth transition back to the school year.

Our school board is currently involved in a process to assess and update our multi-year strategic plan, Our Faith ~ Our Future. As part of that process, the strategic planning committee is conducting a survey to gather feedback from all of you. The following is taken from the survey:

The Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board (SMCDSB) is committed to providing a rich inclusive education for our students rooted in the traditions and values of the Catholic faith. Currently, we are working on our strategic plan which will set the vision, direction and priorities for our Board for the next 5 years. This Strategic Planning Survey is an opportunity for you to share your voice as part of our education community (students, parents, employees, community partners, etc), and will help to inform our decision-making regarding the SMCDSB's vision, goals and priorities.

Please visit www.smcdsb.on.ca and click on "Tell Us What You Think". Your feedback will help us to make the strategic plan as relevant as possible for Muskoka and Parry Sound.

Once again this year, students and staff will be guided by the theme of "Called to BE our Story". Classes will explore the theme through the gospel, how we take care of our earth, our commitment to Truth and Reconciliation, and our celebration of the diversity that is one of Canada's greatest strengths.

October is such a beautiful month! I hope that each of you has a chance to enjoy the stunning area where we are blessed to live.

God Bless,

Carol Corriveau-Truchon

From - Faith Matters Issue #13

The end of August (sadly!) marks the end of summer for most of us in the world of education. It is a time to look ahead to the new school year that is about to begin, and to re-focus our energies on the task of providing the best, most inspiring and empowering Catholic education possible for our young people—and that is a task that takes the combined efforts of every single one of us! As we come back from the summer, and begin to make the transition back to work, it is a particularly appropriate time to ask God's blessing on us and our work, to guide us throughout the months ahead, with all of the joys and challenges that they will inevitably hold.

STUDENT ACTIVITY FEE

Thank you to those families who have already paid their Student Activity Fees for the 2019/2020 school year. Payment of this fee helps support religious retreats, field trips, sports teams, guest speakers, dances/prom, student clubs, learning commons furniture, and provides your son/daughter with a student card. The fee is \$35.00. Please ensure your son/daughter's activity fee is paid as soon as possible on our online payment system, School-Day. We do encourage all families to pay this fee, should you require help to set up or log in to School-Day, please visit the main office for assistance. Last years monies went to Chromebook purchases / Projector replacements / Field Trip bussing / Retreats / Student Council.

SCHOOL DAY - CASHLESS SCHOOL

The Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board understands that it can be difficult for parents to stay on top of all the activities that happen at school. That is why we are implementing a new online payment and communications tool in our schools. This tool, called "School-Day", is currently available at DOM.

Benefits for parents?

School-Day can be accessed from any web browser and gives parents real-time, secure access to up-to-date information, and the ability to:

- Receive email communications from your child's school
- Approve permission forms on-line
- Register your child for extracurricular events
- Make online payments for yearbooks, student cards, sports fees, trips or other activities
- Update your mobile device with calendar events specific to your child
- Minimize the risks associated with sending money to school with your child ("backpack delivery") and reduce the environmental impact of photocopying permission forms and announcement



STUDENT MEDICATION/ALLERGIES

If your son or daughter takes medication, we are required to keep this information in the office. Medication forms are available in the office, which must be signed by a parent in order for any medication to be administered or consumed during the school day. If your child has a life-threatening condition, such as a bee or food allergies or diabetes, asthma, etc., kindly contact the office so that an Individual Plan of Care can be established.

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit website www.simcoemuskokahealth.org has a wealth of health related information available, this is a [link to a list of mandatory immunizations](#) for students to enter/stay in school for your reference.

STUDENT ABSENCES

If your child is going to be absent from school, please contact the school at 705-646-8772 (extension 301) or provide a note when your son/daughter returns by 8:45 am. Unverified absences will be considered truant. **Kindly call and notify about your child's absence prior to 11:30 on the day of their absence. Notification after 11:30 may result in a call home notifying you of their absence. All student attendance records will be updated within 24 hours of your call.** If you wish to sign your son or daughter in or out during the day, please do so in the main office.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT-Handbook

Parents, please review the CODE OF CONDUCT with you child that can be found on our website, under the FOR STUDENTS tab. We do ask Parents to check in at the main office when visiting the school during the day. Our office administration will assist you from the main office. Please do not text/phone your children while they are in class. Should an emergency occur, please call the school, so that we can properly support your child. We do our best to answer the phones.

STUDENT PARKING

If a student drives a vehicle to school, they are required to register their vehicle at the main office. Each vehicle must visibly display a St. Dominic Parking Pass on their dash. There is no charge for a Parking Permit

CELL PHONE USE



Students are ONLY permitted to use their cell phones in the cafeteria and halls outside of class time, (before school, between periods, after school). Students are not permitted to use their cell phones during class time, unless directed by the teacher. If parents need to contact students please do so by calling the front office. **We ask parents not to text their child during classes.** Sometimes students will need to be reminded of our policy:

First Offence: The phone is confiscated and kept in the office for the remainder of the day and will be returned to the student at the end of the school day.

Second Offence (Plus): Phone is confiscated and kept in the office for remainder of the day however a PARENT will need to pick the phone up from the school. It is important to note that the SMCD SB policy states: PEDs (PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES) – under the direction of the Principal, the use of personal electronic devices, such as cell phones, video recorders or other technologies is restricted while on school property. Any PEDs brought to school have the potential for loss, damage or theft. The school will not be responsible for loss, damage or theft of these devices. PEDs may be used at appropriate times at the discretion of the classroom teacher. No PED is to be present during assessment/evaluation activities. **Failure to comply may result in confiscation of the PED, to be returned to student/parent at the discretion of school administration.**

BYOD – Bring Your Own Device

St. Dominic continues to outfit our students with Technology (Chromebooks, other devices) for their educational use. Students can also bring in their laptops and other devices to help access the internet and submit assessments. This policy, as it pertains to cell phones, will be compliant with the information listed above and under the direction of the teacher, using it as an educational tool. **St. Dominic Catholic S.S. will not be responsible for any theft or loss of personal items as it pertains to BYOD.**

GRADUATION

Mark your calendars, June 25th, will be our Graduation Ceremony date this year. More information will follow.

STUDENT UNIFORM - DGN~KILTERS

Please ensure that your child comes to school wearing the appropriate uniform attire. See our website for clarification which outlines what your teen can wear to school. Students who arrive out of uniform will NOT be permitted to attend classes. They will be asked to change, have a parent bring in their proper uniform or will remain in the office doing their academic assignments.

Kindly Review our [UNIFORM POLICY](#)

All students are required to wear [DGN~KILTERS-St.DominicCatholicSS](#) uniform pieces. Do you need to order new uniform pieces? DGN~KILTERS uniform supplier has a store in Barrie located at 132 Commerce Park Blvd., Barrie St. Phone

1-705-728-5757. Visit their website for more details [DGN-Kilters](#).

GRADE 10 - ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL LITERACY TEST (OSSLT)



This year the OSSLT is Tuesday March 31st, 2020. 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.

GRADE 9 - EQAO MATH RESULTS

The results of last year's Grade 9 EQAO Mathematics Assessment are in, and St. Dominic students have continued their run of excellence! In the Applied level, **67%** of St. Dominic students met the provincial standard, compared to the provincial average of **44%** and the Simcoe Muskoka CDSB average of **40%**. At the Academic level, **90%** of our students met the provincial standard, versus the provincial average of **84%** and the board average of **77%**. Congratulations to all last year's grade 9 students for the best results in our entire school board--your hard work and dedication paid off! Kudos also to Mrs. Doyle and Mrs. Rogers, who guided our students to success. Best wishes to this year's grade nines, who will write the EQAO exams in June.

COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS- GRADE 9's – Did you know that you can start collecting your hours as of July 1 - 2019?

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.



NEWS FROM OUR CO-CURRICULAR DEPARTMENT

DOM is looking forward to another exciting Fall season! Our fall sports include: Golf, Cross Country, Girls Basketball, and Boys Soccer and Boys Volleyball. Monday and Wednesday are practice days with late buses leaving at 5:45pm for our fall season. Check our school website for game schedules and follow us on twitter for game results. All parents are welcome to come and support our teams most games are after school - during the school day please check in at the main office on your way to watch a game. Students are required to sign up for transportation on Mondays and Wednesdays if travelling to Huntsville / Gravenhurst / and Parry Sound after their practice / club or course. Transportation will only be provided during the athletic seasons.

Check out the following [DOMATHLETICS](#):

Orange shirt day: On Monday, September 30th, a ceremony took place in Ottawa at the Canadian Museum of History to release the first names of children who died at residential school. This is in response to [TRC Calls to Action Missing Children and Burial Information](#) found on page 8 of the linked document. This is being brought to your attention as part of our Board's commitment to reconciliation and healing with Indigenous people.

Prayer: **God of every people and nation, who cherishes each of your children in their uniqueness, goodness and beauty: we ask your blessing and your comfort today for all those whose hearts are aching, and whose families are broken, because of the tragic events that took place in Canada's residential schools. Hold close to your heart those who died far too young, and console those who must still grapple with other types of emotional and cultural loss. Give us courage and wisdom to build a different and better future, and show us the path toward healing and hope. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Healer and our Friend.**

Amen.

Dragon Athletics



As the high school sports season kicks into high gear so to are the St. Dominic Dragons Teams. We currently have five school teams competing in the Muskoka Parry Sound League. A special thanks to the following coaches for volunteering their time.

Jr. Boys Volleyball

Mr. McMillan

Sr. Boys Soccer

Mr. Laurie, Mr. Downey and Ms.Mahon

Jr. Girls Basketball

Mr. Albisser and Ms.Jones

Sr. Girls Basketball

Mr. Ball

Sr. Golf

Mr. Blum

The Weight Room Membership is now available to students for \$20.00 fee payable on school-day.com. Students will access to the exercise room before and after school and also during lunch for the school year. Athletes and parents can check out the [fall games schedules](#) by visiting the Dragons Athletics link under the "For Students" menu on the St.Dominic website. Boys Basketball and Girls Volleyball teams will commence practices in mid-November.

GOOD LUCK TO THE FALL TEAMS, ATHLETES AND COACHES!!!!



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Hockey Canada Skills Academy



The Hockey Canada Skills Academy Program now enters its fourth year at St.Dominic. The Hockey Canada Skills Academy is a 2 credit program at St.Dominic Catholic Secondary School. Students participate in on and off-ice hockey related activities and learn and participate in fitness, sport and team activities as well as explore a variety of health related topics. 23 students currently participate in this program at St.Doms, heading to the Bracebridge Arena every other day for on ice sessions with the legendary local hockey coach and teacher, Mr. Dan Blum. Participants develop individual hockey skills, individual and team tactics, and engage in off-ice training specific to hockey. To learn more about this exciting program visit us online at www.hockey.stdoms.ca

COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY AND MEDIA ARTS



The **Communications Technology & MEDIA ARTS** program is happy to announce the addition of exciting new tools and equipment. Last semester we were very fortunate to add a class set of new Dell workstations and the latest release of the Adobe Master Collection software. Students continued to work in graphic design, video and television production, animation and web design. New this semester students are working with our inhouse T-Shirt design and decal production equipment. Students are busy designing and producing apparel and graphics to support the many St.Doms sport teams, student council initiatives and extra-curriculars. We are also looking forward to developing community connections to support local partners and businesses while providing students with authentic industry experiences in design, production and marketing. Stay tuned next semester as we will be working towards growing partnerships in the greater community.



EXAMINATIONS

EXAMS AND OTHER SUMMATIVE EVALUATIONS

1st Semester Final Exams are January 23-January 29th, 2020. 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 assessment dates 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 requested, 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 cooperation.

Save the date! Please join us by RSVP for our Thanksgiving Mass and Honour Roll Celebration

Our first mass of the school year will take place on October 18th at 10:00am. After mass we will have a recognition and presentation celebrating those who achieved honour roll recognition for the 2018-2019 school year. If you would like to join us for this activity - Please RSVP by phoning the main office.

Yearbook course will be running again this year - See Details

St Dominic will be offering an after school yearbook course for interested students in any grade. The course will run on Monday and Wednesday so that students can take the late bus home. If you are interested in learning about photography, publishing, and journalism, you can sign up for the course in Main Office. You will earn one full highschool credit for the course.

First class is Wednesday October 16th at 3:00pm

IMPORTANT DATES 2018 - 2019

SEPTEMBER

20 Civvies Day
27 Online Booking open for P/T Interviews - School Day
27 PA Day – SMCDSB
30 Orange Shirt Day

OCTOBER

02 Parent Engagement Meeting 6:30-7:30 pm - ALL
WELCOME!
04 Student Council Spirit Day - Terry Fox -Red & White 2\$
05 Early Communication Letters Sent Home
10 Parent Teacher Interviews; 5:00-7:00
14 Thanksgiving
18 Mass/Honour Roll Celebration - Please RSVP @ 10:00 am
21 PA Day - SMCDSB

NOVEMBER

05 Term One Ends
06 Term Two Begins
06 Take Our Kids To Work day
11 Remembrance Day
15 PA Day SMCDSB
21 Mid Term Report Cards
25 Grad photos
26 Grad photos
30 Civvies Day

School-Home Communication -we are launching the text messaging feature in SchoolMessenger beginning September 30th. As part of the rollout, parents will need to "opt-in" in order to receive text messages from your school. You can pre opt-in as per the [attached flyer](#). For those who don't pre-opt in, a text message will be sent directly to families on September 30th asking to opt-in by pressing "Y". After September 30th, as new contacts and cell numbers are added to PowerSchool, the system will automatically send opt-in text messages to parents.

E-newsletter - It is very important to sign up for our E-newsletter. If you signed up in the past you need to sign up again. Visit our school website, click on the right hand side of the middle banner of website or [SIGN UP HERE](#). Future letters will only be sent home through E-news and email blasts.

BRACEBRIDGE COMMUNITY TERRY FOX EVENT



St. Dominic was once again proud to be a part of the annual Bracebridge Community Terry Fox Run. They did a great job running a water station. We cheered on the runners, walkers and bikers, played music, and had Dommie high-fiving kids and dancing. Cars were honking as they went by. It was really positive, well-received, and appreciated by the organizers.