



HAMILTON-WENTWORTH CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

## ST. THOMAS SCHOOL

170 Skinner Road  
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*"A proud feeder school of St. Mary Catholic Secondary School"*

Principal: Mr. D. Younger  
Superintendent: Mr. M. Hucal  
Principal Intern: Mrs. C. Horzelenberg

Trustee: Mrs. C. Cornale,  
Pastor: Very Rev. W.L. Lobsinger, EV, PP  
Secretary: Mrs. M. Rath

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### ST. THOMAS "WILDCATS" DECEMBER – 2017 NEWSLETTER

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Loving God, during this holy season of Advent  
We ask for Your blessing on all families.  
Let Mary's openness to Your wondrous ways  
Be an inspiration to place all trust in You.  
Let Joseph's courage provide hope  
During times of anxiety and uncertainty.  
Let Jesus' life ignite all families  
With a spirit of light and love.  
May the grace that encircled the Holy Family  
Widen to embrace all families.  
For this we pray, Amen.

#### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

As the frenzy and commercialism of Christmas approach, Catholic communities around the world prepare during this season of Advent, a time to do something different from the usual preparations: pause, reflect, and get spiritually creative. Take time to reflect on Mary's hope and faith as she responds with a simple and loving "Yes" to God's plan for her as the mother of Jesus. The Holy Family models faith, hope, trust, patience and humility for all families. During Advent look and listen for times when God speaks to you in many ways: the voice of a friend or loved one, the laughter of children, a quiet moment, a choir, the soft ringing of bells, or a wonderful scene from nature. Just as Mary and Joseph listened and trusted, we look to God during this Advent season to help us do the same. We ask God to quiet our minds and hearts at this time. We have so much to do-- Help us, Lord, to seek quiet spaces and hear Your voice each day as we continue Your work as 'Merchants of Hope and Mercy' for all those in our midst.

God bless you and your families during this season and onward. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

Mr. D. Younger  
Principal

#### CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The annual STTA Christmas Concert will take place on Thursday, December 14, 2017 at 6:00pm in the school gym. Parents/guardians are asked to have students arrive no earlier than 5:45pm. Children will congregate in their classrooms while waiting for their performance and will return to the class until the end of the entire show. Staff will be supervising while families enjoy from their seats in the audience. A sincere thanks to the staff members of STTH for sacrificing their personal time so that our school community can enjoy the talents of the students.

#### NURSING STUDENTS: FINAL DAY

A sincere appreciation is extended to the McMaster University Third Year Nursing students who shared their time and talents via the project: 'Nurturing Positive Climates and Wellness at St. Thomas the Apostle CES through the Development of Self-Regulation'. The partnership has been tremendously successful.  
<https://stth.hwcdsb.ca/245757--STTH-and-Nursing-Students>

### **SACRAMENT OF PENANCE**

A team of priests visited the school at the end of November to bestow the sacrament of Penance on students. Students were given the opportunity to sit with one of the visiting Priests for Confession, Penance and Reconciliation.

### **ROBOTICS COMPETITION**

On December 9, 2017, the STTH Robotics Team will be participating in the regional Robotics Competition at Cardinal Newman CSS. We wish the team well and know that each member will represent the school as ambassadors of character. Thanks Coach Shannon.

### **CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING**

The next Catholic School Council Meeting will take place on Monday, December 4, 2017 at 7:00 in the school Learning Commons. All parents and guardians are welcome.

### **BREAKFAST WITH SANTA**

Tickets are available for families to purchase via School Cash Online. The event is Saturday, December 16, 2017 in the school gym. Breakfast includes pancakes, syrup, fruit cup, water and coffee. 9:00-12:00. Open dining with last seating at 11:30am. Lifetouch will be on hand for the photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

### **ADVENT MASS**

The staff and students will be celebrating the Advent Mass on Thursday, December 7, 2017 at the church. Together with the Guardian Angels CES population, we will share in the Holy Eucharist. Students will be transported by shuttle buses. All students, K-8, will attend. Parents and families are welcome.

### **MICROSOFT HOUR OF CODING**

A team of representatives from Microsoft will be visiting the school on Tuesday, December 5, as part of the hour of coding. As a Microsoft Showcase School, STTH continues to share staff members' expertise with colleagues from across the province.

### **SCHOOL CASH ONLINE**

Thanks to all families who continue to use the School Cash Online system. Special thanks to Mrs. Rath, school administrative professional, for her tireless efforts in fielding all calls, questions and concerns. The system is designed for a seamless payment process without cash transactions. It ensures financial accountability.

To date, the school has an extremely large percentage of families currently registered. To register:

<https://hwcdsb.schoolcashonline.com/>

### **CHRISTMAS PLAY AT ST. MARY CSS**

Students from FDK to Grade 6 attended a Christmas performance at St. Mary Catholic Secondary School during the morning of Thursday, November 30, 2017.

The play was Cinderella. The reviews are in: it was a spectacular smash!

<https://twitter.com/stthces/status/936251886990114816>

<https://twitter.com/stthces/status/936277382083764224>

### **LEARNING MANAGEMENT SITE (LMS)**

Parents/ Guardians are reminded to check their child's site regularly to gather pertinent information regarding the events that are taking place in and outside of the classroom. If you have not yet signed up for the notification alert when a new post has been added, please consider doing so.

### **LAST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR 2017**

The last day of school for 2017 will be Friday, December 22. This date marks the start of the two week Christmas Holiday Break. Classes will resume on **January 8, 2018**.

### **ROOTS OF EMPATHY**

Roots of Empathy is a research-based program that nurtures the personal, social and emotional development of students.

A newborn baby and his/her parent are partnered with a classroom. Through multiple visits, the facilitator assists the children in learning about the emotional responses of the infant. In doing so, children develop their own emotional maturation while also developing a greater sense of empathy for others in the world around them.

Roots of Empathy will be starting in Miss Dalla Riva's and Mrs. Maslowski's Kindergarten classroom. Thanks to Mrs. Asselin and her little one for serving as parent and infant.

'Empathy is seeing with the eyes of another, listening with the ears of another and feeling with the heart of another.'

<http://www.rootsofempathy.org/en>

### 3 ON 3 HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

Congratulations to the students who represented the school at the annual '3 on 3 Hockey Tournament' in November. Thanks Coach Shannon!

<https://twitter.com/stthces/status/93338282598581043>

[2](#)

<https://twitter.com/stthces/status/93337392639414272>

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<https://twitter.com/stthces/status/93337272062397235>

[3](#)

### PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Thanks to all parents who were able to conference, either in person or over the phone, with teachers. These conversations are critical to ensure a collaborative and seamless approach. Working together, we help all students reach their full potentials and realize the fullness of humanity of which our Lord Jesus Christ is the model.

### SKYPE-ATHON

Students in multiple classrooms travelled the world, collaborating with others. Classroom walls are no longer solid as we take children across the globe for learning encounters.

<https://twitter.com/stthces/status/93591484452334796>

[8](#)

<https://twitter.com/stthces/status/93487120822234316>

[8](#)

Israel, Bolivia, San Juan...the locations were endless.

### SWEATER DAY

Staff and students are invited to wear sweaters along with civvies on Tuesday, December 19, 2017. Students are invited to bring loose change. All proceeds will support Hamilton Out of the Cold. This is another way that we are all helping children learn about Catholic Servant Leadership.

<http://hamiltonoutofthecold.ca/>

### PARISH CORNER

Miss Shepherd is no longer working with the parish. Please direct all contact regarding Sacramental preparation to Father Ross. Grade 2 and 7 students will not be able to receive the sacraments this year unless all completed packages are returned to the parish office.

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

While students enjoyed a day of recreation on Friday, December 1, staff members of St. Thomas the Apostle CES participated in a system-wide professional development day at First Ontario Centre in downtown Hamilton.

Employees four thousand strong converged in the core and shared in faith and fellowship.

<https://stth.hwcdsb.ca/246493--STTH-and-the-December-1-Professional-Development-Day>

### The LAST WORD

**We must restore hope to young people, help the old, be open to the future, spread love. Be poor among the poor. We need to include the excluded and preach peace.**

**-Pope Francis**

<https://twitter.com/Pontifex>

