

Often a school becomes a reality due to the presence and activism of a Catholic parish. In Ottawa South, it was the reverse: the new Holy Family Catholic School led to the establishment of the Hunt Club Catholic Community in 1981. The name of the community was changed in 1985 to Holy Family Catholic Community to reflect the relationship with the school where weekly Sunday Masses were held in the gymnasium. The creation of both Holy Family Catholic School and this Catholic community were the result of residential growth in the south end of the city, a growth that necessitated the creation of Holy Cross Catholic Parish in 1966 and a continuing growth, which led to the need for the new school and the new Catholic community. The Holy Family Catholic Community held a closing celebration in May 2001, when it reunited with Holy Cross Parish.

“Holy Family,” the name first of the school and then of the Catholic community, was submitted by the Samuels family during the school board’s name selection process. This had been the name of the school that their children had attended in Montreal. It was selected because it represented the values of family and community, which were core principles for the new school.

Holy Family Catholic School opened for the 1978-79 school year with an enrolment of 75 students, housed in portables. But the new school facility, boasting a unique one-of-a-kind design, was ready for the next school year. Its official opening took place on Sunday, October 21, 1979.

In just a few years, Holy Family Catholic School became overcrowded so an annex was opened on Uplands Drive. This annex remained in place until 1989. In June 1989, the primary students at the annex moved to the main building. Then, on

HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC SCHOOL



245 Owl Drive
Ottawa K1V 9K3
613-521-0475
www.occdsb.on.ca/hfa

Thanksgiving Day, 1989, the annex was closed and Vice-Principal Margie Gourdier and her junior students moved back to Holy Family School to be accommodated in a port-a-pak.

In 1988-89, the school celebrated its tenth anniversary. A school logo was designed and the school song was written. Holy Family Catholic School celebrated its 25th anniversary on October 17, 2004, an event that attracted many staff, students and parents, both past and present.

A highlight event took place in Holy Family Catholic School in January

2005, when Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty visited the school, speaking to the grades 5 and 6 students and visiting all of the classes.

Over the years, Holy Family School has been a caring and generous community, as well as one with a sense of fun and celebration. It has supported charitable causes such as “Jump Rope for Heart” and the Ottawa Food Bank. In January 2005, the school, with an enrolment of just under 300 students, raised \$3,500 for tsunami relief. Each year the school holds a walk-a-thon fundraiser.

For fun, the Holy Family School community enjoys activities such as carnival days, a fun fair, a family skate night and Christmas celebrations. There is a talented school choir, which, under the direction of Teacher Rhodora Williams, has won numerous awards at the Kiwanis Music Festival. Holy Family Catholic School also has had a strong interest in physical fitness and sports. It has received Canadian Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (CAHPERD) awards at both the gold and platinum levels. It has a daily intramural sports program for students at lunchtime, most recently organized by Teacher Diane Finlay.

The Holy Family School community remains a welcoming, multicultural community, embracing many nationalities. Its members come from more than 20 different language backgrounds.

Present Principal

Anne McCready (2003-present)

Past Principals

Donald Lenaghan (1978-79)

Ken Kurs (1979-83)

Michael Kloepfer (1983-84)

Glenda McDonell (1984-89)

Fergus Lyons (1989-94)

Michael Kloepfer (1994-99)

Anne Noseworthy (1999-2003)

First Teaching and Support Staff

Carla Baars

Marlene Connelly

Joanne Budd

Sister Marilyn Carty

Anthony Charbonneau

Thérèse Condron

Roger Doré

Noreen Flynn

Michel Fortin

Charlotte Lalonde

Claudette Lemire

Anne Lengelle

Dalia Lewis

Kathleen McDonnell

Sister Marie Shewchuk

Sharon Murphy, Secretary

Ron Leblanc, Custodian

Former students

Alanis Morissette, a world famous singer and songwriter

Chris Nihmey, a published author of children's books

Craig Carson, a published author of children's books

Colours

Royal blue and white

Logo

The school logo consists of a triangular symbol topped by a cross. The triangle is divided into three parts, each containing a representative picture to show the connection among home, school and church.

Song

The Holy Family School song was written for the school's tenth anniversary in 1988-89.