

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL, KINGSTON

February, 2006 Newsletter... visit our web site at www.hctoday.ca

Main Office 384-1919; Attendance Office 384-1355; Student Services 384-2023; Fax 384-8665.



The Holy Cross newsletter is issued in the first week of each month.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

As the new semester begins, Holy Cross CSS remains a place of excitement and possibility for all students. During the first semester, our students worked hard and their efforts were recognized with appropriate accolades and accomplishment. Semester I Report Cards will be distributed on **Friday, February 10th**.

February 2006 is also the month we begin planning for the 2006-07 school year. All students who plan on returning to Holy Cross next year will be required to complete the Course Selection process this month. **Students along with their parents are encouraged to set appropriate academic goals and to select courses consistent with their interest, abilities and career pathways. At Holy Cross the following pathways are available to our students: work place; college; and university.** Our Grade 8 Parents Open House will be held on **Wednesday, February 15** beginning at **7:00 pm** in our Cafeteria. I urge students and their families not to delay registration and risk at wait-list status. For more information, contact Student Services at **384-1919 ex 3405**.

Our staffing for Semester 2 now appears to be complete and we would like to welcome at this time: **Ms. Allison Barrett**, Science; **Ms. Margaret Bell**: who is returning from leave to Student Services; **Mrs. Cathy Henderson**, Social Sciences and Religion and **Mrs. Lucy Teves**, Vice Principal.

In closing, I send my prayers and best wishes to our students, families and alumni. Thank you for all that you do for Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School.

PASTORAL SERVICES UPDATE

HOLY CROSS JAMAICA MISSION TRIP:

Fundraising for the Jamaica Mission Trip continues with a K2K (Kingston-to-Kingston) Fashion Show on **February 23rd**. Parents are encouraged to attend this wonderful evening event organized by the Holy Cross Tech Council, Student Council and the Jamaica Mission Group. Proceeds will be divided between the Local Youth Shelter and St. Patrick's Foundation. The Jamaica Mission Group would like to thank the many individuals, businesses and groups who have so generously supported them so far including Holy Cross and our local parishes, religious congregations, **Knights of Columbus** Councils and **Catholic Women's Leagues**.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

We will be having our **Pancake Breakfast on Tuesday, February 28th**. If you want to help us make pancakes or provide an electric frying pan, we would appreciate your help for this Lenten Fund-raiser. We thank **Golden Griddle** for providing the pancake batter and syrup, and **Brown's Fine Foods** for donating their expertise and the juice. Plan now to attend and help us raise funds for **Share Lent**.

Chris Forster, Pastoral Services

THE MEMORIAL AND FULL COURT PRESS AGAINST CANCER

On **Friday, February 10**, **The Memorial** Basketball games will be hosted by RND with the **Junior Varsity game beginning at 6:30** and the **Senior game scheduled to begin at 8:00**.

The Memorial was established by **Paul Halligan** in **1989** as a testament to a young basketball player, Peter Carty who lost his fight against cancer at the age of 23. Paul Halligan died in July 1997 at the age of 34 as a victim of the very disease that had taken his friend, Peter Carty thirteen years earlier.

The Memorial consists of an elementary school basketball tournament and a meeting against the boys' basketball teams from Holy Cross and Regiopolis-Notre Dame. In 2005 alone, \$12,000 was raised from these two events, bringing the sixteen year total to \$194,000. This year we celebrate the seventeenth anniversary of Paul Halligan's vision of community and athletics.

This event began as a tribute to Peter Carty's courage, but continues as a memorial to all those whose family and friends battle cancer, as we unite in sport and spirit.

The popular "**Toonie for a Non-uni**" in support of the Memorial will take place on **Friday, February 10th**. Students can purchase a non-uniform ticket from their period 1 teacher which not only exempts them from the uniform policy for the day but also makes them eligible to win a **Memorial prize drawn** at the end of the day. Plan now to attend one of the highlights of the high school sports season and contribute to the fight against cancer. RND will host the basketball teams in a double header with the **Junior game at 6:00** followed by the **Senior contest at 8:00** for the **Memorial Award**.



FEBRUARY DATES TO REMEMBER

February 3rd & 4th.. Full Court Press Elementary School Basketball
Friday, February 3rdPA Day # 3 – no classes
Monday, February 6Turnaround Day Semester I am; II pm
Tuesday, February 7th.....First Full Instructional Day in Semester II
Friday, February 10th.....The Memorial at Regi
Friday, February 10th.....Toonie for a Non-uni
Friday, February 10th.....Semester 1 Report Cards Issued
Tuesday, February 14th.....Valentine's Day Flower Sales
Tuesday, February 14th.....Valentine's Day
Wednesday, February 15thGrade Eight Information Night
Thursday, February 16th.....2006-07 Course Selection Assemblies
Tuesday, February 21st.....Lunchtime Improv
Wednesday, February 22nd..U of Waterloo 9, 10 & 11 Math Contests
Wednesday, February 22nd.....Improv Games @ McArthur College
February 22nd & 23rd.....Kiwaniis Music Festival @ Regi
Thursday, February 23rd.....K2K Fashion Show Holy Cross 7:00pm
Tuesday, February 28th.....Catholic School Council Meeting 7:00pm
Tuesday, February 28th.....Pancake Breakfast
Tuesday, February 28th.....Early Dismissal Day # 3,
periods 1 & 2 only: Buses depart 11:05
Friday, March 3rd..... 2006-07 Course Selection Process Completed

SEMESTER 1 FINAL REPORT CARDS

Semester 1 Final Report Cards to be issued to students in their Homeroom classes on **Friday February 10th**. Any parent or guardian who did not receive a report card on this date is asked to contact Student Services at **384-5007**.

TEXTBOOKS FOR SEMESTER 2

All students should now be in possession of the necessary textbooks for this semester.

We wish to emphasize at this time that the condition of each book is the student's responsibility. We realize that all books are not in pristine condition; thus any tattered or dilapidated book should be brought immediately to the Library for repair or replacement if possible. We often hear in June that "that was how the book was when I got it." This is not an excuse that is accepted, especially when students may bring "injured" books to the Library to be cared for at any time. With textbooks costing upwards of \$90.00 each, this is an excellent way to prolong the life of our collection.

If you have any questions about textbooks, please call **Mrs. Janice Shea** or **Mr. Mario Cortis** in the Library at **384-1919 ex 3413**.

SEMESTER 2 EARLY REPORT CARDS

On **March 9th**, the early Report Cards for Grades 9 - 12 students will be completed in all classes. All students will receive a complete report. There will be one night for **Parent Teacher Interviews** on **Wednesday, March 22nd** from **3:00 to 6:00 p.m.** and from **7:00 to 9:00 p.m.**

A MESSAGE FROM MR. SPEAGLE

During my six years at Holy Cross I have been treated with great kindness and respect. The enduring strength of this school community is its' commitment to support and nurture each individual student. I have been blessed to have been a part of that devotion. I will keep you all in my prayers.
Thank you and God Bless!

MATH CONTESTS

Students in **Grades 9, 10 and 11** have an opportunity to write the University of Waterloo's Canadian Mathematics Competition on **Friday, February 17**. The examination begins at 9:00 —a.m. Students aspiring to careers in Mathematics, Science and Technology are encouraged to sign up for the contest with a teacher of Mathematics.

IMPROV TEAM

On **Tuesday February, 21st** the Holy Cross Improv Team will be performing in the Lecture Theatre from 11:15 to 11:50. This performance will be a showcase of the talents they will be displaying at the **Kingston Improv Games**. Please come out and support your school and team on **Wednesday, February 22nd** at the **Queen's Faculty of Education, McArthur College**. A FUN TIME for all!

ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL LITERACY TEST (OSSLT)

The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test has been scheduled by the Ministry of Education for **Wednesday, March 29th**. All grade 10 students who are working towards an OSSD will write the test. Holy Cross will be conducting the test between 8:30 and 11:15 a.m.

All grade 10 students will be reviewing their literacy skills once/twice a week for a four week period prior to the test date. All components of the test will be reviewed with students during these classes. All grade 10 students will receive a copy of a workbook entitled. "**The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test Workbook**" that they will be using in their literacy classes. All students are encouraged to take this workbook home for continuous review. Once again, you may obtain practice materials, student resources, and sample questions and answers at the Education Quality and Accountability Office website at www.eqao.com under the link 'Student Resources'. Parent/guardians will be advised in writing of their son/daughter's test outcome. Students who are not successful will retake the test next year.

Students who were previously unsuccessful on the OSSLT have an opportunity to attend an After School Literacy Program which will run for 5 weeks prior to the test date. Students, who have been eligible to write the OSSLT at least twice and have been unsuccessful at least once, are eligible to fulfill the requirement through the Ontario School Literacy course (OSSLC) – these students should see your guidance counselor. Successful completion of the OSSLT or OSSLC is a graduation requirement.

Early Dismissal Day #3

Holy Cross teaching staff will be participating in one half day of professional development on **Tuesday, February 28th**. Buses will depart H.C. at 11:10 a.m.

COUNSELLORS' CORNER

COURSE LOAD

All students in Grades 9, 10, 11 are required to carry a course load of 4 courses each semester. All students in Grade 12 are required to carry a minimum of 3 courses each semester

COURSE CHANGES/DELETIONS

Students are to consult a counselor prior to any decisions being made to their timetable. It is "advised" that any course changes required be dealt with by the end of the first week of the semester. Further to this, it is "required" that all changes be completed by the end of the **second** week of the semester.

COURSE SELECTION PROCESS

At this time of year, students begin the process of selecting courses for the 2006-2007 academic year. It is critical for all students who plan on returning to Holy Cross that they follow the timelines in order to ensure that they are able to obtain the courses they desire. **Holy Cross will be adding a new feature to the option sheet process this year with on-line course selection.** Further details will be outlined to the students mid-February.

GRADE 8 PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT

Grade 8 Parent Information Night will be hosted on **Wednesday, February 15, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.** This evening is open to grade 8 students and their parents/guardians. Registration packages will be available and all completed registration packages are asked to be returned to Holy Cross by **February 24th**.

VOLUNTEER & JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Students are reminded to check the bulletin board for volunteer and job opportunities.

SENIOR GIRL SAYS:

As the new semester begins, teachers and students anticipate new classes and faces. The future is unknown to each individual and excitement seems to be swarming through the halls. Many refer to these months as their second semester in high school, while others may state that their high school career will be shortly ending. New friends will be made and old ones will soon have to say farewell, and then there are always the high school relationships. If anyone has forgotten, it is February and this means Valentine's Day is approaching on the 14th. There is an endless list of possible gifts for your high school sweet heart, including chocolates, stuffed animals and even a gift made from your own two hands! Whether you are single and fabulous, or coupled up, you can celebrate this romantic holiday at the Holy Cross dance.

This month Student Council is celebrating the heart felt holiday by inviting the Holy Cross Students to a semi-formal. This will occur the Friday following **Valentine's Day, February 17th**. Boys dig out those handsome ties, and ladies it's an excuse to buy a new dress! Dress up, put your dancin' shoes on and I will see you on the 17th.

NEXT MONTH AT HOLY CROSS

Wednesday March 1st Ash Wednesday School Mass
Thursday, March 9th Early Semester Report Cards Issued
March 7th - 17th Jamaica Mission Trip
March 7th -18th France/Spain Trip
March 10th -17th March Break
Monday, March 20th Try-outs for Spring Sports Teams Begin
Wednesday, March 22nd Parent Teacher Interview Night 3:00
to 6:00 & 7:00 to 9:00 in the Cafetorium
Thursday, March 23rd Grade Level Reconciliations in Library
Tuesday, March 28th Catholic School Council Meeting 7:00
Wednesday, March 29th EQAO Grade 10 Literacy Test
Thursday, March 30th Graduates Retreat
April 6th Spring Team Photographs at lunch hour in room 129
April 6th – 13th Mid Semester Examination Period