



THE HAMILTON-WENTWORTH CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
ST. ANN CATHOLIC SCHOOL



15 St. Ann Street
Hamilton, Ont.
L8L 0B8
905-547-5444

Live, Love, Lead like Christ

Principal - Mr. G. Pizzoferrato
Superintendent - Mrs. T. Kovach

Assistant to the Principal – Mrs. J. Shamon
Trustee - Mr. A. Perri

A Student's Prayer for a New School Year

Lord Jesus, I ask for Your help as I begin this new school year.
Allow me to experience Your presence in the many blessings You put
before me.
Open my eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this
new school year brings.
Open my heart and mind to new friends and new teachers.
Give me a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with my studies and courage
to accept new opportunities.
Help me to be attentive to my teachers and let me experience Your
presence in my new friends.
Jesus, inspire me to do my best this year!
Amen



Principal's Message

I trust that this summer has provided all of our families with the opportunity to enjoy the nice weather and relaxation that comes with it. It is my hope that you found time to do all of the things you and your families wanted to do. This is the time to create memories and share experiences that the extended time away from school affords. This school year will again prove to be both rewarding and challenging for all of us. It is my pleasure to welcome everyone back to school as we begin a new year together.

As a community, we are always looking for parents and caregivers to get involved at school. If you have time and talents to share with us please let us know. Together we will work to make this year another successful one for all. I would like to extend a special welcome to our returning families and staff, as well as to those who are new to our school community.

At St. Ann, we are committed to providing your children with a rich Catholic environment as well as a high quality curriculum in the safest environment possible. We will strive to do our best, and, as always, should you have any questions and/or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school. Please take the time to read through the newsletter carefully each month as it contains important information which will help make the school year an easy transition for all.

I know that the staff of St. Ann School looks forward to working with all of our community members this year in creating a Catholic school that is safe and caring and exemplifies a Christ like Leadership 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, Lead like Christ.

I look forward to meeting all of our parents/guardians at our Open House scheduled for Tuesday September 17, 2019. More details will be made available soon.

May God continue to Bless each of you and your families and I wish you every success that you aspire to with your children during this school year. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns that you may have as we work collaboratively to ensure your child/children's success.



STAFFING UPDATES:

A special welcome goes out to our new staff members who have joined the St. Ann Catholic School Community for the 2018-2019 school year. 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. Together we will always keep in mind that working in partnership to create 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! (new staff are identified in bold print)

Staff List	Support Staff
FDK- B.Forsyth and V.March FDK- R. Wegiel and A. Wettlauffer Gr. 1 M. Santucci Gr. 1 R. Mastromarco Gr. 2 C. Kostyk Gr. 2/3 C. Grsic Gr. 3 P. Polizzi Gr. 3/4 N. Gillow Gr. 4 J. Rizzo Gr. 4/5 P. Ciapanna Gr. 5 P. Toffolon Gr. 5/6 R. Monachino Gr. 6/7 P. Cefaloni Gr. 7/8 J. Shamon Gr. 8 C. Ciapanna Primary Planning Time Teacher - M. Tomasevic FDK Planning Time Teacher – M. Ermacora Reading Recovery/LRT - M. Ermacora French - M. Settimi / M. Derikx Special Education - F. Albini Special Education (TLC) - M. Kiely Art Integration Teacher #1 – D. Rogerson Teacher Librarian – J. Begin Library Clerk - T.B.A	K. Bourgeois T. Barltlett J. Bernard B. Churchill L. Cino I. Costa N. DaCosta J. Dzugala L. DiMarmbro S. Faulkner T. Halper M. Jimenez-Bort C. Kane S. King E. Kitchen J. Rasmsom E. Sullivan A. Sultana M. Tavares C. Verheul M. Walter T. Zasucha
Principal - G. Pizzoferrato Assistant to the Principal - J. Shamon Secretary - C. Ragonetti Custodian - N. Tower Night Custodian – F. Nzarora Night Cleaner – N. Agostini	
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Technology Learning Center Staff</u></p> At this time I would like to congratulate Mrs. Wong on her new assignment as an Itinerant Educational Assistant for Assistive Technologies. Her new assignment takes her to many schools across the Board. In her place we welcome Mrs. Cuthbert to the technology Learning Center as the new educational assistant in the program.	

SCHOOL BELL TIMES



Morning Entry 8:45 a.m.
A.M. Recess 9:55 a.m. – 10:10 a.m.
Lunch 11:30 a.m. – 12:20 a.m.
P.M. Recess 1:40 p.m. – 1:55 p.m.
Dismissal 3:05 p.m.

MEDICATION

Regulations state that school personnel cannot administer any drug, including aspirin, without written permission from the parent/guardian and a doctor. If there is need for such medication, please see the school website or contact the school to obtain the forms that **MUST BE FILLED OUT BY THE PARENTS/GUARDIANS AND a DOCTOR**. This record is a School Board Regulation and must be kept on file. Please notify the school if medication distribution stops so that all medication can be returned to the parent/guardian as soon as possible.

FOOD ALLERGIES/SEVERE REACTIONS

As you are aware, there are a number of young children who endure very severe allergic reactions to a variety of different foods at our school. Unfortunately, these reactions are frequently triggered not only by the ingestion of a product, but by the mere molecular particles or smell of something in the air (commonly referred to as an “air-borne” allergic reaction). For the above-mentioned reason, we do not permit students to share snacks, treats, lunches, etc. with each other at any time. Also for this reason, please do not send in food treats for sharing on special occasions. Any food/treats that are provided to students will be purchased from appropriate suppliers used by the school. If you are sending something in to share, please make it a pencil, eraser or stickers. Each teacher will notify the class and parents if there are any students in their class with food allergies and will also provide you with specific details of what is asked of you as a result. We ask for your assistance in not sending these food items to school. We are concerned for the health and well being of all our students. Thank you in advance for your co-operation and support in this regard. Thank you in advance for your co-operation and support in this regard.



SAFETY AND STUDENTS ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL

Please note that yard supervision begins at 8:30 a.m. We strongly encourage students to arrive on the playground between 8:30 – 8:45 a.m. We cannot provide supervision before 8:30 a.m. and having provided this notice, matters that involve arrival earlier than 8:30 a.m. will need to be addressed accordingly. Thank you for your anticipated co-operation.

Please be courteous in the morning and continue to use the kiss and drop lane as diligently as you have been. Please note that Father Oering is the new Priest at St. Ann. As we welcome him to our community, let us continue to be mindful of the fact that the rectory parking spaces are for rectory visitors only, please do not block those spaces when you are dropping your children off at school.

MORNING ARRIVAL and AFTERNOON DISMISSAL:

As we begin this school year, in an effort to continue to enhance student safety during these transition times at school, the following are the routines we are working to establish. It is of paramount importance at this time to not permit parents or caregivers onto the playground (with the exception of our kindergarten families but only at the end of the day beginning at 2:55 pm. With your patience, trust and support, the safety of all children will continue to be our shared priority.

Arriving from the EAST:

Please walk your child to the kindergarten gate, say your good bye and well wishes there and a staff member will be there to ensure your child enter the walkway and be received appropriately by staff on the kindergarten playground. This route will also be used by students of all ages to prevent students from using the walkway at the front of the school or around the parking lot which gets very busy at entry and exit times.

Arriving from the WEST:

Please walk your child to the gate, a staff member will greet you at the gate where the kiss and drop is located and your child will be escorted to their respective yard. Kindergarten children will be walked to their playground by a staff member to ensure they arrive at their proper classroom for their morning arrival.

Dismissal Procedures:

Kindergarten parents and caregivers will be permitted onto the kindergarten playground at 2:55 pm where they will make their way to the playground door outside of their child's classroom to ensure a proper dismissal at the end of the day.

Intermediate children (gr. 7-8 and Mr. Toffolon's class) will be dismissed from the library doors located by the parking lot adjacent to Barton St. and St. Ann St.

Junior Children (gr. 4-6) will be dismissed via the St. Ann Daycare Entrance on St. Ann St.

Primary Children (gr. 1-3) will be dismissed via the front entrance of the school at St. Ann St.

Bus students will be dismissed from the gym via the playground.

These pickup patterns have been designed to ensure we do not have situations where student safety is ever compromised. All visitors to the building are asked to adhere to these procedures to ensure that you and your child/ren always know where to meet at the end of the day.

FAMILY INFORMATION/EMERGENCY CONTACTS:

It is imperative that school records are kept up-to-date. Many changes occur during the summer for some students. Your child will bring home their "Information Sheet" shortly. Please read it over carefully and fill in any information that is missing or needs to be changed. The sheet needs to be returned to the school immediately. Please remember to inform Mrs. Ragonetti of any changes that occur during the school year (telephone, work number, etc.)

SCHOOL PROTOCOL

When Visiting the School: All doors will be locked during school hours, including the front door. Teachers will open the doors when the bell rings for students to enter the school. Entrance after the bell rings, once students begin to enter the building, will only be permitted through the main door off of St. Ann Street.

All visitors to the school must sign in and check in at the office to obtain a "visitor" sticker to wear. No one is to go directly to a teacher's classroom. The teacher/student will then be notified of your arrival.

If you must personally speak with a teacher, please call the school to set up an appropriate time.

Leaving for an Appointment: A parent/guardian who requires a student to leave the school before dismissal time must request this in writing in the student's agenda. All students are to be picked up at the main office by that person. Students will NOT be permitted to leave the school for any reason without an adult present. If this request should conflict with the regular exit at the end of the school day, parents are asked to alert the office to your pending arrival and we will arrange to have your child meet you at the front exit door in time for your arrival.

Reporting an Absence: It is your responsibility to inform the school when your child is going to be late or absent from school. For your convenience, the online absence/attendance (**School Messenger 1-833-275-6703**) reporting system is always available and is the method by which to report your child's absence to avoid getting a phone call from the school's call out system. Please record your child's absence appropriately.

Parking/Afternoon Dismissal: The area on St. Ann Street along the front of the school is designated as a no parking zone by city bylaw and has been noted as such for years by posted signage. As a courtesy to our only neighbor and as a matter of student safety, please refrain from parking in this area. We have been graciously offered the luxury of accessing the parking lot at St. Stanislaus church. I encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to safely park and walk to the front of the school to pick up your child. City Parking Bylaw Enforcement officers have been known to visit and have identified this location as an area of concern. You may be ticketed if you park in this area. If parents need to park to come into the school for a meeting, please use any available spot in our parking lot, or the parking lot at St. Stanislaus church. Thank you for your co-operation, these requests are for the safety of ALL students.

Parent/Guardian Gathering in the front Hall and Office at Dismissal: I ask for your courtesy and consideration in adhering to the decision that when you pick up your child from school at dismissal, you are to remain outside of the school at all times and your child will be guided by school staff to the appropriate exit door. It is my hope that you will understand the need to take this step at this time and adhere to it. This will take time to put in place but the reason for the need to move in this direction is obvious given the need to continue to elevate the level of safety at all times. This procedure will be implemented during the first weeks of school. Please do not put staff in an uncomfortable place by having them ask you to refrain from entering at that time. Your cooperation is anticipated and appreciated.



ATTENDANCE

Regular and punctual attendance is expected from each student and in fact is one of the single greatest factors in student's success at school. Attendance is taken at the beginning of each morning session at 8:45 a.m. and again at the beginning of the afternoon session 12:20 p.m. All students who are late **MUST** report to the office to pick up a late slip. If attendance concerns arise, the HWCDSB's attendance protocol will be implemented and the attendance councilor will be involved for matters related both to frequent absences and frequent lates.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

The Catholic School Council is an important advisory body to the Principal. It consists of members who represent the school community to make suggestions and collaboratively enhance the quality of your children's school experience. As a member of the School Council you can influence decisions that are made and that affect the life of your child at school. The role is advisory in nature and your input is always welcome! We are blessed to have a strong group of parents and grandparents who have committed hours of their time over the years to attend meetings and represent our community as dedicated members of our school community. Our Council from last year ran efficiently and established a series of goals to reflect the focus of their work. Being an advisory body to the Principal, Catholic School Council members bring forward their suggestions and ideas for discussion at the formal table to help shape what each school year looks like. With the Council Chair effectively chairing the meetings and facilitating appropriate discussion while keeping meetings on track, the success of last year's council is appreciated and has helped to move our community continually forward as our student population continues to increase. Meetings are open for all to attend but council guidelines do not permit new business to be discussed at meetings however new business items can be shared with council for possible inclusion on future agendas. Please consider joining the St. Ann Catholic School Council this year to be an important part of the school decisions making process. Self-nomination forms are included with this newsletter and they can also be downloaded from our website. Please adhere to the timelines printed on the nomination form in order to be included in the application and voting process should a vote be required. A special thank you to the council members from 2018-2019 who added tremendous value to our school community last year. It is my hope that we will be able to continue our work together this year with new members who will work as part of our team.

The first meeting and election of this year's Catholic School Council will be held on **Monday, September 23rd, at 6:30 p.m.** Our Council requires 6-10 parents along with the Teacher Rep, Parish Rep and Community Rep. Nomination forms can be downloaded from the webpage or requested from the Main Office. Please note that in order to ensure all nominations have been accepted and in order to prepare ballots, nominations will close on Monday, September 16th, at 12:00p.m. We will not be able to take nominations from the floor – so get your nominations in soon!

Please consider being part of this year's School Council. If we have more than 10 nominations, then we will move to an election which will take place at the beginning of this first meeting. Many thanks to last year's Council; their support, assistance and co-operation are greatly appreciated!

ANNUAL PARENT CONFERENCE

"Weaving the Catholic Partnership" – The 26th Annual Parent Conference is scheduled to take place on Saturday, November 2nd, 2019 at Bishop Ryan Catholic Secondary School, that provides an array of information on family and parenting issues and explores the latest trends and developments in Catholic education. Be sure to mark your calendars...you won't want to miss this valuable opportunity to connect with other parents, educators and community partners in the shared endeavor of Catholic education. I encourage as many parents as possible to attend this free worthwhile conference.



PHOTOS AND VIDEOS:

During the course of the year, students will be involved in a variety of events and activities. It is normal practice to publicize many of the positive things that occur in school. From time to time the press may come to school and take photos of children and write articles about their achievement. Photos and videos of students, collectively or individually, may be taken and used on bulletin board displays or the local newspaper, etc. If you have any objections to your child being included in any of these, please send back the completed form that will be sent home or request a form from the office to be completed and returned to the school.

SCHOOL INSURANCE:

Insurance forms will be sent to your attention. Please consider this low cost opportunity to enhance your child's safety. This is an optional program that you may choose to be involved in. Ordering information will be found in the flyer that is sent home to your attention.

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

The monthly newsletter contains important information that affects your child. Often this will be the only source of information that you will receive regarding certain events, so it is important that you go to our school website. Please register as a subscriber to receive emails directly to your inbox. Please be aware that, due to limited space in the newsletter, some events, trips, etc. will be shown on the calendar. The calendar is populated regularly and the entire school year is available for viewing. We will also make use of the School Connects system to send appropriate materials to your selected device. If you require a paper copy of the school newsletter, please request it through your child's agenda and a copy will be provided to you.



SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

This is your chance to get involved! St. Ann students have greatly benefited from the generous gift of "time" from our many volunteers. Volunteers are used in many different areas in the school, however they are not assigned to their own child's class. All volunteers must have an updated police check. Please call the main office to express your interest and have your name added to the list. A member of the school staff will contact you with additional details. Even one half hour a week helps our students!

St. Ann Reading Club



We are starting a St. Ann Reading Club and we need your help! The reading program is intended to encourage children to become more self-directed and to take responsibility for using reading strategies that work for them.

We need parent/guardian reading coaches to read with the children on a one-to-one basis. As a coach, you would need to spend approximately one hour a week at the school. If you are available and would like to volunteer your time, please see the form going home with the calendar. A valid police check is necessary to volunteer.

Thank you for your sharing your time with the students!

Nutrition

NUTRITION PROGRAM

We will be continuing the Tastebuds nutrition program and Bulldogs Breakfast programs again this year. A generous donation has already been deposited to the school's account to permit the early startup of this program and delivery of breakfast food items to classroom as of September. More details will be forthcoming in the following weeks about both initiatives. Thank you to the Nutrition team for being our Tastebuds and Bulldogs Breakfast Programs Champions. Countless hours go into planning and organizing the preparation and delivery of food each day!



Any parent who is interested in being part of our ECO school team, please contact Ms. Kostyk for how you can assist with our program. No experience needed. All are welcome! We continue to encourage our students to use reusable containers for their lunches, drinks and snacks. Both floors have hydration stations to refill water.

PILGRIMAGE

On Sunday, October 20th, 2019, students of the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board will be participating in a Pilgrimage which will raise money to support projects in Uganda, Haiti, Dominican Republic & African Famine Relief. The pilgrimage will serve to create awareness around world hunger, need for health care, shelter, and proper education. As Catholics we are called to promote Christ's presence and love for the poor. We encourage the intermediate students, as well as parents and staff to participate in this "***Walk with Christ-Justice for the Poor.***"

Doing Mathematics with Your Child (Kindergarten to Grade 6)

Today, critical thinking, problem solving, reasoning ability and ability to communicate mathematically are essential skills. These processes are the foundation of mathematics instruction in Ontario schools. "Doing Mathematics with Your Child" is a guide available for parents of students in Kindergarten to Grade 6. This guide offers ways to engage their child in thinking and talking about mathematics around the four strands: number sense and numeration, measurement, patterning and algebra, and data management and probability.

Please use the link below to access the guide in English and 13 other languages:

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/literacynumeracy/parentGuideNum.html>

RUNNING AND READING CLUB

On Wednesday, September 5th at the school from 3pm to 5pm, pre-register your children in Grades 1-6 for the Running & Reading Club. A free After School program that motivates the children to improve both fitness and literacy. Children in Grades 7 and 8 can also register to be part of our JR Coach Program.

Please speak with Laurie laurie.konkle@start2finishonline.org or [289-208-5416](tel:289-208-5416).

MAXIMIZING USE OF SCHOOL AGENDAS

“If we plan to learn, we must learn to plan.”

Again, this year, students are encouraged to be involved in the student agenda program. This is a vital tool not only for recording homework and assignments, but also for communication between the home and school. We will monitor the use of these agendas and strongly encourage students to make sure that they are diligent about making use of their planners a daily routine. Also parents, it goes without saying that your children will depend on you to establish good homework routines and for you to monitor them to ensure homework is completed with attention to quality. Your cooperation will be necessary in signing the planners on a daily basis. The Board’s Homework Policy is available for reference on the board website. Agenda payment can be made online. Thank you in advance for your continued support of this organizational and communication tool. The cost of a student agenda is \$5.00 and payments can be made online or in cash to your child’s teacher.

BUS INFORMATION

Bus schedules were sent to each family in August in the designated bus areas. Please be patient during these first few days while routes get sorted and pickup/drop-off times are worked out. We will do our utmost to notify you in writing of any changes. Our Board Website indicates that we should all be aware that there is a potential for bus delays as we begin the year due to driver shortage. Although the schools involved have not been directly identified, please know that at all times your children will be under the direct supervision of school staff when they are awaiting a bus should their bus be late. TRACS system will notify you individually if your child’s bus is affected each day that there may be a disruption of service. The school will also receive notification on that day at the same time that you do.

FDK Students: Parents will be required to fill in a form identifying 4 individuals to whom their child will be released to and parents must communicate changes in this form to the Board Transportation Department as per the transportation policy: “All FDK students must be accompanied to and from the bus stop by an adult. If there is no adult present at the stop, the student will be returned to the school. If there is no one available to receive the child at the school, the Children’s Aid Society will be notified. Any other bussing arrangements must be requested in writing and sent to the Transportation Department for approval.”

Bus Students: Parents are asked to ensure that their child is on time at the appropriate bus stop. Please stress with your child the importance of proper behavior while riding the bus. Riding the bus is a privilege. Repeated misbehavior may result in losing this privilege. Please remember that bus students are not allowed to switch buses at any time. (Insurance, security reasons and over-crowding problems, etc.) Students may not request to be dropped off at stops other than their regular drop-off point. One Child, One Bus, One Stop. Riding the bus is not a seasonal option. In cases where different arrangements are made for a particular day (doctor/dentist apt.) parents must send a note to confirm. No child will be kept back at the office or allowed to go home with another student unless there is a note to verify alternate arrangements.

10th ANNUAL TELLING TALES FESTIVAL

The ***“Telling Tales”*** event will be held on Sunday, September 15th, 2019 at Westfield Heritage Village in Rockton, Ontario. Parking and admission are free. The festival takes place rain or shine.

Event: Telling Tales 2018 – **A Celebration of Literacy for All Ages**

Date: Sunday, September 15th, 2019

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Location: Westfield Heritage Village 1049 Kirkwall Road, Rockton Ontario

Free bussing will be arranged from St. Ann School. More information is forthcoming shortly.

The **“LEARNING COMMONS”**

If you have found any library books at your home over the summer, please send them into the school. Your diligence with this helps to ensure that our library book collection has a complete inventory.