

**Holy Cross Elementary School**  
**Grade One**  
**Mrs. Diana Andriani**

Dear Grade One Parents,

Welcome to Grade One! I have enjoyed working with your children these first few weeks of school. I am looking forward to a year filled with many exciting learning opportunities ahead.

The students have been introduced to the rules and routines of Grade One. They are becoming familiar with the new classroom, keeping their own desk, organizing school supplies.

The importance of listening attentively, using manners and following school rules has been stressed.

Grade One is a year of continuous growth and development. My aim is to provide a happy and nurturing environment where the students feel secure to learn.

Education is not a race and students will reach goals and experience success at their own pace. I look forward to a good home and school connection and a strong partnership in the education of your child.

A variety of themes and activities will provide the framework for developing spiritually, socially, emotionally, intellectually, artistically and physically.

## **Grade One Curriculum Overview**

**Christian Education:** “Christ Our Life” series, God Is Good will be used. “I’m A Gift From God” program will be used in Term Three. We will celebrate and follow the Church year with activities based on the liturgical calendar. The CISVA theme is “One Family, One Hope In Christ”. We will follow the “Principles of Catholic Education”.

**Language Arts:** All aspects of the Language Arts program such as reading, writing, listening and speaking will be incorporated.

**Reading:** Reading is an important part of all subject areas. A variety of literature will be used to complement various themes throughout the school year. Students will explore a variety of authors and illustrators. Reading programs such as “Cornerstones”, “Journeys” and “The Literacy Place,” will be used. The students will choose from a variety of books and literature from our classroom and school library.

A Home Reading Program and Razz reading online program will also be introduced in the Second Term. A Poems, Chants and Songs duotang will also be used throughout the year.

**Writing:** Students will be encouraged to write in their journals on a regular basis. A combination of conventional and invented spelling will be used. We will create class big books and write poems and stories following simple story and poem frames.

**Phonics:** A combination of McCracken spelling lists and Gage Phonics will be used to teach word patterns and spelling.

**Printing:** We will practice printing stressing the importance of directionality and correct letter formation. Letters should be formed from the top to bottom and with appropriate spacing. It is helpful for parents to also encourage proper pencil grip.

**Listening and Speaking:** Students will have opportunities to share their ideas. Special helpers may bring a book to read aloud, a toy, any special item, a rock, a picture, a craft or poster to present to the class. I also encourage students to bring in a simple science experiment to demonstrate and explain to classmates. (Please send in all items and directions so I can help your child along in the process). Your child may also email or send a video of them playing piano or showing some skills from home. I will share it with the class as well.

**Math:** Math Makes Sense and Math Their Way and Math Quest Programs will be used. Junk boxes and manipulatives will be used along with daily calendar and graphing activities.

**Science/Socials:** using an inquiry based and collaborative approach the students will explore a variety of themes. We will incorporate the "First Peoples Principles of Learning".

**French:** Grade One's will learn songs and read books En Français. Vocabulary, and short phrases will be introduced. The students participate in French class twice a week on Tuesday and Friday with Madame Ponis.

**Art:** A variety of art mediums will be explored.

**Music:** The students will attend music class on Thursdays with the Music Teacher Ms. Ranallo.

**Physical and Health Education:** P.E. classes are on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, with Miss Campbell. We will also have a 20-minute fitness block (D.P.A. "daily physical activity") time on Mondays with Miss Campbell and Thursdays with myself.

**Library:** The students will have library class with Mrs. Wilkinson on Monday. They will learn library skills and participate in the "Fins Friends" character development program.

**Book Check Out:** This year library book exchange will take place on Tuesday. The students may choose and check out two books each week. Library books are due every Monday.

**Technology/ADST (Applied Design, Skills and Technologies):** Each week the students will explore new ideas with the Technology Teacher, Ms. Ranallo in the multi-purpose space connected to the Library. We will also explore iPads in the classroom once a week.

**Group Challenge/S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics):** The students will participate in a variety of open-ended activities to stretch critical and creative thinking skills in a variety of subjects.

**Core Competencies:** The students will work to develop intellectual, personal, and social and emotional proficiencies. The students will reflect on their learning using "I Can Statements":  
Examples:  
I Can show my learning.  
I Can recognize my feelings  
I Can solve problems  
I Am an active listener

**Buddies:** Throughout the year we will meet up with our Grade 7 buddies.

**Communion Reception:** Grade One families are usually responsible for hosting the reception in the Gymnasium. More information to follow in the Spring with the details of this event planning. Things have been evolving and changing with this event since Covid.

## Homework

### First Term

Each week the students will be given a small package of homework. It will consist of review of concepts in Language Arts and Math. This will be given out each week and must be returned every Monday. The children must use pencil and wax crayons to complete these activities and please remember to include names. **Please do not let your child use felt pens or ink pens for this homework.**

### All Terms

**Sight words** will be sent home starting in the first term which should be reviewed at home. When your child has mastered the words in the level they will be tested at school and the next level can be sent home. This is ongoing throughout the school year. Sight words will be taught and reviewed in class as well.

Some students may need and benefit from extra homework or greater challenges in Grade One.

These students are encouraged to work on extra projects in the area of Writing and Science at home and can share with their classmates. These students are invited to write and illustrate a story, create a poster project on an area of interest or articulate and demonstrate a science project. (See me if you wish to see examples of past students).

I look forward to a great year ahead and hope that together we can create a strong home, school partnership. This can only be attained with mutual respect, good communication and a team approach.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Diana Andriani  
Grade One Teacher  
Holy Cross