

# HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL, KINGSTON

## December, 2004 Newsletter... visit our web site at [www.alcdsb.on.ca/~hcss](http://www.alcdsb.on.ca/~hcss)

The Holy Cross newsletter is issued on the first day of each month.



### Principal's Message

The season of Advent helps to prepare us for Christmas, when we recall Christ's first coming. This is a season of joyful expectation and preparation. Christmas is a time of giving as we celebrate the greatest gift the world has ever received, the baby Jesus, God's one and only Son. At this time of year, CICS sponsors the Advent Food Drive to assist those most in need. I encourage all to give generously to assist those who are in need. May the true spirit of the season and Christmas touch each of you and your families.

### KASSAA and EOSSAA Champions Again!

Congratulations to the **Senior Girls Basketball** team who captured their fourth consecutive **EOSSAA title** by defeating Cornwall 50-19 in the championship game. The win earned the team a trip to the **OFSAA** championship on **December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>** in Ottawa. The team has received an impressive **2<sup>nd</sup>** seed this year! Good luck in Ottawa girls!

### December Pastoral Update

Our School Theme for this year, "**Called to Know Jesus**" is particularly appropriate as we begin this Advent Season. Over the coming weeks, we are invited to reflect on how we encounter our Messiah, especially in unexpected and surprising ways. Let us be open to coming to know our Saviour in a deeper way this Advent, so that we can welcome him into our hearts in a meaningful way and truly celebrate his Birth into our lives this Christmas.

Here at Holy Cross we will once again be entering into this season through our **Advent Reconciliation Celebration on December 2<sup>nd</sup>**, and through our **Advent School Mass on Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup>**. Our Crusaders in Community Service have already begun our annual **Advent Food Drive**. This year we will once again challenge Regiopolis-Notre Dame for the **Christmas Challenge Cup** which Holy Cross claimed for the first time last year. Also, C.I.C.S. is encouraging homeform classes to help **send a child to school in Kingston, Jamaica** by donating money. It costs approximately \$50.00 to sponsor a child through the St. Patrick's Foundation, a Jamaican charitable organization which we heard about when Mr. Fabian Brown visited our school in October.

Our recent **C.I.C.S. Toronto Mission Trip** was a tremendous success as six Holy Cross and four Regiopolis-Notre Dame students spent two nights at a homeless shelter in downtown Toronto. With Staff Supervisors, **Mr. Forster (H.C.) and Sr. Thacker (RND)** in tow, the students gave out lunches to the homeless, worked at a Parkdale soup-kitchen known as St. Francis Table, and took part in a Street Awareness Program called Bridges to Youth. Congratulations to Simon Finn, Kaitlyn Lackie, Nicole Sosnowski, Michelle McTeague, Kate Lightbody, and Dilara Polat for taking time to participate in such a challenging, but worthwhile Mission Experience.

Over 20 Holy Cross students, parents and staff braved the cold, wet weather on November 22<sup>nd</sup> to take part in this year's **Diabetes Fund-raising Campaign**. They canvassed door-to-door around the Holy Cross area and collected over \$785.00 for this worthy cause. Congratulations to Jessica Villemare from C.I.C.S. who helped organize the evening.

C.I.C.S. will also be participating in this year's **Habitat Gingerbread House Building Competition on December 5<sup>th</sup> at Queen's University**. Several C.I.C.S.' volunteers will help build and decorate the house as a fund-raiser for a **Habitat Housebuild** which will take place here in Kingston in **March of 2005**. See **Mr. Forster** if you would like to participate in this project.

Members of the **Art Classes** will be designing special Christmas Cards that can be sent to friends and family. These cards will inform the recipient that \$50.00 has been donated in their name to help send a child to school in Kingston, Jamaica. What a wonderful way to give a gift that will truly make a difference. Sample cards will be displayed in the staff room at Holy Cross next week. See **Mr. Forster** to place your order for one of these beautifully designed cards.

In all these activities and projects, we continue to reach out to serve God who dwells in the poor and less fortunate of our world. May God bless each member of our Holy Cross community with a Holy and Blessed Advent Season.

### The Holy Cross Student Uniform: Compliance and Enforcement!

Our Board requires the wearing of school uniforms by the students of all it's secondary schools. Wearing the Holy Cross uniform contributes to a positive learning environment in which student achievement is the highest priority. At Holy Cross, we believe that wearing the school uniform enhances student safety, discipline, and school unity, contributing to a positive school learning environment.

This month, each home will receive a letter from me, as Principal, outlining the Holy Cross uniform policy and compliance issues that we as a staff encounter. Mr. Speagle, Ms. Gallant, and I have been visiting classes to review the policy and our expectations. I have directed all staff to address issues of non-compliance with increased vigilance. All students will be given ample warning this month to have their uniform in full compliance as of Monday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2005. I am concerned that a significant number of our female students wear kilts which are not in compliance with school policy (7.5 cm, or 3 inches above the knee). As of the new year, our female students will be required to wear either a kilt that conforms to the policy or grey slacks that are purchased from Newman's. Notice given this month will provide ample time for students to either have their uniform altered, or for the purchase of uniform items that conform to policy. Please contact me at 384-1919 ext. 3411 if you have any suggestions, questions or concerns.

### EQAO Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics

In January 2005, Holy Cross students who are currently enrolled in a grade 9 Applied or Academic course will join others in a province wide standardized Grade Nine Math Test. Last year's provincial, Board and school results will be released shortly and will soon be available at [www.eqao.com](http://www.eqao.com). In January, the mandatory assessment will involve multiple choice questions, short answer and extended responses. This test which is one component of the Secondary School Reform initiative, will be administered over two of the students' regular mathematics classes. Dates for the testing at Holy Cross are January 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. Additional information can be obtained from teachers in the Mathematics Department.

### Special Education Department Updates

We are seeing an increased use of assistive technology among students. Text-to-speech (Kurzweil) and voice-to-text (Dragon Naturally Speaking) software is available for use while students write tests and complete assignments. We are looking forward to the near future when our assistive technology lab is fully operational. Grade nine students taking General Learning Strategies courses are being trained to use Kurzweil and Dragon Naturally Speaking. There is great enthusiasm among them and all, without exception, are excited about the possibilities offered to them by this software.

### December events at Holy Cross

Wednesday, Dec. 1..... World Aids Day  
Thursday, Dec. 2 ..... Grade Level Reconciliation - Library All Day  
Thursday, Dec. 2, Friday Dec. 3 ..... Girls Basketball OFSAA- Ottawa  
Friday & Saturday Dec. 3-4 ..... HC Boys Basketball teams at Aurora  
Wed. Dec. 8 ..... 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Immaculate Conception of Mary  
Thursday, Dec. 9..... Last day for Friends and Grad photo orders  
Thursday, Dec. 9 ..... HCTV Comm Tech Trip to Toronto  
Dec. 10..... Early Dismissal Day (period 3/4 schedule). Buses depart 11:10  
Friday, December 10 ..... International Human Rights Day  
Friday & Saturday, Dec. 10 & 11 ..... Archbishop Spence Junior Varsity Boys' Basketball Tournament at Holy Cross  
Saturday, December 11..... Bill McLeod Wrestling Tournament at RND  
Saturday, December 11 ..... Girl's Volleyball at Loyalist College Invitational Tournament  
Thursday, Dec. 16..... End of CICS Advent Food Drive, Advent Mass  
Thursday, Dec. 16 ..... Christmas Concert- 7:00 in the gym  
Friday, Dec. 17 ..... Non-uniform day  
Friday, Dec. 17 ..... Last Instructional day of 2004  
Saturday, Dec. 18 to Sunday Jan. 2 ..... Christmas Break  
Friday, Dec. 24 ..... Christmas Eve  
Saturday, Dec. 25 ..... Christmas Day  
Sunday, Dec. 26 ..... Boxing Day  
Friday, Dec. 31 ..... New Year's Eve

### Students and Textbooks

On **November 22<sup>nd</sup>** each student received a letter indicating the titles of all textbooks signed out as well as the unique barcode assigned to each book.

This is a reminder that those books listed must be returned by the student in **January 2005**. As in other years, the good condition of each textbook is the student's responsibility.

No textbooks will be issued to students for Semester 2 until Semester 1 books are returned or paid for. Deposit cheques will be cashed where necessary for lost or damaged books beginning **February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2005**.

Books needing repair can be brought to the Library at any time. If there are any questions, please direct them to **Mr. Cortis or Mrs. Shea at 384 1919 Extension 3413**. Thanks for your cooperation.

### We Go Together: Voices in Concert

Coming this January, the grade 11 vocal class will be performing in their very first vocal concert. This gala event will contain a variety of song selections from their repertoire including Broadway, pop and other familiar classics. This class of 24 students will be accompanied by a five-piece band and it is sure to be an exciting, fun-filled evening. Please mark **Wednesday, January 12, 2005** on your new calendars! The concert begins at 7:30 pm. Tickets will be sold in advance or at the door for \$5 each.

**The Annual Christmas Concert**, featuring the Holy Cross Senior Wind Ensemble, the Grade 9 Band, and the Holy Cross Jazz Ensemble will inaugurate the **Katharine Splinter Christmas Recital** on **Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm** in the Holy Cross Gymnasium. Tickets \$5:00 adults; children 10 and under: free.

**The 2004-2005 Holy Cross Improv Team** is in the process of preparing for the 2005 Improv games which will occur in February. The dates and times will be announced in the January newsletter.

### Communication Technology

**HCTV Toronto Trip: On Thursday, December 9, 2004**, Mr. Esford's Grade 12 Communications Technology students will travel to Toronto to tour **Ryerson University** and the Radio & Television Arts program, **Much Music** studios, **CBC Broadcast Centre** and be in the live studio audience video tape recording of the **Royal Canadian Air Farce**.

Senior photography students would like to announce the founding of "**Crusader Clicks**", a camera club for students at Holy Cross. As a member of "Crusader Clicks", you will learn darkroom procedures, lighting styles, and how to properly put together a photography portfolio. If you have ever been interested in learning how to do more than just point and click, then join us in **room 129 at lunch on Tuesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**. Students in all grades are encouraged to join. There will be a small fee to cover film and photographic paper expenses.

The 2004 -2005 **Holy Cross DVD Year Disc** is on sale now for \$10.00. The DVD will include 99 videos on Holy Cross students, teams, clubs, arts performances and special activities. The DVD features full screen, moving images, using digital audio and video quality. The DVD comes with a colour case, label, site map and autograph section insert. Order forms are available in home room classes, at the front office, and in room 215. You may also contact **Mr. John Esford** (384-1919 ext. 2215).

**Friend Photo, Grad Artist, Grad Athlete and Graduation Portrait orders** will continue to be accepted until **Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup>**. Please submit your orders to **Mr. Prior** in room 129. Completed orders will be distributed in early January.

The **HC Spin** is a newspaper written by students for students. The Spin is a method in which you can communicate your views and opinions about certain upcoming events and important issues at the school. The next issue will contain two new columns: a "letter to the editor" section and "health and fitness tips". If you have any questions, comments, queries, suggestions, or beliefs, contact us either in room 129 during periods 1 and 2 or by e-mail at **prior@alcdsb.on.ca**. We are currently accepting new contributions for the next issue of The HC Spin which will be distributed on December 16th. Please e-mail your contributions to **prior@alcdsb.on.ca**. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

The **Transportation Technology** department here at Holy Cross is more than just a classroom, it is a rich learning environment that focuses on the practical application of knowledge learned. Students work on a variety of vehicles provided by staff, parents and students themselves. While there, students learn the basics of: tire repairs, balancing, rotation, and changing flat tires; engine tune-ups; diagnosis and repair of cooling systems, electrical systems (small to medium repairs), suspension systems; minor rust repair and prevention; welding, cutting and fabrication; small engine diagnosis, repair and maintenance; diagnosis and repair of fuel injection and ignition systems; brake relining and machining. If you are closely related to the school (a parent or relative or student) and would like to support our efforts with your vehicle repairs, please contact Mr. Kallevig at the school or by e-mail at **kallevig@alcdsb.on.ca** with your request. If it fits the curriculum and is deemed appropriate, we will gladly consider your request.

### College/University Applications :

Post-secondary application workshops and information sessions have concluded. Due to a networking problem the PIN numbers required for university applicants have been temporarily delayed. The application centre has assured us, however, that applications will not be disadvantaged in any way. The deadline for applications to OUAC is January 12th. Holy Cross' recommended deadline for both college and university applications is December 15th.

### Looking for a Job OR Volunteer Hours.....

Students are reminded to regularly check the postings on the **Job & Volunteer Board located outside Student Services**. There are many opportunities for part-time jobs and volunteer hours.

### Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program

Students select one of four career paths after leaving high school - University, Apprenticeship, College, or the World of Work. The Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) is a viable government sponsored high school program offered by the Algonquin & Lakeshore CDSB that provides career opportunities in approximately 130 apprenticeable trades areas. The reality of high school students pursuing a career in the trades is growing in popularity, and as a result, the OYAP initiative is receiving increased support from the Ontario Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities (MTCU). It should be noted that careers in skilled trades and technology areas are in demand and they offer good wages and rewarding work. According to the MTCU (September, 2004) there are 12000 students in 650 high schools in Ontario participating in OYAP this year.

### Updates:

- All grade 10 career classes in the Board are in the process of receiving a presentation about OYAP.
- Over 2500 students attended a very successful Skilled Trades Fair in Belleville on October 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Plans are under way for the Kingston Skilled Trades Fair which will be held on April 9<sup>th</sup> at the Cataroqui Town Centre.
- Level One college apprenticeship programs for OYAP high school students are being offered in second semester at Cobourg (Construction Craft Worker), Loyalist College (Automotive, Cooks apprenticeship) and St. Lawrence College (Carpentry).

Information about OYAP may be obtained from the Guidance Department or cooperative education teacher in any of the Board's high schools. Additional support or information is available from Alice DiGenova or Jim Johnston, OYAP Coordinators with the Board. Alice may be reached at (613) 849 - 8550; Jim may be reached at (613) 848 - 5648.

### Crusader Athletics

The KASSAA winter sport season begins **December 6<sup>th</sup>** and Holy Cross is again expected to field extremely competitive teams in Wrestling, Curling, Cheerleading, Badminton, Boys' Basketball, Girls' Volleyball, and Girls' and Boys' Hockey.

### Next Month at Holy Cross

Saturday, January 01..... World Day of Prayer, NEW YEAR'S DAY !  
Monday, January 03 ..... First Instructional Day of the New Year  
Monday, January 03 ..... January 2005 Newsletter Issued  
Fri. & Sat. Jan. 07-08 ..... Junior Varsity Boys Basketball Team @ Peterborough  
Saturday, January 08 ..... HC Varsity Girls' Volleyball team at Ernestown Invitational  
Wednesday, January 12 ..... We Go Together: Voices in Concert @ 7:30  
Thursday, January 13 ..... January Mass  
Fri. & Sat., January 14 & 15 .... HC Varsity Boys Basketball at St. Mary's Brockville  
Jan. 14 to Jan. 15 ..... EQAO Grade 9 Math Assessment  
Thursday, January 27..... Last Instructional Day in Semester 1  
Friday, January 28 ..... Grades 9 to 12 Examinations Begin  
Wednesday, February 02..... Grade Eight Parent Information Night  
Thursday, February 03 ..... Final Examination Day  
Monday, February 07..... Professional Activity Day # 3  
Tuesday, February 08 ..... Turn Around Day / Pancake Tuesday  
Wednesday, February 09 ..... First Instructional Day in Semester 2  
Wednesday, February 09 ..... Ash Wednesday Mass  
Friday, February 11 ..... Semester I Report Cards Distributed