



Dear Kindergarten Families,

Welcome to Kindergarten at Holy Cross School. We want your child to feel comfortable and happy in their new learning environment. It is our goal, as the Kindergarten team, is to make your child feel welcome and safe at school.

We hope to give you a better understanding of how and what your child will be learning throughout the school year. We hope to keep your child engaged in learning new ideas and introduce them to many different learning styles and experiences.

Social skills are an important part of Kindergarten. Students will be learning how to communicate, play and learn together with their peers. There will be many discussions around social skills throughout the year. We have already introduced the students to being a “Bucket Filler” last week. We encourage students to be a Bucket Filler by being kind, helping others, and being respectful like Jesus would. We will celebrate students we “catch” filling their peers’ buckets and celebrate them by putting their name on the board beside our Happy Bucket.

We are looking forward to growing together and would like to take this opportunity to give you an overview of what the students will be learning and exploring throughout the year.

Kindergarten Curriculum Overview:

Christian Education: Students will be listening to Bible stories this year and following the “I Am Special” program. After Easter, students will participate in the “I Am A Gift from God” program. Love for Jesus and His teachings will be interwoven into all aspects of the curriculum.

Language Arts: Students will be introduced and explore basic phonics and reading skills this year. They will learn through a variety of different methods including:

1. Literacy centers - hands-on activities to explore letters, sounds and basic phonics skills.
2. Printing - practice forming each letter correctly as well as basic phonics
3. Phonics - focus on sounds and blends, sounding out words, rhyme and word families
4. Word Works - daily Phonological Awareness; focusing on counting words, counting words in sentences, rhyming word recognition, beginning sounds recognition, ending sound recognition, syllable & phoneme (sound) blending, syllable segmentation.
5. Journal - introduction to writing. Copying from the board, thinking of ideas and writing their thoughts (spelling phonetically)
6. Sight Words Program - a rainbow program to learn the Dolch sight words
7. Reading Program - students will read books at home with their family based on their reading level
8. Group poems, chants and songs - taught and practiced throughout the year

Mathematics: Students will explore and practice concepts through individual and collaborative group work. They will use math manipulatives for hands-on learning, utilize centres that focus on various areas of the curriculum (i.e.

creating patterns, identifying numbers, making sets, addition, subtraction, etc.) as well as practice Math concepts using print.

Social Studies: Students will have an introduction to Indigenous culture and will be using inquiry based and collaborative learning to explore different topics. These topics include: family traditions, diversity in our community and our rights and responsibilities.

Science: Students will be using inquiry based and collaborative approaches to explore different themes. Simple science experiments will be used to demonstrate learning. Students will grow sunflowers from seeds and plant potatoes in the Holy Cross Garden. Students will attend a Pumpkin Patch field trip to learn about the plant and animal life cycles.

STEM: Students will participate in hands-on activities that use STEM- science, technology, engineering and math concepts that will allow them to think critically and creatively. For example, creating a cave for bears with different materials such as marshmallows and toothpicks.

Art: Students will explore art using different techniques and a variety of materials. We encourage students to be unique and express their creativity through their artwork.

Core Competencies: The Core Competencies are sets of intellectual, personal, and social and emotional proficiencies that all students need in order to engage in deep, lifelong learning. Each term we will be focusing on a different core competency. We will discuss different “I can” statements; our goal is to connect the curriculum with social and emotional learning.

Term 1: Communication

Example: *“I can show my learning”*

Term 2: Thinking

Example: *“I can solve problems”*

Term 3: Personal and Social

Example: *"I can try different ways of doing things"*

Physical & Health Education: Students will attend Gym on Monday, Tuesday and Friday afternoons with Miss Campbell. They will work on basic sport skills and play games. Students will also attend a 20 minute Daily Physical Activity (DPA) block in the gyms on Thursdays.

Library: Kindergarten will attend Library class on Wednesday mornings with our Teacher-Librarian, Mrs. Wilkinson. They will participate in story time and do related activities.

French: Mrs. Ponis (Madame Ponis) will teach French on Wednesdays and Fridays. The students will learn how to say the calendar in French and will participate in French songs and activities.

ADST: Applied Design, Skills and Technologies gives students an opportunity to work with technology like iPads. Ms Ranallo will teach this class on Tuesday mornings.

Music: Students will be able to explore music through singing, playing instruments, dance and more. Music with Ms Ranallo will take place on Thursday mornings.

Thank you in advance for all your support this year. We look forward to building a strong relationship with you and working together to build the best possible learning experience for your child.

Many Blessings to you and your family,
The Kindergarten Team,
Miss Malsegna and Miss Bell