



## HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL, KINGSTON January, 2013 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

I hope that the holy seasons of **Advent** and **Christmas** were 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. The bands and vocal class entertained us all at lunch time and during the **Katharine Splinter Memorial Concert**. The various charitable and social justice issues taken on by a number of student groups, for example **Students' Council** and **CICS** organizing our yearly **Advent Campaign**.

Now, in **January**, we reserve a little more time to ready ourselves for **culminating projects** and **final exams**. The **field trip moratorium** is one way as a school that we show that academics do take precedence. Another way we can show this is to **encourage families to take vacations during the scheduled holidays**. Sometimes, teachers receive requests to provide work for students as they go on vacation. Time together as a family is to be cherished; however, when you do so during the school year, there is a price to pay, academically. The in-classroom learning cannot be replicated. The **Education Act** tells us that students may be absent from school for illness, religious holiday, music instruction or some other unavoidable cause (such as inclement weather). **If a student is absent from school for vacation purposes, it is his or her responsibility to get caught up on the work missed and, if possible, to make up any missed assignments.** Some opportunities (for example, labs or group projects) may have to be accomplished in some other fashion, at the discretion of the teacher. **It is not acceptable to expect staff to rewrite and reschedule final exams because of a family holiday.**

On **Thursday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013**, **Mr. Sean Roberts** and **Mr. Joe Vaitekunas** will retire from **Holy Cross** after many years of service. Both men began their teaching careers at **Regiopolis-Notre Dame** and then moved over to **Holy Cross** in **1993**. Over the years these gentlemen have accomplished a number of things that we will remember and treasure. As they begin new journeys and exceptional chapters in their lives at the end of this month I wish them well. May their days

be filled with elation and triumph. On behalf of all, I thank you for your integrity and dedication. Congratulations to both of you on your retirement. Despite an uncertain political climate in the realm of education, we enter **2013** with many opportunities ahead of us. I wish all students and their families a very **Happy New Year** and let's all of us as **Holy Cross Crusaders** make **2013** a great year for our school and community.

Paul A. Walsh

### PASTORAL UPDATE

**December** was certainly a busy month here at **Holy Cross**. We celebrated the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** as a school community during the first week of **December** and gathered for our **Advent School Mass** on **Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**. Each **Monday** morning students and staff gathered in the **Main Lobby** of the school to offer prayers and to light the candles on our **Advent Wreath**. During our **Advent fundrais-**

### January Events at Holy Cross

Tuesday, January 1..... World Day of Prayer, NEW YEAR'S DAY  
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Feast Day  
Wednesday, January 2.....Feast of the Epiphany  
Monday, January 7..... First Instructional Day of the New Year  
January Field Trip Moratorium Begins  
Week of Jan 14.....National Non-Smoking Week, [www.nnsw.ca](http://www.nnsw.ca)  
Wed, Jan 16..... End of Semester School Mass at 9:30 a.m.  
HC Gala Vocal Concert, 7:30 p.m., Cafetorium  
OUAC online application submission deadline  
Weedless Wednesday  
Thurs, Jan 17 ..... Tweekie for Non-Uni for Cancer Research  
Memorial Basketball Games  
Thurs Fri, & Jan. 17 & 18.....EQAO Gr 9 Academic/  
Applied Math Assessment Days  
Wed, Jan 23..... Last Instructional Day for Semester One  
Thurs., Jan. 24 – Wed., Jan. 30.....Final Examinations  
Days for Semester One  
Final Day for Semester 1 Textbook Returns  
Thurs, Jan 31.....Inclement weather day (exams, if necessary)  
Friday, February 1.....P.A. Day (no classes)  
Saturday, February 2 ..... Groundhog Day  
Monday, February 4.....Turnaround Day, Exam Returns  
& Second Semester Classes

ing campaign our school raised money for two charities. On **Tuesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**, CICS students took part in the first **Kingston Street Retreat** during which we delivered over 40 'Winter Warmth' Kits to **Home Base Housing** for homeless youth in **Kingston**. We also raised over \$2000.00 for the **Food for the Poor** house build which will take place during this year's **Jamaica Mission Trip**. We also put together several **Christmas Hampers** and delivered them to our adopted families.

Our **Jamaica Mission Team** students and staff are now busy with final preparations for their **February 15<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>** trip to **Kingston, Jamaica**. Everyone is looking forward to working with the people at **St. Margaret's Remedial School, Seaview Gardens Performing Arts Band**, and at **St. Monica's Home for the Elderly**. Many thanks to all those who supported our fundraising efforts over the past few months, especially our **Fish Fry** back in **November**.

We are looking forward to our final school **Mass** for this semester which will take place on **Wednesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>**. At this **Mass** we will pray for those who have experienced illness or who have lost a loved one over the holidays. We will also ask God to bless our students who are writing final assignments and preparing for final exams and recognize those students and staff who will be leaving us after this semester. We will be having a **Pancake Breakfast** in the **Cafeteria** during **Period One** on **Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>**, which is **Shrove Tuesday**. Students and staff will receive a heaping plate of pancakes and juice for a donation of \$2.00 to our **ShareLent Collection**.

As we begin a New Year, and as we return to our work and studies after the **Christmas** break, I would like to extend to each member of our **Holy Cross** community, **Christmas** greetings and prayers for a blessed New Year.

**Chris Forster, Coordinator of Pastoral Services**

## STUDENT COUNCIL

It's hard to believe it's already a new year! And we all know what that means, exams are quickly approaching. That means **Student Council** is going to leave you alone for the most of this month. We wish each and every one of you the best of luck in the final weeks of your first semester.

Last month was in my opinion the best of the year! Through the **Advent** charity campaign "**In From The Cold**" we made forty winter warmth kits to help homeless youth in **Kingston**. The **Student Council Coffee House** showcased the great talent of the students at our school and proved to be one of the greatest events this year so far.

Our **Christmas Spirit Week** was fantastic! **Student Council** had a **Christmas Bake Sale** that raised almost \$200, a **Gingerbread House-making Contest** with a great turnout, a **Tacky Christmas Sweater Day** that included pictures with **Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus**, and elves, and culminated on the last day before the **Christmas** break sending students home with a profound sense of adventure after seeing **The Hobbit!**

"Promise you will try; then become stubborn and you will never fail."

**Matthew Mark, Communications Officer**

## JANUARY 2013 EXAMINATION PERIOD

The Final Examination Schedule is posted on the **HC TODAY** website. Exams are scheduled to be written at **8:30** and **12:00** beginning on **Thursday, January 24<sup>th</sup>** and are to conclude on **Wednesday, January 30<sup>th</sup>**. 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 Friday January 25<sup>th</sup> then all exams scheduled for the Friday would be written on Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, and the remaining part of the schedule adjusted accordingly.** Further instructions will be given to these students if necessary. Listen to the radio or check the board/school websites for bus cancellations and exam delays.

## JANUARY EXAMINATION RETURN

Students will pick up their **January** examinations **at the end of the day** on **Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup>**. An abbreviated Semester Two timetable will be in effect for the day. Students will be able to pick up Semester One exams at the end of the day providing classes with the opportunity to take up and review the exam and final mark calculation (where available).

## 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 60 minute mandatory assessment will involve multiple choice questions, short answer and extended response. This test which is a component of the Secondary School Reform occurring in Ontario will be administered over two days during the student's regular math period. The test dates at Holy Cross are **Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup>** and **Friday, January 18<sup>th</sup>** for **both Applied and Academic classes**. Students and parents can get extra practice for the **EQAO** math test by visiting [www.eqao.com](http://www.eqao.com) under Student Resources and Parent Resources. More information will be sent home in January. *Please note that for students in the **Academic Program**, this accounts for ten per cent of their final mark; for students in the **Applied Program**, an exemption from final exam may take place if they: 1) have term work at level three or four, 2) submit an EQAO review book at level three or four, and 3) score level three or four on the EQAO assessment.* Teachers will inform their students of exemptions prior to final exams

## TEXT BOOKS FROM SEMESTER ONE

We remind students that textbooks must be returned by the end of their last exam day. The **Textbook Room** is open for this purpose every exam day. Students should bring textbooks to the **Textbook Room** themselves. Please do not leave textbooks in the classroom or examination rooms. These may be considered as "lost" books, which would have to 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, it must be paid for before next semester's books can be loaned. Deposit cheques for \$100.00 will not be used at this time. They will be held until the end of **Semester 2**.

## TEXTBOOKS FOR SEMESTER TWO

Students are responsible for picking up their books before

classes begin. They will need their **green Textbook/Library card**. (Replacement cards cost \$5. and will take 24 hrs. so students must arrange for a replacement card ahead of time.) The **Textbook Room** will be open for textbook pick-up every exam day. (Some textbooks may not be available until nearer the end of the exam schedule after previous users will have returned them.) There is no textbook sign-out service during class time once classes begin, but the **Textbook Room** will be open before and after classes, and at noon.

### BRIDGES TO COMMUNITY THANKS YOU!

The students of the **Bridges to Community Program** would like to extend a sincere thank you to all those who so enthusiastically supported our **annual Christmas poinsettia sale**. Your ongoing support enables our students to experience many exciting learning opportunities.

### CRUSADER ATHLETICS

The **24<sup>th</sup> Annual Memorial** will be held this year on **Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup>** in the **Holy Cross** gymnasium. Thanks to the alumni and local businesses who have already contributed to the event. If you, or someone you know, would like to make a contribution for the **silent auction** or directly to the Memorial, you are asked to contact **Robin Dzierniejko @ [dzierobi@alcdsb.on.ca](mailto:dzierobi@alcdsb.on.ca)**. We are recognizing all of our sponsors this year on both the **Regi** and **HC ([www.gocrusadersgo.com](http://www.gocrusadersgo.com))** websites. As well, the date of the **Memorial** will be a **Green and Silver Day**, as we hope to start the excitement early and push our **Crusaders** on to victory. The **games tip off at 6 pm**. Good luck to all of our winter teams as their seasons reconvene.

### FALL 2012 UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN

Thank you to staff and students who contributed \$ **5,318.00** to this year's **United Way Campaign**. Thank you to all who contributed by making a donation through payroll deduction, 50/50 draws, soup lunches, Civics / Careers bake sales, and a silent auction. A special thanks to **Ms. Faith Bland, Mrs. Bina Mayhew, Ms. Deb Myers, Ms. June Hanna, Ms. Amber-dale Hudson, Mr. Chris Forster** and **Mr. Chris Corcoran** who organized and helped with the various **United Way** activities.

### HOLY CROSS CLASS OF 2013 GRADUATION CEREMONY

The graduation ceremony for this year's graduating class will be held on **Wednesday, June 26<sup>th</sup>** here at the school. **Please mark this date on your calendar if you plan on graduating in June 2013.**

### PREPARING FOR FINAL EXAMS

Tutorials on Test-Taking Strategies will be offered to students as part of exam preparation. Each tutorial includes a DVD which is 23 minutes in length and will be offered twice a day at the following times: **11:15 and 2:35 p.m.** All tutorials will be held in **Room 136**. Bring your lunch or a snack. The schedule is as follows:  
Monday, Jan. 14- Taking Math Tests  
Tuesday, Jan 15- Taking Reading Comprehension Tests  
Wednesday, Jan. 16- Answering Test Questions

### COUNSELLORS' CORNER

#### University/College Applications

Applicants should notice that the application centre deadlines (for equal consideration for admission to programs) are approaching. University applications are due to the centre by **Wednesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>** and college applications by **Friday, February 1<sup>st</sup>**. Students are asked to ensure that all data on the application is accurate (including address and transcript information). Please contact **Student Services** with any concerns.

#### Semester 2 Timetables

Students are able to access their timetable on the Parent-Student Maplewood Access on the **Holy Cross** website <http://hcss.alcdsb.on.ca/hctoday>. The link is under the "Student Services" section of the Home Page. Students should also verify demographic information here and notify **Student Services** of any changes. If you have misplaced your username and password, contact **Student Services**. A new timetable with teacher names and room numbers will be issued in Period 1 class on the **Monday February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013**.

#### Course Selection 2012- 2013

The course selection process for next school year will be outlined in workshops being conducted in **mid-February**. More details to follow.

**Shad Valley:** A pre-university experience for grade 10, 11 and 12 students. **Shad Valley** offers an ambitious curriculum of academics, collaborative projects, and physical/recreational activities. An application form, personal accomplishment profile, reference letter and essay are part of the application process. Application intake date: **January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013**. Applications are available in **Student Services**.

#### Looking for a Job OR Volunteer Hours

Students are reminded to regularly listen to announcements and check the postings on the **Job & Volunteer Board** located outside **Student Services**.

#### Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course / Test

The **Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)** has been scheduled for **Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013**. All Grade 10 students who are working towards an OSSD will write the test. Senior students new to the province, or who were unsuccessful on the test/absent the year before will also write the test. Students who have been eligible to write the **OSSLT** 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 .

#### KEYS Job Centre

**Trading Up!** An experiential & educational showcase of skilled trades & skilled professions, free event open to the public. **Wednesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013** from **9am – 3pm** at **Portsmouth Olympic Harbour**. For more information visit [keys.ca](http://keys.ca) for more details.

## ECO-CORNER

Welcome to **2013**; a great time to make some green resolutions! This year the **Green Team** has been working on getting information out regarding making sustainable food choices. We have assembled a colourful billboard on the second floor that communicates what sustainable food choices are. Three sustainable food choices we can make are 1) Choose foods that are produced locally to reduce their carbon footprint and support local farmers 2) Eat less meat and choose locally raised meats. 3) Buy organic whenever you can. Organic farms promote genetic biodiversity, create less water pollution and soil damage, and cause less harm to wildlife. As the **Suzuki Foundation** proclaims "Vote with your fork!". Keep it Green **HC**!

## COMM TECH NEWS

The **Grade 11 Communications Technology** class "**Sports Broadcast & Print Production**" travelled to **Toronto** on **Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>** for an exciting "Sports" themed field trip. The day started with a tour of **TSN** radio & television production and their broadcast facilities. While at **TSN** radio, students met radio host & retired **NHL (Calgary Flames)** goaltender **Jamie McLennan**. Students got the opportunity to sit at the **Sports Center** desk and they met **TSN** anchor **James Duffy**. Students also visited **TSN's** set for the **2013 IIHF World Junior Hockey Championships**. In addition, students toured sets for **CTV's National** news and the **Canada AM** shows. **HC Com Tech** students were provided with the opportunity to witness media production careers firsthand.

The students then toured **Ryerson University's Radio and Television Arts** program and facilities. **Ryerson** is introducing a four year specialization in broadcast sports production. Students then visited **Maple Leaf Gardens** which is now **Ryerson's** physical activity facility and home ice. Students experienced another brush with celebrity as **NHL** players, such as **P.K. Subban**, were arriving to play in a charity game. **Crusaders** were enlightened on post-secondary schools in order to make informed decisions on their future studies.

The group moved on to the "**Real Sports Grill**" for dinner and dined on an excellent selection of wings, sliders, flat breads, and fries. Students also completed some **Christmas** shopping at the **Real Sports Apparel** store. And for the sports trip finale, students attended a **Toronto Raptors** vs **Detroit Pistons NBA** game. The **Raptors** won 97 - 91. The intense schedule was exhausting but extremely informative and fun.

The "**Sports Broadcast & Print Production**" course prepares **Crusader** athletes with a "Sportsfolio", a media resume of their athletic achievements. Students learn how to edit their own highlights videos, conduct an interview, take promotional photographs, and design a promotional web site.

## NEWS FROM RESOURCE

An **Individual Education Plan (I.E.P)** is developed each semester for your son or daughter. As you, Parents/Guardians, are our valued partners in the Consultation Process, we invite you to communicate any recent information on your child that might affect his/her learning process. If you are a Parent/Guardian interested in meeting with others to discuss the challenges/issues facing your children with disabilities, contact **Ms. Gavan Knox**.

## Post-Secondary Transition Planning:

**The deadline for registration for the On-Line to Success** course has been extended to early **January**. This course provides a great opportunity for students in grades 11 and 12 with a **Learning Disability/ADHD** to increase their self-knowledge and polish their self-advocacy skills. It is strongly recommended that graduating students take this course as well as complete a **Transition Portfolio** available from **M. Gavan Knox, M. Hulse** in room **117**.

**EQAO Math and Final Exams:** Students will continue to use the same accommodations used during the semester and recommended by their subject teachers and **SERTs**. Contact us if you have any questions and/or concerns.

**Premier software programs** are available on the library computers and at home for use by all students and their families. Contact your child's **SERT** for username and password.

An invitation to the annual **Identification Placement and Review Committee** meetings for grade 12 students who have an **IPRC** status will be sent home during the next few weeks. Please return your response to **Ms. Gavan Knox**.

**Learning Strategies courses** (GLE 10, 20, 30, 40) are offered at all grade levels, every period, every semester. GLE 10 counts as a compulsory credit; the other three count as electives. These credits are included in the 30 credits needed for the **Ontario Secondary School Diploma**.

## NEXT MONTH AT HOLY CROSS

Friday, February 1..... P.A. Day (no classes)  
Saturday, February 2 .....Groundhog Day  
Sun, Feb 3...Big East Blast Cheerleading Championships  
Mon, Feb 4 ..... Turnaround Day (exam return end of day)  
Tues, Feb 5.....Semester One Final Marks due at 3 p.m.  
First Full Instructional Day in Semester Two  
Thursday, February 7....Semester Two Grade Assemblies  
Fri, Feb 8... Cheques cashed unreturned/damaged textbooks  
Sun Feb 10.....Chinese New Year (Year of the Snake)  
Monday, February 11 ...Gr 9 Friends Photos in Room 129  
Queen's Student Teachers Second Practicum Begins  
Tuesday, February 12 ..... Shrove Tuesday  
Pancake Tuesday Breakfast, Period One  
Semester 1 Report Cards distributed  
S1 Marks Due to OCAS  
Gr 10 Friends Photos in Room 129  
Grade Eight Parent Information Night  
Wed, February 13..... Share Lent Collection Begins  
Gr 11 Friends Photos in Room 129  
Thurs Feb 14 .... Lenten Mass with Distribution of Ashes  
Valentine's Day  
Gr 12 Friends Photos in Room 129  
S1 Marks Due to OUAC  
Friday, February 15 ..... National Flag of Canada Day  
Last Day for Sem 2 Timetable Changes  
Jamaica Mission Trip Departs  
Mon, Feb 18.....Ontario Family Day Holiday (no school)  
Tues – Thurs, Feb 19 – 28 ..Course Selection Workshops  
Thursday, February 21 ..... Toronto Auto Show Field Trip  
Friday, February 22 ..... Tentative Non-Uniform Day  
Sat, February 23..... Kingston Improv Games Finals  
Sun, Feb 24 ..... Jamaica Mission Trip Returns  
Tues, Feb 26 ..... Canadian Computing Competition  
Wed, Feb 27 .....Anti-bullying Pink Shirt Day  
Thurs, Feb 28 .....Grade Level Reconciliation, Library  
Cabaret, 7 p.m., Cafeteria