



HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL, KINGSTON

March, 2010 Newsletter... visit our web site at www.hctoday.ca

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

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

As we head into the March Break, I express my appreciation to all students and staff for the great start to Semester Two. Our community is blessed to have so many dedicated and talented members who share their time and talents with one another. We welcome to our staff **Ms. Monique Dubé** who is teaching a Grade Nine science class this semester, and **Ms. Chelsea Sandrin**, who is filling the role of Youth Worker, temporarily.

In this, the year of the priest, I would like to take a moment to thank our pastor, Father Rene Labelle, as well as the many parish priests who partner with us as we nurture the growth of our students and staff at Holy Cross. We thank **Fr. Leo Byrne of St. Paul the Apostle Parish**, **Fr. John Brennan of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish**, **Fr. Mike Reed of Blessed Sacrament**, **Fr. Stan Alanen of St. Linus, Bath**, **Fr. Brent Brennan of St. Anthony of Padua, Assumption, Erinsville**, and **Church of the Annunciation, Enterprise**, **Fr. Rod McNeil of St. Patrick, Napanee**, **Fr. William Steacy of St. Patrick, Railton**. We are blessed to have so many partners in education.

This has certainly been a time of great joy and great suffering in our community. Our Canadian pride is evident in the red attire which has found its way into the building and in recaps and debriefs of our **Canadian Olympians**. Similarly, our own **Holy Cross bands** turned out great performances as we hosted **Kiwanis** and our **Improv Team** finished first amongst its peers on Wednesday night. Many students showed off their mathematical prowess in contests. The entire community has raised over \$6000 for our brothers and sisters in **Haiti**. Our **Comm Tech students** created thoughtful and creative videos to highlight our board's bottled water policy; these videos will be highlighted on the website of the **Polaris Institute**.

Students are reminded and challenged to be stewards of our school environment: to pick up after themselves, to maintain and wear their uniforms properly, and to be respectful of one another and of themselves. As mentioned in the grade assemblies at the start of this

semester, non-uniform days are contingent upon students upholding the above expectations. *Remember: more than one-half the time, bullying stops within 10 seconds of a bystander stepping in to help.*

Paul A. Walsh

MARCH DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday, March 3.....Cabaret, Cafetorium, 7 p.m.
 Wed – Fri., March 3-5...OFSSA Wrestling, Tillsonburg
 Wednesday, March 3 ... After-School Literacy Program, Library
 Thursday, March 4...Grade Level Reconciliations all day, Library
 Sat & Sun, March 6-7...Cheerleading Provincial Championships, Kitchener
 Sunday, March 7.....World Prayer Day
 Third Sunday of Lent
 Monday, March 8... After-School Literacy Program, Library
 Tuesday, March 9 ... K2K Eco-Vintage Charity Runway Show
 Wednesday, March 10... After-School Literacy Program, Library
 Jamaica Service Learning Trip Departs
 Thursday, March 11...Italy and France/Spain Trips Depart
 Last Day of School Before March Break
 Fri – Sun, March 12 – 21... March Break (no classes)
 Friday, March 12...Comm Tech Hollywood Trip Departs
 Sunday, March 14... Field Hockey Bermuda Trip Departs
 Daylight Savings Time begins
 Fourth Sunday of Lent
 Thursday, March 18.....France / Spain Trip Returns
 Friday, March 19...100 Days to Class of 2010 Graduation
 Sat, March 20..... Italy & Hollywood Trips Return
 Sun, March 21...Jamaica Mission & Field Hockey Bermuda Trips Return
 Fifth Sunday of Lent
 Monday, March 22.....World Water Day
 2010 Crusader Spring Season tryouts begin
 Early Report Cards Issued, Semester Two
 After-School Literacy Program, Library
 Wed, March 24...HC Class of 2010 Information Meeting, 10:40 a.m.
 Queen's On-line to Success Opening Days
 After-School Literacy Program, Library
 Thursday, March 25...Parent-Teacher Interviews, 3-6 & 7-9 p.m.
 Friday, March 26.....Thinkfast
 2010-11 Course Verification Sheets Issued
 Tentative March Non-Uniform Day
 Holy Cross Earth Hour
 Monday, March 29.....Earth Hour
 After-School Literacy Program, Library

PASTORAL SERVICES UPDATE

We are of course now well into the **Season of Lent**. We celebrated our Ash Wednesday Mass for the school community on **February 17th**. Staff and students received the ashes at the end of the Mass as a sign of our collective need for repentance and healing. We are now preparing for our **Lenten Reconciliation Day** which will be held on **March 4th** in the school library. The students and staff will be called down by Grade Level throughout the day and will have an opportunity to speak with one of the priests and to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We will be having our **Holy Week Liturgy on Thursday, April 1st**.

We are also counting down the days to our **Jamaica Mission Trip**. We are taking thirteen Holy Cross students and two from Regiopolis-Notre Dame to Kingston, Jamaica for 12 days during the March Break (March 10 – 21). We will be working at various projects sponsored by **St. Patrick's Foundation** and will also be part of an historic **Twinning Agreement** between our two Kingston Archdioceses that will be signed while we are there.

Our **CICS' Students** and **Student Council** are busy with our **Share Lent Campaign** which this year will see donations going to the **Kingston Youth Shelter, Birthright, Buy-A-Net, and the St. Vincent de Paul Society**. We will also be having our annual **25-hour Thinkfast on Friday, March 26th**.

We are also planning already for a huge event to be hosted here at Holy Cross – an **Archdiocesan Catholic Youth Rally on Saturday, May 8th**. The last time this event was held at Holy Cross, we had over 400 young people in attendance for a full day of workshops, contemporary music, and a prayer service. Mark it in your calendars now. It's going to be a fantastic gathering of teenagers from all over our Archdiocese.

Some other upcoming events include: **Graduates' Retreat on April 16th**, the **Hotel Dieu Hospital Food Blitz on May 19th**, the bus trip to Ottawa on May 13th for the **March for Life Rally on Parliament Hill**, and the **Grade 9 Retreat on May 21st**.

Lots to get involved in here at **Holy Cross** in the coming months.

Chris Forster, Coordinator of Pastoral Services

LITERACY TESTING

The Literacy Test will be written on **Thursday, April 8th, 2010**. Literacy Test preparation is being offered to **all Grade 10 students**, throughout the next several weeks. A practice booklet has been sent home with the students. This year, the test will be conducted on one day for two ninety-minute sessions. In order to serve the test writers properly, **our Grade 11 and 12 students not writing the test are granted an Independent Study Day (at home) on April 8th**. **Grade 9 classes will run as regularly scheduled.**

HOLY CROSS CLASS OF 2010 GRADUATION CEREMONY

The graduation ceremony for this year's graduating class will be held on **Tuesday, June 29th** beginning at **7:00 pm** in the gymnasium.

Holy Cross Class of 2010 Reminders

Wednesday, March 24 (10:40 to 11:10) ... Class of 2010 Info Meeting
Friday, April 16th . Graduates' Retreat @ Rideau Acres
Monday, May 3...Potential HC Graduates List Published
Week of May 10.....Grad Invitations mailed
Wednesday May 12... Valedictorian Submission Deadline
Friday May 14...Community Service Hours documentation due
Thursday June 24...Final Course documentation deadline
Tuesday June 29...Graduation Mass and Commencement

A list of students who are potential graduates of Holy Cross and eligible to receive their **Ontario Secondary School Diploma** and take part in the **June 2010 graduation ceremony** will be published in the **May Newsletter**. The completion of thirty (30) credits (including compulsories), forty (40) hours of Community involvement, and the successful completion of the literacy test, are the key components of the diploma requirements. The community involvement hours (40) are to be completed and submitted to Student Services by **Friday, May 14th, 2010**. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that all requirements (including night school courses and on-line courses) have been completed or will be completed. The final marks for on-line and night school courses must be submitted to Student Services by **Tuesday, June 15th, 2010**. Students may contact their counsellor regarding any questions concerning graduation.

HC Class of 2010 Assembly. To mark the beginning of their final days as Holy Cross students, the HC Class of 2010 will assemble in the cafeteria on **Wednesday, March 24th, 2010 in Period Two**. This date marks **the beginning of the last 93 days** as a Holy Cross student and provides a great opportunity for the school to review and remind the senior class of their obligations and responsibilities in the days and weeks to come. This marks the beginning of the final 93 days as a Holy Cross student before they become a Holy Cross graduate. As the saying goes, a student for a short time but an alumnus for a life time, **Once A Crusader, Always a Crusader.**

EARLY SEMESTER REPORT CARDS

Look for **Early Semester Report Cards** to arrive home just after the March Break, on **Monday, March 22nd**. These report cards are intended to let students and parents know how well a student is progressing in each of his or her classes. We do not include grades at this point in time because we want to focus on learning skills and the anecdotal comments. Please discuss the report card with your son or daughter. You may also want to make use of this information to prepare for **parent-teacher interviews on Thursday, March 25th**. We always welcome contact between school and home, starting with subject teachers at any point in the semester.

CURRICULUM UPDATES

There are so many projects afoot that it is hard to select just a few. However, students and parents should know that teachers of our Grade Nine applied students (in English, Math, Science, Geography and Religion classes) continue to work together on board-wide common assessment tasks, in order to accomplish two particular goals: to ensure that teachers in schools throughout the board share an understanding of work at various levels of accomplishments and, more importantly, to help students who may struggle with cross-curricular literacy skills to build their repertoire of literacy strategies.

Our Civics classes are focusing on a unit that ensures that students are aware of the unique nature of the Catholic school system in Ontario. We owe so much to our fore-bearers and in this hectic world, it is too easy to maintain focus on daily tasks without slowing down and truly appreciating who we are and who we've been.

Also, our **Grade Ten History** teachers have participated in the strengthening of a unit on our Aboriginal heritage. We are very proud that we now have a **Grade 11 Native Studies course** – this builds on several extra-curricular opportunities we have offered our students and it is great to have 16 students who have chosen to learn more about the contributions of First Nations in the cultural mosaic that is Canada. Grade 12 students **Will Lefort** and **Danielle Sylvester** are the **ALCDSB** student representatives on our **Aboriginal Advisory Committee**. A big thank you to them for serving their peers in this capacity.

NEWS FROM STUDENTS' COUNCIL

Another month has come to a close here at **Holy Cross** while March is still fast approaching. By this time, all students have settled into their second semester classes and are preparing for another successful term. As a fun, new exciting fundraiser, the Students' Council organized a **matchmaker event**. Students filled out questionnaires, and those who wanted their results paid \$2. This match maker was all for fun, and turned out to be quite popular amongst the students. With the **2010 Winter Olympics** opening ceremony the same night as our semi formal dance, we were curious to see the outcome of the dance. But sure enough, an ample amount of **Crusaders** came out, dressed elegantly to dance the night away. We would like to extend congratulations to the **Jazz Band** for a successful **Jazz Night**, as well as good luck to the band in the **Kiwanis Music Festival** being held at our school. We would also like to congratulate all those winter teams, especially the junior boy's basketball team. The next fundraiser in store for **Holy Cross** is the **Share Lent Campaign**, where each grade is responsible for one charity. As February comes to an end, there will be a red and white non-uniform day to show our support for the Canadian athletes at the **2010 Olympics**. With all the upcoming trips, and events for March, it looks to be another exciting and eventful month here at HC.

Kaitlyn Barbosa, Communications Advisor

COUNSELLORS' CORNER

COURSE SELECTION FOR 2010 - 2011

The **course selection process** for next year was completed last week. It is critical that any student who has not selected their courses, do so, before Wednesday, March 3rd. Students can access the course selection link through the HC website. Click on the **Parent-Student Maplewood Portal Access** and enter your username and password. Students can also use the library computers at lunch to adjust their choices. Contact a guidance counsellor if further assistance is needed. A verification sheet listing choices will be issued after the March Break.

VOLUNTEER & JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Students are reminded to check the bulletin board for volunteer and part-time job opportunities. **KEYS** will be hosting a summer employment **Job Expo at City Hall on March 3rd from 3 – 6 p.m.** Ontario summer job opportunities are available through www.ontario.ca or 1-800-387-5656.

COLLEGE / UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

A reminder that university and college applicants who have made course changes recently must check their university/ college site to make sure the changes have been made. See your counsellor as soon as possible if the academic info on either the **OUAC** or **OCAS** site is incorrect. Students are encouraged to visit post secondary campuses during March Break Open Houses.

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

University of Guelph is offering a full day conference for university bound grade 10 and 11 students introducing university living and learning. The cost is \$30 and the registration deadline is **Tuesday April 6th**. Interested students can go to www.admission.uoguelph.ca/interaction or go to student services.

HOLY CROSS ATHLETICS

This spring, over 200 student athletes from **Holy Cross** will compete for **KASSAA** and **EOSSAA** championships. Both the KASSAA website - www.kassaa.ca and the OFSAA website www.ofsaa.on.ca are an excellent resource for schedules, league rules, and any general information regarding high school sports. Information regarding teams can be obtained through a number of media, including school announcements, posters, our school's athletic web site – <http://hcss.alcddb.on.ca/athletics/home.html>, local newspapers and the KASSAA web site – www.kassaa.ca. If you have any questions concerning a team, please contact the coach listed or ask your home room teacher for assistance. To recap the winter season, our **Junior Boys basketball team** advanced to the finals and lost a tightly contested battle over **Frontenac 62-57**. Our **boys' hockey team** lost to **Frontenac** in the semi finals. **Girl's Hockey** lost 3-2 in the semi-finals vs. **NDSS** in overtime on Monday, **February 22nd**. **Chris Waltner** will be the one member of the **wrestling team** off to **OFSAA, March 3-5 in Tillsonburg, Ontario**. From the **swim team**, **Laura Perry** and **Jenna Gregg** qualified at **EOSSAA** for the **OFSAA Swimming Championship in Etobicoke on March 2nd and 3rd**. **Badminton** season hits full stride in March and April. Spring teams include boys' and girls'

THE ECO-CORNER

Species extinction, environmental refugees, rising ocean levels, ocean acidification, irreversible climate change... These are some of the many frightful future consequences of our inaction on reducing greenhouse gasses. Despite our awareness, the day to day business of our lives makes it easy to forget about this issue. To help remind our school community of our commitment to take action on climate change, Holy Cross will participate in **Earth Hour 2010** on **Friday March 26th**, when classes will reduce or eliminate the use of their classroom lights for one hour. Over 100 countries have signed up to participate in **Earth Hour 2010** which will take place on Saturday, March 27th at 8:30 pm. For more information, visit www.earthhour.org and urge local leaders to support action on climate change.

EcoTip: Over its lifetime, a T-shirt can send up to nine pounds of carbon dioxide into the air. Try hanging your clothes on a line to dry. Keep it Green HC!

soccer, boys' and girls' rugby, co-ed tennis, baseball, and track and field. **Spring team photos** will be taken on **April 20th and 21st**. **Only the teams photographed on these dates will appear on this year's yearbook photo CD.** Hope to see everyone on the sidelines in the spring.

KIWANIS MUSIC FESTIVAL RESULTS

Congratulations to the Holy Cross Crusader Bands for their stellar performance in the **Kiwanis Music Festival**. The **Holy Cross Junior, Senior, Jazz and Symphonic Bands** each performed very well in the annual Kiwanis Music Festival hosted by HC from Wednesday, **February 24th to Friday, February 26th**. Congratulations to **Mr. Dave Orser and Mrs. Diane McCombs** for their outstanding and inspiring artistic leadership of our Holy Cross Bands which involve more than **108 students** in the bands. Next for the Bands is NYC in **April**.

ME TO WE: BE THE CHANGE

Grade 10 students will have an opportunity to hear inspirational speaker **Michael Pinball Clemons** speak to area youth at **KCVI** on **Monday, March 29th** at noon. An exceptional athlete and coach, **Pinball** will challenge our students to be the change.

K2K ECO-VINTAGE CHARITY RUNWAY SHOW

All community members are encouraged to join us for a night of recycled fashion and fun in the **Cafetorium**. Proceeds from this event will go directly to the **Jamaica Mission Trip**. Tickets are five dollars at the door on **Tuesday, March 9th**.

SPECIALIST HIGH SKILLS MAJOR ACTING FOR TELEVISION & FILM WORKSHOP

Barry Blake from the **Canadian Screen Training Center** will be conducting an acting workshop for television & film, for our **SHSM** students and a Com Tech class from **PECVI** on **Wednesday, March 3rd**, periods 3 & 4, in the HC lecture theatre.

CAREERS PANEL DISCUSSION

Working Canadian actors, directors and producers discuss the Canadian film and television industry. Our students will attend this event on **Friday, March 5th, 4 - 6 p.m., at Queen's University.**

IMMUNIZATION MESSAGE

Students between the ages of 14 and 16 need a booster of tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (dTaP) called Adacel. They are also eligible for Meningococcal C vaccine between the ages of 15 and 19. **KFL&A Public Health** will be holding clinics at all secondary schools in the new year. Our clinic will be held in April. If your child receives a booster at the doctor's office, ask the office to send the information to **KFL&A Public Health** or you may call the automated vaccine reporting line at **613- 549-1232 ext. 445 or 1-800-267-7875 ext. 445** to give them an update.

NEWS FROM THE SPECIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Individual Education Plans for students receiving accommodations or modifications will be mailed on **Wednesday, March 24th**. Please return the contact forms. *Post-Secondary Education Transition Planners* are available in **Room 117** for graduating students. Financial Assistance Programs and Scholarship information for Post-Secondary Students with Disabilities: <http://www.studentawards.com/english/can>; <http://www.ldao.on.ca/landis.html>; and www.ldakingston.com; mail@autismontario.com; **Parent Education Program: Parenting Children with Challenging or A.D.H.D. Behaviour**, Contact **Pathways for Children and Youth: 613-546-8535 ext. 238 or 250**. Please feel free to address any concerns regarding programming and accommodations for students on IEPs with the Special Education staff.

NEXT MONTH AT HOLY CROSS

April 1..... Holy Week School Liturgies
April 2..... Good Friday
April 4..... Easter Sunday
April 5..... Easter Monday
April 6..... Students' Council Executive Election
April 7..... Assembly for OSSLT Preparation
April 8..... Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test
Independent Study Day for Gr 11 & 12s who have completed the test
Regular Classes for Grade 9 students
April 12..... Reach for the Top Contest, KCVI
April 16..... Graduates' Retreat @ Rideau Acres
April 20-21 Spring Team Photos
April 21-25..... HC Bands Trip to NYC
April 22..... Earth Day
April 23.... Semester Two OCAS & OUAC marks deadline
April 26-29..... Spirit Week
2010 – 11 Students' Council Executive Election Begins
April 26... HC Catholic School Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
Midterm Report Cards Issued
April 27, 28 ... KFL&A "Energy Check" Grade 10 Assembly, P1
April 29..... 2010-11 Students' Council Election
April 30..... ALCDSB P. A. Day #5 – no classes
Coaching the Coaches Conference begins, HC