

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL, KINGSTON

January, 2006 Newsletter... visit our web site at www.alcddb.on.ca/~hcss

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL, KINGSTON, ONTARIO



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

I hope that the holy season of Advent and Christmas was a time for reflection and renewal for you and your family. On behalf of the Holy Cross staff and administration, I extend best wishes for a very Happy New Year. I welcome all staff and students back from the Christmas break.

Recently the Senior Administration advised all Catholic Secondary Schools in the board that the examination schedule previously issued as part of the School Year Calendar has been amended. **The January examination schedule has been moved ahead by three days.** This step is being taken to avoid a potential disruption to our end of semester examinations as a result of a potential strike by our CUPE members. CUPE members in our Board include all support staff: Computer Technicians; Custodians; Educational Assistants; Maintenance Staff; Youth Workers and Secretaries.

Examinations now begin on **Monday, January 23rd** instead of the Thursday, January 26th as previously published. Exams will be written in the same order as previously published. Please see the Examination Schedule posted below.

There may be further scheduling adjustments as a result of the change in the examination schedule. Athletic events and other extra-curricular activities may be postponed or cancelled.

Students will return to second semester classes on Monday, February 6th, 2006 as previously scheduled.

Although this is a step along a continuum of preparations in the event of a work disruption it should not be viewed as an indicator of failed negotiations. We continue to pray for a successful conclusion to bargaining between the Board and our CUPE colleagues who are so crucial in providing a successful school experience for our students. We ask for your understanding and cooperation as we work together for the benefit of our students.

After almost 35 years in education **Mr. Greg Speagle, Holy Cross vice-principal** is retiring at the end of January. Mr. Speagle, a graduate of **Ernestown Secondary School** began his teaching career at **Cathedral School in 1971**. Since then Mr. Speagle has served as a teacher at: John XXIII, St. Joseph, St. Paul, Our Lady of Lourdes, and St. Patrick. He subsequently served as an Administrator at: Holy Family, Holy Name, Archbishop O'Sullivan, Sacred Heart Wolfe Island, and founding Principal of St. Martha Catholic School where he remained as Principal until June, 2000.

In **September of 2000**, Mr. Speagle became a Crusader as the vice-principal in charge of "just about every thing". The above list of school sites in no way can convey the many contributions that Greg has made over the years or the wisdom and passion that he is known for. Mr. Speagle is well known for his commitment to **Catholic Education**, students, staff and all that is green and silver.. Although we are very happy for Greg who will be starting a well earned retirement at the end of this month we are also a little sad that some one who means so much to our community is saying good bye.

We wish **Mr. Speagle a long and happy retirement with his wife Pat, daughter Lauren, HC 1997, and son Michael HC 2001.**

We look forward to welcoming **Mrs. Lucy Teves** to our administrative team in February. Mrs. Teves was a member of the original teaching staff from 1986 to 1994, and served as vice principal at Holy Cross in 2003. Mrs. Teves is currently the Vice Principal at St. Martha's.

JANUARY PASTORAL UPDATE

We are excited to welcome back to Holy Cross our **School Chaplain, Fr. Labelle**, who is rejoining us this month after a short sabbatical in the fall. We thank **Fr. Rod McNeil** and **Fr. Mike Reed** who generously helped us out in Fr. Labelle's absence. Our **Crusaders in Community Service** are still counting the donations of food and money from this year's **Advent Food Drive** which ended on December 19th. We congratulate **Regiopolis-Notre Dame Catholic High School** which this year outdid us in generosity and thus gets to host the **Christmas Challenge Cup** until next year when we will win it back. Together our two schools raised over \$3,000.00 and filled over **113 boxes of food for St. Vincent de Paul**. Thanks to the students and staff of both schools for their generosity again this year.

Parents, staff and students of Holy Cross are encouraged to sign one of

the **Development & Peace "Water" postcards** which are available in the main office. These postcards will be sent to our Prime Minister urging him to take action against the privatization of water both here in Canada and around the world. Here at school, C.I.C.S. has been leading a post-card signing campaign among our students and staff with over 200 collected so far. This campaign aims to protect our water as a sacred gift that should be available to all, and is supported by all the major Churches across Canada including the Roman Catholic Church.

Our fundraising for the **Jamaica Mission Trip** went well in the fall with various bake sales, raffles and chocolate bar sales all helping us to raise the monies needed to send 12 of our senior students to Kingston, Jamaica during the **March Break**. We especially thank our local parishes, religious congregations, **Knights of Columbus, Catholic Women's League**, and the following individuals and businesses for their generous donations to our fundraising efforts: **Shopper's Drug Mart, Classic Bakery, Loblaws, Chris McLeod at The Bay, Mrs. Waller, The Ambassador Conference Centre, Holy Cross Student Council** and so many more.

We are looking forward to our **final school Mass** for this semester which takes place on **Thursday, January 19th**. We will be praying at this Mass for all those students who are preparing for their exams, as well as for those students and staff who will be leaving us after this semester.

May God bless our students, staff and their families with a healthy and happy New Year.

Chris Forster, Coordinator of Pastoral Services

JANUARY EVENTS AT HOLY CROSS

January 09 First Instructional Day of the New Year
 January 10 Peter Miliken speaks to Careers, Civics, and History classes
 January 16 January 2005 Newsletter Issued
 January 13 and 16 Academic EQAO Grade 9 Math Assessment
 January 17 and 18 Applied EQAO Grade 9 Math Assessment
 Saturday, January 14 Junior Boys Basketball Tournament at Holy Cross
 January 19 January School Mass
 January 20 Last Instructional Day in Semester 1
 January 23-27 Grades 9 to 12 Examinations
 January 30 Exam snow day if required
 January 30 Catholic School Council Meeting 7:00 at Holy Cross

JANUARY 2006 EXAMINATION PERIOD

The Final Examination Schedule was distributed to homerooms on January 11th. Exams are scheduled to be written at **8:30** and **12:00** beginning on **Monday, January 23** and are to conclude on **Friday, January 27**. In the case of inclement weather and bus cancellations the exam schedule would be modified with examinations being "bumped" one day. **i.e. If buses were cancelled on Monday, January 23 then all exams scheduled for the Monday would be written on Tuesday, January 24, and the remaining part of the schedule adjusted accordingly.**

FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE January 2006						
Year	A.M. P.M.	Day 1 Monday, January 23	Day 2 Tuesday, January 24	Day 3 Wednesday, January 25	Day 4 Thursday, January 26	Day 5 Friday, January 27
Grade 12	A.M.	SCH 4C0 SCH 4U0	CHI 4U0	CHY 4U0 CIA 4U0	SBI 4U0	ADA 4M0 ADA 4O0 BOH 4M0 SPH 4U0
	P.M.	ENG 4C0 ENG 4E0 ENG 4U0	MAP 4C0 MCT 4C0 MDM 4U0 MGA 4U0	CLN 4U0 MCB 4U0	HHS 4M0 HZZ 4U0	CGW 4U0 PSE 4U0
Grade 11	A.M.	END 3C0 ENG 3U0	HRT 3M0	HSP 3M0	SCH 3U0	BMI 3C0 CGF 3M0 ICS 3M0
	P.M.	BAF 3M0 FSF3U0	CHW 3M0 SBI 3C0 SBI 3U0	MBF 3C0 MCR 3U0	CLU 3E0 CLU 3M0	MCF 3M0 SPH3U0
Grade 10	A.M.					FSF 2D0
	P.M.	MFM 2P0 MPM 2D0	ENG 2D0 ENG 2P0	CHC 2D0 CHC 2P0	SNC 2D0 SNC 2P0	HRE 2O0
Grade 9	A.M.	CGC 1D0 CGC 1P0	SNC 1D0 SNC 1P0	ENG 1D0 ENG 1P0	MFM 1P0 MPM 1D0	FSF 1D0
	P.M.		FSF 1P0	HRE 1O0		

Every effort must be made to write examinations during the regularly scheduled time. Students absent from a scheduled exam will be contacted by the school. If a student is late for a scheduled exam, he/she will have only the remaining time left in the exam to complete it. If a student is extremely ill during the examination period and will miss an exam, a parent must contact the school and the student may require a doctor's certificate. Students are expected to be in full uniform during the examination period and will not be permitted to write unless they comply with uniform policy.

Inclement Weather Policy

Bus cancellations due to inclement weather will be communicated through the various radio stations in the Kingston Area. **In the case of inclement weather and bus cancellations, the exam schedule would be modified with examinations being "bumped" or moved ahead one day.**

January Examination Return

Students will pick up their January examinations on the morning of **Monday, February 6th**. An abbreviated Semester 1 timetable will be in effect for the morning only to provide classes with the opportunity to take up and review the January examination and final mark calculation.

Turnaround Day

On **Monday, February 6th** an abbreviated Semester 1 timetable is scheduled for the morning and semester 2 classes will meet for the first time later in the day. The morning provides an opportunity for Semester 1 classes to conclude any unfinished business, such as the return and take-up of the January examination, return of projects and assignment, collection of any course resources, review of the final mark calculation, and completion of surveys concerning the course.

TEXTBOOKS FROM SEMESTER ONE

We remind students that her or his textbooks must be returned at the end of the last exam. The Textbook Room is open for this purpose from Friday January 20 to Thursday February 2. Please do not leave textbooks in the classroom or examination rooms. These may be considered as "lost" books, which must be paid for.

Each student's record must be clear of textbooks, Library books or Library fines before s/he may sign out books for Semester 2. If a book is lost or damaged, deposit cheques for \$100.00 will be cashed beginning February 6.

TEXTBOOKS FOR SEMESTER TWO

Students are responsible for picking up their books before classes begin. Please bring your **green Library/Textbook card** with you to the school. There is NO textbook sign-out service during class time once classes begin.

We have scheduled textbook pick-up as follows:

Monday, January 30 to Thursday February 2, 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

As in the August period before school begins, it may be necessary that students provide their own transportation to Holy Cross to pick up textbooks.

EQAO GRADE 9 ASSESSMENT OF MATHEMATICS

In January, all Holy Cross students enrolled in a grade **nine applied** or **academic math** course will join others in a Province wide standardized Grade 9 Math Test. The mandatory assessment will involve multiple choice questions, short answer and extended response. This test which component of the Secondary School Reform occurring in Ontario will be administered on two days. The dates for the testing at Holy Cross are **Friday, January 13 and Monday, January 16 (academic) and Tuesday, January 17 and Wednesday, January 18 (applied)**. Testing will occur during the scheduled math period ranging for 60 minutes.

Students may also get extra help through TV Ontario's Eureka! Ask A teacher website - www.tv.o.org <<http://www.tv.o.org>>. This interactive site offers exercises and links to help them improve their math skills and students can also take Eureka! Sample test. The site is an engaging way for students to learn, assess how ready they are, or review what they know. Students who do not own a computer can use a computer in the library to use Eureka!.

IMPROV TEAM

The 2005-2006 Holy Cross Improv Team is in the process of preparing for the 2006 Improv games which will occur in February.

CRUSADER ATHLETICS

The Memorial and Full Court Press Against Cancer

The 17th Annual Memorial and Full Court Press Against Cancer. On Friday, February 10, The Memorial basketball games will be hosted by Regi-Notre Dame with the Junior Varsity game beginning at 6:00 and the Senior Varsity game scheduled to begin at 8:00. The 2006 edition includes **The Full Court Press**, a two day elementary school tournament to be held on **February 3rd and 4th**, followed by the Memorial on the 10th at RND.

HOLY CROSS CLASS OF 2006 GRADUATION CEREMONY

The graduation ceremony for this year's graduating class will be held on **Thursday, June 29** here at the school. **Please mark this date on your calendar if you plan on graduating in June 2006.** Students eligible to graduate this June will receive an invitation in their Period 1 class in May. To celebrate the successful conclusion of a high school career a 100 day party in advance of the graduation ceremony will be held in March, 2006.

COUNSELLORS' CORNER

University/College Applications

Post-secondary application workshops and information sessions have concluded. PIN numbers required for University applicants and OEN numbers required for College applicants are available from Student Services. The **application deadline for OUAC is January 11, 2006** and the **OCAS deadline is February 1, 2006.**

Students are asked to ensure that all data on the application is accurate (including address and transcript information). Please contact Student Services if the information is not accurate.

Semester 2 Timetables

Copies of timetables for Semester 2 will be distributed this week. The course selection process for 2006-07 will take place in mid February. Workshops outlining the process will be conducted at that time.

Address and Change of Parental/Guardian Information

Please be advised that if there is an address/telephone number/custody information change for your child, forms are available in Student Services for completion. For the safety of your son/daughter, it is imperative that we have this revised data noted as soon as possible.

Looking for a Job OR Volunteer Hours....

Students are reminded to regularly check the postings on the Job & Volunteer Board located outside Student Services. There are many opportunities for part-time jobs and volunteer hours.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course

The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) has been scheduled for **Wednesday, March 29, 2006**. All grade 10 students who are working towards an OSS will write the test.

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) which is being offered in Semester 2. Please see your Guidance Counsellor if you qualify to take this course. Successful completion of the OSSLT or the OSSLC is a graduation requirement.

Next Month at Holy Cross

Friday, February 03 Professional Activity Day # 3
Monday, February 06 Turn Around Day
Tuesday, February 07 First Instructional Day in Semester 2
Friday, February 10 The Memorial Basketball Games at RND
Friday, February 10 Semester 1 Report Cards distributed
Tuesday, February 14 Valentines Day and Valentine's Day Flower Sales
Wednesday, February 15 Grade Eight Parent Information Night
Thursday, February 16 2006-2007 Course Selection Assemblies
Friday, February 17 Holy Cross Semi-Formal
Friday, February 17 Working copy of course selection sheet distributed
Friday, February 17 U of Waterloo Gr. 9, 10 and 11 Math Contests
February 22 and 23 Kiwanis Music Festival at Regi ND
February 23 Hot Hot Hot Holy Cross Fashion Show
Monday, February 27 Catholic School Council Meeting at 7:00
February 27-March 3 On-line course selection submissions
February 28 Non-uniform Day
February 28 Shrove Tuesday
February 28 Early Dismissal Day # 3; periods 1 and 2 only

