



“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 2017**

*Welcome*

Welcome back everyone!

As we begin our new school year, I welcome everyone to St. Ann Catholic School, whether new to our school, or returning for another year of learning! I hope everyone has had a relaxing and enjoyable summer with family and friends. We are looking forward to a wonderful school year with you and your families as we grow in partnership to challenge and support your child/ren as they aspire to new levels of success. I offer this welcome prayer for the start of our time together this year:

**Welcome**

**Father, may everything we do begin with your inspiration and continue with your saving help. Let our work always find its origin in you and through you reach completion.**

**We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen**

As a school community we are pushing forward with truly becoming a 21<sup>st</sup> Century school. As such, it is our goal to move away from producing paper newsletters following the October Newsletter of 2017. Part of our ECO Goal is to elevate our certification to Gold Status from Silver currently. With the digital age well upon us I ask that you do the following two things to get connected with ST. ANN Catholic Elementary School online:

1. FOLLOW us on TWITTER. Our Twitter handle is:  
**@stahces**

Visit our school webpage at:  
<https://stah.hwcdsb.ca/>

Once on our website be sure to bookmark the site so you can go back to it often. Our school

NEWSLETTER will be found in the pull down list that will show when you click on the SCHOOL Menu Tab. Please take some time to navigate the site as we continue to update different sections. Newsletters will be posted within the first three school days of each month going forward.

Also, we will be moving more completely to online payments as the exclusive method for paying for a variety of items coming through the school. Namely, Pizza orders will now be limited to online payments only to assist with continuing to look for more ways to eliminate the tasks that take away from teacher’s ability to maximize the use of instructional time. To register your family, once you are on our school webpage, scroll down the page to the thick Blue Bar where on the left side you will see a hand with a credit card beside the title SCHOOL CASH. Click on this title and you will be greeted on another screen where you can register for secure online payments to St. Ann school. This resource is being administered by the Hamilton Wentworth Catholic District School Board and it is a fully secure site. Your support with our school community move to this tool is greatly appreciated. Shortly we will be making a similar move with class trips.

I know that the staff of St. Ann School looks forward to working with all of our community members this year in nurturing 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, and Lead like Christ.**

I look forward to meeting all of our parents/guardians at our Open House scheduled for September 12, 2017 starting at 5:30 pm.

G. Pizzoferrato, Principal, St. Ann Elementary School

## STAFF LIST:

The St. Ann Catholic School Community for the 2017 - 2018 school year:

FDELK	B. Forsyth
FDELK	R. Wegiel and A. Wettlaufer (ECE)
FDELK	M. Santucci and M. Fernandopulle
Grade 1	A. Smith
Grade 1	R. Mastromarco
Grade 1/2	P. Treneer
Grade 2	C. Kostyk
Grade 2/3	M. Moutinho
Grade 3	P. Polizzi
Grade 3	N. Gillow
Grade 4/5	P. Cefaloni
Grade 4	J. Rizzo
Grade 5/6	P. Toffolon
Grade 6	R. Monachino
Grade 7	P. Moscato
Grade 8	C. Ciapanna
PPT/FDK Planning	M. Ermacora
PPT	M. Tomasevic
French	M. Settimi
Special Education	F. Albin
Special Education	L. Gabriele
Language Resource	M. Ermacora
Reading Recovery	M. Ermacora
AIT	N. Babjak
AIT	K. Stevens
Librarian	A. Culina
Library Clerk	C. Ciardullo
Educational Assistant	S. Alburquerque
Educational Assistant	F. Calvise
Educational Assistant	E. Kitchen
Educational Assistant	J. DiPaolo
Educational Assistant	M. Freebom
Educational Assistant	C. Kane
Educational Assistant	L. Cino
Educational Assistant	B. Churchill
Educational Assistant	M. Peters
Educational Assistant	J. Dzugala
Educational Assistant	C. Robertson
Educational Assistant	R. Wong
Educational Assistant	C. Lodder
Educational Assistant	L. Iannuzzi
Educational Assistant	T. Zasucha
Educational Assistant	L. Vrakela
Educational Assistant	E. Sullivan
<b>Principal</b>	<b>G. Pizzoferrato</b>
<b>Assistant to Principal</b>	<b>P. Moscato</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>C. Ragonetti</b>
Custodian	N. Tower
Night Custodian	M. Caverly
Cleaner	N. Agostini

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 working in partnership to nurture 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 BELL TIMES

Our school bell times continue to reflect a balanced day for delivering curriculum to the students.

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

## LEAVING FOR LUNCH

Any student that does not regularly walk home for lunch is NOT permitted to leave St. Ann for lunch at any time. Students will not be permitted to leave with a note or call from home but can only leave if an adult has come into the office to sign them out.

## SCHOOL MASS

Our opening school mass will be **Friday, September 15, 2017 at St. Ann Church at 10:00 a.m.** Our community looks forward to working with our Pastor Fr. Joe to celebrate in the Eucharist. All are welcome to attend our school masses!

## 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. If you obtained a Criminal Reference Check this past year, you need only sign a Declaration of Offences Form which can be picked up in our school office. It is necessary for every volunteer to have a criminal reference check as a measure to ensure the safety of all students. Thank you for your prompt attention to this item. I would hate for a parent to miss the opportunity to chaperone on your child's class trip.

## **OPEN HOUSE & MEET THE STAFF NIGHT**

Our Open House/Meet the Staff Night will take place on **Tuesday, September 12, 2017 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.** at our school. This year we will be selling Porchetta Sandwiches(\$5.00), pizza(\$2.00) and drinks(\$1.00) from **5:30 - 7:30 pm.** Parents/Guardians are encouraged to visit their child's teacher informally at this time. Please note that this is not a progress report meeting as staff cannot speak about your child's academics within earshot of other families. 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.

## **STUDENT ABSENCES (SAFE ARRIVAL)**

It is important that all student absences are reported. As part of the NEW Safe Arrival Program parents/guardians are asked to report their child's absence **before 8:45** by calling **1-844-469-5486** or logging into the website [hwc.schoolconnects.com](http://hwc.schoolconnects.com). To authenticate their Portal account, parents can also do this on their IOS or Android devices by downloading the app. You are asked to please not call the school to report your child's absence. Please call the office if you have any question thank you for your cooperation.

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!

## **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, all 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 for directions on where to enter the school. You may be asked to remain outside awaiting an adult to permit you access through the office. I thank you for your understanding and patience.

**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!

## **VISITS/MEETINGS WITH STAFF:**

Parents/Guardians are encouraged to meet and discuss student progress on an ongoing basis with teaching/ECE. Please do not approach our Educational Assistants for discussions on your child's progress. Progress related discussions are the sole responsibility of teaching staff and all staff will remind you of that if asked by you for such insights. Parents are also reminded to first call the office for an appointment, if they need to meet with the teacher. When you are picking up or dropping off your child is never a good time for progress related discussions as staff have supervisions responsibilities that supersede impromptu meeting requests at all times. 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.

## **ARRANGEMENTS FOR PICKUP/DROP OFF**

The school office is a very active place so to help ensure that Mrs. Ragonetti is always able to respond to the community needs appropriately, we need to work together to alleviate the challenges that are presented as a result of calls and visits to the office that could be managed via timely and direct communication using a signed note in your child's agenda to your child's teacher. For example, it is important that your child's exit routine be an arrangement between you and your child prior to the start of each day and not require the last minute coordination or involvement of staff. A note with your child to the attention of the classroom teacher will initiate our internal process and the teacher will work to make sure your child is ready for pickup. Interrupting classrooms during instructional time takes away from the sacred learning environment.

## **SCHOOL YARD ARRIVAL IN THE MORNING**

As our school population has grown, we are in a position where access to the playground must now be limited only to the students attending our school. During morning entry, parents are asked to leave their children at the playground entrance and where your children will be directed to the proper entry location from there. Please know that the playground gates both in the Kindergarten and Main area are locked immediately after the morning bell rings. These gates are not opened for school access at any time during the school day. In the case of our Kindergarten playground, classes take place during the last period of the day which may involve the use of the playground and as such, parents

will not be permitted access to the playground until 2:55 pm each day. Thank you for your understanding and support!

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, kindly park your car appropriately and walk your child into the office for a late slip if the front entrance is needed to enter the school because the playground is locked. Please use the “Kiss and Ride” off of Sherman Avenue during regular arrival times – be courteous to our bus drivers as they are the immediate priority when present. Student safety must always be our shared priority at all times for all students. 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. Kindly do not pull into the area where the Parish garage is situated. Your courtesy is appreciated.

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.

### **SCHOOL 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.***

### **CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL**

St. Ann Catholic School Council elections will take place on **Tuesday, September 26, 2017 at 6:30 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.

### **SCHOOL UNIFORMS**

As you are aware, the Board’s uniform policy requires that all students must wear **NAVY BLUE** bottoms (Dockers style casual pants and/or walking shorts and/or skorts, (SKIRTS, track pants and KOBE Pants are not permitted) 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.**

### **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.

### **SCHOOL PICTURE DAY**

School Pictures for all students will be on **Thursday October 26th**. Order forms will be handed out within the next couple of weeks!

### **PIZZA/CASUAL DAY**



Pizza Day at St. Ann will take place the second and last Friday of each Month beginning in October. Pizza is \$1.75 per slice and may be purchased using **CASH ONLINE ONLY** **NO LATE ORDER WILL BE ACCEPTED**. This will also be a Casual Day’s.

### **FIRST COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION**

The Dates for the Sacrament of Confirmation for our grade 7 students and Sacrament of Communion for our grade 2 students are being discussed with the Diocese of Hamilton and will be announced once finalized.

### **PARENT CONFERENCE**

Parent Conference is being held on Saturday, November 4, 2017 at Bishop Ryan Catholic Secondary School, 1824 Rymal Road East, Hannon, Ontario L0R 1P0. All

parents/guardians are welcome to attend.

## **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 soon.

## **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. It is expected that students adhere closely to the expectations set out for them by their classroom teachers as well as lunch supervisors. Issues during lunch will be communicated to the home for a resolve. **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.**

## **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.

## **NUT SENSITIVE ENVIRONMENT**

Please be reminded that St. Ann School is a *NUT SENSITIVE ENVIRONMENT*. *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. Please note that there are many other allergens in the school as well, but they will be dealt with on an as needed basis. If your child is in a classroom where these allergies are present, a separate letter will come home to you through your child's teacher containing some information about the additional sensitivity required.

The following guidelines must be strictly adhered to by all of the students in the school:

- Snacks are not to be shared with other students.
- Utensils are not to be shared with other students.
- Hands are to be washed before leaving home after eating anything that may contain peanut products. Traces of peanut butter or oil can get on the bus seats or playground equipment, desks, and personal belongings.
- Parents are asked to read labels carefully for the following products that may contain nut products: granola bars, crackers, chocolate bars and cookies, some cereals, store baked goods or snacks.

## **Anaphylaxis Alert/ Update:**

All parents need to be aware that there are children in our school with a severe life threatening food allergy (anaphylaxis) to peanuts and nuts. This is a medical condition that causes severe reaction to specific foods and can result in death within minutes. Although this may or may not affect your child's class directly, we want to inform you so that you may choose to send foods to school with your child that are free from nuts and nut products. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. Education and supervision are paramount in dealing with issues regarding food allergies. Guidelines for all children include:

- 1) Review, recognize and understand the meaning of the above symbol in our school.
- 2) No trading and sharing foods, food utensils and food containers.
- 3) Hand washing before and after eating is highly encouraged.
- 4) The use of food in crafts and class parties may need to be restricted depending on the allergies of the students.

Letters will be sent home to children in classes where there are specific concerns which require the support, understanding and cooperation of all parents and students. We thank you for keeping our school nut safe!

## **STUDENT AGENDAS**

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.

## **TELLING TALES FESTIVAL**

The 9<sup>th</sup> annual "TellingTales" event will be held on Sunday September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017 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



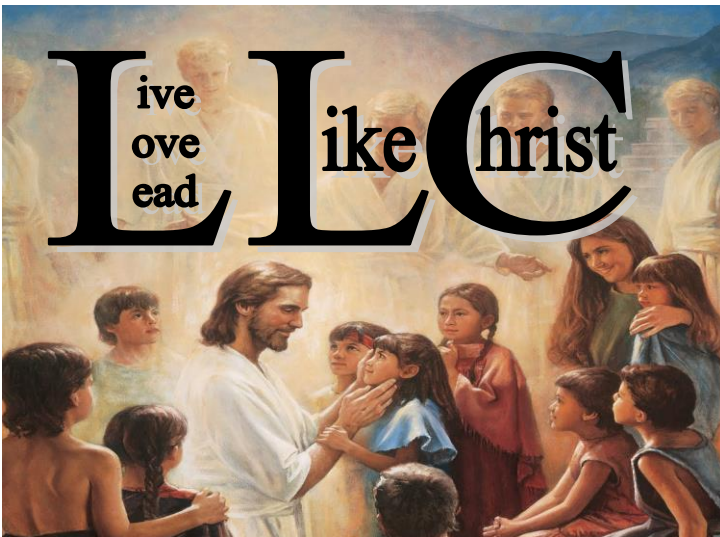
will be provided for our school which will leave the school at 9:30 a.m. and leave the festival at 2:30 p.m. Information for this event has been sent home. Please contact the school if you have any question regarding this event.

### **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](mailto:webmaster@hwcdsb.ca).

### **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”

- 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.**

### **ONLINE PAYMENTS NOW AVAILABLE!**

For safety and efficiency reasons, we want to reduce the amount of Cash & Cheques coming into our school.

Most School related expenses are now available online for you to make payment.

Go to this website: <https://hwcdsb.schoolcashionline.com> Instructions on that site will guide you appropriately with the setup of a personal and confidential account for your family. When paying online you will need to print a receipt and attach it to any permission/order forms that are sent back to the school with your child. This acts as a receipt of payment for our internal accountability procedures.

### **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.com>

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.

### **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 concerns and/or questions are about something that is occurring in your child's classroom, please arrange to discuss the issue with your child's teacher (and/or ECE in the case of an FDK class) 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 staff 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 Mr. 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.

### **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.

### **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](http://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.

### **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 are 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.webspawner.com/users/licefree/index.html)  
<http://www.inform.hamilton.ca/record/HAM2652>

The Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board (HWCD SB) is committed to ensuring that all reasonable efforts are made to protect the health and well-being of our students by creating awareness of head lice and preventing and/or minimizing the spread of head lice in the schools.

**Head lice** are wingless insects that live only on the scalp of human beings. They cannot fly or jump, and they are not found on cats, dogs or any other household pets. The bites from head lice can cause itching and scratching. Scratching may cause sores which can get infected. When children play, their heads often touch. Lice crawl from head to head. Head lice are spread by direct head to head contact only. (*Facts of Lice, 2003*, Hamilton Public Health and Community Services Department)

Based on the current medical research, it is essential that head lice be treated with two applications of an approved treatment seven days apart.

#### **Procedures for when Head Lice is identified:**

- 1) Parents/guardians of students identified with head lice will be notified by the school and will be required to seek treatment for the child.
- 2) Parents/guardians are required to complete the first application of an approved treatment prior to the student returning to school.
- 3) Parents/guardians are required to complete the *Verification of Treatment* form and return it to the school when the student returns following the first application of an approved treatment.
- 4) If the Principal has concerns that an individual case of head lice is an indication of a larger concern, the Principal may consult with the school's designated social worker.
- 5) All parents/guardians of students in a class in which a student or students are found to have head lice will be notified.
- 6) A school may designate a specific day or days for screening all students for head lice, using trained resource persons.
- 7) Parents are reminded to take responsibility to check their child's hair frequently and to co-operate by administering an approved treatments recommended by a pharmacist or medical practitioner when needed.

#### **CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S AID and DUTY TO REPORT**

**“Children are the living messages we send, to a time we will not see.” •**

**- What message will you help send?**

Protecting children from neglect and abuse remains our top priority. Providing supports to families trying to meet the needs of their children, despite many personal and economic hardships, is an ongoing challenge for staff and volunteers. We attempt to do this by working together with parents and members of our community.

We all share a responsibility to protect children from harm. You can do your part in helping to protect children from potential abuse and neglect by ensuring you know your duty to report and who to call if you have a concern.

If you are unsure as to whether or not you should report a concern, you may contact the Society for a confidential consultation. This process allows you to speak with a qualified Child Protection Worker and anonymously provide non-identifying information about the child and/or family and a brief scenario about your concern. Through this process, the Child Protection Worker can recommend whether or not you should report your concern.

There are times during the course of the school year where staff are required as part of their professional roles, to contact Catholic Children's Aid for such consultations and reporting. This concern can come about as a result of any number of comments or conditions presented at school by your children. Please understand in advance that a call is not negotiable when there is reason for concern it is a professional requirement.

Do you have child welfare concerns? You also share this duty to report if you suspect reason for concern. A call is not an accusation; it is a call for support and guidance and often results in appropriate corrective actions and sometimes in no investigation at all.

Telephone: (905) 525-2012

Emergency After Hours: (905) 525-8053