

December 2011

Reminder:
Please call the school
when your child will be
absent or late.

Coming in January:

| | |
|----------------|------------------|
| Classes Resume | 9 th |
| SEAC Meeting | 25 th |

A Word from the Principal

Dear Parents and Students,

December is always an exciting time of year as we begin our Advent celebrations. Advent is a season filled with anticipation and excitement as we get ready to celebrate the birth of Christ.

As you celebrate Advent with your family, keep in mind that all of us carry our own, unique gifts and talents that we can offer each other. Since Advent is the beginning of a new Church year, it is an opportunity to reflect on our gifts and to continue to find ways to use these gifts to help transform the world.

Once again this month, you are invited to join us for our celebrations and Masses (please see the attached calendar).

On behalf of all of the staff of Holy Cross, I wish you and your families an Advent and Christmas season filled with hope, peace, joy and love.

Yours in Catholic Education,

Mrs. C. Empey,
Principal



Christmas Concerts

All parents and families of Kindergarten students are invited to our annual Nativity Performance on Wednesday, December 21st (A day Kindergarten) or Thursday, December 22nd (B day Kindergarten) at 10:30 am in the gym.

Parents and families of students in Grades 1, 2, or 3, and parents of students in our Mass Choir are invited to attend the Primary Christmas Concert on Wednesday, December 21st at 1:30 pm in the gym or Thursday, December 22nd at 1:30 pm.



Safety at School

- Supervision begins at 9:00 am. Please do not drop your child off before this time as the yard is not supervised until 9:00 am. Morning recess begins at 9:10 a.m.
- The best place for a sick child is at home. If medication is required, please note that all medications brought to school, prescription and non-prescription (this includes Advil, Tylenol, etc.,) must be accompanied by a physician's signature on the required medical forms. These forms are available at the office. Medication must be brought to the office by the parent. It is not safe for young children to be transporting medication.
- All parents are welcomed to come into the school to administer medication to his/her child if signed medical forms are not in place.
- Epipens and/or Twinjects are to be on-person. There are no exceptions to this rule.
- Please inform the office immediately of any medical concerns or changes to medical information we have on file.

We appreciate your co-operation in our efforts to provide all students with a happy, safe learning environment.

Canadian Tire Fundraiser

Once again, Holy Cross School is collecting Canadian Tire Money to assist the Salvation Army in providing bedding and household items for people who are in need.

If we as a community can help others, it will help bring the true meaning of Christmas to our students.

Holy Cross School Website

We would like to remind parents that we do have a Holy Cross School website which can be found at:

<http://holycrossschool.kemptville.com>

It is our hope that our website will become a useful parent tool to allow quick and easy access to school related information as well as save valuable secretarial time. Following are some highlights for frequently asked questions:

The home page of our website is used to inform our school family of important upcoming events.

School Newsletters and Calendars can be found on the News page.

Links to educational websites related to our curriculum are provided on the Links page.

Other useful links on this page include the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario where you can view the school year calendar by clicking on: School Information, School Year Calendar, Kindergarten Calendar. You can also find Registration information under the Registration tab on the CDSBEO's main page.

School Council Minutes will be posted under the Council Page. Please note that minutes will not be posted until they have been approved at the following month's Council Meeting.

You will also find links to Holy Cross Church and St. Michael's Catholic School on the Links page.

IMPORTANT

WITS

We are pleased to have launched a bullying prevention program this fall called WITS. WITS stands for Walk away, Ignore, Talk it out, and Seek help. All children in our school will be learning how to use these strategies to make our school an even safer and more peaceful place for everyone. We kicked off WITS this year with 2 special assemblies led by Constable Lindsey. We'll be sending out more information about the program during the school year, so stay tuned, and remember to ask your children if they are using their WITS!

Friends of Ryan's Well Club

The **Friends of Ryan's Well Club** have been meeting over the past month to learn more about the mission of the Ryan's Well Foundation. As many of you know, **Ryan Hreljac**, a former student of Holy Cross School, started the foundation over ten years ago. Since then, Ryan's Well has helped to build 700 water projects and 839 latrines bringing safe water and improved sanitation to 736,569 people in countries such as Uganda, Haiti, India, Tanzania and Kenya.

The **Ryan's Well School Challenge** was created for students who want to become more aware of the issues surrounding clean water and sanitation and are willing to get involved. Our Holy Cross group is committed once again to raise money for this year's challenge. This year, the Ngong Sub County in Kenya will receive funds to construct **25** household rainwater harvesting tanks, provide hygiene training and hand washing stations for **11** schools, and train local Maasai women to build household rainwater tanks and latrines.

Last week, local artist **Maggie Boyer** taught club members how to do a winter water colour scene. Their work has been printed into note cards with blank interiors and will be sold to raise funds for the Ryan's Well School Challenge. These cards, with envelopes, come in a plastic bag wrapped in ribbon, and will be for sale before and after the Christmas concerts at the school. You may also place an order by completing the information attached. The cards are 1 for \$2.00, 4 for \$6.00 or 8 for \$12.00. Thank you for supporting our local Ryan's Well Foundation. You are making a difference!



Help Make a Difference this Holiday Season!



Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit



Updating of Immunizations: The Health Unit will be reviewing the records of school students between January and June 2012 and advising parents when immunizations are missing from their records. Two notices will be sent to parents requesting the missing immunization information. If the Health Unit does not receive a response or an up-to-date immunization record school suspension orders will be issued for those students. Parents can provide immunization information by calling 1-800-660-5853, faxing 613-345-7038 or emailing immunization@healthunit.org

Get Kids in the Kitchen! Eatright Ontario and Dietitians of Canada are trying to get kids excited about healthy eating and creating kid-friendly healthy recipes. Students' in grades 1-6 can take the Kids Recipe Challenge before Dec 16th. For more information on this contest go to <https://www.eatrightontario.ca/en/Articles/School-Health/Get-Kids-in-the-Kitchen!-EatRight-Ontario-Kids-Rec.aspx>

Are you worried your child may develop an eating disorder? If you are thinking your child may be at risk of developing an eating disorder (or is showing signs of one) and are not sure what to do, there are many things you can do to help your child to have a healthy relationship with their body and with food. For information from CHEO's eating disorder experts on the following topics, please visit <http://www.cheo.on.ca/En/eating>

How to help prevent your child from developing an eating disorder?

What are some danger-signs to watch for?

How to help if you suspect an eating disorder?

Knights of Columbus Food Drive

We would like to continue to de-emphasize gift giving by students to teachers in school. However, we do know that children love to give at Christmas. A donation to the canned food drive, a local charity, or donating to Ryan's Well School Challenge would be very much appreciated.

The Knights of Columbus are requesting the following specific items:

- Canned potatoes
- Canned stews
- Flakes of ham, etc.
- Powdered pudding and jello
- Rice
- Cereal
- Cake Mixes
- Frostings for cake

Ryan's Well School Challenge Note Card Order Form

I would like to purchase _____ Christmas card sets of _____ (1 -\$2, 4 -\$6, 8 - \$12)

Please accept my donation of \$_____ for the Christmas cards.

Name: _____ (Please print) Thank-you!