

# Holy Cross Elementary School

## Grade One -Mrs. Diana Andriani

Dear Grade One Parents,

Welcome to Grade One! I have enjoyed working with your children during these first few weeks of school and 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 their new classroom, having their own desk and organizing their 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 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 taught in Term Three. We will celebrate and follow the Church year with activities based on the liturgical calendar. The CISVA theme is “Living, Celebrating, and Proclaiming Our Faith”. We will follow the “Principles of Catholic Education”.

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

**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.

Holy Cross Elementary primary classes will be collectively using and exploring a new reading program. This program has been developed by the University of Florida and is called UFLI. It will explicitly teach word patterns and phonics and is designed to enhance reading skills with targeted, evidence based instruction.

**A Home Reading Program and Raz Reading Online** will be implemented throughout the year. Additionally, “Poems, Chants and Songs” will also be incorporated and used to explore seasons and themes.

**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 and Spelling** We will use a program called UFLI Foundations to teach reading, spelling and word patterns.

**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 at home.**

**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). You may also choose to email or upload a video on Seesaw of your child playing the piano or demonstrating a skill from home. This video would be shared on their special day as part of show and tell.

**Math:** Math Makes Sense, Math Their Way and Math Quest Programs will be implemented. Junk boxes and manipulatives will also be incorporated 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 Tuesdays and Wednesdays 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 Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays with Miss Campbell. We will also have a 20-minute fitness block (D.P.A “Daily Physical Activity”) on Mondays and Thursdays.

**Library:** The students will have Library class with Mrs. Wilkinson on Mondays. 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 Tuesdays. The students may choose and check out two books each week. Library books are due every Monday. Please help your child return these books weekly.

**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.

**STEAM: (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math)** The students will participate in a variety of open-ended activities to stretch critical and creative thinking skills in a variety of subjects. Mr. Villella will be supporting us with these learning opportunities.

**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 and participate in a variety of activities. In December, the Grade One class will create Christmas cards for their buddies. As the school year wraps up in June, they'll design special Graduation placemats to celebrate and honour their friendship.

**Communion Reception:** Grade One families will be responsible for hosting the Communion reception in the Gymnasium. We'll share more details about the event planning in the Spring. More information to follow in the Spring with the details of this event planning.

## Homework

Homework will begin in a few weeks and be related to the UFLI reading and spelling program.

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. They 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 Elementary