

Sacred Heart of Jesus School

5 Hamilton Avenue

Hamilton, ON

Phone: (905) 383-6811 Fax (905)383-8520



Dr. M. Ssemanda, Principal

September 2019

✠ A Message from Father Charlie Jordan

NEW BEGINNINGS!

As a new school begins, it is an opportunity to see the wonders God desires to reveal to us. We experience this in the various opportunities of learning that are given to us as the year unfolds.

We give thanks for the bounty that God has given to us. That bounty comes from family, the gift of friends, the gift of those who help us learn about ourselves and how God is part of all this.

This month we celebrate the kick-off to our One Heart, One Soul Campaign - an opportunity to be part of a parish fundraising experience which helps to set Blessed Sacrament Parish for the future. More information to come in the coming weeks.

A Message from the Principal

Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year at Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Elementary School! We hope that you had an enjoyable and relaxing summer with your family. At Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Elementary School, we strive to live out the Gospel values and to follow the example of Jesus Christ in accepting each other and appreciating the diversity with which we have been blessed. Our mission is for our school community to provide all our students with the opportunity to realize the fullness of humanity - spiritually, intellectually, socially, physically, and emotionally.

During this year, we are going to continue to work collaboratively with Fr. Charlie Jordan and his staff. A complete staff list is found in our Newsletter. I am confident that students and staff will ensure that all new staff members to our school community feel included and welcomed.

Sincere gratitude is extended to our caretaking and cleaning staff Mr. Gonzalez and Mrs. Radcliffe for cleaning the school over the summer. We appreciate all their efforts and we will all work together to maintain a high standard of cleanliness. I thank Mrs. Markoulis for working hard to make sure that all registrations were completed and class lists updated. Last but not least, I would like to thank our teachers and support staff, who have been working hard over the past few weeks to prepare classrooms and work areas to receive the children on the first day.

Mrs. S. Pizzuti
Superintendent of
Education

Mr. P. Daly
Trustee

Fr. Charlie Jordan
Sacred Heart Church
19 Viewpoint Avenue
Hamilton, ON
L8V 2S4
(905)383-3280

Feeder School:

St. Jean de Brebeuf
Catholic School
200 Acadia Drive
Hamilton, ON
(905)388-7020

We bid farewell to Mrs. Conciatori and thank her sincerely for serving our school community. We wish her the very best in her retirement. Congratulations, Mrs. Conciatori!

Communication is critical in the nurturing of successful student growth. Throughout the year, if you have any concerns or questions about the curriculum, work being sent home or your child's progress or well-being, the homeroom teacher is your first source of contact. You may leave a message for your child's teacher at the office or by communicating in the agenda.

Along with our team of dedicated educators, I am excited to work in partnership with you for the best interests of all the children in our school community. I look forward to seeing you all at our Open House Meet and Greet Teacher Parent Night on Thursday, September 12, 2019.

May God bless each one of you with an exciting and faith-filled year!

Yours in Christ,

Dr. M. Ssemanda



Sacred Heart School Staff 2019-2020

Mrs. L. Caruso	FDKA	Mr. J. Gonzalez	Caretaker
Miss K. Martins	ECE	Mrs. E. Radcliffe	Ass't Caretaker
Mrs. C. Clannon	FDKB		
Mr. M. DiGiacinto	Gr 1/2		
Mr. M. Donelson	Grade 2/3		
Ms. D. Alessi	Grade 3/4		
Mr. T. Dibenedetto	Grade 4/5		
Mr. J. MacLeod	Grade 6/7		
Ms. J. Delio	Grade 7/8		
Mrs. L. Bombini Marsalla	Teacher Librarian		
Mr. J. Czerniga	French/PPT		
Mrs. L. Stipancic	Arts Integration Teacher (FDK)		
Ms. N. Da Costa	Arts Integration Teacher (1 - 8)		
Mrs. T. Szpirglas	Reading Recovery/PPT		
Ms. B. Reeves	Special Education		
Mrs. T. Felice-Greco	Social Worker		
Mrs. M. McPhail	Educational Assistant		
Mrs. B. Carrara	ESL Teacher		
Mrs. S. Isaacs-McKirgan	Library Clerk		
Mrs. S. Markoulis	School Secretary		
Dr. M. Ssemanda	Principal		

School Uniforms



In conjunction with our Board of Trustees and the Catholic School Council, the expectation is that all students will be in complete and proper school uniform. Our colours are navy and white for tops and navy blue for bottoms. A reminder that all tops must have a collar. Cargo pants or kobe pants (pants with pockets along the leg), track/warm-up pants, skinny pants and corduroy pants are not permitted. Jackets and coats are non-uniform pieces; sweaters for inside must be navy blue or white. Hoodies are not permitted. Crests can be either embroidered or on a patch which is sewn to the garment, not screened-on (ink process). As well, crests can be purchased at the school office for \$3 if needed. In addition, spirit-wear (ie.: team/grad sweatshirts/hoodies, t-shirts) are not part of the school uniform. If you need assistance with the purchase of uniforms, please contact the school to speak with the Principal, Dr. Ssemanda.

If your child has outgrown their uniform, please donate it back to the school so that another student can take advantage of wearing it. We like to keep a variety of sizes so that parents can share the uniforms instead of buying them. Please send any clean and gently used uniform to the school at any time throughout the year. If you would like to receive some used uniforms, please contact the office.

Student Attendance



Regular attendance is crucial to success at school. When students are habitually late or leave habitually early, they miss critical class time, feel disorganized and may miss important information. Punctuality is an important life skill that students learn and helps them establish good work habits for their future. Encourage your child(ren) to take responsibility for themselves to prepare and plan ahead in order to be ready and on time for school. Working together makes a difference for student learning.

It is imperative that your child be on time for school in the morning. Morning prayers and announcements begin almost immediately after the entry bell at 8:50 a.m. If your child arrives after 8:50 a.m. he/she must report to the office to collect a late slip before going to the classroom. Supervision for students begins at 8:30 a.m. No students should be arriving before this time. At bell time (morning 8:50 a.m.) students will be picked up by their classroom teacher and independently enter the school to go to their classroom. **Parents must not be escorting their child(ren) to the classroom.** We would also like to remind parents to inform the office of any changes in phone numbers and/or addresses as it is essential that we be able to reach you in case of an emergency involving your child.

REPORTING ABSENCES (Safe Arrival Program)

Our new Absence Reporting System has been implemented. Parents can report their child's absence quickly and conveniently in one of three ways:

1. Parents can call into an automated interactive telephone system via a toll free number 1-844-469-5486.
2. Parents can log into a website, hwc.schoolconnects.com to authenticate their Portal account.
3. Parents who have authenticated their accounts and have either an iOS or Android device can download an app.

The automated notification system will contact parents at multiple contact numbers until one of the designated contacts is reached. If the system is unable to reach a designated contact after 20 minutes, office staff will follow up. By reporting your child absent in advance using the Safe Arrival toll free number or the Safe Arrival Portal website/app, you will NOT receive a call. We would also like to remind parents to inform the office of any changes in phone numbers and/or addresses as it is essential that we be able to reach you in case of an emergency involving your child.

Illness

If your child shows symptoms of illness in the morning, please keep him/her at home. Once at school, they are expected to be here for the entire day unless physical symptoms of high fever or vomiting are present. Also, please keep in mind that if a child is well enough to come to school, he/she is well enough to go outside to play.



Faith Column



We look forward to continue our school, home, and Parish relationship with Father Charlie Jordan as we serve our students in their spiritual journey through sacraments and monthly Masses & Liturgies.

Sacraments

Confirmation - Confirmation will be on Saturday, May 9th at 5 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament Church.

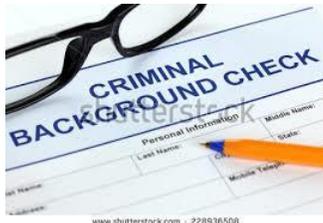


Parent Meeting - Wednesday, January 22, 2020 (snow date) Thursday, January 23, 2020) at 7 pm at Blessed Sacrament Church

Communion - Fr. Charlie will contact parents/guardians regarding reconciliation. First Holy Communion will be on Sunday, May 3, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church.



Mandatory Police Checks for Parent & Community Volunteers



The Child Protection Act requires that all persons working with students, as employees and/or volunteers, need to obtain a police check. If you plan to volunteer at the school or to attend class trips, please pick up a letter at the school office. This letter will reduce the cost of the police check. Please note that this check may take 4 - 6 weeks.

Student Agendas

All students from Grades 1 to 8 are expected to have a Student Agenda for daily homework and communication. This year each student will be provided with an agenda at no cost.



All students are expected to use the agenda daily. The agenda is a good tool to ensure work completion and to provide daily communication between teachers and parents. It is our hope that this practice will help all students to stay organized and to track the level of their performance. We will also use the agenda to track your child's punctuality and homework completion. Please check and sign your child's agenda book daily. If your child loses his/her agenda book, there will be a replacement cost of \$5.00.

Meet and Greet Parent/Teacher Night Open House/HARVEY'S BBQ



We invite all parents/guardians to attend the "Meet and Greet Parent/Teacher Night on Thursday, September 12th, 2019 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00p.m. Please come out and meet your child's teacher. Mark your calendar and plan to attend. Put in your **Harvey's Food** Order as soon as possible. Order forms are sent with your child.

Electronic Devices

Sacred Heart of Jesus School is outfitted with WiFi throughout the school. The school has available Ipads, mini Ipads, laptops, computers, LCD projectors and smart boards, during instructional time for students to make use of and to compliment and assist in their learning. To that end, personal electronic devices are discouraged on school property for obvious reasons such as theft, liability, distraction to the learning, **Privacy Act** and so on. However, if students decide (with parents' permission) to bring any type of personal electronic device to school, please note, the school assumes no responsibility for any loss, stolen, or damaged items.



Anaphylaxis

Sacred Heart of Jesus School is a place where all children feel safe and have a sense of belonging. To ensure the safety and well-being of all children, please note below the important information from Anaphylaxis Canada:



- Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that is rapid in onset and may cause death;
- Signs and symptoms of a severe allergic reaction can occur within minutes of exposure to an allergen (a substance capable of causing an allergic reaction)
- Very small amounts of certain foods can cause severe reactions when eaten. This may happen if a person at risk touches an allergenic substance and then subsequently touches the mouth. Even a very small amount 'hidden' in a food or transferred to a serving utensil has the potential to cause a severe allergic reaction. Direct ingestion of an allergy-causing food poses the greatest risk for people with food allergies.

Cooperation from parent and guardians in adhering to the guidelines below is most appreciated:



- There are students at this school who are allergic to the following foods items: Peanuts, all nuts, tree nuts, raw eggs, sea food, and hazelnuts
- Please avoid bringing these allergens into the school.
- Reinforce hand-washing practices: wash hands before and after eating.
- Remind children not to share or trade food, food utensils, or food containers.
- Please do NOT bring any food products into the school; with permission, **non-food items** are permitted for various celebrations and special events and activities.

Thank you for your help in keeping all our children safe.

Medication

If your child requires prescription medication to be given at school, or they require an inhaler or EPI-PEN, your physician must complete an Administration of Medication Permission Form. Non-prescription medication requires the parent's signature on the Administration of Medication Form. Forms are available from the school office.



We cannot supervise the intake of medication at school without written authorization. No child should be carrying ANY medication in his/her backpack at any time (with the exception of Epi-pens and/or inhalers). Any medication brought to the school with permission is to be handed in to the teacher or to the main office upon arrival for the day. We will supervise the intake of the medication by your child according to written directions from a physician or parent.

The Responsibilities of a Student

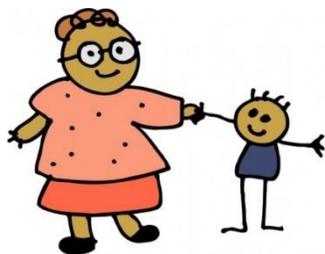
“Our talents are God’s gift to us. What we do with them is our gift to God.” (Leo Buscaglia) All students are expected to work to the best of their abilities and complete work as it is assigned. Proper behaviour in the playground and the classroom also help students find success since the focus at school is to challenge ourselves to do our best in all areas at all times.

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, changing your school support designation, please call the Assessment Department at 905-525-2930, Ext. 2188, or email webmaster@hwcdsb.ca.

Safety First!



We wish to request the cooperation of parents when visiting the school. Parents and visitors are reminded to report directly to the office upon arrival at the school. This procedure is consistent with our School Safety Policy. Walking through the halls and going directly to classrooms without authorization is disruptive to teachers and students and poses a safety threat to all students. If you are delivering something for your child, please bring it to the office and staff will ensure that it is delivered to your child at an appropriate time. If you arrive to pick up your child at the end of the day a few minutes early, please wait in the schoolyard until the dismissal bell rings. Throughout the day, parents are to use only the main entrance at the front of the building to enter the school. Please help us to keep your child safe.

Photo Day

School Photo Day will be on Monday, October 7th, 2019.



New Concussion Protocols"

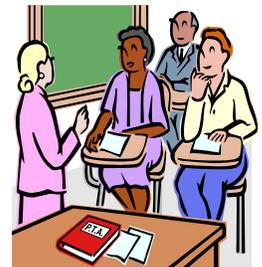


The Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board (HWCDSB) recognizes that children and adolescents are among those at greatest risk for concussions. The potential for a concussion is greatest during activities where collisions can occur, such as during physical education (PE) class, playground time, or school-based sports activities. However, concussions can happen any time a student's head comes into contact with a hard object, such as a floor, desk, or another student's head or body. Recent research has made it clear that a concussion can have a significant impact on a student's cognitive and physical abilities. Without identification and proper management, a concussion can result in permanent brain damage. Awareness of the signs and symptoms of concussion and knowledge of how to properly manage a diagnosed concussion is critical in a student's recovery and is essential in helping to prevent the student from returning to learning or physical activities too soon and risking further complications.

Please be advised that should your child be suspected of a concussion based on the signs and symptoms they are presenting, this new Concussion protocol will now come into effect. For more information on this protocol, please visit the Board's website under the Board tab, Policies and Procedures at <http://www.hwcdsb.ca>.

Parent Conference

The HWCDSB 26th Parent Conference 2019 - "Weaving the Catholic Partnership" will be held on Saturday, November 2, 2019 from 7:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., at Bishop Ryan High School. Mark your calendar now and join us for this great event! For registration information, please contact 905-525-2930 ext. 2141 or download Registration Forms online at www.hwcdsb.ca.



Nutrition Breakfast Program



We will continue to provide the breakfast Program from Monday to Friday of the school year. The Breakfast Programme will begin again on Tuesday, September 3, 2019. It is available for all students.

School 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.

We do make available the insuremykids® Protection Plan for students exclusively through Old Republic Insurance Company of Canada. Participation in such a programme is voluntary and the costs are to be paid by the parent or guardian.



This program offers a variety of plans and benefits at affordable prices. Benefits included are:

1. Dental expenses (resulting from an accident)
2. Total and permanent disability
3. Paralysis/loss of use
4. Special disability benefits
5. Death benefits
6. Eye glasses repair/replacement due to accident



Purchasing Student Accident Insurance is strongly recommended especially if your child participates in athletic or other co-curricular activities on or off school property. All rates are one-time annual premiums. Numerous plans are available to fit any family's budget. Family rates for 3 or more children are offered. Purchase online in the first month of the school year and save further with the 3-Year and 5-Year plans.

The insurance agreement is between you and Old Republic Insurance Company of Canada. To subscribe, apply 24/7 directly online at: www.insuremykids.com.

If you have any questions please visit the "Frequently Asked Questions" page at the above website or contact Old Republic Insurance Company of Canada direct toll free at: 1-800-463-KIDS 5437).

School Volunteers

Volunteers are always the secret of any organization. This is your chance to get involved! Sacred Heart 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 never assigned to their own child’s class. We kindly remind our volunteers that we will assign individuals where they are needed. All volunteers must have an updated police check. Please call the school and speak to Ms. Reeves our SERT Teacher.

Catholic School Council

Once again, we will be seeking nominations for membership to the Catholic School Council for 2019 - 2020 According to the guidelines we will be seeking 6-10 parents to serve on the council and we ask for your consideration in nominating yourself or another parent for this important work.

Purpose

Catholic School Councils shall provide the structure that enables parents, staff, principal, students, community and parish members to come together to review and address the education of that community’s children. **The purpose of Catholic School Councils is, through the active participation of parents, to improve pupil achievement and to enhance the accountability of the education system to parents and to promote the mission of Catholic education within the school community.** Catholic School Councils primary means of achieving its purpose is by **making recommendations** in accordance with Regulation 612 to the principal of the school and to the board.



The Catholic School Council is responsible for providing advice to the Principal about various issues related to improving the learning environment of the students. No special training or experience is required. All are welcome! The positions are: Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, and up to six Counsellors who are also voting members. The Catholic School Council is comprised of parents, teaching and non-teaching staff representatives, Pastoral Rep. and a Community Rep. who work together as an advisory body to the Principal “to improve pupil achievement and to enhance the accountability of the educational system to parents and to promote the mission of Catholic education within the school community”.



Nomination forms are being sent home during this week with each family to complete. **If nominating another parent please ensure that, the parent accepts the nomination to serve prior to submitting it.** Nominations close on Wednesday, September 18, 2019 at 3:10 p.m. In the event that there are 10 or less parents who are seeking a position on the Council, no election will be required. In the event there are more than 10 parents seeking a position, then the election will

take place on **Thursday, September 26, 2019 at 6:00 pm in the school's Learning Commons.** The first meeting of the year is scheduled on October 17, 2019 at 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. All parents are invited to attend.

Photo/Video Policy

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 at the school. Photographs and videos of students, collectively or individually, may be taken and used on bulletin board displays, at assemblies, or in the local newspaper, etc. Please complete the Privacy Form that will be sent home in September and return it to the school as soon as possible.



Playground Safety



For the safety of our children in the playground, we ask that only NERF (soft) balls be used. No other type of ball should be brought to school. For the safety of all of our children, **please do not bring any dogs on the school property.** Some children are not only allergic to them but others may be very frightened of dogs and even the best-behaved dogs may react unexpectedly when confronted by large numbers of children. After school, all students are expected to go home directly. We do not have supervision after school hours other than the Before and After Program.



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Celebrating Student Achievement for 2019-2020

Throughout this year, we will be celebrating our students and their achievements as we look to the Catholic School Graduate Expectations provided through the Institute for Catholic Education. Catholic education views human life as an integration of body, mind, and spirit. Rooted in this vision, Catholic education fosters the search for knowledge as a lifelong spiritual and academic quest. The expectations of Catholic graduates, therefore, are described not only in terms of knowledge and skills, but in terms of values, attitudes and actions. Each month we will celebrate the achievement of our students and provide a certificate of recognition of their skills in striving to work towards the Catholic School Graduate Expectations embedded in our Catholic Social Teachings. You are all invited to attend our Monthly Awards Assemblies.

THE BRANCHES OF FAITH YOUTH MINISTRY



Welcome Back Students and Families! Most Blessed Sacrament Youth Ministry invites Sacred Heart youth and families to all of our events. For up-to-date events and programs please visit Most Blessed Sacrament's website ~ blessedsacramenthamilton.com

Message from Rachel McNamara, Youth Minister

Monthly Student Recognition

September	Academic Christian Attitude	Welcoming
October	Academic Christian Attitude	Justice
November	Academic Christian Attitude	Peace
December	Academic Christian Attitude	Hospitality
January	Academic Christian Attitude	Sportsmanship & Community
February	Academic Christian Attitude	Empathy & Compassion
March	Academic Christian Attitude	Caring & Courage
April	Academic Christian Attitude	Stewardship & Joy
May	Academic Christian Attitude	Respect
June	Academic Christian Attitude	Cooperation & Integrity

ONLINE PAYMENTS NOW AVAILABLE!

For safety and efficiency reasons, we want to reduce the amount of Cash & Checks coming into our school. School related expenses are now available online for you to make payment.

Parents please register!

Here's how:



Step 1: Go to this website:

<https://hwcdsb.schoolcashionline.com>

Step 2: Register by selecting the "Get Started Now" and following the steps

Step 3: After you receive the confirmation email, please select the 'click here' option, sign in and add each of your children to your household account.

Our Goal this school year is to have 100 percent of all Parents/Guardians using Online Payments. Please help us to achieve our goal.

Thank you!