



# HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL, KINGSTON

## March, 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

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. I offer my congratulations on behalf of our community to the following: our **whole school community** that has come together in the **Lenten season** to renew our spiritual roots, to strengthen our commitments to one another and to heed calls for charitable and social justice activities; all **teachers** who are in the process of advising and guiding our students as they complete the **2008-09 course selection process**. The encouragement and support of an educator is essential to our students in planning and choosing appropriate pathways. Of course, collaboration with **parents** throughout this process is also essential; the players and coaches of both the **RND** and **HC boys' basketball teams** who embodied the spirit of "**Panthers and Crusaders Against Cancer**"; to **Mrs. Judith Carty, Mrs. Mary Halligan** and their families and friends who support the Memorial in numerous ways and to the **organization committee** of the **19<sup>th</sup> Annual Memorial**. This year, **\$12 000** was raised to bring the total to **\$ 250 000** raised for cancer research; the **Students' Council Executive**, with staff advisor **Mike Zanette** who organized and hosted the semi-formal on **Friday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008** attended by 405 students; the **Student Services Department** under the leadership of **Mike Hamilton** for their organization of the **Grade 8 Parent Information Night** on **February 13<sup>th</sup>** and the **Course Selection Assemblies and workshops** this past week; the **winter athletic teams' coaches** for their commitment to assisting in the development of our student-athletes both in the classroom and on the ice, courts and mats this winter; and our arts department groups, including the bands, led by **Mr. David Orser** and **Mrs. Diane McCombs**, who swept all competition at the **Kiwanis Festival** and the

**Improv Team**, led by **Ms. Carrie Rose**, who provided entertainment, wonderment and pride for us as they won the regional Improv Competition and will proceed to the national level in Ottawa earlier next month.

Paul A. Walsh

MARCH DATES TO REMEMBER	
Sunday, March 2	.... Regional Cheerleading Championships at Bartlett
Monday, March 3	.... OFSAA Boys' Basketball, Paris, ON
Tuesday, March 4	.... Singles Badminton League Tournament @ RND
Thursday, March 6	.... Last Instructional Day before the March Break
Thursday, March 6	..... Jamaican Mission Trip Departs
Thursday, March 6	..... France Trip Departs
Thursday, March 6	..... Comm Tech Hollywood Trip Departs
Friday, March 7 to Sunday, March 16	..... March Break 2008
Friday, March 7	..... World Day of Prayer
Friday, March 7	..... Art-History Italy Trip Departs
Tuesday, March 11	..... Comm Tech Hollywood Trip Returns
Sunday, March 16	..... Passion Sunday
Monday, March 17	..... St. Patrick's Day
Monday, March 17	..... Art-History Italy Trip Returns
Monday, March 17	..... Jamaican Mission Trip Returns
Monday, March 17	..... Return to Classes
Monday, March 17	.... Try-outs for Spring Sports Teams Begin
Wednesday, March 19	..... HC Class of 2008 Information Meeting
Wed., Mar 19	..... Doubles Badminton League Tournament @ LCVI
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
Thursday, Mar 27	... Independent Study for Grade 11 and 12 students
Friday, March 28	..... Easter Season Masses
Saturday, March 29	..... Earth Hour 2008, 8 p.m.
Monday, March 31	..... Learning Disabilities Association workshop at St. Lawrence College, speaker Ms. Gavan-Knox presents on self-advocacy strategies.

## PASTORAL SERVICES UPDATE

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST:** Thanks to everyone who supported our Pancake Breakfast on **February 12<sup>th</sup>**. With the help of **C.I.C.S., Students' Council, Ms. Bland's students,** and the **Brown's Cafeteria Staff,** we were able to cook over 1600 pancakes and raise close to \$900.00 for our **Share Lent Collection**. We would like to especially thank **Brown's Fine Foods** and the **Golden Grid-dle** for their hard work and generous donations.

**SHARE LENT CAMPAIGN:** We are once again encouraging donations to Share Lent through the various fundraising activities taking place at our school. This year, our monies will be going to support the **Kingston Youth Shelter, the Buy-A-Net program** (which provides DEET treated mosquito nets to Uganda), and international development programs through the **Catholic Organization for Development & Peace**.

**LENT:** Once again, we began the season of Lent here at **Holy Cross** with Ash Wednesday Mass and with the distribution of ashes as a sign of our common need for repentance and conversion. As Christians, we are encouraged to follow the traditional observances of fasting, abstinence and almsgiving throughout the 40 days of Lent. We had a celebration of Reconciliation for the school community on **February 21<sup>st</sup>** to help us to enter into the spirit of this penitential season.

**THINKFAST:** Our annual **25-Hour Thinkfast** takes place from **February 29<sup>th</sup> to March 1<sup>st</sup>**. Students will be asked to collect pledges and to fast from solid food for 25 hours as part of this overnight experience.

**2008 JAMAICA MISSION TRIP:** Twelve of our senior students and three staff will be traveling to **Kingston, Jamaica** over the March Break to volunteer at schools, hospitals and a home for abandoned seniors under the sponsorship of **St. Patrick's Foundation**. Thanks to all who have supported our fundraising efforts.

May all of our students, staff and families continue to enter deeply into this holy season of Lent and experience the peace and joy of Easter.

Chris Forster, Pastoral Services

## REEL CANADA FILM FESTIVAL AT HOLY CROSS

**Holy Cross students** rolled out the red carpet for the **Reel Canada Film Festival** on **Friday, February 29<sup>th</sup>**. **REEL CANADA** is a national initiative of members of the film and television industry, designed to bring Canadian films into Canadian classrooms. Essentially, **REEL CANADA** is a day-long traveling film festival that moves from one school to another. **Holy Cross** is hon-

oured to be chosen as one of 5 sites across Ontario to participate in this prestigious event. Selected teachers & students integrating **Communications Technology, Drama, Art and English** studies participated. **The Holy Cross Students' Technology Council** organized and hosted the event.

The films were chosen by the students themselves from a curated program of features, documentaries, animated programs and shorts. Special guest speakers such as the director from **Project Grizzly, Peter Lunch** presented his film and then took part in a Q & A with the students. Reel Canada operates in conjunction with the **Kingston Canadian Film Festival** which runs from **February 27<sup>th</sup> to March 2<sup>nd</sup>**.

**REEL CANADA** provides an opportunity for students to be exposed to the Canadian audio visual industry. **REEL CANADA** matters because with this initiative we addressed a very serious crisis in our cultural life in Canada. Canada faces unique challenges in creating and maintaining a viable cultural identity. Movies and television from foreign countries, the U.S. in particular, are ubiquitous and overwhelming. The stories that we consume are increasingly stories told by, and about, others, making it more and more difficult to defend our unique social and political values. At a time when screen-based media is at its peak of influence, Canadians are threatened by the prospect of invisibility.

## HOLY CROSS COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY MARCH BREAK TRIP 2008!

Excitement is building as 17 Com Tech Students and Staff prepare for their March Break trip to **Hollywood!** Sites visited will include: *Mann's Chinese Theatre, Star Walk of Fame, Hollywood Boulevard, Sunset Boulevard, Avenue of the Stars, Hollywood Bowl, Warner Bros. Studio, Kodak Theatre,* acting, audition & makeup workshops, *Getty Museum, Disney, the La Brea Tar Pits* and be members in a live television studio audience. Hooray for Hollywood!

## 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. 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.

## LITERACY TESTING

The Literacy Test will be written on **Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008**. A Literacy Test preparation class is being presented to **all Grade 10 students**. 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 March 27<sup>th</sup>. Grade 9 classes will run as regularly scheduled.**

Letters outlining specific accommodations for students who have an IEP will be mailed home in early March. If you do not think that your child will be needing these accommodations during the test, please contact **Anne Poels @ (613) 384-1919 ext. 3425 by March 17<sup>th</sup>**. If you do not contact us, accommodations will be in place as per letter sent to you.

## LOCKDOWNDRILL

In order to maintain an atmosphere that addresses the safety of all members of our community we participated in our second Lockdown Drill of this school year, on **Friday February 15<sup>th</sup>**. The purpose of this drill is to rehearse what staff and students should do in the unlikely event that a dangerous intruder invades our school; this practice is intended to inform and empower rather than alarm. Two members of the **City of Kingston Police Tactical Team Jeff Huddleston and Chris Cowan** were in attendance to monitor our procedures and practices.

The Constables provided very positive feedback and suggestions regarding Friday's practice lock down drill. We will continue to work with the **City of Kingston Police** as we refine our procedures which are designed to inform and empower all members of our community. The City of Kingston Police also attended our Staff Meeting on **Tuesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>** in the Cafetorium to present and answer questions from staff on our Lock Down procedures.

## KIWANIS MUSIC FESTIVAL RESULTS

Congratulations to the Holy Cross Crusader Bands for their stellar performances in the **Kiwanis Music Festival**. The **Holy Cross Junior, Senior, Jazz and Symphonic Bands** each placed **first** in the annual Kiwanis Music Festival held at **RND on Wednesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, February 21<sup>st</sup>**. 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**. Next stop for the Bands is the Windy City. The Crusader Bands will travel to **Chicago on April 22<sup>nd</sup>**.

## COUNSELLORS' CORNER

### COURSE SELECTION FOR 2008 - 2009

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 5<sup>th</sup>. A workshop will be conducted this week. Contact a guidance counsellor if further assistance is needed. It should be noted that opportunities to adjust choices will be made available to students. 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.

### 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 counselor 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.

## QUIT4LIFE--SMOKER'S CORNER

**Terrie Hoey** and KFLA Public Health Nurses **Lisa Lollar** and **Nancy Melville** will co-facilitate a **Q4L program** which began on **Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>** and continues to run each Tuesday until **April 8<sup>th</sup>** for a total of eight sessions. The Quit4Life (Q4L) is designed to help youth quit smoking ... for life. **Q4L** is organized around 4 central steps: **Get Psyched, Get Smart, Get Support, Get On With It**. Each week, students will be asked to complete 3-5 activities which will help them learn about why they smoke, how to quit and how to stay smoke-free once you have quit.

## SPECIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT NEWS

IEPs will be mailed out for Semester Two students receiving accommodations and / or modifications. Graduating Grade 12 students need to make an appointment with **Ms. Gavan-Knox** at **extension 3426** in order to discuss their post secondary plans and chart a transition plan. Yearly IPRC meetings will begin soon. Focus groups will begin soon for parents and students with SEA computers. More information will follow. Parents will be contacted with an appointment time and date. Please feel free to address any concerns regarding programming and accommodations for special needs students with the Special Education staff.



## THE ECO-CORNER

The **EcoTeam** met on **February 13<sup>th</sup>**. Our membership is growing to include new staff, student and parent involvement. *New EcoTeam business:* **Mr. Walsh** has put in a request to the school board for approximately 65 new recycling bins (for cans and plastics) to better enable our recycling effort. "Lights Off!" stickers are coming, look for them in a classroom near you, and remember to turn off the lights when you leave at lunch or for the day. *Related school news:* Thanks to **Mr. J. Drumm and the Social Studies Dept.**, many senior students and their teachers attended an excellent, eye-opening lecture on the "Geopolitical implications of global warming" by **Mr. Gwynne Dyer** (freelance journalist, columnist, broadcaster). *Related world news:* Many people in the world are without access to clean water and are living with drought, disease and even death as a result. The **UN's 15<sup>th</sup> annual World Water Day** will be celebrated on **March 22<sup>nd</sup>**. This year's theme is Sanitation.

**EcoTip #4** Instead of running water to cool it down for a drink, keep a jug of water in the fridge. To learn more about Water for Life and World Water Day, visit [www.sanitationyear2008.org](http://www.sanitationyear2008.org).

## IMPROV TEAM

The Holy Cross Improv Team coached by **Ms. Carrie Rose** took **first place** at the **Kingston Regional Tournament** of the **Canadian Improv Games** on **Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>** held at the **Sydenham Street United Church**, winning the regional competition and advancing to the **2008 National Tournament** on **April 11<sup>th</sup>** at the **National Arts Centre** in **Ottawa**. This marks the first time in the eleven year history of the Kingston Improv games that a Holy Cross team has placed first regionally, thereby qualifying for the National tournament. The team members include **Rob Taylor, Brianna Roberts, Mike Cox, Sheila Edwards, Ciara Roberts, Luke Ottenhof, Alison McLean, and Mike Vermeersh**.

## HOLY CROSS ATHLETICS

This spring, over 200 student athletes from **Holy Cross** will compete for **KASSAA** and **EOSSA** championships. Both the KASSAA website - [www.kassaa.ca](http://www.kassaa.ca) and the OFSAA website [www.ofsaa.on.ca](http://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 - [www.alcidsb.on.ca/~hcssa](http://www.alcidsb.on.ca/~hcssa), local newspapers and the KASSAA web site -

[www.kassaa.ca](http://www.kassaa.ca). If you have any questions concerning a team please contact the coach listed or ask your home room teacher for assistance.

Holy Cross will be represented at **O.F.S.A.A.** in:

ˆ **Wrestling** on **February 27 to 29<sup>th</sup>** by **Daniel Brisebois, Jennifer Brule, Kanon Clifford, Sarah Dillon, Chas Murphy, Katie Wheeler, and Filip Wisniak**;

ˆ **Swimming** on **March 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>** by **Samantha Searle, Colin Palmer, Mackenzie Chamberlain, Andrew Klenke, Griffin Chambers, and Ryan Coens**.

ˆ **Senior Boys basketball team** defeated a physical **Bayridge** team 55 - 51 for the **KASSAA Championship** on **Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup>**. The team then competed in the **EOSSAA** tournament in **Arnprior** where they went 4-0 and defeated the home team in the championship game. Congratulations to the coaching staff comprised of **Robin Ddzierniejko, Brian McMillan and Dave Renaud** on achieving a **second consecutive KASSAA Senior Boys Basketball Championship**. The team now advances to the **OFSAA AAA 2008 Boys' Basketball Championships** from **Monday to Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>** in **Brantford**.

Our **boys' and girls' hockey teams**, coached by **Mr. Tony Clarke** and **Mrs. Karen Nichol**, have advanced to the **KASSAA CHAMPIONSHIPS** on **March 4<sup>th</sup>**.

Badminton season hits full stride in March and April. Spring teams include boys' and girls' soccer, boys' and girls' rugby, co-ed tennis, co-ed rowing, baseball (potentially), and track and field.

**All team photos will be taken in room 129 at lunch hour on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and April 4<sup>th</sup> in order to appear in this year's yearbook.**

## ROTARY TALENT SHOWCASE

This music and art competition, which is open to local area high school students, has over **\$6000.00 in prizes to be won**. Areas of competition include Individual vocal, group or duo vocal, individual instrumental, group or duo instrumental, photography, and visual art. See your photography, art, or music teacher for registration information.

## Next Month at Holy Cross

April 2	..... Semester II Parent-Teacher Interviews
April 2	..... 3:00 to 6:00 & 7:00 to 9:00
April 3	..... Halpern's Spring Uniform Sale, HC Cafetorium, 3:00 - 8:30 p.m.
April 3 and 4	..... Spring Team Photos in room 129 at lunch hour
April 3	..... Mid-Semester Test Period Begins
April 11	..... Improv Team Competes at Nationals, NAC, Ottawa
April 11	..... Last Day of Term 1 (Civics / Careers Classes End)
April 22	..... Earth Day
April 22	..... Mid-Semester Report Cards Issued
April 25	..... PA Day #5 (no classes)
April 26	..... Rotary Talent Showcase- Preliminary Round
April 27 - May 2	..... Catholic Education Week
May 2	..... Rotary Talent Showcase Final Gala