

Dear Parents:

Here we are in November already. The children are following the routines and are anticipating what will happen next in our day.

In October, we shared a lovely Thanksgiving Celebration with the other Kindergarten classes. The children's singing and prayers were beautiful. The following week, we had the opportunity to talk about Fire Safety and to practice our fire drill. The children responded well and took their role very responsibly.

### **50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration of Holy Cross School**

On Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for Holy Cross School. The Kindergarten and Ready to Learn children participated in a thoughtful prayer service and later enjoyed a cupcake treat. It was a fun experience for all.

### **Report Cards and Interviews**

Report Cards will be sent out Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> and interviews will be held that week. The first term report will focus on Personal and Social Development. Over the course of the three terms, the report card will reflect your child's progress in the Kindergarten program. There will be more details to follow with a sign-up sheet for Interview times. Interviews will be teacher-requested or parent-requested this term.

### **The Alphabet (Jr. K. Students)**

As you are aware, we have started our Alphabet awareness activities. The children are developing a good understanding of the letters and sounds. For Jr. K. students, we ask you to continue to practice reading the ABC Chart (A is for apple, B is for ball, etc.) and singing the ABC Song while pointing to the letters with your child. Please have your child find the letters in his/her name in order and practice printing his/her name. If he/she is just beginning, start with the uppercase letters, please.

### **Literacy Development (Sr. K. Students)**

For Sr. K. students, please continue to practice the Term 1 Popcorn Words. As well, continue to practice the sounds of the letters and reading and printing the lowercase letters. It would be most helpful if you continue to review these items with your child.

### **Healthy Snacks**

We appreciate the efforts you have been making to provide good, nutritious food for your children. In the Kindergarten classes there are children with food restrictions and allergies. Because these restrictions and allergies are significant, we find that treats (i.e. Halloween treats) pose a problem. We are asking you to refrain from sending in treats in your child's lunch, i.e. candy, chocolate, etc. Thank you for your understanding.

### **Helping Hands / Hurting Hands Program**

This month, we will be introducing the "**Helping Hands/Hurting Hands**" Program. The concept is an easy one for young children to understand. Basically, **hurting hands stay in our pockets** and **we use our helping hands to help others**. As all the Kindergarten children are being introduced formally to this program, we will then be able to use

this concept throughout the year to reinforce positive social interactions in the classroom and on the schoolyard. We encourage you to try this concept at home.

### **Dressing for the Weather**

Please keep in mind that the children have a few opportunities to play outside throughout the day; therefore, in an effort to ensure that the outdoor times will be an enjoyable part of your child's day, please dress your child appropriately for the weather. As the weather gets cooler, please be aware that our Kindergarten Yard tends to be very **windy**. The children require a hat, mitts, a heavy jacket (and wind pants/snow pants, weather dependent) and warm footwear. **Label all clothing, including boots, and ensure your child recognizes his/her own belongings, please!**

We are attempting to foster independence in areas of self-care; therefore, you can assist your child in learning how to dress himself/herself in steps. A copy of the sequence chart that we use at school is attached as a guideline. The steps shown are designed for our classroom set up and will help to assist the children in becoming independent. At home, your child may find it helpful to have it displayed in the area where he/she gets dressed for outside. Thank you for your assistance in this ongoing project!

### **Take-Home Reading Program – Sr. K.**

We will begin a Take-Home Reading Program with the Senior Kindergarten children in November. Additional information will follow when we formally begin sending home reading books.

Thank you for your ongoing interest in the Kindergarten Program and for supporting your child in developing his/her skills.

Sincerely,

Your Partners in Catholic Education

Kindergarten Teachers  
Holy Cross School

### **Parent & Child Corner**

At home, it would be helpful if you would continue to spend some time colouring and drawing with your child. You can practice drawing shapes, i.e. circles, squares, triangles, etc., along with simple drawings of faces, trees, the sun, clouds, etc. Continue to encourage your child to use a proper pencil grip as you work together.

### **Plastic Bags**

We are in need of plastic bags. If you have any grocery bags or milk bags to spare, please send them to school with your child. These bags would be helpful to have in our classrooms for wet items, etc. Thank you.