

Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School

Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board

Newsletter March 2003

For up-to-the-minute information, visit our website at

www.alcdsb.on.ca/~hc/ss/

"Blessed are the merciful; mercy shall be theirs"

Semester Two Early Diagnostic Reports

Students will receive their Early Diagnostic Report Card on Monday March 3rd along with a form for interview requests. Parent Teacher Interviews will be held on Thursday March 20th and Tuesday March 25th from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. and 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Parents and guardians are encouraged to attend. Parents who did not receive the interview request sheet from their son or daughter can download it from our website.

March Non-Uniform Days

The non-uniform days for the month of March will be **Thursday March 27th and Friday March 28th.**

School Council News

There is no meeting in the month of March. Our next meeting is **Tuesday April 9th** at 7:00 p.m. in the Library. All parents and guardians are welcome to attend.

Pastoral Update

Thirteen students and two staff from Holy Cross and Regiopolis-Notre Dame High Schools recently spent several days in Toronto visiting homeless shelters, refugee centres, and a Catholic worker house as they participated in a Social Awareness Retreat. The retreat was co-sponsored by C.I.C.S. (Crusaders In Community Service) and R.H.U.M. (Regi Helping Universal Missions). Students got firsthand experience by sleeping in an "In From the Cold" shelter and by meeting with former street kids who now serve as facilitators for the Bridges for Youth program. The theme for the retreat was "Encountering Christ in the inner-city."

Pancake Tuesday will take place in Period 1 Tuesday March 4th. Our Lenten season will begin on Wednesday March 5th with our Ash Wednesday Mass.

Please support our Share Lent Campaign. May Lent be a time when all of us can enter deeply into the mystery of Christ's Passion, Death and Resurrection.

Congratulations to:

...Rachel Lesslie from our Swim Team who qualified for Senior Nationals, Pan American, and World Championship Trials.

...The Swim Team will compete at OFSSA on Tuesday March 4th.

...Holy Cross Cheerleaders who placed first in the Varsity division in the Eastern Region Championships .

...our music students who participated in the Kiwanis Music Festival. The Sr. Wind Ensemble placed first, the



Concert Band placed 2nd, and the Jazz Ensemble received an A++ rating.

...the Holy Cross Wrestling team who won at EOSSA. Several wrestlers are now advancing to OFSSA.

Literacy Test Results

You may have read in the news that Education Minister Elizabeth Witmer has indicated that students who are not successful in the literacy test will be provided a new form of assessment. There is no specific information from the Ministry of Education as to what form this will take or how this will be accomplished.

We are currently verifying raw data from EQAO. It is EQAO's intention to provide information about October's test results sometime in March. As soon as we have the data we will share it with you. The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test is not just a diploma exercise. It does provide information that can help the school assist students who struggle with literacy.

Math Assessment Results

Holy Cross is very pleased with the results of the Grade 9 Mathematics Assessment. It is due in no small part to the preparation our staff and students put into this exercise.

Our academic math program shows that 71% of our students are at Level 3, the provincial standard. Our board's figure is 59% and the province's is 58%. We are significantly higher than both.

Our applied level math program shows that 41% of our students are at Level 3, the provincial standard. Our board's figure is 22% and the province's is 21%. Our results are nearly twice as high as our board or the province.

It should also be noted that all grade 9 students wrote this assessment.

Course Selections

Course selection sheets for 2003-2004 are to be submitted in homerooms on Thursday March 6th. Please talk to your son/daughter about their choices. If you have questions, please contact Student Services at 384-2023.