

Holy Cross School-October 2009

Calgary Catholic
School District
1885-2010

125
years



October 2009 Admin Message

And they're off.....

Another fantastic year has begun at Holy Cross and there has been plenty of enthusiasm about returning to a school that has seen many upgrades. At this time last year the school had undergone some transformation in the way of new floors and lights in some sections of the school. A year later the new science and CTS labs are complete, the windows and brickwork has been completed at the front of the school and every classroom now has Smartboard (interactive whiteboard) technology. Coupled with last year's procurement of a wireless laptop lab for students, teachers are also now equipped with laptops, and finally, the Senteo interactive tool sees us even more prepared to meet the needs of 21st century learners.

Our new AISI (Alberta Initiative for School Improvement) projects are focused in three areas over

the next three years. The aforementioned technology is one area while the other two will involve numeracy and literacy. Throughout these three years there is one teacher dedicated to overseeing each of these projects within our school who will work with other partner schools in order to see networking and learning continue to be available for teachers with benefits being passed along to students. Jane Grierson (Literacy) and Dylan Tetrault (Technology) are working with several different schools while Ron Paquette (Numeracy) will be working full-time at Holy Cross with students and staff.

Our athletic teams are up and running, School Council has some elections ahead and our (elementary) Catholic Community of Caring

certificates are all part of the activities that lie ahead for an engaging and exciting year. Our district theme this year is:

You Are the Light of the World...Shine!

All students and staff are encouraged to find ways in which they can employ their gifts whether it be in the classroom, on the playground or at home; there are many ways in which they can employ their gifts whether it be in the classroom, on the playground or at home; there are many ways that students can bring a little light to the world by respecting others, demonstrating kindness and caring, and acting as a responsible citizens in our school and in the community.

Have a great school year and God Bless,

Mr. N. O'Flaherty, Principal

Mrs. A. Corah—Vice Principal



Volume 1, Issue 1

October 1, 2009

Special points of interest:

- ☺ Admin Message
- ☺ Looking Into Classrooms
- ☺ Go Green!
- ☺ Caring for Others—The Philippines
- ☺ Dates & Reminders

REMINDER

**DUE TO THE
EARLY START
WITH WORLD
SKILLS, ALL
SCHOOLS WILL
BE CLOSED
OCTOBER 9-13
FOR
THANKSGIVING.**

Third Grade News



Well we made it through our first month of school and everyone seemed to survive! The following information on what will be happening in Miss Babinec's room during the month of October.

Tuesday Oct 6—Field Trip to

Fish Creek Park.

Thursday Oct 8—Picture Day.

Oct 9—13 NO SCHOOL

Wednesday Oct 14—
Thanksgiving Mass at
10:30ish—All are welcome.

Friday Oct 16—Stone Soup.

Monday Oct 26—NO
SCHOOL—FAITH DAY.

Thursday Oct 29—Pumpkin
Carving/Decorating.

Friday Oct 30—Character
Day

Grade 7—Religion

The Grade 7 students did an outstanding job on their "A Bit About ME" poster presentations. We are currently studying the biblical stories of Abraham and Sarah and the Exodus. Themes behind Unit 2—WE BELIEVE IN GOD, are **Trust**, **Promise** and **Covenant**. Grade 7 students will write their Unit 1 test on October 5th.

Ms. Borromeo

Grade 7—Social Studies

The Grade 7 students have just finished learning about 3 main Aboriginal Societies, our First Nations: the Mi'kmaq, Anishinabe, and the Haudenosaunee. We are now learning about Early European Explorers and what brought them to North America.

Ms. Borromeo

Grade 8—Social Studies

The new Social Studies curriculum in Grade 8 teaches students about worldviews; how the exchange of ideas and knowledge amongst different societies contribute to shaping worldviews of the Western world.

We have just finished exploring some of the ways that society, religion and a changing economy affected worldviews during Medieval Times. We are currently studying the trade and business expansion in Renaissance Europe.

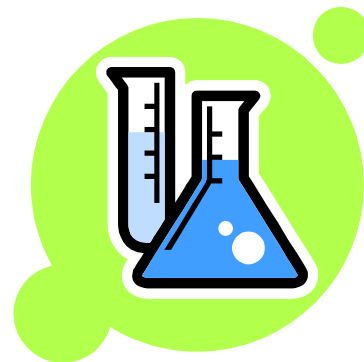
Ms. Borromeo and Mr. Britten

Grade 7 & 8 Science with Miss Boechler

Science 7—We have begun our first unit called "Interactions and Ecosystems". We are learning all about ecosystems and how everything works between the animals and non-living things in them. We are working on a special "inquiry" project where each student chooses something they are interested in learning more about related to "human impacts on the environment" and we're researching everything from the impacts of cigarette smoke on the atmosphere to how oil is harming whales in the ocean. For the next few weeks, we will continue to explore our world and the life processes in it!

Science 8—We are beginning the first unit called "The Mix and Flow of Matter". The main focus is on fluids and how fluids are used every day to make things work! We are using some hands-on activities and creating things like Dr. Seuss' Oobleck and mixing different chemicals together to understand the different properties of fluids and how they work. We are also working on an "inquiry project" where students are inquiring about everything from why different gasoline works better in our cars to neutralization reactions that make science fair volcanoes explode.

Ms. B. Boechler—Science



Grade 9 Math

The Grade 9's have begun to explore the math curriculum. The first project of the year asked students to design the back of a new playing card. Students made two designs. The first design has to include two lines of symmetry, and the second had to include rotational symmetry. Mixing creativity, imagination, art, and mathematics the students created

some high quality graphics. Ask your child if you can take a look at their design!

Mr. M. Miller
Math/Technology Teacher

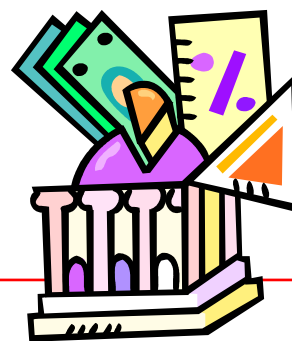


Volunteers URGENTLY Needed!

This fall the students at Holy Cross School would like to participate in the Junior Achievement **Investment Strategies Program (ISP)**. Junior Achievement is a non-profit organization that provides business and finance programs free of charge to schools. ISP is an online learning opportunity, consisting of in-class activities and an online stock market simulation. We are in **urgent** of volunteers to participate by sharing their

experiences and insights! As a volunteer you will work with students in a 5 one hour sessions throughout October to December. You will also get to coach the students in the **online stock market simulation** and play along yourself! If we do not have enough volunteers by Wednesday, October 7th the program may have to be postponed until the spring OR cancelled. If you, or anyone you know would be interested, please contact

us! Training is provided **free** of charge. Please call Carol Peters at (403) 781-2575 (or e-mail at cpeters@jasouthalberta.org) to sign up for more information!



FLOOD IN THE PHILIPPINES

Several families in our school community have been affected by the recent floods in the Philippines last weekend and want to be able to help out their family members and other unfortunate individuals who have lost everything in this tragedy. This would be a great opportunity for the staff and students of Holy Cross to showcase our caring spirit overseas. I am asking everyone to tribute cloth-

contribute clothing, non perishable food items, toiletries, and anything that would be beneficial to families rebuilding their lives. Feel free to drop items off at the office anytime and please ensure that all items will be able to travel safely overseas.

Thanks so much! It is greatly appreciated.

Ms. Faul, Student Support Worker



VOLLEYBALL NEWS

Congratulations to all players on the Junior Girls Volleyball Team for 2009! We are very pleased with the level of enthusiasm and dedication our team has demonstrated so far! Our practices are held every Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 2:50—3:50. Or game schedule is listed below. **GO CRUSADERS!**

Ms. Borromeo and Ms. Pashniak

October 7—3:45 Holy Cross—vs. St. Rose (home)

October 14—3:20 Holy Cross—vs. St. Martha (home)

October 22—3:45 Holy Cross—vs. Bishop Kidd (away)



GRADE 4 STUDENTS GO GREEN!



Do your part to help Earth. This year the Grade 4's are the Recycling Ambassadors. We try to focus on the 3R's! **REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE.** Reduce: you can use the back of your paper to reduce the amount of paper you use. Reuse: Bring a reusable container for snack or lunch time instead of throwing away garbage. Recycle: Our job is to promote recycling. Every Thursday we get into teams and go to each classroom to pick up paper to recycle. We are trying to raise money for our school to buy new equipment for gym class. Money from recycling also lets us go on more fun field trips. Recycling is important! If you don't take care of the Earth t

there will be nothing left for our future generations. Another way to help recycle is to start a recycling club. Invite some of your friends or family members to come join you. There are many other ways to recycle and you can do them at home too! You can make a family plan or your own routine. There are many things you can recycle that you didn't even know about. For example, you can recycle: paper, plastic, cardboard, milk cartons, glass bottles, plastic bottles, juice boxes, tin foil and electronics. There are lots of things in the world you can do, just remember the 3R's and to keep recycling each day. **GO GREEN!**

Julie Huynh Le—Grade 4 Student

Why do we Recycle?

We recycle because it helps the world. I am Gio, I am one of the Recycling Ambassadors. The Recycling Ambassadors are 4 teams, every week one team goes recycling. At school every Thursday we pick up paper and at lunch we make sure the juice boxes are recycled. At recess we make sure others are recycling and that they do not litter. I am on team 4, I like to recycle because it is a great way to save the earth and it can be fun. You Try It!

Gio Grande—Grade 4 Student

GRADE 4 STUDENT GO GREEN—Con't.

GO GREEN!

Hi my name is Fiona Hoang. I am in Grade 4 in Miss Smyth's class. I am here to talk about The 3R's! Do you know what 3R's means? It stands for:

REDUCE!

REUSE!

RECYCLE!

So now you know what the 3R's mean. Okay it's good for your child to bring their snack and lunches in containers that can be reusable. Don't use ziplock bags, wrappers or bags, it's really harmful for the earth. Also I wanted to say juice boxes can be used for field trip money! Oh yeah, I forgot we go to each classroom every Thursday to pick up the recycling. We are the Recycling Ambassadors'. We are split up into teams, Team 1, Team 2, Team 3, and Team 4. I am on Team 4.

PACKAGES, the bags, boxes, bubbles, buckets, jars and tins are things that come in that are not reuseable. So help the earth! A cookie wrapped in foil sitting on a tray is not the kind of packaging that is reuseable. For a snack use a reuseable container. The best way to clean up this mess is to start wasting less and less. Here's a poem for you.

Pop cans are a source of riches
Do not pitch them in the ditches
Do not throw them in the trash
Turn them into cold hard cash!

Fiona Hoang—Grade 4 Student

Drama, French and Religion

Drama—Students in Grade 7 have recently completed a movie review where they were able to play the part of Roger Ebert and share their bold opinions. They have now moved into the Movement Unit where they will be creating an interpretive dance. Students in Grade 8 performed mini scenes that were based on theatre in different cultures and have now moved into a Movement Unit as well. Students in Grade 8 and 9 are both working on Tableaux performances set to music.

French—Students are working hard at learning a new language. Students in Grades 4, 5, and 7 are working on the school unit, and students in Grade 6 are working on their health and well being. Students have weekly Dictées (spelling tests), and are asked to review their words nightly in order to be prepared for their tests. Students are shaking off their jitters and beginning to gain confidence in the language classroom!

Religion 8: Students in 8 Boechler and 8 Tomaszewski have finished Unit 1 and are starting Unit 2. Congratulations to the students who won the Jeopardy games in both classes! Unit 2 talks about holiness and the sacraments, and will last the entire month of October. The Unit 2 exam will be at the end of October or the first few days of November.

Ms. Tomaszewski

GRADE 2 NEWS

The Grade 2's and 3's will be participating in a Pumpkin Decorating Competition on October 29th. We will be requiring 30 pumpkins for this activity. Parent volunteers and pumpkin donations are welcome to this fun and festive event!!!

Ms. Robertson and Ms. Roxas



Dates, Reminders, Upcoming Events

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2009

- ◆ October 1, PARTY PROGRAM, Grade 9 students
- ◆ October 5 & 6, Oral Health
- ◆ October 8, Cross Country Meet
- ◆ October 8, Picture Day—Wear your BEST SMILE
- ◆ October 8, Grade 5 & 6 Field Trip Fish Creek Park (Pictures will be taken at 8:15 a.m. for these students)
- ◆ October 9th—No Classes (day-in-lieu World Skills)
- ◆ October 12th—HAPPY THANKSGIVING (no classes)
- ◆ October 13th—No Classes (day-in-lieu World Skills)
- ◆ October 14th Oral Health, Thanksgiving Celebration at 10:30 a.m. (All parents welcome to attend).
- ◆ October 15th Word Fest—Author Art Slade presentation at 9:30—11:00 Grades 6, 7 & 8
- ◆ October 16, SUTP coupon book orders due to the office
- ◆ October 26—District Faith Day—No Classes
- ◆ November 6th—Professional Development Day—No Classes—Technology Focus & Proactive Schoolwide Discipline Plan
- ◆ November 11th—Remembrance Day—No Classes

The Counsellor's Corner

By S. Hudson

"YOUTH INCLUSIVE NEIGHBORHOODS"

Calgary Immigrant Services recently presented to our Immigrant and ESL students and were available to parents at our Parent/Teacher evening. "Youth Inclusive Neighbourhoods" is a new program that reaches out to immigrant and refugee youth aged 13 to 16 and their families to provide a sense of community and connection. The program provides sports and recreation as well as skill-building workshops on topics such as gang and crime awareness, career planning, and job-shadowing opportunities. Your youth would have the opportunity to lead community action projects and meet positive and supportive role models. There are limited spaces available, so if you are interested, please ask your youth to pick up an application form and information package from Mrs. Hudson as soon as possible.

THE PARTY PROGRAM (Prevent Alcohol and Risk Related Trauma in Youth)

On October 1, many of our Grade 9 students attended this program at the Foothills Hospital. Students heard from different speakers who have all been affected by serious injuries in some way.

Did you know?

- Injury is the **leading cause** of death and hospitalization for youth in Alberta.
- About 800 young Canadians die every year from preventable injuries; that is an average of 15 per week.
- Young people aged 15–24 years are more at risk for serious injury and death than any other age group.
- A leading cause of injury and death among youth is motor vehicle crashes (drivers or passengers).

Fortunately, most injuries are preventable. The P.A.R.T.Y. Program promotes taking smart risks to reduce the chance of injury and to get teens thinking and talking about risks, choices, and consequences. The key messages are—**Buckle Up. Look First. Wear the Gear. Get Trained. Drive Sober. Seek Help.** We would appreciate it if you would have a talk with your teen about the smart risk messages introduced at the P.A.R.T.Y. Program. You could ask the following questions:

- What was the most important thing you learned at P.A.R.T.Y. Program?
- How has the way you think about risk changed?
- How have the choices you make about risk changed? That your friends make?

Remember what you do is often more important than what you say. Show your teen how to prevent injuries through your good example: *Buckle Up. Look First. Wear the Gear. Get Trained. Drive Sober. Seek Help.* For more info, go to www.partyprogram.org

GUEST SPEAKERS IN OCTOBER

There will be a Suicide Prevention presentation for all Grade 8 and Grade 9 students. The presenters are from the Canadian Mental Health Association.

Mrs. S. Hudson—Counsellor