



HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL, KINGSTON

Main Office 613-384-1919; Attendance Office 613-384-1355; Student Services 613-384-2023; Fax 613-384-8665

August, 2013 Newsletter ... visit our web site at www.hctoday.ca

WELCOME TO HOLY CROSS

On behalf of our staff, we would like to extend a special warm welcome to our new students and their parents for whom the beginning of this school year will most definitely mark a new chapter. For the incoming **Holy Cross Class of 2017**, this is a time of personal transition that our staff will make every effort to make as smooth as possible.

We welcome back all of our students, their parents and our staff who will be returning to familiar halls, yet facing the same excitement and anticipation that marks the beginning of the new school year for all of us, here at **Holy Cross**. The beginning of the school year is always a time of excitement and expectation, a time for renewing and making friendships and a time for setting new goals. It is also a time when new challenges and opportunities open the door to new perspectives on the world around us.

Our 2013-2014 pastoral theme is **"I by my works will show You my faith (James 2:18)."** In this upcoming school year, we pledge to demonstrate our faith in our school community and beyond. We can do so in our everyday interactions as well as by making special efforts to connect our actions and our Christian faith. One concrete example comes from our **Green Team**, led by **Mr. Gervais, Ms. Martin-Tulk**, and **Mrs. Hulse**, whose gardens are currently flourishing on our school property and whose efforts earned a **Gold Eco-School Certification** for the first time in our school history. Well done and, on behalf of staff and students, thanks **Green Team** for all you do to demonstrate Christian stewardship.

Paul A. Walsh, Principal
walshp@alcdsb.on.ca

UPDATE FROM PASTORAL SERVICES

On behalf of our **Chaplaincy Team**, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all those coming to **Holy Cross** this fall, especially those who are new to our school community. The summer months provide an excellent opportunity for us to rest and relax with family and friends. Let us also take time each day to pray and to renew our relationship with God. Our theme for the coming year **"I By My Works Will Show You My Faith"** (James 2:18) reminds us that we are called to show our faith through our good works. At the closing Mass for **World Youth Day** in **Brazil**, **Pope Francis** told the 3 million pilgrims gathered there to "Go out to the world, without fear, to serve." Through doing good works we fulfil this request. Let us look for creative ways to do good works in the coming year. And, with this in mind, please support our **Eco-Waste Collection** on **Saturday, October 5th**. Hang on to those old computers and printers, and bring them to **Holy Cross** that day. May God bless you and your family this summer and in the coming year.

Chris Forster, Chaplaincy Team Leader

STUDENTS' COUNCIL 2013 - 2014

Welcome to the **2013-2014** school year at **Holy Cross**. We traditionally begin our year with many activities to welcome back all students and staff. We encourage everyone in the **Holy Cross** community to join in a spirit of renewal and commitment to Crusader Pride! Whether you are returning or new, we welcome you and hope that you have an exciting and rewarding year at Holy Cross. If you have a problem or a concern regarding the activities of the **Students' Council**, please feel free to contact any of the members, or stop by our office in **Room 232**, at the top of the stairs.

The **Students' Council** represents the interests of everyone enrolled in our school and as such, supports the many student activities that occur on a daily basis. This of course, involves a substantial financial commitment and monies raised come from fund-raising activities and the sale of compulsory student identification cards. These cards identify you as a member of the **Holy Cross Community** and are compulsory for all students. They are also required for admittance to school events, as well as participation in school teams and clubs. With your help, the upcoming school year will be a rewarding one - academically, socially and spiritually. We look forward to seeing you in **September**.

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL

The **HC Catholic School Council** forms an advisory body that provides ideas and opinions to assist the Principal and, where appropriate, the Board in their decision-making on educational issues. The advice is based on the general views of the school community and in the best interest of **Holy Cross** students. The first meeting of the school year will take place on **Wednesday, September 18th** at **6:30** in the school library. Membership of the Council reflects the diversity of the community and includes parents/guardians of students enrolled at the school, students, teachers, non-teaching staff, a parish representative, a community representative and the principal. The constitution of the council requires the election of the parent/guardian representatives to take place in September. **Interested parents or guardians who wish to let their name stand for election to the Catholic School Council are asked to contact Paul Walsh, Principal, before September 9th at 613-384-1919 ext. 3411.**

HOLY CROSS UNIFORM SHOP HOURS FOR AUGUST 2013

The in-school uniform shop will be open in August (in the library) on the following dates:

- August 20th, Tuesday - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 - August 21st, Wednesday - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 - August 22nd, Thursday - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 - August 26th, Monday - 2:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
 - August 27th, Tuesday - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 - August 28th, Wednesday - 2:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
 - August 29th, Thursday - 2:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
 - August 30th, Friday - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- The uniform shop will be open on the first day of school (Tuesday, September 3rd) at 10:00 a.m. in the library.

GRADE 9 DAY – TUESDAY, AUGUST 27th

We look forward to meeting our newest Crusaders on Tuesday, August 27th. This day has been set aside for **Grade 9 Students** to pick up their Semester One textbooks, get their locker and lock and agenda. In addition there will be displays of extra-curricular activities in the **Main Foyer** for our newest **Crusaders** to learn more about the extra-curricular life at **HC**. Grade 9 students will also be able to tour the school with the assistance of upper year students who

AUGUST

- Mon, August 19 Halpern's Uniform Sales Begin, Library
- Tues, August 27..... Gr 9 Textbook & Locker Distribution Day, 9-3
- Wed, Aug 28 Gr 10-12 Textbook & Locker Distribution, 9-3 & 6-8
Senior Football Practice, 10 - 4
- Thurs, Aug 29 Gr 10 – 12 Textbook & Locker Distribution, 9-3
- Thursday, August 29 Opening Staff Mass and Meeting
Senior Football Practice 12:30 - 4

will help them locate their classrooms in advance of the first day of school. Grade 9 students should also make appointments for **Tuesday** with their guidance counselors if they need to make changes to their timetable by contacting the **Student Services Department** at **613-384-2023**.

This day will run from **9:00 am to 2:00 pm**. In order to prevent long line ups, we ask that the students follow the schedule below:

Students with last names beginning with

A to F should come from 9:00 to 10:00 am

G to L should come from 10:00 to 11:00 am

M to R should come from 11:00 to 12:00 pm

S to Z should come from 1:00 to 2:00 pm.

Grade 9 students need to bring:

- **their student activity fee cheque of \$80.00 payable to the Holy Cross Students' Council**. Included in this fee are the following: **Holy Cross Agenda, Students' Council ID Card, School Lock for lockers, Holy Cross Spirit T-Shirt, three Twonie – No Uni Days to support cancer research and/or The ALCDSB Catholic Education Foundation, and a personalized, Award Winning 2013- 2014 Holy Cross Yearbook.**

For parents with more than one child at **Holy Cross**, a reduction of **\$4.00** per additional child is available

- **their \$100.00 textbook cheque payable to Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School should be postdated to March 1st, 2014. This cheque will not be cashed** if the student's books are returned in good condition at the end of each semester. The name of each student should be clearly printed in the left hand corner of the cheque. There are options to opt out of some portions of this fee or to have the school, through used uniform sales, cover the fee. Please contact the **Main Office** for more information.

2013-2014 CRUSADER STUDENT ACTIVITY FEE

Grade 10-12 Students

For students in **Grades 10-12 the fee is \$73.00** reflecting the lack of need of a school lock. This fee is to be paid when you pick up your textbooks. The value of the items purchased individually is much greater than the actual comprehensive fee. By ordering in bulk, **Holy Cross** is able to pass on savings to the community. With all students purchasing a Student Card, the **Students' Council** will be able to support the extra-curricular activities that make **Holy Cross** such a great place to be. The Student Card also entitles our students to many discounts at local stores. The Crusader Activity Fee is mandatory for all students. Students may opt out of receiving the **Holy Cross** yearbook by completing and signing the **opting out form** at the time they pick up their textbooks.

Graduating Students

In an attempt to minimize the amount of times students are asked to bring in monies, graduating student activity fees this year will also include the \$35.00 Graduation fee, bringing the total to **\$105.00 for any students planning to graduate in June 2014**.

For parents with more than one child at **Holy Cross**, a reduction of \$4.00 per additional child is available.

CHOOSING HOLY CROSS

The choice to come to **Holy Cross** is a conscious decision to enter into a community that is Christ-centred and devoted to providing students with a Catholic education. This is what distinguishes our school from the neighbouring public high schools. When you attend this school, you are entering into a covenant with the members of our school and greater Catholic community. A part of that covenant is to be open to the teachings of Christ, to participate as actively as possible in the faith life of our community and to dedicate oneself to the service of others. We accomplish our mission in a number of ways: religious education classes; our teachers incorporate Catholic teaching into the daily curriculum; we pray at school regularly; our students and staff actively participate in charity work; and **our staff and students regularly attend Mass and other liturgies**. It is not possible to opt out of any of these activities and we will not give permission to students to be absent or to not participate. **If you have made the choice to attend Holy Cross, then you must understand and be accepting of our mission and our expectations for you in this regard**. No one is required to attend a Catholic school, therefore having made the decision to do so, you must be prepared to meet the obligations that accompany that decision.

STUDENT TIMETABLES

Grade Nine incoming student schedules will be available on **Tuesday, August 27th, 2013** at the **Grade Nine Day**. For all other grades, students are to access their up-to-date timetables via the **Student Access to Maplewood** on the school website (another way we are reducing paper consumption at **Holy Cross**). There may be some changes which have occurred since the June run of timetables. Counsellors will be available in late **August** for students who need to discuss timetable changes. Please note that **Friday, August 31st** is a staff meeting day for all staff, so while counsellors will be in the building, they may not be available for walk-in appointments. Students who wish to make timetable changes should phone for appointments through **Student Services at 613-384-2023** beginning the week of **August 19th**. **Students who have a timetable and have decided not to return to Holy Cross for this September are asked to notify Student Services as soon as possible**. Early notification to **Holy Cross** by students who are not returning allows the school the opportunity to plan more effectively to meet the needs of all students.

AUGUST TEXTBOOK PICK-UP

Students will be able to pick up their next year's first semester textbooks as of the last week in August. The textbook room will be open on **Tuesday, August 27th to Thursday, August 29th** from **9 a.m. to 3 p.m.** It will also be open in the evening of **Wednesday, August 28th** from **6 p.m. to 8 p.m.** **Tuesday, August 27th** is reserved as a **"grade 9 only"** day. Only the new grade 9 students will be served on that day. Other students can pick up their books on any of the other days.

In order to get textbooks each student's account of the previous year must be clear. Student must have their green textbook card to be validated. (New grade 9 students will be given their cards at textbook pick-up time.) A separate textbook deposit cheque must be submitted. **This cheque is to be made out to Holy Cross Secondary School, in the amount of \$100, postdated to March 1st, 2014, and should have the student's full name printed at the top left of the cheque.**

Please be advised that any textbook account problems that have not been resolved from the previous semester will not be able to be addressed during the busy textbook pick-up days. **Replacement green textbook cards are \$5.00** and cannot be issued the same day. In order to avoid delays please ensure that all textbooks are returned on time.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Please review the Code of Conduct and discuss it with your son(s)/ daughter(s). It may be found on the **HCToday** website as well as the **HC Agenda** provided to every student. The **Holy Cross Code of Conduct** may also be viewed at www.alcddb.on.ca/~hcss. It is our expectation that parents/guardians and students will read this document and use it to guide their actions. If you should have any questions, please direct them to a member of the administration team.

NON-SMOKING POLICY 2013 - 2014

It is the policy of our School Board that smoking is not allowed on their property and it is a distinct expectation that all will respect this policy. We recognize that the decision to smoke is an individual one, but we sincerely hope that in light of mounting evidence with regard to the risk to our health that anyone thinking about beginning or ending "the habit" will give it serious thought. Smoking on the property will result in fines by the Health Unit's Tobacco Enforcement Officer who regularly patrols the area. **Students must also refrain from using any form of tobacco product on campus**. Students who are gathered in groups off-property will be asked to move along, in part to eliminate smoking and in part to help maintain a neighbourhood that is litter-free and allows our neighbours and their children to feel confident as they travel by our property. The school and the KFLA Health Unit will offer smoking cessation program early in the school year. **Students will face suspension and a system of progressive discipline for failure to comply with the school's expectation.**

OFF-SCHOOL CONDUCT

Holy Cross has the duty, as well as the authority to discipline a student for behaviour at any time and in any location while the student is under the school's supervision. **Students are 'under supervision of the school' from the moment they enter the bus to attend school or leave their home for school until the time they descend the bus on their way home or arrive at home at the end of the school day.** The Principal's authority reaches beyond the classroom or school campus to include the vicinity of the school or where there is a connection or nexus to the school. A student may be suspended or expelled for conduct which occurs away from **Holy Cross** but has a connection to the school community.

ATHLETICS

Please see our **Code of Conduct** for our **Athletic Eligibility** policy. A contract must be signed by the student, parent/guardian and coach prior to any student athlete being eligible to participate on an extra-curricular team. This contract will clearly define the expectations we have regarding the role of student athlete, parent and coach and will explain the process by which concerns of parents or players can be addressed in a suitable and appropriate manner. It is imperative that parents, in particular, understand that their behaviour can result in players being declared ineligible to play and that student athletes must exhibit, at all times, the qualities of sportsmanship and commitment, both on and off the field.

HOLY CROSS UNIFORM POLICY

Students are to wear the Holy Cross uniform at all times during the school day, including the lunch hour and during spare periods. Some students wear clothes other than their uniform in the morning, on the bus, at lunch, and before leaving the school in the afternoon. Although no doubt unintentional, to do so works at cross purposes with the intent of the uniform policy. In addition there are not enough areas available for students to change, thus precipitating a situation where students are changing in the hall. This is not an appropriate situation and is not permitted. The problem would largely be resolved if students would wear their uniform to school and we strongly encourage this. **Students should arrive at school in their uniform or use change rooms and washrooms for changing into their uniform on arrival.**

The uniform provides many advantages to our students, including safety, pride, and equal status. All of our students are dressed identically so that our staff can easily identify any person who does not belong in our building. Our students who wear their uniform proudly definitely experience feelings of belonging to a larger group. Our uniform allows our students to be on equal footing, as family income is not transparent. Our students are more easily able to concentrate on their classroom activities as various attire is not an obstacle for learning.

The fall/winter uniform is in effect from **September to June**. Acceptable fall/winter items are listed below:

Girls: solid grey Holy Cross dress pants, kilt (hemmed to 2 inches above the knee), white button-down collared or French cut blouses with monogram, **plain black leotards or tights (must not be leggings which don't have feet)**, black dress shoes;

Boys: solid grey Holy Cross dress pants, school tie, white button-down collared shirt with monogram, black dress shoes;

Unisex: school crested vest / pull-over. Undershirts or T-shirts which are worn under uniform shirts are to be entirely white.

The spring uniform is in effect for **May and June** only. Acceptable spring uniform items include green school crested golf shirt, tan knee length school crested walking shorts (with no alterations or rolling allowed), deck shoes, running shoes, sandals with strap. The items from the spring uniform are not to be mixed with the items from the winter uniform at any time. The spring uniform may be purchased at **Holy Cross** in **April of 2014**.

Students must present themselves in good repair at all times during the school day. Ball caps, hoodies and offensive clothing are not permitted in the school at any time; if found, they will be seized and reissued at the end of the semester. Appropriate attire for shop, gym, drama, and art will be determined by the teacher and worn for that period only. Students are not to accessorize their uniform; for

example, excessive jewelry, studded arm bands, necklaces and/or belts, large decorative bows or belt buckles, or bandanas are not to be worn. This list is not comprehensive. One warning will be issued to students who are not in compliance with these rules and on second offense the items will be confiscated for the term. Students who choose to be out of uniform or who dress unsuitably, will receive one warning after which they will read the **Holy Cross** uniform policy. On second offense students will serve a lunch-hour detention and their parents will be notified. On third offense students will be sent home to change. Persistent violations of the uniform policy will be interpreted as an unwillingness to comply with the policy of the school. This progressive system of intervention will be incorporated to deal with students who do not comply with the uniform policy. Students who habitually work against the spirit of the uniform policy will be suspended. Students who display an unwillingness to co-operate with school authorities will not remain at **Holy Cross**.

Non-Uniform Day Dress Code

In selected months, a non-uniform day will usually take place on the last **Thursday** or **Friday** of the month to allow time for dry cleaning. These days are contingent upon students being in proper attire and demonstrating respect for our school community throughout the month. Non-uniform days are not scheduled during **December, March, May or June**. Attire for non-uniform days will be modest. Immodest, revealing clothing and/or clothing with inappropriate design/language promoting drugs/alcohol/sex will not be permitted.

ATTENDANCE AT HOLY CROSS

At **Holy Cross**, we are very concerned that all students realize their full potential. Our direct expectation is that students attend all of their classes in uniform and complete work that is assigned. We will make every effort to keep parents aware of any problems with respect to attendance as it relates to their child. Parents can expect contact by the Attendance Secretary and/or Administration to verify student absences. Teachers will contact parents about learning issues related to attendance. **At Holy Cross we are very concerned with ensuring that no student is unsuccessful as a result of irregular attendance.** In order to accomplish this goal, the following procedures will be followed:

1. Attendance will be taken during each class. All student absences will be checked. **If you know that your child is going to be away, please call the Attendance Office at 613-384-1355.** Otherwise, the Attendance Secretary or Administration will be contacting you at your home or your place of business. If no call has been received from the parent, the student must bring a note the next day explaining their absence. If they fail or forget to do so, the student may be assigned Study Hall time.

2. All students who are absent from school or any class during the day who cannot satisfactorily account for their absence (normally by bringing a note signed by their parent, guardian or a doctor's certificate) will be required to make up missed time by attending Study Hall during the first half of lunch.

3. If a student misses a study hall session to which they have been assigned without a satisfactory excuse, they meet with an administrator. Subsequent failure to attend study hall or ongoing problems of irregular attendance will be dealt with in a progressively more serious manner, which will most likely include suspension after consultation with parents/guardians.

PUNCTUALITY

All students are expected to be on time for period one and each subject class. Punctuality demonstrates consideration and respect for others. If you are late you interrupt the classroom learning environment, inconvenience the teacher and class causing unnecessary additional work for all. Sometimes lateness is unavoidable and may be excused. However, students who are repeatedly late will be subject to the discipline policy of the school. Study Halls (lunch period detentions) or suspension from the school may occur.

TRANSPORTATION

Bus routes and times are usually available at the school after **August 28th** and can be checked any time online. If you require

