



“Live, Love, Lead like Christ”

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



Hamilton-Wentworth
Catholic Schools
Believing. Achieving. Serving

Principal – Mr. G. Pizzoferrato
Assistant to the Principal – Mrs. P. Moscato
Cathedral Principal – Mr. M. Daly

Superintendent – Mrs. T. Kovach
Trustee - Mr. A. Perri
Pastor – Fr. Derkach

SEPTEMBER 2015



Dear Parents/Guardians:

It is with great anticipation and excitement that I would like to welcome everyone to the 2015-2016 school year at St. Ann Catholic School in Hamilton. The St. Ann Hamilton Catholic School community would like to welcome all our new students and their families to our community. Preparations for this September have been ongoing throughout the summer and I am pleased as your principal to report to you that the school looks incredible for our start. I would like to extend my appreciation to all members of staff who have worked so diligently this summer to prepare their classrooms and planning materials to ensure an excellent start to the year. The classrooms look great and the entire school is shining thanks to the efforts of our Cleaning and Custodial Staff, and the creative efforts of our teaching and support staff. I have no doubt that the learning environment at our school is set to reflect the level of ongoing progress and success that all members of our community will experience during this school year. I know that the staff of St. Ann School looks forward to working with all our community members this year in creating a Catholic school that is safe and caring and exemplifies **Christ like Leadership**. A Catholic community in which our children can be challenged to live up to the mission of our school as they grow through this school year to **Live, Love, Lead like Christ**. I look forward to meeting all of our parents/guardians at our Open House scheduled for September 22, 2015.

A special welcome goes out to our new staff members who have joined the St. Ann Catholic School Community for the 2015 - 2016 school year (new staff to the school and new roles are in bold print):

- FDELK B. Forsyth and D. Bajus-Harrison (ECE)
- FDELK A. Smith and S. Dickson (ECE)
- FDELK M. Santucci and M. Fernandopulle
- Grade 1 N. Gillow
- Grade 1/2 R. Mastromarco
- Grade 2 C. Kostyk

- Grade 2/3
- Grade 3
- Grade 4/5
- Grade 4/5
- Grade 5/6
- Grade 6/7
- Grade 7/8
- Grade 7/8
- PPT/FDK Planning
- PPT
- French
- Special Education
- Special Education
- Language Resource
- Reading Recovery
- AIT
- AIT
- Librarian
- Library Clerk
- Educational Assistant
- Educational Assistant
- Educational Assistant
- Educational Assistant
- Educational Assistant
- Educational Assistant
- Educational Assistant
- Educational Assistant
- Educational Assistant
- Educational Assistant
- Educational Assistant
- Educational Assistant
- Educational Assistant
- Principal**
- Principal Intern**
- Secretary**
- Custodian
- Night Custodian

- L. Busnards-DiFeo/ **TBA**
- P. Polizzi
- P. Toffolon
- J. Rizzo**
- R. Monachino
- M. Dach
- P. Moscato**
- M. Susi
- C. Legris
- M. Tomasevic
- M. Settimi
- F. Albini
- L. Gabriele
- L. Busnarda-DiFeo
- L. Busnarda-DiFeo
- N. Babjak
- K. Stevens
- R. Liggio
- C. Passaretti
- S. Albuquerque
- F. Calvise
- E. Kitchen
- J. DiPaolo
- N. Dacosta
- A. Clarke
- L. Cino
- J. Halliday
- M. Holadyk
- M. McPhail
- R. Miles
- E. Sicoli
- R. Wong
- B. Churchill
- G. Pizzoferrato**
- P. Moscato**
- C. Ragonetti**
- N. Tower
- P. Hall

As we work together this year to take on the many challenges that await us, I ask that all members of St. Ann Catholic School keep all of the members of our school community in your prayers throughout the year. I remain confident that together we will always keep in mind that working in partnership to create a strong faith filled school where each member has a chance to flourish as a **LEADER** is what we aspire to do each and every day!

SCHOOL MASS

Our opening school mass will be **Thursday, September 24, 2015 at St. Ann Church at 10:15 a.m.** Our community looks forward to working with our Pastor Fr. Joe to celebrate in the Eucharist. All are welcome!

OPEN HOUSE & MEET THE STAFF NIGHT

Our Open House/Meet the Staff Night will take place on **Tuesday, September 22, 2015 from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.** at our school. This year, Roberto's Catering will again be selling Porchetta Sandwiches and drinks from **5:00 to 6:30 pm.** Parents/Guardians are encouraged to visit their child's classroom and teacher. Please make time in your schedule to join us for supper and to meet your child's teacher and all other members of our school staff.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL

St. Ann Catholic School Council elections will take place on **Wednesday, September 23, 2015 at 7 p.m.** in the school library. Those parents/ guardians interested in joining the Catholic School Council are asked to complete the enclosed nomination form or phone the school office at 905-547-5444.

7 HABITS OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE PEOPLE PROGRAM AND LEADER IN ME PARENT GUIDES

Included in this month's newsletter is an outline of our school's focus on developing Leadership skills in our students and all of our community members as we work to support one another to realize our full potential of which Jesus Christ is our model. Parents/Guardians will receive a copy of the Leader in Me Parents' Guide at our School Meet the Staff evening. When you receive it please read it so you can share with your children the skills that are helping to create the leaders of tomorrow! This program has been firmly rooted in our school community and with your support, not only will your children realize the benefits of developing their personal and interpersonal potential but they will be well positioned with a solid foundation for a successful future to be built. Your partnership is appreciated in all areas of our work.

SCHOOL PICTURE DAY

School Pictures for all students will be on **Friday, October 2nd.** Order forms will be handed out within the next couple of weeks!

HEPATITIS B AND HPV INJECTIONS

The Grade 7 boys and girls will be receiving their Hepatitis B injections and the Grade 8 girls will also be receiving their HPV injections. Information and permission forms will be sent home in October.

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

Our Catholic School Council is supporting a Facebook page. 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 and other leadership initiatives. Please visit the link www.facebook.com/stannhamilton and "like" the page.

STUDENT VERIFICATION FORMS

It is extremely important that the school have **up-to-date information** on file for each student. Student information sheets have been sent home for parents/guardians to verify and update information kept on file at school. Please make any changes and return the forms to the school **as soon as possible** (even if the information is correct, kindly initial the forms and return them to the school).

LUNCH AT SCHOOL

Students are permitted to stay at school for lunch if parents/guardians have no other alternative for their care during this time. There is a "Code of Conduct" that must be followed by all students who do stay for lunch. ***Lunch students MAY NOT go to a restaurant/store at lunch hour.*** Students that regularly stay for lunch may only leave school property at lunch accompanied by an adult and needs to be signed out at the office.

NUT SAFE ENVIRONMENT

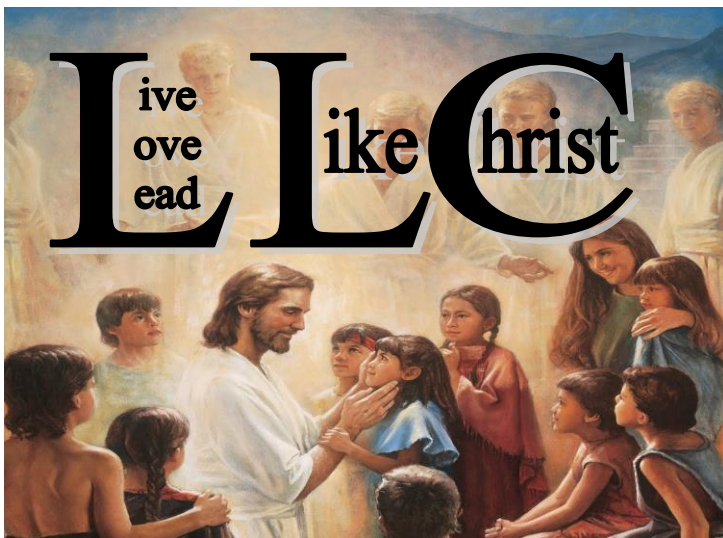
Please be reminded that St. Ann School is a NUT SAFE ENVIRONMENT. *This year, we have a student and staff member that have such a severe allergy that any food with nuts in it that is airborne will cause a reaction that could be life threatening.* Please ensure that your child does not bring food items that contain any nuts or nut byproducts. Diligently reading snack labels will help to keep your awareness of this critical situation in mind and it will serve as an additional reading opportunity for our younger children as they learn to identify key words. We thank you for your continued cooperation.

TELLING TALES FESTIVAL

The 7th annual "TellingTales" event will be held on September 20th, 2015 at Westfield Village in Rockton, Ontario. The event will take place rain or shine. Transportation and lunch will be provided for

families from the Equal Opportunities schools. A bus will be provided for our school which will leave the school at 9:30 a.m. and leave the festival at 3:00 p.m. Please contact the school if you are interested in this event.

ST. ANN, HAMILTON CATHOLIC COMMUNITY MISSION STATEMENT



(The purpose of our Vision Statement is to help support our actions to achieve the Mission Statement: "Live, Love, Lead like Christ" and the teaching of the 7 Habits.)

C – Care and Respect for each other.

H – Help create a Christ like Community.

R – Responsible for our actions.

I – Inspire everyone to be leaders.

S – Succeed in achieving our goals.

T – Teach and Learn from each other.

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. **Please note: in all research that is available, your child's regular and timely school attendance is positively related to their achieving growth and positive results in student learning. Your support in ensuring your child's regular and punctual attendance is critical to their learning and future success! This year, our goal is to seek monthly improvements on our previous month'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! Let's try to improve the numbers in each month this coming school year! We start fresh this month.

SCHOOL BELL TIMES

Our school bell times continue to reflect a balanced day for delivering curriculum to the students. Please note a change in the start of afternoon recess.

8:15 a.m. Ukrainian Heritage Language Class Begins

8:45 a.m. - School Begins

9:55 a.m. - Morning Recess

11:30 - 12:20 p.m. - LUNCH BREAK

12:20 p.m. - Afternoon Session Begins

1:40 p.m. - Afternoon Recess

3:05 p.m. - Dismissal

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. Please note: there is no parking on the school property for parents/guardians to walk their children to the playground. Please use the 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. 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.

BUS POLICIES

In May 2008 the Hamilton Wentworth Catholic District School Board and the Hamilton Wentworth School Board partnered together and formed the Hamilton Wentworth Student Transportation Services (HWSTS) Consortium. The mandate for the Consortium includes the provision of safe, effective and efficient transportation services for students for both Partner Boards. If you have any inquiries, changes or complaints regarding the bussing please call **1-800-691-6402** and your call will be directed to the appropriate staff. We thank you for your patience during this transition.

In order to make sure our children get home safely, it is the Board's policy that every child will go home on their assigned bus. **No exceptions will be made. All questions regarding Transportation Services should be directed to the number provided in the paragraph above.**

WEBPAGE SIGNUP FOR FAMILIES

Please take a moment to register your email address on our school website so we are able to communicate with you directly on an ongoing basis. Your registration will allow you to stay current and receive weekly communication from the office to stay current with the latest news coming out of the school. To register simply go to the school website, scroll partway down the page to a section that says “follow (Subscribe)” menu, you will see the link to permit you to register. This communication strategy will be another important way for families to remain in receipt of constant communication from the school. I look forward to exploring this tool with you.

FIRST COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION

The date for our **Grade 7 students’ Confirmation is Saturday, May 14, 2015 @ 5 p.m. @ St. Ann Church.** **The Grade 2 students will be making The Sacrament of First Communion on Saturday, May 7, 2016 at 5 p.m. at St. Ann Church.** Please keep our Grade 2 and Grade 7 students in your prayers as they embark on their spiritual journey this year and prepare for these special and important sacraments.

HOMEWORK PLANNERS

Students in Grades 1-8 have each been given a homework planner by their teacher. Each student from Grades 1 to 8 is being provided with an agenda. The price of the agenda is **\$5.00**. We encourage payment for these agendas this year take the form of an online payment. If you have not already done so, please register for an account. The item below will guide you on how to move forward with setting up an account.

SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

Look for the School Cash Online icon (credit card with hand) at the top right corner of our school website <http://stah.hwcdsb.ca/> or under the SCHOOL menu.

We ask parents to please take 5 minutes to register, by following the steps below. Once you are registered online, you will begin receiving emails about upcoming events. This Board initiative is designed to support parents in moving to a cashless school system for most school based initiatives.

The link below will take you to a one minute video clip that will give you a brief overview of the registration and online shopping experience.

<http://www.kevsoftware.com/movies>

Register Online:

Step 1: Please click on this link:

<https://hwcdsb.schoolcashonline.co>

Step 2: Register by selecting the “Get Started Now” icon and following the steps.

Step 3: After you receive the confirmation email, please select the ‘click here’ option, login and add each of your children to your household account.

PLEASE NOTE: If you have any questions during the registration process or while shopping online, please select the GET HELP option in the top right hand area of the screen.

WHEN VISITING SCHOOL

Parents/Guardians are reminded that they **MUST** report to the office when entering the school. There is a security system in front of the main entrance, which is similar to the one that has been placed at the day-care centre near the FDELK doors in the playground. For security reasons, the main doors will be kept locked. Visitors to the school must press the security buzzer near the right door at the main entrance of the school. We thank you for your understanding and patience. We appreciate your cooperation in making this a successful security measure for the school.

No one is to go directly to a classroom **OR ONTO THE PLAYGROUNDS AT ANY TIME OF THE DAY.** There are signs posted at the entrance of the school reminding parents/guardians and visitors of this. This includes dismissal times at the end of the day. For the safety of your children, please wait for staff to dismiss children and account for their departure accurately. This is done most effectively when the school yard is comprised of students only. At all times, parents should wait outside of the fenced in areas for direction from school staff. The only parents permitted in the fenced in area are those bringing their child to the FDK area. I ask for your patience and understanding of this request as we work to enhance the levels of student safety at our school. Your input is always welcome!

Parents/Guardians are also reminded to first call the office for an appointment, if they need to meet with the teacher. Teachers require time to prepare for interviews and showing up at the school unannounced makes for a difficult situation when staff members have supervision and teaching responsibilities during the day which take priority over any impromptu meeting requests. A mutually agreeable meeting time will be requested by staff moving forward.

In addition, please make every possible effort to make sure that your children arrive to school on time. This will greatly assist in the smooth flow of the day by eliminating disruptions to instructional time caused by students who are consistently late in the morning. Your child’s successful learning depends on regular and punctual attendance.

COUNT YOURSELF IN!

Did you know that every time you move to a new home, you must re-designate your Catholic school support?

Otherwise the education portion of your property taxes will automatically default to the public school system.

The number of Catholic ratepayers is also a strong indicator

of support for the Catholic school system. To vote for Catholic Trustees you must be registered as a separate school ratepayer.

We urge you to check your property tax bill to ensure that your support is directed to the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board. We also encourage you to share this information with family and friends who are Catholic but do not have children in the school system. If you need help checking or changing your school support designation, please call the Assessment Department at 905-525-2930, Ext. 2188, or email webmaster@hwcdsb.ca.

PARENT/GUARDIAN CONCERNS AND/OR QUESTIONS

Student success is rooted in the co-operation between home, school and parish. Effective communication and a spirit of working together are critical in assuring the success of this arrangement. We are aware that, from time to time, parents/guardians have concerns and/or questions about their children's progress at school and/or about the various practices and procedures which we have established at St. Ann School.

We want to ensure that the concerns and/or questions which you raise about your children's education are addressed in an efficient, effective and mutually respectful manner.

In order to accomplish this we ask that when you have a concern and/or question about something that is happening at our school, you take the following steps:

If the concern and/or question are about something that is occurring in your child's classroom, please arrange to discuss the issue with your child's teacher by contacting the office and scheduling a time to speak with the teacher by telephone or a meeting with the teacher. It is also suggested that the parent/guardian outlines the nature of the concern and/or question before a meeting takes place. This will allow the teacher to investigate the concern or gather the information needed to answer the question prior to the meeting.

If the concern and/or question relates to a practice or procedure which applies to most or all of the students in the school, it is best to speak with G. Pizzoferrato, the school principal. Please contact the office to arrange to speak with our principal by telephone or schedule a meeting with him.

We trust that these suggestions will prove useful to you.

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

As you are aware, the Board's uniform policy requires that all students must wear **NAVY BLUE** bottoms (Docker style casual pants, Kobe 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**. **School crests are now available for purchase (\$3.00 each) from the school office.**

MEDICAL NEEDS

If your child has a serious medical matter that requires the concern to be managed at school as a support to your home efforts, please ensure that the office is aware of the problem and any restrictions necessary. If your child must have medication administered at school, you **MUST COMPLETE A PERMISSION SLIP**. Please call the school for a form.

VALUABLES

Students should not at this time bring valuable items to school as they can be damaged or lost. This includes electronic games, cell and or SMART phones, CD players and Ipods, etc.

Please note: Staff, Parents/Guardians and students will be looking into adopting the H.W.C.D.S. Board's "Bring Your Own Device" policy to our school community during the school year. More information regarding this will follow in future as staff understanding and comfort around this initiative continues to be developed.

SCHOOL INSURANCE ENVELOPES

School insurance envelopes will be sent home. If you wish to purchase this insurance for your child(ren), please deal directly with the insurance company. Do not send money or forms back to the school as this transaction must take place between the family and the insurance provider directly. This could also be done online www.insuremykids.com

ON-SITE SCHOOL BASED CHILD WELFARE WORKER

The Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board, in partnership with the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton is pleased to announce that it will continue to provide service to the school and the community with respect to an education/child welfare prevention service that is designed to provide on-site support services for children and their parents/guardians within the community. This service is in addition to that provided by the **Board's school-based social worker**. The program has been a great success in previous years and the school is happy that it will continue this year. **Ongoing support will be made available through this service** at the school to assist in providing information on parenting, discipline, or to simply sit and chat.

PARENT CONFERENCE

The 23rd Annual Parents conference is scheduled to take place on Saturday November 7th, 2015 at Bishop Ryan

Catholic Secondary School 1824 Rymal Road East from 7:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Please mark this date and time on your calendars as this is a highly informative and engaging conference that is open to all parents and caregivers who are able to attend. More information will follow closer to the event

ST. ANN EARLY LEARNING AND 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 **\$43.00**

Pre School **\$37.00**

Before & After **\$20.00(J/K, S/K) \$17.00 (Gr 1-7)**

Before school only \$11.00(J/K, S/K) **\$10.00 (Gr 1-7)**

After school only \$15.00(J/K, S/K) **\$14.00 (Gr 1-7)**

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

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 on-line registration process facilitated by the school. The Homework Help website is fully monitored with several protective measures in place to ensure student safety.

FREE EYEGLASSES

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

PEDICULOSIS (Head Lice) CONTROL

This year, we will again be using public health nurses to screen the students at school. A screening of our whole student population is presently being arranged and hopefully will be conducted at least once per school term. **The health department suggests that one good**

preventative measure to control head lice is for parents/guardians to perform regular head checks on their children at home. Head lice is not a health problem, but it does create a nuisance for all. You can also visit a web site which gives information on Head Lice. The web site is:

www.webspawner.com/users/licefree/index.html

<http://www.inform.hamilton.ca/record/HAM2652>

BUG BUSTER CLINICS

- Screening (head checks);
- Treatment demonstrations;
- Low cost medicated shampoo and comb;
- Information provided by a public health nurse;
- Time to talk to other parents/guardians;

Bug Buster Clinic Two Locations

Cathy Wever School:

160 Wentworth Ave. North (Between Cannon and Barton) **every Wednesday 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.**

Hamilton East Kiwanis Boys and Girls Club

45 Ellis Avenue (south of Barton near Center Mall) **Every Thursday 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.**

POLICE CHECKS FOR VOLUNTEERS

In the interest of safety, parents/guardians and adults who wish to volunteer at the school are requested to have a police reference check. This is to fulfill the **school board's requirement by the ministry**. We ask that any person who wishes to volunteer at the school for any school functions to obtain a reference check. Each year, you need to complete a verification form once you have had your police checked confirmed. The school secretary will send out the verification forms in May of each year. If you do not receive one, please be sure to contact the school. We wish to thank all volunteers who will give of their time and energy to provide valuable input for our children and teachers. Adults who are interested in volunteering this year are asked to start this process early.

HAMILTON-WENTWORTH CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD PARENT CONFERENCE 2015

On **Saturday, November 7, 2015 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**, there will be a **Parent Conference** at Bishop Ryan Secondary School. For more information, please visit the website at www.hwcdsb.edu.on.ca

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 we

Do you have Room in Your Heart and Home for one more?

Become a Foster Parent

Call the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton 905-525-CARE (2273) site via the Elementary School.

