

WELCOME BACK NEWSLETTER

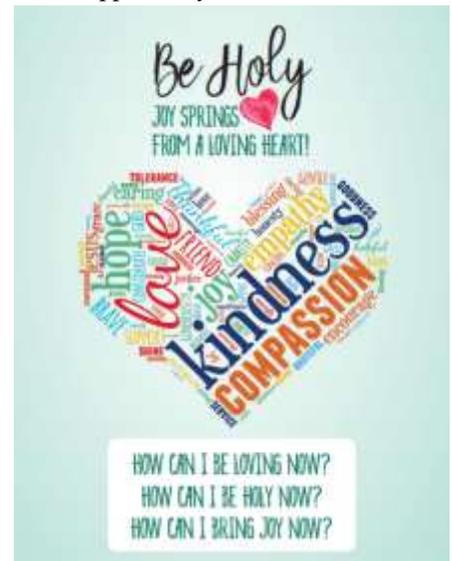
September 4, 2018

To all of our families.....

Welcome to 2018-2019 at Holy Name of Mary School. I feel so blessed to have the opportunity to be back in the Almonte community working with your children. All of the staff at Holy Name have been working very hard this summer to prepare for a year of learning both inside and outside of the classroom, to nurture the hearts, minds, bodies and souls of our school community. We have many new and exciting projects around the school including a new Board and School Theme.

Our new board theme is: **Be Holy! Joy Springs from a Loving Heart**

Our theme draws its inspiration first from Scripture. In the Old Testament, God tells us clearly: "I am the Lord your God. I am holy, so you must be holy." (Leviticus 19:2) This message is repeated in the New Testament, where we are reminded by Peter of our call to holiness: "As he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct; for it is written, 'You shall be holy, for I am holy.'" (1 Peter 1:15-16). In the next chapter of the First Letter of Peter he states: "You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation." (1 Peter 2:9.)



The theme is also greatly inspired by Saint Pope Paul II when he stated, "Do not be afraid to be holy! Have the courage and humility to present yourselves to the world determined to be holy, since full, true freedom is born from holiness." In addition, Pope Francis stated in 2013, "Do not be afraid of holiness, do not be afraid to aim high, to be loved and purified by God, do not be afraid to let yourself be guided by the Holy Spirit. Every Christian is called to holiness and holiness does not consist especially in doing extraordinary things, but in allowing God to act in us and through us."

Finally, we draw inspiration from Saint Mother Teresa who states, "All of us must be saints in this world. Holiness is a duty for you and me. So, let's be saints and so give glory to the Father."

Thank you for entrusting your children to us. Looking forward to meeting you!!
Caroline LaBelle

Safe Arrival Policy

To ensure the safety of our students we ask that:

1. Every student report to the office when late;
2. Students who normally stay for lunch must have written permission, dated and signed by a parent, to leave the premises;
3. Students who walk to school arrive **no earlier than 8:50** at which time the yard will be supervised.
4. Please park on Harold Street on Holy Name side of the street and avoid using driveways to turn around when picking up and dropping off.

Bell Times

- 8:50 – Earliest Arrival Time
- 9:05 - Classes Begin
- 10:35 - 10:50 Recess
- 12:25 - 1:15 Lunch
- 3:15 – First Wave of Busses Dismissed
- 3:20 – Second Wave/Walkers Dismissed
- 3:30 – Second Wave Departs



Milk/Lunches/Snack Time

Beginning in the month of October chocolate or white milk will be available for those wishing to purchase it. Information about pizza and subway lunches will be sent out shortly.

At the school we are asking that children eat only healthy snacks in the morning (fruit, vegetables, cheese and crackers, granola bars etc.) and save any treats for the afternoon snacks. Sugary snacks, chips and pop are not conducive to a productive learning environment and we would encourage parents to limit the amount sent to school.



ECO SCHOOLS

One of our Board initiatives includes teaching our students to be “Stewards of the Earth.” To this end, we as educators are being encouraged to involve our students in becoming ECO heroes at school through being responsible for creating a more ECO friendly school environment. Some of the projects around the school will include garbage reduction, greening of the school yard, reduction of energy consumption and further attention to recycling programs. As a start to the school year, we are asking families to send litterless lunches. Litterless lunches use all re-usable containers.

Congratulations to all our ECO heroes from last year who worked hard to earn a GOLD Eco School Award. This year we are striving for PLATINUM!!

PLEASE HELP US BE ECO HEROS!!

Agendas

All of the children will be provided with an agenda this year to keep themselves organized and for communication between home and school. We are asking for **\$10.00** per agenda to help the school cover the costs.

Unfortunately the Agendas will be arriving after the first week of school due to issues beyond our control. We will be providing all students with a pocket folder to carry notes and information between home and school temporarily.

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES – IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR GRADE 6 FAMILIES

Families are asked to Officially Register for Confirmation at the 9:00 or 10:30 Mass on either **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH OR 16TH.**

Preliminary Candidate and Parent Meeting at Holy Name of Mary Church

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26th

7:00-8:00 pm

More information can be found in the accompanied letter sent home from the Church.

FIRST COMMUNION/FIRST RECONCILIATION CANDIDATES – IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR GRADE 2 FAMILIES

Families are asked to Officially Register for Confirmation at the 9:00 or 10:30 Mass on either **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD OR 30TH.**

Preliminary Candidate and Parent Meeting at Holy Name of Mary Church

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10th
7:00-8:00 pm

More information can be found in the accompanied letter sent home from the Church.



TERRY FOX RUN
On September 27th we will be hosting our own Holy Name of Mary Terry Fox Run. More details will follow. **SAVE THE DATE!**

Catholic School Council

We are looking for any volunteers who would be interested in joining the Catholic School council this year. The council is involved in many initiatives which make Holy Name of Mary such a special place. ALL parents are welcome! We will be having our first meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 19th, 2018 at 6:30 pm. All are welcome!!

Sign-In Policy

In compliance with the Ministry of Education, and our own School Board guidelines, regarding the Safe Schools Act, all PARENTS and VISITORS entering the school MUST sign in at the MAIN OFFICE and wear a VISITOR'S TAG which should be returned to the office when signing out.

Volunteers

Student learning improves when families get involved. Research has demonstrated time and time again that parents and teachers, when working together, benefit student learning. Our school community is very fortunate that parents are involved in so many ways. If you are interested in volunteering please come in and pick up a letter from Mrs. Hilts in order to complete a Police Record Check. **In compliance with Board policy, all volunteers will be screened and must provide a Police Check in order to ensure the safety of our student population.**

Student Illness

If your child is ill/not able to attend school for other reasons, please call the school at 613-256-2532 before classes begin. Our school voice mail is available twenty-four hours a day. Should you not inform us we will be contacting you for verification.

Medication

If your child requires medication be taken at school, it must be kept at the office with an authorization form filled out and signed by a Doctor. These forms may be obtained at the school office. No medication is to be kept with the child. For non-prescription drugs e.g. Tylenol etc., a parent's note is sufficient. These are also to remain at the office. This is for the safety of all students.

Allergies

Please let the office and your child's teacher know if your child is allergic to any substance (including bees, wasps, etc.) We would like to remind you that Holy Name of Mary has peanut-free zones in the school. We kindly ask that you do not send products that contain peanuts. There are a few manufacturers who are aggressively marketing peanut-free products that look, taste and smell like real peanut butter (soy butter, sun butter, wow butter, etc.). These products cause confusion and difficulty in monitoring lunches on a daily basis and create an unsafe environment for our peanut anaphylactic student and staff population. Therefore, due to the obvious difficulty in identifying the difference between peanut butter and artificial peanut butter, **we do not allow any of these products in our school.**



CONSTRUCTION AND HOW IT IS AFFECTING OUR DAY!!

As most of you know the construction is underway at Holy Name of Mary School. We are looking forward to a brand new daycare facility and six new classrooms to be ready sometime after Christmas.

You will notice that some of the parking is being used. In order to thin out the traffic at the beginning and end of the day, we will be having students in Grade 1 to Grade 8 picked up or dropped off by cars lined up on Harold Street at the back of the school property. Students will cross the play yard and be dismissed from the "CAR GATE" at 3:20 with the second wave of busses. We ask that parents only park on the School Side of Harold Street to avoid students crossing between cars. The Car Gate pick up will commence on Wednesday, September 5th.

Kindergarten students will be picked up at their classrooms. If you have another child in the school and you are picking up your JK/SK child they are welcome to meet you in the front lobby.

Students will be using the Front entrance and the Primary exit/entrance throughout the school day. All other exits are to be used only in a case of Emergency.

Thank you for your cooperation!!

