



# HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL, KINGSTON

## February, 2009 Newsletter... visit our web site at [www.hctoday.ca](http://www.hctoday.ca)

Main Office 613-384-1919; Attendance Office 613-384-1355; Student Services 613-384-2023; Fax 613-384-8665

The Holy Cross newsletter is issued on the first school day of each month.

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

We bid farewell and best wishes to **Mr. Ihor Dejneha**, who is retiring after more than thirty years of service with our Board. He taught science and more recently was our Student Success teacher. We will miss him and consider ourselves lucky to be the final chapter of **Mr. Dejneha's** teaching career. We know he has many pages yet to write and wish him well in his adventures. We also thank **Mme Marie-Lyne Engel** for her role, taking over **Mme Agostino's** classes. We welcome **Mme Adèle Struthers-Skorenky**, in the French department, **Ms. Shani Doucet**, in social sciences, **Mrs. Georgina Jefic**, teaching science, **Ms. Paula Finucan**, and **Mr. Ryan Perkin** in the Bridges program.

As we look forward to the new semester before us, **Jesse Owen's** words come to mind: "We all have dreams. But in order to make dreams into reality, it takes an awful lot of determination, dedication, self-discipline, and effort." As students and teachers begin to work together, let's remember that collaborative effort will pay dividends. I wish everyone the best in this second start to the year.

Paul A. Walsh, Principal

### PASTORAL MESSAGE

We are looking forward to a busy Semester 2 as we plan for various CICS' Activities, School Liturgies and Retreats. We will be taking members of the CICS' Executive to a **Student Leadership Day** at **Regiopolis-Notre Dame CHS** on **Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>** during which **Luke Stocking** from **Development & Peace** will help us plan for our Share Lent Campaign and for our **Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> Thinkfast**. One week later, on **Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>** we will be serving Pancakes to the entire Holy Cross Community as we celebrate **Shrove Tuesday**. And the next day, of course, we begin the Holy Season of Lent with our observance of **Ash Wednesday**, a day of fasting and abstinence. One special event that we would ask you to keep in mind is a **Blood Donor Clinic** that we will be hosting here at **Holy Cross** on **Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>**. If you are able to donate that day, please call me here at school (ext. 3436) and I would be happy to schedule you for an appointment. We continue to pray for the sick, and we ask God to bless all our students and staff as we begin this new semester.

Chris Forster, Coordinator of Pastoral Services

### UNIFORM POLICY

As we begin the second semester and new classes and routines are forming, we revisit existing expectations at Holy Cross. In particular, we expect that students will be in full compliance with our uniform policy as outlined in the Code of Conduct, found in student agendas and on our school website, [www.hctoday.ca](http://www.hctoday.ca).

I encourage parents to see that their sons and daughters wear the proper uniform to Holy Cross. The uniform must be worn modestly; kilts are expected to be no shorter than two inches from the top

of the knee and shirts / blouses must be neither too loose nor too tight. Throughout the day, students should wear dress shoes, and have buttons done up and shirts tucked in. Girls wearing kilts must wear plain black footed tights.

We all have a role to play! It is our expectation that parents will give full support to the wearing of uniform, and ensure, with the student, that the uniform is ready for wearing on each school day. We suggest that the students themselves should take on much of this responsibility. As you may be aware, students who arrive at school missing some part of the uniform must report to the office

### **FEBRUARY DATES TO REMEMBER**

- Monday, February 2 ...Turnaround Day: Sem.1, 8:30 - 9:30, Sem. 2, 9:30 - 2:30
- Tuesday, February 3...First Full Instructional Day in Semester II
- Friday, February 6...MacHomer Presentation for Gr. 12 students
- Fri. – Sun., Feb. 6 - 8 .....Mont Ste. Anne Ski Trip
- Sunday, February 8 .. KASSAA and Regional Cheerleading Championships
- Wednesday, February 11...Stand Up Against Bullying Training Session, 11:15 a.m.
- Practice Lockdown Drill #2 (Period 1)
- Quit4Life Smoking Cessation Group Begins
- Grade Eight Parent Information Night, 7 p.m.
- Staff – Varsity Basketball Game, 11:45 – 12:15 p.m.
- Thursday, February 12 .... "The Memorial" Holy Cross JV at 5 p.m., Seniors at 7 p.m.
- Toonie for a Non-uni
- Valentine's Day, Flower Sales
- Queen's University GR8 Transition School Visit to HC
- Course Selection Workshops
- Semester 1 Report Cards Issued
- Friday, February 13...Last Day for Semester Two Timetable Changes
- Holy Cross Semi-Formal
- Saturday, February 14.....Jazz Night at Holy Cross
- Valentine's Day
- Monday, February 16... Ontario Family Day Holiday (school is closed)
- Wednesday, February 18.....Stand Up Against Bullying Training Session, 11:15 a.m.
- University of Waterloo Grade 9, 10 & 11 Math Contests
- Thurs. Feb. 19 .....Improv Preliminaries at Octave Theatre, 7 p.m.
- Saturday, February 21...Improv Wildcard and Finals at McArthur College
- Sunday, February 22...KASSAA Basketball and Volleyball Championships
- Monday, February 23 ..Catholic School Council Meeting in Library, 7 p.m.
- Week of Monday, February 23....2009-10 Course Selection Assemblies
- Tuesday, February 24.....Shrove Tuesday
- Pancake Breakfast, Cafetorium, Periods 1 and 2
- Wednesday, February 25 .....Ash Wednesday Liturgies
- Share Lent Campaign begins
- Stand Up Against Bullying Training Session, 11:15 a.m.
- Wed. – Fri., Feb.25 - 27 .....Kiwanis Music Festival at RND
- Friday, February 27.....(Tentative) Non-Uniform Day
- 2009-10 Course Selection Process Completed

before classes begin and often, we are able to loan uniforms for the day. Students who do not return loaned items will face consequences such as study hall.

A progressive system of intervention will be put into place to deal with uniform violations, up to and including suspension from school for persistent opposition to authority. Girls who roll up their kilt or continuously wear too short a kilt will have their parents notified and will receive school consequences. Some students may be advised to let down the hem of their kilts. Students who demonstrate an unwillingness to comply and cooperate with their teachers and other school authorities on this matter will not remain in our school.

#### **HOLY CROSS LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY**

The staff at Holy Cross has agreed, with the support of our Catholic School Council, that a consistent approach to submission of **major summative assessments** will encourage students to be responsible and to adhere to good time management skills. For major summative assignments and tasks, the teacher sets a **Due Date** and a **Closure Date**; the teacher communicates this information to students. *It is the clear expectation that students will hand in all assignments on the date due.* In the occasional circumstance where a student is unable to submit a major culminating assignment on the date due, the student must discuss this matter with his or her teacher at the earliest possible date. The purpose of the three-day window of opportunity allows for a mechanism to deal with issues such as — a family issue, computer problems, work schedule, assignments for other classes, etc. — and still get the assignment in without penalty. Students can expect the following:

1. assignments submitted on the date due will be collected (e.g. Monday);
2. submissions one school day after due date will be collected (e.g. Tuesday);
3. assignments handed in two school days late will be collected (e.g. Wednesday);
4. three school days late will receive a 5 % mark deduction (e.g. Thursday);
5. four school days after the original date will be the ultimate deadline with a 10 % mark deduction, after which time there will be no further opportunities to hand in the assignment (e.g. Friday).

This *five-day window* will allow students and teachers to move on to the next learning opportunity and may clearly indicate to all concerned if a student falls into a pattern that is disruptive to his or her learning. ***Failure to submit summative assignments will have a negative impact on the final grade.***

#### **STUDENTS' COUNCIL**

January flew by. For most students, it was a month for review and preparation for the upcoming exams. **Archbishop O'Brien** came and celebrated Mass with **Holy Cross**. It was a wonderful experience - thank you to everyone who helped out. Students' Council would like to say our final farewell to **Mr. Dejneha** who will be retiring after this semester. We wish him all the best in his future endeavours! We encourage everyone interested in signing up a team for our lunchtime intramurals "**Semi Pro**" League to do so, outside the Students' Council room. The season will start our first week back after exams and go until mid-April. Keep in mind this year's Semi-Formal will be **Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>** with a masquerade theme. Good luck to everyone in exams and we look forward to seeing you in second semester.

Laura Brown, Communications

#### **CRUSADER ATHLETICS**

##### **THE MEMORIAL AND FULL COURT PRESS AGAINST CANCER**

February will be a busy month for the athletic department as the winter season comes to an end and playoffs begin. Added to this excitement is the annual cancer fundraiser, "**The Memorial**" which takes place at the beginning of the month.

On **Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup>**, **The Memorial** Basketball games will be hosted here at **Holy Cross Catholic High School** with the **Junior Varsity game beginning at 5:00** and the **Senior game scheduled to begin at 7:00**. 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.

#### **HC ECO-CORNER**

**A recent recycling audit done by the HC Green Team, students and staff, estimates that our school collects about 18,000 cans and 24,000 plastic bottles per year. This reduces our waste by over 250 kg. The cans are sent to Habitat for Humanity, where the money raised is used to build homes for families in need. The plastic bottles go to a recycling facility. The next step in environmental awareness is to reduce our use of single-use containers. Many Ontario communities, including the cities of Toronto, London and Owen Sound, have banned the sale of bottled water in municipal facilities; so have school boards in Ottawa and Waterloo. The City of Kingston is now considering this policy.**

#### **Eco-Tip**

**Manufacturing and the transport of plastic bottles uses large amounts of fossil fuels, and waste disposal is still an issue. In the words of the Council of Canadians and CUPE Ontario, "Unbottle it!". Consider using a reusable bottle for water or your favorite drink, and go "back to the tap".**

#### **SUPPLEMENTAL LITERACY PROGRAM**

The literacy program, designed to boost reading and writing skills and to help students gain confidence in preparation for the **Literacy Test on Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>**, will begin in the second week of February. This program will run on **Mondays and Wednesdays**. All students must successfully complete the Literacy Test (or subsequently enroll in and complete the Grade 12 Literacy Course) in order to obtain an Ontario Secondary School Diploma. If you want your child to participate in this program, please contact **Terri Daniel** at **613 384-1919, ext. 3406**.

#### **SPECIAL EDUCATION AND RESOURCE**

##### **Post-Secondary Planning:**

1) There are a variety of **scholarships** available for students with disabilities. The **Mattison Endowment Fund Scholarship for Disabled Students** is a one year award of \$2,500 for undergraduate studies in a degree-granting program; the **Roy Cooper Scholarship Award 2008-9** offers a \$1,000 award for students with a learning disability entering engineering or a physical sciences discipline in university or college; **Imperial Tobacco Canada Limited Scholarship for Disabled Students** offers \$5,000 annually towards college or university. There are also four LDAC scholarships for students with learning disabilities. For more specific information about these scholarships, please visit LDAC's website at <http://www.ldac-taac.ca/Scholarships/scholarships-e.asp> or ask one of the resource teachers for more information. **Post-Secondary Transition Portfolio for Graduating Students** - Set up an appointment with your son or daughter to meet **before April 1, 2009** with **M. Gavan Knox**, SERT @ 613-384-1919 ext. 3426 and **G. Vella-Bowry**, Guidance Counsellor, 613-384-1919 ext. 3419.

2) **Grades 11 and 12** :The **Queen's University On-Line -to-Success course** for students with learning disabilities heading to university or college within the next two years begins in March. **Seven** senior students have already registered for this valuable course, which is designed to help students with their own learning styles, self-advocacy skills, adaptive technologies, and post-secondary learning strategies.

3) **Grade 10 OSSLT**: Letters will be sent home regarding the accommodations for the **Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)**. The Ontario Ministry of Education directs us to offer the most frequently used accommodations ie used on a regular basis in the

regular classroom. For more detail, contact **Anne Poels**, SERT, at 613-384-1919 ext. 3425.

4) **Grade 9 Transition.** We invite you to discuss your adolescent's progress, concerns, and course selections for 2009-10 with us. If your surname begins with A-L, contact **Anne Poels** @613-384-1919 ext.3425; if your surname begins with a letter from M-Z, contact **Marie Hulse**@ 613-384-1919 ext.3428. **Gloria Vella-Bowry** is the Guidance counsellor @ 613-384-1919 ext 3419.

5) **Collaborative Service Delivery Project on Autism at Holy Cross.** **Dale O'Flynn**, Consultant on Autism Spectrum Disorder from **Pathways**, provides information for staff and parents every Wednesday morning or afternoon. To make an appointment with **Dale O'Flynn**, contact **Marie Gavan Knox** @ 613-384-1919, ext. 3426.

#### **SEMESTER 1 FINAL REPORT CARDS**

Semester 1 Final Report Cards will be issued to students in their Homeroom classes on **Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup>**. Any parent or guardian who does not receive a report card on this date is asked to contact Student Services at **613 384-5007**.

#### **SEMESTER 2 EARLY REPORT CARDS**

On **Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>**, 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, April 1<sup>st</sup>** from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. and from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

#### **THANK YOU FROM NEWMAN'S**

As of **January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009**, **Alexander Newman's** will no longer be the supplier of school uniforms to Holy Cross. I would like to thank the students, parents, **Principal Walsh**, and his staff, for the opportunity of serving **Holy Cross** with their uniform needs during the past fifteen years and would like to wish **Holy Cross** good luck in their future endeavours.  
**David Ibbott and Staff**

#### **HALPERN'S UNIFORM IN-SCHOOL STORE**

Please be informed that our school uniforms will no longer be available through the **Newman's Outlet**. **Halpern's**, our uniform supplier, will be selling the school uniforms from our **Tuck Shop** in the school. The in-school store will be opened on **Tuesdays from 8:30 - 3:00** and **Thursdays from 10:00 - 4:00** beginning on **Tuesday, January 27<sup>th</sup>**. The hours of operation may change based on the demand of our community. If you have any questions about this, please direct them to **Mrs. Teves**.

#### **QUIT 4 LIFE**

**Terrie Hoey** and KFLA Public Health Nurse **Lisa Lollar** will facilitate a **Q4L: Breathe Free Smoking Cessation program** which will begin on **Wednesday February 11<sup>th</sup>** and run each Wednesday until **April 8<sup>th</sup>** for a total of 8 sessions. It takes more than willpower to quit smoking. It takes skills and support, as well as motivation. The **Quit4Life (Q4L): Breathe Free** program is designed to help youth quit smoking... for life.

**Q4L: Breathe Free** is organized around 4 central steps: **Get Psyched, Get Smart, Get Support, Get On With It**. Each week, students will be asked to complete activities which will help them learn about why they smoke, how to quit and how to stay quit once you get there. Students will create their profile, track their smoking, build a quit calendar, practice quitting and learn how to deal with stress, boredom and people who might not support them.

#### **HOLY CROSS S2 PRACTICE LOCK DOWN DRILLS**

In order to maintain an atmosphere that addresses the safety of all members of our community we will be running a **Lockdown Drill** on **Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>**, to rehearse what staff and students should do in the unlikely event that a dangerous intruder invades our school; this practice is intended to inform and empower rather than alarm. **Lock Down procedures will be discussed in all classes during the Week of February 9<sup>th</sup>**.

### **COUNSELLOR'S CORNER**

#### **COURSE CHANGES/DELETIONS**

Students are to consult a counsellor prior to making any changes to their timetable. It is "advised" that any required course changes be dealt with by the end of the first week of semester two. Furthermore, 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 2009-2010 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 conducting the on-line process of selection of courses in workshops taking place at the school. Details will be explained in grade sessions being conducted on February 12<sup>th</sup>.**

#### **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 who have achieved at least 24 credits are required to carry a minimum of 3 courses each semester.

#### **GRADE 8 PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT**

Grade 8 Parent Information Night will be hosted on **Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009** at 7:00 p.m. This evening is open to Grade Eight students and their parents/guardians. Registration packages will be available for all non feeder school parents. All completed registration packages are to be returned to Holy Cross by **February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009**.

#### **VOLUNTEER & JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

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

#### **THE ONTARIO YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM (OYAP)**

There are over 150 skilled trades in Ontario, and forecasts indicate there are extreme shortages of workers in many of these areas. The province expects to register 24,000 new apprentices this year; however, there are indications that this number will not keep up with the on-going demand for skilled trade workers. To assist in this regard, OYAP helps young people to "jump start" their careers while still enrolled in high school. Full-time senior students who are at least 16 years of age and have an interest in a skilled trade/occupation are eligible to apply. Information about OYAP may be obtained from the guidance department or cooperative education teacher in any of the Board's high schools. Additional support or information is available from **Jim Johnston** or **Paul Denison**, OYAP Coordinators with the Board. Jim may be reached at (613) 532-3985; Paul may be reached at (613) 849-8550.

#### **MY BLUEPRINT EDUCATION PLANNER**

Holy Cross is pleased to provide an education planning resource and a career research tool available at school or from home. **My Blueprint Education Planner** provides students the opportunity to engage in an interactive education plan. Students can build customized high school course plans, instantly identify the post-secondary options that are available to them and explore valuable information about apprenticeships, college programs, university programs and workplace opportunities across Canada. With direct access from home, parents can also be more informed and involved, and log in and learn about courses, graduation requirements and the post-secondary options that are available. The "My Profile" feature allows students to set goals, save plans, short-list programs and occupations of interest, and record extra-curricular activities. To access the site visit [www.myBlueprint.ca](http://www.myBlueprint.ca) and input the Activation Key: **hckington**

**Career Cruising** ([www.careercruising.com](http://www.careercruising.com)) is another educational planner that is available to our students. It allows students the opportunity to research and explore their career choices. It provides interest inventories, occupation profiles and post-secondary education information. The username for this tool is **Algonquin**, and the password is **1170**.

**TEXTBOOKS FOR SEMESTER 2**

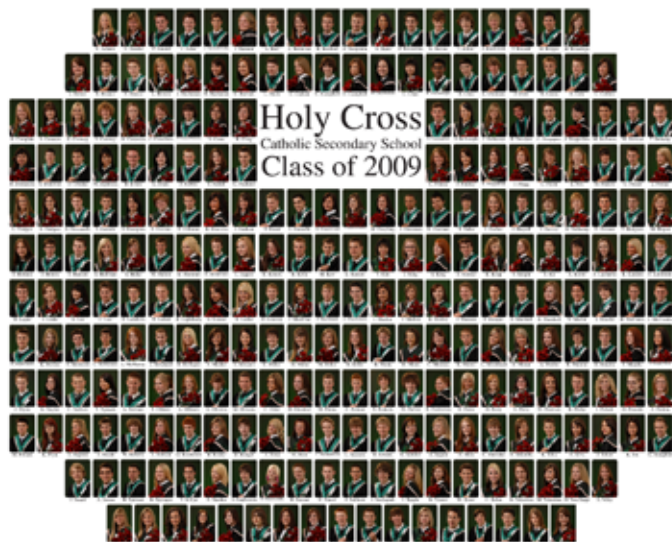
All students should now be in possession of the necessary textbooks for this semester. We wish to emphasize at this time that the condition of each book is the student's responsibility. We realize that all books are not in pristine condition; thus any tattered or dilapidated book should be brought immediately 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 acceptable excuse, 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 Mr. Mario Cortis in the Library at 613 384-1919 ext. 3413.

**ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL LITERACY TEST (OSSLT)**

The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test has been scheduled by the Ministry of Education for **Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>**. All Grade 10 students who are working towards an OSSD will write the test. In addition, students who have not yet completed the test, for example because they have arrived from out of province or because they were not successful in their first sitting, will also prepare for the test. Any student in Grade 11 or 12 who needs to fulfil this graduation requirement should see Ms. Daniel or a **Guidance Counsellor** in order to receive preparatory materials. 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. Each component of the test will be reviewed with students during these classes. 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. Students are encouraged to take this workbook home for continuous review. Parents and students may obtain additional practice materials, student resources, and sample questions and answers at the Education Quality and Accountability Office website at [www.eqao.com](http://www.eqao.com) under the link 'Student Resources'. Parents/ guardians will be advised in writing of their son/ daughter's test outcome. Students who are not successful will retake the test next year or may enroll in the Literacy Course.

**2009 GRAD PHOTO COMPOSITE**

The 2009 Grad Photo Composite is available for \$20.00 per copy. It includes everyone who had their grad portrait taken in September. It will be produced as a large 11x14 print. To order your own copy, please see Mr. Prior in room 129 during the lunch hour this week.



**ARTS NOTES**

**MacHomer presentation at Holy Cross:** This one-man vocal spectacular features impressions of over 50 voices from TV's **The Simpsons** in a hilarious performance of **Shakespeare's Macbeth!** With a script that remains 85% Shakespeare, MacHomer will amaze and entertain the audience. **Rick Miller** has performed MacHomer to capacity crowds across the U.S. and Canada. Spot-on impressions of characters from the hit series populate this imaginatively staged version of the tragedy, a multi-media update truly "full of sound and fury". Shakespeare's writing was meant to be spoken, not read! The best way to see MacHomer is to see the full play in a theatre, with the lights, the staging, and the audience's laughter. A 75-minute show is a terrific trip for high school students sinking their teeth into Shakespeare for the first time.

**HOLY CROSS MUSIC DEPARTMENT**

On **Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup>**, the Jazz Ensemble will be holding a live jazz evening entitled, "**My Funny Valentine**". Tickets for the event are \$20 per person and can be purchased from any jazz ensemble member. The ticket includes live jazz music from 7-11pm as well as a great culinary spread by **Tom Gencarelli**. In addition to a cash bar, the student musicians will also be raffling off a Trip for 2 to Paris, France for 4 days (Hotel and Flight). All proceeds from the event go directly to the Instrument Replacement Fund for the Music Program.

From **February 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>**, the **Crusader Bands** will be participating in the **Annual Kiwanis Music Festival**. This year the event is being held at **Regiopolis-Notre Dame**. Our competing bands include the Junior Concert Band, the Jazz Ensemble, the Symphonic Band, and the Senior Wind Ensemble. A list of all students and their performance schedules will be listed on the board in the Staff Room in the weeks before the event.

**STAND UP AGAINST BULLYING TRAINING SESSIONS**

A group of researchers from Queen's University, who have been conducting a study on bullying programs in local high schools, will be training a number of our students in bullying prevention. The program called "**I Decide- The Bystander**" is endorsed by the Ontario Ministry of Education. The education training workshops sessions will train our students who in turn will present the workshops to their peers. The first education training workshop will be held on **Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>** during the lunch period followed by two more workshops on **February 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>**. The program promotes bystanders to intervene on behalf of a teen who is being victimized.

**EYE OPENER: More than one-half the time, bullying stops within 10 seconds of a bystander stepping in to help.**

**NEXT MONTH AT HOLY CROSS**

Sunday, March 1.....First Sunday in Lent  
Monday, March 2.....Blood Donor Clinic in Library  
Thursday, March 5...Grade Level Reconciliations all day in Library  
Tuesday, March 10.....Stand Up Against Bullying Workshops  
Wed. & Thurs., March 11 & 12...CICS Toronto Street Retreat  
Friday, March 13.....Last Instructional Day before the March Break  
Sat., March 14 to Sun., March 22.....March Break 2009  
Tuesday, March 17.....St. Patrick's Day  
Thursday, March 26...90 Days 'Til Class of 2009 Graduation  
Friday, March 27.....(Tentative) Non-Uniform Day