



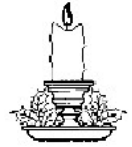
ST. ANN CATHOLIC SCHOOL
15 St. Ann St.
Hamilton, Ont.
L8L 0B8
905-547-5444



Live, Love, Lead Like Christ

Principal – G. Pizzoferrato
 Principal Intern – P. Moscato
 Superintendent – T. Kovach

Cathedral Principal – M. Daly
Trustee – T. Perri



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

On Sunday, November 29th, 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!

Loving God, during this holy season of Advent
 We ask for Your blessing on all families.
 Let Mary's openness to Your wondrous ways
 Be an inspiration to place all trust in You.
 Let Joseph's courage provide hope
 during times of anxiety and uncertainty.
 Let Jesus life ignite all families
 with a spirit of light and love.
 May the grace that encircled the Holy Family
 Widen to embrace all families.
 For this we pray, Amen

SCHOOL MASSES & CONFESSIONS

Confessions will be in our gym on Friday December 4th @ 1 p.m. Our final mass before the Christmas Break is **Thursday, December 17th @ 10:15 a.m.** everyone is welcome to join us!

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY DAY

In January, there will be a Professional Activity Day on **Friday, January 29, 2016.**



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.



December 15, 16, 17

St. Ann Elementary School will be hosting their Book Fair. We invite your family to participate by purchasing the latest children's books. Books do make a great gift and also help to develop reading skills which are very important in our society.

COME VISIT THE BOOK FAIR

Tuesday, Dec. 15

8:55- 9:55, 10:10-11:30, 12:20-1:40

1:55 -3:05, 4:00-5:15 & 7:00 – 8:00

Wednesday, Dec. 16

8:55- 9:55, 10:10-11:30, 12:20-1:40, 1:55 -3:05

Thursday, Dec 17

8:55- 9:55

We look forward to seeing you during our Book Fair and thank you in advance for supporting our events and believing in books and the importance reading has for your child's future.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL

You are reminded that there is a Catholic School Council meeting on **Tuesday, January 26st @ 6:30 p.m.** in the library. **All parents/guardians are invited to attend.**

MONTHLY AWARDS

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

CATHOLICITY

Grade 1: Marco S.
Grade 1/2: Samuel H.
Grade 2: Kendra P.
Grade 2/3: Giulia S.
Grade 3: Nolan G.
Grade 4/5 : Allie L. / Alex T.
Grade 5/6: Asha B.H.
Grade 6/7: Pedro B.
Grade 7/8: Terrell S./ Katherine K.

LEADERSHIP

Grade 1: Ella Y.
Grade 1/2: Teghan B.
Grade 2: Andy N.
Grade 2/3: Joshua P.
Grade 3: Mika L.
Grade 4/5: Jessica S. / Keana M.
Grade 5/6: Julia T.
Grade 6/7: Adriana F.
Grade 7/8: Phuong Vy P. / Luke S.

VIRTUE – Peace

Grade 1: Boston B.
Grade 1/2: Jackelyn B.
Grade 2: Lucy N.
Grade 2/3: Emma L.P.
Grade 3: Rachael E.
Grade 4/5: Serenity M. / Aunice A.
Grade 5/6: Nathalie C.
Grade 6/7: Parice B.
Grade 7/8: Victoria O. / Hope W.

FRENCH AWARD

Grade 4/5: Keira P.
Grade 4/5: Kylie A.
Grade 5/6: Ryan H.
Grade 6/7: Maxim P.
Grade 7/8: Maria H.
Grade 7/8: Luke S.

DECEMBER 7 HABIT FOCUS

Our focus for the month of December is “Be Proactive”. Being proactive is more than taking initiative. It is recognizing that we are responsible for our own choices and have the freedom to choose based on principles and values rather than on moods or conditions. Proactive people are agents of change and choose not to be victims, to be reactive, or to blame others. We look forward to capturing the proactivity among our students during the month of December.

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

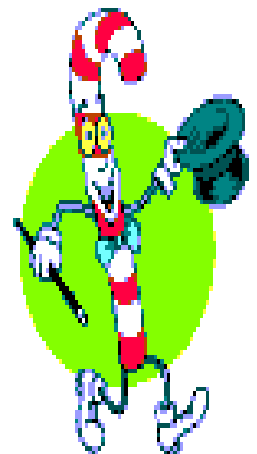
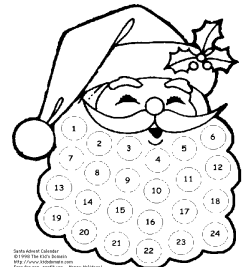
Students during lunch are expected to follow our “Code of Conduct” to ensure a respectful and safe lunch room. ***Lunch students MAY NOT go to a restaurant/store at noon without being accompanied by an adult. Parents/Guardians that wish to bring their children out for lunch are asked to sign their children 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 21st to Friday, January 1st, 2015**. School will re-open on **Monday January 4th, 2016**.

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 **Thursday, December 17th**. Cards cost **\$0.25/each (or 5 for \$1.00)** and will be sold from **December 10th to December 14th**.



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.



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

On Tuesday December 15th students at St. Ann school will have a celebration breakfast with Santa. Pancakes and juice will be served as our students get to meet the Jolly Santa.



SUB DAY/CASUAL DAY

Sub day is on **Thursday, December 17th** and orders will be taken on **Monday, December 14th** in the morning (\$5.00 per 6" sub). This will also be a **theme day** and students are **encouraged to dress for the theme of Red, White and Green (Christmas Theme) Day.**



CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The annual St. Ann Catholic Elementary School Christmas Concert will take place on Tuesday, December 15, 2015 at 6:30pm in the school gym. Parents/guardians are asked to have students arrive no earlier than 6:00pm. Children will gather in the designated areas while waiting for their performance and will return to the class until the end of the entire show. Staff will be supervising while families enjoy from their seats in the audience. A sincere thanks to Mrs. Stevens and the staff members of St. Ann Catholic Elementary School for sacrificing their personal time so that our school community can enjoy a community gathering where the talents of our students are showcased.

Parents Council will have a table setup and will be collecting donations of nonperishable food for our local food banks and donations of gently used St. Ann crested uniform items.

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!

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 \$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**

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 request you're the letter at the office.

Vision Facts:

- 80% of learning is visual.
- 25% of school age children have a vision problem.
- 60% of children with literacy problems have an undiagnosed vision problem.
- These rates rise in at risk children.
- There is little understanding amongst the public of the importance of early/planned comprehensive eye exams.
- Vision problems can affect comprehension, performance in reading and manifest as social, eye-hand coordination, discipline or emotional problems.
- Children with vision problems May have a short attention span for their age (be misdiagnosed with ADD).
- May have difficulty completing written assignments on time.
- May experience reading and learning difficulties.
- May complain of headaches.

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.

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 **\$4,500**. Many thanks are also extended to the students and staff that decorated the gym and organized the music and event.

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, Miss Back, Miss Dickson and Mr. Susi for all their time and effort in coaching the teams.

Congratulations to the Senior Football Team on a fine Season!. Thank you to Mr. Susi and our outside volunteers: Carson B, Anthony C, Jeff S and Tristan O, 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 Junior Girls' Volleyball and Senior and Junior Boys' Basketball Teams, as they have begun preparations for their up-coming seasons in January 2016.

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

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**.

PARENT SURVEY

Thank you to our Catholic School Council who completed an initial survey for our community at the request of our Director of Education. There continues to be opportunity for parents to facilitate input regarding the refresh of the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board's Multi-Year Strategic Plan. The next phase of consultation will be web-based and will offer individuals the opportunity to participate in the process. The individual consultation survey can be found at: <http://www.hwcdsb.ca/myspfeedback/>

E.Q.A.O. NEWS

Grade 3 and 6 students will be completing their Education Quality and Accountability Office (E.Q.A.O) assessment the last week of May/first week of June. You will be notified as soon as the final dates are decided. The assessment evaluates the reading, writing and math skills the students are expected to have learned by the end of their grade. Please visit <http://www.eqao.com> for more information or contact your child's teacher directly.

SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

Thanks to all families who weathered the growing pains and frustrations linked to the School Cash Online system. Special thanks to Mrs. Ragonetti, school administrative assistant, for her tireless efforts in fielding all calls, questions and concerns. The system is designed for a seamless payment process without cash transactions. To date, the school has a very growing percentage of families currently registered and we will be working actively in the new year towards full compliance of our school community with this most convenient and time saving tool. To register: <https://hwcdsb.schoolcashionline.com/>

WEBPAGE SIGNUP FOR FAMILIES

Please take a moment to register your email address on our school website (stah.hwcdsb.ca) 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.

NURSING STUDENTS: FINAL DAY

A sincere appreciation is extended to the McMaster University Third Year Nursing students who shared their time and talents via the project: 'Nurturing Positive Climates and Wellness at St. Ann (Ham) CES'. Their work at the school culminated with the gathering and summary of feedback on a school climate survey conducted with students and staff. These survey results were shared with the Catholic School Council and will be posted to our school website shortly. Take some time to review what has been identified as areas in need of our collective attention as we move forward together.

ECO NEWS

The ECO Team has been hard at work. We have been encouraging everyone to put waste in the right place. Vince T. in grade 8 won the ECO contest this month! He was the first to answer correctly what was left off the November calendar. Congratulations Vince! The Dirt Committee has been hard at work. Vincent, Isabella, Adriana, Victoria, and Phoung Vy stayed after school to spread the top soil that was donated to us from Big Yellow Bag. We have the start of a beautiful vegetable garden. They even car pooled home! Thank You for your hard work and dedication to our school. On Sunday November 29th some of the ECO Team were at Hamilton City Hall. We were there to show our support for our climate. It was the Hamilton 2 Paris Climate Rally. A huge Thank You to everyone who came to show their support.

December's ECO challenge is Turn It Off. We are asking everyone to turn off all electronics, lights etc. when they are not being used. This is not only good for our environment but it will save you money as well. We will be having Lights out Lunches and Earth Hour throughout December. The question that has been asked at St. Ann's is: Are You part of the Pollution or part of the Solution? 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:

Sat. Dec. 19 and after 5 p.m. mass

Sun. Dec. 20 after 11:00 a.m. mass

Tues December 22 after 8 a.m. mass

Wed December 23 after 8:00 a.m. mass & 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 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!

A MESSAGE FROM POPE FRANCIS

We must restore hope to young people, help the old, be open to the future, spread love. Be poor among the poor. We need to include the excluded and preach peace. –Pope Francis

<https://twitter.com/Pontifex>

MERRY CHRISTMAS