

# New year now underway for Halton-area public schools

A new school year will begin today and the Halton public school board has one new school opening and two others being constructed. New elementary and secondary schools within the Halton District School Board are just one highlight of the 2011-12 school year.

The board's newest elementary school is John William Boich Public School in Burlington. Located at 2474 Sutton Dr., at Dundas Street, it will accommodate 677 JK-Grade 7 students; it will begin welcoming Grade 8 students next year. The school is named after John Boich, a community advocate and former Halton District School Board superintendent (1972-79) who died in March of this year.

"We are looking forward to opening up as a community-based school with strong relationships with all of our students, parents and families," Peter Milovanovic, the first principal at the new school, said last week. The roof of Boich elementary is made entirely of solar panels, a first for a Halton public board school.

The goal of the system, which has the potential to produce enough electricity equivalent to power approximately 50 homes, is to provide as much of the Burlington school's hydro needs as possible. The 2011-12 school year also will see the board nearing completion on the construction of two high schools,

in Oakville and Milton. Both schools are scheduled to open in 2012. Construction of a new Burlington high school in the Alton community — a shared facility with the City of Burlington, to include a public library and community centre — is to begin this fall and is scheduled for

completion in 2013.

Additionally, the board is enhancing its existing absence check process by introducing a new student attendance system in 51 elementary schools.

The new Student Attendance System will reduce the time spent

identifying and locating absent students. Parents can access the system through an automated telephone system toll-free (1-877-409-6310) or log in to a designated website (hdsb.schoolconnects.com) to report student absences.

The system will enhance collabo-

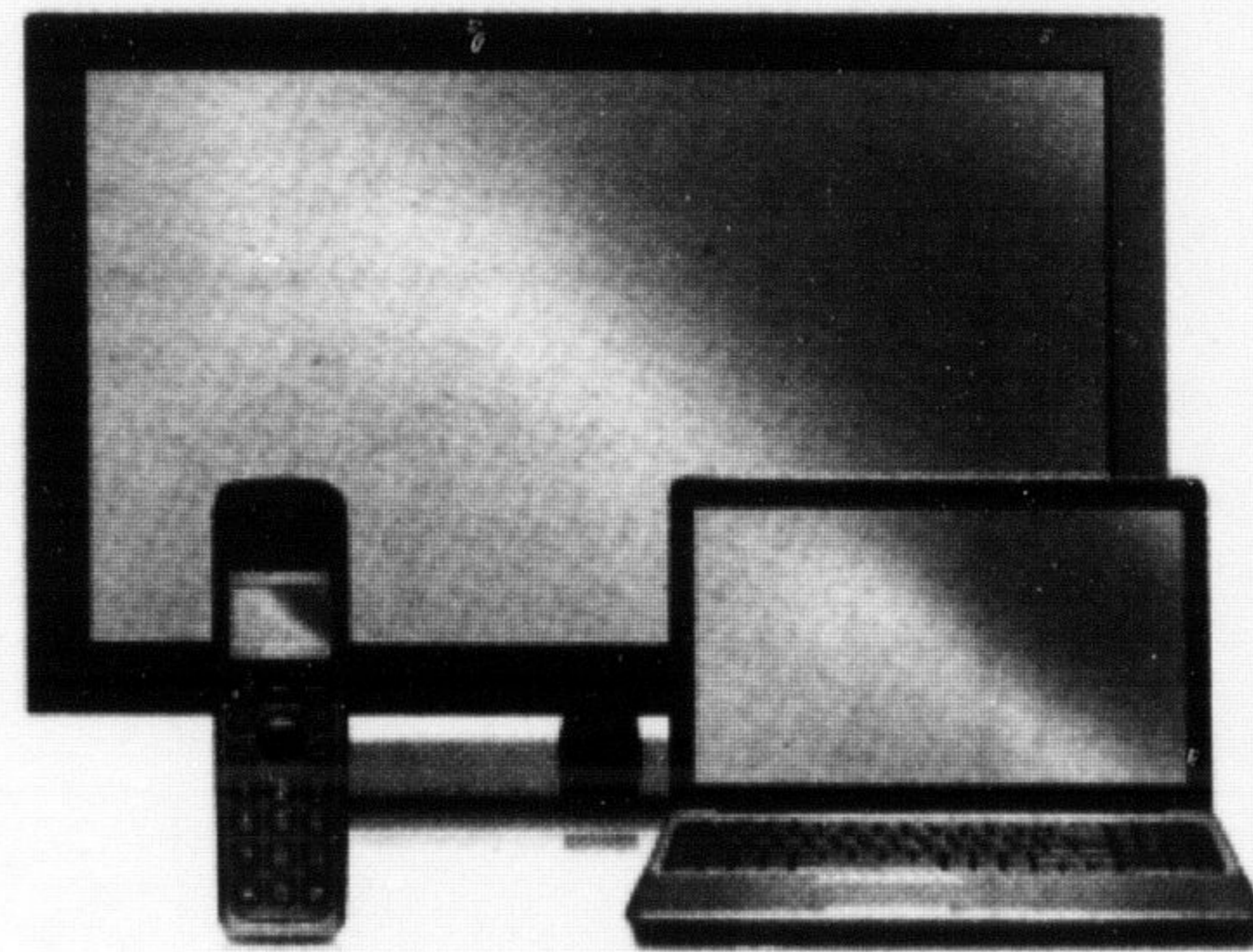
ration between parents and the schools, allowing access to reporting and tracking absences 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

For more information and updates about Halton District School Board initiatives, visit [www.hdsb.ca](http://www.hdsb.ca).

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## Women invited to learn how to start business

Thinking about starting your own business? Have a great business idea but unsure where to start? The New Start Program for Entrepreneurial Women can help.

The Women's Centre, located in Hopedale Mall, 1515 Rebecca St., Suite 229, in Oakville, is offering business-savvy women help with their start-up ideas and tips to refine their business skills.

The New Start Program is a three-month self-employment training program for female would-be entrepreneurs.

Women learn the skills and what it takes to successfully launch a small business in a supportive environment where accomplished business owners and trainers share their expertise in a series of workshops, individual consultations and mentoring.

To learn more about the New Start Program for Entrepreneurial Women and what's involved, call The Women's Centre at (905) 847-5488 or email [admin@haltonwomenscentre.org](mailto:admin@haltonwomenscentre.org).