



HAMILTON-WENTWORTH CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
ST. AUGUSTINE CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
25 Alma Street
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JANUARY 2014 NEWSLETTER

People were bringing little children to Jesus in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.

Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

What a wonderful opportunity we have each and every day to act as Jesus did in St. Mark's gospel.

WELCOME TO 2014

It is my sincere hope and prayer that the holiday season was truly a blessed peaceful and healthy one spent with family and friends. May God bless you all during the coming year with health, love and happiness.



FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY – JANUARY 6, 2014

The Three Magi from the east travelled a long distance to find the "newborn King of the Jews" and to offer Him precious gifts, trusting only the star's guidance. They must also have been men who recognized the prior generosity of God for their initial response in finding the Child was to "do Him homage." This was their first and most important gift and helps us appreciate the symbolic meaning of their treasures: giving gold was a response of sharing their possessions; giving frankincense was a response of reverence and gratitude for God's gifts to them; giving the myrrh was a response of obedience in flowing God's revelation in the star. The magi in the gospels model for us the most appropriate response to God's unprecedented generosity to us: the gift of self, expressed in worship and our own generous deeds.

JANUARY VIRTUE IS SELF-CONTROL

This month we will focus on the virtue of self-control.

God has given us the ability to choose. We are able to control how we react to what happens around us. We may feel pressure from inside or from outside ourselves to react violently to a situation. We've all "lost it" at one time or another. We are never proud of those moments. As soon as they happen we make a promise that they will not happen again.

Through prayer and concentration, we can get better at controlling our reactions. We can get better at showing self-control. Self-control helps us to resist the temptation to do something that will harm ourselves or others. Self-control is one of the marks of a spiritually mature person. When we all use self-control, we can be sure that our school will be a safe, caring and inclusive place to live and to learn.

A person with self-control...

- Is patient
- Knows how to wait his/her turn
- Can calm him/herself down and think before reacting to situations
- Knows how to avoid physical aggression (hitting, kicking, pushing, fighting, etc....)
- Can think things through and do what is best for everyone.



FAMILY GENEROSITY

Thank you to all families for the lovely wishes and gifts sent to the office & staff members. Your generosity was overwhelming and greatly appreciated. Your thoughtfulness during this Christmas season has not gone unnoticed. It is because of your support, generosity and involvement, that St. Augustine School is successful.

THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS ARE RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR DEMONSTRATION OF HOPE
IN MONTH OF DECEMBER



Mrs. Glavic – Mia O.
Mrs. MacCabe-Freeman – Lucas F
Mr. Hewitson – Kassandra A.
Mrs. Nelson – Jefferson D.
Mrs. Bury – Naia C.
Mrs. MacEachern – Erin M.
Ms. Cornale – Abbey M.
Mrs. Harold – Brooke M.
Mrs. Filice – Kaden K.
Mr. Havers- Liam M.
Miss Filice – Kaden K.
Mr. Burgio – Carter T.
Mrs. Stayshyn – Jared W.
Mr. Pallowski – Rachel O.



JUNIOR & SENIOR KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Registrations will take place

February 3 – February 14, 2014

Junior Kindergarten: Child must be 4 years of age by Dec 31, 2014.

Senior Kindergarten: Child must be 5 years of age by Dec. 31, 2014.

It is not necessary to re-Register students who are presently attending JK Classes.

Birth & Baptismal Certificates: For verification, we will require your child's Birth & Baptismal Certificate, which we will copy and return to you immediately.

Tax Form: If you already have a child in St. Augustine School, a new form is not necessary unless you have recently moved.

Separate School Lease: Necessary to accompany the tax forms if one parent is Non-Catholic. Both parents must sign this.

Immunization Record: Re: Immunization of School Pupils Act, 1982: This act requires that records be maintained an immunization status of each school student under the age of 18 years.

Please call the school office (905 523-2338) to book an appointment.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

There will be apparent meeting on Thursday, January 9th, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. for parents whose Grade 2 children will be making their first reconciliation. The meeting will be held at St. Augustine Parish Hall.

NEW YEAR SCHOOL MASS

Tuesday, January 14, 2014 @ 8:45 a.m. at St. Augustine Church.

All parents and guardians are welcome to join us.

RESPONSIBILITY, & SCHOOL SUCCESS TIED

Children who learn to be responsible do better in school. They get along better with teachers and peers. They make better decisions. They're more apt to try, follow through and succeed.

To teach your child responsibility:

- **Practice what you preach.** Be a role model for your child. If you want him to speak respectfully, for instance, talk to him with respect too, and model it in how you talk to others.
- **Discuss consequences.** Ask questions like, "How do you think Joe felt when you said that?" "When someone insults you how do you feel?"
- **Enforce key rules.** Be clear about what consequences will happen when your child does certain things. Then follow through.
- **Learn from the past.** For example, "Remember when Shelly pushed you? We talked about walking away. Later, you told her how you felt."

- **Allow freedom.** Let your child take minor risks as you guide his/her experiences and ensure his/her safety.
- **Develop understanding.** Pose questions that help your child think. “What did you do?” “Why do you think that happened?” “Are you happy with your decision?” “What would you do differently next time?”

DO YOU STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF EFFORT?

It’s unreasonable to expect every student to get 100% on every assignment. But every student is capable of achieving his/her own “potential” if he/she makes the effort. Answer the following questions yes or no to see if you’re encouraging your child’s very best effort.

1. Do you notice your child’s effort? Example: “I can see how hard you’re working?”
2. Do you encourage your child to take pride in his/her effort? “You must feel great to know that you hung in there”.
3. Do you model good effort? “I’m behind on finishing this report but I will have the next section done by tomorrow morning.”
4. Do you point to effort as the reason for your child’s improvement? “That extra half hour a night of studying has paid off.”
5. Do you concentrate more on your child’s effort than the results?

How did you do? Each yes answer means you are encouraging your child to strive for his/her personal best. For each no answer, try that idea from the quiz

“ALL THE SO-CALLED ‘SECRETS OF SUCCESS’ IN THE WORLD WON’T WORK UNLESS YOU DO.”

Author Unknown



Please Ensure...

- That your child is dressed properly for outdoor play at recess. All students should come to school with a hat, gloves, winter boots, and a warm coat or jacket. All students should come to school with a hat, gloves, winter boots, and a warm coat or jacket.
- That all personal items are labelled for easy identification.
- It is recommended that a pair of running shoes is left at school. For health and safety reasons, students will not be allowed to wear their boots or wet shoes in the classroom.
- Please do not send your child to school if he/she is now well enough to go outdoors for recess. Germs spread quickly and we want to keep everyone healthy.
- There is perhaps no other activity that has the potential to cause serious injury as throwing snowballs, particles of ice, grit or stones can be imbedded in the snow without the person’s knowledge and could result in head or eye injuries. **SNOW THROWING IS NOT PERMITTED.** All students have been given verbal warnings about the dangers of throwing snow or snowballs. Any student – JK to Grade 8 who chooses to throw snow/snowballs will be suspended. Please discuss this important rule with your child/ren.

Please listen to your local radio station during the winter months for warnings about wind chill conditions and school closures. If our school is closed it will be announced on the radio. If the school is open, as a parent it is your decision as to whether your child should brave the weather conditions. For the sake of safety there may be times when staying home is best. Unless schools have been officially closed early in the morning or the night before, there will be school staff on site. Please call the school if your child will stay home.

SPORTS NEWS

St. Augustine School is busy preparing for a number of CYO teams. Their seasons begin this week.

Thank you to Mr. Hewitson for being our CYO Representative & Referee.

Junior Boy’s Basketball: Thank you to Miss Filice who is volunteering her time to coach the team

Senior Boy’s Basketball: Thank you to parent Mr. Aldighieri who is volunteering his time to coach the team and to Mrs. Medeiros acting as the staff representative.

Junior Girl’s volleyball: Thank you to Ms. Cornale and Mr. Havers who are volunteering their time to coach the team.

Senior Girl’s Volleyball: Thank you to Mr. Burgio and Mrs. Stayshyn who are volunteering their time to coach the team.



SCIENCE FAIR

St. Augustine is holding its annual Science Fair on February 5, 2014. All intermediate students and junior volunteer participants are encouraged to work hard on their projects at home and school. At this time, we are asking any parent with a background in science to assist with this event by volunteering as a judge. If you are interested please contact Mrs. Stayshyn at the school (905 523-2338) and she will do her best to accommodate your judging level preference. We thank you in advance for helping us develop our students' understanding and appreciation of science. System Science Fair at Bishop Ryan on March 1, 2014.

FRENCH IMMERSION INFORMATION NIGHT

St. Joseph School will be hosting a French Immersion Information night on Thursday, January 30th at 7:00 p.m. in the gymnasium. Please share this with your parent community.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL

The next Catholic School Council Meeting will be held on January 13, 2014 at 6:45 p.m. Thank you to all who supported our successful raffle fundraiser in December. Congratulations to the winners!

JEPAG FLYER

WHAT EVERY PARENT SHOULD KNOW ABOUT SCHOOL



Revealed by Michael Reist

Teacher,
author,
speaker,
educational consultant

January 15, 2014
7:00 pm
Cardinal Newman CSS



Presented by JEPAG: The Joint Educational Parent Advisory Group

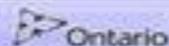
Please RSVP at www.jepag.ca

Networking at 6:30pm, Event starts at 7:00 pm at

Cardinal Newman Catholic Secondary School 127 Gray Rd, Stoney Creek, ON , L8G 3V3

JEPAG: The HWCOSB Regional Representative Group of the Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE)

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MINISTRY OF EDUCATION