

January 14, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am writing to let you know that the decision has been made that **all HCDSB schools will be CLOSED to students on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 as a result of the recent announcement by OECTA of a province-wide one-day full withdrawal of services.**

As you know, on Monday, January 13, 2020, the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA), representing Catholic teachers across the province, gave notice that they will hold a one-day, province-wide full withdrawal of services (strike) on Tuesday, January 21, 2020. These sanctions are in addition to the administrative job action that began on January 13, 2020.

### **Why Do We Have to Close Schools?**

As OECTA represents all of our elementary and secondary school teachers, a full withdrawal of services would mean that no instruction would take place in any of our classrooms. This would also pose significant student supervision challenges that would threaten the safety of our students. In light of these safety concerns, we will close all schools to students on Tuesday, January 21, 2020, unless the strike is averted.

We regret any disruption to student learning and inconvenience to families that will result from this job action. We respect that job sanctions are a legal part of the collective bargaining process. Our actions during any sanctions remain focused on the safety and wellbeing of the students entrusted to our care.

### **In Summary**

- All HCDSB schools (including Thomas Merton Adult Learning & Continuing Education) will be CLOSED to students on Tuesday, January 21, 2020.
- All Before & After School programs will be CANCELLED – however many providers will offer a full-day program. Please contact the extended day provider at your school about program offerings.
- Childcare centres will remain OPEN as they run independently from our schools.
- Community use of schools will CONTINUE as scheduled in all HCDSB schools.
- All non-OECTA staff will report to work in schools and our administrative offices.

### **Information Updates**

We are monitoring this job action closely, and will continue sharing new information in the following ways:

- Email to parents
- HCDSB website – [bit.ly/HCDSB-LabourUpdates](https://bit.ly/HCDSB-LabourUpdates)
- Twitter [@HCDSB](https://twitter.com/HCDSB)

We remain committed to the success of the negotiation process, at both the provincial (central) and local levels, and we are hopeful that a new central agreement will soon be reached with OECTA that serves the needs of our students and is fair to teachers and Catholic ratepayers.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this period of job action.



Pat Daly  
Director of Education