



September 7, 2011

Dear Parents/Guardians;

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to you the parents/guardians and to our students of Holy Name of Mary Catholic Secondary School. I hope all of you have had a wonderful summer. Several student centered school projects have made this summer a truly busy one for Holy Name. I am pleased to inform you that we have added ten new computers and four SMART Boards to our existing compliment. This will enable students and teachers to have more access to the technology that will improve student success. I am delighted to tell you that our school is poised for another remarkable year.

From August 25th to August 31st, eighty four of our new Grade 9 students reviewed their literacy, numeracy, and organizational skills, in preparation for their transition to Grade 9. A well deserved thank you goes out to Ms. Conti, Ms. Hrvatin, Mr. Senra, and Mr. O'Donnell who spent 5 days during the month of August running the Get Ready Program. The program was a great success in helping our new students transition and settle in.

On Thursday September 1st, our senior students and staff hosted a welcome session and BBQ for all of the new incoming Grade 9s. The event was a great success, as our Grade 9 students and their parents enthusiastically participated in this orientation session.

The staff of Holy Name of Mary is ready and eager to begin this new school year, and as always, we are looking forward to working closely with you, the parents and guardians of our students. For it is only in the spirit of collaboration and cooperation that we can ensure that our students receive an excellent Catholic education.

I have enclosed a magnetic calendar of this year's important events. This calendar will keep you informed and connected to your daughter's school.

I believe that this year will be an extremely successful one as, we feel very ready to receive our students. I, along with the staff here at Holy Name, would like to extend an invitation to all students and their families to help us to work together in a collegial and collaborative manner to ensure that our high standards of educational excellence continue to live on in our students. To this end, I would like to invite you to:

- **Our first School Council Meeting on Thursday September 22nd at 7pm** in the cafeteria.
- **Our School Council Election on the same night. Nomination packages for elected positions on the Catholic School Council are available in the front office.**

Some important events for September:

- Profession Development Day for all teachers is September 16th
- Student Photo Day is September 21st
- Pumped in Pink, school fundraising for Breast Cancer will be on September 30th (more information to follow)

Our school motto is to: **“Act Justly, Love Tenderly, Walk Humbly With Our God”**

For it is with the help of God and with the intercession of Mary that our school will continue in its tradition of excellence.

God Bless,
Silvana Gos, Principal