



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."

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE:

The month of November wrapped up as dynamically as it started. With Progress Report Cards and Interviews complete, our Basketball teams experiencing a fun season and many special projects well underway in each classroom within our school. The Intermediate students have been preparing for high school with visits to Cathedral. Our Health Action Team have been busy leading activities that include the introduction of a Friendship Bench for our playground which is currently being introduced in each classroom. This month we look forward to our Advent Mass, Christmas Concert, and many special activities that have been planned. There are a number of special theme days organized for our student's for the last week of school this month. The staff of St. Ann school would like to thank the parents for all of their support and partnership in educating the students. We wish you all a safe and blessed Christmas and look forward to seeing you around the school during the many activities we have planned.

A CHRISTMAS THANK YOU TO:

- all of our teachers and support staff for their dedication and commitment to the students and community of St. Ann School. Your efforts and hard work are truly appreciated.
- Mrs. Ragonetti for her cooperative and supportive spirit, and for working so hard to keep our school running efficiently and safely.
- Ms. Tower, Mr. Caverly and Ms. Agostini for the wonderful job they do to keep St. Ann's a beautiful and clean school.
- Father Joe, and his parish team for helping our students, staff and school community to celebrate and share our Catholic faith through liturgy and prayer.
- all members of the Catholic School Council for their efforts and cooperative spirit, and for their

determined dedication to help make St. Ann a great school for all of our children.

- all of our many parent volunteers, who give freely of their time to assist us with the children on a regular basis.

Wishing you all a blessed Christmas and happy new year.

G. Pizzoferrato

SCHOOL MASSES & CONFESSIONS

Confessions will be in our gym on Thursday December 1st @ 1 p.m. Our final mass before the Christmas Break is **Thursday, December 22nd @ 10:00 a.m.** everyone is welcome to join us!

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: 10:00 a.m.**
- New Year's Mass Schedule: 5:00 p.m.**
- New Year's Day Mass: 10:00 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.**

CONCERT AT ST. ANTHONY'S CHURCH

St. Anthony's church will be having a Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 18th with a Choir from Italy & Hamilton. There is no entrance fee – but a goodwill offering would be appreciated, proceeds will go to the Earthquake relief fund.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY DAY

In January, there will be a Professional Activity Day on **Friday, January 27, 2017.**



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.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL

You are reminded that there is a Catholic School Council meeting on Tuesday, **January 24th @ 6:30 p.m.** in the library. **All parents/guardians are invited to attend.**

DECEMBER 7 HABIT FOCUS

Our focus for the month of December is "Begin with the End in Mind". This habit focuses on setting goals and working toward achieving them. Students are encouraged to set one personal and one academic goal each month and track their progress toward their goals.

Discussing goals at home and at school will help to recognize the importance of "Beginning with the End in Mind."

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 26th to Friday, January 6th, 2017.** School will re-open on **Monday January 9th, 2017.**

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 **Friday, December 16th.** Cards cost **\$0.25/each and will be sold from December 6th to December 12th.**

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 Justin Masotti, a student from Brebeuf High School who is battling a rare form of brain cancer. We will also have a dress down day on Friday, December 16th. Donations will be accepted for Justin's battle on this day.



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

On Saturday December 17th students at St. Ann school will be celebrating breakfast with Santa. Pancakes, fruit, coffee and juice will be served and students will get to visit with Santa himself. Breakfast tickets must be pre-ordered Please return your registration form as soon as possible.

SUB DAY/CASUAL DAY



Sub day is on **Thursday, December 22nd** and orders will be taken on **Monday, December 19th** in the morning (\$4.00 per 6" sub) forms must be returned to complete order. 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 20, 2016 at 6:00pm in the school gym. Parents/guardians are asked to have students arrive no earlier than 5:30pm. 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 Ms. Stevens, Ms. Babjak 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 15th 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 Miss Smith, Ms. Wettlaufer, Ms. Stevens and Mr. Susi for all their time and effort in coaching the teams.

Congratulations to the Senior Girls Flag Football Team on a fine Season!. Thank you to Mr. Susi and Mr. Toffolon and our Senior Boys Flag football Mr. Zasucha and Mr. Borsellino

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.

GROWTH MINDSET IN MATH

Manipulatives

Manipulatives are objects that help students learn math. They are integral to math as using manipulatives help students visualize, think, and reason their way through math concepts. Some examples of manipulatives are: counters, spinners, tangrams, geoboards, and algebra tiles. Manipulatives are readily available in your home, at the dollar store, and online.

- McGraw Hill Online Manipulatives

http://www.glencoe.com/sites/common_assets/mathematics/eb ook_assets/vmf/VMF-Interface.html

- National Library of Virtual Manipulatives:
<http://nlvm.usu.edu/>

Some Online Math Resources:

1. Ontario Government:

- A Parent Guide: Doing Mathematics with your child (K-6)

<https://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/literacynumeracy/parentGuide NumEn.pdf>

- The Ontario Curriculum Grade 1-8 Mathematics:

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum.elementary.math18c urr.pdf>

2. The Hamilton Wentworth Catholic District School Board:

a) Homework Help: Homework Help is a free online math help resource for students in grade 7-10. It provided live one-on-one tutoring from Ontario teachers.

[Http://homeworkhelp.ilc.org/](http://homeworkhelp.ilc.org/)

b) Prodigy: a self-paced math game used to practice math skill

<https://www.prodigygame.com/Play/index.php>

3. **Math CLIPS/ePractice:** Critical Learning Instructional Paths Supports designed to support math concepts from grade 1 to 12

<http://oame.on.ca/CLIPS>

4. **Mathies:** This site is designed for Ontario k-12 students and parents. It has games, learning tools, activities, and additional supports for parents

<http://oame.on.ca/mathies>.

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

Single Use Water Bottles

In 2015, a group of elementary students presented a power point to our Catholic trustees on the issue of single use water bottles. They requested that our school board discontinue of the use and sale of water bottles in our school board.



In April, 2016 Trustee Joe Baiardo presented a motion to the trustees to discontinue the use and sale of water bottles in our school board. This motion was deferred to the fall. The trustees asked Mr. Hansen to collect information from principals and parents on this issue and present a report to the trustees in the Fall of 2016.

Father Mahony, pastor of Corpus Christi Parish, asked the pastors of our churches in Hamilton, to discontinue the use of water bottles in all parish functions. This request was supported by Reverend Bishop Crosby.

Some Facts regarding water bottles and plastics in general:

-Toronto alone uses over 100 million water bottles a year.

Most are not recycled.

-Pope Francis in his encyclical *Laudato Si*, stated emphatically that water is a universal right and should not be sold as a commodity.

-David Suzuki states that 70-80 % of all water bottles are NOT recycled world-wide.

-Greenpeace estimates that 10% of all plastics end up in the ocean. The result is that about a million sea creatures die each year in the ocean. Many sea animals end up dead because of swallowing plastics in the ocean.

-Health Canada states that there is no evidence that bottled water is safer than tap water.

-Our water in Hamilton is very safe to drink. The city tests our water every day of the year at multiple locations.

-Dr. William Shotyk, Canadian director of the Institute of Environmental Chemistry found that PET bottles leach a dangerous toxin called antimony into the water.

-A litre of tap water costs 1 tenth of a cent, yet people spend money buying bottled water.

-Each person in this city can make a positive contribution to our environment by not purchasing bottled water.

CAMPBELL LABELS FOR EDUCATION

We are collecting Campbell's Labels to redeem for educational resources until the end of December. After that date the program will change. More information will be provided in the new year.. Thank you for your support and co-operation regarding this endeavor!

MERRY CHRISTMAS

