

Boards ready to welcome back students

It's back to class for Halton students on Tuesday.

The Halton District School Board (HDSB) will be welcoming more than 60,000 Kindergarten to Grade 12 students to the first day of school.

During the month of September, all HDSB elementary schools will be implementing a safe welcome system. It will provide greater safety in schools by ensuring all visitors use a single point of entry door before signing in. Buzzer access and security cameras will be installed at main doors while other doors will remain locked at all times.

In addition, Board-funded swipe access devices— approved by trustees earlier this year— will also be installed at selected other doors including school doors accessed by students and staff located in portables.

Halton Catholic District School Board (HCDSB) schools have had the system in place for several years. For more info on the HDSB visit www.hdsb.ca.

"We are delighted to welcome everyone back," says HCDSB Director of Education, Paula Dawson who will officially assume her new role as Director of Education and Secretary of the Board Sept. 1 taking over from retiring Michael Pautler.

Highlights for the HCDSB this year are:

- Full-Day Early Learning Kindergarten Program now offered in 33 of the board's

43 elementary schools. The program has expanded this year to include St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Elementary School in Georgetown. The complete list of Halton Catholic schools currently offering the Full-Day Early Learning Kindergarten Program can be found on the Board's website at www.hcdsb.org.

- Beginning in September the Board will offer an optional Early French Immersion Pilot Program for Grade 1 students in four schools across the region including St. Brigid Catholic Elementary School in Georgetown.

- The Board continues to offer the Extended French Program, beginning in Grade 5, in eight schools across Halton. Information can be found on the board's website.

- All student bus information, including bus stop times, stop location and route numbers, is available online at www.haltonbus.ca. Parents should note that in order to access student transportation information, either online or by telephone (1-888-803-8660), it is necessary to know their child's Ontario Education Number (OEN).

- Trustees meet twice a month, on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. On Sept. 17, the meeting will be held at Holy Cross Catholic Elementary School in Georgetown.





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