



*Live, Love, Lead Like Christ*

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

**ST. ANN CATHOLIC SCHOOL**  
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Hamilton-Wentworth  
Catholic Schools  
*Believing, Achieving, Serving*

Cathedral Principal – S. Cannon  
Trustee – T. Perri



*“Where is the new-born king of the Jews? We saw His star and its rising and have come to do Him homage.”*



*The staff of St. Ann School would like to welcome everyone back from the Christmas holidays with the wish that everyone had an enjoyable Christmas Break. It is our sincere hope that the Christmas Season was truly a blessed, peaceful and healthy one spent with family and friends. The Season of Christmas continues with the Epiphany on January 6<sup>th</sup>. The Epiphany is the highlight of the Advent/Christmas Season. It recalls the coming of the wise men; they brought gifts to the Christ Child and revealed Jesus to the world as Lord and King.*

*May this year, be filled with God’s blessings to each and everyone. Many exciting challenges and opportunities will be a part of this New Year and your continued partnership will ensure great experiences for our students.*

*We would also like to wish a Merry Christmas to our Ukrainian students, family and staff as they celebrate Christmas on Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>!*

### **CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL**

You are reminded that there is a Catholic School Council meeting on **Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup> @ 6:30 p.m.** in the staff room. **All parents/guardians are invited to attend.** Future meeting dates of the CSC are as follows:  
**Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 p.m.**  
**Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 6:30 p.m.**

**Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 p.m.**

### **SCHOOL MASS**

Our next school mass will be **Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m.** Please come out and join us for our community celebration at **St. Ann Church**

### **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY DAY**

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

### **JANUARY 7 HABIT FOCUS**

Our January focus of the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People is to **“Seek First to Understand; then to be understood.”** Students will be learning about the importance of listening to other’s feelings and ideas. The key skills being to: be able to see things from their point of view, listening to others without interrupting, confident in voicing one’s own ideas and looking people in the eyes when talking.

### **MOHAWK COLLEGE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS CHRISTMAS DONATIONS**

On Friday, December 19th, Wayne Aubert a Mohawk College professor along with students from Mohawk's McKeil School of Business dropped by and handed out backpacks and toys to 320 students from our school. Also in attendance were Blair and Kathy McKeil, one of the project's biggest sponsors. The St. Ann Hamilton community is very grateful for this wonderful partnership that has been developed over the past

two years and the generous support of all members of the Mohawk College community! The event was reported by the Hamilton Spectator on Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup> with pictures and an article and can be found on the Spectator Website archives. Also, CHCH Television reported the afternoon's activities with taped footage and interviews of students and staff the evening news cast on December 20<sup>th</sup>.

Follow the link found below to view a video from Mohawk College sharing the excitement of the event!

<http://vimeo.com/115018461>

## 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)**

**December - Students on time: 96.1% (98.7%)  
Attendance: 93.7% (92%)**

## 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.**

## 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.

**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](http://www.hwcdsb.ca)) and Hamilton-Wentworth Student Transportation Services website ([www.hamiltonschoolbus.ca/public\\_v2/index.aspx](http://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](http://www.cbc.ca/hamilton)  
The Hamilton Spectator [www.thespec.com](http://www.thespec.com)  
Twitter <https://twitter.com/HWCDSB>  
Facebook [www.facebook.com](http://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.

**MONTHLY AWARDS**

Congratulations to December's award winners.

**CATHOLICITY**

- Grade 1: Sarah T., Kyleigh L.
- Grade 2: Jessica T.
- Grade 3: Kristina C., Rosie B.
- Grade 4: Isabella R.
- Grade 5: Ryan H.
- Grade 6: Victoria O.
- Grade 7: Aleksander H.
- Grade 8: Marisa C.

**LEADERSHIP**

- Grade 1: D'Avonte R.
- Grade 2: Stephen T., Ryan C.
- Grade 3: Allie L., Mathew D.
- Grade 4: Josephine M.
- Grade 5: Alyssa D., Randy K.
- Grade 6: C.C. M.
- Grade 8: Anthony C.

**FRENCH AWARD**

- Grade 4/5: Bailey W.
- Grade 4/5: Matej D.
- Grade 5/6: Dominic C.
- Grade 6/7: Victoria T.
- Grade 7/8: Julia B.
- Grade 8: Josie R.

**PIZZA/CASUAL DAY**

Pizza day is on **Friday, January 30th** and orders will be taken on **Wednesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>** in the

morning (\$1.75/slice). This will also be a **theme day** and students are **encouraged to dress for the theme of a Tacky Tourist**. Future Pizza and Casual Day's will be the **last Friday of each month**. Please watch future newsletters for the theme days of those Fridays.

### C.Y.O. NEWS

Best of luck to the Junior and Senior Girls' Volleyball and Senior and Junior Boys' Basketball Teams, as they begin their seasons during the next few weeks. Please refer to the team schedules provided by each coach. Remember all of our teams play in our school gym. Please come out and support our teams!

### SCHEDULE OF DATES WHEN SCHOOL IS NOT IN SESSION

The following is a list of dates when school is not in session:

Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup> – Family Day  
Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> - March Break  
Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> – Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup> - Easter Weekend  
Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup> – P.A. Day  
Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup> - Victoria Day  
Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup> – P.A. Day  
Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup> - P. A. Day  
Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup> - Last Day of School

### CATHEDRAL SECONDARY SCHOOL ORIENTATION

On **Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>**, the Grade 8 students will be going to Cathedral High School so that they can familiarize themselves with the school and staff.

### 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](http://www.facebook.com/stannhamilton).

### ADOPTION AND FOSTER PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT

**Please join us and get all your questions answered.**

**Thursday, February 5, 2015 —7:00 p.m.  
St. Mary Catholic Secondary School  
200 Whitney Ave. Hamilton**

For more information, or to register, please call:  
(905) 525-2012

Katrina at ext. 3280 for Fostering

Jocelyn at ext. 3125 for Adoption  
[www.hamiltonccas.on.ca](http://www.hamiltonccas.on.ca)

### 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.**

**St. Ann Hamilton** is a place where all children feel safe and have a sense of belonging. To ensure the safety and well-being of all children, please note below important information from Anaphylaxis Canada:

- Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that is rapid in onset and may cause death;
- Signs and symptoms of a severe allergic reaction can occur within minutes of exposure to an allergen (a substance capable of causing an allergic reaction)
- Very small amounts of certain foods can cause severe reactions when eaten. This may happen if a person at risk touches an allergenic substance and then subsequently touches the mouth. Even a very small amount 'hidden' in a food or transferred to a serving utensil has the potential to cause a severe allergic reaction. Direct ingestion of an allergy-causing food poses the greatest risk for people with food allergies.

**Cooperation from parent and guardians in adhering to the guidelines below is most appreciated:**

- There are students at this school who are allergic to the following foods and items: **any food with nuts**.
- Parents will be advised of allergens specific to a classroom, and are asked to adhere to the accommodation(s) requested.
- Reinforce hand washing practices: wash hands before and after eating.
- Remind children not to share or trade food, food utensils, or food containers.
- Please do NOT bring any home-made food products into the school; with permission, non-food items are permitted for various celebrations and special events and activities.

**Thank you for your help in keeping all our children safe.**

