



# Holy Cross Catholic Elementary School

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December 2011 Edition

**Principal**  
P. Sestito

**Vice Principal**  
W. Brunton

**Head Secretary**  
I. Maletta

**Assistant Secretary**  
C. Senatore

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905-890-1221

**Trustee**  
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**Parish**  
Our Lady of the  
Airways  
905-677-4615

**Parish Team**  
Father Lorenzo-Pastor  
Rose Luisi - Secretary

## DECEMBER ~ HOPE (Advent)

This month, we celebrate the virtue of **hope**.

We believe that God comes to us as a real human who can show us the way of life.

We understand that both the world and its people are from God and so are essentially good. Furthermore, God has given us this Advent season year after year in order to focus our minds and our hearts on the good all around us.

Year after year, we are reminded that God chose to send his Son to us because we are worth it. God knows how great we can be when we all come together.

When we look at the world through the eyes of God we see it becoming more and more like the reign of God that Jesus describes.

### People of Hope...

- **Keep up a positive attitude**
- **Can bounce back from tough situations**
- **Set and stick to their goals**
- **See the good in others even when they make mistakes**
- **Work to include others**
- **Let others know that *they* are good people**

### PRAYER

Gracious and merciful God of all creation,  
 During this season of hope, we remember how you sent your Son to be a beacon of goodness and light in the world.  
 Give us eyes of hope to see the good in everything and everyone around us.  
 Give us the grace and strength to be beacons of hope and light for all who enter this school.  
 Let all who visit share our hope that this school will remain a safe, caring, inclusive community.  
 May your virtue of hope guide our decisions for the service of all your people.  
 We ask this in name of Jesus, your Son, who lived to show us your way.  
 Amen.

## ADVENT – A TIME OF HOPE

God of Hope You sent us Jesus, the Light of the World  
 As we light our Advent candles one by one, one week at a time, may we rekindle within ourselves the desire to make peace with Him.

May the flame of his presence grow brighter and brighter in our hearts,  
 In our school, and in our world.

May the God of Hope fill us with joy and peace this Christmas by the power of the Holy Spirit.

On behalf of the staff at Holy Cross School, I extend our best wishes during this Christmas season to all our families. We hope that you will be blessed with spirit and gifts of peace, love and goodwill towards all. May the promise of Christmas help to show God's boundless love for you and your family, and may you be blessed with good health, prosperity and happiness throughout the New Year as we strive to work with you and for you in providing excellence in Catholic education in our community.

God Bless

### ADVENT WREATH

Formed from sprigs of green foliage in a circular shape (sign of eternity and everlasting life), which surround four candles (one pink and three purple coloured) the wreath sits on a table, or near the altar, or hangs from the ceiling.  
 Lighting a distinct purple candle on each of the three Sundays of Advent (on the third Sunday the pink candle is lighted as a sign of joy for the near birth of Jesus) symbolizes the coming of Christ, the Light of the World. Family prayers are recited and hymns sung each day or each week. Parents, try this year to have a wreath on your dining table, or in the most familiar spot of the house and gather around it with your children.

## **FAREWELL**

Holy Cross says farewell to Sandy DeCarli, our assistant secretary, who accepted a job at St. Julia School. Thank you for your dedication and good luck and continued success at your new school. Holy Cross will welcome our new assistant secretary Mrs. C. Senatore who has joined the Holy Cross staff.

## **SCHOOL ADVENT MASS**

Additionally, Holy Cross will have a school Advent Mass for students and staff at 9:00 AM at Our Lady of the Airways church on **Monday December 19<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 AM.** All parents are welcome to attend.

## **CHRISTMAS PRESENTATIONS**

Holy Cross would like to invite all families to our Christmas presentations the week leading up to Christmas. On Thursday December 22<sup>nd</sup>, there will be two performances. The 9:00 AM performance will be for grade k-4 classes while the 12:45 PM performance will be for grade 5-8 classes.

Additionally, there will be a French Christmas presentation on Friday December 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 9:00 AM for all grade 4-8 classes.

Hope you can attend.

## **SHARELIFE**

Thank you to all students who helped raised money for our Sharelife pancake day. As a school, we raised \$410.24 towards Sharelife. Thank you to our breakfast volunteers who were giving of their time to make pancakes for all students.

## **KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION**

### **Junior, Senior and Full-Day Kindergarten Registration for 2012-13**

Registration Full-Day Kindergarten for the 2012-13 school year will take place at Holy Cross on the following days:

#### **Monday, February 6, 2012\***

7:00-9:00 p.m.

\*Snow Date: Tuesday, February 7, 2012 - 7:00-9:00 p.m.

#### **Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, February 8, 9 & 10, 2012**

**9:00-11:00 a.m.**

**1:00-3:00 p.m.**

## **Kindergarten Entry Planning for September 2012**

### **Information Night for Parent(s)/Guardian(s) of Students with Special Needs in the areas of Vision, Hearing, Autism, Physical/Medical and/or Developmental Delays in the cognitive and/or motor areas.**

On **Tuesday, January 17, 2012**, Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board will present an Information Night for Parent(s)/Guardian(s) of students with Special Needs in the areas of Vision, Hearing, Autism, Physical/Medical and/or Developmental Delays in the cognitive and/or motor areas. The session will run from **7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** and will be held in **Room 301** at the **Catholic Education Centre at 40 Matheson Boulevard West, Mississauga.**

Information will be provided regarding School Entry Planning for students entering JK, SK and Full Day Kindergarten. At the session parent(s)/guardian(s) will be reminded to ensure they register at their local school.

## **FRENCH IMMERSION INFORMATION**

### **MEETING**

Senior Kindergarten parents/guardians, who wish to enroll their child in a Grade 1 French Immersion class for September, 2012 are invited to attend an information meeting at:

<b>French Immersion centres</b>	<b>Session location</b>	<b>Date and time</b>
<b>Our Lady of Providence St Angela Merici St Joachim</b>	St Joachim	Tuesday January 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2012 7:00 p.m.
<b>Divine Mercy St Elizabeth Seton St Margaret of Scotland</b>	St Margaret of Scotland	Wednesday January 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2012 7:00 p.m.
<b>St Gertrude St Pio of Pietrelcina</b>	St Gertrude	Thursday January 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2012 7:00 p.m.

The deadline for submission of Applications will be **2:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012.**

## **LIVING OUR FAITH AWARDS**

On **Wednesday December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011**, Holy Cross staff and students will celebrate our **Living Our Faith Awards** for grades K-8 students. Similar to Student of the Month awards, the Living Our Faith Awards recognize three students from every class with a certificate for: 1) Christian living 2) Academics and 3) Most Improvement. Additionally, an ECO Award will be presented for one class in each division. Each assembly begins with a brief liturgy dedicated to the virtue of the month.

It is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our faith together by highlighting the wonderful things your children do as a result of hard work and perseverance. Parents will be notified by the classroom teacher via a written note if their child will receive an award.

**Please note the slight change to the assemblies.**  
**Grades K -2 @ 9:00 AM; Grades 3-5 @ 9:30 AM; Grade 6-8 at 10:00 AM**

## **Holy Cross “Leading in the Light of Christ” with Rosary Club**

Students from Junior Kindergarten through 8 at Holy Cross School are “Leading in the Light of Christ” with the Rosary Club who meets once a week to pray the rosary as a school community. Over 35 students have joined together to pray the rosary at Holy Cross every Wednesday night after school. Many parents have also joined the Rosary Club and pray the rosary with the students. The parent community at Holy Cross plays a vital role in collaboration with the teachers and staff to help with the evangelization of our students through the gospel teachings and ensuring the students are learning the traditions and teachings of the Catholic Church.

Since the start of the Rosary Club this year in September, the students have prepared themselves and their classes with the new revised mass texts that went into effect on Sunday November 27<sup>th</sup>. Another goal of the Rosary Club was to ensure that all students at Holy Cross have practiced the new responses of the mass in order to prepare for upcoming masses during the school year. Last year the Rosary Club made over 500 rosaries’ s that were sent to various missions throughout India. The Rosary Club would like to continue their commitment and send more rosaries’ this year to various missions around the world. All parents are welcomed to attend.

## **ECO SCHOOLS**

Holy Cross is now an Eco School. Keeping the natural environment healthy for future generations depends on everyone's participation. As a school, we have a vital role to play in helping students understand what they can do about keeping the environment healthy. Pope John Paul II wrote, “The ecological crisis has assumed such proportions as to be **THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EVERYONE,**” and Catholic Social Teaching reminds us that we are to be good stewards of God’s creation.

Ontario EcoSchools Program is an environmental education program for elementary and high schools that helps students develop environmental practices to become environmentally responsible adults. Holy Cross has signed up to take the challenge to become a certified Ontario EcoSchool. To do this, we must work together as a school to earn the points needed to become certified.

This program includes many components, including waste minimization, energy conservation in the school, environmental workshops, school ground greening, and environmental stewardship activities.

In the coming months the Health and Environment committee will be encouraging better recycling practice in the school, and waste-free lunches will be promoted.

Energy conservation will also be promoted in the school. We’ll all be encouraged to turn off our lights, computers and other electronics when not needed. The students will learn about small things they can do daily for a healthy environment.

Visit [www.ontarioecoschools.org](http://www.ontarioecoschools.org) for more information.

## **OUTREACH INITIATIVES: FOOD DRIVE & PROJECT ETHIOPIA**

Holy Cross has embarked on a number of outreach programs to help those who are less fortunate. Holy Cross is participating in a **Food Drive**, where all proceeds will go to St. Vincent dePaul. Please bring in your food donations prior to December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Food items will need to be sorted at Our Lady of the Airways Church prior to distribution. Also, as part of our ongoing message to encourage all students to be a light in the world, the Grade 6 students will continue to collect pennies to raise funds for “**Project Ethiopia.**” The money collected will be used to support students in Gambo, Ethiopia. Every penny collected will go towards the purchase of pencils, paper, pens, and other educational supplies for the local school and penicillin for the nearby hospital. Thank you to all who have donated - it will make a difference.

## SANTA PICTURES



Holy Cross is pleased to announce that students will have the opportunity to take a picture with Santa. The picture taking session is scheduled for the morning of Tuesday December 13, 2011, from 9:00-12:00. The cost of the session will be \$10.00. The payment includes a CD of picture and one 5x7 photo. Photographer will have pictures available for distribution on Monday December 19, 2011. Further details to follow.

## Kiss N Ride ..

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 help alleviate any difficulties in the school driveway.



- All parents should use the Kiss N Ride lane if they are dropping off their child
- No parents should leave their cars parked in front of the school unless it is in a designated parking spot
- No vehicle should be left parked in the Kiss 'N' Ride lane
- No vehicle should be parked in the Kindergarten Drop off Area or 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 parked 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.

## Changing Weather/Indoor Shoes

Colder weather is here again! Please ensure that your child comes to school prepared to participate in all activities, including outdoor recess. All children should have hats, scarves, gloves, warm coats and boots labeled with their names. Please ensure that your child has a pair of indoor shoes as well. As the weather gets cold and wet with the snow,

students should have a pair of indoor shoes in order to keep their feet warm, and our classrooms dry.

In colder weather we often receive requests to allow children to remain indoors when students have a cold, flu etc. Please note that it is very difficult to comply with such requests, as we have neither the facilities, nor the staff to supervise these students.

## FOOD AND BEVERAGE POLICY

*“There is no wealth better than health of body, and no gladness above joy of heart.” Sirach 30.16*

Dufferin Peel nourishes the growth of students through a learning environment that is committed to developing the spiritual, intellectual, aesthetic, emotional, social and physical capabilities of its students. Good health is connected to being a symbol of God's love and a precious gift from God, for a healthy body is a way of praising God as we are created in the image of likeness of God. To ignore the importance of good health and let it fall into disrepair would show a lack of gratitude and respect for such a great gift.

The Ontario government is committed to making schools healthier places for students in order to establish the conditions needed to realize the potential of all students. A healthy school environment enhances student learning and success, and enhances students' social and emotional well-being. Schools have an important role to play in helping students lead healthier lives, including teaching students the skills to make healthy choices and reinforcing those lessons through school practices.

The School Food and Beverage Policy contributes to improved education and health outcomes for all students. The School Food and Beverage Policy constitutes a comprehensive approach to the sale of food and beverages in schools province-wide. The implementation of this policy is another step in creating healthier schools in Ontario. It also reinforces the knowledge, skills, and attitudes regarding healthy eating that are developed through the various subjects and disciplines in the Ontario curriculum.

For further information on the School Food and Beverage Policy, see Foundations for a Healthy School, at [www.ontario.ca/healthyschools](http://www.ontario.ca/healthyschools). As part of our school's ongoing effort to promote healthy eating and to comply with the Ministry of Education's School Food and Beverage Policy, we continue work with students, parents and the staff to improve the nutritional value of food and beverages for sale at our school. These changes will make it easier for students to choose healthy food and beverages and will help them practise what they learn in the classroom about healthy eating. We are making healthy eating easy!

## PA DAY

Our next PA Day will take place on Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012. There will be no school for students that day. **There will be NO Early Release Days scheduled this school year.**

## HOLY CROSS BREAKFAST CLUB

Please note that our breakfast club for students will be available until the last day before the Christmas break Friday December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011. The breakfast club will resume on Tuesday January 10, 2012.

**Please note that there will be no breakfast club on Monday January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012.**

## DATES TO REMEMBER

December 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2011	Pizza Nova presentations
December 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2011	Pizza Nova presentations
December 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2011	Living Our Faith Awards
December 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2011	School Council meeting
December 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2011	Cookie Dough pick up
December 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2011	Santa Pictures
December 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2011	Advent Mass
December 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2011	Christmas Performance
December 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2011	French Christmas Performance

## NEWSLETTER DRAW

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

**What day does our Family Advent Mass take place?**

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

*From the entire staff at Holy Cross, have a wonderful and blessed Christmas.*

Buone Feste Natalizie

聖誕節同新年快樂

Kung His Hsin Nien bing Chu Shen Tan

Boaz Festas

Feliz Navidad

Mitho Makosi Kesikansi

Nathar Puthu Varuda Valthukkal

Idah Saidan Wa Sanah Jadidah

Gun Tso Sun Tan'Gung Haw Sun

Baradin ki shubh kamnaaye

Subha nath thalak Vewa

E ku odun, e ku iye'dun!

Prejeme Vam Vesele Vanoce

A'yaad meelad Saeedah

Feliz Natal

Nollaig chridheil

Khushi Natal

Melkin Yelidet Beaal

Chuc Mung Giang Sinh

聖誕快樂 新年快樂

! سده يد م يلاذ أء ياد

Sretan Bozic

Joyeux Noel

Gezur Krislinjden

Kellemes karacsonyi

Wesolych swiat

Sun Tan Chuk Ha

Maligayang Pasko

Srozhdstvom Kristovym

## Keep Christ in Christmas