

Holy Cross Junior High

2009-2010 School Development Report



Vision

The vision of (To be updated)

Mission

The mission of Holy Cross Junior High is to maximize life-long learning for every child in a safe, caring, healthy and socially just environment through partnerships with the school community.

Principal: Mr. Reginald MacDonald
Assistant Principal: Mrs. Linda Hart
Guidance: Ms. Charlene Wiseman
Secretary: Ms. Lisa Morgan

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Message from the Director of Education

Since Eastern School District's inception in September, 2004 many changes have occurred. Our efforts have now moved beyond structural reform and reorganization to developing our schools as caring, professional and purposeful places of learning and excellence. The School District has engaged in a process designed to accomplish this. Our strategic plan identifies the mission of our District to enhance achievement and success for all students within a healthy, active, safe, caring and socially just learning environment.

On behalf of Eastern School District, I acknowledge the many efforts of our teachers, administrators, support staff, parents and community representatives, particularly through School Councils. I encourage you to review this document and to converse with your school representatives. It is in this conversation that the school's goals and expectations come to life, in an atmosphere of support and accountability. When a community is better informed about its school, participation and ownership increases. The value of this report lies not only in what it says, but also in what it does.

I wish to congratulate each school for their commitment to achieving success as evidenced by this Annual School Report. Keep up the good work!

FORD RICE, B.A., B.Ed., M.Ed.
C.E.O./DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

Message from Principal

In 2006-07 our school embarked on their 4 year school development plan. This year was the last year for that plan. As per process when one plan comes to closure, the planning process begins for another development plan that will lead us in our decision making for the next 3 years or so. While we had gathered all the data to facilitate the process, the school development team in conjunction with Board Office staff agreed to complete this process in the fall of 2010.

After four years, I am pleased to report that progress has been made with all three of our goals. In the area of student academics our tracking protocols have enabled us to better monitor student success with school wide assessments giving us some flexibility with regards to instructional support. However, we are certainly not where we want to be with regards to our performance on provincial assessments. We are pleased with the work we have done in maintaining a safe, caring and a healthy school environment and promoting citizenship.

With regards to student achievement, we are not satisfied with our students' academic performance in general and certainly not with provincial assessments. Consequently, it was felt that we needed to reexamine our organizational structure to see if there are things we can do differently that could have a positive impact on student learning. As a result of that review, we have reorganized some school structures for the 2010-2011 school year. We have switched from a five period per day cycle to a six period per cycle day, have added more instructional time to Language Arts and Mathematics and are offering three periods of Physical Education per cycle as opposed to two last year. We have built in a ten minute nutritional break and have extended lunch time giving students more time to avail of services within the local community. In addition to these initiatives, we have incorporated an eight

minute homeroom in the morning to help ensure students are ready for the morning session and a four minute homeroom for the afternoon session. We hope these initiatives will make it easier for our students to maintain their concentration and focus during instructional time; thus leading to increased academic performance.

To supplement these initiatives we also invested in computer technology and have acquired assistive technology from the department in an attempt to meet the exceptional needs of some of students who could benefit from the technology.

I would like to express my appreciation to my teaching staff, to my assistant principal, Ms. Hart, to my support staff, to our school council and the school community at large for all their support and cooperating throughout the year. I also would like to express my appreciation to our Board Office staff for their support and cooperation and finally to our government and community organizations. The support we have received from the various community organizations and government agencies have been tremendous. Thank you.

In conclusion I would like to reiterate that we remain committed to the school development process and look forward to developing a new plan in the Fall. We will continue to strive to fulfill our mission of maximizing life-long learning for every child in a safe, caring, and a healthy and socially just environment through partnerships with the school community.

Reginald MacDonald
Principal

Message from School Council

The School Council at Holy Cross Junior High is made up of teachers, parents and community representatives, each representing one third of the council. We work as a team to help develop, encourage and promote the policies, practices and activities to enhance school programs and student achievement.

The School Council at Holy Cross Junior High meets monthly to discuss issues which are pertinent to the school and its development.

This year, one of the undertakings of the Council has been to finish up the ongoing project of getting our sign up on the school to provide school identification and to announce school-related information. We are very pleased to say that this project is nearing completion and we are hoping to have it up on the school soon.

The major part of most meetings is spent dealing with the general dealings of the school such as school budget and debt, academic results and school activities.

The School Council is also involved in supporting the school in its fundraising initiatives. This year we decided to undertake an initiative to approach corporations in an effort to fundraise for smartboards for the school.

This year, on the school level, we were involved in a very successful wake-a-thon. We have discovered that not only are wake-a-thons profitable as fundraisers but they are also greatly enjoyed by the students.

On behalf of the school council, we thank you for your support and cooperation throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Audrey Sheppard & Gerry Sullivan

Overview of School

Our School Community

Holy Cross Junior High School is part of the Eastern School District. The school's enrolment is 173 students and offers grades 7 - 9. It is a three streamed school at grades 7 and 9; two streamed for grade 8. Our school is situated on 7 Ricketts Road, in the center of St. John's, with all students excepting those requiring special transportation walking to school. We have two feeder schools, Holy Cross Elementary and Bishop Abraham. Students from Holy Cross Junior High feed into Booth Memorial High School.

Our school has a staff allocation of 16.00 units. This allocation includes 8.0 units for regular teachers, 1.00 unit for administration, 0.33 of a unit for guidance, 1.30 unit specialist allocation for physical education and music, 0.22 of a unit for learning resources and 1.23 units for non-categorical special education. Holy Cross is also assigned 1.0 units for criteria D, E, F & G. We also had an adjustment factor of 2.92. The adjustment factor supplemented the administration, special education, and literacy / numeracy support.

In addition to the teaching staff, there are 3.0 units (15 hours) for student assistants. To supplement the above staff, the school has a 6.0 hour secretarial position, a full time maintenance custodian and custodian and a 4 hour cleaner.

In addition to staff based at the school, we have access to a speech language pathologist, and itinerant teachers (hearing, visual, behavior specialists etc.) from District School. We also have access to an educational psychologist, a student support specialist, program specialists and administrative staff from the Board Office at Atlantic Place. We also had numeracy support specialist. In addition there is a SEO (Senior Education Officer) devoted to Intermediate Grades.

Enrolment by Grade and Gender				
Enrolment (percentages) as of the last day of classes in September				
Grade	7	8	9	Totals
Male	28(52%)	27(50%)	35(54%)	90 (52%)
Female	26(48%)	27(40%)	30(46%)	83 (48%)
Totals	54(31%)	54(31%)	65(38%)	173

Percentages rounded to nearest whole number.

Programs Provided

Holy Cross Junior High offers the provincial prescribed curriculum as outlined in the Provincial Program of Studies. We offer Mathematics, Science, Language Arts, Social Studies, Core French, Art, Health, Religion, Technology Education, Home Economics, Physical Education and Music (Choral and Band). Holy Cross does not offer French Immersion. Students wanting to do French Immersion attend I.J. Samson.

The Music Department offers opportunities for students to participate in senior band, junior band, choir, and guitar ensemble.

The Athletics department offers opportunities for students to participate in soccer, volleyball, basketball, badminton, hiking, weight lifting, intramurals, dance, cross country and downhill skiing.

Key Highlights/Special Projects

Holy Cross Junior High operated a Kids Eat Smart breakfast program for its 10th year in a row. This program was open five days a week and served on average one third of our population each day. The menu included: toast, bagels, jam, cheese whiz, cereal, milk, juice, yogurt, and fresh fruit on a daily basis. Occasionally pancakes, eggs, sausages, fruit smoothies, grilled cheese or egg sandwiches were also served. Our breakfast program operated buffet style under the direction of two teachers this year: Mrs. Lisa Saunders and Ms. Patti Hines. Several students were also involved to help set-up and clean-up each morning. The cost of operating this program is approximately \$10,000 each school year. Just over \$2000 was raised by the school itself through the province wide Walk-To-Breakfast in October. The remaining funding has come from KES matching grants, fruit and vegetable grants and other funding which gives recognition to our in-kind donations. This is a successful program which creates a warm welcoming environment for our students each morning. Funding is already in place for this to continue in the next school year.

Allied Youth has also been long affiliated with the school. It has certainly been able to provide leadership opportunities to our students. While the post has officially been removed from the school, meetings continue to be held at the school and our students continue to be actively involved.

The school continues to have a very committed relationship with the Froude Avenue Community Centre. They have been offering free tutoring at the school at least twice a week. Unfortunately the maximum number of students availing of this service at any one time was ten. The numbers increased when it was exam time. Although the numbers were minimal we did see a difference in the students who did attend. Froude Avenue feels that this service is very worthwhile and will continue to support the school in any way it can.

We are continuing with our C.R.O.S.S. awards given to students who demonstrate: care for others, respect and responsibility, availing of opportunities to learn, always gives their best work and supports others and own learning. We had three major blitzes throughout the year. The awards were given at each of our recognition assemblies.

As in previous years our students participated in the Pascal Mathematics Contest (grade 9), Mathematics League Challenges (Grade 7 & 8) and the Gauss Mathematics Contest (Grades 7 & 8).

On May 21st, students from Holy Cross Junior High School celebrated their Annual Numeracy, Education & Teamwork Day (N.E.A.T). Students from grades 7,8 & 9 mathematics classes worked together to create, organize and instruct fun and cooperative numeracy games for visiting elementary school students. One hundred and twenty students from feeder schools Holy Cross Elementary and Bishop Abraham Elementary visited throughout the day engaging in numeracy games like Capture 5, Prison Break, Set and Let 'er roll. Prizes were drawn and snacks were served while each student received a certificate of participation. The goal of N.E.A.T day was to allow students to enjoy mathematics in a positive, fun and challenging manner while at the same time making connections for teachers and students.

Through the Holy Cross Junior High NEAT Initiative, the tutoring sessions allowed students to benefit from the extra help sessions and many students are improving in mathematics as a result. Special thanks to Mr. Dustin Rideout for his volunteer work.

Our new awards criteria were implemented as planned and was received very favorably by everyone.

This year the library received a \$750.00 grant from the Department of Education via Minister Shawn Skinner that was designed to aid in the purchase of new, high-interest materials for the library. Our focus was to invest in a series of graphic novels and other recently released materials that would appeal to all interests within our student base. This grant, when combined with the approximately \$600.00 invested by Holy Cross in the book purchase area, Scholastic award coupons, and the successful book donation campaign, allowed the library to acquire almost 450 books for the library, almost all in the area of fiction and graphic novels. Interest in and awareness of the books available in the library has grown throughout the year and there are many students who comment on the material available, and are either requesting specific materials for purchase (additional titles in a series, etc) or are eagerly awaiting the next lot to be placed on the shelves.

We also received a grant from the Department of Education for \$9600.00 for new library and classroom reading books. With these new materials the library will be able to remove many outdated titles without diminishing its stock, and the establishment of classroom libraries for the Language Arts classrooms will bring more materials to even more students. We are growing our resources, and have even more plans for the next year.

From the Department of Education as well, we received a grant for \$800.00 through their Healthy, Students, Healthy Schools initiative. This money was used to purchase physical education equipment to encourage more involvement of our female population in physical activity.

Partnerships

In other for us to maximize the learning potential of all of our students, to fully promote and enhance the safe, caring, healthy and socially just environment of our school, we partner with our community agencies.

Velocity Adventures-Velocity Adventure is a wilderness experience for urban teenagers. It targets youth who are at risk.

Six of our students were accepted into the Velocity program. Since intake they have come with us on a variety of team building day trips, as well as our Gros Morne adventure trip during the summer. The groups have taken part in a number of activities to date and continue to participate in monthly group adventure activities as well as individual follow up sessions.

The following are activities youth from Holy Cross have taken part in since June; Shelter building, canoeing, rock climbing, boat tour, zip-lining, caving, camping, hiking, horseback riding, kayaking, scuba diving, water team building and rappelling.

Sincerely,
Simone Lilly and Chris Crockwell

4-H Newfoundland and Labrador - In 2010 4-H St. John's had over 30 youth take part in its programming with between 13 and 18 of these being Holy Cross Students and Alumni taking part through different events over the past year. Through these projects and initiatives many of these youth were able to gain part time employment and develop new skills.

Starting in December 2010 we will be selecting a new group of students and planning some new projects and events. This year we would like to focus in the area of Junior High as we are now developing new travel opportunities throughout Canada that junior high students can attend .

Sincerely,
Gerry Sullivan, Executive Director, 4-H Newfoundland and Labrador

RNC and Vibrant Communities-Over the past number of years, the RNC has offered the strive program to our students, have done sessions on internet safety, the young offenders act and teen drugs in association with addictions services, Eastern Health. Our partnership with vibrant communities did not materialized as planned due to changes in staff. However, the administration does attend meetings periodically to support and promote their initiatives.

This past year rather than having individual sessions throughout the year by the above agencies, a professional development day for students was organized whereby concurrent sessions covering the typical topics were made available to the students. This day was a success and plans for a second one did not materialize due to scheduling conflicts and time restraints.

Child, Youth and Family Services –In prior years, the school had a social worker assigned to the school. In the 2008-09 school year we completed a survey on the Eastern Health-Child Youth Family

Services/Eastern School District Social Workers in Schools Project. There has been no movement in having a social worker designated for the school.

Darcy Hallett, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Memorial University

Dr. Hallett is currently an Assistant Professor of Psychology at Memorial University. He is trained as a Development Psychologist and studies how children learn math. He teaches courses in Statistics and Child Development at Memorial University.

We have entered into partnership with Dr. Hallett whereby he would review school data to try and ascertain why students are having difficulty in learning not just mathematics but language arts as well. If we can understand why the students are having difficulty maybe we can put appropriate programs in place to help address the specific areas of need.

TD- Friends of the Environment. In December 2008, the school applied and received a \$3000.00 grant from TD- Friends of the Environment. While some planning took place with regards to the types of greenery and location of various plants, it is our hope that our plan will be action in the coming school year.

Froude Avenue Community Centre – Our partnership with them in their Children & Family Funding Social Development Partnerships Program did not materialize as the initiative did not get funding.

Panasonic Initiative - This year the school fulfilled its contractual arrangement with KWN. As a result the school now owns the high definition video camera and the iMac computer, along with video editing software that was a part of the agreement.

Newspapers In Education – The school continues to partner with ‘Newspapers In Education’. This partnership continues to provide opportunities for our students to maximize their learning opportunities.

St. Bon’s Arena – St. Bon’s continues to provide the school access to their rink at a subsidize rate enabling a number of our students to participate in hockey that they otherwise would not be able to afford to. We are very proud of this partnership.

Recreation Newfoundland and Labrador and the St. John’s Boys and Girls Club, Buckmaster Circle- We have partnered with the above to offer physical activities to students during lunch hour.

The 3-4 year School Development Plan outlines a school’s goals and objectives over the life of the plan.

Goal 1: To increase academic achievement in all subject areas by 2010

Year	Objective	Objective	Objective		
2006-07	To improve student’s constructed responses across the curriculum	To improve student’s listening skills and ability to respond to text	To improve student’s writing ability in various forms		
2007-	To improve	To improve	To improve the		

08	functional skills in mathematics	organizational skills in student's work across the curriculum	quality of work passed to teachers by students		
2008-09	To improve student work ethic	To increase independent learning			
2009-10	To implement special services model within the context of inclusionary practices	To improve the quality of work completed and submitted by students	To increase student learning in mathematics	To increase literacy skills in the core subject areas	To improve students' organizational skills

Goal 2: To maintain a Safe, Caring and Healthy School Environment

Year	Objective	Objective	Objective	Objective
2006-07	To eliminate disruptions to learning caused by student behaviour	Generation of a behavior matrix and display of matrix in school corridor	Incorporation of the PBS principles into the Holy Cross code of conduct and student expectations	
2007-08	To provide more recognition of student achievement	Teaching of behavior matrix to students	To increase communication between the school and home	
2008-09	To provide students the opportunity to grow spiritually and morally	Development of a behavioural matrix for each area of the school	To increase support from the community	
2009-10	To implement school wide PBS	To increase communication and parental involvement	To increase and support community involvement	To improve student and staff wellness

Goal 3: To promote and enhance citizenship within our school community

Year	Objective	Objective	Objective
2006-07			
2007-08			
2008-09	To promote the importance of giving back, to say thank you. i.e. to continue to promote our Remembrance Day Assembly ; our Thanksgiving Day Assembly	To highlight the needs within our society and our responsibility to try and address it within our means. i.e. to collect more food for the needy	To promote our school as a community school
2009-10	To increase communication between the school and the community	To open our school for community activities	

Operational Issues

Year	Issues	Issues	Issues
2006-07	Computer hardware improvement and software allocation	Update student information form	Ask ESD for increased allocation to Special Needs department
2007-08	Teacher and departmental budgets	School wide/Classroom PA function	A separate Healthy living Committee
2008-09	Improve classroom and building aesthetics	Increase mathematics materials in classrooms	
2009-10			

Report on School Development Plan for Previous Year (2009-10)

Goal 1. To improve achievement across the curriculum		
Objective 1.1 To implement special services model within the context of inclusionary practices	Objective 1.2 To improve the quality of work completed and submitted by students	Objective 1.3 To increase student learning in mathematics
Commendations 1.1 -Training of present staff completed -Documents and policies available -Inclusionary practices adopted -Spreadsheet completed -DI instruction occurring -SS team aligned with subject areas and grade levels	Commendations 1.2 -List of req'd materials created and distributed -Organizational booklet reviewed during student pd day -Study skills booklet created -Cross curricular units are done -New honors system implemented	Commendations 1.3 -Numeracy specialist in place -Numeracy support provided lunch hour tutorials -Smartboard tech integrated -Gameboard approach used where appropriate
Recommendations 1.1 -Assess status of guidance policy -Implement anti bullying program -Assess the level of need for collaboratively developing modified courses	Recommendations 1.2 -Promote organizational booklet at various points throughout the year -Distribute study skills booklet -Find more opportunities for cross curricular units -Develop a comprehensive plan to incorporate strategies to support student work quality -There is a need for renewed focus on ensuring all required work is passed in	Recommendations 1.3 -To develop a focus on mathematics learning strategies within the context of DI -Numeracy support should be continued.
Objective 1.4. To increase literacy skills in the core subject areas	Objective 1.5 To improve students' organizational skills	
Commendations 1.4 -Literacy specialist assigned to specific classes -Special services deployed as supports in classrooms -Smartboard being used in a variety of subject areas -Increase in informational text Use of DI strategies in Language Arts	Commendations 1.5 -Organizational booklet created and student pd day held -Use of tracking sheet to help some students in their daily routine	

<p>Recommendations1.4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Continue professional development around smartboards -More PD in DI -Continue with literacy support 	<p>Recommendations1.5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Combine 1.5 with 1.2 -Suggest 1.2 and 1.5 be worded to incorporate student motivation -Broaden the base of the use of student tracking sheet -Make the link between PBS initiative and student achievement
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Report on School Development Plan for Previous Year (2009-2010) cont.

<p>Objective 2.1 Implement School Wide PBS</p>	<p>Objective 2.2 To increase communication and parental involvement</p>	<p>Objective 2.3 To increase and support community involvement</p>	<p>Objective 2.4 To improve student and staff wellness</p>
<p>Commendations 2.1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -PBS activities have a positive impact on our students. -Matrix displayed -Creation of SACS team -CROSS awards continue -PBS presentations -Student pd day held 	<p>Commendations 2.2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Reformatted newsletters. Parents are informed of all school events -School webpage regularly updated and some teachers consistently using homework webpages -Announcements made regularly re: student achievement both in school and out of school -Communication with home has increased, through the use of email and Synervoice, and attendance at school events and parent-teacher interviews has increased. 	<p>Commendations 2.3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Partnership with Boys and Girls club and NL recreation to have lunchtime activities for students -Partnership with Math/ Psychology Dept at MUN -Regular communication with social workers assigned to school -Recycling program -Breakfast program 	<p>Commendations 2.4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Healthy choices at breakfast time -Student PD days were held -Presentations to students by -Kids Help Phone -Presentation to staff by Dr. - Younghusband on teacher wellness

<p>Recommendations 2.1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -With the high number of office referrals this year, there will be a need for more comprehensive PBS throughout the school. -Develop lesson plans around behaviour matrix -Check with other schools for pre existing lesson plans -Implement a consistent practice of recording and tracking behaviours -Extend membership and responsibilities of SACS team -Increase number of CROSS awards blitzes 	<p>Recommendations 2.2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Include pictures in newsletters Post school events in community centers -All teachers to use homework webpages consistently -Develop templates for teacher use when contacting students/parents to communicate positive behaviours and academic successes 	<p>Recommendations 2.3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Increase membership of recycling committee -Find a lunch program for the school -Develop an overall plan for promoting fitness throughout the school -Target specific businesses and corporations for school support -Encourage Students to take advantage of community involvement activities -Hold meeting with the various community centers to brainstorm ways to support students together 	<p>Recommendations 2.4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Combine 2.3 and 2.4 -Obtain a lunch program for the school
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Report on School Development Plan for Previous Year (2009-10) cont.

Goal 3. To promote and enhance citizenship within our school community	
Objective 3.1 To increase communication between the school and the community	Objective 3.2 To open our school for community activities
Commendations 3.1 -Increased number of communications between the school and community -School website regularly updated. Some teachers keep updated webpages -Transition meetings held with feeder schools -Liaisons with organizations such as Boys and Girls Club, Froude Ave. ongoing -School signage board complete	Commendations 3.2 -Increased number of activities being held at our school -Various activities such as Zumba, Ball Hockey, Shakespeare by the Sea taking part at the school -Neighbouring daycare center held Christmas Concert at school and year end graduating ceremonies
Recommendations 3.1 -All teachers should maintain and update a webpage -Have schools signage put up outside -Involve more the Allied youth group in school activities	Recommendations 3.2 -Start lunchtime activities with Boys and Girls Club early in the year

Operational Issues Report 2009-10

<i>Year</i>	<i>Issues</i>	<i>Issues</i>	<i>Issues</i>
2009-10	<i>Curtains in the classrooms/ funds to various departments</i>	<i>Fire department has prohibited us from using the top landing in both the gymnasium and LRC</i>	<i>Other school issues</i>
Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Curtains have been installed in classrooms. - Moneys have been invested in special services. 15 additional computers have been purchased plus 9 have been replaced to help address exceptional needs at the classroom level. - School finances are being monitored with the aim of assigning specific budgets to various departments. Right now finances are deployed in greatest area of need. 	<p>The school has highlighted the need to have this address through the facilities assessment process and through its regular maintenance data base. Funds would have to be acquired from the Department to have this work done given it's a capital works project.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Replace tables and chairs in home economic room and gymnasium - More countertop and cupboard space in home economics room - Restock pervasive unit as an apartment - Stage curtains/window curtains for gymnasium - Install security cameras - Buzzer door system - Lunch program

Summary Report on the School's Most Current Data

Below is the school's criterion reference data for the past four years. The data shows that our results are below the provincial average. The data suggests that while gains have been made in some areas in different years, the gap for last year's results has increased for all subtest areas. Following the data is our action plan for mathematics and language arts.

CRITERION REFERENCE TESTS

Grade 9 English								
	06-07		07-08		08-09		09-10	
	School	Province	School	Province	School	Province	School	Province
Multiple Choice:								
Poetic	74.6%	79.4%	74.0%	77.2%	75.8%	71.0%	73.1%	85.1%
Informational	63.0%	74.5%	74.0%	78.1%	75.8%	83.1%	66.6%	79.3%
Constructed Response: Percentage of students performing at Level 3 or above								
Demand Writing	73.3%	83.5%	80.0%	86.2%	72.1%	83.0%	57.9%	85.4%
Poetic	56.4%	71.1%	65.0%	73.0%	54.8%	79.5%	54.7%	73.1%
Informational	52.8%	75.7%	71.8%	77.5%	45.2%	75.5%	35.9%	70.1%

Grade 9 Mathematics								
	06-07		07-08		08-09		09-10	
	School	Province	School	Province	School	Province	School	Province
Multiple Choice:								
Number Operations	47.5%	59.5%	47.5%	60.3%	46.7%	55.8%	44.1%	69.5%
Number Concepts	42.4%	47.1%	54.9%	68.9%	26.8%	39.3%	33.2%	59.0%
Patterns & Relations	48.6%	55.6%	53.8%	59.3%	58.0%	68.9%	50.9%	75.4%
Measurement	41.1%	55.3%	29.4%	55.1%	43.7%	59.9%	37.6%	67.6%
Geometry	62.1%	69.4%	39.9%	55.4%	51.5%	61.8%	49.1%	69.4%
Data Management & Probability	40.5%	48.6%	36.8%	63.2%	34.8%	53.7%	46.4%	65.9%
Constructed Response: Percentage of students performing at Level 3 or above								
Number Operations	17.0%	32.5%	35.4%	51.0%	36.3%	44.5%	15.9%	48.9%
Patterns & Relations	32.1%	32.5%	43.5%	61.3%	63.8%	57.0%	32.7%	60.4%

Mathematics Action Plan

The following is an analysis and action plan based on the 2009-2010 Grade 9 Mathematics CRT results. Our results are below district and provincial means in all 4 strands. These results were below the achievement level our school from previous years in all strands but “Data Management and Probability” (referred to in new 2010 curriculum as “Statistics and Probability”).

It should be noted that a new Grade 9 Mathematics curriculum is being implemented in 2010-2011 school year with outcomes modified from that of the 2009-2010 curriculum. The 2009-10 CRT was based on the previous curriculum. Thus some problematic outcomes have been removed from this grade level, or modified in scope.

From review and discussion of the CRT results, some areas were identified for focused support. These are; student motivation, increased home support, strengthening foundation skills, and increasing student competence and confidence in writing the exam. The following plan addresses these issues and encompasses the four strands of Number, Space and Shape, Statistics and Probability, and Patterns and Relations. We strive for an overall improvement in achievement in all areas.

Goal: To increase student achievement in mathematics	
Objective: Increased students awareness and use of available mathematics help	
Strategy	Action Plan
Increase attendance at teacher- lead tutorials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish tutorial times in school newsletter. • Announce tutorials in class. • Invite individual students to attend.
Enroll students in “Tutoring For Tuition” program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask for interested students to come forward. • Suggest involvement of individual students. • Ask individual parents to discuss program with students.
Increase use of Froude Avenue Tutoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remind students of the program. • The school has sent home registration forms and included the program in announcements.
Goal: To increase student achievement in mathematics	
Objective: To improve student motivation and work ethic	
Strategy	Action Plan
Emphasize the importance of practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a checklist to track individual students practice.
Reward practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have review assignments which allow students to practice for tests while receiving a grade for their work.
Make math “fun”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize the games and activities available on a regular basis, targeting the current topic

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involve students in NEAT (Numeracy Education and Teamwork) Day, and other math promotion activities such as Pi Day
Provide a challenge for more advanced students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enroll a team in the Junior High Mathematics League • Have “challenge” problems available to student who finish work early • Involve these students in overseeing math promotions like NEAT and Pi days

Goal: To increase student achievement in mathematics	
Objective: Increase use of differentiated instruction.	
Strategy	Action Plan
Maximize use of instructional resource teacher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructional resource teacher is scheduled time for each section in all grades, with scheduling maximized for sections with identified needs. • Instructional resource teacher will be consulted with regards to best co-teaching strategies, specific student needs, and most appropriate assessment methods. • Identify weaknesses in prior knowledge that can be addressed in small or large group lessons as appropriate
Use games to teach, practice and evaluate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make use of the board games available for many of the areas of study as a means of practice. • Create and use games for Smart board during a unit of study and at the end of a unit for review. • Use the games suggested in the textbook and Proguide to check understanding of individual topics and as a means of practice.
Maximize use of Smart technology (limited by availability of Smart boards)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Smart board lessons when possible and applicable • Use interactive activities to allow students to use the Smart boards

Goal: To increase student achievement in mathematics	
Objective: To better prepare students for the format and scope of the CRT	
Strategy	Action Plan
Familiarize students with common question formats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include “old” CRT questions in grade 9 unit tests and assignments (where there is a match with the new curriculum)
Minimize “common errors”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide students with examples of common errors and have the “spot the error” and provide a correct solution.
Provide review throughout the year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have grade 9 students complete cumulative review assignments every 3 units to keep content fresh • Have students complete an end of year review assignment/project to refresh concepts from the entire year

Submitted by Sarah Matthews, Math Department Head

Language Arts Action Plan

- determine links between various courses for cross-curricular projects and assessment (this can include such activities as research component connected with Science Fair or Social Studies.)
- integrate interactive technology throughout the ELA program through Smartboards, videos, novel webquests, etc.
- develop a formative assessment strategy for mid unit check-ups in ELA (ex: exit cards?)
- English department will meet with program specialist to discuss strategies to address informational texts concerns
- Continue to replenish and update the variety of reading materials in the LRC to accommodate all reading levels (focus on graphic novels). Also continue with the development of the classroom libraries.
- supply each class with manipulative materials (leads, scissors, glue, etc.) to achieve viewing and representing objectives
- supply each class with dictionaries to achieve vocabulary building, independent reading outcomes
- reintroduce reinforcement of common terminologies across curriculum areas
- reintroduce the Relax and Read program with a more structure approach by having the dept decide a specific time for reading.
- Use cross curricular reading tools with teachers in Science and Social Studies classes to allow students to gain experiences in activating prior knowledge
- Use staff meeting to provide PD for all staff about prior knowledge strategies, scaffolding, and other pre-reading strategies.

Submitted by Christina Cox, Dept Head for Language Arts

School Development Plan 2010-2011- This is tentative subject to an external review planned for the Fall.

Holy Cross Junior High
School Development Plan 2010-2011

Goal 1: To improve achievement across the curriculum			
<p>Objective 1.1: Special services model will be implemented within the context of inclusionary practices</p>	<p>Objective 1.2: To improve the quality of work completed and submitted by students by increasing student motivation</p>	<p>Objective 1.3: To increase student learning in Mathematics</p>	<p>Objective 1.4 To increase literacy skills in the core subject areas</p>
<p>Strategies: 1.1.1. Ensure most current pathways documents and policies are available to teachers. 1.1.2. Special services and classroom teachers will collaborate to program for individual students 1.1.3. Spreadsheet completed by homeroom teacher. 1.1.4. Implement the new guidance policy. 1.1.5. Implement the new anti-bullying program 1.1.6. Employ differentiated instruction in daily practice 1.1.7. Develop and assess modified courses collaboratively</p>	<p>Strategies: 1.2.1 Promote organizational booklet at various times throughout the year 1.2.2 Distribute study skills booklet 1.2.3 Offer more cross-curricular units at each grade level 1.2.4 Promote differentiated instructional strategies and assessments in the classroom</p>	<p>Strategies: 1.3.1 Offer lunch hour tutorials in Mathematics 1.3.2 Promote SmartBoard technology in Mathematics instruction. 1.3.3 Encourage problem-solving strategies through game board approach 1.3.4 Use more DI strategies in the classroom</p>	<p>Strategies: 1.4.1 Literacy specialist will work in individual classrooms on developing literacy strategies 1.4.2 Deployment of special services personnel as support in classrooms 1.4.3 Provide more professional development on SmartBoard technology in language instruction. 1.4.4 Provide more professional development on differentiated instruction strategies in language instructions</p>

<p>Indicators of Success:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - When communication between guidance, administration and teachers is consistent, and teachers are comfortable with the delivery of special services model. 	<p>Indicators of Success:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Teacher observation of student preparedness. -Increase in the quality of work completed and submitted. -Increase in the number of students passing in assignments to teachers. -Teacher observation of increased independent learning - Broaden use of student tracking sheet - Make a link between student achievement and PBS 	<p>Indicators of Success:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -An increased number of students achieve academic success in Mathematics -Lower number of students attending Summer school for Mathematics -An increase in grades on tests and quizzes in Mathematics 	<p>Indicators of Success:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An increased number of students achieve academic success in language based core subjects (Language Arts, Social Studies, French, Science) -Lower number of students attending Summer school in Language Arts -An increase in grades on tests and quizzes in language based core subjects
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Goal 2: To foster and maintain a safe, caring and healthy school environment

<p>Objective 2.1: Implement School Wide PBS</p>	<p>Objective 2.2: To increase communication and parental involvement</p>	<p>Objective 2.3: To improve student and staff wellness through community involvements</p>
<p>Strategies: 2.1.1 Develop lesson plans around the behaviour matrix 2.1.2 Check with other schools who have lessons developed around behaviour matrix 2.1.3 Develop a consistent practice of reporting and tracking behaviours 2.1.4 Extend membership and responsibilities of SACS 2.1.5 Increase number of CROSS awards blitz</p>	<p>Strategies: 2.2.1 Include pictures in newsletters 2.2.2 Send parents invitations to school events via mail, synervice or email 2.2.3 Have all teachers maintain an updated webpage 2.2.4 Develop templates for teacher use when contacting students/parents to communicate positive behaviours and successes life 2.2.5</p>	<p>Strategies: 2.3.1 Increase membership on recycling committee 2.3.2 Find a lunch program for the school 2.3.3 Develop an overall plan for promoting fitness throughout the school 2.3.4 Target specific businesses and corporations for school support 2.3.5 Provide lunch hour physical education activities through partnership with Boys and Girls club 2.3.6 Hold meetings with various community centers to brainstorm further ways to support students together</p>
<p>Indicators of Success: - Decrease in the number of students sent to the attention of the administration. - Decrease in the number of teacher and administration detentions - Decrease in the number of suspensions.</p>	<p>Indicators of Success: - Increased contact with parents. - Greater participation by parent at school events, fundraising, concerts, parent-teacher conferences</p>	<p>Indicators of Success: - Increase in the number of outreach projects completed during the school year. - Increase in the number of students participating in outreach programs - Increased participation in school fitness activities - Decreased student and staff absenteeism</p>

Goal 3: To promote and enhance citizenship within our school community.

<p>Objective 3.1: Increase communication between the school and community</p>	<p>Objective 3.2 To open our school for community activities</p>
<p>Strategies: 3.1.1 All teachers should regularly maintain a website 3.1.2 Signage to be attached to outside wall 3.1.3 Revive Allied Youth initiatives throughout the community. (food drives, operation Christmas child)</p>	<p>Strategies: 3.2.1 Encourage after school groups to make use of school space 3.1.2 Offer more Career cafes</p>
<p>Indicators of Success: Increase in the number of liaisons developed between the school and community groups</p>	<p>Indicators of Success: - Increase in the number of community activities held at our school</p>

Operational Issues for 2010-11

Operational Issue	Intended Action
To have access to top landings both in the gymnasium and the learning resource centre	To note this on the site assessment form and place on maintenance data base so that the Board can include this on their list of capital works for next year
To have assistive technology available to students with exceptionalities at the classroom level	To ask the Board for support for computer desks, computer drops and electrical outlets for each of the classrooms
Replace tables and chairs in home economic room and gymnasium	Monitor budget so that when funds become avail we can move on the item
More countertop and cupboard space in home economics room	Monitor budget so that when funds become avail we can move on the item
Restock pervasive unit as an apartment	Monitor budget so that when funds become avail we can move on the item
Stage curtains/window curtains for gymnasium	Monitor budget so that when funds become avail we can move on the item
Install security cameras	Monitor budget so that when funds become avail we can move on the item
Buzzer door system	Monitor budget so that when funds become avail we can move on the item
Lunch program	To continue to look at options that become available

This concludes our school development report for the 2009-10 school year. We hope you find the report comprehensive and informative. If you have any concerns, comments and/or questions, please feel free to contact the school's administration.

Thank you,

Reginald MacDonald
Principal

Appendix A – Summary of School Fundraising

Fundraising 2009-2010

Gym rentals	\$3970.00
Basketball.....	2780.00
Wake-a-thon.....	2398.71
Cheerleading	448.87
Vegetable Hampers	<u>297.50</u>
Total	\$ 9895.08