



HOLY CROSS

Catholic Secondary School

March 2016

Principal's Message

We are well into semester two by the time this newsletter reaches you, and heading quickly toward the March Break. It seems, with snow days, professional activity days and the late start to the school year, that we've had very few actual school days in February! Consequently, students can expect the pace of instruction to pick up as we move into the Early Report card period.

It was disappointing to have to cancel our parent evening with **Sami Jo Small** due to inclement weather, but at least we were able to re-organize and have her present to our 9 feeder elementary schools and to our own students the following day. Sami's message, that we all have a role to play in success, and that that role might not necessarily be to our liking, was very well received by staff and students alike. Sami, as a goalie on Canada's Olympic team, has faced this reality. She's walked the walk. We don't all have to be in the spotlight to share in the success!

The entrances to Holy Cross, front and back, are our designated **Doors of Mercy**. As we pass through them, we enter a place where mercy is given and receive. I am proud of all of the fundraising efforts on behalf of those less fortunate in our community, the most tangible way we are showing mercy this Lenten season. We are supporting the Holy Cross Bike Rack Project, World Vision, the Jamaican Mission Project, and Osiri Village, Kenya.

We have several school teams completing their winter seasons and moving on to competition at OFSSA—the Swim Team, Wrestling, Boys' Hockey, Boys' Basketball and Girls' Hockey. It's another successful sports season at Holy Cross. Special thanks to our staff and community coaches.

Our grade 10s are gearing up for the Ontario Literacy Test and to support our test takers, Holy Cross is please to provide, every Tuesday and Wednesday at 2:45 starting on March 8th. If you are interested, contact the school (384-1919) It is going to be a busy March ahead. **Ian Stuart, Principal**

Staff News

We welcome five new staff members to Holy Cross: **Mr. John Holmes, Science and Math; Ms. Alessa Greenwood-DaSilva, English; Ms. Emily Withers, English; Mr. Thomas Wagner, History and Math; Sonja Costa-Silva, Religion; and Ms.**

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Sports News

Sr Boys Basketball lost in finals but are heading to OFSAA in Windsor.

Boys and Girls hockey, despite having to still play in KASSAA finals, have qualified for OFSAA. Boys in Windsor and girls in Stratford.

Wrestlers Connor Quinton, Brennan Brady, Ashley Callery, Rachel Callery, Natalie Stanford, Tyson Fletcher are at OFSAA championships in Windsor

Swimming in Windsor at OFSAA are Luke Rollins, Sage and Katrina Hartmann, Taylor Howe, Sophia Smith.

Girls Volleyball players named to all star team: Claire Sonnemann, Donya Hojabr, Emily Fawcett, Jenna Whalen



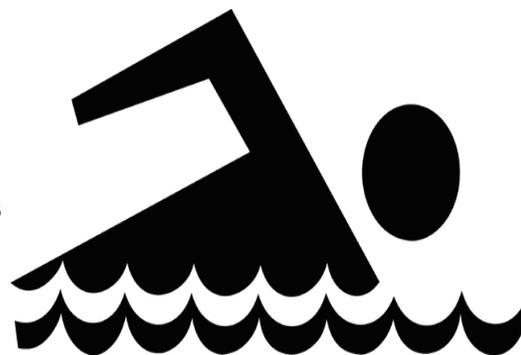
Jamaican Missionaries at the house build in Hamwalk, north of Kingston,

Students "CHILL" during the HC Wellness Team's Wellness Week



Athletics Update

The HC Swim team came in 4th overall out of 14 teams at EOSSAA in the middle of February. A few members have qualified to compete at OFSAA which is March 8th and 9th in Windsor. **Lucas Rollins** will be competing in the 50m backstroke and 100m Individual Medley. **Sage Hartmann, Katrina Hartmann, Sophia Smith and Taylor Howe** will compete in the 400m Freestyle Relay. Best of luck and thanks to our Swim Team coach, Mrs. Johnson.



YOU NEED TO READ THIS

Counsellor's Corner

COURSE SELECTION FOR 2016 - 2017

The course selection process for next year will begin on Tuesday, March 1. It is critical that all students select their courses by Thursday, March 10th. Grade 9 and 10 students will be scheduled to attend a course selection workshop during period 2 and grade 11's and returning grade 12's will attend a workshop during period 3. A verification sheet listing choices will be issued in April.

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 in their OUAC/OCAS file. See your counsellor 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.

The Arts

Get your calendars out. March 9th, in the cafeteria at Holy Cross, the Arts Department will be hosting their **Winter Coffee House**, starting at 7:00 with admission of only \$5. On March 30th, there will be auditions for **Cabaret** which will take place on April 13th. Sign-up on the drama board outside the drama room. Auditions will be at 2:45 in the drama room. Don't miss it. The **HC Band** departs for NYC shortly after Cabaret, on April 20th. Admission only \$5 at the door. March 24th – Holy Thursday - members of the HC arts classes and community will participate in the creation and performance of our Holy Thursday dramatic reflection. Included are drama and vocal classes as well as our competitive dance team. Performances run 30 minutes and begin at 8:40am.



Events in March

Mar 1 – Course selection workshops until Mar 10

Mar 2—OFSSA Wrestling

Mar 3—Grade level reconciliation for Lent

Mar 4-5—ThinkFast @ HC

Mar 7—OFSSA week for several school teams

Mar 9—Coffee House @ 7:00 in the caf; Winter Carnival @ HC 5:30 to 8:30

Mar 11—Last day of classes before March Break

Mar 21—return to school

Mar 22-23—Tour For Humanity @ HC

Mar 23—100 Days Until Graduation: meeting with grads @ 10:40; Grade 10 OSSLT Assembly pd. 1; Early Reports issued; Wellness Wednesday 7

Mar 24—IEPs Mailed Home; Share Lent Collections end; Holy Week Drama Presentations in the Caf; Earth Hour

Mar 28—2016-7 Students' Council Executive packages available

Mar 30—Parent-Teacher Interview evening from 3:30 to 5:30 and 6:30 to 8:30; Spencer West B&G Club speaker series @ Four Points @ 6:00 pm

Mar 31—OSSLT for Grade 10; Practice test for Grade 9; Grade 11-12 Independent Study Day; March non-uniform day

Holy Cross's 2016 Family Winter Carnival

Holy Cross Secondary

March 9th, 2016

5:30-8:30 pm

Delicious Treats:

- ❖ Popcorn
- ❖ Cotton candy
- ❖ Barbeque
- ❖ Hot Chocolate and Apple cider
- ❖ Bake Sale

Tickets \$5/person or \$15/Family

All proceeds will be donated to St. Vincent de Paul Society
Accepting winter clothing donations

Fun Activities for Everyone:

- ❖ Road Hockey
- ❖ Snow Soccer
- ❖ Three legged Races
- ❖ Snowman Building Competition
- ❖ Snowman Toss
- ❖ Face painting and snow painting
- ❖ Sleigh Rides
- ❖ Family Photo opportunities



Plan to attend the Holy Cross Winter Carnival (Proceeds to St. Vincent De Paul Society)

EQAO and the OSSLT

Holy Cross students currently in their grade 10 year or those students in senior grades who have not yet met this graduation requirement will be writing the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) on March 31st. Grade 9 students will be in school that day and will write a practice literacy test which will be assessed by members of the school Literacy Team. The results begin the process of providing targeted support to our students. During the month of March, grade 10 classroom teachers will be delivering Literacy Test preparation materials in a lead up to March 31st. In addition, Holy Cross is offering **after school literacy support** classes starting on Tuesday, March 8th and Wednesday, March 9th, and running **every Tuesday and Wednesday** (excluding the March Break) **at 2:45** in Room 245. Classes run for one hour and are led by members of the Literacy Team. Transportation home is the responsibility of parents. All you have to do to attend is contact the school at 613-384-1919 and register.

PASTORAL UPDATE FOR MARCH AND THE LENTEN SEASON

We continue our lenten journey here at Holy Cross with many opportunities for prayer, repentance and almsgiving. This year our Share Lent collection has the Gr. 9 home form classes giving to the Bike Rack Project, Gr. 10's are contributing to World Vision, Gr. 11's are donating to our Jamaica Mission Projects, and the Gr. 12's are giving to an Osiri Village Project in Kenya. During this "Year of Mercy" we are hoping that every student and staff person here at Holy Cross will experience God's mercy in a tangible way. So, on Thursday, March 3rd during our Reconciliation Celebrations in the Library, we will be inviting every student to respond to God's call to receive His mercy. We are also looking forward to our Holy Week School Liturgy on Thursday, March 24. Students are working with Ms. Check Drumm and Ms. Perugino to offer a meaningful 'Way of the Cross' that will help prepare all of us for Good Friday and for the celebration of Easter. May God bless you and your family during this lenten season. And may God's mercy fill all our lives as we look forward to the wonderful celebration of Christ's Resurrection.

Chris Forster, Chaplaincy Leader

Looking Forward to April

Upcoming Events for your Calendar

- Apr 4—Course verification for 2016-7 issued
- Apr 6—Holy Cross Spring Uniform sale; Spring League Basketball begins every Wednesday until May 20th; Silent Vigil @ Holy Cross 9:30 start
- Apr 7—Life Bus @ Holy Cross 10:45 to 1:10; THE Inside Ride @ HC
- Apr 8—National Cheerleading competition, Niagara Falls
- Apr 11—Mid-semester testing period begins
- Apr 13—2016-7 Students' Council nomination packages due; Cabaret in the cafeteria at 7:00
- Apr 15—2016-7 Course Verification sheets due
- Apr 18—Sem 2 Mid-term testing period ends; Sem 2, first half Civics and Careers courses end
- Apr 19—Sem 2 second half Civics and Careers courses begin; Sem 2 Mid-term marks due by 3:00 pm to the main office
- Apr 20—HC Band Trip to New York City departs; Wellness Wednesday 8; Junior Faith Conference @ HC in the chapel and lecture theatre
- Apr 22—Mid-term marks to OCAS (college applications)
- Apr 25—Mid-term reports issued
- Apr 28—Mid-term marks to OUAC (university applications)
- Apr 29—April non-uniform day

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about any items in this newsletter

Holy Cross
1085 Woodbine Road
Kingston, ON
K7L 2V9

- (613) 384-1919 for the main office
 - or (613) 384-1355 for Kathy in attendance
 - filhphcss@alcdsb.on.ca for email
- Visit us on the web at www.hctoday.ca
Or on Twitter @HolyCrossCSS

Below see the HC Band performing at the Christmas Concert and next to that our Tech. Dept. spring trip to beautiful Chicago.



Any HC student interested in travelling to Chicago and who is enrolled in a tech course is eligible to participate in trips organized by the technological education department. **So, take Tech!**

Late News Items

Volleyball: The Senior girls volleyball team had a great season, advancing to the semi-finals against the Sydenham Golden Eagles, but, unfortunately, lost. Nonetheless, the team had a strong season with **Donya Hojabr, Emily Fawcett, and Jenna Whalen** being selected as KASSAA all-star players, representing HC.

Tennis: There will be a brief meeting for all those interested in trying out for the HC tennis team scheduled for shortly after March Break. Stay tuned for upcoming details!

Avogadro Chemistry Contest: The 29th annual Avogadro Exam will be held May 19, 2016. Any grade 11 or 12 chemistry students interested to participate in writing the exam need to sign up before March 30, 2016. Please see **Ms. Zolnierczyk** or **Mr. Gervais** for details.