



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

SUPERINTENDENT: MR. M. HUCAL

TRUSTEE: MRS. C. CORNALE

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2017

God of wisdom and might,

*we praise you for the wonder of our being,
for mind, body and spirit.*

*Be with our children as they begin
a new school year.*

Bless them and their teachers and staff.

*Give the strength and grace as their bodies grow;
wisdom and knowledge to their minds
as they search for understanding;
and peace and zeal to their hearts.*

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

I am excited to welcome everyone back to a new school year. I am looking forward to a great year filled with learning and leadership. Parents if you have time and talents to share with us please let us know, together we will work to make this year successful for all of our students. 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. We began our day with students and staff enthusiastic and eager to start, it promises to be an exciting and enriching year.

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 as it contains important information which will help make the start of the school year an easy transition for all.

ST. AUGUSTINE PARISH INFORMATION



If you have been away from the area, this is the time to reconnect with St. Augustine Parish. Our Lord's Day Mass times are: Saturday – 5:30 p.m. and Sunday – 9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

The School and the Parish co-operate with each other, however are separate entities. For example, registering at school does not automatically make you a member of St. Augustine Parish. If you are not registered as parishioners (or think you might not be registered), please call our Parish office at 905-628-2880 and register.

“Thank you” for sharing your faith with your children at home and for bringing them to Mass on Sundays.

“Thank you” for having your children attend a Catholic school, so that the home, school and parish can support the spiritual life of your children.

For the younger children, the 9:00 a.m. Sunday Mass has the Children's Liturgy

ST. AUGUSTINE SCHOOL STAFF

Principal	Mr. Trotta
Secretary	Mrs. Fortino
FDKA	Mrs. Bacik
FDKB	Mrs. Stayshyn
Grade 1	Mr. Havers
Grade 1/2	Ms. Bury
Grade 2/3	Mrs. MacEachern
Grade 3	Mrs. Harold
Grade 4	Ms. Cornale
Grade 5	Mrs. Harold
Grade 6/7	Miss Filice
Grade 7	Ms. Groen
Grade 8	Mr. Palkowski
French	Mme. Curto
LRT	Mrs. Ammendolia
PPT	Mrs. Meilko
Arts Integration	Mr. Furlong
Special Education	Mrs. Medeiros
Teacher-Librarian	Mrs. Byrne
Library Clerk	Mrs. Commisso

Educational Assistants

Mrs. Castelli
Mrs. DeLuca
Mrs. Pecchia
Mr. G. Byres
TBA

Custodians

Mr. Castellino
Mr. Flameling
Assistant Custodians Mrs. Garcia

WELCOME BACK B.B.Q.

All St. Augustine School families are invited to the school B.B.Q. on **Tuesday, September 12, 2017** from **5:00 – 7:00 p.m.** St. Jean de Brébeuf will be selling Hotdogs and Hamburgers. Come and meet the school staff and spend some time with family and friends.

SCHOOL HOURS



Morning Entry	8:35 a.m.
A.M. Recess	9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Lunch	11:20 a.m. – 12:10 a.m.
P.M. Recess	1:25 p.m. – 1:40 p.m.
Dismissal	2:55 p.m.



SAFETY & STUDENTS ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL

Please note that yard supervision begins at 8:15 a.m. We strongly encourage students to arrive on the playground between 8:20 – 8:35 a.m. We cannot provide supervision before 8:15 a.m. Thank you for your anticipated co-operation.

ENTRANCE TO SCHOOL/EXIT FROM SCHOOL

Students should not be entering the school before the bell rings. At dismissal time, students will leave through the doors where they enter. Parents are asked to wait outside at the appropriate doors to meet their children in order to alleviate congestion in the school halls.

VIRTUES

Creating a safe, caring and inclusive school community.

Each month at school we will focus and be learning about a different Catholic virtue. We know that this will aid all of us in growing as people of faith and create positive conversations in and around our school. We look forward to continue this initiative as a safe, caring and inclusive school community.

SEPTEMBER~*FAITH*
NOVEMBER~*CONSCIENCE*
JANUARY~*SELF-CONTROL*
MARCH~*KINDNESS*
MAY~*ACCEPTANCE*

OCTOBER~*EMPATHY*
DECEMBER~*HOPE*
FEBRUARY~*RESPECT*
APRIL~*LOVE*
JUNE~*FAIRNESS*

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 will only be permitted through the main door off of Alma 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.

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 school’s answering system is always on (24 hours). Please leave a message. Please make it your priority to call and leave a message.

Parking: The area on Alma Street along the front of the school is designated as a bus pick up/drop off area. Please note that the City Parking Bylaw Officer has signs installed along the front of the school on Alma Street. 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, the designated parking areas on Alma St. or one of the side streets that allow parking. Please do not block driveways on Alma St. at any time.

Thank you for your co-operation, these requests are for the safety of ALL students.



ATTENDANCE

Regular and punctual attendance is expected from each student. Attendance is taken at the beginning of each morning session at 8:35 a.m. and again at the beginning of the afternoon session 12:10 p.m. All students who are late MUST report to the office to pick up a late slip.

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.

[..Medical Information Form.doc](#)

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.” 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. Fortino of any changes that occur during the school year (telephone, work number, etc.)

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 was sent home. download the form from our website or request it from the office. <R:\Office Files\Newsletters\privacy request forms 2017.pdf>

SCHOOL INSURANCE: Insurance forms will NOT be sent out with the newsletter. If you wish to have this information please visit our school website.

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.

SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

This is your chance to get involved! St. Augustine students have greatly benefited from the generous gift of “time” from our parent 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 Mrs. Medeiros, to discuss possibilities. Even one half hour a week helps our students!

NUTRITION PROGRAM

We will be continuing the Tastebuds nutrition program. Please look to our website for details in the following weeks.

ECO

Any parent who is interested in being part of our ECO school team, please visit our ECO booth at the Meet the Teacher BBQ. 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.

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. 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 first meeting and election of this year’s Catholic School Council will be held on Monday, September 18th, at 6:15 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 Friday, September 15rd, at 4:00 p.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 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!

<..\CSC Nomination Form 2017.doc>

ANNUAL PARENT CONFERENCE

“Weaving the Catholic Partnership” – Saturday, November 4, 2017 at Bishop Ryan Catholic Secondary School. I would encourage as many parents as possible to attend this free worthwhile conference. Excellent guest speakers and workshops! Breakfast and lunch are provided as well as goodie bags.

Visit our board website for more details.



MAXIMIZING USE OF SCHOOL AGENDAS

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



Again this year, students 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

Thank you to Catholic School Council for purchasing one for every student through fundraising.

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.

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 behaviour while riding the bus. Riding the bus is a privilege. Repeated misbehaviour 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 appt.) 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.

THE 9^{YH} ANNUAL TELLING TALES FESTIVAL: IT’S GOING TO BE AWESOME!

The “Telling Tales” event will be held on September 17th, 2017 at Westfield Heritage Village in Rockton, Ontario.

Parking and admission are free. The festival takes place rain or shine. Event: Telling Tales 2017 – A Celebration of Literacy For All Ages

Date: Sunday, September 17th, 2017

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

Location: Westfield Heritage Village 1049 Kirkwall Road, Rockton Ontario



THE “LEARNING COMMONS”

If you have found any library books at your home over the summer, please send them into the school. Information regarding Book Fair will be coming in the following weeks. See website for details.

13TH ANNUAL BOARD PILGRIMAGE - Sunday, October 15th, 2017

All Grade 7 and 8 students are encouraged to participate. More information to follow. See website for details.



SPORTS

Many sports teams are underway. We truly appreciate staff for generously volunteering their personal time at lunch hour or after school to be able to provide these extra curricular activities. Students and parents are reminded about a respectful Code of Conduct at all times.

ST. AUGUSTINE GIRLS HOUSE LEAGUE BASKETBALL

Are you interested in playing basketball in a fun, non-competitive house league?

This will be the 38th season that parent volunteers have organized a fun basketball house league for girls in grades 2 to 8. All games are played at St. Augustine and St. Bernadette schools on Friday nights between 6 and 9 pm.

The league runs from mid-October to early March. If your daughter is interested in joining us this year or if anyone is interested in volunteering to help referee or coach, please email me at staugustinegirlsbasketball@gmail.com.

The fee for playing is \$40 per player or \$60.00 per family. For more information, please contact Melissa Cameron at staugustinegirlsbasketball@gmail.com - we're looking forward to another fantastic season!

CLUBS

St. Augustine is pleased to have several clubs that run throughout the year. Look to our website for details.

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. 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. Each teacher will notify the class and parents if there are any students in their class with food allergies. 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.



INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE OPPORTUNITY:

2017-2018

The H.W.C.D.S.B. offers **free** language classes to all students presently enrolled in an elementary school in Ontario. The focus of the Elementary Program is to offer children an opportunity to develop and/or maintain the ability to listen, speak and write a new language or the language of the home or heritage, and at the same time learn about the culture and heritage associated with the language. Classes take place 2.5 hours per week and no prior knowledge of the language is necessary. Registration will be held on the week of **September 9th to 15th**.

However, students are eligible to register for a class at any time throughout the school year. Languages offered and their sites are listed below. Please note that each class will only run if there is sufficient enrolment.

Community groups and those interested in starting a new program may call the office at 905-577-0555 ext. 3225. Further information can be found at www.stcharles.ca

LANGUAGE	CONTACT	PHONE	LOCATION	DAY & TIME
Arabic	Dalal Hamade - (Contact) HI	905-318-6084	Regina Mundi	Tue., 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Armenian	Rouzanna Apkarian - (Contact) HI	905-381-9971	Blessed Sacrament	Fri., 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Assyrian	Valantina Ishak - (Contact) HI	289-680-8462	St. Teresa of Calcutta	Fri., 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Chaldéen	Sowad Meekho (Contact) HI	905-746-3005	Sts. Peter & Paul	Sat., 9:30-12:00 pm
Chinese	Man Tse - Contact Xiao Li Zhao - HI Christine Kwong- HI Judy Tsai - HI	905-383-4007	Canadian Martyrs St. Teresa of Calcutta St. Lawrence	Fri., 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm Fri., 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm Sat., 9:30 am-12:00 pm
Chinese	Susan Bourne Contact/HI	905-575-9306	St. Patrick Sts. Peter & Paul	Fri., 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm Sat., 9:30 am - 12:00 pm
Croatian	Nancy Diklic- Contact/HI	905-560-8917	St. Eugene	Sat., 9:30 am - 12:00 pm
Hindi	Sunanda Jadon – Contact/HI	648-0454	Our Lady of Lourdes Immaculate Conception	Fri., 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm Sat.,9:30 am – 12:00 pm
Hungarian	Sophia Szoke – Contact/HI	648-2345 (h)	St. Joseph	Tues., 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm
Iraqi	Essam Ali - Contact Eynas Ahmad - HI Zainab Mousa - HI	318-9476 (h)	Annunciation of Our Lord St. Vincent de Paul	Tue., 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm Sat., 9:30 am - 12:00 pm
Italian	Joanne Dilanni - Contact Susana Fortino-Bozzo – Contact www.italianculture.ca email-info@italianculture.ca	905-527-3400	Immaculate Heart of Mary Immaculate Conception St. Marguerite d'Youville St. Michael St. Vincent de Paul St. Mark OLOP	Sat., 9:30 am - 12:00 pm Sat., 9:30 am -12:00 pm Mon., 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm Thurs., 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm Sat., 9:30 am - 12:00 pm Sat., 9:30 am – 12:00 pm Sat., 9:30 am – 12:00 pm
Lithuanian	Vaida Matuzoniene – Contact/HI	905-920-3235	St. Joseph	Sat., 9:30 am - 12:00 pm
Malayalam	Sony Poulouse – Contact Subin Thomas– Contact/HI Alice Kurien– Contact/HI	905-515-2223	OLOP St. Vincent de Paul	Sat., 9:30 am - 12:00 pm Sat., 9:30 am – 12:00 pm
Oromo	Abdalla Hassan - (Contact) HI	289-700-4236	St. Charles – Young	Sat.,9:00 am – 11:30 am
Pilipino	Sally Viquiera – (Contact) HI	905-570-4844	Blessed Sacrament	Fri., 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm
Portuguese	Fernanda Adams- (Contact) HI	905-545-4881	St. Mark St. Michael St. Lawrence St. Brigid Imm. Conception	Sat., 9:30 am – 12:00pm Mon., 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm Sat., 9:30 am - 12:00 pm Fri., 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm Tue. 5:30 pm-8 :00 pm
Punjabi	Ajit Chaggar – (Contact) HI	905-664-7459	Our Lady of Peace	Sat., 9:30 am - 12:00 pm
Russian	Valida Guliyeva – (Contact) HI	905-297-7990	St. Charles Young St. CharlesYoung	Fri., 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm Sat., 9:00 am -11:30 am
Slovenian	Jenny Antolin - Contact Sandy Allen – HI	905-664-5980	St. Gregory the Great	Sat., 9:00 am-12:30pm
Spanish	Mariana Jorquera – (Contact) HI	905-304-3822	Guardian Angels Our Lady of Lourdes St. Joseph St. Vincent de Paul St. Mark	Mon., 5:30 pm-8:00pm Fri., 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm Tue., 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm Sat., 9:30 am - 12:00 pm Sat., 9:30 am - 12:00 pm
Ukrainian	Mary Holadyk – (Contact) HI	905-547-5444	St. Ann's, Hamilton	M-F, 8:15am-8:45 am
Ukrainian	Irena Wojtow-Dmyterko – Contact	905-318-9304	Holy Spirit	Sat., 9:00 am-11:30 am
Urdu	Inam Ul Haque – (Contact) HI	296-0930	St. Charles, Barlake	Mon. 5:00 pm - 7:30 pm
Urdu	Bilqis Kabir – (Contact) HI	573-0174	St. Eugene	Sat., 9:30 am -12:00 pm
Vietnamese	Theresa Defreitas – (Contact) HI	905-512-9623	St. Lawrence	Sat., 9:30 am – 12:00 pm