



Live, Love, Lead Like Christ

Principal – P. Kislinsky
Principal Assistant – L. St. Aubin
Superintendent - C. Ciapanna

ST. ANN CATHOLIC SCHOOL
15 St. Ann St.
Hamilton, Ont.
L8L 0B8
905-547-5444



Cathedral Principal – S. Cannon
Trustee – T. Perri



"Oh come divine Messiah, the world in silence waits the day."

On Sunday, November 30th, the season of Advent began. Advent is a period of simple living and extra prayer. It is a time to prepare for a new coming of Jesus our Saviour. Jesus is a loving and peaceful Saviour. He calls His followers to make the whole world loving and peaceful. During Advent we prepare our home and lives for Jesus, the King of Glory and the Prince of Peace.

The Season of Advent allows us the time to prepare for Jesus' Birth at Christmas. We are filled with expectation and hope as we wait for Christmas, when we celebrate the coming of Jesus our Saviour to the world. The birth of Jesus brings salvation and peace for us all. The entire staff of St. Ann School wishes all families, students and volunteers a joyous and peaceful Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL

You are reminded that there is a Catholic School Council meeting on **Wednesday, January 21st @ 6:30 p.m.** in the staff room. **All parents/guardians are invited to attend.** Our **Family Craft Night** which is sponsored by our Catholic School Council will be held on *****Wednesday, December 3rd @ 6:30 p.m. in the Gymnasium.**

Future meeting dates of the CSC are as follows:

Wednesday, February 25th @ 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 22nd @ 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 20th @ 6:30 p.m.

SCHOOL MASSES

Our next school mass is **Friday, December 6th @ 10:15 a.m.** in Holy Family Church. Our final mass before the Christmas Break is **Thursday, December 19th @ 1 p.m.** in Holy Family Church. Everyone is welcome to join us!

FAMILY ADVENT EVENING

The Catholic School Council, in conjunction with school staff are planning a Family Advent Evening at the school on **Wednesday, December 4th at 6:30 p.m.** You and your family are encouraged to participate in the Advent

Craft activities. Please note that the **school clothing room** will be open from **6:30 – 7:30 p.m.**

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY DAY

In January, there will be a Professional Activity Day on **Friday, January 23, 2015.**

CHRISTMAS CHARITY DRIVE

Our school student leadership team has organized their Christmas CHARITY Fundraising. This year, monies from the Candy-Cane O Grams will go to Martha House.

STUDENT ABSENCES

It is important that all student absences be reported. The school has an answering machine in operation daily from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. where a recorded message may be left about a student's upcoming absence. It is the school's safe entry policy to contact parents of absent students unless we have prior notification about their absence. Parents/Guardians will be phoned at work if we cannot reach them at home.

Each month in the newsletter we will publish our data regarding student absenteeism and lates. **Last year (2013-2014) we noted that 4 months had improved attendance out of the 10 school months. Reducing the number of lates improved 5 out of the 10 months students were in school. This year, our goal is to improve on our previous year's attendance and late numbers. Please help us to achieve our goals for improvement in each category. Each month the newsletter will share our attendance and late numbers from the past months and from last year (*Number in Brackets and Italics.*)! Let's try to improve the numbers in each month this coming school year!**

**September – Students on time: 99% (99.3)
Attendance: 95.6% (95.3)**

**October – Students on time: 98.8% (99)
Attendance: 94.5% (93.5)**

**November – Students on time: 98.9 (98.6)
Attendance: 92.5 (93)**

NUT FREE ENVIRONMENT

Please be reminded that St. Ann School is a **NUT FREE ENVIRONMENT**. **This year, we have a student and staff member that have such a severe allergy that any food with nuts in it that is airborne will cause a reaction that could be life threatening.** Please ensure that your child does not bring food items that contain any nuts or nut byproducts. We thank you in advance for your cooperation.

MONTHLY AWARDS

Congratulations to **November's** award winners.

CATHOLICITY

Grade 1: Luca G.

Grade 2: Aria H., Rachael E.

Grade 3: Keira P., Anthony D.

Grade 4: Thomas M.

Grade 5: Frank L., Maria F.

Grade 6/7: Laura F.

Grade 7/8: Ben G.

Grade 8: Emma M.

LEADERSHIP

Grade 1: Lochlan A.

Grade 2: Mika L., Cristiano C.

Grade 3: Tirell E.T., Malina G.

Grade 4: Jessica N., Corbin M.

Grade 6: Anna K.

Grade 6/7: Djurdjina G.

Grade 7/8: Julia B.

Grade 8: Oliver N.

FRENCH AWARD

Grade 4/5: Vincent P.

Grade 4/5: Isabella R.

Grade 5/6: Matthew B.

Grade 6/7: Brodie D.

Grade 7/8: Kristofer a.

Grade 8: Andrew T.

FALL/WINTER WEATHER

Please ensure that your children dress warmly for school during the upcoming cold months. Hats, mitts, heavier coats, etc. will be in order. You should expect that students will be outside for recess except for excessively cold days. During this season students will **not** be permitted to wear their **outside footwear** into the classrooms. Students should bring an extra pair of runners or slippers to wear around the classroom and school.

Also, during the upcoming winter months when schools are closed or buses cancelled due to extreme weather conditions, details will be announced on the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board website (www.hwcdsb.ca) and Hamilton-Wentworth Student Transportation Services website (www.hamiltonschoolbus.ca/public_v2/index.aspx) as well as the following Hamilton and area media outlets:

900 CHML / VINYL 95.3 / Y108 FM

CKOC 1150 / K-Lite 102.9 FM / CHAM 820

CHCH TV Morning Live (Channel 11)

CBC Hamilton www.cbc.ca/hamilton

The Hamilton Spectator www.thespec.com

Twitter <https://twitter.com/HWCDSB>

Facebook www.facebook.com

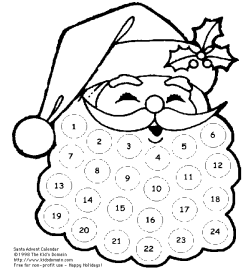
Schools closures and bus cancellations will be posted on the HWCDSB and HWSTS websites and communicated to the local media by 7:00 a.m., whenever possible. If schools close early, the information will be posted on the HWCDSB and HWSTS websites and sent to the media for dissemination.

LUNCH AT SCHOOL

Students during lunch are expected to follow our "Code of Conduct" to ensure a respectful and safe lunch room. **Lunch students MAY NOT go to a restaurant/store at noon without being accompanied by an adult. Parents/Guardians that wish to bring their children out for lunch are asked to sign their children in and out at the office.** The safety of our students is our main concern with students requesting permission for leaving school property when not accompanied by an adult.

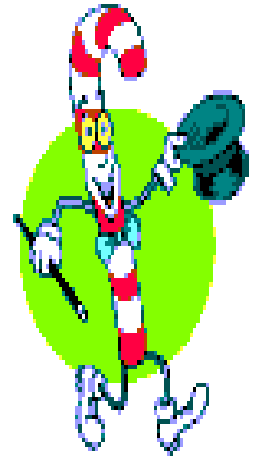
CHRISTMAS BREAK

The school will be closed from **Monday, December 22nd to Friday, January 2, 2015**. School will re-open on **Monday, January 5, 2015**.



CANDY CANE -O- GRAMS

The Student Leadership Team is running a Christmas fundraiser again this year called "Candy Cane-O-Grams". These candy cane-o-grams are computer generated Christmas cards that students in Grades 1-8 can purchase and send to another person within the school. Students who purchase these cards are to address them, write a personal note inside and return them to Student Leadership Team members. Student Leadership Team members will then place a candy cane on them and deliver them to students on **Wednesday, December 19th**. Cards cost **\$0.25/each (or 5 for \$1.00)** and will be sold from **December 15th to December 17th**.



FIRST RECONCILIATION, COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION

The date for our **Grade 7 students' Confirmation** is **Saturday, May 2, 2015 @ 5 p.m. @ St. Ann Church**. The **Grade 2 students** will be making **The Sacrament of First Communion** on **Saturday, May 9, 2015 at 5 p.m. at St. Ann Church**. Please keep our Grade 2 and 7 students in your prayers as they prepare for these sacraments.

DROPPING CHILDREN OFF

Parents/Guardians are reminded that children should not be dropped off at any time of the day on St. Ann Street as this is a Fire Zone. Please use the "Kiss and Ride" off of Sherman Avenue. Parents/Guardians turning into the lane way off

Sherman Ave. in the mornings are asked to be aware of pedestrians on the sidewalk. Please note: there is no parking on the school property for parents/guardians to walk their children to the playground. Please use the St. Stan's Church Parking lot across the street or the Holy Spirit Parking Lot. At the end of the day, all students that walk to school or are to be picked up will be dismissed by way of the front doors. *****Please obey the no parking and stopping signs on St. Ann Street at the front of the school. The City of Hamilton Bi-law Officers will be enforcing the no stopping and parking signs. Parking in these zones is a safety concern. Your co-operation regarding these signs is expected! Only those students that take the bus will exit from the back doors. Please note: the "kiss and ride" area is not available at the end of the day.**

PROGRESS REPORT INTERVIEWS

On Thursday, November 20th Progress Report Interviews were held after school. This year, a number of parents/guardians took advantage of this evening to come and discuss their child's progress, along with asking questions to help understand how their child is doing socially, academically and emotionally in school. Though not all face to face interviews occurred on this day, staff would also like to thank those parents/guardians that made the effort to come to the school during other times and days to meet with staff. We encourage all families in the future to take the time to come in for face to face interviews in order to help us as a school meet the needs of your children! Thank you to everyone for taking the time to help us better understand your child's needs!

GROWING SUCCESS: ASSESSMENT, EVALUATION AND REPORTING IN ONTARIO SCHOOLS

Progress Report Cards went home in November and Interviews also took place during this month. The Learning Skills along with Academic progress was reported on during this time. The following areas of the learning skills:

- i. Responsibility
- ii. Organization
- iii. Independent Work
- iv. Collaboration
- v. Initiative
- vi. Self-regulation

These areas were evaluated and reported on as:

E – Excellent

G – Good

S – Satisfactory

N – Needs Improvement

The first report card will go home on **Tuesday, February 10, 2015** with the June report card **Tuesday, June 23, 2015**. Grades for academic achievement will be reported at these times.

ST. ANN CHILD CARE CENTRE

We offer a full day **Toddler program** for children aged 18 months – 2.5 years, a **Preschool Program** for children 2.5 years – 5 years of age, and a **Before and After School Program** for ages 3.5 – 12 years of age. We are currently accepting registrations for all programs.

Fees are as follows:

Toddlers **\$42.00**

Pre School **\$35.00**

Before & After **\$17.00**

Before school only **\$10.00**

After school only **\$14.00**

Please pass this information to parents who have children who would benefit from this program.

For more information or to register call:

St. Ann Early Learning and Care Centre

Contact: Joanne Genovese (supervisor)

(905) 523-2304

FREE EYEGLASSES

If you do not have coverage for your child's eye exam and/or glasses, Lenscrafters will provide these for you free of charge. Please pick up the letter at the office.

DID YOU KNOW?

The ILC Homework Help website located at <http://homeworkhelp.ilc.org> is designed to enhance students' learning skills and contribute to academic success in math. This project focuses on providing free on-line math assistance to students in Grades 7, 8 and 9. The key features of the website contain interactive tutorials, examples, exercises and EQAO test preparation. The site also includes the *Ask a Teacher* one-on-one tutoring, available only after school from 5:30- 9:30 p.m. from Sunday to Thursday, and is designed to help students with their homework. Parents can also register as guests but cannot participate in the chat sessions. This is a fully monitored site with several protective measures where students remain safe and anonymous and can return to the site as often as they need. All grade 7, 8 and grade 9 students can access these supports, by logging into Homework help at <http://homeworkhelp.ilc.org> using the Username and Password they generated during the o-line registration process facilitated by the school. The Homework Help website is fully monitored with several protective measures in place to ensure student safety.

DECEMBER 7 HABIT FOCUS

Our December focus of the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People is to **"Think Win-Win"**. Students will be learning about finding a solution that works for both individuals. For example, students seek mutual benefit, are co-operative/not competitive, listen more, stay in communication longer and communicate with more courage.

MOVE-A-THON

October's move-a-thon was a major success. There was much participation and co-operation by all. Thank you to all who helped to make that event a success. This year's school fundraiser raised over **\$6 100**. Many thanks are

also extended to the students and staff that decorated the gym and organized the music and event.

Congratulations to the 8 top money raisers and the randomly drawn prize winners in the Pr. and Jr./Int. Divisions!

New Bicycle: Dakota A.

Bull Dog Tickets: Kristina C..

Raptor Tickets: Alexander H.

Game System: Hunter A.

IPOD: Teghan B, John O, Katie G, Mckayla U.

C.Y.O. NEWS

Congratulations to the Junior and Senior Girls' Basketball Teams on a fine Season! Thank you to our coaches of the team Miss Smith, Mrs. Wettlaufer and Mr Susi for all their time and effort in coaching the teams.

Congratulations to the Senior Football Team on a fine Season! The team made it to the city semi-finals. Thank you to Ms Halliday and our outside volunteers: Tyreke, Francis and Mr. Borsellino for all their time and efforts in coaching the team.

The teams would also like to thank all the parents/guardians that supported the teams throughout the season.

Best of luck to the Senior and Junior Girls' Volleyball and Senior and Junior Boys' Basketball Teams, as they have begun preparations for their up-coming seasons in January 2015.

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

As you are aware, the Board's uniform policy requires that all students must wear **NAVY BLUE** bottoms (Docker style casual pants, and/or walking shorts and/or skorts), and **NAVY BLUE** or **WHITE** tops (golf shirts, and/or polo shirts and/or turtlenecks). You are also reminded that you are encouraged to have the tops crested or purchase a crest from the school or JML Sportswear our uniform supplier. Please see the Uniform Information Letter included in the newsletter for more details.

JML SCHOOL UNIFORM SUPPLIER

The school's uniform supplier is JML Sportswear and is located on 95 Parkdale Ave. North. They can be contacted at **905-544-1608**. See the flyer insert regarding the December Uniform Sale!

ST. ANN (HAMILTON) 7 HABITS LEADER IN ME FACEBOOK PAGE

Our Catholic School Council is supporting a Facebook page designed by one of its members Mrs. Livingston. You are encouraged to visit it as our hope is to keep our parents/guardians informed with what is happening at the school with regards to the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People. Please visit the link www.facebook.com/stannhamilton.

SCHOOL WEBSITE

The school newsletters are accessible on our website by going to the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board Site: www.hwcdsb.edu.on.ca and entering the St. Ann, Hamilton Catholic Elementary School website via the Elementary School Tab.

MATH PARENT SURVEY

Parents or Guardians are invited to complete an online survey about their children's math learning needs and how the school and board can support those needs.

Please go to the following link

<http://goo.gl/forms/eduTG1yHwj>

Parents are asked to complete the survey by December 15, 2014.

ECO NEWS

The Power down November challenge was successful. All classroom leaders were diligent in insuring that classroom lights and monitors were turned off when not in use. The ECO leaders (spies) were having a difficult time trying to find a classroom before the end of the month that did not power down. We hope that everyone will continue to do this at home. The ECO team believes that the St. Ann Community can come up with a better ECO saying. Get together with your class, friends, and family to synergize a new and better ECO saying. The new saying will be said at all morning announcements and in the newsletter and monthly reminder stickers. All entries must be in by **December 19th**. The new ECO saying will be announced on the first day back from Christmas vacation. Remember to: Think Green, Live Green, and Act Green!

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR MASSES

The schedule for Christmas at St. Ann Church is as follows:

Christmas Eve Mass: 5:00 p.m.

Midnight Mass: 12 a.m.

Christmas Day: 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

New Year's Mass Schedule: 5:00 p.m.

New Year's Day Mass: 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Christmas Confessions:

Dec. 20 4:00-4:45 p.m. and after 5 p.m. mass

Dec. 21 from 2:00 p.m. – 2:20 p.m.

December 23 after 8 a.m. mass and from 8:00p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Dec. 24 Last opportunity 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

CAMPBELL LABELS FOR EDUCATION

Included in this month's newsletter is a flyer reminding you we are collecting Campbell's Labels to redeem for educational resources. Please do your best to send in the labels from the products listed in the attachment. There is a bulletin board in the main hallway outside the office for the children to put the labels in the various folders. Thank you for your support and co-operation regarding this endeavor!