



# Holy Cross Catholic Elementary School

3615 Morningstar Drive Mississauga,  
Ontario L4T 1Y4 905-677-5660



October 2011 Edition

## Acting Principal

P. Sestito

## Vice Principal

W. Brunton

## Head Secretary

I. Maletta

## Assistant Secretary

S. DeCarli

## School Council Chair

C. Koziolk

## Superintendent

P. McMorrow

905-890-1221

## Trustee

Mr. T. Thomas

(905) 803-9317

## Parish

Our Lady of the  
Airways

905-677-4615

## Parish Team

Father Lorenzo-Pastor

Father Victor

Associate Pastor

Rose Luisi - Secretary

## OCTOBER ~ Empathy

This month we will focus on the virtue of **empathy**.

God has given us the ability to form connections with each other - to live together. Empathy helps us to connect and live together in safe, caring, inclusive communities.

We understand empathy to mean the ability to identify with and feel other people's concerns. We believe that in a faith community we are nothing without relationships. Relationships that grow in a spirit of communion- an understanding that we share an identity based on being created in the image and likeness of God and being imbued with one Spirit. We are many parts of one body.

An *empathetic* person believes that we all share one Spirit; that we are many parts of one body because we are all created in the image and likeness of God.

### An *empathetic* person...

- Listens attentively
- Notices and responds when someone is upset
- Can name her/his feelings
- Can see a situation from another's point of view
- Knows that different people may feel differently about the same thing



### OPENING PRAYER

Gracious and merciful God of all creation,  
You made us to live together in communities.  
We are nothing without relationships.  
You have given us the virtue of empathy to ensure that we are able to identify with and feel other people's concerns.

We come to you now asking for the grace and strength to follow your plan and to form a safe, caring, inclusive community here at Holy Cross.  
May your gift of empathy lead us to know and feel your presence among us.

We ask this in name of Jesus, your Son, who lived to show us your way.  
Amen.

## Thanksgiving Prayer

Father all powerful, Your gifts of love our countless and your goodness infinite.

For Thanksgiving, we come before You with gratitude for Your kindness.

Open our hearts to concern for our children, men and women, so that we may share your gifts in loving service.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus, Your SON, Who lives and reigns in the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen!



## **ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Research has shown that children perform better in school if their parents are involved in their education. We as a staff at Holy Cross School welcome and encourage parental involvement. Become familiar with the curriculum. Contact the teacher with questions or concerns. Work in partnership to support your child's learning.

Students and parents can expect to be informed of due dates for assignments and summative tasks via the agenda. Teachers will ensure that all students have an opportunity to record daily homework in the agenda. Parents should check the agenda daily and monitor homework completion. Parents are encouraged to be proactive in communicating concerns about homework or assignments to their child's teacher. If extenuating circumstances prohibit homework completion, it is the parents responsibility to inform the teacher. If an extension of a due date is required, parents are responsible for requesting the extension in writing, explaining the reason, well in advance of the due date.

School boards across the province have received a new ministry document titled "Growing Success" that clearly places expectation and responsibility on students for their work at school. Students are responsible for ensuring that they are adequately prepared for tests and that they complete all tasks to the best of their ability. Students are encouraged to seek assistance as required.

Regular attendance is critical for success. Although we encourage you to keep your child home when he/she is ill to avoid the spread of illness, we do also encourage you to avoid making appointments and planning vacations during regular school hours. Much of the learning that takes place in the classroom is through discussion, interaction with teacher and peers and through in class tasks. These experiences cannot be duplicated. If you choose to take your child out of school for a holiday, the classroom teacher will provide you with the topics being covered, but cannot be responsible for the daily lesson planning.

Late arrivals also play a critical role in your child's learning. Late arrivals will not include a late bus or a train track delay. Parents are welcome to sign in their children after unavoidable appointments and this late arrival will be accepted. Keep in mind that recording and tracking late arrivals demands Mrs. Maletta's time, and prohibits her from beginning the critically important task of ensuring safe arrival of all students, by checking attendance folders and placing calls to homes where students have not been reported as absent. Late arrivals distract classmates and interrupt the classroom activities that have already begun.

Our learning time is valuable and we are counting on your support to ensure that we maximize our opportunities for instruction.

We appreciate your support and cooperation in ensuring that your child attends school regularly and punctually.

## **TRANSPORTATION UPDATE**

As we enter the month of October, we are preparing to process all courtesy application forms that have been submitted to the office. Please do not place your child on a bus if you have not received a letter confirming your child's place on a bus. Mr. Brunton will send letters home to all families who have qualified for a courtesy seat on the bus during the first week of October. We thank you for your patience with this matter.

## **PROGRESS REPORTS**

Progress reports will be coming home October 25, 2011.

### **Purpose of the Progress Report Card**

The progress report provides initial information, early in the school year, about a student's progress. It is *designed to show a student's development of the learning skills and work habits, as well as a student's general progress in working towards the achievement of the curriculum expectations*. For these reasons, the October Progress Report does not include marks.

The evening of October 27th, 2011 will be designated for Parent Teacher Interviews.

## **HALLOWEEN DANCE**



On Monday October 31, 2011 Holy Cross will host its annual Halloween Dance in the gym. Student Council will sell healthy snacks and water during the dance to raise money for Share Life. A separate letter will be coming home with the dance schedule.

## **HALLOWEEN/ALL SAINTS DAY/ALL SOULS DAY**

It is that time of year when our "little ones" will want to visit their neighbours for trick or treating. In school, we will remind them about the safety rules so that they can both enjoy the evening and stay safe.

## ***Halloween Safety...***



- Choose brightly coloured costumes
- Use face paint instead of masks
- Plan a safe route with your child
- Remind your child of road safety rules
- Accompany your children
- Remind children not to enter homes
- Check the treats before allowing your children to eat them

## **HOLY CROSS WEBSITE**



Every few days, Mr. Florio updates the website with letters, handouts, forms, web links, handbooks and other pertinent information.

Looking for a document, check out our website: [www.dpcdsb.org/hcross](http://www.dpcdsb.org/hcross)

## **HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION**

It is important that our children continue to be exposed to our Catholic Community through experiences at the parish.



The Sunday celebration of the Lord's Day and the Eucharist is at the heart of the Church's life. 'Sunday is the day on which the Paschal Mystery is celebrated in light of the apostolic tradition and is to be observed as the foremost holy day of obligation in the universal Church.' [CIC, can. 1246 # 1]

Throughout the school year, students experience the mystery of Jesus Christ through celebrations, liturgies and mass. **We encourage all of our families to maintain these traditions and obligations throughout the year by attending Mass as a family every Sunday.**

## **GRADE 7/8 ONLINE MATH HELP**

Have a child in Grade 7 who doesn't quite understand how to add fractions? Or maybe your teenager is struggling with a geometry assignment? Extra help is now available.

Check out [Homework Help](http://Homework Help), where certified Ontario teachers are online 20 hours a week to provide free math tutoring for the Grade 7 and 8 math students at Holy Cross.

Students can log in Sunday to Thursday, 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., for one-on-one confidential help. There are interactive discussion rooms for each grade where they can view the current lesson, watch tutors draw on the whiteboard — and then type their own question for on-the-spot help.

To access <http://HomeworkHelp.ilc.org>, your child will receive a Board access code, as well as help setting up an account from their teacher at school.

Other math resources on the website include videos of teachers leading students through the top 20 most commonly asked math problems, interactive math tutorials and highlights of best sessions. And all students have a virtual locker, where their work is saved in video format for viewing anytime.

## **PIZZA DAYS**

Every Friday students will have the opportunity to enjoy pizza for lunch. Parents will have the opportunity to preorder a month at a time. This will save time and improve efficiency in the ordering process. Proceeds will go directly back towards initiatives that support Holy Cross School. Order forms will go home on a monthly basis.



## **STUDENT BIRTHDAYS**

When a student has a birthday, we give them an important gift – a “What Would Jesus Do” bracelet. Students are engaged in a discussion about making good decisions and are presented with the bracelet, as a gift from the school.



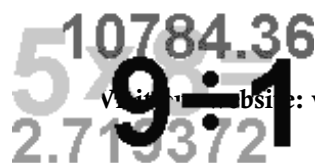
***Just a reminder that students are no longer able to bring in food products to celebrate a birthday in keeping with Sabrina's Law. If food is to be brought into the school for mass consumption, a permission letter must go home first from the classroom teacher listing all the ingredients. Please see your child's teacher for specifics***

## **Driveway Safety...**

Of paramount importance at Holy Cross Catholic School is your child's safety. It is important that all traffic follow a few simple rules, which will alleviate any difficulties in the school driveway.



- No vehicle should be left parked in the Kiss 'N' Ride lane
- No vehicle should be parked in the Kindergarten Drop off Area in front of the school
- No double parking in the driveway is acceptable



- If you wish to park and walk your child to school, please make use of the school parking lot or the two parking lots located next to our driveways
- Under NO circumstances should vehicles be backing up or going the wrong way
- **NO parking in the BUS ROUTE**

Please be advised that cars park in the Kiss ‘N’ Ride lanes are liable for ticketing by the parking authority of Mississauga. Please understand that Holy Cross Catholic School will not be responsible for fines issued to drivers for any infractions of the above directives. Cars have recently been ticketed for parking in these areas.

**EQAO TESTING**

Results from last year’s EQAO testing have arrived. Congratulations to our grade 3 students who demonstrated increases for both reading and writing. Additionally, our Grade 6 students demonstrated increases for both reading and writing as well. We continue to address academic gaps and strive towards improving student achievement this year. School staff are in the process of putting together our school plan to address achievement gaps. Further information regarding the school plan will be shared in November. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Sestito

	<b>Reading Levels 3,4</b>	<b>Writing Levels 3,4</b>	<b>Math Levels 3,4</b>
<b><i>Grade 3</i></b>			
<b>Holy Cross</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>58%</b>
Board	68%	76%	69%
<b><i>Grade 6</i></b>			
<b>Holy Cross</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>37%</b>
Board	77%	78%	62%

**SPORTS CORNER**

Holy Cross has a number of sports activities scheduled for the months of September and October. The Intermediate Co-ed Softball team has been busy practicing in anticipation of their tournament October 13, 2011.



The intermediate Boys and Girls volleyball teams have spent many lunch breaks practicing for their tournament which is scheduled to take place on October 21, 2011.



We wish all our student athletes great success at their respective tournaments.

**T-SHIRTS**

Holy Cross School Council is once again selling T-shirts with our Holy Cross Catholic School Logo. This is a wonderful opportunity to show school spirit while supporting the efforts of our School Council. T-shirts are available in the office in order to check sizing. Extra order forms are also available in the office. T-shirts are available in black and red.

**LUNCH POLICY**

Thank you for completing the Lunch Permission Form and returning it to your child’s teacher. This will ensure that the school is aware of where you prefer your child(ren) to be over the lunch hour. The classroom teachers will keep a copy of the forms and a master file system will be housed in the main office. Any changes to the agreement throughout the year must be submitted in writing to the teacher and/or office.

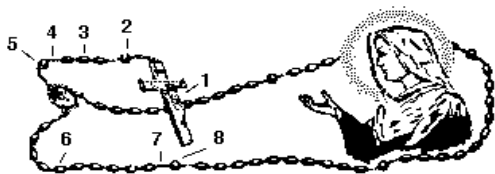


A table has been placed outside the office for lunches. Lunches should only be dropped off on rare occasions. If you are dropping off a lunch for your child please clearly label your child’s name and teacher’s name on the outside of the lunch bag/container and place it on the lunch table. **SIGN THE CLIP BOARD** and your child will be called down to get their lunch. Classes are not to be interrupted for students to pick up lunches.

**HOLY CROSS ROSARY CLUB**

The Holy Cross Rosary Club convenes every Wednesday after school. Many students, parents and staff join in the Holy Cross Chapel to help keep in memory certain principal events or mysteries in the history of our salvation, and to thank and praise God for them. There are twenty mysteries reflected upon in the Rosary, and these are divided into the five **JOYFUL MYSTERIES**, the five **LUMINOUS MYSTERIES**, the five **SORROWFUL MYSTERIES**, and the five **GLORIOUS MYSTERIES**. All parents and students are welcome.

**THE ROSARY**



1. Make the **Sign of the Cross** & say the "Apostles' Creed"
2. Say the "Our Father."
3. Say three "Hail Mary."
4. Say the "Glory be to the Father."
5. Announce the First Mystery; then say the "Our Father."
6. Say ten "Hail Mary." while meditating on the Mystery.
7. Say the "Glory be to the Father."
8. Announce the Second Mystery; say the "Our Father."  
Repeat 6 & 7, continue with 3rd, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5th Mysteries.

Please contact Mr. Hancock at the school for more information.

### ANAPHYLAXIS PLAN

We have a number of staff and students in our school who have severe allergic reactions to peanuts, peanut butter, peanut oils and any peanut by-products. As in the past, we are asking you do not put any one at risk. Do not send any **PEANUTS, PEANUT BUTTER, PEANUT OILS AND ANY PEANUT BY-PRODUCTS INTO THE SCHOOL.** This includes products like Nutella as well.

### PARENTING AND FAMILY LITERACY CENTRE AT HOLY CROSS



\*Come and Join in the Fun\*

A free program for parents/caregivers and children aged 0-6 years old. The Parenting and Family Literacy Centre provides a special time for you and your child to play and learn in a community school setting. A wonderful way to prepare your child for school. Connect with other parents/caregivers and learn about other programs and resources available in your community. Everyone is welcome. Program operates every Monday to Friday from 9:15 AM -12:30 PM

### TEXTBOOKS

School textbooks are school property and are loaned to the students annually. The expectation is that textbooks will be returned at the end of the school year.



Students are responsible for these textbooks and will be asked to pay if these books go missing or have been vandalized. The cost of an average textbook is about \$50.00 each. Please encourage your child to take care of textbooks!

### CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES ACT

The Child and Family Services Act compel educators to report any issues that may compromise a child's welfare. If a staff member suspects any issue that may affect a child's safety, then the Children's Aid Society (CAS) must be contacted. It is not the role of the educator to investigate. That is CAS's role.

### STUDENT AGENDAS



Student agendas have been distributed for students in Grades 1-8. The agenda is a very useful tool to help organize and track assignments, homework reminders and special events.

The student agenda is also an excellent tool to support parent/teacher communication. Please read your child's agenda on a regular basis. It is a valuable tool in communication between home and school.

### ATTENDANCE

Please call to register an absence – **905-677-5660**. You can call **24hrs**. An answering machine is available to take information. Please provide your **child's name, grade** and **teacher's name**. If an absence is not reported, our policy is to call home to verify student absenteeism. A parent or guardian must sign out students who leave early.

A reminder to parents and students that an expectation set out from the beginning of the year clearly indicated that all students must arrive to school on time.

Being consistently and continuously late interrupts the classroom during lessons, creates delays in the office and sets a poor example for those who do arrive on time. Please note that issues with lates and absenteeism will be dealt with strictly, and may involve the school's Administration, Child Youth Worker and Social Worker. Please help us teach your children the value of promptness.

### ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION



A reminder that children are not allowed to keep **ANY** medication on themselves, in their desk, backpack or any where in their classroom, unless ordered by their doctor. This includes asthmas puffers, over-the-counter drugs, Epi-pens, etc. In such case, documentation is necessary.

All dispensing and storage of ANY medication must occur from the Office.

### **INDOOR FOOTWEAR REQUESTED**

Please ensure that students keep a pair of appropriate footwear at school so that their feet remain dry and clean at all times. Also, in case the need to evacuate the school arises, students do not have time to put on boots so, indoor footwear is necessary.



### **VISITORS/VOLUNTEERS**

We wish to thank everyone who faithfully reports to the Office and signs in when visiting or volunteering at the school. A reminder to all who enter the school that you are required to sign in at the Office and obtain a Visitor or Volunteer badge which you are required to wear when you are in the school or in the school yard.



### **EMERGENCY EVACUATION**

We have a detailed emergency and fire evacuation plan. In the event that we do have to evacuate, our first destination will be Our Lady of the Airways Church. If we need to move further from the school, the Malton Community Centre and/or Lincoln Alexander High School and would be alternate locations.



### **EXCURSIONS AND FIELD TRIPS**

Educational trips that extend learning opportunities are encouraged. Teachers must follow appropriate Board procedures and by law, the school must have on file permission forms which must be signed by parents. **VERBAL PERMISSION cannot be accepted.**

### **PICTURE DAY(S)**

Holy Cross School has secured the services of Event-Master Photography to take our students' pictures. Our picture days are the following:

#### **Monday October 17, 2011**

Mrs. Eusebio, Mrs. Pasqualoni, Mr. Di Censo, Ms. Bellissimo, Mrs. Inglese, Ms. Fava, Mrs. Pilon, Mr. Collet, Mr. Sartell and Mrs. D'Urzo

#### **Tuesday October 18, 2011**

Mrs. Fejtek, Mrs. Barbazza, Ms. Fabiano, Mrs. D'Souza, Mrs. Benjamin, Ms. Santin, Mrs. McEachern, Mrs. Morrison, Mrs. Kreuzwiesner, Mrs. Lahey, Mrs. Murray and Mrs. Falcone



### **TERRY FOX RUN/WALK**

This Fall marked the 31st anniversary of Terry Fox's courageous run across Canada. The Terry Fox walk was held on Wednesday, September 28, 2011.

Thank you to all of the students and our community for their continued support for the Terry Fox initiative. Thank you to Mr. Collet, and Ms. Eusebio for organizing this event.

### **PEEL REGIONAL POLICE "STREET PROOFING" TECHNIQUES**

Please take this opportunity to review "street proofing techniques" with your children, as well as reminding them of the importance of being extra vigilant, particularly when traveling to and from school.

1. Tell your children to never go anywhere with a stranger, not to talk to strangers and to never take anything from them. You have to teach them what a 'safe stranger' is in case they need help. A safe stranger includes a police officer, a fire fighter, a cashier, etc.;
2. Develop a 'what if' game for your children, to get them thinking of how they would respond if they felt threatened or afraid;
3. Know whom your children play with and where they go. This includes keeping a list of their friends' addresses and phone numbers;
4. Encourage your child to use a buddy system instead of walking alone;
5. Know the route that your children take to and from school, and tell them to go directly home or to their babysitter after school;
6. If possible, go with your child to the bus stop and meet them when they return from school.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

Tues. October 4, 2011	Earth Rangers
Wed. October 5, 2011	Council Meeting
Wed. October 5, 2011	Living Our Faith Awards
Mon. October 10, 2011	Thanksgiving
Mon. October 17, 2011	Picture Day
Wed. October 18, 2011	Picture Day
Tues. October 25, 2011	Progress reports go home
Thurs. October 27, 2011	Parent Teacher Interview Evening
Mon. October 31, 2011	Halloween Dance

**NEWSLETTER DRAW**

*Answer the question below you can help your child win a free pizza lunch, courtesy of Mr. Sestito and Mr. Brunton.*

***What are the dates of our Picture Days?***

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

*Cut out this ticket and bring it to Mr. Sestito. The ticket will then be entered into a draw. If your child wins, they will be notified.*

**Child's full name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Teacher and grade:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_