



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
School Secretary – C. Ragonetti

Cathedral Principal – M. Daly
Trustee – T. Perri



I have called you by name: you are mine...I will be with you....Because you are precious in my eyes and glorious, and because I love you.



Is. 43:1, 2, 4

As we begin the month of February, let's ask ourselves this question: How does God send us Valentines? Lots of ways! One is through the sacred Scriptures, the holy Word of the Lord, so full of examples of God's goodness and mercy, love and compassion. What Scriptural Valentines have been treasured over the years? Here are a few to consider:

With age-old love I have loved you; so I have kept my mercy toward you. Jer. 31:3

His banner over me is love. Song 2:4

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

YOUR IMMEDIATE ACTION IS REQUIRED

It is our goal at St. Ann Catholic Elementary School to provide a safe learning environment for all students. Unfortunately, on Wednesday January 31, 2018 we were placed in a position where a child was showing all of the signs of having an anaphylactic reaction and so an epipen was administered. By the grace of God this situation was handled in a manner in which the safety of the Junior Kindergarten Child was the focus and the quick response of staff ensured that the child's medical needs were the focus. An ambulance was dispatched to the school and the child was taken to hospital for observation. We are appreciative for the manner in which the family has worked with us to resolve this critical situation and at this time appeal to the community again for a heightened level of diligence in screening the food you pack for your children. It has been determined that product that arrived to the school via the lunch/snack packed by other families in that classroom is the source of the exposure. An investigation of all snack that had been uneaten at that point brought additional items to the attention of staff.

I cannot impress enough upon our community the shared responsibility we all have in ensuring that for the sake of the children attending our school who suffer a life threatening

allergy to peanuts, tree-nuts and other specific food allergens that we need all families to be considerate of this need. DO NOT be deceived by branding on products that indicates the product is nut safe, take the time to read the ingredients. A product that reports that it is PEANUT SAFE may not in fact be TREE-NUT SAFE. We simply cannot afford to make these mistakes and the responsibility belongs to all of us. Despite efforts of staff to screen snacks and lunches, we ultimately rely on each of you to do your part to promote a heightened level of awareness in your homes when it comes to food that you are sending into the school for lunch or snack with your own children.

Several precautions are factored into our daily routine. We inform our students about food allergies and we take specific safety precautions to protect individual students. Additionally, the staff is trained to take steps necessary should a child have a reaction and thankfully, Ms. Churchill was quick in her response with our JK student and administered the epipen in a timely manner. To avert the need for such action in future, parents are asked to voluntarily refrain from sending food items containing peanuts, tree-nuts or specific other food allergens to school because the risk of harm is high for individuals or groups of students. With all of this in mind, we need to ask for your help as parents to keep all of our students safe.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and support regarding this matter, your extra diligence is most necessary at this time. We appreciate the community spirit it takes to make our school a safe and happy place. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact me at school by phone or email or your child's teacher to discuss the specific allergens known to require your immediate attention in your child/ren/s classrooms

G. Pizzoferrato

Lenten prayer

Almighty and Everlasting God, You have given the human race Jesus **Christ** our Savior as a model of humility. He fulfilled Your **Will** by becoming **Man** And giving His **life** on the Cross. Help us to bear **witness** to You By following His example of suffering And make us worthy to share in His Resurrection. We ask this through our **Lord Jesus** Christ, Your Son.
Amen.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday is on February 14, 2018. It is the first day of Lent, and always takes precedence over any other memorial for that day. Therefore, all Valentines activities will take place on Tuesday February 13th along with pancake Tuesday.

Ash Wednesday is a universal day of fasting and abstinence from meat for Catholics age 15-59. Elementary students are not obligated to fast, but are asked to abstain from treats on this day.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL

We are always happy to see new faces and would encourage parents to attend one of our meetings! Parent involvement is key to our student's success and there are many ways that you can be involved in your child's learning. Here are some key suggestions for you to consider:

Council: Come out to meetings or consider joining council

Volunteer: There are many opportunities for parents to volunteer as St. Ann (forms are always available in the office for police checks)

E-Resources/Support: Learn about all of the e-resources and supports available to assist your child with homework

If you have questions about how you can be involved more fully please send us an email via the school website, we are happy to assist!
stah.hwcdsb.ca

Future meeting dates of the CSC are as follows:
Wednesday February 28th @ 5:30 p.m.

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. 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. Thank you for your cooperation.

FAMILY DAY

Family Day is Monday, February 19th. There is no school for students and staff. Enjoy the day as a family!

REPORT CARDS

First term report cards will be sent home on Tuesday, February 13, 2018. If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher for a meeting because communication is the key.

SCHOOL MASSES

Our next school mass is Wednesday February 14th @ **10:00 a.m.** This will be our Ash Wednesday mass everyone is welcome to join us. Father Joe will continue to do classroom visit in the month of February.

FIRST RECONCILIATION, COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION

The date for our Grade 7 students' Confirmation is Saturday, May 5 2018 @ 5 p.m. @ St. Ann Church. The Grade 2 students will be making The Sacrament of First Communion on Saturday, May 12, 2018 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.

PANCAKE TUESDAY

Please note our **Pancake Tuesday will be on Tuesday, February 13th.** Students will enjoy pancakes with their classmates and teacher. This will also be a Red, white and Pink Day.

PIZZA/CASUAL DAY

Pizza days are on **Friday, February 9th** and **Friday February 23rd** orders will be accepted until **Monday before each pizza day (\$1.75/slice) NO LATE ORDER WILL BE ACCEPTED.** Friday February 23rd will be a casual day.

VALENTINE CAKE RAFFLE

The student Leadership committee will be holding a Valentine Cake Raffle. Tickets will be .25 cents each and will be sold February 5th to February 12th. The raffle will take place on Tuesday February 13th. Support this fun event to win a Valentine cake or treat!

RUNNING AND READING PROGRAM

On Wednesday February 28th, come and enjoy the Running & Reading Club in Action! Run with the children or just cheer them on. Can you plank? These grade 1-6 children can! Enjoy snack with us 3:30-5pm. Help them record the word of the day in their journals.

Then end by reading with the children.

This is a free event being hosted by Start2Finish at St Ann Catholic Elementary school in downtown Hamilton. It is a great way to not only see our program in action but also get to know our volunteers, the teachers and the children!

Dress in comfortable clothing and do as much or as little as you would like.

CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S AID and THE DUTY TO REPORT

The Child and Family Services Act (CFSA) recognizes that each of us has a responsibility for the welfare of children.

We all share a responsibility to protect children from harm. This includes situations where children are abused or neglected in their own homes. Ontario's Child and Family Services Act (CFSA) provides for protection for these children.

Section 72 of the Act states that the public, including professionals who work with children, must promptly report any suspicions that a child is or may be in need of protection to a children's aid society (CAS). The Act defines the phrase "child in need of protection" and explains what must be reported to a CAS. It includes physical, sexual and emotional abuse, neglect, and risk of harm.

Professionals and officials have the same duty as the rest of the public to report their suspicion that a child is or may be in need of protection. However, the Act recognizes that people working closely with children have a special awareness of the signs of child abuse and neglect, and a particular responsibility to report their suspicions. Any professional or official who fails to report a suspicion is liable on conviction to a fine of up to \$1,000, if they obtained the information in the course of their professional or official duties. [CFSA s.72 (4), (6.2)]

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.

C.Y.O. NEWS

Junior and Senior Girls' Volleyball and Senior and Junior Boys' Basketball Teams will play in the playoffs in February. All the students continue to demonstrate tremendous teamwork, sportsmanship and skill development. Best of luck in the playoffs! Please refer to the team schedules provided by each coach for game date, times and locations.

SCHEDULE OF DATES WHEN SCHOOL IS NOT IN SESSION

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

Monday, February 19th – Family Day

Monday, March 12th – 16th - March Break

Friday, March 30th – Monday, April 1st - Easter Weekend

Monday, May 21th - Victoria Day

Friday, June 7th – P.A. Day

Friday, June 22nd - P. A. Day

Thursday, June 29th - Last Day of School

GRADUATION PICTURES

Grade 8 students will have their graduation pictures taken on **Friday, February 23rd** in the a.m.

ST. ANN CHILD CARE CENTRE

St Ann Early Learning and Care Centre

We offer a full toddler program for children aged 18 months-2.5 years, a preschool program for children 2.5-5 years of age, Before and After school program for ages 3.5-12 years of age. We are currently accepting registrations for all the programs. Please keep in mind that we may have a short wait list for some of these programs.

Fees are as follows:

Toddlers-\$47.00

Preschool-\$41.00

Kindergarten before school-\$12.00

Kindergarten after only \$16.00

Kindergarten full day-\$39.00

School age before & after \$19.00

School age before only \$10.00

School age after only \$14.00

School age full day \$39.00 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, Lens crafters will provide these for you free of charge. Please request your letter at the office.

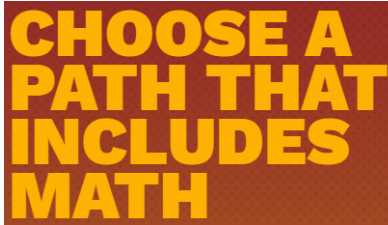
Grade 7 and 8 Students and Parents...What Math Do I Need?

I want to be a vet...what math do I need? I want to be a dental hygienist...what math do I need? I want to be a chef....what math do I need? I want to be a massage therapist...what math do I need?

As you think about your future and the courses you'll be taking in high school check out the website

"Choose a Path That Includes Math". This site, created by the Ministry of Education, allows students and parents to investigate careers and the appropriate math path through high school to take in order to be prepared for their future. Check it out at:

<http://www.mathpathontario.ca/home.php>

A graphic with a dark red background and yellow text that reads "CHOOSE A PATH THAT INCLUDES MATH".

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.

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.

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.

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.schoolcashonline.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.

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.