



School begins September 7th Drive alert and safe



Exciting start for Halton District Board

The Halton District School Board is ready for the start of another exciting and busy year as 38,226 elementary and 17,337 secondary students prepare to arrive at their designated school for their first day of learning on Tuesday, September 7.

The new school year also marks the appointment of new Director of Education David Euale, new Board Chair Gerry Ockenden (Wards 1 and 2 trustee for Halton Hills)

and the opening of a total of three new elementary schools in Milton and Oakville that have been a few years in planning and construction.

Euale begins September 1. His responsibilities include overseeing a \$490-million budget for 2010-11, the largest ever approved by the Board. Euale's previous position was Director of the Ministry of Education's Student Success, and Learning to 18 Implementation, Training and Evalua-

tion Branch. Prior to his work at the ministry, Euale was a leader in the Upper Grand District School Board.

The three public schools opening for the 2010-11 school year are:

- Tiger Jeet Singh Public School, Milton (770 students)
- James. W. Hill Public School, Oakville (410 students)
- Palermo Public School, Oakville (705 students).

Welcome grade nines Ockenden elected as school board chair

As part of a program called Link Crew, Halton District School Board senior secondary school students – including those at Acton High School – will help welcome Grade 9 students to high

school learning starting on Tuesday, September 7.

At Acton High, the Grade 9s will have the school to themselves and Link Crew members for the morning – students in higher grades

don't arrive until 12.30 for a 12:55 start to the first school day.

Link Crew Leaders will help Grade 9s – 135 and counting at Acton High – to a smoother, gentler and less intimidating transition to high school with interactive games, songs and other fun activities.

Link Crew is a high school transition program provided by the Santa Cruz, California-based Boomerang Project. The Link Crew program also hits on a few important curriculum points in subjects like civics and physical education, and addressing anti-bullying and respect for differences messages.

In a surprise move at a Board meeting last Wednesday, Bruce Jones, trustee for Oakville Wards 5 and 6, stepped down as Chair of the Halton District School Board after serving in the role for the 2009 and 2010 terms. Jones was first elected to the Halton District School Board in 2003 as representative for Wards 1 and 2 in Oakville, and was re-elected to the Board as trustee for Wards 5 and 6 in 2006.

With only three months

remaining in the trustee term of office, Jones resigned the role of Chair saying his time in the role was enjoyable and challenging, with much of his success due to the support from his trustee colleagues and staff. He indicated his focus will be on seeking election as municipal and regional councillor in Ward 5, Oakville.

In stepping down, Jones left the vacancy open to other trustees interested in stepping into the role of Chair for the remaining three months of the trustees' term. The trustee term ends November 30, 2010. The municipal election on October 25, 2010 will see candidates elected for the next four-year term of office for the Halton District School Board as well as local municipalities.

Two trustees expressed an interest in seeking the role

of chair for the remainder of 2010. Gerry Ockenden, trustee for Acton (Wards 1 and 2) was nominated by Bruce Jones, while Jennifer Hlusko (Burlington Trustee, Wards 5 and 6) nominated Don Vrooman (Oakville Trustee, Wards 1 and 2). Nominators spoke on behalf of their nominees, and the candidates also highlighted why they were seeking the role. Following the casting of ballots, Ockenden was elected to the role of Chair of the Halton District School Board.

"I'm excited by this leadership opportunity and look forward to working with my colleagues in this new capacity," said Ockenden. "We have accomplished some incredible goals for students within Halton, and it is my hope to continue that direction."

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Halton District School Board

Gerry Ockenden
Chair of the Board
David Euale
Director of Education

**School is back on September 7th.
Please Drive Safely!**

Bob Van de Vrande
Chair of the Board
Michael W. Pautler
Director of Education