



HAMILTON-WENTWORTH CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
ST. AUGUSTINE CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
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MARCH NEWSLETTER 2014



THE CROSS

A little word but on it
A mighty deed performed.

The blessed Jesus bows; surrendering life
in obedience to the Father.

Christ's obedience our good news
Those fiery swords in Paradise sheathed.

O my people, what more could I do
for your salvation? It is accomplished.

Do you know? Do you ever think?
How gruesome is sin borne on the cross.

Spend some time gazing on My suffering,
Mingled with love flowing from my heart.

LENT

Every year, for a period of forty days before Easter, we celebrate the season of Lent. Lent is a time for self-assessment and renewal of our dedication to be faithful followers of Jesus. Lent is the season before Easter. The purpose of Lent is to be a season of fasting, self-denial, Christian growth, penitence, conversion and simplicity. Lent can be viewed as a spiritual spring cleaning; a time for taking spiritual inventory and then cleaning out those things which hinder our corporate and personal relationships with Jesus Christ and our service to him. Thus it is fitting that the season of Lent begins with a symbol of repentance: placing ashes mixed with oil on one's head or forehead.

The Three Pillars of Lent: The three main ways of keeping Lent are prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Prayer: Lent is a good time to develop or strengthen a discipline of daily prayer. Lent is a good time to try new ways of praying or at least to decide to pray more often. Lent is a good time to read Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer everyday. Contemplative prayer, based around the idea of silence of listening for God, is also well suited to Lent.

Fasting is the tradition of eating much less than one is used to Fridays along with Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are usually reserved as a time to abstain, which means to avoid eating any meat except fish. When we "give something up" for Lent, we are embracing a form of fasting, an excellent spiritual discipline. Some people give up things they have an inordinate desire for and by giving these up, the person fasting learns to control a particular part of his or her life, which leads to greater self-discipline even when Lent is over. This abstinence can leave a bit extra to share with the poor

Almsgiving (Charity) Lent is a traditional time of helping the poor and doing acts of charity and mercy. Lent is a good time to examine ways to get involved and to make resolutions to actually do them. We are called to give out the extra that God has given us. We try to dig deep at this time and give more than usual. Ideally we can donate at least the amount we have saved by fasting- if not more. We should never feel satisfied until all are satisfied.

ST. AUGUSTINE PARISH NEWS

Confirmation Parent Meeting; on Thursday, March 20th at 7:00pm in the Parish Centre.

Confirmation Enrolment Weekend; All Grade 7 students who will be making their Confirmation at St Augustine this year, **MUST ATTEND ONE OF THE MASSES AT St. Augustine's Parish** on the weekend of Saturday, March 22nd and Sunday, March 23rd, 2014.

Lenten Talks: Father Love will be hosting his Lenten Videos again this year. The first evening will be on Ash Wednesday, March 5th and all Wednesdays during Lent from 7:30pm to 8:30pm. Light refreshments will be served.

St. Augustine's Development and Peace Committee: As part of this year's Share Lent Campaign St. Augustine's Development and Peace Committee will host a Solidarity Soup Supper to raise awareness of the campaign and join in solidarity with the 1 out of every 8 of God's children who still suffer from hunger. Our simple soup supper of soup and bread, in the Parish Centre on Thursday, March 27th at 5:45pm will be an opportunity for us to reflect upon the scandal of hunger in a world of plenty. There will be no charge for the dinner; but donations will be accepted for our Share Lent Campaign. As seating is limited to 120 you will need a ticket to get in. Tickets will be available after Mass on Saturday, March 8th and Sunday, March 9th. If any remain they will be available from the Parish Office.

FIRST RECONCILIATION

Congratulations to all the Grade 2 students who took part in their First Reconciliation Ceremony on Saturday, February 22, 2014. Special thanks to Father Love for his time and guidance.

ASH WEDNESDAY

There will be an Ash Wednesday Service on March 5, 2014 at 9:00 at St. Augustine Parish. All parents and guardians are welcomed.

SCIENCE FAIR

Congratulations to all the students who exhibited their Science Fair projects at the annual St. Augustine Science Fair on February, 5th, 2014. The school proudly congratulates the following winners who will represent our school at the HWCDSB System Science Fair March 1st, 2014 at Bishop Ryan Catholic Secondary School.

- 1) Isabella O.
- 2) Claire H.
- 3) Jessica B.
- 4) Avery S.
- 5) Adam D.
- 6) Dante M.
- 7) Dante A.



We congratulate all the Science Fair participants for their hard work, determination and enthusiasm. A thank you is extended to all the students, parents, volunteer judges and teachers who volunteered their time to help make the Science Fair a success. A special thank you is extended to Primary Fluid Systems for their generous donation in prize money and to Mrs. Walker for her continued support and assistance. Also special thanks to Mrs. Stayshyn who organized the St. Augustine School Science Fair.

We would also like to congratulate the following students who will be joining this group to BASEF. Congratulations to Patrick L., Paul M., Eric & John G., Nolan T. & Daniel K.

STUDENT COUNCIL

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Monday, March 17th, 2014 is St. Patrick's Day! Students are asked to wear green to help celebrate this special day. Please note this is the day we return from March Break so be sure to mark it in your agendas.

ST. AUGUSTINE STAR SEARCH

The student council is excited to announce the return of the S.A.S.S. talent show. Students who wish to participate should start working on those singing, dancing and instrumental routines as auditions will be held the first week of April. Last year's show was a huge success and the student council is excited to see all the new talent St. Augustine has to show off this year!

VALENTINE CAKE RAFFLE

Thank you to all families who brought in cakes, cookies or cupcakes for our Cake Raffle. We received over 80 treats that were enjoyed by many!

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

Tickets for the Catholic School council 5th Annual "Spring Extravaganza" are available now and will be available April 14, 2014 at our next Catholic School Council meeting. This year's event will be held on Saturday, April 26, 2014 at the St. Augustine Parish Hall and tickets are only \$15.00 each!! Get yours before we are sold out!! Contact the school office to get your ticket for this year's event. Please donation to our toonie or silent auction. Thank you in advance for your support!!



SHROVE/PANCAKE TUESDAY – MARCH 4, 2014

A big Thank-you to everyone that will be volunteering their time and supplies to set up, cook and distribute pancakes. The students will be treated to yummy pancakes and syrup. Special thanks to Mrs. Faria-Sienna for organizing this event. Thank you to Forino's (Main West) for their generous donation.

MARCH BREAK

Please note that the March Break will begin on Monday, March 10, 2014 and go until March 14, 2014. School begins again on Monday, March 17, 2014. If your family is planning an early or extended March Break, please remember to inform the school prior to your holiday.



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

It will start on March 9, 2014. Turn your clock ahead one hour, Saturday, March 8th before going to bed.

LENTEN PROJECT

Toiletries is our Lenten project this year. We will be collecting soap, deodorant, toothpaste and shampoo. To help support the Good Shepherd and Martha House

FOOD DRIVE FOR LOCAL FOOD BANK

Starting Monday, March 24th to Thursday 27, 2014, St. Augustine will be asking students to bring in non-perishable food items to support our local food bank here in Dundas. There are many families in need here in our community, so please support them at this very special time.

ST. AUGUSTINE SCHOOL CHOIR



The St. Augustine School Choir joined their voices with the St. Augustine Youth Choir at mass on Sunday, March 2nd, 2014. With the support of their family and faith community they made a beautiful and prayerful addition to the celebration. Ms. MacCabe-Freeman, Mr. Hewitson and Ms. Harold are so proud of their ongoing commitment to building God's family with song. We look forward to many more celebrations where they lead their school and church faith community in "making a Joyful Noise unto the Lord".

EARTH HOUR



Did you turn out the lights last year? Are you planning to go dark this year on March 29, 2014 to mark Earth Hour? On March 29 at 8:30 p.m. hundreds of millions of people around the world will turn off their lights for an hour to demand action on climate change. Year after year Canada has remained a leading country in terms of participation. For us the moment of Earth Hour is a bit like an environmental New Year, providing a chance to reflect on how our planet is fairing and what new or renewed commitments we can make to help. You might want to check out earthhourcanada.org for ideas of what you can do to cut back on your energy consumption and do your share in saving the planet.

MARCH VIRTUE IS KINDESS

Helping others is not only good for us and it is a good thing to do, it also makes us happier and healthier too. Giving also connects us to others, creating stronger communities and helping to build a happier society for everyone. And it's not all about money - we can also give our time, ideas and energy. So if you want to feel good, do good!

THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS ANRE RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR DEMONSTRATION OF RESPECT IN THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

Mrs. Glavic – Atticus L.
Mrs. MacCabe-Freeman – Hayden W.
Mr. Hewitson – Mylana C. & Liam B.
Mrs. Nelson – Rachel A.
Mrs. Bury – Jackson F.
Mrs. MacEachern – Vince L.
Mrs. Harold – Adam J.
Ms. Cornale – Brandon H.
Mr. Havers – Lachlan P.
Miss Filice – Caitlin J.
Mr. Burgio – Luke. H.
Mrs. Stayshyn – Stuart B.
Mrs. Grant – Daniel K.

ECO NEWS



St. Augustine's Eco Committee is hard at work preparing for the annual Eco Festival held on April 16th, 2014. This year will focus on simple actions we can all do everyday to help care for the environment. To kick things off, we are focusing on reducing lunch time waste. A garbage audit in the fall revealed that St. A's uses A LOT of drinks boxes.

Students often forget they are recyclable so boxes end up in the trash. It takes 300 years for a juice box to decompose. To add to the waste, the boxes are often still half full with juice!

One solution is to use reusable drink containers. The Eco Committee is excited to offer St. Augustine families the opportunity to purchase reusable drink containers from Juice in the Box at a discount price. Check out their website at juiceinthebox.com. Spill proof, durable, colourful and easy to use, these containers are one simple action we can take toward a healthier planet. Fill them with milk or water, and our kids are healthier too! An interest order form will be sent home soon in your child's agenda.

Any families wishing to donate seeds or soil for our annual plant sale please send to school with your child by Thursday, March 6th, 2014.

CHESS CLUB

Any student interested in playing Chess from Grades 1-8 have been meeting weekly during the lunch hours. Thank you to Mr. Wedekind for organizing this club. Chess Tournament is on April 10, 2014.



RUN4CHANGE

A gentle reminder that students from grades 3-8 are participating in a daily 20 minutes physical activity challenge to prepare for the run4change event in May. Please remind your child to bring in their extra change!

ADOPTION INFORMATION NIGHT

Please join us and get all your questions answered.

March 19, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.

Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton

735 King Street East, Hamilton

For more information, or to register, please contact: Jocelyn Jacobs at (905) 525-2012 ext. 3125 or jocelyn.jacobs@hamiltonccas.on.ca or www.hamiltonccas.on.ca