

Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School

Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board

Newsletter August 2002

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www.alcddb.on.ca/~hcssl



Principal's Message

I am pleased to welcome all new and current "Crusaders" to another school year. I look forward to the contributions that will come from the members of our freshman class who, I am sure, are both anxious and excited about what their first day at high school will bring.

This will be one of the most challenging years in what seems, at times, to be an endless series of challenging years. The graduation year of the "double cohort" group of students brings a measure of closure to the implementation of secondary school reform and the new curriculum. We are very concerned about the implication all of this has for our graduating students. There is, however, no time to dwell on the fairness of this decision. We must devote our efforts to ensuring that our students are well prepared and able to compete successfully for the places that will be available at university and college. I am very confident that, based on our reputation, the quality of instruction at Holy Cross, the achievement of our graduates and the talent of this group of students, we will achieve a positive result in the end. Please accept my assurance that we will do our utmost to assist students to realize their potential.

We have adopted the Beatitudes as our theme for the 2002/2003 school year. During each month we will focus on one of the Beatitudes as we move toward a greater understanding and appreciation of how we can incorporate this Gospel teaching into our daily lives. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church states, "The Beatitudes are at the heart of Jesus' preaching." The Beatitude "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied," will be our focus in September.

Please take the time to review the documents included in this newsletter with your child or children so that you and your family will understand and be aware of our expectations. If you have any questions or concerns about anything that is included here please feel free to give me a call. Finally, we welcome your prayers for a successful school year, that God will continue to bless this school community. I hope that you continue to enjoy a safe and restful summer.

Sincerely, Wayne Hill

Student Schedules

Counsellors will be available from Monday August 26th to Thursday August 29th for students who need to discuss timetable changes with a counsellor. Students who wish to make timetable changes should

phone for appointments through Student Services at 384-2023 as soon as possible. This is an extremely busy time for Student Services staff. Avoid long waits and disappointment by booking your appointment now.

Code of Conduct

Please review the enclosed Code of Conduct and discuss it with your son(s)/daughter(s). It will also be available in the Main Office, Attendance Office, Student Services, and the website. If this document was not delivered in this package, you are encouraged to drop by any of these locations to receive one.

It is our expectation that parents/guardians and students will read this document and use it to guide their actions. Holy Cross staff will regularly review this document with students.

Textbook Deposit

Holy Cross has a centralized textbook room. Current students should bring their white Library/Textbook card from last year. Grade 9 students and new students will receive a new card. A \$75.00 textbook deposit (CHEQUES ONLY made payable to Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School dated February 1, 2003 with the name of the student clearly written on the lower left corner of the cheque is required to obtain textbooks. Please note that this is a deposit only and will not be cashed unless a student loses a book(s). Students with outstanding problems from last semester must arrive at the school prepared to resolve these problems (eg. damage, missing cards) with payment before new textbooks will be released. **See enclosed notice.**

Parent Information Night for the Grade 10 Literacy Test

There will be an information night on Wednesday September 11 at 7:00 p.m. in the Cafetorium for parents of students who will be taking the Grade 10 Literacy Test on Tuesday October 23 and Wednesday October 24. Successful completion of the Grade 10 Literacy Test is a diploma requirement for all students who enter high school after 2000-2001. Parents of students who were unsuccessful in the last administration of the test are welcome to attend. Holy Cross will be presenting information on how the staff will be helping students prepare for the test and will suggest ways in which parents can support their child before, during and after the test. Students are welcome to attend.

Students' Council News

The Holy Cross Students' Council for the academic year 2002/2003 welcomes all new and returning students for what promises to be an excellent start to a

Ms. Jill Courneya. New educational assistants include: Ms. Ruth Smith, Ms. Barb Megill, and Ms. Michelle Carr.

Uniform Policy

Holy Cross's Uniform Policy is clearly outlined in the Code of Conduct and on the additional sheet in this mailout. Students are expected to wear the school uniform at all times during the school day. Newman's Men's Shop, Kingston, is the official supplier of the Fall/Winter school uniform.

Students must present themselves in school uniform in good repair at all times during the school day. Ball caps are not permitted in the school; they will be seized and reissued at the end of the semester. Appropriate attire for shop, gym, drama, and art will be determined by the teacher and worn for that period only. On non-uniform days, unacceptable and/or immodest clothing and clothing with inappropriate design and/or language will not be permitted. Students not in full uniform or dressed unsuitably may be reprimanded, assigned a study hall, required to change into acceptable attire, and/or sent home. Persistent violation of the uniform policy will result in suspension from school.

Please be aware of the following:

1. Students are to use the change rooms and washrooms available to them for changing into or out of their uniform.
2. Students who arrive at school and who are not properly attired will not be admitted to class. They will either return home to retrieve their uniform after calling their parent or guardian or work in an alternate supervised area. Any class time missed will be made up in Study Hall during lunch hours as per the attendance policy.
3. Students who are not wearing their uniform correctly will be warned once. Further violations will result in their being asked to leave the school until such time as they can be in proper uniform.

Attendance at Holy Cross

At Holy Cross we are very concerned that all students realize their full potential.

Our direct expectation is that students attend all of their classes in uniform and complete work that is assigned. At Holy Cross we are very concerned with ensuring that no student is unsuccessful as a result of irregular attendance. We will make every effort to keep parents aware of any problems with respect to attendance as it relates to their child. Parents can expect contact by the Attendance Secretary and/or Administration to verify student absences. Teachers will contact parents about learning issues related to attendance. In order to accomplish this goal, the following procedures will be followed:

1. Attendance will be taken during each class and forwarded to the office. All student absences will be checked. If you know that your child is going to be away, please call the school. Otherwise, the Attendance Secretary or Administration will be contacting you at your home or your place of business. If no call has been

received from the parent, the student must bring a note the next day explaining their absence. If they fail or forget to do so, the student may be assigned study hall time.

2. All students who are absent from school or any class during the day who cannot satisfactorily account for their absence (normally by bringing a note signed by their parent, guardian or a doctor's certificate) will be required to make up missed time by attending Study Hall during the first half of lunch.

3. If a student misses a study hall session to which they have been assigned without a satisfactory excuse, they meet with an administrator. Subsequent failure to attend study hall or ongoing problems of irregular attendance will be dealt with in a progressively more serious manner, which will most likely include suspension after consultation with parents/guardians.

Transportation

Bus routes and times are usually available at the school after August 27th and will be posted on the lower windows immediately to the left of the Main Entrance so they can be viewed from outside the building. If you require transportation information, please call Tri-County Transportation at 354-1981. Please note that the school does not create schedules or approve transportation requests.

It always takes some time to normalize bus routes at the beginning of a school year. Students are advised to arrive at their pick up location a little early for the first few days. In the event that you are at the stop at the correct time and the bus does not arrive, please contact the school so that other arrangements can be made.

Holy Cross Catholic School Council

The HC Catholic School Council forms an advisory body that provides ideas and opinions to assist the Principal and, where appropriate, the Board in their decision-making on educational issues. The advice is based on the general views of the school community and in the best interest of Holy Cross students.

Membership of the Council reflects the diversity of the community and includes parents/guardians of students enrolled at the school, students, teachers, non-teaching staff, a parish representative, a community representative and the principal.

The constitution of the council requires the election of the parent/guardian representatives to take place in September. Interested parents or guardians who wish to let their name stand for election to the Catholic School Council are asked to contact Wayne Hill, Principal, before September 13th at 384-1919.

Important Events

September 13th will be the day for our Grade 9 Orientation. Orientation is a well-organized, supervised event consisting of teambuilding and outdoor activities. No athletic skill is required. Grade 9 students will be in class for periods 1 and 2 in full uniform and may change at lunch for the barbecue and activities at Woodbine Park. Please encourage your son/daughter to participate. The School Dance is scheduled for 7:30 pm

on Friday September 13th. Please see the Newsletter and Calendar for September which will be distributed on our website and in our school on September 4th.

Youth Worker Services

The Youth Worker exists to address the social, emotional and behavioural needs of the students, their families and the school community. The needs are identified by the students, administration, parents, outside service agencies and teaching and support staff. Should you not want your child not to have involvement in this service, please contact the school administration. Our youth worker is Ms. Terrie Hoey.

Lockers/Personal Property

All students at Holy Cross are assigned a locker on the first day of school. These lockers are usually in close proximity to their homeform classroom. Students may not switch lockers without the permission of Mr. Speagle, Vice-Principal. Lockers are the property of the school. Students will be assigned individual lockers. Students may use only approved Masterlock padlocks with keyed backs sold through Holy Cross. Lockers may be searched by school administration when necessary. Personal property posted in a locker must be in good taste. Material deemed to be inappropriate by staff members will be removed. Students will be responsible for damage to lockers where due care could have prevented it.

Students will not share lockers with other students and should not share locker combinations with anyone. Student lockers are vulnerable to break-in and theft if lockers and combinations are shared. To ensure that a lock is secure, the owner should spin the dial and tug on the lock. Large sums of money and other valuables such as walkmans, gameboys, etc. should never be kept in lockers. These items should be left at home. Theft from a locker or any other area should be reported to the Main Office where students will be asked to complete a report. Under no circumstance will the school or the School Board assume any financial responsibility for items that go missing from lockers or any other location in the school.

Rollerblades and skateboards are not permitted anywhere on the school property, inside or out.

Student Accident Insurance - A Good Buy!

Parents are encouraged to purchase the low-cost Student Accident Insurance that will be sent home with students in early September especially if students are involved in Physical Education courses or extra-curricular athletics. Policies can include life and disability insurance components, as well as out-of-province benefits. Parents are advised:

- * The school board does not provide accident insurance for students
- * Accidental dental injuries may result from participation in sports or other activities
- * Repair of dental injuries may cost thousands of dollars, and may require extensive future dental work -

student accident insurance provides coverage for the costs related to accidental dental injuries - now, and in the future

* This low-cost-programme can provide protection 24-hours per day on an annual basis - even in the summer

If your son/daughter does not provide you with the application form, you may pick it up in the Main Office.

Is Your Son/Daughter 18 Years Old?

Schools are obliged to conform to "The Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (1989)" which means the school cannot share with parents/guardians any aspect of the student's activity at the school including marks, attendance, etc. without the written consent of the student.

We at Holy Cross believe that parents do want to be involved in their children's education. Parents should encourage students to provide this written consent to the school on the forms provided in Student Services. Prior to a student turning 18 years of age, the school will attempt to contact the parent/guardian to remind them of this requirement.

Want to Get in Touch with Us?

The following phone numbers will allow you to contact us between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. daily: Main Office 384-1919; Attendance Office 384-1355; Student Services 384-2023; Fax 384-8665. After hours, messages can be left on our call answer service and our fax lines are accessible 24 hours a day.

Personal telephone messages cannot be relayed to students during class time except in the case of an emergency. Reminders such as medical appointments, car keys, employment, etc. should be communicated at home.

Students are not allowed to use the office phones for personal calls except in the case of illness. Three pay phones are available.

Smoking and Student Gathering Areas

It is the policy of our School Board that smoking is not allowed on their property and it is a distinct expectation that all will respect this policy. We recognize that the decision to smoke is an individual one, but we sincerely hope that in light of mounting evidence with regard to the risk to our health that anyone thinking about beginning or ending "the habit" will give it serious thought. Students who smoke must do so off the property along the northwest corner (by the school sign). Smoking on the property will result in fines by the Health Unit's Tobacco Enforcement Officer who regularly patrols the area.

Student Parking and Traffic

Student parking is only available in the west parking lot adjacent to the gymnasiums. Parking is not permitted anywhere on the property except in designated areas. Fire routes and bus zones must be kept clear of vehicles at all times. This is to provide safety to the school community so that police, fire or ambulance vehicles can access the property in the event of an emergency. Handicapped parking is

available in the south parking lot, field side adjacent to the rear entrance. Only those vehicles with appropriate stickers are permitted there. Parking in these areas will result in fines and/or towing of vehicles at the owner's expense.

Vehicles parking on school property are not to be used as gathering points for students. Students are not permitted to remain in parked vehicles. Vehicles are not to be used for "joyriding" on school property at any time. Actions of this kind jeopardize the safety of students, staff and visitors to our property. Failure to comply with the above provisions will result in the suspension of parking privileges.

Vehicles left overnight on the school property without the approval of administration will be towed at the owner's expense.

Our Newsletter , Calendar & Website

Our monthly newsletter and calendar will be distributed to students as close as possible to the first day of the month. Students will be instructed to deliver the newsletter home that evening. The next newsletter will be distributed on September 4th. Parents/guardians should encourage and expect their son/daughter to deliver the Holy Cross newsletter home as it contains a great deal of important information about your child's education and school life. Additional copies are always available in the Main Office.

The most current information on Holy Cross events is always available on our website at www.alcidsb.on.ca/~hcsc/

Photography Dates

School photographs will be taken September 5th. Grad photographs will be taken September 10-12 and 17-19. Graduating students need to sign-up in advance with Mr. Prior.

