

Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School

Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board

Newsletter April 2004

For up-to-the-minute information, visit our website at
www.alcidsb.on.ca/~hc/ss/

"Blessed are the merciful; mercy shall be theirs"



Student Report Cards

Students received their Early Diagnostic Report Card on Tuesday March 9th. Any parent who missed parent-teacher interviews and would like an opportunity to speak to a teacher concerning the academic performance of their child should contact the school.

Mid-semester Report Cards will be distributed on Friday April 23rd.

Special Education

Parental Consultation Forms regarding the IEPs were sent out in Semester One, and will be sent again in Semester Two. Please give us your feedback. Letters regarding the IPRC meetings were sent in March. We are proud of the success our students are experiencing with assistive technology, such as: Kurzweil and Dragon Naturally Speaking. We are in the process of testing a new Microsoft tool, *One Note*. This software provides increased flexibility, as it is able to read any Word document and requires minimal training for Voice Recognition.

School Dance

The next school dance is **Friday April 30th** from 7:30 pm to 11:00 p.m.

Pastoral Services Update

Our students and staff have recently returned from a Service Learning Trip to Kingston, Jamaica where they volunteered at St. Peter Claver School and Maxfield Park Children's Home. Work at both placements offered a wonderful, challenging educational experience for all. As a result, we will be making a donation from our Share Lent collection to the school and orphanage through Jamaican Self Help, as well as to a youth marching band that we were privileged to encounter while there.

On March 31st, we welcomed Sr. Pauline Dupuis and a mission team from Myriam Beth'lehem Community in Quebec to our school. They offered a Lenten reflection to our Grades 9-10

students during Period 1, and to our Grades 11-12 students during Period 4.

During Holy Week, we will reflect on the Way of the Cross at our School Liturgy on Wednesday morning. As we journey closer to Easter, may each of our students and staff and their families be able to enter fully into the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Christ.

April Non-Uniform Days

The non-uniform days for the month of April will be Thursday April 29th and Friday April 30th.

School Council News

Our next meeting is **Monday April 5th** at 7:00 p.m. in the Library. Gerry Bibby, Executive Director of the Eastern Ontario Catholic Curriculum will address the topic of Reclaiming our Roots—Celebrating the History of Catholic Education. All parents and guardians are welcome to attend.

Town Hall Assembly

Student voters will have an opportunity to meet the candidates for Students' Council 2004-2005 on April 28th.

Congratulations to...

...Matthew Hulse, a grade 10 student after finishing a strong cross country season where he placed 4th at OFSAA and 20th in a 2 mile race at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire, with a time of 10:12:91. After continuous training, Matt also competed at the Ontario Indoor Track and Field Championships and placed 5th in the 3000m race and 6th in the 1500m race with personal best times of 9:17:87 and 4:17:30.

...Royal Canadian Legion Poster and Literary Contest winners, including Erin Tayles who won 1st place in the Senior Black and White Poster category, Maria Walker who won 3rd place in the Senior Colour Poster category, Chris Roney, who won 1st place in the Senior Essay category and Gwenne Cunnigham who won 2nd place in the Senior Poem category.

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Mathematics Contest

The Euclid Math Contest for Grade 12 students will take place on Wednesday April 14th.

Catholic Education Week

Catholic Education Week will be held on May 2-7. A variety of activities will be held at area schools throughout the week to celebrate.

Crusader Shop

The Crusader Shop, which is carrying Crusader Wear, is now open. Items such as pullover and zipped hoodies, tear-aways, toques, mitts, baseball hats, lanyards, water bottles, and foam fingers are available for purchase at lunch time or in the Bridges classroom.

Early Dismissal Day

There will be an Early Dismissal Day on Tuesday April 27th. School will be dismissed at 11:00 am and buses will depart at 11:10 am.

Literacy Test Results

The individual student reports for the October 2003 Literacy Test have arrived at the school and will be mailed home soon.

After School Literacy Program

Beginning later this month, Mr. Manion will be offering a 10-12 hour literacy course designed to assist students with their reading and writing strategies. Students will meet twice a week for approximately 1 hour. Students who are interested in registering for the program can contact Ms. Gallant.

John XXIII Friendship Wall

A Friendship Wall is being planned for John XXIII Catholic School to honour past and present students, staff, family members and friends. Custom engraved bricks are being sold for \$50.00 a piece which will then be placed in the



Friendship Wall for those wishing to forever leave their mark. The money raised by this project will be directed toward the purchase of much needed playground equipment. For more information,

you can contact Maria Phillips at 384-5160 or email schoolbricks@hotmail.com. Order forms and inscription ideas are available, in the library, at John XXIII or you can order them on-line at www.schoolbricks.com.

Encounters With Canada

This is a one-week program of Canadian studies held at the Terry Fox Canadian Youth Centre in Ottawa. Students, aged 14 to 17, from all over Canada, gather in Ottawa for a "once in a lifetime" opportunity. The program week is divided into two parts: the first part of the week is centered on Canadian Institutions and includes visits to Parliament, the Senate and a guided tour of the Capital region. The second part of the week is organized around one of the 11 sub-themes, which include Sports and Fitness, Arts and Culture, Medicine and Health, Science and Technology and more. Students are selected in each region upon the recommendation of the school authorities, and on the basis of a regional quota. There is a fee for the program. Any interested students are asked to indicate their interest to Student Services and an information session will be held depending on the number of students interested.

Timetables

The course selection process is now complete. Verification sheets (to be signed) will be distributed in April. Timetables will be available in June.

April Calendar

Please see the attached page for April's Calendar of Event