



Holy Cross, September 2023

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# Welcome Back!

We are looking forward to a wonderful year ☺



# Opening Prayer

## Whose Child Is This?

'Whose child is this? ' I asked one day  
Seeing a little one out at play  
'Mine', said the parent with a tender smile  
'Mine to keep a little while  
To bathe his hands and comb his hair  
To tell him what he is to wear  
To prepare him that he may always be good  
And each day do the things he should'

'Whose child is this? ' I asked again  
As the door opened and someone came in  
'Mine', said the teacher with the same tender smile  
'Mine, to keep just for a little while  
To teach him how to be gentle and kind  
To train and direct his dear little mind  
To help him live by every rule  
And get the best he can from school'

'Whose child is this? ' I ask once more  
Just as the little one entered the door  
'Ours' said the parent and the teacher as they smiled  
And each took the hand of the little child  
'Ours to love and train together  
Ours this blessed task forever.'

*winter galz*



Welcome to the brand-new school year of 2023-2024. I can't wait to start this school year!!!! This is a time of wonder, amazement, and new beginnings and dreams. There is so much potential, and it is my favourite time of the year. New books, new pencils, new lessons to learn, and most of all, new faces to see smiles on. I look forward to seeing all the smiles 😊😊

To have our new school year ready, there has been so much happening this summer. I would like to thank Mr. Serediuk and Mr. Hickson who have been working so hard at putting the school together with new bulletin boards, painting, and organizing all the renovations. We are so lucky to have new flooring, new paint, and landscaping in the side yard. A special thanks to Integral Renovations for all their hard work painting our school and making it look amazing for us. Miss Casinet has done a simply amazing job at waxing our floors. They are so shiny they look like mirrors! Mr. Villamar has prepared new laptops for the students.

I am also very excited to let you know that we are continuing with the Christian Actions this coming year and we will be incorporating the Five Traits of Holy Cross School learners as well as the Seven Sacred Teachings with them. With these values incorporated into our daily school lives, the students will grow, nurture, and develop their own faith journeys. As Pope John Paul said, "Catholic education is above all a question of communicating Christ, of helping to form Christ in the lives of others." Here at Holy Cross School, we empower our students to explore their own beliefs and connections with God through Catholic values and Gospel teachings.

I am looking forward to working with the staff, students, school board, and PAC to make this school year memorable. I encourage you all to make special memories this year with your children and take time to read, dream, and pray as a family.

In closing, my wish is for God's blessings for continued good health, happiness, and safety for the Holy Cross School family.

A New Year's Prayer

Lord, You make all things new. You bring hope alive in our hearts and cause our Spirits to be born again. Thank you for this new year for all the potential it holds. Come and kindle in us a mighty flame so that in our time, many will see the wonders of God and live forever to praise Your glorious name. Amen

[Sign up for our weekly updates by clicking here](#)

*Thank  
you!*

Thank you to Jamie Oakley, Sabrina Smaczylo, Susie DeSantis, and Raquel Sineiro for their dedication and service to Holy Cross School! We wish them the best in their future endeavors.

A special thank you to Rachael Andrew for all her efforts the last two school years. Your impact has made a difference and we wish you all the best.



September 6th	Students Return grades 1-8
September 14th	September school Mass
September 15th	Terry Fox Run (2 dollar donation)- non uniform day
September 19th	Early Dismissal @ 2 pm
September 22nd	No School- Professional Development Day
September 29th	Orange Shirt Day- Non-uniform Day
October 3rd	Picture Day!

**Please note: This school year we will be doing quarterly newsletters, be sure to check the website calendar and weekly news updates for up-to-date information.**



All families are invited to attend the PACs AGM on\_\_\_\_\_.

PACs are a great opportunity to engage, inform and empower families and school partnerships. Research shows that when families are positively involved in their children's school experience, there is a positive effect on overall student achievement. PACs provide opportunities for parents to get involved and know what is going on in their child's school as well as provide a voice for parents to have a say in their child's education. It's also a place to share ideas and connect with families.

For more details e-mail [pacholycrossschool@gmail.com](mailto:pacholycrossschool@gmail.com)

We would love to see you!



Families are asked to continue to monitor their child's health every day prior to sending them to school and follow best practices. If you think your child has an illness that can be spread to others please keep them at home. If while at school your child exhibits cold or flu like symptoms such as, but not limited too; fever, runny nose, headache, or nausea, families will be contacted to pick their child up from school and take them home.

**Please, call the school office by 9:00 AM. If your child is going to be late or absent, please remind your child to sign in at the office if they are late!**





Holy Cross Catholic School is excited to welcome two new members of staff to our building as well as our brand new administrative team!

Ms. Kate McArthur, Mr. Aaron Nussbaum, Mr. Brett Bourquin and Mrs. Catherine Walker!

Hello! My name is Kate McArthur and I am excited to be teaching grade 1. I was born and raised in Winnipeg and attended Catholic schools from Kindergarten to grade 12. I have been teaching for ten years. For the past seven years I have been teaching grade 1. I love reading, gardening, travelling, and spending time with my two dogs (Jake and Petunia). I look forward to a fun-filled school year.

Hi! My name is Aaron Nussbaum and I am excited to be joining the Holy Cross Community and look forward to sharing my love of sports with the students. I grew up in Oregon, USA and came to Canada in 2008 where I finally learned how to dress properly for winter any why heated seats in cars are a good idea. I enjoy spending time outdoors and hope to be able to do some winter activities with the students this year. I am excited to engage with students in the language of mathematics and use it as a way to explore and understand the world.

"Mathematics is the language in which God has written the universe" Galileo Galilei

Hello Holy Cross Families! My name is Brett Bourquin and I am so honoured and excited to be joining the Holy Cross Community. I have been teaching in the Catholic school system for 7 years and have lived in Manitoba my entire life my connection to the Catholic Schools run even deep as my mom taught at St. Boniface for over 20 years! I love to golf, read and stay active and involved. I am looking forward to fun and incredible school year! I am looking forward to meeting all of you.

Hello, my name is Catherine Walker and I extremely excited to be here at Holy Cross School. A little about me. I was born and raised in Thompson and came to Winnipeg to do my university at U of M. I have taught all of my professional career exclusively in the Catholic Schools and have taught at a number of the Catholic Schools, most recently at St. John Brebeuf. I am very involved in my own parish. I love to sing, knit, and have recently taken up some water sports. I am looking forward to this year and anticipate many new blessings.

## National Day of Truth and Reconciliation: September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023

### Why We Wear Orange Shirts?

Phyllis Webstad, from the Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation (Canoe Creek Indian Band), left her home community at 6 years old to attend a residential school in British Columbia. Initially, she was excited to go to school and went shopping with her granny to pick out a new outfit for school; she chose a shiny orange shirt. When she arrived at the Residential school her orange shirt was taken away from her and never returned. The colour orange has always reminded Phyllis that her feelings didn't matter, how no one cared, and how left to feel like she was worth nothing.

On September 30<sup>th</sup>, Canadians wear an orange shirt to demonstrate the commitment to reconciliation and opening and continuing the dialogue about residential schooling. The slogan for Orange Shirt Day is "Every Child Matters". \_ \_It is important educators are aware of this focus as in the early grades this curriculum focuses on what it means to matter and how children matter in our communities residential schooling has had on Canada both past and present.

### How is Holy Cross Honouring National Truth and Reconciliation Day?

Throughout September and the rest of the school year, Holy Cross students will be learning about Residential Schools and the history of the Indigenous people of Canada through videos, classroom discussions, and literature. Additionally, the seven sacred teachings will be incorporated with our Christian Actions and the 5 Traits of a Holy Cross School Learner. On September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023, students at Holy Cross school are encouraged to wear Orange shirts as an acknowledgement of the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation.



<b>Mass Times</b>	<b>Reconciliation</b>
Monday-Saturday @ 7:45 AM	Monday- Saturday following 7:45 AM Mass
Saturday @ 4 PM	No reconciliation on Sunday
Sunday @ 7:45 AM, 10 AM and 12 PM	Private reconciliations available by appt. only
	Please call parish office @ 204-233-7467

### Religious Life at Holy Cross

As a Catholic School, Holy Cross has monthly masses for the whole school, and also holds smaller grade-grouping masses throughout the year. Our first celebration is the Feast of the Holy Cross on September 14th. All students participate in these masses, and those who are Catholic and have received their First Communion are welcome to receive the bread that has become Jesus at communion.

For families who are non-Catholic, we want you to know the message that we try to communicate to your children here in the school: God's love includes every one of His creatures, and He wants to pour out His blessings on everyone. However, the sacrament of the Eucharist is also a sign of participation in and unity with the Body of the Church, and so it is not open for all to receive. This does not limit the outpouring of God's love, and so all are invited to come forward for a blessing. Students who are non-Catholic or who have not had their First Communion are invited to cross their arms across their chests as the sign that they wish to receive a blessing.

For parents interested in First Communion for their children, this can be prepared and celebrated through the school. There will be a meeting scheduled in October or early November to provide you with more information. Any questions can be directed to Heather Lampman at [hlampman@holycrossschool.mb.ca](mailto:hlampman@holycrossschool.mb.ca). If your child is in grade 5 or above and you are seeking First Communion, please contact me immediately. If you are seeking Confirmation for your child, please contact your parish.



# Science Literacy Week 2023: Unveiling the Wonders of STEM at Holy Cross School

From September 18 to 24, 2023, Holy Cross School is thrilled to participate in Science Literacy Week—a nationwide celebration of science across Canada! This inspiring initiative aims to spotlight the brilliance and diversity of Canadian science. Stretching from one coast to another, institutions, educational facilities, and libraries will unite in commemorating science and fostering science communication through a plethora of events and initiatives, all encouraging individuals to delve deeper into the fascinating world around them.

Embarking on a STEM journey, whether it's a project or a passion, begins with curiosity, ignited by reading, listening, observing, and wondering. There are myriad avenues to explore: immerse yourself in science literature and magazines, tune in to enlightening science podcasts, enroll in captivating science courses, and partake in science-themed events, among numerous other possibilities!

The Kids' New Horizons partnership, forged between St. Boniface Hospital Research and Holy Cross School, is meticulously crafted to bolster health and science literacy among middle-year students and educators. It accomplishes this by seamlessly connecting classroom science learning with the ongoing research and daily endeavors at the St. Boniface Hospital and Research Centre.

## **But why is science literacy so crucial in today's world?**

In an era marked by unfettered access to information and the proliferation of "alternative facts," science literacy serves as our compass, guiding us through the labyrinth of data. It empowers us to make informed decisions concerning scientific matters that reverberate not only in our lives but also across the globe.

We've thrown down the gauntlet to our esteemed Holy Cross School STEM Club and Robotics Club Junior High students, urging them to harness their curiosity and shape their inquiries and concepts into projects that confront real and significant challenges. According to Bajaj, "Science Literacy Week is all about kindling a passion for scientific knowledge in everyone. I believe this is pivotal because some of the most pressing challenges our society faces today are deeply rooted in science."

Join us in celebrating Science Literacy Week 2023, as we unravel the captivating tapestry of STEM at Holy Cross School, fostering a profound appreciation for the boundless wonders of science!

## **Holy Cross School STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) Club Gears Up for Exciting Year Ahead !**

The Holy Cross School STEAM Club is set to embark on an exhilarating journey of scientific discovery as it announces its full swing for the upcoming academic year. Interested grade 7 and 8 students are encouraged to submit their applications by Monday to join this dynamic organization.

STEAM Club is dedicated to fostering scientific reasoning, hands-on experimentation, community engagement, and environmental stewardship. Members will have the opportunity to:

- Apply logic to real-life situations.
- Collaborate effectively with peers and the community.
- Gain insight into the impact of human activities on Earth while staying informed about current events.

Don't miss your chance to be part of this enriching scientific adventure. Contact Dr. Bajaj to express your interest and secure your spot in the Holy Cross School Science Club.

Get ready to unleash your inner scientist!



# School Safety

## **Anaphylaxis**

Some of our students have an allergic reaction called Anaphylaxis. Sometimes called “allergic shock” or “generalized allergic reaction”, anaphylaxis is a severe allergic reaction that can lead to rapid death, if untreated. Sufferers of ana-phylaxis respond with an extreme body reaction. The reaction may begin with itching, hives, vomiting, diarrhea, or swelling of the lips or face; within moments, the throat may begin to close, choking off breathing and leading to unconsciousness and death.

We must all join together to ensure their safety. Although peanuts may be the most common anaphylaxis-causing allergen in children, there are many others such as shellfish and tree nuts. Anaphylaxis is a life-threatening condition regardless of which substance triggers it.

Despite the best efforts of parents and schools, no individual or organization can guarantee an “allergy-free” environment. The only way to protect children who are known to be at risk of anaphylaxis is to put a plan in place to help them avoid the allergen and to establish the emergency response procedures to be followed in the event that they have an allergic reaction.

During the first week of school, teachers will be sending information home to parents outlining any allergens that their students are allergic to. Parents are requested to keep these allergens in mind when packing snacks or treats for the class or school bake sales. Parents are also asked to read labels carefully for the following products that may contain nut products: Granola Bars, Crackers, Chocolate bars and cookies, some cereals, any store baked goods or snacks.

On behalf of the students and staff, thank you for your co-operation.

## **Medication**

If your child requires medication, we request that you please fill out our “Authorization and Request for the Administration of Prescribed Medication” forms.



We want to take this opportunity to share some of the safety precautions we have put in place to keep students, families and staff safe. Last year, there were a few “close calls” in the parking lot between Holy Cross School pedestrians and cars driven by our families.

First, we will ensure that the gate at the east end of the parking lot remains **closed from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm.**

Second, we added traffic dividers to separate students in the outdoor waiting area from vehicles in the parking lot.

**Please do not drive between the traffic dividers.**

Thirdly, after school, students are directed to the waiting adjacent to the parking lot, we ask that families **pick up their children from the waiting area**, rather than have them run across the back lane and potentially into oncoming traffic.

We at Holy Cross School have a responsibility to 1) ensure the safety of pedestrians on surrounding streets, and in the back lane, during arrival and departure 2) ensure our neighbours have access to their properties 3) provide space for emergency vehicles to drive down the back lane. We need students, staff, and parents all working together to provide a safe and courteous system for dropping off and picking up students from school.

### **BE A GOOD NEIGHBOUR:**

The office has received many complaints from residents of Braemar Avenue about traffic in the back lane. This lane is not a parking zone, yet cars have regularly parked there creating undue congestion and safety concerns. Some parents have been observed using private property to turn around and even park their cars.

**Pre-Kindergarten & Kindergarten Students:** Use the **Gym Door** (located at the front of the gym) for entry at **8:15 a.m.** and **exit at 3:00 p.m.** on Dubuc Street.

**Grade 1 to 8 students** will meet at the rear of the school (**Parking Lot**) The doors open for student entry at **8:30 a.m. and exit at 3:00 p.m. Supervision is provided until 3:15 p.m.** Doors will be opened at 8:15 a.m. in the case of inclement weather.

Outside supervision is provided between, **8:15 a.m.- 8:30 a.m.** and **3:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.** It is **not safe** to drop your child off at school and leave them unattended. Students who are outside and unaccompanied by their guardians will be directed to Before & After Care. Dismissal at the end of the day begins at 3:00 p.m. Families are to wait outside until the hallways are clear before they enter the school.

God Bless and Thank You for Your Support,





**A very special welcome to all our new families!**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff and families who have participated in our school's Tabs for Wheelchairs' program! You have been instrumental in making this program an extremely successful one! In June, we celebrated the **25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Tabs for Wheelchairs** and presented two more wheelchairs to young people in our province.

**Holy Cross School** initiated this program in **1998** and as of today, we have 182 schools, 275 companies/groups, and hundreds of individuals saving tabs with us. In the past 25 years, through the tab collection, monetary donations, and two anonymous donors who have given very large donations, we have been able to present **54 specialized wheelchairs**. A huge thank you to everyone in our school community who has made this possible!

To all of our new families, in order to be a part of this very worthwhile cause, all you need to do is collect those little tabs off pop cans, fruit cans, pet food cans, beer cans, and any other items that have that same kind of tab. Tabs are usually silver but can be colored as well.

This program has had such great success because of people spreading the word to their extended family, friends and neighbors. The more people that are saving, the greater number of tabs are brought in and the more we will receive towards purchasing specialized wheelchairs. In the October School Newsletter, I will be able to let you know how many pounds of tabs came in this last school year and how much money the program received.

Every June, with the exception of the Covid years, we have had an assembly in the gym and presented a specialized wheelchair(s) to an individual(s). The Rehabilitation Centre for Children and Manitoba Possible (which used to be called The Society for Manitobans with Disabilities) give us the names of young people who could benefit from a brand-new specialized wheelchair. Attached with this newsletter is a picture of next year's recipient. Her name is Kyrie. This fall she is in grade two at Happy Thought School in East Selkirk.

Just to let you know, every classroom has a water jug in which to collect the tabs. When a classroom fills their 1<sup>st</sup> jug, they will get a heart put up on the chart in the main hallway of

the school and that classroom will get to have a party with a no uniform day and also be able to watch a movie. This year we are going to do something a little different from the previous years. We are going to ask each family to supply a healthy snack, of your child's choice, from home and to also bring a beverage for their party. When a classroom fills their 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> jug, they will have another chance to have a class party.

All tabs collected throughout the year from our school, the other schools and the companies/groups that are saving with us, are taken to Western Scrap Metals, and they in turn, present us with a cheque for the metal's worth at that time. This is the money we use to purchase the wheelchairs, along with any monetary donations we receive.

The following is a picture of the 2023 recipients (Bernard and Hayden) taken at the June assembly and our 2024 recipient, Kyrie.



At our June assembly, CTV was present and the following is a clip of that event. Just go to the following link (the news clip follows after a couple of brief advertisements):

<https://winnipeg.ctvnews.ca/video?clipId=2713646>

I am truly hoping that all families at Holy Cross will participate in this wonderful program and save tabs with us this year! It is such a simple thing to do and makes a world of difference in the lives of our recipients!!!

Sincerely,

Gwen Buccini  
Tabs for Wheelchairs Founder & Coordinator

## **Attention Parents!:**

Mrs. Pankiw is looking for some gently used table top puzzles (24 pieces or less) to add to her kindergarten classroom! If you have any games you would be willing to donate it would be greatly appreciated ☺

## **School Uniforms**

Students must be in the proper school uniform. Please label ALL articles of your child's clothing. This a reminder that all uniforms must be purchased through Top Marks. If you are unfamiliar with our uniform policy click the link [here](#) to review it.



## Holy Cross Staff 2023-2024

<b>Class</b>	
<b>Pre-Kindergarten</b>	Mrs. Pam Bembenek /Mrs. Jirapan Dimalanta
<b>Kindergarten</b>	Mrs. Elaine Pankiw
<b>Grade 1</b>	Ms. Kate McArthur
<b>Grade 1/2</b>	Ms. Sinden Carswell
<b>Grade 2</b>	Mrs. Mariia Polishchuk
<b>Grade 3</b>	Ms. Kelly Cruse
<b>Grade 3</b>	Mr. Dale Krawchuk
<b>Grade 4</b>	Mr. Braden Ewchuk
<b>Grade 4</b>	Mrs. Jean Gulowaty
<b>Grade 5</b>	Mrs. Marita Perez
<b>Grade 5/6</b>	Ms. Michelle Kostiw
<b>Grade 6</b>	Mrs. Natasha Viseli-Anderson
<b>Grade 7</b>	Mr. Antony Paulic
<b>Grade 7</b>	Mr. Aaron Nussbaum
<b>Grade 8</b>	Mrs. Cheryl Munro
<b>Grade 8</b>	Dr. Anju Bajaj / Mr. Rom Ciric
<b>Music</b>	Mrs. Michelle Henshaw
<b>Religion</b>	Mrs. Heather Lampman
<b>Resource</b>	Ms. Karen Stubbs
<b>Educational Assistants</b>	Mrs. Trish Neusitzer, Ms. Mary Rose Tabing, Ms. Tracy Fraser, Ms. Viktoriya Mozolevska, Ms. Karina Parashchak
<b>Before &amp; After School Program</b>	Ms. Mary Rose Tabing, Ms. Tracy Fraser, Sr. Justina Olanigi, Sr. Echaria Mgbeadichie
<b>Building Maintenance</b>	Mr. Orest Serediuk
<b>Administrative Assistant</b>	Mrs. Anna Katchanovski
<b>Secretary</b>	Mrs. Jill Anderson
<b>Vice Principal</b>	Mr. Brett Bourquin
<b>Principal</b>	Mrs. Catherine Walker