



February 13, 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As part of our ongoing commitment to school safety and effectiveness, Holy Cross will be participating in an online school survey for students.

Like all School Boards in Ontario, the Algonquin & Lakeshore Catholic District School Board conducts regular School Climate Surveys, the results of which will help us set goals to improve the climate and learning environment of our schools. This anonymous survey which we conduct every two years, is intended to help us:

- Assess perceptions of safety – from students, parents and school staff
- Make informed planning decisions about programs to help prevent bullying and promote safe and inclusive schools
- Determine the effectiveness of our programs on an ongoing basis
- Build and sustain a positive school climate.

The surveys are meant to include participation from students, parents and teachers as they each play a key role in contributing to a positive school climate. The survey includes topics such as emotional and social well-being, physical health, and behaviours and attitudes linked to student success. The survey also allows students to give their thoughts and feedback in open-ended question responses.

During the months of February, March and April of 2017, all students and teachers will be given the opportunity and time to participate in this survey during regular school hours. They are encouraged to complete the survey, but may choose not to as it is completely voluntary. Students who agree to complete the survey will be given a random username and password to access and complete the survey. Students' names cannot be linked to their responses - which allows it to be completely anonymous. Results will show all student scores combined, so it is not possible to single out any individual students in the results.

We would like to encourage your participation in this year's online survey by visiting,

<http://www.ourschool.net/hcss2017>

If you would like more information about the survey, please contact:

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