



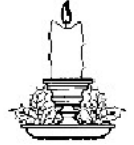
**ST. ANN CATHOLIC SCHOOL**  
**15 St. Ann St.**  
**Hamilton, Ont.**  
**L8L 0B8**  
**905-547-5444**



*Live, Love, Lead Like Christ*

Principal – G. Pizzoferrato  
 Assistant to the Principal – P. Moscato  
 Superintendent – T. Kovach

*Cathedral Principal – M. Daly*  
 Trustee – T. Perri



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

**ADVENT PRAYER**

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ever faithful to your promises and ever close to your Church: the earth rejoices in hope of the Savior's coming and looks forward with longing to his return at the end of time. Prepare our hearts and remove the sadness that hinders us from feeling the joy and hope which his presence will bestow, for he is Lord for ever and ever. Amen. (taken from Catholiconline)

**PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE:**

December began with two wonderful events to launch Advent 1) Breakfast with Santa on Saturday December 2, 2017 and 2) St. Ann saBOTage Robotics Team Niagara Tournament We had close to 200 members from our community join us for the festivities.

We had close to 200 members from our community join us for Pancakes, fruit cups, juice, coffee and a visit with Santa. Many thanks to the team of staff from St. Ann school who coordinated the event and gave of their time to setup and serve our guests. Many thanks also to the staff and students from Mohawk College for their generous donation of time to assist in the festivities and their donation of door prizes.

Our lego robotics team finished 4<sup>th</sup> out of 13 teams which is a great showing for a first time competing team. Thank you to Mr. Z, one of our Educational Assistants who gave his time to prepare the team and travel with them to coach them through the tournament. Congratulations to the team!

As we enter the advent season, let us remember that Jesus is the reason for the season and as such, we will begin our preparations with weekly advent wreath

celebrations in our school gym. Check our website for the scheduled dates. Follow us on twitter: @stahces

Wishing you and your families all a Merry Christmas and happy new year.

G. Pizzoferrato

**SPECIAL NEEDS RESOURCE CENTRE**

The Special Needs Resource Centre is a unique venue supporting parents, caregivers and professionals who support children (and adult children) with special needs. Members and non-members alike can access workshops, resources listings, peer-to-peer support, and a lending library. The Centre is the realization of discussions between two Autism moms: Meghan Graham and Sarah Klodnicki. We are located at 1365 Main St E, Hamilton, ON Canada. Check our Facebook Page to view current hours of operation. We are all inclusive so anyone can be a member of the Special Needs Resource Centre!

Workshop and event dates: Dec 4th Nutrition Back to Basics 10am Free, Dec 11 Essential Oils Make and Take an Oil Roller 7pm \$10, Dec 13th Parent Support Group 10:30am suggested donation \$3 for coffee/tea and baked good. Dec 15th Make and Take Body Scrub with RMT Massage 7pm \$25, Dec 16th Christmas Event 7pm Free, Dec 20th Wrapping Party 7pm Free if you bring your own wrapping paper and tags \$10 to use the centres materials. Please email, call or go on Facebook to register for your workshop or event.

**SCHOOL MASSES & CONFESSIONS**

Confessions will be in our gym on Thursday December 7th @ 1 p.m. Our final mass before the Christmas Break is **Thursday, December 21st @ 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.

~ ~ **IMPORTANT** ~ ~

### **ST. ANN'S PARISH TOWN HALL MEETING**

All are invited to a parish Town Hall Meeting on **Wed. Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> at 7pm**

in **St. Ann's Church**, 120 Sherman Ave. N. Hamilton.

Msgr. Murray Kroetsch (Chancellor) & Mr. Jim Long (Controller) from the Diocese of Hamilton will be present to speak to us about the recent Diocesan study of our Parish and its **vitality and viability**.

Parishioners will have an opportunity to share their concerns as well.

**Please make an effort to attend and represent our congregation and community of St. Ann's Roman Catholic Church.**

### **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY DAY**

In January, there will be a Professional Activity Day on **Friday, January 26, 2018. No School This Day**

### **CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL**

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

### **RECESS NEWS**

We ask that students not bring any toys out on the playground during recesses or lunch, as they are posing a safety issue on the yard. Students are encouraged to engage actively and appropriately on the yard. Please take some time to discuss with your children how they are using the yard at school.

### **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 student 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](http://www.hwcdsb.ca)) and Hamilton-Wentworth Student Transportation Services website ([www.hamiltonschoolbus.ca/public\\_v2/index.aspx](http://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](http://www.cbc.ca/hamilton)  
The Hamilton Spectator [www.thespec.com](http://www.thespec.com)  
Twitter <https://twitter.com/HWCDSB>  
Facebook [www.facebook.com](http://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 26<sup>st</sup> to Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017.** School will re-open on **Monday January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018.**



### **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 21<sup>st</sup>. Cards cost \$0.25/each and will be sold from December 12<sup>h</sup> to December 18<sup>th</sup>.** Money raised will go to help local families in need.



### **BREAKFAST WITH SANTA**

On Saturday December 2<sup>nd</sup> students at St. Ann school celebrated breakfast with Santa. Pancakes, fruit, coffee and juice were served and students got to visit with Santa himself. A special THANK YOU to Mrs. Wong and all staff who helped out to make this day a great success.

### **PIZZA/CASUAL DAY**

Pizza day is on Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup> and orders will be accepted until Monday December 11<sup>th</sup> (\$1.75/slice) **NO LATE ORDER WILL BE ACCEPTED** forms must be returned to school to complete order.



## **CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

The annual St. Ann Catholic Elementary School Christmas Concert will take place on Wednesday, December 20, 2017 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.**

## **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 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 o-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 **\$4,700**. Many thanks are also extended to the students and staff that decorated the gym and organized the music and event.

## **C.Y.O. NEWS**

Best of luck to the Junior and Senior Girls’ Volleyball and Senior and Junior Boys’ Basketball Teams, as they have begun preparations for their up-coming seasons in January 2018.

## **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**.

## **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.

a) McGraw Hill Online Manipulatives

[http://www.glencoe.com/sites/common\\_assets/mathematics/eb ook\\_assets/vmf/VMF-Interface.html](http://www.glencoe.com/sites/common_assets/mathematics/eb ook_assets/vmf/VMF-Interface.html)

b) National Library of Virtual Manipulatives:

<http://nlvm.usu.edu/>

### **Some Online Math Resources:**

#### **1. Ontario Government:**

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

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

b) 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/>

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>.

## **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: "Outdoor physical literacy and play" Their work at the school focused on the teaching of fair play, cooperation.

## **SAFE DRINKING WATER**

Results from 2017 water testing for schools of the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board are now available. We are happy to report that lead testing results for St. Ann (Ham) have met the Ontario drinking water quality lead standard of 10 micrograms per litre (10 µg/L) or below.

Since 2007, Ontario law has required child care centres and schools to flush their plumbing and test their drinking water for lead. As of July 1, 2017, an amendment to the *Safe Drinking Act, 2002, of Ontario Regulation 243/07: Schools, Private School and Child Care Centres* now requires schools housing children under the age of 18 to conduct annual standing and flushed water testing. The expectation is that all drinking fountains and water fixtures in schools used for drinking or in the preparation of food will be tested within a three-year period. Thereafter, schools and child care centres need only test one fixture per year. In the interests of the safety of our students and staff, the HWCDSB has opted to test 100% of its fixtures in the first year of the regulation. Testing for all fixtures in all schools was conducted in June 2017.

## **MERRY CHRISTMAS**

