



HAMILTON-WENTWORTH CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**ST. MARGARET MARY CATHOLIC  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**25 Brentwood Drive, Hamilton L8T 3V9 Phone: 905-383-8122**



**Principal: Mrs. A. Coletto Principal Intern: Mr. K. McQuaid Secretary: Mrs. C. Walton  
Pastor: Father P. Jamroz**

**Superintendent: Mrs. S. Pizzuti Trustee: Mr. J. Baiardo**

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [www.stmm.hwcdsb.ca](http://www.stmm.hwcdsb.ca)**

# September 2019

## *A Prayer for School Children*

Father of all mercies We ask that you would bless the youngest and littlest of learners, the most helpless and powerless of persons, with Your infinite and loving mercy, granting them the strength to learn, concentrate, and act in love towards their teachers and fellow students. We also ask that You would watch over them, at home and at school and give them proper direction so that they may learn of Your wonderful virtues.

We ask this in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen

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## WELCOME BACK!

Welcome back to another exciting school year at St. Margaret Mary Catholic Elementary School! We would like to welcome those students, parents and staff who are joining us for the first time this year and a warm return to those who are continuing with us. We thank you for entrusting us with your children in our Christ-centered school environment where we strive to live out our Gospel Values daily.

I would to extend a thank you to our custodians, Mr. Fergie & Mr. Angelo, who have done a great job of getting our school ready over the summer – your hard work and dedication to our community is greatly appreciated and also to our staff who have been working hard to get ready to welcome our students back.

I am very excited to be joining the St. Margaret Mary Catholic school community this year. We have a fantastic staff at St. Margaret Mary who work very hard to ensure the best possible education and extra-curricular experiences for your children. We expect that each child will do his/her best daily and will come to school ready to learn.

I am looking forward to meeting you at our Open House Evening on Thursday, September 20 (more information will be coming home).

Again, welcome back for the 2019-2020 school year!

Mrs. A. Coletto, Principal

### IMPORTANT DATES

Thursday, September 19: Open House

Friday, Sept. 20: PA Day

Tuesday, Sept. 24: CSC Meeting & Elections



## SCHOOL BELL TIMES

School Starts 8:35 a.m.

Parents and students reminded to pack snacks that are nutritious . There is lots of great information and tips available about packing a lunch for balanced day. Check out [www.eatrightontario.ca](http://www.eatrightontario.ca) for more information.

Lunch 11:20 a.m.—12:10 p.m.

Dismissal 2:55 p.m.

Supervision on the yard does not begin until 8:20 a.m. Students should not be arriving at school before this time.

*VOLUNTEERS Provincial law makes it mandatory that volunteers who work with children must have a current police check. For those volunteers that have provided a police check in the past must sign a declaration form each year. More information about the process can be obtained at the office. Please consider volunteering at our school!*

## ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

As you know the safety of the children under our care is one of our most important responsibilities.

To help us keep the students safe and to help us keep track of all the students under our care the following policies will continue to be followed this year:

- 1) If your child is going to be absent please call the school using Safe Arrival to report the absence. Students may not leave the school unless they have a note from their parents and they are picked up by an adult at the office. The adult must come into the school and sign the student out.
- 2) All students should be in the playground by 8:35a.m. and should be lining up with their class for entry. Any student that is late must report to the office for a late slip.
- 3) All visitors to the school are asked to report to the main office and sign in the visitor's book. If someone other than a parent is meeting your child, kindly let the teacher know.

**DAILY ATTENDANCE IS VITAL TO THE GROWTH AND ACADEMIC SUCCESS OF YOUR CHILD. ARRIVE ON TIME AND READY TO LEARN EACH DAY!**

## UNIFORM

All students JK to Grade 8 at St. Margaret Mary School are required to wear the approved school uniform as stated in the H.W.C.D.S.B policy.

Students are reminded that they must wear navy or white collared shirts (golf, polo or oxford type shirts). Blouses should have no lace or frills on girl's collars or sleeves. Students may wear a plain (no writing), white t-shirt underneath their uniform top. All tops must be crested (embroidered/sewn or ironed on).

Navy blue cotton/twill pants, shorts, or 'skorts' are acceptable.

Corduroy pants, cargo pants, jeggings, athletic style shorts or any pants with large pockets are not acceptable.

Please continue to bring in uniform items that no longer are in use at your home, we provide these uniforms to those in need. We appreciate your donations.

Crests are available from the office for \$3.00.



## MEDICATION REMINDERS

There are many students that may have allergies and may have to take medication for a variety of reasons. The Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board has procedures that must be followed for the proper dispensing of medication. In order to help us at the school please have your child come to the office or send a note to the teacher to get the forms that must be completed by your Family Doctor. All forms and medication are kept on file with the Special Education Resource Teacher. We ask that parents send the medication clearly labeled with your child's name. Under no circumstances are children to bring any kind of prescription or over the counter medication to school with them without proper forms having been submitted. All medications must be delivered to the office with the proper documentation in order for it to be administered. Please help keep our school a safe learning environment for all. If your child requires prescription medication to be given at school, or they require an inhaler or EPIPEN, your physician must complete the Administration of Medication Permission Form. Non-prescription medication requires the parent's signature on the Administration of Medication Form. Forms are available in the school office. We cannot dispense or 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).

## ALLERGY REMINDERS

St. Margaret Mary is a place where all children and staff feel safe and have a sense of belonging. To ensure the safety and well-being of our community, please note the following 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 and staff at this school who are allergic to the following foods and items: Peanuts, eggs, and tree nuts;
- Parents will be advised of allergens specific to a classroom; please avoid bringing these allergens into the designated classroom;
- 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 homemade food products into the school for celebrations; with permission, clearly labelled, packaged items are permitted for various celebrations and special events and activities, please speak to your child's teacher directly as this will be permissible depending on the specific classroom's needs. In the case that food cannot be brought into a classroom, non-food items are suggested (such as stickers, pencils etc.).

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

There are a number of students in our school who endure allergic and in some cases very severe **anaphylactic reactions to peanut butter, tree nuts of any kind, or tree-nut/peanut food products**. These reactions can be caused by ingestion and/or airborne. We ask for your assistance by not sending any snacks or lunches that contain TREE NUT/PEANUT products. For a list of snacks please visit [www.anaphylaxis.canada.ca](http://www.anaphylaxis.canada.ca)

We are asking the students to please bring in products that are allergen aware. Should you have any questions about this, please do not hesitate to contact the school. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. Please remember that we are attempting to make this school an allergen aware environment to ensure the safety of our students. We are reminding you to refrain from sending these products to school with your child. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

ST. MARGARET MARYCATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STAFF FOR 2019-2020

Principal	Mrs. Coletto
Principal Intern	Mr. McQuaid
Administrative Assistant	Mrs. Walton
Special Education Resource	Mr. Pace
Custodian	Mr. Fergie      Night Custodian Mr. Angelo    Assistant Mrs. Sellitti
FDK-A	Mrs. Greco & Mrs. Silva
FDK-B	Mrs. Woods & Mrs. Kondo
FDK-C	Mrs. Czajkowsky & Mrs. Malec
Grade 1A	Mrs. Fidanza (am) & Mrs. Molinaro (pm)
Grade 1B	Mrs. Murray
Grade 2A	Mrs. Matozzo
Grade 2B	Mrs. Sieminsk
Grade 3A	Ms. Colella
Grade 3/4A	Mrs. Pendlebury
Grade 4A	Mr. Dvilaitis
Grade 4/5A	Mrs. McSweeney
Grade 5/6A	Mrs. Pede
Grade 6A	Mrs. Ippolito
Grade 7A	Mr. McQuaid
Grade 7/8A	Mrs. Pitura-Salerno
Grade 8A	Mrs. Townsend
Primary Planning	Mrs. DaSalvia
French Teacher	Mme McMurrich
Reading Recovery	Mrs. Molinaro
Teacher-Librarian	Mr. Mota
ESL	Mrs. Pires
Arts Integration Teacher	Mrs. Rihar
Educational Assistants	Mrs. Bradley, Mrs. Constantini, Mrs. Krebs, Mrs. Masotti, Ms. Tame & Mrs. Valerio
Lunch Supervisors	Mrs. Danville & Mrs. Hannah
Before & After Care	Mrs. Davis & Staff

## CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL (CSC)

As we begin a new year it is time once again to elect a new Catholic School Council. Please take a few minutes to consider running for the council or nominate someone else. We are blessed at St. Margaret Mary to have very caring and dedicated parents. In the past School Council has done a tremendous amount for the school. They gave most generously of their time and expertise and our whole school community is the richer for it.

The Ministry of Education has issued new regulations with respect to School Councils. As a result, the Board has approved a revised Policy and Guidelines for Catholic School Councils. One of the most significant changes for our Councils will be in the elections for members to the Catholic School Council. If you are interested in becoming part of Council or wish to nominate someone please complete the nomination forms being sent home. Forms can be submitted the night of the Open House.



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*WELCOME BACK OPEN HOUSE: Thursday, September 19  
5:00–7:00 p.m.  
More information to follow, we hope to see you there!*

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## SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

We thank you for your continued support of utilizing School Cash Online for payment of various school events and activities. We hope that in the least you have accessed the website and availed yourself of the advantages (for home and the school) in utilizing this program. You can also access it by clicking the School Cash Online icon on our website ([www.stmm.hwcdsb.ca](http://www.stmm.hwcdsb.ca))

## AGENDA BOOKS

Unfortunately our agenda books will not be delivered to the school until the end of the month. Students will utilize communication books until they arrive. We apologize for this inconvenience.

## PIZZA DAYS

Weekly pizza days will be starting up in October. Information will be sent home.

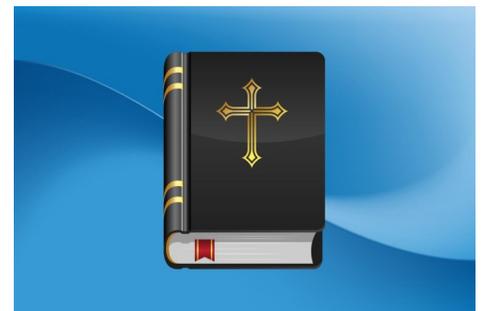


## FROM OUR PARISH:

“Let the Little Children Come to Me”

What greater gift to give your child than passing down and teaching the traditions of the Catholic Church, helping them to receive God’s Word in their hearts and respond to it in their family life and elsewhere.

Did you know that at the 11:00 am Mass on Sunday mornings, starting September 29th, we have a Children’s Liturgy? During 20 minutes of the Mass, children from JK to Grade 2 are invited to go with two volunteer ministers to hear the Sunday readings from a child’s lectionary. An age–appropriate reflection of the Word is shared through stories, discussion or pictures and children are invited to share their own thoughts and ideas. Please consider this invitation!



We hope to see you at Sunday Mass!

## SCHOOL PHOTOS

Class and individual fall photos are Thursday, October 3. Retakes will happen on Thursday, November 21. Students are to be in full uniform for fall photos.



## APPROPRIATE FOOTWEAR

We require that our students wear shoes in the school at all times. During winter months, 2 pair of shoes are required: outdoor footwear for outdoor time and other shoes worn in the school. Slippers or sandals with toe straps or barely adhered to the feet by minimal straps or high-heeled shoes are inappropriate as they are a safety risk.

## LICE AWARENESS

Lice are spread by coming into close contact with someone who has lice or by sharing personal items such as combs, brushes, hats and/or towels of an infected person. Parents/Guardians are asked to check their child's(ren's) hair on a regular basis to ensure they are nit and louse free. Please encourage your children to refrain from sharing hats, combs and brushes. Parents/guardians are reminded to inform the school if their child has head lice. We ask your co-operate by administering an approved treatments recommended by a pharmacist or medical practitioner when needed. More information can be found on our board website ([www.hwcdsb.ca](http://www.hwcdsb.ca)) or on the City of Hamilton website under Bug Busters for dates and times of free clinics.

## SCHOOL EXCURSIONS AND BOARD PERMISSION FORMS

Class trips are an extension of the curriculum expectations as planned by the classroom teacher.

**Only the official Board trip form sent home will be accepted as permission for your child to accompany the class.** Please do not ask us to make exceptions (i.e. verbal permission, hand-written notes). We will also be required to continue to ask parents to complete an "Informed Consent Form" in addition to the regular Parent Consent Form. The purpose of this additional form is so that parents acknowledge the risks that may be associated with each out-of-school learning experience. We will attempt to list as many of the potential risks that may be associated with each experience according to OPHEA guidelines.

When planning trips there are times that we will need volunteers, past practice is that volunteers are selected (at times by way of a draw). These volunteers will then be asked to accompany the students on the bus. *All volunteers must have a valid police check in order to volunteer on a class trip.* Please let your child's teacher know if you are interested in volunteering for a trip.

## DRESS DOWN DAYS

We will attempt to have a day at least once a month on which our students will be allowed to "dress down." Student Council will also plan to have a specific theme for each one of these days. While the intent of these days is to raise school spirit, these days are also intended to raise needed money for the many worthwhile causes within our school and global community. While the cost is a "suggested donation", we hope you will support the various charities Student Council has identified this year. Parents will receive ample notification thus ensuring their child has the opportunity to participate. Again, please remember that the intent of these days is to promote school spirit and raise much needed funds for worthwhile charities in our local and global community. Your support and cooperation is appreciated. Participation is voluntary.

OUR FIRST DRESS DOWN DAY IS: Monday, September 30 for Wear Orange Day.



## KEEPING OUR HANDS TO OURSELVES

### Hands-off Policy

Each day we strive to make our school a safe place for all students. One of the simplest methods is the 'hands-off rule'; this includes no unwanted touching or rough play. Students are reminded about this daily and it includes all students from JK to Grade 8. We trust that with your support and vigilance, we will help our students to play together in a fair and inclusive way.

# BUS SAFETY & INFORMATION

## **Students who travel on the bus**

As per School Board policy, students who travel to and from school on the bus are expected to board and get off the bus at their assigned stops. In the interest of the students' safety, we cannot make exceptions to this rule. Notes sent requesting permission for your child to do otherwise cannot be considered.

When buses are delayed, any updates will be sent through TRACS notification. Please ensure you have signed up for this service at [www.hamiltonschoolbus.ca](http://www.hamiltonschoolbus.ca)

## **Transportation Services (HWSTS) Consortium**

In May 2008, the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board and the Hamilton-Wentworth School Board partnered together and formed the Hamilton-Wentworth Student Transportation Services (HWSTS) Consortium. The mandate for the Consortium includes the provision of safe, effective and efficient transportation services for students for both Partner Boards.

In the event that you require assistance from the Consortium staff during the start up phase, all you need to do is call the contact centre 1-800-691-6402 and provide them with the details pertaining to your inquiry. All telephone calls to the Board office will be re-directed through the contact centre during the start up phase. "IF THE NATURE OF YOUR CALL IS AN EMERGENCY SAFETY ISSUE, PLEASE NOTIFY THE TELEPHONE OPERATOR OF THAT IMMEDIATELY."

## **Safety is everyone's responsibility.**

The bus driver has the authority on the bus by right of the Highway Traffic Act. Please remind your children to follow the bus rules.

The following rules will be reviewed with your child(ren):

*\*Enter and exit the bus one at a time without pushing.*

*\*Remain seated especially when the bus is in motion.*

*\*Keep hands, feet and comments to yourself.*

*\*Use a quiet voice.*

*\*Follow the instructions of the bus driver / bus monitors*

Parents are to refrain from entering the bus at any time. *It is against Board policy for children to travel on another bus other than their own or get off the bus at a different stop.*

## **PUBLISHING INFORMATION ABOUT STUDENTS**

Parents are reminded that during the normal course of events in a school year, the school staff highlight the accomplishments of their students and celebrate these achievements mentioned by the posting or publishing of names (*first name and first initial of the last name only*) either in school corridors, school newsletters, school website, taping or taking pictures at school events or through the news media or other public related events.

If you do *not* wish to have any information posted or published with your child's name in any of the above situations, please let Mrs. Coletto know.

11th Annual  
**Telling Tales**<sup>®</sup>  
 Festival



Illustration: Irene Luxbacher

**Telling Tales**  
**MAIN EVENT**

**Sunday, September 15th, 10am-4pm**  
**Westfield Heritage Village, Rockton**  
*Parking at Rockton Fair Grounds*

**Celebrating**  
**Graphic Novels**

**Saturday, September 21st, 1-3pm**  
**Hamilton Public Library, Central Library**

**Nature**  
**Tales**

Presented by  
 Dan Lawrie  
 International  
 Sculpture  
 Collection



**Sunday, September 22nd, 11am-4pm**  
**Royal Botanical Gardens, Burlington**  
*Sign up for this event on Eventbrite*

S.K. Ali • Karen Bass • Helaine Becker • Burlington Public Library Storytellers • Sharon and Bram • Chief Lady Bird • Mr. Chris and the Gassy Bubbles Creative Theatre Company • Erin Bow • Charlene Chua • Terry & Eric Fan • Melanie Florence • Shauntay Grant  
 Gumboot Kids creators Eric Hogan & Tara Hungerford • Hamilton Children's Choir • Hamilton Public Library Puppeteers • Hamilton Youth Poets • Holly Hatam  
 Nadia L Hohn • Jude Johnson • Jess Keating • Andrew Larsen • Qin Leng • Lesley Livingston • Irene Luxbacher • John Martz • Mireille Messier  
 Godfrey Nkongolo • Jay Odjick • Barbara Reid • Joanne Robertson • Kevin Sands • Richard Scrimger • Ashley Spires • Ted Staunton • Jo Storm • Kevin Sylvester  
 Joel A. Sutherland • Sunshine Tenasco • Nathalie Vachon • Eric Walters • Britt Wilson • Janet Wilson • Nicola Winstanely • Tory Woolcott

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