



HOLY CROSS



Catholic Secondary School

October 2016

Principal's Message

We have had a busy and exciting start to the 2016-2017 school year. Once again, this year, our enrolment is up, and not just at Holy Cross, but across our school board, bucking a trend in the province. This creates a happy problem: we will need to reorganize several classes to alleviate some overcrowding and hire new staff. These changes will happen shortly and will relieve some pressure in our largest classes.

We have an energetic five person School Council executive, led by our chair, **Frank Cameron**, and elected at September's meeting. Council is working on our parent engagement evening, scheduled for February 2017: an evening with **Dr. Matt Bellace**, public speaker, comedian, and wellness guru, whose message about accessing our 'natural highs' is timely in a world where mental health is increasingly under siege, particularly among our youth.

Our fall sports teams and clubs are already in action. We are proud of our athletic programming, led by Athletic Director Mr. Robin Dzierniejko, and the many fine coaches and volunteers who selflessly give their time to our many teams. I wish to highlight our Friday Night Lights football event vs. the RND Panthers at the Invista Centre on October 7th starting at 6:00 pm. There, our CICS social justice committee will be fundraising for the Jamaican Mission Trip, so plan on attending. I would be remiss if I didn't mention the wide variety of clubs and extracurricular activities available for your Crusader to pursue. I encourage every student to get involved and, most importantly, support your fellow Crusaders.

Our results on the provincial EQAO Assessment of Mathematics are in and they reflect the overall provincial trend. While it may have been impossible to sustain Holy Cross' stellar results in 2015-6, we are concerned about declining standardized test results. Numeracy is a foundational skill and we are committed to improving our results on this indicator of success in 2016-7. Our plan will be reported to our School Council before Christmas.

Parents, please pay particular attention to information on new procedures related to Parent-Teacher interviews.

As always, we look forward to your feedback on our newsletter and any other issues. Do not hesitate to contact us at any time.

Ian Stuart, Principal

Visit our website at www.hctoday.ca

Examinations—Parents Take Note

First semester examinations at Holy Cross start on **Thursday, January 26th, 2017** and end on **Tuesday, January 31st, 2017**. Parents, please make every attempt to avoid booking vacations and other activities during this very important week in the school year. A reminder that we do not exempt students from examinations.

October Events

- October—Child Abuse Prevention Month
- Oct 3-Thanksgiving Food Drive
- Oct 3 and on—College and University application workshops and visits continue all month: see Student Services
- Oct 11—Grad Photo orders due; Queens Teacher Candidates arrive
- Oct 12—On-Line OSSLT Practice test period 1; OFSSA Golf in Windsor and Port Elgin
- Oct 13—Thanksgiving Food Drive ends
- Oct 14—Aboriginal Dance
- Oct 14—Early report cards issued
- Oct 15— Archdiocesan Youth Rally at HC on Saturday
- Oct 17— Ontario Colleges Information Fair in Toronto
- Oct 19—Wellness Wednesday #2; Grade 10 Retreat "Hearing the Call to a Fulfilled Life"
- Oct 19— Parent-Teacher Interviews, 3:30 to 5:30 and 6:30 to 8:30
- Oct 20—On-line OSSLT for grade 10 and eligible others; Grades 11-12 classes independent study; grade 9 classes as normal;
- Oct 21—Take Our Kids to Work forms are due
- Oct 25— University on-line application workshops
- Oct 26—Parent-Teacher Night II @ 6:30 to 8:30
- Oct 27—October Non-Uniform

Crusaders Celebrate the First School Dance

A big thank you goes out to members of Mr. Stabile's Leadership Class and the Students' Council, not to mention the 15 staff volunteers who supervised our first dance of the year, and the Senior Boys' Volleyball team who manned the concessions and coat check. The theme? Sports, as you can see to the right, at the photo booth. It was a great success: a social event for our junior students, a financial benefit for Students' Council sponsored events, like fan buses to Crusader sporting events, spirit activities, and charitable causes. Our grade 9 and 10 students are to be commended on their behavior — a great time was had by all and we look forward to more school dances and events, starting with our Fall Sports Assembly this coming Friday, October 7th, during Period 4.



Pastoral Update for October

We welcome a new member to our Pastoral Team here at Holy Cross, **Father Tim Shea**. Fr. Shea is the newly appointed Pastor of Blessed Sacrament Church in Amherstview and has also taken on duties as one of our Priest Chaplains here at Holy Cross. Born and raised in Kingston, Fr. Tim is well known to many of our staff and students and according to our sources has great talent on the ice. He will be with us at Holy Cross for an hour or so each week to celebrate Chapel Masses on Thursdays as well as being available for confessions, visiting classrooms, and providing pastoral support to students and staff. We look forward to him presiding and preaching at our October 13th School Mass.



CICS has been very active since the beginning of the school year. On Tuesday, Sept. 27 a large number of CICS' students headed over to the Rosewood Retirement Home after school for a social hour with the residents there. And they will be working with Student Council over the next two weeks to promote and organize this year's **Thanksgiving Food Drive**. Please give generously to this year's collection through the home form classes.

Parish News—Life Teen Program for High School Students

LIFE  **TEEN**

LIFE TEEN is a Roman Catholic teen ministry program designed to lead teens to Christ through a dynamic weekly Mass and LIFE Night: a fun-filled, high energy evening that reaches teens on four levels: spiritual, emotional, social,

and educational. **All are welcome!** The evening begins at 5:00 and includes a free supper. The first meeting is Sunday, October 2nd with the theme LifeTeen Olympics. The meeting ends in the church with mass at 7:00 pm. Teens from other high schools are welcome to attend. Mass is planned with youth in mind – music that touches you, with sounds you know: drums, electric guitars, bass and keys. The homilies deal with topics teenagers need to hear about. For more information please contact Kevin Alexander, Coordinator - lifeteenkingston@gmail.com or 613-929-2161.

Attention Parents

This year, the Education and Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) is offering an on-line version of the Ontario Literacy Test graduation requirement on Thursday, October 20th. This on-line version of the OSSLT is in anticipation of full implementation in 2017-8. A successful result on the October on-line test will complete a student's graduation requirement. If unsuccessful, students will still have an opportunity to write again on March 30th, 2017. Due to the number of staff required to provide support for the 279 test takers, we are offering an Independent Study Day for students in grade 11 and grade 12 classes. This will allow senior classroom teachers who would normally be running classes to provide supervision and support for our test takers. **Grade 9 classes will run as regularly scheduled on October 20th.** Independent work will be provided to senior students. We wish our students well as they prepare for this important milestone in their high school career.



Foundation Receives Major Donation

The Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic Education Foundation (ALCEF) has received a donation from this year's 18th annual Director's Charity Golf Tournament. Chair of ALCEF, Tom Dall accepted a cheque for \$19,150 at the September 27 board meeting. This is the largest donation that the golf tournament has raised to date. The ALCEF helps families within the Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board who need financial assistance in times of challenge, with unexpected expenses such as eye glasses, medical supplies, food, clothing, and transportation. (Pictured L-R: Director of Education, **Jody DiRocco**, Chair of ALCEF **Tom Dall**, Chair of ALCDSB, **Greg Speagle**).

HOLY CROSS CONCUSSION PROTOCOL

It is a blessing that we as a society have become more vigilant when responding to concussions. If you suspect your son/daughter has sustained a concussion it is critical that they be examined by a medical doctor or nurse practitioner. (Seeing a medical practitioner specializing in concussion diagnosis is highly recommended). To ensure fairness and safety, medical documentation will be required to implement our Holy Cross Concussion Protocol. Below you will find an excerpt from our policy.

HC Concussion Protocol:

- Notify the school that your son or daughter has sustained a concussion and provide documentation from medical professional
- The Holy Cross concussion team will notify the student's guidance counsellor who will work with the student and their teachers in order to develop a Return to Learn plan suitable for their needs.
- Weekly or biweekly follow-up with medical personal should occur and results shared with the school team.
- Full Return to Learn, medically documented, must occur before full Return to Play occurs.
- Failure to submit medical documentation indicating clearance for *Return to Learn* and *Return to Play* will prevent participation in school activities.
- If symptoms re-occur after clearance has been given students will need to be re-examined by medical personal and the protocol will be re-implemented.

Contact Us

Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School

1085 Woodbine Road, Kingston,
Ontario, K7P 2V9 (613) 384-1919

See also www.hctoday.ca

Attention Graduates

- Grad Photo Retakes (final opportunity to get your grad photo taken): Monday, October 3
- Grad Photo orders due in room 129 by 12 noon: Wednesday, October 5
- School Photo orders due (online orders): Tuesday, October 11

Looking Forward to November

Nov 1—University visits all month: see Student Services

Nov 2—Mid-semester testing period begins; Honour Roll Assembly Pd. 1

Nov 3—OFSSA Field Hockey, Cross Country this week; Jamaican Mission Trip Horn Band concert, 7 to 9 Caf

Nov 8 – College Application Workshops at lunch

Nov 9— Mid-semester testing period ends; Term 1 Civics and Careers courses end; *Tony Melendez* presentation to the whole school (activity timetable)

Nov 10-Term 2 Civics and Careers classes begin

Nov 11— Remembrance Day

Nov 14— Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week begins

Nov 16— *Les Mis* ticket sales begin

Nov 18—Queen's Teacher Candidates practicum ends; mid-term marks due to OCAS

Nov 24— Mid-term marks available on Maplewood; Report Cards issued; OFSSA BBall and VBall; November non-uniform day

Nov 25—Professional Activity Day #3; Toronto Street Retreat

Nov 28— Day of the Arts I: Matinee performance of *Les Mis*; Advent begins;

Nov 29—Day of the Arts II: matinee performance of *Les Mis*; Grade 12 marks Full Disclosure Day

Nov 30— Opening night for *Les Mis*



Grade 9 Students enjoyed a day of group activities, getting to know each other, and getting green & dirty.



Committee Hosts First Wellness Wednesday of the Year

Once again, yogurt, fruit and granola smoothies were on the menu in the morning of September 21st. Special thanks to our Wellness Committee led by **Lisa Lollar, KFL&A Public Health and Terrie Hoey, CYW**, and our Wellness Committee Members for all their efforts promoting health and wellness in our school community. Perhaps there will be a Fitness Friday in the near future?



Members of the Holy Cross Golf Team pose for pictures at the EOSSAA Golf championship, October 28th. The HC Boys Golf Team won Gold at EOSSAA. The team of four will advance to OFSAA in two weeks (in Port Elgin, ON). Our two female golfers also advance to OFSAA (in Windsor, ON) with their qualifying scores. Congratulations to **Ashton McCulloch** (75), **Bryson McCulloch** (78), **Conor Gaudet** (78), **Tyler Ignazzitto** (85) [right], **Kiley Rodrigues**, and **Emily Calder** [left].



Students' Council Update

This upcoming October is a eventful one Crusaders! We are kicking off the month with our thanksgiving food drive beginning Monday October 3rd. For those crusaders who think they can really excite a crowd at any school event, mascot tryouts are taking place in the lecture theatre Monday October 3rd after school and Tuesday October 4th at lunch. Spirit wear sales will be taking place at lunch on October 5th. Friday October 7th is an action-packed day! It is our Green and Silver Spirit Day, and also Pep Rally is taking place during 4th period. All classes will be invited down to the gym to share the Crusader pride. The annual Friday night lights is on October 7th at the Invista Centre at 6PM, you wouldn't want to miss out! Our October Wellness Wednesday is on October 19th, come grab a delicious healthy free snack in the morning. Be sure not to miss our annual Girls basketball PH classic. It is taking place at Regi on October 27th at 7:30pm. Our non-uniform day is on October 28th. Keep in mind crusaders that play practices are well on their way and be excited for another great performance coming up in November!!



Students make use of the new Learning Commons. Stop by for a look the next time you are at the school.

Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA) and Attendance at School

Please be reminded that under ISPA, students in the province of Ontario are required to provide a complete immunization record or a valid exemption to the KFL&A Public Health unit for designated immunizations. To avoid any loss of school time due to incomplete information or immunizations, please contact the KFL&A Public Health unit to ensure your child's records are up-to-date.

September 23, 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians of Grade 9 Students:

The Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board believes a healthy mind and body have an important impact on learning and the quality of life for everyone, staff and students alike. We support physical activity in our schools and would like to encourage this lifestyle with all our students.

Current data indicate that if physical activity patterns do not change, this generation may have a shorter life span than ours. To help achieve our goal of having our students become more physically active, Kingston Gets Active in partnership with all of our communities: Loyalist Township, Town of Greater Napanee, Township of Central Frontenac, City of Kingston, Township of South Frontenac, Township of Stone Mills, is encouraging an active lifestyle through an *ActivPass*. All grade 9 students can use their Student Card as their *ActivPass* or pick up an *ActivPass* from the main office. With this pass students have free access to participating recreation centres for public swims or skates. The YMCA of Kingston is also offering a free membership to Grade 5 students during the 2016-2017 school year. The schedule of all the recreation centres and times that are available from September 23, 2016 to August 31, 2017 can be found at <http://kingstongetsactive.ca/resources/grade-5-9-activpass/>.

Our overall objective is to make our children healthier and improve learning through physical activity. We hope you will take advantage of this unique opportunity that has been provided by our many community partners and Kingston Gets Active (www.KingstonGetsActive.ca).

Sincerely,

Terri Slack

Terri Slack

Superintendent of School Effectiveness



October is Child Abuse Prevention Month

It takes a village to keep kids safe

**Where do kids need to be safe? Everywhere in the Community.
Who should keep them safe? Everyone in the Community.**

We're your Children's Aid Society and for more than 122 years we've been keeping kids in this community safe. October is Child Abuse Prevention Month in Ontario. We're taking this time to ask for your help.



Child abuse and neglect is a real problem in this community. But it is not what most people think it is. Sexual and physical abuse happens, but represents less than 20 percent of the cases we see. The biggest issue is neglect. And the three biggest causes are domestic violence, mental health issues and addiction. Our clients are regular folks. You might even know some. They face difficult challenges, and we're there to help. We strengthen these families to try and keep them together. We often work with extended families of children and youth to help take care of them. We connect families to services they need. The work we do with them is not always easy. But we can make a real difference. But we can't do what we do without you.

If you see a family that needs help, then help them by contacting us. That's the right thing to do and it's also the law in Ontario. We all have one thing in common and that's family. Your family members look out for you and you look out for them. That's the spirit we need to keep children and youth safe. We're all part of a larger family we call community. By working together, we can make a difference in the lives of these children and youth, and our community. So, let's get started.



HELP US: Foster, Volunteer, Donate, Connect
CALL US: 613-545-3227
VISIT US: www.FamilyandChildren.ca

Counsellor's Corner for October

EARLY SEMESTER REPORT CARDS AND INTERVIEWS

On **Friday, October 16th**, the early **Report Cards** for Grades 9 – 12 students will be distributed in homeroom classes. Parent-teacher interviews are scheduled for **Wednesday, October 19th**, from **3:30 to 5:30p.m. and from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.** and **Wednesday, October 26th**, from **6:30 to 8:30 p.m.** Each parent-teacher conference is scheduled for ten minutes, and must be booked online, in advance on the hc.schoolappointments.com site. Students will be bringing home their report card and instructions on how to book an on-line appointment. Online parent-teacher appointment instructions will also be available on the HCtoday website; will be sent to parents by email and by Synvoice. The instructions are also found below. Parents and guardians should feel free to contact their son or daughter's teacher at any time in order to learn more about his or her performance, but this time, in particular, is reserved for the essential link between home and school.

NEW! On-line appointments for Parent-Teacher interviews – October 19th and 26th

Holy Cross is introducing a new procedure for booking parent-teacher interviews. Parents will be able to choose interview appointments electronically by logging in to the HC appointment booking site from October 14th – 18th for the October 19th interview date, and from October 20th – 25th for the October 26th interview date. The site will close at 2:30 on the 18th and 25th.

The instructions are as follows:

1. Go to our school appointments web site: **hc.schoolappointments.com**
2. Register for an account by clicking the "**REGISTER**" menu tab and filling in the on-line form. Choose a user id and password for yourself and then click the "**Register Now**" button.
3. Add your children into the system by clicking the "**Add a Student**" button. Click "**Insert New**" button to add more children.
4. Click the "**date**" icon beside each child's name to schedule appointments. Select the staff you wish to book appointments with, and the "**View Calendars**" button. Use the "**Ctrl**" or "**Command**" key to select multiple staff to view at the same time.
5. Click on available time slots to book your appointments and then click the "**Book Appointments**" button to save your bookings.



Please contact Student Services, 613-384-1919 ext. 3405 if you have any questions

Post Secondary Information

Application information session #1 for students applying to universities has been completed. College information sessions will take place October 6th and October 12th at 11:10 a.m. In the upcoming months, Student Services will be hosting many presentations from Ontario colleges and universities as well as workshops for the application process. Students may access dates for presentations and the application process online at www.hctoday.ca A note to parents that the power point presented at the **Post-Secondary Info Session will be available on the HC website www.hctoday.ca** .

Parent-Student Maplewood Portal access

All students have access to their credit history through the parent-student Maplewood portal on the Holy Cross website. Passwords and usernames are available from student services. Grade 12 students are encouraged to check their credit histories to ensure all requirements are fulfilled for graduation and post secondary applications.

Take Our Kids to Work

Wednesday November 2nd is Take Our Kids to Work Day. Information sheets, including permission forms, will be distributed to Grade 9 students. Students are required to return a signed permission form by October 21st in order to participate.

Scholarship News

The deadline for two prominent scholarships is approaching. The Loran Award (formerly known as the Canadian Merit Scholarship) website is www.loranaward.ca. We can sponsor/nominate three candidates If you are submitting your application for consideration please submit by October 5th at 8:30 am. The deadline date for Queen's major entrance Scholarships and Awards is **December 1st**. Students interested in being nominated for the Queen's Chancellor's Scholarship must submit a copy of their application by **November 7th**. Students must have an average of 90% to be eligible. If you have any questions about these or any other scholarships, please contact **Mrs. Cantarutti** in Student Services.

