



HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL, KINGSTON

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February 2010 Newsletter ... visit our web site at www.hctoday.ca

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

We bid farewell and best wishes to **Ms. Shani Doucet, Mr. Dan Fitzgerald** and **Ms. Lucy Vanderhelm** who served us so well in a variety of capacities in the first semester. Perhaps our paths will cross again: once a Crusader, always a Crusader! We welcome back **Mrs. Jennie Melo-Jordan** from her maternity leave and congratulate her on her appointment as Religious Education Department Head. We welcome also **Ms. Tamie Gaudet** to our teaching staff in English and Religion, **Mr. John Paul Morgenstern** to our Science department, and **Ms. Amber Dale Hudson** as an educational assistant with our resource team.

Holy Cross artists once again were well-represented in the regional **Royal Canadian Legion** Remembrance Day contest: winners included **Aimee Burnett, Logaan Fisher-Jordan, Kaitlin Lise Purcell, Jonas Lobo, Niveana Garrah, Eve Mary Mahoney, Mikala Wheeler, Jennifer Jang, Cariston Fawcett, Erin E. Hayes, Yeo Yoon, and Grace Esford.**

As we start fresh in the new semester, I hope that all students and staff are re-invigorated and ready to tackle the academic, extracurricular and spiritual opportunities that arise. In particular, I would like to emphasize the importance of **being present** – of taking the time to be witnesses in faith for one another (particularly as we prepare for the Holy season of Lent) and on a more mundane level, simply being present in your classes. As students fall into a pattern of being absent, they begin to feel more and more disconnected from their classroom activities and also begin to feel overwhelmed by the work that piles up – the connection between absences and failure is very clear. We will renew our efforts to encourage better attendance from our students in order to nurture a sense of community and to ensure that students are as successful in their courses as they can be.

In the spirit of the Winter Olympics, *Go Canada Go!*



Paul Walsh, Principal

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.

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, with plain black tights (no socks), and shirts / blouses must be neither too loose nor too tight. Throughout the day, students should wear black dress shoes, and have buttons done up and shirts tucked in. If wearing undershirts, they too must be white.

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 un-

willingness 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.

FEBRUARY DATES TO REMEMBER

- Tuesday, February 2.....Turnaround Day, First Day of Sem. Two
- Wed., Feb 3.....Health Unit, Breathe Free Promotion at lunch
- Friday, February 5.....Semester Two Grade Assemblies
Twoonie for Non-Uni (not pre-paid) for disaster relief in Haiti
- Fri. – Sun., Feb. 5 – 7.....Mont Ste. Anne Ski Trip
- Sun., Feb. 7...KASSAA & Regional Cheerleading Championships
- Week of Feb. 8.....St. Lawrence Colleges Mini-Manis at Lunch,
for Jamaica Mission Trip
- Mon. – Wed., Feb. 8-10...Matchmaker Sales, Main Foyer at lunch
- Tuesday, February 9.....Semester 1 Report Cards Issued
- Wednesday, February 10.....Blood Donor Clinic, Library
Quit4Life: Breathe Free! Smoking Cessation Group P4
Grade 8 Parent Information Night, 7 p.m.
- Thursday, February 11..... Valentine's Day Flower Sale
Queen's University GR8 Transition School Visit to HC
Practice Lock Down Drill #2 @ HC
Grade Assemblies for Course Selections, a.m.
- Friday, February 12..... Last Day for Sem. 2 Timetable Changes
Vancouver 2010 Olympics Opening Ceremony
Holy Cross Semi-formal
- Saturday, February 13.....Jazz Night at Ambassador Hotel
- Sunday, February 14..... Valentine's Day
Feb 13 & 14..Coaching the Coaches www.coachingthecoaches.ca
Rugby & Soccer Conference @ RMC
- Monday, February 15.....National Flag of Canada Day
Ontario Family Day (school is closed)
Heritage Day
- Tuesday, February 16..... Queen's Student Teachers return
CICS & Students' Council Pancake Breakfast
CICS 2010 Share Lent Campaign Begins
Quit4Life: Breathe Free! Smoking Cessation Group P1
- Wednesday, February 17Ash Wednesday Liturgy
- Thursday, February 18..2010 Course Selection Workshops Day 1
Quit4Life: Breathe Free! Smoking Cessation Group P2
- Friday, February 19.....2010 Course Selection Workshops Day 2
- Sun, Feb 21.....KASSAA Volleyball & Basketball Championships
- Monday, February 22....2010 Course Selection Workshops Day 3
Catholic School Council Meeting, HC Library, 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, February 23...2010 Course Selection Workshops Day 4
OSSLT Prep for Grade 10 classes, P4
- Wed., February 24..... 2010 Course Selection Workshops Day 5
Health Unit Artificial Tanning Display, Lunch
Parent Night for Jamaica Mission Trip, 7 p.m., library
Improv Preliminaries at Octave Theatre, 7 p.m.
- Wed.-Fri., Feb. 24 – 26Kiwaniis Music Festival @ Holy Cross
- Friday, Feb. 26.....2010-11 Course Selection Process Completed
Tentative Non-uniform Day
- Saturday, February 27.....14th Annual Improv Wild Card & Finals

SAFE SCHOOLS, BILL 157

Based on the recommendations of the **December 2008 Safe Schools Action Team's** report, the government passed **Bill 157 (Keeping Our Kids Safe At School Act)** which comes into force on **February 1st, 2010**; revised and reissued **Policy /Program Memorandum 144: Bullying Prevention and Intervention and Policy/Program Memorandum 145: Progressive Discipline and Promoting Positive Student Behaviour** to reflect additional legislative and policy requirements. *These changes will require every board employee to play a role in addressing issues of inappropriate student behaviour to improve school climate and to support victims.* 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** website at <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/safeschools/KeepKidSafeSchool.pdf> and the anti-bullying brochure for parents at <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/extra/eng/ppm/144.html>.

PASTORAL MESSAGE

Members of the **2010 Jamaica Mission Team** have been busy fund-raising for their trip to **Kingston, Jamaica** over the past few months. Many church groups, including **C.W.L.** and **Knights of Columbus Councils**, have made generous donations. The group also organized a very successful garage sale in September, sold 1,000 ECO bags and more recently raised over **\$800.00** through their "**Ja'Maica Your Christmas Merry**" Raffle. Thanks to all those who donated prizes for the Raffle including **Van Herpt Motors, The Ambassador Hotel & Convention Centre, Zycom Technology, Pizza Hut, the Investors Group, Mino's Restaurant, Janice & Harvey Tremeer, and Staples.** As well, the group would like to express their deepest appreciation to **Moe and Ann Thompson** whose son **Rick Thompson** died on **November 28th**. **Rick** worked at our school and had a very close connection with our **Holy Cross Mission Trips**. Before he died, he asked his friends and family to donate to the **Jamaica Mission Trip** in his name. He will be with us in spirit throughout the **2010 Mission Trip**. While in **Jamaica**, the fifteen **Holy Cross** and **Regiopolis-Notre Dame** students and their staff supervisors, will be volunteering at **St. Margaret's** and **Riverton City Remedial** schools, at **St. Monica's** (a home for abandoned seniors) and with a **Youth Marching Band**, all under the sponsorship of **St. Patrick's Foundation**. They will also be present for the signing of an official **Twinning Agreement** between our **Archdiocese** and the **Archdiocese of Kingston, Jamaica**. Our **Archbishop Brendan O'Brien** and members of our **Twinning Committee** will join us in **Jamaica** for this historic event.

It may seem a long way off, but **Holy Cross** will be hosting a **Catholic Youth Rally** on **Saturday, May 8th**. This exciting event was last held at **Holy Cross** in **1998** when over 400 youth from across the **Kingston Archdiocese** gathered to celebrate their faith through contemporary Christian music, inspiring talks, workshops and much more. Mark this date in your calendar right now.

On **February 10th** our **CICS' Club** and other students will be organizing a **Blood Donor Clinic** in the **Holy Cross Library** from 9:00 to 1:00 p.m. Call the school to book an appointment. **CICS** along with **Students' Council** will also be organizing our annual **Pancake Breakfast** on **Tuesday, February 16th**. Students will pay \$3.00 to enjoy a plate of delicious pancakes with all proceeds going to our **ShareLent Collection**. And, of course, the next day we celebrate **Ash Wednesday** with Mass and begin the Holy Season of Lent. Another major fundraiser during our **ShareLent** campaign

will be the **Thinkfast** on **Friday, March 26th**. Let us begin this new semester with renewed faith in God. And let us ask God to bless all our students, staff and families with peace and joy in Christ.

Chris Forster, Coordinator of Pastoral Services

STUDENTS' COUNCIL

CICS and **Students' Council** are organizing a **Twoonie for Non-uni Day** on **Friday, February 5th**. All funds raised will be donated to **Haitian relief** (the Canadian government will match dollar for dollar all money we send). **Students' Council** will collect the funds from period one classes on Thursday and Friday.

This year, **CICS** and **Students' Council** will host a **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Breakfast** on **Tuesday, February 16th** during Period 1 and 2. Students must have a ticket from their Classroom Teacher in order to attend the Breakfast along with paying **\$3.00** as a contribution to this year's **ShareLent Collection**.

Second semester is here **HC** students! The year is already half gone, but the **Students' Council** still has many exciting things planned for the coming semester. On **Friday, February 12th**, the **Students' Council** will be hosting a **Semi-Formal Dance**. The dance will be from 7:30-11:00 at night. **Students' Council** elections for 2010/2011 will be taking place sometime in **May**. More information will be available shortly. **Students' Council** is looking forward to planning many fun activities for Semester Two. Good Luck, Crusaders!

MATH GAINS

Holy Cross is interested in hosting a **Math GAINS Coaching Initiative Pilot Project "Bridging Math in the Transitional Years"**. The goals of this initiative are: to improve student learning of mathematics in Grade 7-9, targeting specific strands that the teachers would decide on, and emphasizing problem-solving and communication; to develop greater continuity in mathematics instruction between elementary and secondary schools, including greater use of on-going feedback and assessment, three part problem solving lessons, use of math manipulatives, explicit connections between literacy and numeracy, rich tasks, and use of differentiated instruction; to help students make the transition from elementary to secondary. This project will create a secondary-elementary study group where teachers can share expertise of content and students and collaboratively build knowledge of how mathematics develops through the grades. The teachers will develop questions and select anchor papers and analyze student understandings through moderated marking of common assessment tasks. These results will be used to inform and improve the effectiveness of our mathematics instruction.

Teachers will meet initially to develop common tasks, based on **TIPS4RM**, for Grades 7, 8 and 9. Teachers will conduct the assessment tasks with their classes and return later for moderated marking of students work and selection of anchor papers. Prior to moderated marking sessions, the facilitator and secondary school administrator will present school-based evidence of students learning (e.g., **EQAO** results) and discuss successful instructional practices including, three-part lesson planning, focus on open and parallel questioning and differentiating instruction. During the moderated marking sessions, the facilitator will encourage discussions related to instructional practice and evidence of students' mathematical thinking. The group will discuss any misconceptions evident in students' work and share instructional strategies that will improve students learning resulting in higher levels of achievement and increased confidence in mathematical reasoning and communication.

ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL LITERACY TEST (OSSLT)

The **Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test** has been scheduled by the **Ministry of Education** for **Thursday, April 8th**. *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 Counsellor** in order to receive preparatory materials. **Holy Cross** will be conducting the test between 8:30 and 11:15 a.m. 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'. Parents/ guardians will be advised in writing of their son/daughter's test outcome in June. Students who are not successful will retake the test next year or may enroll in the Literacy Course.

SUPPLEMENTAL LITERACY PROGRAM

The literacy program, designed to boost reading and writing skills and to help students gain confidence in preparation for the **Literacy Test** on **Thursday, April 8th**, will begin in the second week of **February**. *This program will run on Mondays and Wednesdays.* 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 program, please contact **Terri Daniel** at **613 384-1919, ext. 3406**.

MUSIC NOTES

On **Saturday, February 13th**, the award winning **Jazz Ensemble** will be holding a live jazz evening entitled, "**Valentine's Day Swing Night**". Tickets for the event are **\$20** per person and can be purchased from any **Jazz Ensemble** member or by calling **613.384.1919 X3456**. The ticket includes live jazz music from 7-11 pm as well as a great buffet. All proceeds from the event go to the **Instrument Replacement Fund for the Music Program**. From **February 25 to 27th**, the **Crusader Bands** will be participating in the **Annual Kiwanis Music Festival**. This year the event is being hosted by **Holy Cross**. Our competing bands include: the **Junior Concert Band**; the **Jazz Ensemble**; the **Symphonic Band**; and the **Senior Wind Ensemble**.

HC GRADE LEVEL ASSEMBLIES

At the beginning of a semester, it is customary for grade level assemblies to be held where the principal and vice-principals review, reinforce and outline expectations for all students and staff. Classroom teachers are asked to accompany their class to the cafeteria when called over the PA system (15 minutes before the end of the period).

Grade Level Assemblies Schedule: **Friday, February 5th 2010**

Period	Grade	Period	Grade
1	Eleven	3	Twelve
2	Ten	4	Nine

The assemblies will occur for 10 - 15 minutes held towards the end of the period in the cafeteria.

COUNSELLORS' CORNER

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 **2010-2011** 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 in workshops taking place at the school. Details will be explained in grade sessions being conducted on **February 11th**.

COURSE LOAD

All students in Grades 9, 10, 11 are required to carry a course load of 4 courses each semester. All students in Grade 12 who have achieved at least 24 credits are required to carry a minimum of 3 courses each semester.

GRADE 8 PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT

Grade Eight Parent Information Night will be hosted on **Wednesday, February 10th, 2010** at **7:00 p.m.** This evening is open to Grade Eight students and their parents/guardians. Registration packages will be available for all non feeder school parents. All completed registration packages are to be returned to **Holy Cross** by **February 26th, 2010**.

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 Co-ordinators** with the Board. **Jim** may be reached at **(613) 532-3985**; **Paul** may be reached at **(613) 849-8550**.

QUIT 4 LIFE

Our **Youth Worker** and our **KFL&A Public Health Nurse Lisa Lollar** will facilitate a **Smoking Cessation program** which will begin on **Wednesday, February 10th** and run each Wednesday until **April 7th** for a total of 8 sessions. It takes more than willpower to quit smoking. It takes learned skills, support, and motivation. The **Quit4Life (Q4L): Breathe Free** program is designed to help youth quit smoking... for life. **Q4L: Breathe Free** is organized around 4 central steps: *Get Psyched, Get Smart, Get Support, Get On With It*. Each week, students will be asked to complete activities which will help them learn about why they smoke, how to quit, and how to stay successful once they get there. Students will create a profile, track their smoking, build a quit calendar, practice quitting, and learn how to deal with stress, boredom, and people who might not support them.

