



Holy Cross Catholic Elementary School

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January 2012 Edition



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Father Lorenzo -Pastor
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JANUARY VIRTUE ~ Self-control

This month we will celebrate the virtue of *self-control*.

We may feel pressure from inside or from outside ourselves to react violently to a situation. We've all "lost it" at one time or another. We are never proud of those moments. As soon as they happen, we make a promise that they will not happen again.

Through prayer and concentration, we can get better at controlling our reactions. We can get better at showing *self-control*. Self-control helps us to resist the temptation to do something that will harm ourselves or others. Self-control is one of the marks of a spiritually mature person.

When we all use self-control, we can be sure that our school will be a safe, caring and inclusive place to live and to learn.

A person with *self-control*...

- Is patient
- Knows how to wait his/her turn
- Can calm him/herself down
- Knows how to avoid physical aggression

A Prayer for the New Year

Come, Holy Spirit,
Spirit of God, Spirit of the Risen Christ,
Be with us today and always.
Be our Light, our Guide, and our Comforter.
Be our Strength, our Courage,
And our Sanctifier. May this new year be a time
Of deep spiritual growth for us,
A time for welcoming Your graces and gifts,
A time for forgiving freely and unconditionally,
A time for growing in virtue and goodness.
Come, Holy Spirit.
Be with us today and
always.
Amen

Happy New Year

Welcome back to all of our staff and students. We hope that your Christmas holidays brought peace and tranquility to you and that you were able to enjoy some time with family and friends.

Another year has come upon us. The month of January is named after the Roman god *Janus*. This Roman god had two faces so that he could look ahead toward the future and back at the past at the same time. As we end the old year and look forward to a new one, we try to be a little like Janus. We know what we did wrong and what we did right, and hope to do better this year. Some people make ambitious New Year's resolutions; others just take it day by day. Let us look to Jesus as an example of how to take on the challenges of a new year. Jesus set the example by teaching right from wrong and by teaching that love for each other is paramount.

Let us love one another more than
we did last year.

Let us work harder to improve
ourselves.

**Let us bring Jesus' spirit into the
lives of others.**

Let the New Year spark renewal
for the love of learning & achieving
to the best of one's ability.

**Let January's renewal allow us to
focus next on February's virtue –
the virtue of respect. Leave
everyone who comes into contact
with you, better than when they
first came.**

To everyone in the Holy Cross community, it is our wish that the New Year brings you and your family peace, happiness and good health to all.

Frank Nalli

It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the passing away of our dear friend Frank. Frank was a dedicated Breakfast Club volunteer who served the Holy Cross school community for many years. He always came in to school with a warm smile and was giving of his time. Thank you to Frank for all his dedication over the past 6 years.

HEALTH ALERT ...

There are students in a number of our classes who have a serious, and in some cases, life threatening allergy to peanuts/nuts and peanut by products. Even the mere exposure to these products may cause a severe allergic reaction for these children, which could potentially result in death. While these students may not be in your child's class, or eat in the area that your child eats lunch, we are most concerned about cross contamination, which may occur if a child who eats a peanut/nuts product touches a chair, desk, book or any object that may be touched by a child with this allergy. On behalf of these students and their parents I ask for your co-operation to ensure that peanut and nut products are NOT sent to the school. *Please be aware* that according to the Tim Horton Corporation "Tim-Bits" can not be guaranteed to be peanut/or nut free because of their processing system and thus should not be sent into the school. Please consider non-edible treats such as pencils or stickers rather than food. That way everyone is included in the celebration.

USE OF SCHOOL PHONES

Students will be permitted to use the school phone in cases of emergency. An emergency is considered to be an illness or injury. Calling home because it is raining, and/or for forgotten gym attire, wanting to go to a friend's house or other minor issues are not considered emergencies. We thank you for your continued support with this matter.

PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES (PEDS)

As part of our efforts to promote and maintain a positive Catholic climate in our schools, the board has a policy regarding Personal Electronic Devices (PEDS) on school property.

In this regard, all PEDs (i.e. cell phones, pagers and video games i.e. Game Boys, iPods) must be kept out of sight, turned off and not used within school premises or during school-sanctioned activities. To prevent the loss or damage of PEDs, we encourage students to leave their PEDs at home as the school cannot be responsible for their safe keeping.

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.

FAMILY LITERACY DAY

On Friday January 27th, 2012 we are celebrating Family Literacy day, and therefore will be hosting an event in the gym to commemorate this special day. We invite all families of the Early Learning Program (JK/SK) to join us at 10:00 a.m. in the gym. There will be a number of literacy and learning activities for families to participate in. All are welcome!

Girls Basketball visits York U

On Friday January 20th both the junior and intermediate girls' basketball teams, along with a school bus full of their supporters, will be travelling to York University to cheer on the women's basketball team as they face their cross-town rivals, the Ryerson Rams. Members of the Ascension S.S. girl's basketball team will also be joining us on this fun filled evening.

This exciting event sold out very quickly and promises to be a great time. Our very own Crusaders will be entertaining the crowd at half time, where they will compete in a scrimmage match on the university court. After the game, members of the York Lions women's team and coaching staff will meet with our girls for a Q & A session.

Thank you to Mr. Campagner, our intermediate girl's basketball coach for organizing this outing. The game will be

very entertaining and the York University women's basketball team will certainly provide some wonderful role modeling for our girl's basketball teams as they continue to prepare for their upcoming tournaments.

LIVING OUR FAITH AWARDS

On Monday January 30th, 2012, 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.

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

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.

OUR LADY OF THE AIRWAYS CHURCH

We will soon enter the period of the Church's calendar known as ORDINARY TIME. It begins on January 10 and continues to Ash Wednesday. It will resume after Pentecost until the 1st Sunday of Advent.

During Ordinary Time, the Church celebrates the fullness of the mystery of the Lord Jesus. The people of God offer praise by celebrating the paschal mystery of the death and resurrection of Jesus. Sunday is the original Christian feast day, following the tradition handed down from the Apostles' time, for this was the day of the Lord's resurrection. Today's Christian communities continue this tradition by celebrating every Sunday as the day of the risen Lord.

We hope and pray that all our Catholic people and families would discover Sunday by celebrating the Eucharist regularly.

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

“We saw His star as it rose and have come to do Him homage. Going into the house, they saw the child with his Mother Mary, and falling to their knees, they did him homage.



Then, opening their treasure, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.” (Mt. 2:2, 10-11)

Epiphany is a feast rich in traditions:

- Wise Men: kings, astrologers, religious, wise and learned men, according to Biblical scholars.
- From the East: Persia (today, Iran)
- How many? Because of the three gifts mentioned in the Gospel, tradition always thought of there being three, as we see in any nativity scene.
- Their colour and nationalities represent the universality of the Church.
- Are they saints? In some countries of Northern Europe, they are venerated as Saints.

The word Epiphany comes from the Greek language, and it means ‘manifestation, revelation’ of Jesus to the Gentiles because He is for everyone.

The Kings, opening their store of treasures, offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The most precious gifts - they offer only the best for God. They offer him gold, a symbol of royalty. They offer him incense, the perfume which was burned each evening on the altar as a symbol of the hope placed in the Messiah. They offer him myrrh, because God Incarnate will take upon Himself our weaknesses and be burdened with our sorrows.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY DAY

January 16th is a Professional Activity Day. There will be no school for students. Teachers will be involved in report card writing.

Friday February 3rd will also be a Professional Activity Day. There will be no school for students. Parent teacher interviews will be taking place on this day.

CLOTHING DRIVE

Holy Cross will be involved in a clothing drive from January 17th to February 3rd. All clothing items will be picked up and dispersed by the Change the Future Foundation. This foundation was founded in 2006. The Change the Future Foundation focuses on giving to children who are less fortunate in Ontario as well as in Ghana. Change the Future Foundation is a non-profit organization formed to develop and deliver programs that address the needs of poor children and youth. Please drop off clothing items in the front foyer.

FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION (JK/SK)

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.

FEBRUARY 1, 2012 SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

A reminder to all of our School Council members of our next meeting scheduled for Wednesday February 1, 2012 @ 6:30 PM in the library. All parents are welcome to attend!

SCHOOL UNIFORM SURVEY RESULTS

On December 12, 2011, a survey was sent out to each family regarding implementation of a school uniform. Thank you to the many families that submitted their uniform survey. Based on the responses received, School Council will NOT be moving forward with the uniform initiative. The uniform initiative will be revisited in the future. Ministry of Education and Board guidelines require an 80 % approval of all registered families at a school. Thank you to our Uniform Committee for their continued dedication.

MOVEMBER

Thank you to all students who helped raised money for our Movember initiative. As a school, we raised \$409.60. Thank you to all staff and students who participated in making the Movember assembly a fun and entertaining events.

MISSISSAUGA AIRPORT ROTARY CLUB

Holy Cross school would like to thank the rotary club for their generous donation to the grade 3 students. Each grade 3 student received a dictionary from the club. Thank you to the many community members who enrich the lives of our students.

CHANGE OF CONTACT INFORMATION

It is imperative that the school have correct information regarding residency and contact information. In times of an emergency, contact with parents and guardians is crucial. If

you have recently changed your contact info, please inform the school. Your co-operation in this matter is appreciated.

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD GRADE 8 PARENT NIGHT

Wednesday, January 18, 2012 – start time 7:00 p.m.

Parents/Guardians of students starting Grade 9 this September 2012 are asked to bring completed registration packages, including course selection forms signed with grade 8 teacher recommendations.

Registration packages along with the \$50 registration fee (cash, credit or debit only) will be collected in Guidance after a brief school presentation. Presentation will include information on school programming, facilities and extra-curricular activities.

REPORT CARDS

Reports for term 1 will go home on Tuesday, January 31, 2012. Report card interviews will take place the evening of Thursday, February 2nd and during the day on Friday, February 3rd. More details to follow.



There will be no school for students on Friday, February 3rd, 2012.

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Holy Cross continues the yearly tradition of celebrating Black History Month in February. A number of events will take place to promote, celebrate and honour Black History.

- The library will have on display a host of books related to Black History as well as a bulletin board dedicated to the topic. Daily announcements will also include quotes and historical facts relating to Black Historical figures that will be posted throughout the school. A school trivia contest will also take place for the first class who will answer the trivia question during morning announcements.



Holy Cross will also welcome a special performance by the Anthony Sherwood Production titled "Richard Pierpoint & The Company of Coloured Men." This performance will commemorate the 200 year anniversary of The War of 1812. This special performance will take place on Wednesday February 29th. More details will follow in next month's newsletter.

VALENTINE'S DAY DANCE

We wish to inform you of an upcoming student dance that will take place on **Tuesday, February 14, 2012.**



The dance will take place throughout the entire day, with grade levels using specific time slots. Members of our Student Council will sell snacks and drinks during the dance.

In order to cover the associated costs of the DJ for a full day, **students participating in the dance are asked to provide a donation of \$2.00.** Parents are welcome to come to the school during your child's scheduled dance block of time to watch. Please sign in at the Office and wear your visitor's badge. A dance schedule and letter outlining donation will follow at a later date.

COLD WEATHER DRESS

As the weather gets progressively colder, we ask that students begin preparing for outdoor play. This includes proper gloves, hats, scarves, jackets and boots. School board and Peel Health guidelines indicate that students will generally be outside for recesses when temperatures do not fall below -25 degrees Celsius, with the wind chill. As such, appropriate clothing is essential. Please note that students should have indoor shoes during the winter months. Thank you in advance for your continued support and cooperation.



DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday, January 16 – PA Day – no school for students
Friday January 20 – York University B-Ball game
Tuesday, Jan. 24 – Dental Screening Clinic (Gr. 2)
Monday, January 30 – Living our Faith Awards
Tuesday, January 31 – Report Cards go home
Wednesday, February 1 – School Council
Thursday, February 2 – Parent/Teacher Interview Evening
Friday, February 3 – Parent/Teacher Interview Day
Monday, February 6 – Kindergarten Registration 7-9 PM
Monday, February 14 – Valentine Dance
Monday, February 20 – Family Day – No classes for students

NEWSLETTER DRAW

For a Free Pizza Lunch

What is the Virtue for the Month of January?

Answer: _____

Cut out this ticket and bring it to Mr. Sestito. If your child wins, they will be notified.

Child's full name: _____

Teacher and grade: _____

Date: _____