

Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School

Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board

Newsletter August 2003

For up-to-the-minute information, visit our website at
www.alcddb.on.ca/~hcssl



Principal's Message

I am very pleased to welcome all students who are returning to Holy Cross, and a special welcome to new students who are joining our community. We very much appreciate the trust and the support offered to us by your parents and guardians.

Holy Cross has become a preferred destination for many students, and not only for those students from our Catholic feeder schools. We are very gratified by this and we welcome the challenge it presents us with. In choosing Holy Cross you are making a decision to follow a more difficult road. We believe that there are many benefits to this choice but you need to know that it is going to be difficult.

We believe that students choose to come to Holy Cross because it has an excellent reputation throughout the wider Kingston community. I am very proud to be associated with this school. I believe that the quality and commitment of our staff is second to none. Our students are fine young people. Through their academics, the arts, and through their ongoing outreach service, both individually and by way of groups such as Crusaders in Community Service they have made a significant contribution to our community.

The activities and achievements of our student body help to foster the reputation of Holy Cross. We are justifiably proud of our efforts. The heart and soul of this school, however, is found in its mission; to serve God and to assist parents in the faith development of their children. We provide students with the opportunity to learn in a Catholic context and to embrace the Gospel message of Jesus Christ. This is fundamental to what we do and I believe it would be a mistake to choose to come to Holy Cross for any other reason. Not only must your son or daughter embrace this mission, but you as parents must embrace this mission. We are your partner and we are an extension of your parish and of the promise you made at your child's baptism. We cannot be left to ourselves to provide for the spiritual nourishment of your children. We need you!

One outcome of our focus on our mission is that students who attend Holy Cross must meet a wide range of expectations that are not required of students at other schools. They wear a uniform that communicates a sense of our Catholic community- that students belong to a whole that is greater than themselves. It levels the playing field for all students and assists us to focus on community as opposed to the individual. The uniform is not a fashion statement and cannot be altered to make it so, lest it lose its purpose. It is a great tool for maintaining the security of the premises. We will be strictly enforcing uniform policy this year.

All of our students attend and participate, as fully as they are able to, in the celebration of the mass and in liturgical and sacramental events. They must take a religious education course in each year of high school, and participate in the various service opportunities that we provide. We inculcate our faith into every course that a student takes.

We encourage students to get involved in as many aspects of school life as possible. From athletics to the arts, from the band to CICS, we offer many, many opportunities for students to part of school and community life. We know that students who are involved are likely to be more successful than those who are not. Please get involved. This also goes for parents. Attend events, join the school council - be a greater part of Holy Cross in whatever way you are able.

Understand and accept our mission, recognize the additional expectations that we have for you, and get involved in student life. These are the keys to your success at Holy Cross. Those of our graduates who follow these principles are very well prepared to enter university, college and the workplace. They are disciplined, critical thinkers whose faith and commitment to service make them ideal citizens and committed Christian people. We are very proud of them, and we will be very proud of all of you. Once a Crusader, Always a Crusader! Welcome back and may God bless us all.

Sincerely, Wayne Hill

Student Schedules

Counsellors will be available from Monday August 25th to Thursday August 28th for students who need to discuss timetable changes with a counsellor. Students who wish to make timetable changes should phone for appointments through Student Services at 384-2023 as soon as possible. This is an extremely busy time for Student Services staff. Avoid long waits and disappointment by booking your appointment now.

Code of Conduct

Please review the enclosed Code of Conduct and discuss it with your son(s)/daughter(s). It will also be available in the Main Office, Attendance Office, and Student Services. If this document was not delivered in this package, you are encouraged to drop by any of these locations to receive one.

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 the Main Office.