



ST. ANN CATHOLIC SCHOOL
15 St. Ann St
Hamilton, ON
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



"Forgive us the wrongs we have done as we forgive the wrongs others have done to us."

Matthew 6:12

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE:

While it is difficult to imagine spring is just around the corner, with it will come slightly warmer days and lots of sunshine. Our new sod that was laid in the fall will need this time to take proper root so kindly remain off of the grass in the front area of the school. We need one good growing season for the front of the school to take shape after the extensive landscaping that took place in the fall. Your cooperation is most appreciated.

Our Lenten Journey begins this month as we move toward Easter. It is important for each of us to take time to focus on the Gospel messages of almsgiving, prayer and self-discipline. This is a time during the liturgical when we take time to again reflect on our own actions and determine how our sacrifice and contributions can make a difference in the lives of others. Although this is a wonderful process to be engaged in during the course of the year, at this time of year it becomes our main focus. I want to thank you for helping to instill in our children the Christian response to those in need and the need for us to take care of ourselves as well, through prayer, time spent with family, and personal reflection.

Our students are working on reviewing, refining and re-establishing their goals as determined by the feedback generated in the First Term Report Card. This is a good time for you as parents and caregivers to do frequent "check ins" with your child to encourage, reinforce and continue planning for their academic success. The most successful students are those whose parents are informed about their progress and whose families support their learning by working with the teacher and supporting school initiatives. For those working on goals, keep up the effort – it will be worthwhile!

I wish at this time to highlight one aspect of our after school activities that are available to all students – our Homework Club. With thanks to Mr. Albini and our team of educational assistants, this wonderful opportunity is made available to families at no additional cost. Please note that this program is intended to support the teaching and learning process for all children that are involved but it is not designed to replace either the role of the teacher, the student or the

parent/caregiver. Our educational assistants are able to assist and support but it is not their responsibility to complete the work prior to your child arriving home. The program is intended to compliment the efforts of both home and school. In order for success in the program to be achieved, students must arrive with their daily work and their agenda's completed. Once children arrive at the program, they cannot be permitted to leave the gathering area identified for them to pick up forgotten work in the classroom due to student safety and supervision concerns. As such, should your child arrive to the program without their homework or without their agenda properly completed, grade appropriate math work will be provided to your child for completion during their time in the program on that day. This work will be sent home for your review and signature and then it should be sent back to school to your child's teacher for follow up. I thank you for supporting the homework program and also extend my thanks to the team of educational assistants who work to ensure that this program is made available to our community.

If you wish for your child to join the Homework Program, please contact your child's teacher for more information.

For those families travelling during the month of March, I wish you a safe journey. For those staying closer to home during the break, have a wonderful week in all that you choose to do! Either way, enjoy family, friends and time spent together! God Bless

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 center 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. I thank you for your cooperation with this to date and ask for your continued 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 with a member of staff, if they need to meet with one. Drop in visits are difficult to accommodate and we do not want to create situations that are not mutually beneficial in respect of everyone's time. Teachers and administration 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 and prescheduled meetings which take priority over any impromptu meeting request. 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.

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.

HEAD LICE UPDATE:

As we continue to deal with incidents of head lice, it has come to my attention that there continues to be concern expressed by some families in our community about the persistence of this inconvenient pest. I feel at this time it is necessary to write to the community in an effort to assure you that the school continues to do everything it can, with the full support of our area Superintendent – Mrs. Kovach, to provide a level of service and care that assists in the screening made available at the school. Screening at the school is intended to support all families in identifying the presence of lice but the treatment options and the ongoing application of both treatment and visual inspection and removal of lice from an affected child's head is the ultimate responsibility of the parent or caregiver. There are many supports available in the community to assist you with carrying out the necessary cleaning of your child's hair but also the most necessary steps that need to be taken within the home to conduct a thorough home clean when lice

has been confirmed in your child's hair. To best address the presence of lice, a very focused and intentional cleaning effort of both your home and the affected child's head is required. Persistence and diligence on the part of the home in following through on the cleaning will assist with eradicating the presence of lice at St. Ann. Having said that, please note that the presence of lice in a community is not uncommon so I ask for your continued support and patience as we all persist. Finally, I would like to dispel the belief by some that students who are affected with lice should remain at home. Please note that this is not a practice that has been or is supported by Public Health, nor is it something that is even an option to address head lice in a community. I provide you with the following chart to assist you in better understanding the limits of a school when it comes to head lice:

Non-Reportable Diseases	Signs & Symptoms	Transmission	Infectious Period	Exclude?
Head Lice also known as Pediculosis capitis (Pediculus humanus capitis is the head louse)	Itchy scalp (worse at night). Nits (whitish-gray, tan or yellow egg shells) attached to hair shafts, often behind the ears or the back or neck. Nymphs – young lice, only smaller Adult lice – size of a sesame seed. Can live up to 30 days on a person's head.	Contact: Direct hair to hair contact. Indirect contact by sharing hats, hair brushes, headphones, helmets etc.	While lice are present, may pass these onto others until treated.	No exclusion – Children with head lice can attend school. Children should avoid close head-to-head contact and avoid sharing hats, hair brushes etc.

SCHOOL MASSES

Our next school masses are **on Wednesday, March 1st @ 10 a.m.** at St. Ann Church everyone is invited.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL

You are reminded that there is a Catholic School Council meeting on **Tuesday, March 21st @ 6:30 p.m.** in the Library **All parents/guardians are invited to attend.** Future meeting dates of the CSC are as follows: **Tuesday, May 30th @ 6:30 p.m.**

SEPTEMBER 2017 FULL DAY JR. & SR. KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATIONS

Early registrations for September 2017 **Full Day Junior Kindergarten** and **new Full Day Senior Kindergarten students** will be held at the school in February. **Please call the school office to book an appointment (905-547-5444).** Registration should take approx. 20 minutes. Please note the following age requirements:

- Jr. Kindergarten Students- child must have been born in 2013.**
- Sr. Kindergarten Students - child must have been born in 2012.**

Please be prepared with these documents:

- **Birth Certificate**
- **Baptism Certificate**
- **Immunization Record**

Please pass on this information to friends in the community who have young children who meet the age requirements.

WINTER WEATHER

As we work through the winter weather, students are reminded that they must leave the snow on the ground. Students are not permitted to throw/kick snow/ice or run or play on top of the snow hills at or around the school. Students are allowed to dig and build forts using the snow and to learn to co-operate and collaborate with peers. These expectations will help to ensure the safety of the students.

Please ensure that your children dress warmly for school during the cold winter months. Hats, mitts, heavier coats, etc. are 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 shoes to wear around the classroom and school.

Also, during the upcoming winter months, **please listen to your local radio stations for any school closures due to bad weather.** Please remember to listen for “*The Hamilton Wentworth Catholic District School Board*” for our school’s closure announcement.

NURSING STUDENTS

Hello! We are nursing students from McMaster University. Our names are Cindy Jeong, Myrna Okuda-Rayfuce, Maddie Chard and Miriam Howe. We are focusing on nutrition and the 5 Ways to Mental Well-Being. We will be working with the Health Action Team each week until the beginning of April.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FREE THROW

Congratulations to the following students who won the Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest held at our school:

Boys

Gr 5 Seth B.
Gr 6 Steven M.
Gr 7 Mason B.
Gr 8 Francis S.

Girls

Grade 5 Tatyanna Y.
Grade 6 Toby L.
Grade 7 Jada M.
Grade 8 Nastya V.

ECO NEWS

Thank you to all the classes that have helped to organize their paper and plastic recycling bins. It has been a great help and each week we are finding more bins that are organized properly. In the month of February, Mr. Cefaloni’s class had a presentation from Environment Hamilton. Juby Lee from Environment Hamilton presented to the grade 5/6 students. The presentations focused on the need for pollination and how certain plants can help increase pollination from bee’s. We would like to give a big thank you to Juby Lee for taking time to explain to us the importance of pollination. Please remember to keep your recycling bins organized properly. Thanks again for everyone’s help.

SCHEDULE OF DATES WHEN SCHOOL IS NOT IN SESSION

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

Monday, March 13th – 17th - March Break

Friday, April 14th – Monday, April 17th - Easter Weekend

Monday, May 22nd - Victoria Day

Friday, June 9th – P.A. Day

Friday, June 23rd - P. A. Day

Thursday, June 30th - Last Day of School

GRADUATION PICTURES



Grade 8 students will have their graduation pictures taken on **Thursday, March 9th** in the a.m.

FIRST COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION

The date for our **Grade 7 students’ Confirmation** is

Saturday, May 13th, 2017 @ 5 p.m. @ St. Ann Church.

The Grade 2 students will be making The Sacrament of First Communion on Saturday, May 6, 2017 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.

PITA/CASUAL DAY



Pita day is on Friday, March 31st and orders will be taken until Friday March 24th (\$5.00 each) **NO LATE ORDER WILL BE ACCEPTED.** This will also be a Casual Day’s.

THE BIG CRUNCH

We will again be participating in **THE BIG CRUNCH** on March 9, 2017. On this day we will synchronize a bite into a crunchy apple to celebrate local food and healthy eating!

CHESS TOURNAMENT



St. Ann’s (Hamilton) will be participating in the 40th Annual Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board Chess Tournament. The Tournament will be held at St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Elementary School. This event will take place on Tuesday, March 28th, 2017 from 4:30p.m. – 9:00 p.m. One student from each grade will be selected to represent St. Ann’s (Hamilton) at this year’s Chess Tournament.

BULLDOGS BREAKFAST PROGRAM

The Hamilton Bulldogs Hockey Club once again is sponsoring our Breakfast Program with a \$3300 donation. Two times a week, our community volunteers in collaboration with Mrs. Wong are providing a variety of nutritious breakfast products to our students.

CYO SPORTS



Congratulations to the **Jr and Sr Boys’ Basketball Teams** on their seasons. Thanks to the boys for a great season, along with a special thank you to Mr. Borsellino and Mr. Susi for coaching our teams.

The **Jr. and Sr. Girls’ Volleyball Teams** had very exciting season. The girls demonstrated teamwork, co-operation, and leadership. Congratulations to all the girls for a fantastic season. Special thanks to Mrs. Wettlaufer and Mrs. Wong for coaching the teams.

The **Sr. and Jr. Boys Volleyball** team will soon start their season. We are predicting a very successful season. Good luck boys.

Thank you to Ms. Gabriele and our Grade 8 students, along with some students from Cathedral who were our former students for supervising the gym, refereeing and scorekeeping. It was truly a community supported event.

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 WEBSITE

Please take the time to visit our school website at <http://stah.hwcdsb.ca/>. Please note: our school monthly newsletter, calendar, up-dates, etc. are located here. Parents/Guardian and family members are encouraged to keep up-to-date with all the happenings in our school community.

SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

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.schoolcashionline.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.

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

NUT SENSITIVE ENVIRONMENT



Please be reminded that St. Ann School is a *NUT SENSITIVE 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.