

# Welcome to Grade Two!

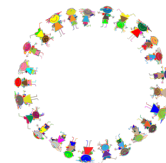
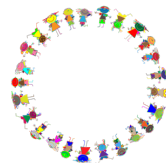
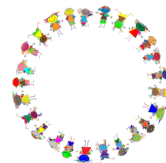
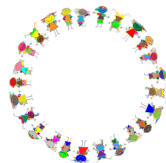
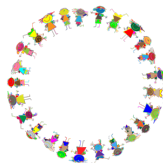
2024-2025

Mrs. Jodi Ferrara

Holy Cross Elementary School



Living,  
**CELEBRATING,**  
and Proclaiming  
**OUR FAITH**



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 *Celebrating 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; such a special way to truly celebrate our faith! **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 5:00pm on school days.

Email: [jferrara@hcschool.ca](mailto: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 to set up a time to touch base on the phone. I value and 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 various resources. Students will have the opportunity to lead daily prayer in the classroom, host school Masses and develop 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. We will be implementing the UFLI Reading Program, a comprehensive literacy program developed through the University of Florida. Additionally, 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. (The goal is not to memorize lists, rather it is to learn the patterns to apply to spell 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, and global citizenship 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. We will participate in the Salmonids in the Classroom Program, through Pacific Salmon Foundation and BC Fisheries and Oceans Education Programs.

### **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:**

Music is taught by 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.

### STEAM:

Mr. Villella will lead us through weekly project based learning opportunities that encompass science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics.

### 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 interview a classmate and then create and present a poster about their partner to share fun facts and share a show and tell. The program will begin in November and further information will be provided then.

### 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 activities from our reading program, spelling exercises and reviewing the word patterns and sight words of the weekly spelling units, and if needed, completing unfinished work. Please encourage your child to read for 20 minutes each night; both to you and with you.

### Outdoor Learning Opportunities:

We will participate in community walks in the neighbourhood throughout the year to support our math, art, science, and social studies lessons. We will participate in **one to two outdoor learning sessions per month**. This outdoor learning time is a great opportunity for the students to experience learning in nature.

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 payments 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 8:45-9:00, 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 let me know ahead of time. . *Please go over the pick up routine with any family members that will be picking up your child. If children are not picked up by 3:00, they will wait with the after school supervisors. EAs and myself have coaching and TAC responsibilities, we use this time to touch base and plan as a Grade 2 team.*

**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.

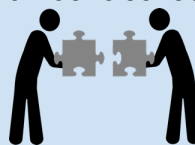
**Water Bottles:** Please send a full, leak proof water bottle with your child each day; they work and play hard! They are welcome to refill their bottles at the water fountains.

**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 to Note:

Reconciliation & Communion	Date	Time
FHC Enrollment Mass	Sunday, November 3, 2024	10:00 a.m. Mass
Parent Meeting: Reconciliation	Tuesday, January 28, 2025	7:00 p.m. (Church)
First Reconciliation	Thursday, February 27, 2025	7:00 p.m. (Church)
Parent Meeting: Communion	Tuesday, April 1, 2025	7:00 p.m. (Church)
FHC Rehearsal & Robe Pick Up	Wednesday, April 23, 2025	4:15 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
First Holy Communion	Saturday, April 26, 2025	1:00 p.m. Mass

\*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](http://holycrosselementary.ca))

