

Father R. Love
Pastor St. Augustine Parish

Mrs. M. Cipolla
Superintendent

Mrs. S. Scime
Principal

Mrs. C. Cornale
Trustee

St. Augustine School is a place that is proud of its students.

SEPTEMBER 2013 NEWSLETTER

PRAYER FOR THE BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR



God of wisdom and might,
we praise you for the wonders 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 them strength and grace as their bodies grow,
wisdom and knowledge to their minds
as they search for understanding;
and peace and zeal their spirits.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

Principal's Message...

As the new Principal to the St. Augustine School Community I am looking forward to working collaboratively and in partnership with school, parish and home. Thank you for the warm welcome that I have received. This is truly a beautiful community. I am dedicated to help our children grow academically, physically, socially and spiritually in a Christ centred environment. We, as a staff, will teach as Jesus did with understanding, compassion, care, patience and love. May God bless us all as we endeavour together to meet your children's needs.



SAFETY & STUDENT ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL

Please note that yard supervision begins at 8:15 a.m.

We strongly encourage students to arrive on the playground between 8:15 and 8:30 a.m. We cannot provide supervision before 8:15 a.m.

Thank-you for your anticipated co-operation.

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 & 10:30 a.m.

The School and the Parish co-operate with each other, but 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.

Parents, "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, at the 9:00 a.m. Sunday Mass, we hold the Children's Sunday Liturgy.

Learn more about the parish by visiting the parish website: www.staugustineparish.ca

First School Mass: Friday, September 20, 2013 at 9:00a.m. at St. Augustine Church. All parents and guardians are invited to join us at our opening school year Mass.



A YEAR OF 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 this new initiative as a safe, caring and inclusive school community.

PROFFESIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Fri. Sept. 27th

is a Professional Development Day and as a result there will be no school for students.

SCHOOL HOURS

Morning Entry	8:30 a.m.
A.M. Recess	9:40 – 9:55 a.m.
Lunch	11:15– 12:15 p.m.
P.M. Recess	1:25 – 1:40 p.m.
Dismissal	3:00 p.m.

September	FAITH
October	EMPATHY
November	CONSCIENCE
December	HOPE
January	SELF-CONTROL
February	RESPECT
March	KINDNESS
April	LOVE
May	ACCEPTANCE
June	FAIRNESS



ST. AUGUSTINE SCHOOL STAFF

Principal	Mrs. S. Scime
Special Education	Mrs. M. Medeiros
Secretary	Mrs. A. Fortino
FDELKP(A)	Mrs. J. Glavic
ECE	Miss S. MacFarlane
FDELKP(B)	Mrs. J. MacCabe-Freeman
ECE	Mrs. C. Bowman
Grade 1	Mr. S. Hewitson
Grade 1/2	Mrs. V. Nelson
Grade 2/3	Mrs. J. Bury
Grade 3	Mrs. A. MacEachern
Grade 4	Mrs. E. Harold
Grade 4/5	Ms. R. Cornale
Grade 5/6	Mr. D. Havers
Grade 6	Miss C. Filice
Grade 7	Mr. S. Burgio
Grade 7/8	Mrs. E. Stayshyn
Grade 8	Mrs. L. Grant
French	Ms. J. Greco
French	TBD
Language Resource/RR	Mrs. R. Minardi
Arts Itinerant	Mr. M. Furlong
Teacher-Librarian	Mrs. L. Osatchuk
Library Clerk	Mrs. L. Banevicius
Educational Assistants	Mrs. L. Castelli
	Mrs. M. DeLuca
	Mrs. K. Francis
	Mr. A. Ippolito
	Mrs. K. Pecchia
	Mr. H. Wedekind
Day Custodian	Mr. J. Castellino
Night Custodian	Mr. J. Campanella
Assistant Custodian	Mrs. C. Garcia

In addition, the school board has organized the “Family of Schools” based on elementary feeder schools for the secondary schools. St. Augustine School continues to be under the leadership of Mrs. Cipolla Superintendent of Education. We look forward to working together with Mrs. Cipolla throughout the school year.

St. Augustine School is fortunate to have a very dedicated and caring staff. Their goal is to provide the best possible learning environment in which to teach your children the skills they will need for future learning. It is extremely important for all parents and guardians to be involved in their children’s education. Keep informed and communicate any concerns with your children’s teacher.

STUDENT + PARENT + TEACHER = SUCCESS

ENTRANCE TO SCHOOL/EXIT FROM SCHOOL

Students are asked to line up outside the doors when the bell rings. The Kindergarten students enter at the front side door. The Primary students enter through the front door and the Intermediate students enter at the side door. **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.

SCHOOL PROTOCOL

When Visiting the School: All doors will be locked during school hours, excluding the front door until our new monitoring system which has been installed this summer is fully functional. 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. **Reporting an Absence: It is your responsibility to inform the school when your child is going to be late or absent from school.** A lot of time is spent trying to “track” down the whereabouts of students when they are marked absent from class. This takes up valuable time, should there be an actual emergency. **For your convenience, the school’s answering system is always on (24 hours).** Please leave a message. Please do not wait until you “arrive at work” as the school begins calling at 8:45 a.m. You must 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. Our Special Needs bus also stops there. **You will be ticketed** if you park in this area. If parents need to park to come into the school for a meeting, please use the parking lot or the area across the street.

These rules must be followed for the safety of ALL students.

Thank you for your co-operation.

ATTENDANCE

Regular and punctual attendance is expected from each student. Attendance is taken at the beginning of each morning session and again at the beginning of the afternoon session. Attendance is monitored closely, as poor attendance affects academic performance. Students who arrive after the 8:30 a.m. bell or after the 12:15 p.m. bell must report to the office first to pick up a late slip. This will inform the teacher that the student has checked in at the office. Students will not be admitted to class without a “late” slip after the bell. Lateness is also monitored. Please plan ahead to help your child be punctual.

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 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. A form is enclosed as well.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

FAMILY INFORMATION/EMERGENCY CONTACTS:

It is imperative that school records are kept up-to-date. Many changes occur during the summer for some students. During the month of September, 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 a written note to your child's teacher.**

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER: The monthly newsletter contains important information that affects your child. Much care and effort is made in making certain the newsletter is sent home to you at the beginning of every month. Often this will be the only source of information that you will receive regarding certain events, so it is important that you read your newsletter every time you receive it. Please be aware that, due to limited space, some events will not be shown on the calendar, but they will be published in the newsletter.

HERITAGE LANGUAGE CLASSES: The School Board is once again providing elementary school children with the opportunity to experience the culture, traditions and language of other countries in area schools. If interested, please pick up a flyer at our parent information board in the main hallway.

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 never 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!

MAXIMIZING USE OF SCHOOL AGENDAS

All students from Grades 1-8 are expected to use their agendas daily. The agenda is a tool to ensure work completion and to provide daily communication with parents. Thank you in advance to those parents who sign the agendas diligently. There is no doubt that students benefit fully and improved their organization skills tremendously. It is our hope that this procedure will help all students to stay organized. We will also use the agenda to note your child's punctuality. Working together, we will continue to reinforce good work habits and study skills.

Students:

- 1) Record the assignment and due date on the corresponding section in the agenda. Write down things you need to do and make note of the due date. Write down tests and projects on the date they are assigned and the date they are due. Take home all the materials you will need to complete assigned work.
- 2) Prioritize tasks (e.g. – number them)
- 3) Check and review your schedule daily. When you get home do your homework. Check and review that the work is done. Ask your parents to sign your agenda AFTER you have shown them your completed work.

Parents:

- 1) Please check what new homework needs to be completed. (Ask your child for clarification if needed)
- 2) AFTER your child has completed the work, please sign the agenda so that the teacher knows that you are aware of what your child is doing at school and what he/she should be working on at home.

MEET THE TEACHER B.B.Q.

All St. Augustine School families are invited to the school B.B.Q. on Tuesday, September 17, 2013 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Harvey's will be providing the food and families may order upon arrival. Bring the whole family and your lawn chairs. Come and meet the school staff and spend some time with family and friends. Teachers will be available during the B.B.Q. to meet parents.



CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL

The Catholic School Council helps to support and improve pupil achievement and the learning environment of the students. No special training or experience is required. St. Augustine School community looks forward to new members with fresh ideas and enthusiasm. The CSC is also responsible for events such as their major fundraiser, and other activities throughout the year. Without involvement/input from volunteers, these events are not possible. Please consider attending meetings this year. Positive input is always accepted. Dissolution of the previous CSC and elections for the 'new' CCS for this school year will be on **Monday, September 23, 2013 at 6:45 p.m.** in the Learning Commons (aka library). **Nomination forms are included with this newsletter. The new CSC will set meeting dates for the year and this information will be communicated in the October newsletter.**



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.

All Junior and Senior Kindergarten 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 overcrowding 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.



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 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. If you have any questions/concerns related to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact us for further information

ILLNESS: If your child is ill, especially if they have a virus or illness that may be contagious, we ask that you keep your child at home so that the health of other students is not compromised. If your child is too ill to go out for recess, we ask that you keep your child at home, as supervision is not available for the students that remain indoors.

5th Annual TELLING TALES LITERACY FESTIVAL

Excellent free family fun at Westfield Heritage Village in Rockton On Sunday, September 15, 2103 from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



NEWS From the "LEARNING COMMONS"

1. If you have found any library books at your home over the summer, please send them into the school.
2. Book Fair this year will be held in December...perfect for Christmas shopping!
3. Mrs. Osatchuk, our Teacher-Librarian will be at our school on Mondays, Wednesdays, and alternate Fridays.

ANNUAL PARENT CONFERENCE

Saturday, November 2, 2013 to be held at Cathedral High School. I would encourage as many parents as possible to attend this worthwhile conference.

10th ANNUAL BOARD PILGRIMAGE

When: Sunday, October 20th, 2013

All Grade 7 students are encouraged to participate, as they will receive volunteer hours that can be applied towards their Confirmation Volunteer Hours. More information to follow.

NELSON e-math

The Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board will be launching the new Nelson *e-math+*, an online mathematics tool for Grade 3-6 students, parents and teachers.

Additional information regarding this new resource can be found at www.nelson.com/emathplus

COUNT YOURSELF IN!

Did you know that every time you move to a new home, you must re-designate your Catholic school support? Otherwise the education portion of your property taxes will automatically default to the public school system. The number of Catholic ratepayers is also a strong indicator of support for the Catholic school system. To vote for Catholic Trustees you must be registered as a separate school ratepayer.



Care beyond belief

Have You Ever Considered Building Your Family Through Adoption or By Becoming a Foster Parent?

Please join the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton at the upcoming Adoption and Foster Parent Information Night and get all your questions answered!

October 16, 2013
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

St. Augustine Catholic Elementary School

For more information, or to register, please contact Julie Vamos, (905) 525-2012 ext. 3280 or email julie.vamos@hamiltonccas.on.ca
Visit our website www.hamiltonccas.on.ca

CELL PHONES PROHIBITED AT SCHOOL

Cell phones are not permitted. If a call needs to be made, students are required to use the school office phone. If a cell phone is confiscated, parents will be asked to pick it up.