



# HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL, KINGSTON

February, 2008 Newsletter... visit our web site at [www.hctoday.ca](http://www.hctoday.ca)

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

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Novelist **Louis L'Amour** once claimed that "there will be a time when you believe everything is finished. That will be the beginning." Exams and culminating activities of the first semester are now behind us and we look forward to the opportunities of a new semester. Students should refocus and get prepared to lay the foundations for academic success in the second half of the school year. Remember that your behaviour, in class and outside of class, is an important component of readiness to learn. Seize this moment as a fresh start and work with your teachers to build a positive learning community.

Lately, the hallways have been full of litter at the end of our lunch hour and some students have been smoking in areas where they are not permitted to smoke. We need to do better, to represent ourselves and our school community with pride. It is unfair to those who must pick up behind us and it is unseemly as members of the Holy Cross community. Here is a challenge to the student body: clean up, significantly, or the upcoming non-uniform day(s) will be in jeopardy. Begin anew.

We bid farewell and best wishes to **Ms. Carey Varga**, who has been a welcome member of our science department. We welcome back **Mrs. Jennie Melo-Jordan** and **Mrs. Trish Rodrigue** as they return from maternity leave.

Paul A. Walsh, Principal

### HOLYCROSSLATEPOLICY

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:

- assignments submitted on the date due will be collected;
- submissions one school day after due date will be collected;
- assignments handed in two school days late will be collected;

- three school days late will receive a 5 % mark deduction;
- 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.

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.**

### FEBRUARY DATES TO REMEMBER

- Friday, February 1 PA Day #4—no classes, Damian Cooper Workshop for Teachers
- Friday, February 1 ... Deadline for schools to provide Sem. 1 final marks to OCAS
- Monday, February 4 ..Turnaround Day: Sem.1, 8:30-10:30, Sem. 2, 10:35–2:30
- Tuesday, February 5..... First Full Instructional Day in Semester II
- Tuesday, February 5..... Shrove Tuesday
- Wednesday, February 6 .Ash Wednesday Liturgies, Share Lent Campaign begins
- Wednesday, February 6.... Staff – Varsity Basketball Game, 11:45–12:15 p.m.
- Thursday, February 7 ..."The Memorial" High School Basketball Games at Regiopolis-Notre Dame, JV at 6p.m., Seniors at 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, February 7..... Toonie for a Non-uni
- Fri. – Sun., Feb. 8–10..... Mont Ste. Anne Ski Trip
- Monday, February 11..... Semester 1 Report Cards Issued
- Tuesday, February 12 . Quit4Life Smoking Cessation Group Begins
- Tuesday, February 12 ..... Pancake Breakfast, Periods 1 & 2
- Wednesday, February 13 .....Grade Eight Parent Information Night
- Thursday, February 14..... Valentine's Day, Flower Sales
- Thursday, February 14 ... Queen's University GR8 Transition School Visit to HC
- Thursday, February 14..... HC Bands at Our Lady of Lourdes
- Friday, February 15.....Practice Lockdown Drill
- Friday, February 15. Last Day for Semester Two Timetable Changes
- Friday, February 15.....Holy Cross Semi-Formal
- Sunday, February 17..... KASSAA Basketball and Volleyball Championships
- Monday, February 18..... Ontario Family Day Holiday
- Tuesday, February 19.....2008-09 Course Selection Assemblies
- Tuesday, February 19..... U. of Waterloo Grade 9, 10 & 11 Math Contests
- Wednesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> ... Auto Show Trip with Transportation Tech. Class
- Wed. – Fri., Feb. 20 - 22 .....Kiwanis Music Festival at RND
- Wed. – Fri., Feb. 20 – 22..... Improv Preliminaries at McArthur College
- Thursday, February 21 ..... Reconciliation Day
- Friday, February 22..... Course Selection Workshops
- Saturday, February 23 ..... Improv Wildcard and Finals at McArthur College
- Monday, February 25 ..... Catholic School Council Meeting in Library, 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, February 26..... KFL&A Health Unit "Naked Truth" Kiosk in Foyer, at lunch, Hazards of Tanning Information
- Wed. & Thurs., Feb. 27 & 28... KFL&A Health Unit, Energy Check for Grade Tens
- Friday, February 29 ..... 2008-09 Course Selection Process Completed
- Friday, February 29..... REEL Canada Film Project Day at HC
- Friday, February 29..... ThinkFast
- Friday, February 29..... (Tentative) Non-Uniform Day

## 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.

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 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.

Please contact me if you have any suggestions, concerns, or questions regarding the uniform and the expectations I have been charged with putting in place. You may contact **Paul Walsh** at **613 384-1919, ext. 3411** at any time.

## SAFESCHOOLS, BILL 212

On **June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007**, **Bill 212** of the *Education Act* was unanimously passed by the provincial government. **As of February 1, 2008 all aspects of Bill 212 will come into play.** Changes to this act will impact how the behaviour, discipline and safety of our students is handled. Working with the changes to the *Act*, Holy Cross will continue to provide all members of our community with a positive school climate in which to learn and grow scholastically, socially and spiritually.

Our policies and procedures, which are developed within a Catholic context, are used to help us ensure the safety and security of all members of our community. For more information, please see the Ministry of Education web site at [www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/safeschools](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/safeschools) and the bullying brochure for parents at <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/bullying.pdf>

## PRACTICE LOCKDOWN DRILLS

Once again in February, in compliance with Board Policy, we will run a practice lockdown drill. Staff will inform students of the protocol in advance of **Friday, February 15<sup>th</sup>**. This rehearsal of what staff and students should do in the unlikely event that a dangerous intruder enters our school is intended to inform and empower rather than alarm. We conducted our first drill earlier in the fall. If you know that your son or daughter may be nervous about this topic, please discuss the nature and purpose of the drill with him or her ahead of time.

## PASTORAL UPDATE

A good number of people from our Holy Cross School community were able to attend the **St. John Fisher Dinner** on **Tuesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>** with guest speaker **Cardinal Pell** of **Sydney, Australia** as well as the World Youth Day catechesis and rally at **Saint Mary's Cathedral** on **Wednesday, January 30<sup>th</sup>**. And, twelve students from our **Crusaders In Community Service** and **Environmental Clubs** were able to attend the **Queen's Conference on Leadership in Activism** this past weekend. Through workshops and presentations, students from all our local high schools learned how they can more effectively advocate and work for change and fight indifference in our world. As Semester 2 begins, so does the Holy Season of Lent. We will observe the traditional day of fasting and abstinence from meat on **Wednesday, February 6<sup>th</sup>** with **Ash Wednesday** as Lent comes extra early this year. **C.I.C.S. & Students' Council** have scheduled our annual **Pancake Breakfast** for **Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>** so that we will have more time to plan this important **Share Lent** fundraiser. This year our school will be supporting the **Buy-A-Net** program with the proceeds from our Pancake sales. **Debra Lefebvre**, founder of **BAN**, will be at our school that day to speak about her organization's efforts to save lives in **Uganda, Africa** by raising money for treated mosquito nets.

Another major fundraiser for our **Share Lent** campaign will be the **Thinkfast** on **Friday, February 29<sup>th</sup>**. Students will be seeking donations and sponsors over the coming weeks as they commit themselves to fasting for 25-hours in support of **Development & Peace's** third world projects. Shortly afterwards is this year's **Service Learning Trip** to **Kingston, Jamaica** which will take place from **March 7-18<sup>th</sup>**. Sixteen students and staff will be volunteering at several projects sponsored by **St. Patrick's Foundation** and learning about the culture and religious life of the Jamaican people. Let us begin this new semester with renewed hearts and minds. And may God's blessing be with all of us as we begin our Lenten journey of prayer, repentance and almsgiving on Ash Wednesday.

Chris Forster, Coordinator of Pastoral Services

## STUDENTS' COUNCIL

Second semester is here HC students! On **Friday, February 15<sup>th</sup>**, the Students' Council will be hosting the **Semi-Formal Dance**. The dance will be from 7:30-11:00 at night. With the end of the year quickly approaching, Students' Council elections for 2008/2009 will be taking place sometime in May. Students' Council is looking forward to planning many fun activities for Semester Two. Good Luck Crusaders!

## 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 7<sup>th</sup>**, **The Memorial** Basketball games will be hosted here at **Regiopolis-Notre Dame Catholic High School** with the **Junior Varsity game beginning at 6:00** and the **Senior game scheduled to begin at 7:30**. 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. The popular "**Toonie for a Non-uni**" in support of the Memorial will take place on **Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup>**. Students have prepaid for this day when they submitted their Crusader Comprehensive Activity Fee earlier this year. Plan now to attend one of the highlights of the high school sports season and contribute to the fight against cancer.

## COUNSELLOR'S CORNER

### COURSELOAD

All students in Grades 9, 10, 11 are required to carry a course load of 4 courses each semester. All students in Grade 12 are required to carry a minimum of 3 courses each semester.

### 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 2008-2009 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.** The deadline for completing this process is **Friday, February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008.**

### GRADE 8 PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT

Grade 8 Parent Information Night will be hosted on **Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.** This evening is open to Grade Eight students and their parents/guardians. Registration packages will be available and all completed registration packages are to be returned to Holy Cross by **February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008.**

### 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**.

### QUIT 4 LIFE

Have you thought about quitting smoking? This is your opportunity to find ways that might help you. "Quit 4 Life" is a supportive group program for students who want to quit. Quit 4 Life is coming to Holy Cross CSS soon and at noon on **Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>**, you will see a Quit 4 Life display in the main lobby to answer any questions you might have. This is a voluntary program for a group of students and a sign-up sheet will be available for those wishing to attend. You can also directly contact your Holy Cross Youth Worker, **Terrie Hoey**, to let her know you are interested. The first Quit 4 Life session will be held in the Youth Worker Office, **Rm 238** on **Tuesday, Feb 12<sup>th</sup>**, during **Period Three**. The program will then run each Tuesday until **April 8<sup>th</sup>**.

## SUPPLEMENTAL LITERACY PROGRAM

The after-school literacy program, designed to boost reading and writing skills and to help students gain confidence in preparation for the **Literacy Test on Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup>**, will begin in the second week of February. 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 after-school program, please contact **Terri Daniel** at **613 384-1919, ext. 3406**.

## SPECIAL EDUCATION AND RESOURCE

**Semester I Report Cards with attached Individual Education Plans:** Read the subject teacher and SERT comments. Using this data, parents/guardians are asked to discuss the relationship between marks and use of accommodations so that their son/daughter understands the connection.

**Opportunities for Grade 11 and 12:** The **Queen's On-Line to Success Course** is offered by **Queen's** for students with learning disabilities heading to **any** university or college in **2008 or 2009**. This course begins on **March 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>** at **Duncan MacArthur Hall** and is designed to help students learn more about their own learning styles, self-advocacy skills, adaptive technologies, and post-secondary learning strategies. For further information contact **Marie Gavan-Knox** at **613-384-1919, ext. 3426**.

**Identification, Placement and Review Committee Meetings (IPRCs):** Parents of students identified as exceptional learners are asked to set up an appointment for this year's Identification, Placement and Review Committee meeting by calling **Mrs. Decaire**, secretary at **613-384-1919 ext.3405**.

**Collaborative Services Model for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder:** **Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board** has been chosen by the Ministry to show our model of best practice. One focus is to look at Transitions into high school, transitions between grades and then into the community. Holy Cross **Special Education Department, Bridges Life Skills Program and Bridges to Community over 18 Program** have been invited to highlight our best practices. In return, we will receive increased support.

**Post-secondary Transition Planning:** There are a variety of scholarships available for students with learning 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 (deadline of **June 1<sup>st</sup>**); the **Roy Cooper Scholarship Award 2008** offers a \$1,000 award for students with a learning disability entering engineering or a physical sciences discipline in university or college (deadline of **May 28<sup>th</sup>**); **Imperial Tobacco Canada Limited Scholarship for Disabled Students** offers **\$5,000** annually towards college or university (deadline is **June 1<sup>st</sup>**). There are also four **LDAC** scholarships, all with application deadlines of **May 15<sup>th</sup>**, 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 or guidance counsellor for more information.

**Parent and Guardian Support:** Many thanks for the ways you support us as we support your son/daughter to do what they need to do to be successful.

**Return of Parent Contact Forms:** All parents and guardians are asked to always sign and return the Contact Form attached to the initial Individual Education Plan mailed to you each semester (in October and March). We really value your insights on your son or daughter's learning profile.

## MUSICNOTES

The first term was a very busy one for the Crusader Bands. Not only did our student musicians perform a large number of concerts in the first semester, but they also learned some very challenging literature that proved to be rewarding for both them and their audiences. The **Katharine Splinter Memorial Christmas Recital** was again a huge success and all of our faculty and student musicians thank you for your continued support.

As we move into Second Semester, we are all reminded that the **Kiwanis Music Festival** is only two weeks away. The band classes for the Festival will be held at Regiopolis-Notre Dame from Wednesday, February 20 to Thursday, February 21. Here is the schedule for our Crusader Bands:

Wednesday, February 20:

9:30am Senior Band  
11:00am Grade 10 Band  
1:00pm Jazz Ensemble

Thursday, February 21:

9:30am Senior Band  
1:00pm Symphonic Band

In preparation for these events, the **Jazz Ensemble** will be practicing on Mondays and Wednesdays at lunch. The **Grade 10 Band** will practice Tuesdays and Thursdays at Lunch. The **Symphonic Band** will practice in the music room Thursday evenings from 6:30-7:30pm. And the **Senior Band** will rehearse on Thursday evenings in the music room from 7:30-8:30pm. There will be a special rehearsal for both Senior Band and Symphonic Band on Tuesday, February 19 from 6:30-8:30.

Plans for the Chicago band trip in April are progressing very well. A full itinerary will be made available to you soon so that you have contact numbers for the students. Please also note that there are still a few students who have not submitted their Passport or Birth Certificate and Photo-ID and Out-of-Country medical photocopies. We need to finalize this arduous component of the planning process very soon.

## SEMESTER 1 FINAL REPORT CARDS

Semester 1 Final Report Cards will be issued to students in their Homeroom classes on **Monday, February 11<sup>th</sup>**. Any parent or guardian who did not receive a report card on this date is asked to contact Student Services at **613-384-2023**.

## 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 ex 3413**.

## SEMESTER 2 EARLY REPORT CARDS

On **Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>**, the Early Semester Report Cards for Grades 9 - 12 students will be issued in period 1. There will be one night for **Parent Teacher Interviews** on **Wednesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>** from **3:00 to 6:00 p.m.** and from **7:00 to 9:00 p.m.**

## ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL LITERACY TEST (OSSLT)

The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test has been scheduled by the Ministry of Education for **Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup>**. **Holy Cross will be conducting the test between 8:30 and 11:15 a.m.** 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 fulfill this graduation requirement should see **Ms. Daniel** or a **Guidance Counselor** in order to receive preparatory materials. 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** under the link 'Student Resources'. Students who are not successful will retake the test next year or may enroll in the Literacy Course.

## 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 during the morning of **Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>**.

If your child receives a booster at the doctor's office, ask the office to send the information to **KFLA&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.

## NEXT MONTH AT HOLY CROSS

Saturday, March 1 ..... KASSAA Cheerleading Championships at Bartlett  
Sunday, March 2 ..... Regional Cheerleading Championships at Bartlett  
Thursday, March 6 ..... Last Instructional Day before the March Break  
Thursday, March 6 ..... Art-History Italy Trip Departs  
Thursday, March 6 ..... France Trip Departs  
Thursday, March 6 Communications Technology Hollywood Trip Departs  
Friday, March 7 to Sunday, March 16 ..... March Break 2008  
Friday, March 7 ..... Jamaican Mission Trip Departs  
Tuesday, March 11.. Communications Technology Hollywood Trip Returns  
Sunday, March 16 ..... Passion Sunday  
Monday, March 17 ..... St. Patrick's Day  
Monday, March 17 ..... Art-History Italy Trip Returns  
Tuesday, March 18 ..... Jamaican Mission Trip Returns  
Wednesday, March 19... Early Semester II Report Card Information Due  
Thursday - Saturday, March 20 - 22 ..... The Triduum  
Thursday, March 20 ..... Holy Thursday  
Thursday, March 20 ..... CICS Share Lent Campaign Ends  
Friday, March 21 ..... Good Friday  
Saturday, March 22 ..... Easter Vigil  
Sunday, March 23 ..... Easter Sunday  
Monday, March 24 ..... Easter Monday  
Wednesday, March 26 ..... Early Semester II Report Cards Issued  
Thursday, March 27 ..... EQAO Grade 10 Literacy Test  
Friday, March 28 ..... Easter Season Masses  
Wednesday, April 2 ..... Semester II Parent-Teacher Interviews  
3:00 to 6:00 & 7:00 to 9:00  
Thursday, April 3 ..... Mid-semester Examination Period Begins