

October 8, 2012

Dear Parents/Guardians:

It is my pleasure to welcome all the students and staff back to a new school year. I am very happy to see that the council has grown in numbers in the last year. Hopefully, we will see more new faces in the coming meetings. I would like to thank the school council members for helping out and making our meet the staff BBQ a great success. We appreciate their generous donations and in facilitating the raffles for door prizes.

I would like to welcome and thank the following people:

Mr. Alex Rodrigues of HARRRP who will be helping us on our youth/student leadership program. It is a pilot program to help and encourage our youths to get involved in the decision making in our community and how it affects everyone. This will include various activities for our youth including sports, peer mentoring and seminars for our Grade 7 & 8 students.

Mrs. Stacey Allan-Cillis who will be leading our student "Green Team" that is part of our Eco Team. She is the mom of Oliver and Piper Cillis from "Oliver's Garden Project". You will find her and her family at the local farmers market at Ottawa St. on weekends where they sell their home grown vegetables. They donate all their proceeds to charity. St. Ann's is very proud that our students are involved in this project. She has been running seminars and helping out families in our community on how to grow organic vegetables in their own garden. At the same time, Stacey is helping our council with some of our fund raising activities as well.

Ms Kate Brisley, our public health nurse who is helping us with our nutrition and health program. She will be working with Ms St. Aubin and our students in helping to create a safe positive school culture with our Student Safe School Committee.

Lest we forget our own school program for 7 Habits of Highly Effective People. Something that not only our youths can learn and benefit from but also us, as a parent on teaching our kids how to be proactive in life and learn how to "Think Win Win" and work together to create a better future. I think this is a great program to get ourselves involved in. After all, "It takes a village to raise a child". We cannot leave all the responsibility to the teachers and school staff to teach our children proper manners, humility, respect and understanding. All those qualities have to come from all of us and have to start at home by setting great examples for our children to follow.

I couldn't be more proud, honored and looking forward to working alongside Mr. Peter Kisilnsky, our school principal whom as you know, won Canada's Principal of the year award 2012.

I would like to thank Mrs. Livingston for a great year at St. Ann's School Council. I know that this is a big chair to fill. I will do my best to improve the council and learn from everyone, from the staff, members of the council and parents/guardians and I hope that they can learn from me as well.

To all the parents/guardians, please do not hesitate to approach me, or other members of the council, regarding any concerns or inquiries you may have regarding our programs. Better yet, I encourage everyone to come to our meetings and get to know the people who are working together to help our

kids and our community. We welcome your ideas and opinions. Everyone has a voice and there is power in numbers! Help us make a difference!

I wish everyone to have a bountiful Thanksgiving and have a safe and fun Halloween!!

Sincerely Yours,

Ms L. Khamphoomee  
Chairperson, St. Ann's (Hamilton) Catholic School Council