



HAMILTON-WENTWORTH CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
ST. AUGUSTINE CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
 25 Alma Street
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PRINCIPAL: MRS. S. SCIME

SUPERINTENDENT: MRS. M. CIPOLLA

TRUSTEE: MRS. C. CORNALE

SEPTEMBER 2014 NEWSLETTER



Prayers to Begin a School Year

Lord Jesus, we ask for Your help as we begin this new school year. Allow us to experience Your presence in the many blessings You put before us. Open our eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings. Open our heart and mind to new friends and new teachers. Give us a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with our studies and courage to accept new opportunities. Help us to be attentive to one another and let us experience Your presence in our new friends. Jesus, inspire us to do our best this year!
 Amen

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome back to a school new year! Just as our students and staff are revitalized from the summer break, so too is our facility. Over the summer, our school received many upgrades including a new roof, new screens for windows, refinished hardwood floors, second floor hallway repainted, new stairwell ceiling and more. I would like take this opportunity to thank you for your kind words, letters and gifts at the end of last school year. The staff and I are eager to embark on a new school year, of growing together in faith in knowledge with our students. St. Augustine School is fortunate to have a very dedicated and caring staff. Our 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

WELCOME BACK B.B.Q.

All St. Augustine School families are invited to the school B.B.Q. **5:00 – 7:00 p.m.** Harvey's will be providing the food 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.



on **Thursday, September 11, 2014** from families may order upon arrival. Come and

SCHOOL HOURS



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

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

On Friday, September 19th is our first Professional Development Day and as a result there will be no school for students.

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 Sunday Liturgy.



ST. AUGUSTINE SCHOOL STAFF

Principal	Mrs. Scime
Principal Intern	Mrs. Glavic
Secretary	Mrs. Fortino
FDKA	Mrs. Woloshyn, Miss MacFarlane
FDKB	Mrs. MacCabe-Freeman, Ms. Mandarino
Grade 1	Mr. Havers
Grade 1/2	Mr. Hewitson
Grade 2/3	Mrs. MacEachern
Grade 3	Ms. Bury
Grade 4	Ms. Cornale
Grade 4/5A	Mrs. Harold
Grade 5/6	Miss Filice
Grade 6	Mrs. Grant
Grade 7	Mrs. Glavic
Grade 8A	Mr. Burgio
Grade 8B	Miss Novak
French	Mme. Oliverio
French	Mlle. Campbell
Reading Recovery/LRT	Mrs. Minardi
Arts Integration	Mr. Furlong
Special Education	Mrs. Medeiros
Teacher-Librarian	Mrs. Byrne
Library Clerk	Mrs. Banevicius

Educational Assistants	Mrs. Castelli	Ms. C. DiFederico
	Mrs. DeLuca	Ms. E. Walker
	Mrs. Pecchia	Ms. N. Szczepaniak
	Mr. Winderkind	
Custodians	Mr. Castellino	
	Mr. Campanella	
Assistant Custodians	Mrs. Garcia	



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. 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. 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. Our Special Needs bus also stops there. 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 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 12:35 p.m. bell – for whatever reason - are LATE. All students who are late MUST report to the office 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. 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.

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 a written note to your child's teacher and a copy for the office.

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.

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!

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS



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 and veteran members with fresh ideas and enthusiasm. The Catholic School Council 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" CSC for this school year will be on **Monday, September 22, 2014 at 6:45 p.m.** in the Learning Commons. The first item on the agenda will be to elect a "new" council. Nomination forms were sent home. The new CSC will meet on Monday, September 22, 2014 at 6:45 p.m. and then set meeting dates for the year and this information will be communicated on the school website.

ANNUAL PARENT CONFERENCE

"Weaving the Catholic Partnership" – Saturday, November 1, 2014 at Bishop Ryan High 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.



ECO

Any parent who is interested in being part of our ECO school team, please join us for our first meeting on Monday, September 15, 2014 at 11:15 a.m. 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.

MAXIMIZING USE OF SCHOOL AGENDAS



All students are expected to use their agendas daily. The agenda is a tool to ensure work completion and to provide daily communication with parents. Congratulations to the many students and parents who used the agendas diligently last year. There is no doubt that those students benefited fully and improved their organization skills tremendously. It is our hope that this procedure will help all students to stay organized and to track the level of their performance. 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.

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

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.
- 3) The agenda is a communication book between the parents, the students and the teachers. Please help us to keep your child organized.

Teachers:

- 1) All assigned work is on the board.
- 2) Diligently follow student's completion of assignments and inform parents of any concerns.

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.

6TH ANNUAL TELLING TALES LITERACY FESTIVAL

Excellent free family fun at Westfield Heritage Village in Rockton on:

Event: Telling Tales 2014 – A Celebration of Literacy for All Ages
Date: Sunday, September 14th, 2014
Time: 10:00 am to 4:00 p.m.
Location: Westfield Heritage Village
1049 Kirkwall Road, Rockton Ontario



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 Novemberperfect for Christmas shopping!
3. Mrs Byrne our new Teacher-Librarian will be at our school Tuesday, Thursday and alternate Fridays.

11TH ANNUAL BOARD PILGRIMAGE - Sunday, October 19, 2014

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.



ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Electronic devices are not permitted at school. They will be confiscated and parents will be required to pick them up. The school has telephones that can be used by students with permission.

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. Registration for classes will begin in September 2014. If interested, please pick up a flyer at our parent information board or visit the board website.



SACRAMENTS

Confirmation for the Grade 7 students will be on **Sunday, April 26, 2014 at 2 p.m.**

Dates for First Holy Communion are not available as of yet.

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.

