

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL, KINGSTON

January, 2005 Newsletter... visit our web site at www.alcddb.on.ca/~hcss

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL, KINGSTON, ONTARIO

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



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

I hope that the holy season of Advent and Christmas was a time for reflection and renewal for you and your family. On behalf of the Holy Cross staff and administration, I extend best wishes for a very Happy New Year. I welcome all staff and students back from the Christmas break

The Advent Penance Service in December was a clear testimony to the importance of a faith-centered education. Eight of our area priests joined us on December 2nd as we provided the Sacrament of Reconciliation to our students and staff. In these challenging times our young people clearly need the grace of the sacraments and the counsel of caring mentors. Our gratitude to all of our priests who took time from their busy schedules to be present with our young people at Holy Cross.

January marks the end of the first semester. Holy Cross administers a full schedule of examinations. These important exams begin this year on Friday, January 28th and end on Thursday, February 3rd. A January examination schedule was posted in all classrooms the week before the Christmas Break. It is vital that students are encouraged to see these as important days during which their best efforts should be demonstrated.

Catholic education remains a vital force in our community as we provide a morally centered curriculum forming our young people in faith and committed to bringing their gifts into the future. Let us begin this New Year 2005 in a spirit of hope and renewed enthusiasm for our future. I thank you for your prayers, continued support and trust.

THE HOLY CROSS STUDENT UNIFORM: WE ALL HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY!

As we begin a new calendar year, the time has come to deal with the issue of kilts that are simply too revealing and not in compliance with school policy. The issue is not new, but the expectations of the community dictate that the time has come to deal once and for all with the issue of kilts that do not comply with the policy. In addition, a review of the Holy Cross uniform policy as permitted by Board policy will take place in the days and weeks ahead in order to re-write the policy effective September, 2005.

I encourage parents to see that their sons and daughters wear the proper uniform to Holy Cross. The uniform cannot include attire that is too large or too small, too short, or too revealing. **All students in the school must comply with the Holy Cross Uniform Policy.**

We all have a role to play! It is our expectation that parents will give full support to the wearing of uniform, and ensure, with the student, that the uniform is ready for wearing on each school day. We suggest that the students themselves should take on much of this responsibility. Together, we must encourage Holy Cross students to always be well groomed and to wear the uniform at, to, and from school with pride and in compliance with school policy. A progressive system of intervention will be put in place to deal with the uniform violations up to and including suspension for persistent opposition to authority. Girls who roll up their kilts or continuously wear a too short kilt in school, on the way to school or going home, will have their parents notified and will receive consequences at school. A female student who chooses to alter or roll up her kilt will be subject consequences issued by the school. Students who demonstrate an unwillingness to comply and cooperate with school authorities on this matter will not remain in our school.

Again I repeat my open invitation to contact me if you have any suggestions, concerns, or questions regarding the uniform and the expectations that I have been charged with putting in place. You may contact me at 384-1919, ext 3411 at any time.

Paul Walsh, Principal

JANUARY PASTORAL UPDATE

After the Tsunami: Like so many others around the world, we are following the devastation caused by the earthquake and tsunami that has hit many parts of Asia and India. According to most news reports, the death count from the killer waves has passed 140,000. One third are said to be children, and most experts say the death count will continue to rise.

We know that in times like these, God opens our hearts to those who suffer. At school we will take time to pray for the millions of victims, that they will feel God's presence and grace in a special way. In your prayers please also pray for the workers and volunteers, that they will be given strength to serve in these difficult circumstances and to minister among the five million survivors whose lives have been totally shattered.

Archbishop Anthony Meagher has requested that all parishes of the Archdiocese hold a special second collection on the weekend of **January**

15 and 16, 2005 to aid the victims. As we return from the Christmas Break we will need to determine how we as a school community can best respond to the call to provide relief to those in other parts of the world who so desperately require our assistance. May God bless you for your compassion and generosity to those in need.

Our Crusaders in Community Service are still counting the food donations for this year's Advent Food Drive which ended on December 17th. Again this year, we challenged Regiopolis-Notre Dame for the right to claim the Christmas Challenge Cup. This Cup is awarded each year to the Catholic High School which collects the most food for the Kingston food banks. Thanks to our students and staff for their generosity again this year, as we filled over 75 boxes, especially Mr. Michalski's class, which filled 18 boxes! We also supported an inner city school in Kingston, Jamaica through St. Patrick's Foundation. Over \$1500.00 was collected through our Christmas Collection. Our gingerbread house raffle also raised \$100.00 for Habitat for Humanity.

We are looking forward to our final school mass for this semester which takes place on Thursday, January 20th. We will be praying at this mass for all the students who are preparing for their exams.

May God bless our students and staff with a healthy and happy New Year. Chris Forster, Coordinator of Pastoral Services

EQAO GRADE 9 ASSESSMENT OF MATHEMATICS

Individual Student Reports (ISRs) for students who wrote the Grade 9 Math Assessment in January or June 2004, will be issued to them later this month. Our school results will be released in February 2005.

In January, all Holy Cross students enrolled in a grade **nine applied** or **academic math** course will join others in a Province wide standardized Grade 9 Math Test. The mandatory assessment will involve multiple choice questions, short answer and extended response. This test which component of the Secondary School Reform occurring in Ontario will be administered on two days. The dates for the testing at Holy Cross are **Thursday, January 13 and Friday, January 14**. Testing will occur during the scheduled math period ranging for 60 minutes.

Students may also get extra help through TV Ontario's Eureka! Ask A teacher website - www.tv.org <<http://www.tv.org>>. This interactive site offers exercises and links to help them improve their math skills and students can also take Eureka! Sample test. The site is an engaging way for students to learn, assess how ready they are, or review what they know. Students who do not own a computer can use a computer in the library to use Eureka!.

JANUARY EVENTS 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
Fri. & Sat., January 14 & 15 HC Varsity Boys Basketball at St. Mary's Brockville
Jan. 13 to Jan. 14 EQAO Grade 9 Math Assessment
Wednesday, January 19..... Alternatives to College and University
Thursday, January 20 January School Mass
Tuesday, January 25 Catholic School Council Meeting 7:00 at Holy Cross
Thursday, January 27 Last Instructional Day in Semester 1
Friday, January 28 Grades 9 to 12 Examinations Begin

JANUARY 2005 EXAMINATION PERIOD

The Final Examination Schedule was distributed to homerooms on December 16th. Exams are scheduled to be written at **8:30** and **12:00** beginning on **Friday, January 28th** and are to conclude on **Thursday, February 3rd**. In the case of inclement weather and bus cancellations the exam schedule would be modified with examinations being "bumped" one day. **i.e. If buses were cancelled on Friday, January 28 then all exams scheduled for the Friday would be written on Monday, January 31, and the remaining part of the schedule adjusted accordingly.** Every effort must be made to write examinations during the regularly scheduled time. Students absent from a scheduled exam will be contacted by the school. If a student is late for a scheduled exam, he/she will have only the remaining time left in the exam to complete it. If a student is extremely ill during the examination period and will miss an exam, a parent must contact the school and the student may require a doctor's certificate. Students are expected to be in full uniform during the examination period and will not be permitted to write unless they comply with uniform policy.

Inclement Weather Policy

Bus cancellations due to inclement weather will be communicated through the various radio stations in the Kingston Area. **In the case of inclement weather and bus cancellations, the exam schedule would be modified with examinations being "bumped" or moved ahead one day.** i.e. if buses were cancelled Friday, January 28 the all exams scheduled for the Friday would be written Monday, January 31 and the remaining part of the schedule adjusted accordingly.

January Examination Return

Students will pick up their January examinations on the morning of **Tuesday, February 8th**. An abbreviated Semester I timetable will be in effect for the morning only to provide classes with the opportunity to take up and review the January examination and final mark calculation.

Turnaround Day

On Tuesday, February 8th an abbreviated Semester 1 timetable is scheduled for the morning and semester 2 classes will meet for the first time later in the day. The morning provides an opportunity for Semester 1 classes to conclude any unfinished business, such as the return and take-up of the January examination, return of projects and assignment, collection of any course resources, review of the final mark calculation, and completion of surveys concerning the course. The schedule for the Turnaround Day is as follows:

Semester I classes:	Semester II classes:
Period 1: 8:30-9:00	Period 1: 10:35-11:20
Period 2: 9:00-9:30	Lunch: 11:20-12:10
Period 3: 9:30-10:00	Period 2: 12:10-12:55
Period 4: 10:00-10:30	Period 3: 1:00-1:45
	Period 4: 1:50-2:35

WE GO TOGETHER: VOICES IN CONCERT

On **Wednesday, January 12th, 2005**, our grade 11 vocal class will be performing in their very first vocal concert. This gala event will feature a variety of song selections from their course 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 musical evening. The concert is at 7:30 pm in the Holy Cross Cafetorium. Tickets are \$5 at the door.

The 2004-2005 Holy Cross Improv Team is in the process of preparing for the 2005 Improv games which will occur in February.

HOLY CROSS CLASS OF 2005 GRADUATION CEREMONY

The graduation ceremony for this year's graduating class will be held on **Wednesday, June 29** here at the school. **Please mark this date on your calendar if you plan on graduating in June 2005.** Students eligible to graduate this June will receive an invitation in their Period 1 class in May. To celebrate the successful conclusion of a high school career a 100 day party in advance of the graduation ceremony will be held in March, 2005.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL "Service Above Self"

ADVENTURE PROGRAMS 2004-2005

Each year the local Rotary Clubs sponsor High School Students to participate in a variety of Adventure Programs. The programs are generally for students 16-19 years and cover approximately a 4-day period. For the successful applicants the sponsoring Rotary Club covers all fees and transportation expenses. Please see your guidance counsellor if you are interested in signing up for a Rotary Adventure program. The current programs offered are:

ADVENTURES IN AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE

(Ridgetown, Ontario, Aug. 2005)

ADVENTURES IN THE ENVIRONMENT

(Cornwall, Ontario, Sept. 2005)

ADVENTURES IN HIGH TECHNOLOGY

(Ottawa, Ontario, May 2005)

CRUSADER ATHLETICS



The Memorial and Full Court Press Against Cancer

The Sixteenth Annual Memorial and Full Court Press Against Cancer. On Thursday, February 10, The Memorial basketball games will be hosted by Holy Cross with the Junior Varsity game beginning at 5:00 and the Senior game scheduled to begin at 7:00. The Memorial Games are returning to the High school setting after being hosted at Queen's University for the last 7 years. The Memorial

Committee selected to return the games to the respective schools to foster greater participation in the school setting. The 2005 edition includes The Full Court Press now includes a two day elementary school tournament to be held on February 3rd and 4th, followed by the Memorial on the 11th at Holy Cross. Paul Halligan, the founder and organizer of the Peter Carty Memorial died in July of 1997 at the age of 34 to cancer.

Over \$19,500 was collected last year to bring the fifteen year total to over \$184,000 raised for innovative cancer research in the last sixteen years. Plan now to attend one of the highlights of the high school sports season and contribute to the fight against cancer.

Letter to Holy Cross

From Pam Jessop, Ontario Breast Screening Program:

The Ontario Breast Screening Program (OBSP)- Southeast Region thanks you and the teachers and volunteers of Holy Cross- **Julie Roantree, Kelly Dixon, Alfie DeMelo and Pasty Hawkins- Hogan**, for your support through

funds raised for OBSP at the annual PH Classic Junior and Senior Girls Basketball games. We are appreciative of the organization, time and efforts made in making this event such a success. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to The Ontario Breast Screening Program. The funds raised as a result of these games will go toward the future purchase of a second automatic examination table.

COUNSELLORS' CORNER

Post-Secondary Alternatives: School to Work/Trades - An Information Evening - Wednesday, January 19th, - 7:00 p.m.

Students and parents are invited to attend an information session on entering the trades and/or the work world following graduation from high school. Representatives from the trades and from Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) will be part of the panel along with Kingston Employment Youth Services.

University/College Applications

Post-secondary application workshops and information sessions have concluded. PIN numbers required for university applicants are now available from Student Services. The Holy Cross recommended timeline of December 15th has now passed. The deadlines for application submission to have equal consideration for programs are as follows:

OUAC - University applications - January 12th

OCAS - College applications - February 1st.

Students are asked to ensure that all data on the application is accurate (including address and transcript information). Please contact Student Services if the information is not accurate.

Semester 2 Timetables

Copies of timetables for Semester 2 will be distributed this week. Students are reminded that Grades 9, 10, and 11 are required to have a full load of 4 courses. Grade 12 students are to be full time with 3 courses on their timetable.

Address and Change of Parental/Guardian Information

Please be advised that if there is an address/telephone number/custody information change for your child, forms are available in Student Services for completion. For the safety of your son/daughter, it is imperative that we have this revised data noted as soon as possible.

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.

Next Month at Holy Cross

Wednesday, February 02.. Groundhog Day; Grade Eight Parent Information Night
Thursday, February 03 Final Examination Day
Friday, February 04..... Exam Conflict Day
February 4th and 5th Full Court Press Elementary School Basketball
Monday, February 07..... Professional Activity Day # 3
Tuesday, February 08 Turn Around Day / Shrove Tuesday
Wednesday, February 09 First Instructional Day in Semester 2
Wednesday, February 09 Ash Wednesday Mass and Chinese New Year
Thursday, February 10The Memorial Basketball Games at Holy Cross
Thursday, February 10Twoonie for a Non-uni Fundraiser
Friday, February 11 Semester I Report Cards Distributed
Friday, February 11 Holy Cross Semi-formal
Monday, February 14Valentines Day and Valentine's Day Flower Sales
Tuesday, February 15 Pancake Tuesday at HC
Wednesday, February 16 2005-2006 Course Selection Assemblies
Thursday, February 17..... Working copy of course selection sheet distributed
Friday, February 18 U of Waterloo Gr. 9, 10 and 11 Math Contests
February 22 and 23 Kiwanis Music Festival at Frontenac SS.
Monday, February 28 Catholic School Council Meeting at 7:00
Monday, February 28Course selection sheets due