



# Holy Cross Catholic School

## September 2016 Newsletter

18 Elm Street London, Ontario N5Z -2K2

### Principal Message

Welcome back to the new school year!

We hope that everyone has had an enjoyable summer break and it is with great anticipation that we look forward to an enjoyable and productive school year. As your school principal, I am extremely pleased to be here at Holy Cross Elementary School and I am eager to work with all of you in our school community during the 2016—2017 school year.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself.

I am a married mother of three beautiful daughters, Kaitlyn, Laura & Molly. I have a diverse teaching background, having started with the former Elgin Catholic Board before moving on to teach internationally for six years, eventually returning home to work for the London District Catholic School Board. I have taught grades K-12. Worked as a curriculum support teacher as well as a SPST. Most recently I was the Vice Principal @ St. Anne's school in St. Thomas.

We would like to particularly welcome our new families and wish everyone a very successful school year. In addition, we would like to welcome the following staff members to our Holy Cross family Mrs. Wilding gr. 1/2, Ms. Facchin gr. 4/5 and Ms. Cottrill, SPST.

A Warm Holy Cross "thank-you" is extended to Mr. Terron, and Mrs. Cammalleri who have accepted another position within our LDCSB family. Sincere thanks to Mr. Terron and Mrs. Cammalleri for all of your dedication and time given to our Holy Cross students. Best wishes and may God bless!

The Holy Cross Catholic School Community is a caring and supportive group of faith centered families. Your participation and partnership in your child's Catholic education continues to be our strength. I again look forward to working closely with you in continuing to promote these goals in the new school year.

We are asking your assistance in keeping the fire route clear of any parked vehicles in the front of our school. In the case of an emergency, it is important that vehicles have clear access to our school during all times throughout the day.

Your child's health and maintaining a healthy, and safe school environment is of paramount importance to all of us. If your child has any medical conditions that require important health information to be shared with the school, we ask you to please notify us immediately.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation, support and assistance with the beginning of this new school year. We wish everyone a very happy, safe and successful school year.

### Preparation of our Building

Thanks to James, Joe and Maria for the excellent preparation of our building during the long, hot summer. Holy Cross School is exceptionally well maintained.

**Student agenda's** Students from grade 1 to 8 will be bringing home an agenda. Its purpose is to assist students in planning, setting goals, and managing their time in order to be successful learners. Each day there will be a time set aside in class for students to record daily homework, assignments, tests and special activities. The agenda can also be used by parents, guardians and teachers as a communication book. Our Code of Behaviour, expectations and guidelines are found at the front of the book. A school agenda will prove to be a handy reference. **The cost of each agenda is \$7.00.** Students are asked to submit their money ASAP. Please take a moment to review the first few pages to familiarize yourself with information about Holy Cross, our staff, routines and expectations.

**Medical Update – Anaphylaxis** We want to provide a safe environment for all children in our school and are asking for your support. Each child entering the classroom/school is asked to bring lunches and snacks free of any peanuts or nuts. We realize this request may require added effort for you when packaging your child's lunch and snacks, however we wish to express sincere appreciation for your support and understanding of these life-threatening conditions.

Please make sure that the office is aware of any health concerns that present a problem for your child. We must have a doctor-signed consent form in order to administer any medication. A signed consent form must also be on file for any student who has parental permission to self-administer medication including "puffers".

### Opening School Year Mass

Our first Mass of the school year will be held on Friday September 16th at 9:30am at Holy Cross Parish. Please join us; you are most welcome. This mass will celebrate the Holy Cross feast day and Exaltation.

Parents are very welcome to join us for all Masses throughout the school year.



## Welcome Back Meet and Greet Night

Our annual "Welcome back" and meet our new staff evening will be held on **Thursday, September 22 2016**. Weather permitting we will be outside for Pizza and refreshments, mingling with staff of Holy Cross.

This is a wonderful opportunity to gather socially as a school community, meet old-friends, and make new ones.



Please remember to preorder your pizza, and don't send in the money, you will pay the night of the meet and greet.

Thank you

## Bell Times & Supervision

|             |                               |
|-------------|-------------------------------|
| 8:40 - 8:55 | Children gather on asphalt    |
| 8:55        | Bell rings & children line up |
| 9:00        | Prayers & Announcements       |
| 9:00        | Classes begin                 |
| 10:20-10:35 | Morning recess                |
| 11:55-12:10 | Lunch in homeroom             |
| 12:10-12:55 | Recess-outside                |
| 2:15 - 2:30 | Afternoon recess              |
| 3:30        | Dismissal                     |

**Please remember to leave a message on our attendance line if your child(ren) will be late for school or are away for the day.**

**School phone # is 519-675-4412**

## Emergency Evacuation

It is prudent to rehearse with staff and students, the emergency evacuation of our building. These rehearsals will take place at various times throughout the school year. Please reinforce with your children, the urgency of their proper response to an emergency.

## Parent Council

The Holy Cross Council is an advisory body of volunteers who work together to provide ideas and opinions as to how the school can be a better place for learning. Membership on council reflects the diversity in the Holy Cross Community. This includes parents and guardians of children enrolled in the school, teaching and non-teaching staff and representatives from the parish and community at large.

Thank you Holy Cross Council for all of your hard work and dedication; it is greatly appreciated! We look forward to sharing our ideas this year. Please come and see our table at our Meet and Greet night for more information.

## Safe Arrival Policy

To ensure the safety of your child(ren), it is necessary for us to be aware of any changes in the regular routine.

To assist us, we ask that:

- ◆ You call or send a note to the school if your child is away. If you call, please state **your child's name, teacher, and reason for the absence.**
- ◆ **You report to the office if you are picking up your child, they need to be signed out.**
- ◆ **You notify the classroom teacher if your child's routine at dismissal time changes.**

Parents will be contacted by the school office if students absences are not reported. If there is no answer, we will contact the emergency contact that you have provided to the school.

We thank you for your partnership in our safe arrival program.

**Please note that students are NOT allowed to leave the school property at lunchtime unless they are regular daily home lunchtime walkers.**

## PIANO LESSONS

Highly qualified and experienced piano teacher, Sharon Bee, is accepting a limited number of students at Holy Cross during school hours. Your child's teacher will be consulted as to the best time for the student to have their weekly lesson. For more information please contact **Sharon Bee** (BMus, ARCT, ORMTA)

**@ 519-433-9094**

## Reminder

Thursday, September 15th is our school picture day. All children will get their picture taken, regardless if you are ordering pictures or not.

Please remember to bring in your order forms on picture day!

Any questions please call our office

@ 519-675-4412.

Smile



## Dress Code

A summary of student responsibilities at Holy Cross is found on the beginning pages of the student agendas. Among those responsibilities is the requirement to dress in an appropriate manner. Clothing should be modest and not bring undue attention to the wearer. Clothing with drawstrings or slogans that are sexually explicit, racist or which promotes drugs, alcohol or violence are not appropriate.

Please refer to the following guideline and we thank you for your support:

- ◆ Shorts & skirts should be past your finger tips when arms are straight at your side.
- ◆ Shirt straps (tees& tanks) should be at least 2 fingers wide.
- ◆ Undergarment are to be covered at all times.
- ◆ Midriffs are to be covered at all times.
- ◆ Articles of clothing sporting offensive logos, sayings and pictures are not acceptable.



## Criminal Background Checks

The LDCSB has a Board policy (15.3) requiring police checks for volunteers in the schools.

As a result, you may be asked by the school to obtain a criminal background check if volunteering here at Holy Cross School. We realize that in many cases, volunteers to our school already have obtained criminal background checks due to volunteer work with other organizations or charitable groups.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation and support. By working together in partnership, we continue to have your child's safety as our first and most important priority. Please feel free to call the school office if you require further information or have any questions.

Mrs. Jenkins, Principal

## Bus Cancellations or Delays

Parents please login in to [www.mybigyellowbus.ca](http://www.mybigyellowbus.ca) for up to date information about your child's bussing .



## Child & Family Services Act

Ontario's Child and Family Services Act (CFSA) provides for a broad range of services for families and children including children who are or may be victims of child abuse or neglect. The paramount purpose of the act is to promote the best interests, protection and well being of children. The act recognizes that each of us has a responsibility for the welfare of children. It states clearly that members of the public including teachers who work with children have an obligation to report promptly to a children's aid society if they suspect that a child is or may be in need of protection. If a report is being made, you should always keep interests of our children in mind.

Just a friendly reminder that Holy Cross school is nut free, please do not send any snacks or lunch items with nuts to school.



This causes a health risk to some of our students. Please check with your child's teacher if sending in snacks for the class.

Thanks for your support, in this area!

## Terry Fox Run

Holy Cross will be having our annual Terry Fox run on Tuesday, September 27, 2016. The students in Grades 1 to 8 will complete their run after last recess at 2:30pm . Further details will be sent home shortly. Thank you in advance for your support with this most worthy cause.

We are again looking for 100% participation from all of the children here at Holy Cross.



## School Immunization Clinics

First Immunization date, for grade 7 & 8 students is

**September 28, 2016**

Second visit

**January 16, 2017**

Third visit

**April 5, 2017**

Parent's please send signed permission forms back to the school by September 26, 2016.

**ML** MIDDLESEX-LONDON  
HEALTH UNIT



# PRIEST'S CORNER

SEPTEMBER, 2016

## Greetings from Fr. Nelson Cabral

I am Father Nelson Cabral, the entrusted leader of Holy Cross Parish and spiritual guide of the students and staff members at the three Catholic Schools affiliated with Holy Cross Parish. It is a pleasure to join you on your journey and I send my blessing to you and your families at the beginning of a new school year:

“Loving God,

bless this journey of a new school year that we undertake.

Refresh our souls and renew our spirits as we embrace the work you have called us to:

to grow in our Christian faith, to build community,

to offer service to others, to grow in knowledge and wisdom.

We welcome those who are new to this community and

ask that you strengthen them to share the wonderful gifts you have given them.

Lord, make our hearts eager as we begin again our search for truth and knowledge.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Brother and Teacher. Amen.

## F.Y.I.

+ We wish to invite you and your family to our “Back to School” Mass at Holy Cross Church on September 16, 2016 at 9:30 am!

+ Our “Growing in Faith” catechesis program continues for children who received First Communion up to the age group that prepares for Confirmation! The first gathering takes place in the Parish Hall on September 16, 2016 from 6:30pm – 8:30pm.

## Hot Lunch

Mrs. Everest looks after our hot lunch and milk programs.

If you are wanting to order for your children and they are away on the due date, please call the school and talk to Mrs. Everest.

Late orders will not be accepted, as we have deadlines for ordering from our suppliers.

Thank you



## Boys & Girls Club of London

We are sending home a package from the Boys and Girls Club for an after school “Create Your Own Adventure” program with the youngest n only in your home.

This program will pick up and drop off at Holy Cross Elementary School on Thursday 's after school hours.

Students need to be registered with the Boys and Girl Club, before they are allowed to be on the bus. Staff from the Boys and Girls Club will communicate with the school office with a list of students that have registered for the program each week.

Any questions about this information package please contact Mrs. Everest or the Boy's and Girl's Club of London.



## Cougar Corner

LDCSB is challenging us to ask... “Who are our neighbours?”

At Holy Cross Elementary School our school theme this year is “Walking Together With God” which is also the theme for Education Week with our school board.

Our school goals this year are related to

\*Mental wellness

\*Academics—inquiry learning in mathematics & Literacy

\*Innovative & collaborative technology.

