



HAMILTON-WENTWORTH CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
ST. AUGUSTINE CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

25 Alma Street  
Dundas, Ontario  
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Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic Schools  
150 years of 'Believing, Achieving, Serving'

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SUPERINTENDENT: MRS. M. CIPOLLA

PRINCIPAL: MRS. S. SCIME

TRUSTEE: MRS. C. CORNALE



## DECEMBER 2013 NEWSLETTER

"Advent is concerned with that very connection between memory and hope which is so necessary to man. Advent's intention is to awaken the most profound and basic emotional memory within us, namely, the memory of the God who became a child. This is a healing memory; it brings hope. The purpose of the Church's year is continually to rehearse her great history of memories, to awaken the heart's memory so that it can discern the star of hope.

It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope."  
Pope Benedict XVI

### 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 joyful preparation to receive the gifts of faith, hope, love and peace. It is true that at this time of year most of us happily 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. As we read in Isaiah 41:14, "I the Holy One of Israel, I am the one who saves you." 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. The first words prayed in the liturgy of preparation for Christmas state: "Proclaim the good news among the nations. Our God will come to save us." Amen.



### ADVENT – PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD

The season of Advent is upon us. We are all waiting with anticipation for the birth of the Christ Child. Advent is not only a season of waiting, but also of doing. The Advent season provides us with the "brakes" to slow down, recollect our values and reflect on what we celebrate. The Scriptures we hear at Mass call us to wake up and prepare for something wonderful. Let us embrace the real joy of the coming of Christ.

School Advent Celebrations will be held on the following day in the school gym.

Monday, December 2, 2013 – 8:30 a.m.

Monday, December 9, 2013 – 8:30 a.m.

Monday, December 16, 2013 – 8:30 a.m.

Our Christmas School Mass will be held on December 13, 2013 @ 8:45 a.m. at the parish. All parents and guardians are welcome to join us.

### ST. AUGUSTINE JOY DAY

On Monday, December 2, 2013, we celebrate Joy Day. Students will be decorating their classroom. Thank you to the Catholic School Council who sponsored each class \$50 for the purchase of decorations for the classroom.

### CHRISTMAS CONCERT...TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2013



The staff and students invite you to the school on Tuesday, December 17, 2013 6:30 p.m. to spend a couple of hours celebrating the Christmas season as a school community. The theme this year is The Nativity Story – A Christmas Play with Popular Hymns and Carols.

## **CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL FUNDRAISER**

St. Augustine's Catholic School Council is having a "Cash Draw" as a fundraiser this year. Tickets and information sheet were sent home with each student.

**1<sup>st</sup> prize - \$500.00 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize - \$200.00 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize - \$100.00**

Draw Date: December 17, 2013 in the School Gym during *Christmas Celebration*

- Tickets cost \$2.00 each with 10 tickets in each book
- Kindly return the ticket stub (the part you fill in) along with the payment to your child's teacher by **December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013**
- Should you require more tickets, please contact the school at 905-523-2338

You have a chance to win a prize two different ways:

- ✓ Any student who sells a complete book (all 10 tickets) will have their name entered in a draw for some great prizes
- ✓ The student that sells the most books will also win a great prize!

## **JEPAG NEWS**



Cardinal Newman Catholic Secondary School Council cordially invites parents, teachers, administration and guardians to an evening with Michael Reist on Wednesday January 15, 2014 at 7:00 pm. Michael Reist is a scholar, retired teacher and author of *What Every Parent Should Know about School*. An excerpt from his book:

"School is our children's second home. They will spend more time there than anywhere else in their formative years. We all need to talk honestly about the nature of this environment, how it works, and how it doesn't work. Our kids are depending on us to create a school system where they can learn as well as feel happy. The more we know about how school works, the better we will be able to navigate our way through 'the system' and help our children do the same.

*What Every Parent Should Know About School* is an honest, positive, thought-provoking look at what schools are today and what they could be in the future.

Join us for a thought provoking evening sponsored by the Joint Educational Parent Advisory Group. A flyer with more information will be forwarded soon; we hope to see you all there!

## **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

Each class will be receiving 2 boxes – 1 boy and 1 girl. Students can bring in donations to fill the boxes. The items that are suggested to fill the boxes are school supplies, hygiene items, toys & other gifts. Please do not include food, candy, used items, toothpaste and no liquids.

## ST. AUGUSTINE PARISH NEWS



**St. Augustine's Church 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 pm Mass**

**Celebrant: Auxiliary Bishop Most.Reverend Daniel Miehm, D.D.**

**Followed by a Reception in the Parish Centre**

There will also be a Hospitality Reception on Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> after the 10:30AM Mass to celebrate this very special occasion. There is a sign-up sheet at the back of the church for both or one of the receptions you plan to attend.

### CHRISTMAS MASSES

**December 24<sup>th</sup>: 5 pm and 7 pm and Midnight Mass**

**December 25<sup>th</sup>: 9 am and 10:30 am**

**December 31<sup>st</sup>: 5 pm**

**January 1<sup>st</sup>: 9 am and 10:30 am**

### ST. AUGUSTINE'S YOUTH GROUP

If you want to stay up to date on Parish events and volunteer opportunities for our Grade 7 and 8 students, be sure to email [st.a\\_youthgroup@hotmail](mailto:st.a_youthgroup@hotmail) and get on our mailing list or 'like' us on Facebook (St. Augustine Church, Dundas - Youth Group).

### 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 12 – Tuesday, December 17. They will be delivered to each class on Thursday, December 19, 2013. The cost is 25 cents or 5 for a dollar. Thank you to the parents, staff and students for their continued support.

### BOOK FAIR

Our Book Fair will be held in the Library/Learning Commons at the following times:

**Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

12:20p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Student

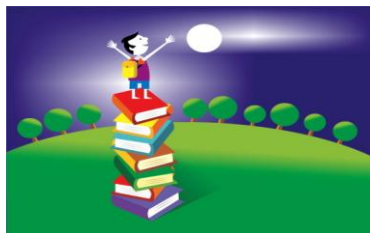
4:00p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Family Event Preview

**Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>**

8:30 a.m. to 3:00p.m.

**Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>**

8:30a.m. – 11:00a.m.



Please refer to the flyer and Book Fair letter that your child has brought home for further details. Hope to see you at the Book Fair!

Mrs. Osatchuk

Teacher-Librarian

## **VIRTUE OF CONSCIENCE**



The Month of November

The following students are recognized for their demonstration of Conscience:

Mrs. MacCabe-Freeman – Madeleine W.  
Mrs. Glavic – Elizabeth L.  
Mr. Hewitson – Grace J.  
Mrs. Nelson – Ellah V.  
Mrs. Bury – Michael O.  
Mrs. MacEachern – Eric M.  
Ms. Cornale – Ryleigh K.  
Mrs. Harold – Roman C.  
Mr. Havers – Madison R.  
Miss Filice – Kayla G.  
Mr. Burgio – Emma H.  
Mrs. Staysbyn – Andrew T.  
Mr. Palkowski – Adele B.

## **CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS**

The last day of school for the first term will be Thursday, December 19, 2013 with dismissal at the regular time. School will resume again on Monday, January 6, 2014.



*The staff of St. Augustine Catholic Elementary School wishes you and your family a very joyous Christmas.*

## ***ELECTRONIC SIGN UP....***

*Parents please help us reduce our eco footprint by signing up on our school website.  
Go to <http://stau.hwcdsb.ca/> and subscribe.*