

More students to be eligible to take bus

Some older elementary students will be able to share a school bus with their younger siblings starting this fall.

Trustees with the Halton District School Board have voted to expand transportation service for students in Grades 6 to 8 by cutting in half the distance required before they're eligible to be bused to school.

Effective September 2008, all elementary students living more than 1.6 km (one mile) from their designated home school will be eligible for busing. Currently, students in Junior Kindergarten to Grade 5 get bussed if they are more than 1.6 km from their home school while students in Grades 6 to 8 are provided transportation only if they live more than 3.2 km (two miles) away.

Grades 9 to 12 students can catch a school bus if they live more than 4.8 km (three miles) from their home school.

"Halton parents identified having a different transportation distance for the Junior Kindergarten to Grade 5 students and the Grade 6 to 8 students as a problem," said Director of Education Wayne Joudrie.

"Establishing the same busing distances for all elementary school students will help many families. This change in policy aligns our elementary transportation distances with the other three publicly-funded schools boards in Halton."

The policy change will increase the number of students eligible for transportation and add 45 school bus routes to the current 370.

The projected extra cost of the policy change is \$1.3 million annually, which includes money individual schools can apply to receive to develop, communicate and promote safe walking routes to school.

Catholic Education Week to be celebrated

The theme of this year's Catholic Education Week, April 27 to May 2, at the Halton Catholic District School Board is 'We are Called'.

As is the tradition of the board, Catholic Education Week will begin Sunday so the local Catholic community will have the opportunity to celebrate the 'enduring gift' of Catholic education within the context of the Eucharistic celebration.

"The theme for the week is 'We are Called,' which celebrates our fundamental religious belief that, not only are we created in the image of God, but we are called by that same God by name, explained board Chair Alice Anne LeMay.

"Our first and most fundamental calling is that of our Baptism and all the other callings in our life flow from that unique and foundational first call. If this is true for all Christians, it is especially true for all those of us involved in Catholic education, regardless of what role or position we hold within that 'enduring gift.' We encourage our students and our staff to prayerfully reflect on the commitment that this calling by name places on each of us in respect of ourselves, our community, and how it is a defining component of what makes Catholic Education distinctive."

Catholic Education Week 2008 will feature special programs and presentations at all grade levels and will include prayer celebrations and service activities.

The board's 20th annual Student Awards of Excellence Ceremony today at Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary

School in Oakville will serve as the kick-off of the weeklong showcase and celebration.

As well, the board's Anniversary Service Pins, which recognize employee service at five-year increments, will be presented to staff celebrating these milestones at all work sites throughout the week.

On May 1, Catholic schools in many countries around the world will celebrate World Catholic Education Day by engaging in activities that will express their appreciation for the reality of Catholic education around the globe.

In Canada, Catholic schools educate almost one million students.



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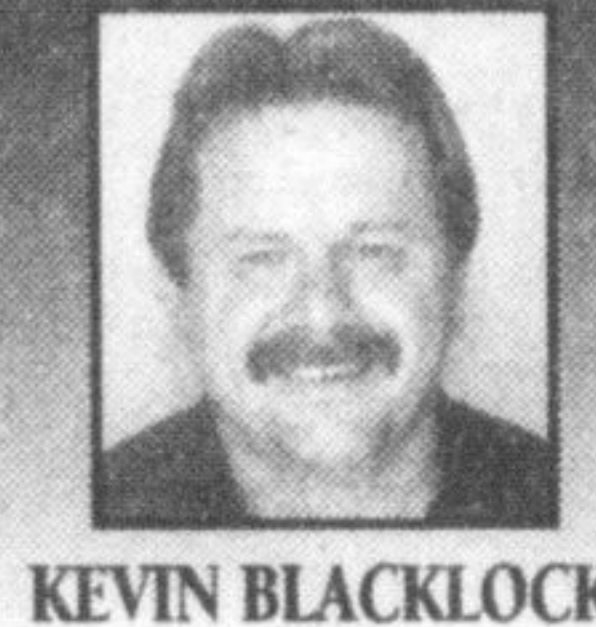
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MOTHER'S DAY CONTEST

Attention Mothers & Daughters!

Enter our "Just like Mother" Mother's Day Contest. Send us a photo of you and your Daughter. Selected photos will be published in the Canadian Champion issue **TUESDAY, MAY 6TH, 2008.**

Readers will be asked to pick the Mother & Daughter who look the most alike.

The winning pair will receive a

\$50 Gift Certificate



HURRY!

Deadline for photos is Monday, April 28th, 2008. Email your photos to lfrechette@miltoncanadianchampion.com or drop them off at the front desk of

The Canadian Champion
555 Industrial Drive, 2nd Floor, Milton
between 9 am and 4 pm, Monday to Friday.