

# HCDSB wants parent input on online survey

As part of the Halton Catholic District School Board's ongoing Strategic Planning and Renewal Process, the parents of students in the system are being invited to provide their input by participating in a short online survey.

Questions include interest in specialized programming such as the International Baccalaureate Program, single gender classroom, e-learning, French immersion, year-round schooling as well as questions about the family's experiences with their child's school.

Director of Education Michael W. Pautler said, "The feedback from our parents is critical as we work together to discern our future, and plan to bring our Vision to life in our Catholic schools in Halton."

The survey is available for parent participation on the Board's website, [www.hcdsb.org](http://www.hcdsb.org), until Friday, April 16. The survey is anonymous and no individual parent or child can be identified. The responses will be reported only as group data.

# Firefighters to serve up fundraiser

By **LISA TALLYN**  
Staff Writer

Halton Hills firefighters will be serving up food to diners at Kelsey's tomorrow evening (Wednesday) to raise money for children's cancer charities.

Their tips and 10 per cent of sales between 5 and 10 p.m. at the Georgetown restaurant will go to Halton Hills firefighter Mark Burger's participation this September in the Sears National Kids Cancer Ride. Tax receipts will be available on request.

Burger will be among the 43 selected national cyclists to take part in the ride—one of the biggest and most ambitious charity cycling events on behalf of childhood cancer in the world.

From September 9-23, the cyclists will ride a 15-day, 7,000 km odyssey from Vancouver to Halifax. They will be raising money on behalf of charities that improve the quality of life for children, and their families, living with and beyond cancer. The cyclists are expected to raise \$25,000 to participate, but Burger has set his goal at \$50,000.

He's hoping to have other fundraising events besides the Kelsey's evening before he heads out for the ride. Scheduled at this point, he will be having a barbecue and riding a bike on spinners collecting donations at the Sears on Mountainview Rd. May 1. On Aug. 20 he plans to be cycling on a trainer at the Rock'n'Roll'n' Classics car show in downtown Georgetown. He hopes people will stop and donate to the cause.

The 32-year-old firefighter teaches indoor cycling part-time at Good Life Fitness and was a mountain bike racer for 15 years.

He has been training for the upcoming ride, currently cycling 1-4 hours a day five days a week combined with weight training.

Burger said he was inspired to sign up for the National Kids Cancer Ride after hearing the president of Can-Fit-Pro speak about his experience in the ride and watching a video featuring a young girl—Marissa Noel—speak about her experience with cancer and her dreams for the future.

"She was talking about how she wants the simple things in life, but didn't think her cancer was curable," said Burger, who was touched by her words. Unfortunately, Noel has since died.

Burger thought he would like to take part in the ride and added, "it's always been a goal of mine to ride across Canada."

He has distributed letters to some local businesses, friends, family and associates and is optimistic he will be able to reach his goal. So far, he's raised about \$5,000.

"We have such an awesome community," he said.

Anyone interested in making a donation to Burger's ride is encouraged to come out to Kelsey's Wednesday evening, or they can make a pledge online at [www.searsnationalkidscanceride.com](http://www.searsnationalkidscanceride.com) under Burger's name. For more information call Burger at 905-299-6002 or email him at [boardtopia@hotmail.com](mailto:boardtopia@hotmail.com).

Two other area residents are also taking part in the National Kids Cancer



Firefighter Mark Burger will be cycling in the Sears National Kids Cancer Ride and he is being backed by his fellow firefighters in a fundraiser tomorrow at Kelsey's.

Photo by Ted Brown

Ride— Paul O'hara-Hole of Acton and Dave Swindells of Georgetown. Donations to their rides can also be made at [www.searsnationalkidscanceride.com](http://www.searsnationalkidscanceride.com).



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