



## SEPTEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

### Principal's Message

Welcome back to all our students, staff and parents, as well as the new families and staff that have joined our wonderful school community. I pray all are refreshed and invigorated by the summer holidays and the enthusiasm for the new school year. We begin a new and exciting journey together for the year of 2019-2020. I thank Mrs. Simpson, our secretary, for all her hard work in setting up for the new school year. Mr. Desormeaux, our custodian and William our student worker, for getting your school all spotless and ready to begin the year!

Welcome to all staff members. A staff list is included with the newsletter. We strive to maintain and embrace our Catholic Community of Faith, believing in learning for all in a safe and caring school community. Our home and Parish connection have always been very strong and helps guide us on our spiritual journey. We look forward to working with Father Mariusz Durbajlo, Pastor, and Wes Moga, Youth Minister, to celebrate our faith. Our school community has so much to celebrate and be joyful for, we thank God for our blessings and pray for a school year filled with new opportunities in all areas! The Catholic Education Theme for this year, is Renewing the Promise.

*Lord Jesus, I ask for Your help as I begin this new school year.*

*Allow me to experience Your presence in the many blessings You put before me.*

*Open my eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings.*

*Open my heart and mind to new friends and new staff.*

*Give me a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with my studies and courage to accept new opportunities.*

*Help me to be attentive to my teachers and let me experience Your presence in my new friends.*

*Jesus, inspire me to do my best this year! AMEN*

### SEPTEMBER 2019 BELL TIMES

**8:25 to 8:40 supervision on yard** Students are to walk and talk only. **No equipment or games are permitted at this time.** Dogs are not permitted on the school yard due to allergies. We ask that parents and grandparents aim to drop off and leave to maintain a safe environment for all.

**8:40 am ENTRY BELL:** Students should be on the playground and lined up with their classmates at bell time. Students are not to use the front door of the school, only when entering after the bell. **Please do not ring the buzzer during announcement time, 8:40 until 8:50 am.**

**9:50 am-10:05 am - Recess** Safety is first at all times.

**11:25 am - 12:15 pm - Lunch** **11:25 to 11:50** students remain in class / **11:50 until 12:15** outside play time. Only Nerf for football and soccer are allowed on the school yard. No hard rubber balls or tennis balls are to be used at any time. Students who go home for lunch must fill in the proper form. Students are not permitted to leave the school and walk home or to the neighbourhood stores. **No cellphones at any time on yard or in school without direct teacher supervision.**

**1:25 pm - 1:40 pm - Recess - Safety is first at all times.**

**3:00 pm - DISMISSAL:** At dismissal time, students are asked to leave the school grounds as quickly as possible using the sidewalk on the far side of the school to get to the major crossing area. **No** pets are permitted on the school yard.

No bicycles, scooters, rollerblades are permitted at any time on the school yard. Students must walk their cycle to the lock area.

## CROSSING GUARD

Our school crossing guard is Ms. Voisard. Her hours of duty are: **8:10 am to 8:35 am** and **3:00 pm to 3:20 pm**, Monday to Friday.

## PARKING CONCERNS

We have a limited number of parking spots and student safety is **First and Critical at All Times!** When you arrive to drop off students, please park your car. We do not want any cars parked along the front. This can be a very dangerous situation. Follow the entrance into the parking lot and exit out by the opposite end, near the front door. Only one flow of traffic is permitted. **Please be reminded that the driveway in front of the school cannot be used for PARKING, STOPPING OR IDLING as this is the bus zone as well as the fire route.** Traffic flow enters the driveway at the east end of the school and leaves by driving slowly in front of the school and exiting at the west driveway. If a babysitter or other caregiver is picking up your child, please inform them of the expectations. No cars should be parked behind the wheelchair accessible parking in the far west lot. Please be considerate and follow the procedures for everyone's safety, not just your convenience.

## VISITORS/VOLUNTEERS

Sign in book is in the front foyer. Once you have signed in, see Mrs. Simpson for a visitor tag. We ask that visitors do not wander around the school. Student safety is first and all visitors are strangers to our students. Parents are not permitted to walk students to and from the classroom. All students, if late, must report to the office and will be given an admittance to class slip.

## SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE



Please join us at the Open House on **Thursday, September 19 from 5 - 6:30 pm**. A price list will be sent home. **Come and meet the staff.**

**UNIFORM SWAP** Gently used school uniforms will be available at no charge at the school barbeque. If you have any uniforms to donate, please send to the school office **before September 18th**. Uniform is mandatory. McCarthy is our school supplier. We sell crests in the office for \$ 3.00 each.

## **SCHOOL CASH ONLINE - REGISTER NOW**

Parents now have the convenience of paying for school trips, spirit wear, special lunches and other items online. After registering for School Cash Online, you will receive emails notifying you of school trips, events, activities and other items available for purchase online.



**Convenient** - Make secure payments 24/7 from the comfort of your home.

**Easy** - Easy-To-Use Online shopping with various payment methods.

**Safe** - Your child won't be carrying cash or cheques to and from school.

**Saves Time** - Manage your school expenses and view payment history in one place.

**How to Register:** Visit [hwcdsb.schoolcashionline.com](http://hwcdsb.schoolcashionline.com) Click "Get Started Today" and enter your information. A confirmation email will be sent to your email. View the email and follow the steps to log into School Cash Online. Find your child / Add additional child. Start viewing items!

## **MOVE-A-THON - OCTOBER 31ST**

We are looking for donations for prizes, volunteers and support for our Move-A-Thon. This is our CSC fund-raiser. We cannot purchase many items for the students without your support! We ask that all families support the Move-a-thon. All proceeds go to equipment for your children.

## **STUDENT AGENDAS**

Students from Grades FDK-8 will once again be provided with an agenda book to assist in recording assignments, tests, reminders for each day. To enhance the communication between home and school a parent is requested to please sign the agenda each evening to ensure the contents of the entries have been reviewed and completed. The agenda is the responsibility of the student and is a very useful life skill tool. Teachers will be using other tools on the internet to support classroom information.

In turn, the teacher will also be signing the agenda book each day as well to ensure it is being maintained each evening. Parents may wish to send notes to school and are encouraged to do so using the plastic pouch found at the front of the agenda book.

Please refer to the insert in the front of the agenda, particularly pages 2–8 that are specific to St. Clare. Please read these pages with your child/ren and sign and date the form on page 8.

Special thanks are extended to our Catholic School Council for their continued financial support of the agenda books for each student. As a result of the CSC's donation, families are not required to supplement the purchase. We do however encourage all families to support your Catholic School Council so that efforts like this can continue at St. Clare of Assisi. Technology is wonderful; however, the agenda is a great tool for students to learn to input assignments, tests, reminders and check every night at home.

## **PARISH CONNECTION:**

Liturgy times at St. Francis Parish: Saturday: 5:30 pm; Sunday: 9:00 am, 11:00 am—Children's Liturgy—4:00 pm- Folk Choir. We will celebrate our First School Mass on **Thursday, September 26th at 10:00 am**. All parents, guardians, grandparents are welcome to attend. Our goal this school year is to fully know and understand the responses of the Mass.

**First Communion** To be announced soon by the Parish

**Confirmation** will take place on **Friday, November 22nd** at St. Francis Xavier Parish. The Parent Meeting for Confirmation will take place on Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at the Church



Meetings for the Sacraments will be announced soon. It is important to attend and get all the information from the Pastor.

## **CATHOLIC YOUTH ORGANIZATION!**

We aim to provide as many opportunities as possible for your children. It is very important that students commit to teams and practices, always demonstrating a positive mindset and sportsmanship attitude. Staff and volunteers are giving up their own personal time to work with your children, manners are a must! Any parent coaches must have a valid police check and work in unison with a teacher.

## **COMMUNICATION IS KEY**

Communication between home and school is a key component for student success and I encourage parents to speak with their child's teacher early in the year to address any concerns and/or share information. As always, I am here to support all members of our community in creating the best possible learning situation for our students. If you have a concern, please call the school or send a note; appointments are needed. Protocol should always be followed: teacher first and address the concern.

## **OFFICE AREA**

The main office is a busy area, and we are aiming to cut down on interruptions at the office. Students are reminded that homework and daily supplies are their responsibility and they are **not** allowed to call home if items are forgotten. Lunches can be dropped off in the front foyer in the bin; please mark your child's name, first and last!

No guests are permitted to walk into classes without a visitor tag. Instructional time is precious and guests entering the classroom affect the learning environment. Students who are late also take away from the learning environment and take away from the lesson. Aim to be punctual!

### ANAPHYLAXIS ALERT / UPDATE:

All parents need to be aware that there are children in our school with a severe life-threatening food allergy (anaphylaxis) to peanuts and nuts. This is a medical condition that causes severe reaction to specific foods and can result in death within minutes. Although this may or may not affect your child's class directly, we want to inform you so that you will choose to send foods to school with your child that are free from nuts and nut products.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. Education and supervision are paramount in dealing with issues regarding food allergies. Guidelines for all children include:

- 1) Review, recognize and understand the meaning of the no nuts symbol in our school.
- 2) No trading and sharing foods, food utensils and food containers.
- 3) Hand washing before and after eating is highly encouraged.
- 4) The use of food in crafts and class parties may need to be restricted depending on the allergies of the students.

In the interest of ensuring a safe school environment for all of our children, St. Clare of Assisi school asks that parents send snacks/lunches that are **peanut/nut free**. This requires extra vigilance and label reading on the part of the parent initially, but it is our experience that over time, students also gain awareness of this issue from classroom education as well as broader school initiatives. For more information on snack/lunch ideas as well as Birthday treats, please refer to the school website at: [www.hwcdsb.ca](http://www.hwcdsb.ca) Please note that Tim Horton's products are baked in a facility with nuts and are therefore **not** nut safe. Similarly, any product which states "may contain traces of nuts" is also **not** a nut safe product and should not be sent to school as a snack for your child. Letters will be sent home to children in classes where there are specific concerns which require the support, understanding and cooperation of all parents and students. We thank you for keeping our school nut safe! Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. For more information, please contact the Principal.

### BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

If you wish, you may send a special treat for your child's birthday. **Please remember that due to peanut and nut allergies, we cannot accept any baked goods.** Examples of treats that may be sent are: Dare cookies, fruit snacks, Bear Paws, Nestle chocolate bars such as Smarties, Kit Kat or Aero Bars. **ALL TREATS SENT TO SCHOOL MUST HAVE A LABEL, PEANUT AND TREE NUT SAFE.** As always, we encourage the reading of labels to ensure the nut safety of any foods coming into the school. Throughout the year we will continue to raise student and parent awareness on this issue in the interest of providing a safe school environment for all of our children. I thank you in advance for your continued support and cooperation.  
**ALLERGIES ARE LIFE THREATENING AND ALL MUST BE AWARE!**

### ABSENCE REPORTING SYSTEM

All Absence reporting should go through the Parent Portal website <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca> or the Toll-Free number: 1-833-275-6703. You can also install the SchoolMessenger app from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store (or from the links at <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>) to your mobile device. Use your new login information to access your account. Select Attendance to Report an Absence.

### BUSSING OF STUDENTS - HWSTS

HWSTS has a "Parents Portal" feature on our website that allows parents or guardians to create an online transportation account. This account will provide access to their student transportation information with the ability to receive email notifications of service delays. Go to [www.hamiltonschoolbus.ca](http://www.hamiltonschoolbus.ca) For security purposes you will need the HWSTS ID # issued with your transportation letter in August or contact the office at 905-523-2318. **IF THE NATURE OF YOUR CALL IS AN EMERGENCY SAFETY ISSUE, PLEASE NOTIFY THE TELEPHONE OPERATOR OF THAT IMMEDIATELY."**

Students are permitted only to ride the school bus if they have been assigned a seat. Please do **not** send notes to school informing us that your child will be riding the bus to a friend's house if your child is not a bus student. Further to this, if your child does ride the bus, they are to use their assigned stop unless you have made alternate arrangements through the Transportation Services.

### **STUDENT VERIFICATION FORMS**

It is extremely important that we update our school records each year. Student Verification Sheets will be sent home shortly. If you have had a change of address, phone number or emergency contact please let the school know ASAP. Please continue to update this information as needed during the school year.

### **PUBLICATION OF NAMES/PHOTOS/ WORK OF STUDENTS**

From time to time teachers will display samples of student work, announce names of students over the PA to recognize achievements, include names of students in newsletters, website (first name and last initial only) etc. as part of our celebration of student success. **In the event a parent wishes to decline their child's recognition of these achievements we ask that the parent make this request in writing and send it to Mrs. Martino directly.** The respective teacher(s), coaches will be informed of this parental decision and your request will be strictly adhered to.

### **CASUAL DAYS:**

Occasionally there will be Casual Days during the year. On these days, students are permitted to wear clothing other than school uniforms. However, regular school dress code applies: Length of bottoms (maximum 4 inches above the knee), no profanity, excessive skin, etc. No muscle shirts are permitted or thin strap t-shirts. A loonie or toonie is collected from the students that participate to support a specific charity. First dress down day will take place on **Friday September 27<sup>th</sup>**. Students are asked to contribute toonie for first dress down which can be paid online. **The last Wednesday of each month, is wear a yellow top, for students who walk, cycle or take a scooter to school. We will have a spirit wear day once a month. Spirit wear forms will be sent home in September.**

### **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. We urge you to check your property tax bill to ensure that your support is directed to the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board. We also encourage you to share this information with family and friends who are Catholic but do not have children in the school system. If you need help checking or changing your school support designation, please call the Assessment Department at 905-525-2930, Ext. 2188, or email [webmaster@hwcdsb.ca](mailto:webmaster@hwcdsb.ca)

### **PITA LUNCH**

We will have our first PITA in October, dates to be determined. We are aiming to have ALL parents use the Cash Online System. Pita Pit now has gluten free PITA's as an option! More information will be coming home soon!

**PIZZA MONDAYS** Our Pizza Monday's lunch program will continue starting mid-October.

### **PARENT CONFERENCE 2019:**

The 26th Annual Parent Conference at Bishop Ryan Secondary School will be on **Saturday, November 2nd, 2019**. It is open to all parents of students in our Board and will feature outstanding workshops, displays and a dynamic keynote speaker. Registration pamphlets will be available at the school in September. Please plan to attend.

### **CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL**

We were blessed with a wonderful Catholic School Parent Council last year and many incredible volunteers. We pray for the same hearts and hands to help us out. We encourage all Parents/Guardians to come and be a part of the school community. Our first meeting will be held on **Monday, September 23rd** in our School Library at **6:00 pm**. Thank you to all past CSC members. Special thanks to Mrs. Sulug for taking care of our garden in front of the school.

A reminder that, under the guidelines from the Ministry, School Council elections will be held in September. **ALL** positions are open because terms are one year in duration. Please consider forwarding your name to be part of the election process for our 2019-2020 Catholic School Council. Positions/roles on the council will be determined at the first meeting of the new Council to take place in September of 2019. You can make a difference!

Our Council consists of 6-10 parents along with the Teacher Representatives, Parish and Community Representative. This is an important advisory body to the Principal. It consists of members who represent the school community to make suggestions and work with the school team.

Parents/Guardians interested in holding a position on council shall submit a brief paragraph outlining why they wish to stand for office to the Principal by **Wednesday, September 18, 2019**. This information shall be posted for the parents/guardians of children in the school prior to the election (if an election is necessary). Voting day is scheduled for **Monday, September 23, 2018**. Ballots will be available in the school office from **9:00 a.m. to 11:20 a.m.** and **1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

The election of parent members shall be by secret ballot. Positions available will be filled by the top vote getters to the number required. In the event that the required number of candidates can be met based on submissions, those applicants will be acclaimed to the school council. We invite all parents to consider joining the council this year. Election packages will be sent home with the youngest /only student during the first week of school.

### **ACCIDENT INSURANCE**

The Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board does not provide accident insurance coverage for student injuries that occur on school premises or during school activities. Some injuries incur medical, dental or other expenses that are not covered by provincial healthcare or employer group plans. As a parent or guardian, you become responsible for these expenses. Purchasing Student Accident Insurance is strongly recommended especially if your child participates in athletic or another co-curricular act. To subscribe, apply 24/7 directly online at: [www.insuremykids.com](http://www.insuremykids.com) or complete the application form that will be sent home shortly. If you have any questions, please visit the "Frequently Asked Questions" page at the above website direct or call toll free at: 1-800-463-5437.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES**

As part of our Eco-School plan, we will be instituting daily Boomerang Snacks and Lunches in order to emphasize waste-free snacks and lunches. We ask that **all** waste from snacks and lunches go home with your child. This includes all plastic bags, wax paper, aluminum foil and uneaten foods. Recyclable cans and plastic water bottles can still be left here at school for recycling. Why are we recommending Boomerang Snacks and Lunches? There are several positive benefits: families take responsibility for the waste they produce; food wastes can be added to the family green bin (this service is not yet available to schools. and parents can see what their children are not eating. Here are some suggestions for making this work:

- Pack snacks & lunches in reusable containers
- Pack drinks in a thermos or reusable container
- Use a reusable lunch box or backpack
- Keep a plastic bag in the lunch bag for the uneaten food items and any packaging material to avoid messes.
- Be sure to monitor food quantities, especially JK to Gr. 1. We often find half eaten fruit, yogurt, juice boxes etc. in the garbage
- Reusable containers are often easier for the children to open than the single-serve items
- Packing lunches, the night before will save time in the morning.
- Older students can be taught to prepare their own nutritious waste-free lunches & snacks
- Avoid sending drinks in packaging that can't be re-sealed. Many children just take a few sips and throw out the rest
- Pre-packed lunches, single-serve snacks & lunch items are more expensive. You'll save money!
- Children of all ages can take responsibility for returning reusable containers, assisting with snack & lunch preparation & putting recyclables in the recycle bin at home. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

## **CELLPHONE USAGE**

Our school has a Bring your own Device Policy (BYOD) for the Junior and Intermediate students. The students and the parents must sign the form in order for the device to be used at school. The device is only to be used during appropriate teaching time with teacher instruction and supervision. Read the BYOD carefully with your son/daughter.

We have been challenged with many situations with cellphones not being used properly. We will take the cell phone from the student if they are being used in class when they are not instructed to do so. No cellphones are permitted during recess or the lunch hour. Cellphones must be turned off during the school day until otherwise instructed.

If the phone is taken three times during the term, the BYOD right will be lost for the term. Parents will be notified if a cell phone is taken and given to the Principal.

The internet and cell phones are wonderful creations of technology, but they come with RESPONSIBILITY attached to them. All students are responsible for their actions and their consequences.

## **TELLING TALES FESTIVAL**

The Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board has once again collaborated with community partners to support a wonderful parent engagement opportunity in literacy. The 10th annual "Telling Tales" event will be held on **Sunday, September 15, 2019** at Westfield Heritage Village in Rockton from **10am to 4pm**. Parking and admission are free. The festival takes place rain or shine. Free parking is available only at the Rockton Fairgrounds with complimentary shuttle services offered to Westfield Heritage Village from various locations in the city. Please consult [www.tellingtales.org](http://www.tellingtales.org) for further details.

## **2019-2020 STAFF**

PRINCIPAL: Mrs. Martino  
SECRETARY: Mrs. Simpson  
SERT: Mrs. Lancia  
READING RECOVERY: Mrs. Hardie  
PPT: Mrs. Habza  
FDK - French Immersion: Mme Berlingieri  
Mrs. Kirton - ECE  
FDK: Mrs. A. Batt, Mrs. Grsic - E.C.E.  
GRADE 1: Miss Iacozza  
GRADE 2: Mr. Machado  
GRADE 2/3: Mrs. Colamartini  
GRADE 3/4: Mrs. Kitchin  
GRADE 4: Mr. Perino  
GRADE 5: Mr. Cordeiro  
GRADE 6: Mr. Malcolmson-Matecki  
GRADE 7: Mr. Pizzuti  
GRADE 7/8: Mr. Baird

FRENCH: Mme Noce  
TEACHER LIBRARIAN: Mme Mahony  
AIT: Mrs. DeMedeiros & Mrs. Piro  
CUSTODIAN: Mr. M. Desormeaux  
ASSISTANT CUSTODIAN: Mrs. Uildersma

E.A.: Ms. Federiconi  
E.A.: Ms. Marini  
E.A.: Mrs. Piva  
E.A.: Mr. Piant  
E.A.: Mrs. McLune  
Before and After Care: Mrs. K. Clark / Miss Slat  
LIBRARY CLERKS: Ms. Esposito and Ms. Giornofelice

Future calendars and reminders will be online only at [www.hwcdsb.ca](http://www.hwcdsb.ca) at the beginning of each month.