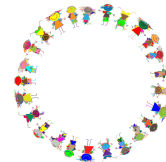
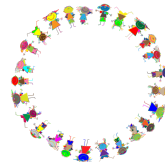
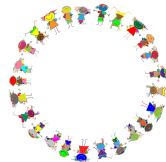
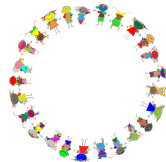
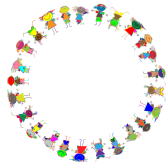


Welcome to Grade Two!

2023-2024

Mrs. Jodi Ferrara

Holy Cross Elementary School



Dear Grade Two Parents,

Hello and welcome to the beginning of an exciting new school year! I am thrilled to experience this special year with your children and I am enjoying getting to know each of them! Our school theme this year is “Living, Celebrating and Proclaiming Our Faith”; with the main focus being how we live our faith. We will explore this theme throughout the year, across the curriculum.

- The Grade Two program is designed to foster growth and development in each child. Opportunities for spiritual, social, and academic growth will be provided through various activities throughout this year. Students will receive two very special sacraments this year – First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. **Further information on these special sacraments will be sent out later.**
- The curriculum competencies will be taught and woven throughout the Grade Two program. We will focus on:
 - Skills-** things we can do
 - Knowledge-** things we know
 - Action-** plans and strategies we use
- Students will learn to identify and apply core competencies to their learning and interactions with others through:
 - Communication:** sharing and gaining information
 - Critical and Creative Thinking:** how we think and come up with ideas, questions and reflect
 - Personal and Social Awareness and Responsibility:** building relationships, problem solving, identifying our strengths and goals, caring for our community and world
- **Seesaw App** You are all linked to our class Seesaw. This App will provide a platform for an online portfolio and a communication system for class announcements. Photos of class activities and some student work will be posted in your child’s personal journal on Seesaw.

My Contact Information:

Communication:

Our class *Seesaw* will be the primary form of communication between school and home. You can send me a private message on Seesaw. I will respond to messages between 8:00am and 5:00 pm on school days.

Email: jferrara@hcschool.ca School phone number: 604 299-3530

If at **any time** during the school year you have **any** questions or concerns, please send me a message through Seesaw to set up a time to touch base on the phone. I look forward to

working together with you to support your child's learning and celebrating their successes throughout the school year!

An Overview of the School Year

Christian Education:

Our focus for most of this year will be the sacramental preparation for First Reconciliation and First Communion. Religion will be integrated into the curriculum using the *Christ Our Life* series, and the *I'm a Gift from God* Program. Catholic Worldviews and the Principles of Catholic Education are woven throughout our Grade Two program. Students will have the opportunity to lead daily prayer in the classroom, host school Masses and build their relationship with God.

Language Arts:

The four aspects of Language Arts – reading, writing, listening and speaking – will be integrated in all subject areas throughout each day.

Reading

The children will explore a variety of literature throughout the year. Students will be provided with various reading opportunities across the curriculum. Our main focus this year will be on fluency and comprehension. Children will have the opportunity to participate in the Primary Reading Club through the school library.

Writing

One of our main focuses this year will be learning how to write well-structured sentences and beginning to use compound sentences. Through Writer's Workshop activities, the students will expand their writing skills through sentences, stories, journal entries and poetry.

Spelling

The focus in our spelling units this year is on spelling patterns, specific spelling rules, vowel combinations, blends and high frequency words. On Mondays, the weekly Spelling list will be sent home and the students' homework will be to copy their list words into their agendas. During the week, the students will explore the spelling patterns through various activities, both in class and at home. On Fridays, they will have a quiz on the week's focus patterns and sight words.

Printing

Neat and properly formed letters are expected within all written work completed during class time and for homework. Time will be set aside for instruction on proper letter formation.

Mathematics:

The students will learn about such topics as Patterns, Number Concepts to 100, Addition and Subtraction to 100, Geometry, Measurement, Data Analysis, and Problem Solving, through the use of manipulatives and other resources. Students will continue to practice their basic addition and subtraction facts throughout the entire school year.

Social Studies:

Regional and global communities are the main focus of the Grade Two Social Studies program. We will begin the year learning about mapping skills. The First People's principles of Learning will be explored and woven throughout the Grade Two program.

Science:

In Science, students will learn about life cycles of living things, physical and chemical processes, types of forces, the water cycle, and water sources. The students will participate in a number of hands-on activities and STEM throughout the year.

Physical Education

Physical Education is taught by Miss Campbell for three 40 minute periods on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Please ensure that your child's gym strip is at school every day.

Daily Physical Activity:

To keep healthy and fit, students will engage in various physical activities that promote strength, endurance, flexibility, and teamwork for 20 minutes twice a week (Tuesdays and Thursdays).

Music:

This year's Music teacher is Ms. Ranallo. Some areas covered in Music will be: steady beat, dynamics, movement, song & dance, instruments of the orchestra, percussion and hand bells. Music classes are on Thursday. Primary choir practices will be held at lunch biweekly on Tuesdays with Mrs. Colibaba.

Technology:

Our Technology class is taught by Ms. Ranallo on Tuesday afternoons. Students will explore coding, robotics, digital book making, digital presentations, online research, engineering, online safety, and digital citizenship. We will also explore themes with iPads during integrated studies in class.

Library:

Library skills are taught to the students every Monday by Mrs. Wilkinson. Library books are due back on Mondays to be checked in. New books will be checked out on Tuesdays.

French: The students will be exploring French through the AIM program (accelerative integrated method), using music, dance, gestures and theater to support learning. French with Madame Ponis is on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Art:

Art skills are integrated into the curriculum and will often be connected to various themes discussed in the classroom. Students will be encouraged to explore different mediums to express their creativity while learning elements of design.

Fantastic Friend Program: Each child will have the opportunity to create a poster about a classmate to share fun facts and share a show and tell. The program will begin in October.

Homework Expectations in Grade Two:

The purpose of homework in Grade Two is to reinforce skills taught at school, to establish good study habits, and to foster student responsibility and independence by taking work home and returning it to school on time. Often homework will include unfinished work, Spelling exercises and reviewing the word patterns and sight words of the weekly spelling units. Please encourage your child to read for 20 minutes each night; both to you and with you.

Classroom Housekeeping and Reminders

Birthdays: We will celebrate the children's birthdays in class. You are welcome to send individually packaged, "nut-free treats" from a commercial vendor or a donation of a book or a game for the classroom for the children. Birthday invitations and gifts should be distributed outside of school.

Scholastic Book Orders: The children will receive monthly book orders.. All orders and payment are to be completed online. I will send home the grade two class code with the first flyer later this month.

Student Agendas: Each day the students will write their homework in their agenda book. Additionally, the students will set and monitor a personal goal each week; Parents are asked to initial each entry. The agenda is a great tool to ensure communication between home and school. It is very important that the agenda bag is checked each evening as notices will be placed there.

Morning Arrivals: We will continue with a soft start each morning from 8:50-9:00, allowing the children to get settled for the day and participate in a morning exploration activity.

Dismissal Routines: The dismissal time for the grade two class is **2:50 each day**. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this. Once your child sees you they will let me know and then walk to the supervision staff to cross the parking lot. If you are having someone else pick up your child, please send me a message through Seesaw or call the school office. *Please go over the pick up routine with any family members that will be picking up your child.*

Allergies: Holy Cross is a nut-aware school. Additionally, I have a **severe sesame/tahini anaphylactic allergy** and I kindly ask you to keep this in mind when packing snacks and lunches.

Labeling: Please label ALL items of clothing, including shoes, coats, gym strip and gym bags. Gym time can be stressful for both teacher and student when the right shirt or sweater can't be found.

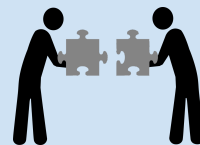
Water Bottles: Please send a full, leak proof water bottle with your child each day; they work and play hard! They are welcome to refill their bottles at the water fountains.

Visiting the school: For student safety, all parents and visitors **MUST** report to the office during school hours.

Weekly Principal's Memos: Please make sure to read through Mr.Veltri's weekly memo. The school's website is a great resource with up to date information.

At school we have been discussing how we are a '*class family*' this year in grade two; a family that will learn, pray, play and grow together! As a class family we will support each other, problem solve together, and continue to build strong inclusive friendships.

Thank you in advance for your time, cooperation and support. Together, with a strong home-school partnership, we will have a fantastic school year!



~Mrs. Jodi Ferrara

Important Dates



November 5, 2023	Grade 2 Enrollment at the 10am Mass
January 30, 2024	Grade 2 Parent Sacrament Meeting: <i>Reconciliation @ 7pm</i>
February 29, 2024	Grade 2 Sacrament of Reconciliation @ 7pm
April 2, 2024	Grade 2 Parent Sacrament Meeting: <i>The Eucharist @ 7pm</i>
April 24, 2024	FHC Rehearsal and robe pickup 4:15-5:30 pm
April 27, 2024	First Holy Communion @ 1:00 pm

***Please check Mr. Veltri's Weekly Principal's Newsletter for updates and school activities.**

***Visit the school website regularly for information, updates and highlights
(holycrosselementary.ca)**

