ST. BERNADETTE SCHOOL’S MOTTO:  Enter to learn, go forth to serve!

Remembrance prayer for children

We remember those who stood for love and truth,  
And thank you for the sacrifice they made for me and you.  
Thank you that we can now enjoy peace and learn to love not fight,  
Thank you that we can now sing and play, and not be scared or hide.

We pray for other countries where children live in fear,  
And there is war and fighting and many are in tears.  
Please help to make things better, and bring some peace to them.  
Protect all those who try and help to make friends again.

Amen.

(a prayer taken from www.lords-prayer-words.com)

FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

I wish to sincerely thank all staff, students, parents and families that came out and helped make our Hallowe’en Move-a-thon event a success on Friday, October 30, 2015! Thanks to all of the parents and staff who also donated many prizes to make it a fun event for our students! Special thanks to Mrs. Carey-Urban, Mrs. Paci, Mrs. Ciccarelli and student council for all of their efforts in organizing move-a-thon festivities, and thanks also to our Catholic School council and the co-chair, Mrs. Fresco, for getting Flashpoint productions to come as our DJ for move-a-thon! Thanks so much to the parents who attended and those who volunteered their time to sell items at the Move-a-thon.

We made approximately $9,000 for our school to purchase a smart board, iPad and resources for math and literacy! This is so amazing! We really pulled together as a community to do great things for our school! We will also be setting aside some funds for our upcoming 25th Anniversary of our building, which will be on Tuesday, April 12, 2015. We will be having a school mass at St. Augustine Parish at 10:00 a.m. followed by a reception in our school gym. All parents and families are welcome to attend this auspicious occasion! Please spread the word to past families who have attended our school so that they can join us on this special day as well.

As we continue to enhance kindness at our school, we also continue to focus on strengths in our classes. We also remind students: “If it is okay to say to Jesus, then say it.” We are continuing to instill gospel values, kindness, compassion and empathy daily through our Catholic Social Teaching. At our monthly awards assemblies, there is a presentation of pictures from classes showcasing faith in action. Parents and families are welcome to attend our monthly award assemblies. Our Catholic Social Teaching for November is Peace, and I already see many acts of peace daily from our staff and students. I wish all of our staff, students and families peace in their hearts now, and always.

Sincerely, Mrs. D. Catania
REMEMBRANCE DAY
On November 11th, Canadians all across the country will stop and pay tribute to the men and women who sacrificed their lives in wars and military operations around the world. Some will recall friends and relatives long dead. Others will pause in tribute. Whatever we do, we must remember. If we do not, the sacrifice of those one hundred thousand Canadian lives will be meaningless. They died for us, for their homes and families and friends, for a collection of traditions they cherished and a future they believed in; they died for Canada. The meaning of their sacrifice rests with our collective national consciousness; our future is their monument. Therefore, please join us on Tuesday, November 11th at 10:45 a.m. for a liturgy as we remember those involved in war, past and present, as well as those who continue to work towards peace. Additionally, poppies will be on sale at school and all donations will go directly to the War Veteran’s Legion.

REPORTING PERIODS AND REPORT CARDS

REPORTING PERIODS FOR 2015-2016
Progress Reports will be sent home on November 17, 2015 with interviews on Thursday, November 19, 2015.
Term 1 Report Cards will be sent home on February 17, 2015.
Term 2 Report Cards will be sent home on June 27, 2015.

On November 17th you will be receiving a progress report from your child’s teacher that will provide an indication of how your son/daughter is progressing in school. The Elementary Progress Report allows your child’s teacher to describe progress to this point in the year in two main areas:

1. **Learning Skills and Work Habits**
The development of learning skills and work habits is an integral part of your child’s learning and contributes substantially to his/her success. The learning skills that you will see on the Elementary Progress Report are:
   a) Responsibility
   b) Organization
   c) Independent Work
   d) Collaboration
   e) Initiative
   f) Self-regulation
Student progress in developing these learning skills and work habits will be evaluated on the scale of E - Excellent, G – Good, S – Satisfactory, and N – Needs Improvement. Your child’s teacher will also provide some supporting comments that will highlight areas of particular strength and suggestions for next steps for improvement.

2. **Subjects**
You will also be provided information about how your child is progressing towards achieving the expectations in specific subject areas. Based on the teacher’s professional judgment and knowledge of each individual student, your child’s general progress is indicated by one of three descriptors:
   **Progressing Very Well:** This describes student performance that, up to this point in the year, consistently meets or exceeds the provincial standard for achievement (i.e., Level 3 or higher). Parents of students progressing at this level can be confident that their son/daughter is progressing as expected at his/her grade level.
Progressing Well: This descriptor describes student performance that is slightly below the provincial standard (i.e., Level 2) based on student performance to this point in the year. This would also describe student performance that is inconsistently at the provincial standard. Students performing at this level need to work on identified learning gaps to ensure future success.

Progressing with Difficulty: This descriptor describes student performance that is falling significantly below the provincial standard (i.e., Level 1 or below) based on the evidence the teacher has collected to this point in the year. Students who are Progressing with Difficulty must work at significantly improving learning in specific areas if they are to be successful in this school year.

As with the Learning Skills & Work Habits your child’s teacher will provide key comments on the progress report that will highlight areas of strengths and key next steps for improvement. The Elementary Progress Report Card is intended to become a central part of rich discussions with students and their parents to establish a positive tone for the remainder of the school year. Communication between teachers, parents and students about student achievement should be continuous throughout the year (by way of parent-teacher or parent-student-teacher conferences, portfolios of student work, interviews, phone calls, informal reports etc.).

We are scheduling parent/teacher conferences from 3:50 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 19, 2015. If you are unable to meet with the teacher then, he/she will contact you and both of you can schedule a time that is mutually convenient to discuss the Progress Report. The FDK classes will be scheduling their own parent observations in lieu of a Progress Report.

GRADE 8 PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT AT ST. MARY SECONDARY SCHOOL

Grade 8 Parent Information Night will be on Thursday November 26 @ 7:00 p.m. Please mark your calendars in order to be part of this informative event for your future graduates! More information will follow as the date approaches.

LUNCH SUPERVISORS

We are in need of lunch supervisors during the lunch hour from 11:45 a.m. -12:45 p.m. Our school would love additions of caring members who will join our school community! Please contact Miss Hastings at the school (905-523-2336) if you are interested.

PILGRIMAGE

Thousands of students showed up for the ninth annual “Walk with Christ: Justice for the Poor” fundraiser pilgrimage, a system-wide service project organized by the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board to help charities abroad. Some of our Grade 7 and 8 students were in attendance as well, they were: Julia, Georgia, Tania and Jessica. Thanks so much girls for representing our school for a worthy cause! In the past nine years, the board has raised more than $500,000 for development projects in Haiti, Uganda and the Dominican Republic to improve conditions for people living in poverty. The walk was met with great enthusiasm, which began at Cathedral High School, took students south along Wentworth Street to the escarpment trail where they exited at Bernie Arbour Stadium for the short trek to St. Daniel Catholic Elementary School. The route totalled 8-kilometres – what many children in the Third World walk each day to fetch clean and safe drinking water for their families. The funds raised this year will be dedicated to the School Board’s Pilgrimage Fund, which will be directed to the 3rd World Charity Relief funds.

A special thank you to Mrs. Chong, Mrs. O’Reilly, and Mrs. Stampone for coming out on a Sunday to walk and support the students of St. Bernadette!
LIBRARY NEWS

A Scholastic Book Fair will be held during November 24-26, 2015. There will be a flyer sent home prior to this date with details on the dates and special features. Families are invited to participate in this event. Don’t forget to mark the Book Fair dates on your calendar! We look forward to seeing you during our Scholastic Book Fair and thank you, in advance, for supporting this great literary fundraiser. Mostly, thank you for believing in books and the importance reading has on your child’s future.

Mr. J. Begin/ Teacher-Librarian

WINTER WEATHER

Now that it is November, the colder weather is looming, please have children prepared for outdoor recesses. It will become necessary for hats, mittens and even winter coats to be pulled out of storage and worn to school. We strongly recommend labelling of all clothing items to avoid loss of articles. When the snowy season returns, boots are essential and students are to come prepared with indoor shoes.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING INITIATIVE: HELPING OUT THE POOR AND VULNERABLE

We are proud to announce that our October Monthly Award Winners for promoting justice for the poor and needy are as follows:

FDK (Mrs. Clark and Miss Campos) – Ella D and Erin F
FDK (Miss Machado and Ms. Holmes) – Liam M and Emma R
Grade 1 (Mrs. Maione) – Francesca B and Jack M
Grade 2 (Mrs. Dagenais) – Matti P and Cara C
Grade 2/3 (Mrs. Fortino) – Zosia S and Eoghan T
Grade 3 (Ms. Paci) – Danielle W and Evan S
Grades 4 (Mr. Toriello) – Natalie B Christopher C and Bailey F
Grade 5 (Mrs. Donn) – Isabella M and Noah B
Grade 6 (Mrs. Chong) – Ben M, Caroline C and Vanessa K
Grade 7 (Mrs. Stampone) – Georgia W and Olivia K
Grade 8 (Mr. Smith) – Patrick K and Emilia S

Our next Catholic Social Teaching monthly awards assembly will be on Friday, December 4, 2015 at 10:45 a.m.

NOVEMBER IS DOWN SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH

Many thanks to Mrs. Battilana, our Special Education Resource Teacher, for organizing a very informative day on Wednesday, November 4, 2015, where puppet show presentations took place in each class. The puppet show raised knowledge and awareness about Down Syndrome to students, so that they understand the many strengths and challenges of individuals with Down Syndrome. This was very well received by both staff and students.

MEDICAL ALERT

We are still trying to update the medical records of our students. Every child who is allergy sensitive needs to wear a medical alert bracelet. For those of you who have children with medical alerts, if you have not already returned the information package you were given, would you kindly do so as soon as possible. It is very important that the information we have be the most current. Thank you for your cooperation.

MEDICATION

This is a reminder to parents/guardians that NO medication will be given out at school without the required documentation. There are 2 forms that MUST be completed and
placed in the student’s OSR if medication is to be administered AT school. One of the forms is to be completed by the doctor, and the other one is to be completed by the parent/guardian. NO student will self-administer ANY kind of medication. ALL medication will be stored in the office (with the exception of the second epi-pen which may be kept in the classroom) and will be administered by an appropriate adult designate here at school. There are NO exceptions to this Board Policy. Please see the website for information regarding the Allerject recall, and ensure that medical information is updated and epi-pens are brought in as soon as possible.

WE ARE AN ALLERGY SENSITIVE SCHOOL

There are students in our school that have a severe allergy to peanuts. Even exposure to a tiny amount of this food or substance could be potentially serious and life-threatening. We can all play a positive role in preventing such a dangerous and frightening situation at our school. The specific student and his family are taking responsibility to avoid exposure to peanuts. However, staff members, other students and their families can also help to make the school environment safer.

Teach your children to understand this very serious situation and encourage empathy for this child. Please support an inclusive school and classroom environment by providing non-edibles items (e.g. stickers, pencils), instead of edibles items (e.g. cupcakes) for lunch, snacks and special events (e.g. birthday celebrations, Valentines Day, etc.)

We appreciate your cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school. For more information, please check our Board website for our Board’s Anaphylaxis Policy (www.hwcdsb.ca), or go to the Hamilton Public Health website (www.hamilton.ca/nutrition).

Our school allergy team consists of Mrs. Catania, Miss Hastings, Mrs. Fresco, Mrs. Aquino and Mrs. Battiliana. We review allergy protocol and update newsletters throughout the year regarding allergies.

We thank you again for your assistance and cooperation in this matter.

SCHOOL COMMUNITY ADVENT MASS

Our School Community Advent Mass will take place on Tuesday, December 15, 2015, 7:00 p.m. at St. Augustine Parish. Our FDK students will be performing right after the mass, led by their classroom teachers and ECE teachers along with Mr. Furlong, their new AIT teacher, who teaches FDK students Music, Drama and Art. We will also be having performances by our students who are part of Ukulele at our school, and this will be led by Ukulele kids.

Mrs. Gattulli and Mrs. Fortino will also be leading a beautiful Christmas Choir with students from our school leading us in song during the mass. The mass will be led by Father Love. Our Catholic School Council and Catholic Student Council will be at the Mass as readers, petitioners and gift bearers. We hope to see many of our families out for this blessed community building event!

CHRISTMAS EVENTS AT ST. BERNADETTE

In lieu of our Christmas concert, we will be having quite a few exciting events at our school where parents and families are welcome in the day to enhance building relationships with our school community!

Monday, December 7, 2015 is Crock-a-doodle day at St. Bernadette School!
Gr.1-3 classes will be doing Crock-a-doodle crafts on this day. More information will be sent home soon.

Wednesday, December 9, 2015 is Joy Day and pictures with Santa at St. Bernadette School!
We will have fun, festive crafts in our classes on this day! Pictures with Santa will be taking place in the morning, and parents and families are welcome to attend and take a family portrait with Santa for only $2.00.

**Friday, December 11, 2015-** Our school will have an Advent mass in our gym at 9:30 a.m., where we will be lighting our Advent wreath and coming together as a school to celebrate to coming of Jesus. All parents and families are welcome to attend.

**Wednesday, December 16, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.:** There will be a Christmas play entitled, “Yes Virginia, there is a Santa Claus”, at St. Mary Secondary for Gr.1-5 students on Students in Grades 1-5 will be bussed to St. Mary Secondary for this special Christmas show.

**SWIM TO SURVIVE FOR GRADE THREE STUDENTS IS JANUARY 27, 2016- FEBRUARY 10, 2016.**

**CELL PHONES**

Realistically, students do not need cell phones at school. However, if you, as a parent, wish to send your child to school with a cell phone, we ask that it be kept out of sight and turned off at school. We also suggest that your child keep it in a very secure place. We will not be responsible for any lost or damaged items, nor will we tolerate texting or a phone being used at school without St. Bernadette staff consent first. If a cell phone and/or other electronic equipment are used without permission during instructional time or at all during recreational breaks, parents will be contacted. Should you wish further information, please check the Board’s cell phone policy available at [www.hwcdsb.ca](http://www.hwcdsb.ca).

**CYO NEWS**

**Many thanks to our coaches and students for a** year of exciting sports action at St. Bernadette! Great spirit and teamwork shown by all teams!

**Senior Flag Football** coached by: Mr. Smith  
**Senior Girls Basketball** coached by: Mr. Millar and Mr. Consoli (parents) with Mrs. Maione as Teacher Rep  
**Junior Girls Basketball** coached by: Mr. Millar and Mr. Consoli (parents) with Mr. Toriello as Teacher Rep

Thanks also to Mr. Toriello, who has also organized intramural soccer at recesses for our junior division!

**SPORTS EQUIPMENT AT SCHOOL**

In the interest of fun, fitness and overall healthy living, we have purchased outdoor equipment for each classroom, including Nerf type balls, skipping ropes, etc. Each class will be receiving their own personal collection shortly to enjoy on the playground. We thank our School Council for purchasing these for each class. Please note that students are still permitted to bring in their own sporting equipment with the understanding that all balls MUST be of a Nerf type material, and basketball balls which are allowed at the basketball nets ONLY. If your child is using inappropriate equipment, it will be taken from him/her in the interest of safety for all. **Please note:** The school will not be held responsible or liable in any facet for any lost, taken items or unsafe equipment brought to school.

**STUDENT COUNCIL**

It’s that time of year once again. Santa will be at St. Bernadette on Dec. 9 in the morning from 9:30 a.m. – 11:55 a.m. You can have your picture taken for $2.00. We offer group pictures with family and or friends for $2.00 a person in the group, each person will receive a picture. Let the Merry in Christmas begin!
Thank you for your support!

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

Poinsettia sales will be happening during the month of November. Please see our school website for ordering information. The final orders will be delivered to the school for pick up on Tuesday, December 1, 2015.

*The next 25th Anniversary Meeting will take place at 6:00 p.m. in our school library on Wednesday, December 2, 2015. Catholic School Committee meeting will take place on Wednesday, December 2, 2015 at 6:30p.m. in our school library. All are invited to attend!*

ST. AUGUSTINE’S PARISH NEWS

St. Augustine’s Catholic Women’s League Parish Bazaar will be at St. Augustine Parish Centre on Saturday, November 14, 2015, from 10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

On Sunday, November 15, 2015, the bazaar continues from 9:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m.

There will be baked goods, crafts, games, jewelry, great food and more! All parents and families are welcome to attend.

SCHOOL MASSES, LITURGIES AND CELEBRATIONS

*All parents and families are invited to attend our monthly masses/liturgies:*

- **Wednesday, November 11, 2015 at 10:45 a.m.** - Remembrance Day Liturgy in our school gym
- **Friday, December 11, 2015** - Advent Mass in the school gym at 9:30 a.m.
- **Tuesday, December 15, 2015** - School Community Advent Mass, Christmas choir, FDK and Ukulele performance at 7:00 p.m.
- **Friday, January 15, 2016** - New Year Mass in the school gym at 9:30 a.m.
- **Wednesday, February 10, 2016** - Ash Wednesday Ceremony in the school gym at 10:40 a.m.
- **Tuesday, March 22, 2016** - Lenten Mass- Gr.8’s leading Stations of the Cross at 10:00 a.m. in the church
- **Tuesday, April 12, 2016** - 25th Anniversary Mass at the church
- **Friday, May 20, 2016** - May Crowning Mass in the church at 10:00 a.m.
- **Tuesday, June 21, 2016** - Grade 8 Graduation Mass at the school gym

INCLEMENT WEATHER - SCHOOL CLOSURE

When schools are closed or buses cancelled due to extreme weather conditions, details will be announced on the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board website (**www.hwcdsb.ca**) and Hamilton-Wentworth Student Transportation Services website (**www.hamiltonschoolbus.ca/public_v2/index.aspx**) as well as the following Hamilton and area media outlets:

- 900 CHML / VINYL 95.3 / Y108 FM
- CKOC 1150 / K-Lite 102.9 FM / CHAM 820
- CHCH TV Morning Live (Channel 11)
- CBC Hamilton [www.cbc.ca/hamilton](http://www.cbc.ca/hamilton)
- The Hamilton Spectator [www.thespec.com](http://www.thespec.com)
- Twitter [https://twitter.com/HWCDSB](https://twitter.com/HWCDSB)
Schools closures and bus cancellations will be posted on the HWCDSB and HWSTS websites and communicated to the local media by 7:00 a.m., whenever possible. If schools close early, the information will be posted on the HWCDSB and HWSTS websites and sent to the media for dissemination. In addition, each school will initiate its own procedures for notifying parents of early closures due to inclement weather.

We ask parents/guardians to take notice of the following guidelines:

- In the event of impending severe weather conditions, parents should consider the safety of their children in deciding whether or not to send them to school;
- Parents should stay tuned to Hamilton and area radio stations for weather reports and school board announcements;
- Parents who, in spite of bus cancellation, drive their children to school, should ensure that their children can get into the school and will be required to make the necessary arrangements for the safe return home of their children at the end of the day or in the event of an early closure. Buses which do not run in the morning will not run for the rest of the day;
- Phone calls to the school during severe weather conditions are to be made only in the case of extreme emergency;
- Parents shall be requested to provide the school with the name and telephone number of a neighbour alternate, (someone who lives in close proximity to the home) who would be willing to act on their behalf in the event that they cannot be reached.

PARENTING TIP OF THE MONTH

Tip #87 – The word family by its very definition is a collective term, one that unites those associated with a particular family on many levels, during many different shared moments and occasions. Investing time with your family is hands down the best investment you will ever make. You will reap the benefit of children who have stronger bonds with their families, have better academic success, are more mentally and emotionally stable and who will ultimately learn the skills needed to be better parents themselves. Pope Francis recently encouraged parents to “waste time with their children,” specifically, I believe, because time with your children is anything but wasted!

(From: Teresa Hartnett, Family Ministry Office, 905-528-7988 ext. 2250)

MARRIAGE TIP OF THE MONTH

Tips #67 – Life is not perfect and neither are we, which means that in every relationship there will be moments when things go wrong. When these times occur we can discuss what is wrong and find a solution to the situation, or we can tap into the “blame game” by attributing the problem to our spouse’s behaviour, a character weakness within them, or one of their so called “flaws.” This type of behaviour never resolves problems or issues, but leads to defensiveness and anger in both spouses. When you make solving the issue or problem your common goal, you will look together at what needs to be done to make the situation better. When that happens you can unite in a solution, instead of isolating yourselves from the one you love.

(From: Teresa Hartnett, Family Ministry Office, 905-528-7988 ext. 2250)
ST. BERNADETTE MOVE-A-THON PHOTO GALLERY

Thanks so much to everyone for an amazing Move-a-thon day for our students here at St. Bernadette School!