



HAMILTON-WENTWORTH CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
ST. AUGUSTINE CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
25 Alma Street
Dundas, Ontario
L9H 2C9



Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic Schools
150 years of 'Believing, Achieving, Serving'

Tel: 905-523-2338

Fax: 905-628-3271

PRINCIPAL: MR. M. TROTTA
PRINCIPAL INTERN: MRS. J. GLAVIC

SUPERINTENDENT: MR. M. HUCAL

TRUSTEE: MRS. C. CORNALE

DECEMBER 2015



"The season of Advent restores ... a hope which does not disappoint for it is founded on God's Word. A hope which does not disappoint, simply because the Lord never disappoints! ...

Let us think about and feel this beauty."

POPE FRANCIS

REFLECTION ON ADVENT

During the Season of Advent, we pray that this holy time will help us to come closer to God and recognize His existence and purpose in our lives. It is a time of reflective preparation to receive the gifts of faith, hope, love and peace. It is true that at this time of year most of us joyfully prepare to give and to receive gifts. Furthermore, we should prepare ourselves to receive God's most abiding gift, that of the birth of Jesus. During Advent and Christmas we need to relearn how to accept each other with full hearts. We strive to welcome the outsider, heal family divisions and spend quality time with family and friends.

ADVENT – PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD

Our Family Advent Evening will be held on Tuesday, December 8th 2015, beginning with a mass celebration at our Parish, then a social gathering at our school where families will be able to take home a Jesse Tree and ornaments which were prepared by the students on Joy Day.

Weekly Advent Liturgies

Parents and guardians are invited to join us as we journey together in prayer during the Advent weeks leading up to Jesus' birth. (Liturgies are held in our gym)

1. Monday, December 7, 2014 – 8:30 a.m.
2. Monday, December 14, 2014 – 8:30 a.m.
3. Friday, December 18, 2014 – 8:30 a.m.

❖ Parents are invited to participate in our Advent Liturgy on December 14th at 8:30 a.m. If you are able to participate please let the office know by December 11th.



BLESSING AND OPENING OF THE DOOR OF MERCY

As the extra-ordinary Holy Year of Mercy begins, Bishop Crosby is inviting parishioners from across the Diocese to the celebration of the Blessing and Opening of the Door of Mercy at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King, Hamilton, on Sunday, December 13th, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. The celebration will begin in McNally Hall (basement of the Cathedral Basilica) and then move to the Holy Door bearing the images of the Good Shepherd and Madonna della Strada for the blessing and opening, and the celebration of the Word. All are welcomed to attend.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL FUNDRAISER

St. Augustine's Catholic School Council is having their 3rd annual "Christmas Cash Raffle" fundraiser. Tickets and information sheets went home with students last week. The prizes are:

1st prize \$500.00, 2nd prize \$200.00 and 3rd prize \$100.00
Tickets are \$2.00 each

Draw date: Tuesday, December 8th at The Family Advent Night

A prize will be awarded to the student that sells the most tickets and for every book of 10 tickets sold the child's name will be entered into a draw for prizes as well. Should you require more tickets please contact the school. Please return all tickets and money to the school by Monday, December 7, 2015. Thank-you for your support and Good luck!!



On Tuesday, December 1, 2015, our school celebrated Joy Day. Students were joyously dressed in red and green preparing their Jesse Tree ornaments for our Advent Family Gathering. Thank you to the Catholic School Council who sponsored each class \$50 for the purchase of materials. We would also like to extend Santa a merry thank you for coming to visit our student-elves hard at work making their Jesse Tree ornaments.

THE TREE OF WARMTH AND GIVING

During this holiday season our Student Council has decided to have a tree of "Warmth and Giving" displayed in our front of our hallway. During our School Council meeting the students concerns were concentrated on those who will be experiencing difficulty staying warm during the cold winter season that will be approaching us soon. The Student Council has decided to decorate our tree with NEW hats, gloves and scarves. These items will be donated to those in need. We have to remember everyday about all the wonderful things in life that God has blesses us with and remember to give and share with those who need some extra care. Please help us decorate our Tree of Warmth and Giving. As a school community we can help keep our brothers and sisters warm. ONE item given will make ONE person warmer!

ST. AUGUSTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH - CHRISTMAS MASSES

December 24th: 5 pm and 7 pm and Midnight Mass

December 25th: 9 am and 10:30 am

December 31st: 5 pm

January 1st: 10:30 am

VIRTUE OF CONSCIENCE



For the month of November the following students are recognized for their demonstration of Conscience:

Mrs. Bacik – Clare C
Mrs. MacCabe-Freeman – N
Mr. Havers – Evan R
Mr. Hewitson – Georgia D.
Mrs. MacEachern – Liam B.
Mrs. Bury – Sophia C.
Ms. Cornale – Jimmy L.
Mrs. Harold – Chris P.
Miss Filice – Madison G.
Mrs. Glavic – Christine V.
Mr. Burgio – Evan D.

LEARNING COMMONS



The Scholastic Book Fair was a smashing success! Not only did the St. Augustine community meet its goal of \$3000, it surpassed it by more than \$600. Well done, everyone! This means that the Learning Commons is able to take 60% worth of product from the Fair. Already the Learning Commons has acquired over \$700 in new books. Special thanks to Mrs. Harold's class who wrote and presented their awesome announcements to keep the Book Fair excitement going. Mrs. Byrne is also very grateful to all the students who helped out to make the Book Fair run as smoothly as it did. It was so great to see so many families come out to visit the Book Fair during interview night as well. Congratulations to Josie F. in Mrs. Harold's class. Both Josie and Mrs. Harold won \$25 worth of books to take from the Fair. Ten lucky students also won posters. Thanks again to everyone for all your support. The Book Fair is a great literacy and community building event that the entire school enjoys.



SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

Paying for trips, school lunches and other items is made easy with School Cash On-Line. For more information on this convenient method of payment please visit the St. Augustine website, a link is located at the bottom of the webpage.

ECO NEWS

St. Augustine's ECO team is encouraging families to have a green Christmas. Here are a few tips to get you started:

- Buy human powered toys over battery powered toys
- Use and reuse gift bags and boxes
- Use paper that can be recycled or recycled paper (use the comics 😊)
- Save energy with LED lights
- Support local farmers by buying free range fowl and local produce for your Christmas meal

Have a Very Merry **GREEN** Christmas!

NUTRITION PROGRAM

Thank you to our team of Educational Assistants and Mrs. Glavic who have helped to make our Tastebuds nutrition program a success. As we look for ways to continually improve the program to fit our community we are looking for your input. If you are interested on joining the nutrition committee please contact the school. Please continue to follow the program on the website; updates on nutritious choices and program information are available by clicking on Nutrition Program found in the School dropdown menu.

SPORTS NEWS

JUNIOR BOYS FLAG FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

St Augustine had ended a very long drought, capturing their first championship in flag football in over 15 years! Many thanks go out to the boys who showed dedication and excellent sportsmanship throughout the season. Thank you also to the parents who showed their support at every game. Thanks to Miss Filice and Mrs. Harold who came out in the cold to support the team. Thanks to Mr. Restauri who helped out whenever and however he could. A great big thank you to Mr. Havers for leading the team: from the coach, *"thanks to the team. It was a pleasure coaching you to the final game, you should be proud of your efforts, you really deserved this."*

THE 8 ANNUAL CATHEDRAL GAELS DARYL MAHLER MEMORIAL "3 ON 3" HOCKEY CHALLENGE

Congratulations to St. Augustine's first 3 On 3 hockey team. Our boys and girls made it all the way to the semi-finals! We are proud of your performance on the ice and even prouder of your exceptional attitude and sportsmanship. A big thank you to the organizers and coaches, Mr. Havers and Mrs. MacEachern, for giving your time and expertise.

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

In the month of December, the Student Council will be busy selling and delivering Candy Cane-O-Grams. Sales will take place from Thursday, December 3rd through to Tuesday, December 12th. They will be delivered to each class on Thursday, December 17, 2015. Thank you to a special parent for the donation. And thanks to staff and students for their continued support.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

Friday, December 18, 2015 is our last day with dismissal at the regular time. School will resume again on Monday, January 4, 2016.

HEALTH ACTION TEAM

Hi. I am Public Health Nurse, Cheryl. As a new member of the school's team, I will be providing support for St. Augustine to continue to promote a healthy, active school and to enhance the health of the students within the school community. A big part of my role will be as a member of the school's Health Action Team. A Health Action Team has students, school staff, a public health nurse, parents and other community partners. With a focus on student involvement, the team works on a health issue important to the school like physical activity, healthy eating, mental well-being, safety or substance misuse. We address these topics because we know healthy active students are better learners, more connected to their school community, and make more positive life choices.

Ask your children about the work the Health Action Team is doing in the school this year.

LUNCHROOM SUPERVISORS

We are looking to hire Paid lunch supervisors to work one hour per day 11:15 am to 12:15pm Monday to Friday. Applicants will need to have a Police Criminal Reference Vulnerable Screening dated within the year, a TB Test Result – dated within the year as well as a SIN number. Applicants please contact the Main Office.