



HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL, KINGSTON

February, 2007 Newsletter... visit our web site at www.hctoday.ca

Main Office 613-384-1919; Attendance Office 613-384-1355; Student Services 613-384-2023; Fax 613-384-8665

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

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Exams and culminating activities of the first semester are now behind us and we look forward to the opportunities of a new semester. Students should refocus and get prepared to lay the foundations for academic success in the second half of the school year. Remember that your behaviour, in class and outside of class, is an important component of readiness to learn. Seize this moment as a fresh start and work with your teachers to build a positive learning community.

We bid farewell and best wishes in retirement to three members of our staff: **Mrs. Kathleen Cronyn**, who has been a gracious presence in the Student Services Department, **Mr. Denis Murphy** whose expertise and computer science knowledge has greatly benefited our Technology Department, and **Sister Marian McCallum**, who has been a living connection between Church and school, particularly in our Religion and English Departments. We know that each one is looking forward to the next adventure in his or her life and we hope that retirement brings for each of them many, many joys. Also moving on is **Mr. Chris Mazzeo**, who will be joining the Mathematics Department at RND; we will miss his expertise, for example in preparations for Grade Nine EQAO math testing and are confident that RND will benefit from his return.

We welcome to our staff: **Ms. Karen Nichol**, who most recently taught at Our Lady Of Lourdes, to our Mathematics Department; **Mrs. Patti Arnold**, who will join the secretarial team in Student Services; **Mr. Robin Dziemiejko**, **Mr. Rob Manion**, **Mr. Dan Fitzgerald**, and **Mr. Peter Gaudet**.

UNIFORM POLICY

As we begin the second semester and new classes and routines are forming, we revisit existing expectations at Holy Cross. In particular, we expect that students will be in full compliance with our uniform policy as outlined in the Code of Conduct, found in student agendas and on our school website, www.hctoday.ca.

I encourage parents to see that their sons and daughters wear the proper uniform to Holy Cross. The uniform must be worn modestly; kilts are expected to be no shorter than two inches from the top of the knee and shirts / blouses must be neither too loose nor too tight. Throughout the day, students should wear dress shoes, and have buttons done up and shirts tucked in.

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. As you may be aware, students who arrive at school missing some part of the uniform must report to the office before

classes begin and often, we are able to loan uniforms for the day. Students who do not return loaned items will face consequences such as study hall.

A progressive system of intervention will be put into place to deal with uniform violations, up to and including suspension from school for persistent opposition to authority. Girls who roll up their kilt or continuously wear too short a kilt will have their parents notified and will receive school consequences. Some students may be advised to let down the hem of their kilts. Students who demonstrate an unwillingness to comply and cooperate with their teachers and other school authorities on this matter will not remain in our school.

Please contact me if you have any suggestions, concerns, or questions regarding the uniform and the expectations I have been charged with putting in place. You may contact me at **613-384-1919, ext. 3411** or by email, walshp@alcdsb.on.ca, at any time.

Paul Walsh, Principal

FEBRUARY DATES TO REMEMBER

February 2 nd & 3 rd	Full Court Press Elementary School Basketball
Friday, February 2 nd	PA Day # 4- no classes
Monday, February 5 th	Tumaround Day: Sem.1, 8:30-9:30, Sem. 2, 9:35-2:30
Tuesday, February 6 th	First Full Instructional Day in Semester II
Tues., Feb. 6 th and Wed., Feb. 7 th	Girls' Hockey Tournament in Toronto
Thursday, February 8 th	The Memorial" High School Basketball Games at HC
Thursday, February 8 th	Toonie for a Non-uni
Friday, February 9 th	Semester 1 Report Cards Issued
Friday, February 9 th	Holy Cross Semi-Formal
Monday, February 12 th	Cyberbullying Assemblies
Wednesday, February 14 th	Valentine's Day
Thursday, February 15 th	Grade Eight Parent Information Night
Friday, February 16 th	KASSAA Cheerleading Championship
Friday, February 16 th	Deadline for schools to provide Sem. 1 final marks to OCAS
Monday, February 19 th	2006-07 Course Selection Assemblies
Tuesday, February 20 th	Shrove Tuesday, Pancake Breakfast
Tuesday, February 20 th	Auto Show Trip with Transportation Tech. Class
Wed., February 21 st	Ash Wednesday Liturgies, Share Lent Campaign begins
Wed. - Fri., Feb. 21 - 23 rd	Kiwanis Music Festival at HC
Monday, February 26 th	Catholic School Council Meeting in Library
Monday, February 26 th	KASSAA Girls Hockey Championship
Tuesday, February 27 th	KASSAA Boys Hockey Championship
Tuesday, February 27 th	Canadian Computing Competition

INTEGRITY ON THE INTERNET

Our school community has recently faced some tough but important discussions surrounding use of the internet as a social networking tool and how actions at home can have ramifications at school. This issue is a growing one, which neither arose out of a single incident nor will be put to rest in one fell swoop.

Please rest assured that we take the issue of cyberbullying very seriously. No member of our community should be demeaned in this way. We appreciate the support of our parents and broader community as we help students to learn that their actions on the worldwide web reflect their characters and, collectively, reflect our school.

As school authorities, we continue to educate, in collaboration with families and parishes, and we will also continue to implement incremental and appropriate consequences to inappropriate, offensive, defamatory and / or threatening messages. **Dr. Wendy Craig**, a leading local expert on bullying, will return to Holy Cross to lead a schoolwide presentation on the topic of cyberbullying. We ask parents at home and teachers in the classroom to continue discussions surrounding the importance of maintaining one's dignity and the dignity of others at home and at school, in every medium. At school, students are only to access internet for educational purposes: sites such as Facebook, Youtube and MySpace are forbidden and MSN Messenger is not to be used. **To live in Christ; to love as Christ — such is the basis of our faith, indeed, the foundation of the Holy Cross community.** Let's let our lives bear witness to our mission statement.

PASTORAL UPDATE

It was with deep sadness that Holy Cross heard of the death of **Archbishop Anthony G. Meagher** on **January 14th, 2007**. Throughout the years of his episcopacy in this Archdiocese, Archbishop Meagher touched the lives of many people. He had a special love for youth and we will never forget his leadership during World Youth Days in Toronto in 2002 and the many catecheses that he held for youth afterwards. Representatives from all the schools of our Archdiocese, including Holy Cross, attended his funeral Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral which was a deeply moving and inspiring celebration. We continue to mourn his death and to pray for him, our Archdiocese, and for his family.

C.I.C.S. is beginning to plan for our Pancake Breakfast on **Tuesday, February 20th**. And of course that means that Lent is just around the corner. We will begin this holy season on **February 21st** with the celebration of our Ash Wednesday Mass. May all of us enter into this new semester with renewed hearts and minds. And may God's blessing be with all our students, staff and families.
Chris Forster, Coordinator of Pastoral Services

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL

HC Catholic School Council held its most recent meeting on **Monday, January 29th**. Here, we learned that member **Patti Arnold** must resign her position because, happily, she has been hired into a position here at the school. As a result, frequent meeting participant, **Wendy Hayes**, agreed to stand in as a parent member. We also learned that we have received a **Parent Opportunity Grant** to organize a night for parents at the school surrounding the topics of internet bullying and **appropriate internet use**. If any parents would like to be part of the planning committee for this event, please email **Chair Greg Heffeman** at gheffeman1@cogeco.ca. Similarly, **Principal Paul Walsh** has created a committee of students, parents and staff to examine the issue of **cell phone use (by students) at Holy Cross**. In the meantime, we will continue under the premise that cell phones are not allowed in the classrooms. If you would like to contribute ideas, email Greg at the above address. We welcome parent involvement; please see the HC website for up-to-date information.

STUDENTS' COUNCIL

Second semester is here HC students! The year is already half gone, but the Students' Council still has many exciting things planned for the coming semester. On **Friday, February 9th**, the Students' Council will be hosting the **Red Carpet Hollywood Dance**. The dance will be from 7:30-11:00 at night. This exclusive event will require you to dress in your sharpest celebrity attire. Admission will be **\$10.00**. Sign-ins will be taking place on **February 6th and 7th**. Also, the second annual **Ping-Pong tournament** is coming up, listen for announcements for more information on where you can sign-up. With the end of the year quickly approaching, Students' Council elections for 2007/2008 will be taking place sometime in May. More information will be available shortly. Students' Council is looking forward to planning many fun activities for Semester Two. Good Luck Crusaders!

CRUSADER ATHLETICS -

THE MEMORIAL AND FULL COURT PRESS AGAINST CANCER

February will be a busy month for the athletic department as the winter season comes to an end and playoffs begin. Added to this excitement is the annual cancer fundraiser, "**The Memorial**" which takes place at the beginning of the month.

The Memorial consists of an elementary school basketball tournament, The Full Court Press, and a meeting between the boys' basketball teams from Holy Cross and Regi. The elementary school tournament will take place on **Friday, February 2nd and Saturday, February 3rd** at Holy Cross and Regiopolis-Notre Dame. The high school basketball games will take place on **Thursday, February 8th** with the Juniors beginning the night at 5:00 and the senior game to follow.

On **Thursday, February 8th**, The Memorial Basketball games will be hosted here at **Holy Cross** with the **Junior Varsity game beginning at 5:00** and the **Senior game scheduled to begin at 7:00**. The Memorial was established by **Paul Halligan** in **1989** as a testament to a young basketball player, Peter Carty who lost his fight against cancer at the age of 23. Paul Halligan died in July 1997 at the age of 34 as a victim of the very disease that had taken his friend, Peter Carty thirteen years earlier. The popular "**Toonie for a Non-uni**" in support of the Memorial will take place on **Thursday, February 8th**. Students can purchase a non-uniform ticket from their period 1 teacher which not only exempts them from the uniform policy for the day but also makes them eligible to win a **Memorial prize drawn** at the end of the day. Plan now to attend one of the highlights of the high school sports season and contribute to the fight against cancer.

This event began as a tribute to Peter Carty's courage, but continues as a memorial to all whose family and friends battle cancer, as we unite in sport and spirit.

HOLY CROSS ROWING

The **Hot Yoga Studio** downtown, at 80 Princess Street, is sponsoring two Karma classes for the **Holy Cross Rowing Team**. The classes will be held **February 8th and February 15th at 7:30 p.m.** The cost for the classes is a minimum \$5.00 donation. For more information on the yoga, please visit www.feelyogakingston.com.

AFTER-SCHOOL LITERACY PROGRAM

The after-school literacy program, designed to boost reading and writing skills and to help students gain confidence in preparation for the **Literacy Test** on **Thursday, March 29th**, will begin in the second week of February. This program will run on **Mondays and Wednesdays** from **2:45 to 4:00**, beginning **Monday, February 12th**. All students must successfully complete the Literacy Test (or subsequently enroll in and complete the Grade 12 Literacy Course) in order to obtain an Ontario Secondary School Diploma. If you want your child to participate in this after-school program, please contact **Terri Daniel** at **613 384-1919, ext. 3406**.

SPECIAL EDUCATION AND RESOURCE

There are a variety of scholarships available for students with learning disabilities. **Imperial Tobacco Canada Limited Scholarship for Disabled Students** offers \$5,000 annually towards college or university and its deadline is **June 1st**; the **Mattison Endowment Fund Scholarship for Disabled Students** is a one year award of \$2,500 for undergraduate studies in a degree-granting program (deadline of **June 1st**); the **Roy Cooper Scholarship Award 2007** offers a \$1,000 award for students with a learning disability entering engineering or a physical sciences discipline in university or college (deadline of **May 28th**). There are also four LDAC scholarships, all with application deadlines of **May 15th**, for students with learning disabilities. For more specific information about these scholarships, please visit LDAC's website at <http://www.ldac-taac.ca/Scholarships/scholarships-e.asp> or ask one of the resource teachers for more information. Other exciting opportunities through the resource department include the **Spring On-Line Course** offered by **Queen's and Trent Universities**, for students with learning disabilities heading to university or college in the fall. This course begins **March 20th** and is designed to help students learn more about their own learning styles, self-advocacy skills, adaptive technologies, and post-secondary learning strategies. Finally, several of our students, along with students from Regiopolis-Notre Dame, are participating in the **Queen's University Gr8 Transitions program** in a **Peer Support Role**. This program helps Grade Eight students with learning disabilities to transition successfully to high school. Beginning in **February**, our students will participate in Peer Support training sessions. For more information about these or any other programs offered by the resource department, please contact **Marie Gavan-Knox** at **613 384-1919, ext. 3426**.

LONDON / PARIS ARTS DEPARTMENT ENRICHMENT EXCURSION

We wait with great excitement for our flight to be called! Until that time, we are reviewing our itinerary and safety procedures, collecting passport photocopies and travel forms, and putting together our travel journals. There will be an important **meeting** for all London/Paris travellers and their parents on **Wednesday, February 21st** at **7:00 p.m.** in the library. Attendance at this meeting is vital.

QUIT 4 LIFE

Have you thought about quitting smoking? This is your opportunity to find ways that might help you. "Quit 4 Life" is a supportive group program for students who want to quit. Quit 4 Life is coming to Holy Cross CSS soon and at noon on **Monday, February 12th**, you will see a Quit 4 Life display in the main lobby to answer any questions you might have. This is a voluntary program for a group of students and a sign-up sheet will be available for those wishing to attend. You can also directly contact your Holy Cross Youth Worker, **Terrie Hoey**, to let her know you are interested. The first Quit 4 Life session will be held in the Youth Worker Office, **Rm 238** on **Tuesday, Feb 27th**, during **Period Three**. The program will then run each Tuesday until **April 24th**.

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH!

In December 1995, the Parliament of Canada officially recognized February as Black History Month, following a motion introduced by the first Black Canadian woman elected to Parliament, the **Honourable Jean Augustine**, M.P. of Etobicoke-Lakeshore, who at the time was Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister. Black History Month is celebrated in Canada to recognize the contributions of Black peoples to the growth and development of this country and their importance to its history. Everyone is encouraged to celebrate the many achievements and contributions of Black Canadians, who, throughout history, have done so much to make Canada the culturally diverse, compassionate and prosperous nation we know today. It is also an opportunity for the majority of Canadians to learn about the experiences of Black Canadians in our society, and the vital role this community has played throughout our shared history.

COUNSELLOR'S CORNER

COURSE LOAD

All students in Grades 9, 10, 11 are required to carry a course load of 4 courses each semester. All students in Grade 12 are required to carry a minimum of 3 courses each semester.

COURSE CHANGES/DELETIONS

Students are to consult a counselor prior to making any changes to their timetable. It is "advised" that any required course changes be dealt with by the end of the first week of semester two. Furthermore, it is "required" that all changes be completed by the end of the **second** week of the semester.

COURSE SELECTION PROCESS

At this time of year, students begin the process of selecting courses for the 2007-2008 academic year. Grade assemblies will be conducted on **Monday, February 19th, 2007**. The on-line selection process will be outlined. It is intended that the process can be completed by students at home. In-school sessions will also be held. Details will follow. All course selections are to be completed by **March 2nd, 2007**.

GRADED 8 PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT

Grade 8 Parent Information Night will be hosted on **Thursday, February 15th, 2007** at **7:00 p.m.** This evening is open to Grade Eight students and their parents/guardians. Registration packages will be available and all completed registration packages are to be returned to Holy Cross by **March 1st, 2007**.

VOLUNTEER & JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Students are reminded to check the bulletin board for volunteer and job opportunities.

THE ONTARIO YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM (OYAP)

There are over 150 skilled trades in Ontario, and forecasts indicate there are extreme shortages of workers in many of these areas. The province expects to register 24,000 new apprentices this year; however, there are indications that this number will not keep up with the on-going demand for skilled trade workers. To assist in this regard, OYAP helps young people to "jump start" their careers while still enrolled in high school. Full-time senior students who are at least 16 years of age and have an interest in a skilled trade/occupation are eligible to apply.

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 **Jim Johnston** or **Paul Denison**, OYAP Coordinators with the Board. Jim may be reached at (613) 532-3985; Paul may be reached at (613) 849-8550.

IMMUNIZATION MESSAGE

Students between the ages of 14 and 16 need a booster of tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (dTaP) called Adacel. They are also eligible for Meningococcal C vaccine between the ages of 15 and 19. **KFL&A Public Health** will be holding clinics at all secondary schools in the new year. Our clinic will be held during the morning of **Monday, March 28th**. If your child receives a booster at the doctor's office, ask the office to send the information to **KFL&A Public Health** or you may call the automated vaccine reporting line at **613-549-1232 ext. 445** or **1-800-267-7875 ext. 445** to give them an update.



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MUSIC NOTES

The first term was a very busy one for the Crusader Bands. Not only did our student musicians perform a record number of concerts for one semester, but they also learned some very challenging literature that proved to be rewarding for both them and their audiences.

As we move into Second Semester, we are all reminded that the **Kiwanis Music Festival** is only two weeks away. The band classes for the Festival start on **February 21st** at 1:00pm at Holy Cross in the gymnasium. Here is the schedule of classes for the Crusader Bands:

- Wednesday, February 21..... 1:00 pm
Senior Wind Ensemble (Open, Non-Competitive)
- Thursday, February 22..... 9:30 am
Junior Concert Band (Junior Competitive Class)
- Senior Wind Ensemble..... 11:00 am
(Competitive A Class)
- Friday, February 23..... 9:30 am
Symphonic Band (Competitive B Class)
- Jazz Ensemble..... 1:00 pm
(Open, Non-Competitive)

In preparation for these events, the **Jazz Ensemble** will be practicing on Mondays and Wednesdays at lunch. The **Junior Band** will practice on the stage on Thursday evenings from 6:30-7:30 pm. The **Wind Ensemble** will practice in the music room Thursday evenings from 6:30-7:30 pm. And the **Symphonic Band** will rehearsal on Thursday evenings in the music room from 7:30-8:30 pm.

Plans for the New York trip in April are progressing very well. In addition to seeing *Wicked*, we have also secured tickets for *Hairspray*. A full itinerary will be made available to you soon so that you have contact numbers for the students. Please also note that there are still a few students who have not submitted their Passport or Birth Certificate and Photo-ID and Out-of-Country medical photocopies. We need to finalize this arduous component of the planning process very soon.

BAND EQUIPMENT AND OUR CD FUNDRAISING:

This year's **Katharine Splinter Memorial Christmas Recital** was a huge success. Thank you to all who supported this performance. Please rest assured that we have noted the length of the program; while all were impressed with the breadth of the literature, we will cut the time significantly for next year. Thank you again for supporting our phenomenal student musicians.

As you are probably aware, the performance was recorded by recording engineer **David Dawe** of Summit Sound Recording Studio. This recording has since been mastered and is in the finishing stages of production. Sales of this CD entitled, **Urban Dances**, will go toward the purchase of new, greatly-needed band equipment and in particular a full set of Majestic Symphonic Timpani. When we did research in the Fall to add 2 timpani to our existing 2 to create a full complement, it quickly became apparent that it was far more economical and musically more sound, to purchase a full set. As a result, we were able to purchase a full set at a cheaper price than had we purchased just 2. To help cover the costs of this *once-in-bandtime* opportunity, we are asking each student, to sell 5 CDs at a cost of \$10 each. Please provide a cheque for \$50, made payable to Holy Cross, to either of us by the end of this week. The CDs should arrive within the next three weeks. The CD sounds great and is a wonderful memento of our students' achievements.

TEXTBOOKS FOR SEMESTER 2

All students should now be in possession of the necessary textbooks for this semester. We wish to emphasize at this time that the condition of each book is the student's responsibility. We realize that all books are not in pristine condition; thus any tattered or dilapidated book should be brought immediately to the Library for repair or replacement if possible. We often hear in June that "that was how the book was when I got it." This is not an acceptable excuse, especially when students may bring "injured" books to the Library to be cared for at any time. With textbooks costing upwards of \$90.00 each, this is an excellent way to prolong the life of our collection. If you have any questions about textbooks, please call **Mr. Mario Cortis** in the Library at 613-384-1919 ex 3413.

SEMESTER 1 FINAL REPORT CARDS

Semester 1 Final Report Cards will be issued to students in their Homeroom classes on **Friday February 9th**. Any parent or guardian who did not receive a report card on this date is asked to contact Student Services at 613-384-2023. IEP's for identified students will be sent home with report cards; please review these documents.

SEMESTER 2 EARLY REPORT CARDS

On **March 21st**, the early Report Cards for Grades 9 - 12 students will be completed in all classes. All students will receive a complete report. There will be one night for **Parent Teacher Interviews** on **Tuesday, March 27th** from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. and from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL LITERACY TEST (OSSLT)

The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test has been scheduled by the Ministry of Education for **Thursday, March 29th**. All Grade 10 students who are working towards an OSSD will write the test. Holy Cross will be conducting the test between 8:30 and 11:15 a.m. All Grade 10 students will be reviewing their literacy skills once/ twice a week for a four week period prior to the test date. All components of the test will be reviewed with students during these classes. All Grade 10 students will receive a copy of a workbook entitled, "**The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test Workbook**" that they will be using in their literacy classes. All students are encouraged to take this workbook home for continuous review. Once again, you may obtain practice materials, student resources, and sample questions and answers at the Education Quality and Accountability Office website at www.eqao.com under the link 'Student Resources'; or from our web site at www.hctoday.ca. Parents/ guardians will be advised in writing of their son/daughter's test outcome. Students who are not successful will retake the test next year, or may enrol in the literacy course. For more information, please contact **Ana Cantarutti** in Student Services.

NEXT MONTH AT HOLY CROSS

- Thursday, March 1st.....Reconciliation Celebrations (Library-all day)
- Friday, March 2nd.....Grade Nine Option Sheets Due
- Friday, March 2nd.....Final Copy of Option Sheets
- Fri., March 9th-Sun., March 18th.....March Break
- Wednesday, March 21st.....Early Semester Reports Cards Issued
- Tuesday, March 27th.....Parent-Teacher Interviews
- Wednesday, March 28th...Health Unit Meningococcal C Vaccine Clinic
- Thursday, March 29th.....Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test
- April 17-22nd.....New York City Band Trip