



HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL, KINGSTON

December, 2008 Newsletter... visit our web site at www.hctoday.ca

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The Holy Cross newsletter is issued on the first school 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. Here at Holy Cross, students and staff will be entering into the spirit of this season through our **Advent Reconciliation Celebration on Thursday, December 4th** and our **School Mass on Thursday, December 18th**. We encourage everyone to "Prepare the Way of the Lord" in the days leading up to our celebration of Christmas.

The **week of November 17th** saw the cast and crew perform their 'magic' on the Holy Cross stage for two matinee and four evening performances. In all, approximately 1 400 patrons of the arts witnessed the magical talents of our student actors who performed this challenging production in an exceptional manner. The cast and crew under the leadership of **Mr. Sean Roberts, Director** are to be congratulated for their performances.

The School Library was transformed this week into an Art Gallery, where an exhibit entitled "**Black, White and Grey**" provided visual art students the opportunity to explore and present various themes from the Crucible.

Congratulations to all of our fall sports teams for representing Holy Cross on the court, the field and the trails. We are proud of all of your accomplishments. In particular, what will stand out for me includes the second annual Friday Night Lights event, the first-place season finish for the girls' field hockey team, and the competitive games on the Championship weekend.

Recently, there has been some press surrounding the concept of our Catholic school system. We believe strongly that, with partnerships from home and parish, our mission to help develop the whole person in a manner consistent with the caring and compassionate teachings of Jesus Christ is beneficial to our society. **Sister Clare Fitzgerald** challenged us all to act as stewards of our system. We accept and relish the challenge and work very hard to honour our calling.

Paul A. Walsh

PASTORAL NEWS

Christmas decorations are quickly going up and the First Advent Candle has been lit as we begin another Advent Season here at Holy Cross. Students and staff will have an opportunity to celebrate **Reconciliation on Thursday, December 4th** and to celebrate as a community at our **Advent School Masses on Thursday, December 18th**. Congratulations to members of C.I.C.S. who were part of this year's **Toronto Street Retreat** from November 20 - 21st. The students worked with the homeless on the streets of Toronto,

visited Heather Brady, a Holy Cross graduate who now works with refugees at Romero House and volunteered at **St. Francis Table** which provides inexpensive, nutritious meals for the poor. Eden Cameron, one of the participants, writes of her experience: "The most memorable part of the Street Retreat was the street patrol we did Thursday night. To actually talk to some of Toronto's homeless and help them personally leaves a lasting impression on you. It makes you think about all the luxuries we possess in our lives and how we so often take them for granted. The homeless people we saw were sleeping in shop doorways and even on the sidewalks, trying to find any shelter from the cold wind of the night. When we gave them bagged lunch and socks, I knew we were making a difference." All agreed this was an eye-opening experience of what it is like to be homeless and poor on the streets of our largest city. Members of CICS and others will also be participating in a **Development & Peace Student Leadership Retreat on Thursday, December 11th** at **Regiopolis-Notre Dame CHS**. See **Mr. Forster** to sign up.

December Events at Holy Cross

- Monday, December 1..... World AIDS Day
- Registration Deadline for On-Line to Success Course
- Mon., Dec. 1 to Mon., Dec. 15..... Students' Council / CICS Advent Food Drive
- Wednesday, December 3..... International Day of Persons with Disabilities
- Coffee House, Cafetorium, 6:30 p.m.
- Thursday, December 4..... Grade Level Reconciliation-Library-All Day
- Friday, December 5..... ALCDSB Student Senate Meeting, 12 - 3 p.m.
- Crusader Bands Elementary School Tour (Mother Teresa, 10:30 a.m.)
- Saturday, Dec. 6... Ntl. Day of Remembrance & Action on Violence Against Women
- Sunday, December 7..... Second Sunday of Advent
- Monday, December 8..... Feast of the Immaculate Conception
- Archdiocesan Feast Day Mass at St. Mary's, 7:30 p.m.
- Week of December 8..... Human Rights Week
- Mon. & Tues. Dec. 8 & 9..... International Days
- Wednesday, December 10..... International Human Rights Day
- Thurs. & Fri., Dec. 11 & 12..... Crusader Bands Foyer Performance (lunch)
- Bridges to Community Craft Sale 10:30 - 12:30 p.m.
- Friday, December 12..... Bridges Under 18 Christmas Treat Sale, Foyer, lunch
- Fri, Dec. 12 and Sat., Dec. 13..... Senior Boys' Basketball Tournament at HC
- Sunday, December 14..... Third Sunday of Advent
- Monday, Dec. 15... Recommended date for completion of University and College applications
- Advent Collection Ends
- Tuesday, December 16..... MADD Presentation in the Gymnasium
- Tues. & Wed., Dec. 16 & 17... Crusader Bands Foyer Performance (lunch)
- Thursday, December 18..... Advent Community Liturgy
- Christmas Concert at 7:00 in the gymnasium
- Friday, December 19..... (Tentative) Non-uniform day
- Last Instructional day of 2008
- Delivery Day for Christmas Hampers and Toys
- Wednesday, December 24..... Christmas Eve
- Thursday, December 25..... Christmas Day

This year's **Advent Food Drive** will once again involve our Home Form classes in collecting food and money to provide Christmas Dinner and toys for local families through the **Salvation Army's Christmas Basket Campaign**. Each of our Baskets will be delivered by Student Council and CICS to the homes of our 'adopted' families on **Friday, December 19th**. In this time of economic crisis, even more people are facing financial hardships. So, I encourage everyone to give even more generously this year to this and other local charities which are struggling to help the many people who are coming to them seeking food, clothing and adequate shelter. This is a time to recognize God's presence in the poor and marginalized of our society – and to accept our responsibility to help them in any way that we can. It was after all among these very people that Jesus was born. I pray that God may bless each member of our Holy Cross community with a **Blessed Advent Season and a Holy and Merry Christmas**.

Christopher Forster, Coordinator of Pastoral Services

REMEMBRANCE DAY – CELEBRATION AND CONTESTS

Thanks to **Mr. Esford's ComTech** students for their moving Power-Point and to **Ms. Check** and her **Period 1 Drama** class as well as her **Period 2 Vocal** class for such a poignant commemoration of the sacrifices made for us by fallen Canadian soldiers.

COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY TORONTO FIELD TRIP

Communications Technology students had the opportunity to take advantage of two experiential educational experiences in the exploration of post-secondary studies and career opportunities in the television industry.

On **Monday, November 24th**, **Mr. Esford's grade 10 Com Tech class**, accompanied by V.P. **Ms. Terri Daniel**, travelled to **Toronto** to tour the **Roger's Centre's** audio & video production facilities, hosted by Com Tech grad and Roger's "Engineer-in-charge" **Steph Gagnon**. Students were then treated by HC Grad and "Audience Coordinator" **Amanda Oosterman**, to be audience members in a studio recording of "**So You Think You Can Dance Canada!**"

On **Tuesday, December 2nd**, **Mr. Esford** and **Mr. Pat Murphy** will take their Grade 12 Com Tech students to **Toronto** to tour **Ryerson University's** campus, the Radio & Television Arts production facilities, **City TV, Much Music, and Fashion TV**. Students will be live studio audience members in the national broadcast of "**Much on Demand**". The day will wrap up with a delicious dinner at "**The Old Spaghetti Factory**".

COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY PHOTOGRAPHY AND ART EXHIBIT

Mr. Esford's and **Mr. Murphy's** grade 12 Communications Technology students mounted a photography exhibit along with **Mrs. Dalton's** Arts students. The exhibit entitled "**Black, White and Gray**" explored themes from the **Arts Department's** dramatic production of **Arthur Miller's "The Crucible"**. Students were invited to paint, draw, assemble mixed media or photograph images to display during the plays' run November 17 to 22. Thought provoking photographs depicted themes of good and evil.

BRIDGES TO COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING

Thank you to all those who supported our annual **Christmas craft sale** this year. It is with your help that we are able to offer our students a wide variety of exciting learning opportunities. We would also like to express our gratitude to the many staff, friends and families who ordered our beautiful **poinsettia plants**. A reminder that **delivery is on December 2nd or 3rd** depending on your location. Payment will be due upon delivery.

BRIDGES UNDER 18 ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE

The "**Bridges**" students have been busy baking and preparing Christmas treats! Come out early and choose from a wide variety of goodies. Our sale will take place on **Friday, December 12th** in the Holy Cross foyer from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

ECO CORNER

This month we have lots of new ways for the HC community to help us as we continue towards certification. **Energy Audit Update:** 83% of lights are being turned off when not in use. The trend is growing! Keep up the good work and help us take the next step by turning off computer monitors in between use, it saves much more energy than sleep mode. Looking for ways to reduce your clutter? Have an old pair of glasses to throw out? Perhaps you have a old cell phone to get rid of or a used ink cartridge to dispose of. Don't throw them in the garbage! These can be reused or recycled. Holy Cross is now a collection center for used glasses, cell phones, and ink cartridges. Place these items at the recycling center located across from **Mr. Prior's photography room (129)**. Keep it green HC!

EcoTip: The holidays are coming and people are starting to worry about what to get everyone for Christmas. Consider our environment this year and the gift of a healthy Earth. Bring food donations to a Christmas gathering and create a basket. Do gift exchanges with recycled gifts such as books you've read. Think of the true meaning of Christmas and try to reduce consuming more and instead share time and meaningful moments with family and friends.

CRUSADER GEAR

Stop by the Tuck Shop on Wednesdays and Fridays at lunch to see our **new order of Crusader clothing**. We have new Holy Cross hoodies, sweatpants, long sleeve T's, toques and lanyards ready for your perusal. Also, parents, families and friends who would like to surprise their Crusader with a Christmas gift from the **Holy Cross Tuck Shop** may make arrangements to purchase items at other times by **calling 613-384-1919, ext. 2258**. Thank you for your ongoing support.

INFORMATION FROM SPECIAL EDUCATION

Parents of students on an IEP, who have not yet returned a signed consultation form, which was mailed to them with the draft IEP in October, should do so as soon as possible. As of now, 105 contact records, out of a total of 261 IEPs, have been returned. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Queen's University and Trent University, in collaboration with our school board and two neighbouring school boards, are offering a program called **On-Line to Success**, which will teach students more about their own learning disability, self-advocacy skills, adaptive technology, and learning strategies for college and university. This course, an integral transition component for students with learning disabilities, is available to students planning on attending any university, college or apprenticeship program in Ontario next year. Interested students and parents should contact **Marie Gavan-Knox** at **613 384-1919, ext. 3426** or **gavankno@alcdsb.on.ca**. The deadline for registration was **Monday, December 1st**. Currently, we have seven registered participants.

We have begun a new collaborative model program to support students within the Autism Spectrum. An information morning was well-attended by several parents, led by **Lori Bryden**, from the Board Office, and guest speaker, **Jay Serdula**. **Mr. Serdula**, a local celebrity, fundraiser, and researcher at RMC, spoke with a group of students at lunch time about his experiences as a person growing up with Asperger's Syndrome. **Dale O'Flynn, Pathways Consultant** in Autism, is available every Wednesday morning here at the school to meet with interested parents, teachers, and students. To make an appointment, please contact **Ms. Marie Gavan Knox**.

Students with Special Education identifications / IEPs who are planning to attend a post-secondary institution should also be in contact with Guidance Counsellor **Gloria Vella-Bowry** well in advance of the recommended deadline of **Monday, December 15th**.

STUDENTS' COUNCIL

November is quickly coming to an end and December is fast approaching. All students have been hard at work and deep into their studies. Hope all mid-terms were good indicators of your progress. November was a smooth month for us and we would like to thank everyone for that, especially Ms. Check's class and vocals for the very moving **Remembrance Day** presentation. Our second school dance had the theme Techno Colour. There was a tremendous turn out and students behaved well. Many of our students have been diligently working since the beginning of the year on the play "The Crucible". It was a truly enjoyable presentation. Congratulations as all of your hard work paid off. Winter season sports teams have been selected. Good luck to all in your seasons. We are all looking forward to December and our **Advent campaign**. In this campaign we donate to families in need to help make their Christmas more enjoyable.

Merry Christmas to all our students.

Laura Brown on behalf of Students' Council.

MOTHERS AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING (MADD) PRESENTATIONS

Impaired driving is the number one PREVENTABLE cause of death among teens in Canada. (www.madd.ca) *Dead on Arrival* is geared towards students in grades 7-12 and is played across 3 giant screens. It is a bold and intensely emotional story of the lasting effects that one wrong decision can make. The show explores characters whose lives are catapulted into unforeseen situations in the aftermath of an impaired driving crash. The 2008-2009 show is also hosted by Canadian Radio Music Award Nominee, *Live On Arrival* Front man, **Robb Nash**, shares his personal story of having been pronounced dead on arrival after a terrible car crash. Amazingly, Robb came back to life and has since been given a second chance. He shares his message to youth across Canada to not only seize the moment but to make good decisions and always get to your destination "alive on arrival". The show concludes with a moving tribute of photos, names and dates of teen victims across Canada.

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION EDUCATION PROGRAM – HEALTH UNIT

A group of our students, along with Mrs. Patsy Hawkins-Hogan, attended the Sustainable Transportation Education Program at the **Health Unit**. The focus was for youth to become aware of and to promote youth using bikes, walking, roller blades, and public transit. During the week of **December 1 – 5th**, these students, **Erica Pascoal, Brock Higgs, Corey Flude, Conor Shkimba** and **Laurissa Tassielli**, will be promoting the good practice of turning off car engines while parents are waiting for their son or daughter. If parents are dropping off or picking up their teens before or after school, please promote this initiative.

COUNSELLORS' SECTION

HONOUR ROLL CELEBRATION

Holy Cross held its annual **Honour Roll Celebration on Wednesday November 5th, 2008**. The guest speaker was **Heather Brady**, an alumnus who spoke about social justice issues and Ralph Waldo Emerson's advice to forge one's own path in the world, by striking out in creative and often unexpected directions. "Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."

2007 – 2008 Grade 9 Honour Roll Students

Jonas Azeredo Lobo, Lindsay Barbatbun, Conor Barnes, Melissa Baumann, Stephanie Benton,, Brooke Blaskie, Taylor Braida, Kerissa Bridgwater, Shannon Broekhoven, Eden Cameron, Stephanie Cantlay, Timothy Christie, Joe Cifala, Katie Coleman, Jarrett Costron, Simone Cunningham, Ashley Davidson, Julia De Boer, Mary Grace Dela Fuente, Katie Desjardins, Patrick Desrochers, Tiffany Desveaux, Mitchell Detlor, Molly Doherty, Laura Donohue, Kara Dorosz, Kyle Douglas, Kathryn Doyle, Stephanie Drapeau, Adam Dutra, Emma Farant, Taylor Farrell, Brittany Fitzgerald, Kimberly Fleming, Brianna Flude, Dustin Ford, Melanie Fowler, Derek Fox, Alexa Fraser, Mary Grace Garner, Ian Gibson, Erika Giugovaz, Mireille Golemiac, Devon Gray, Kevin Guo, Alexander Hambly, Amy Hawkins, Thomas Hawkins,

Shannon Hill, Alexander Hiller, Jeremy Ho, Grace Iori, Pamela Kenney; Daniel Kimmett, Emily King, Kelsey Kirbyson, Jarret Lanzo, Brianna LaPierre, Daniel Larocca, Heather Lewis, Benjamin Locke, Cody Loucks, Eve Mahoney, Colleen McGuir, Allison McLean, Tony Moncrieffe, Laura Murray, Nicholas Murray, Jarrett Neal, Michael Nguyen, Alana Niles, Alison Obress, Carley O'Hara, Amanda Oliveira, Nicole O'Sullivan, Luke Ottenhof, Jessica Pemberton, Andrew Peterson, Ian Philip, Lauren Pickett, Justine Pineau, Gabrielle Porter, Jordan Ranger, Trevor Reade, Ciara Roberts, Jennifer Roberts, Graham Rosa, Samantha Searle, Connor Shkimba, Pearl Silver, Lauren Smith, Melanie St. Cyr, Clare Stafford, Megan Stewart, Robbie Sullivan, Ashley Szczesniak, Brody Taylor, Riley Tripp, Jeffery Troywalchuck, Sara Valentino, Beatrice van Herpt, Rachel van Herpt, Michael Vermeersch, David Wassef, Marco Wassef, Rachel Weir, Jessica Wigle. **Award winners for best overall average: Kim Fleming and Kelsey Kirbyson**

2007 – 2008 Grade 10 Honour Roll Students

Rachel Arnold, Jason Arsenault, Rebecca AuCoin, Luke Ball, Pierre Bedrossian, Jenna Bergeron, Amie Boily, Chantel Bolarinho, Jeffrey Borges, Myranda Branco, Shelley Cao, Kaci Carter, Bradley Carty, Madeline Corsi-Johnson, Jeffrey Davies, Joshua Dorey, Georgio Doulas, Kyle Dunphy, Andrina Fellger, Sarah Ferguson, Christine Ferris, Corey Flude, Taylor Fox, Aaron Gazendam, Michael Gencarelli, Christopher Grady, Mary Anne Guanzon, Mary Hanley, Lucas Hargrave, Erin Hayes, Brock Higgs, Sean Ho, Matthew Jalink, Amy Jordison, Marion Kellar, Kyle Kinsella, Soo Lee, Sarah Lindsay, Virginia Lott, David Loyst, Adam Mahoney, Alexandra Makula, Colin Mantle, Hannah Mark, Adrian Marshall, Tyler Martins, Katie Maschi, Jessica Masterson, Manju Mathew, Mathew McCracken, Bradley McMurray, Fiona Mills, Hugo Moreira, Maria Murphy, Luke Morrison, Brooklin Murphy, Dillon Murphy, James Murphy, Graham Mushet, Brian Parfett, Howard Park, Erica Pascoal, Laura Petrunka, Tashya Popis, Taylor Rogalsky, Matthew Running, Peter Sanfilippo, Jessica Shannon, Graham Sigurdson, Leandra Silver, Jordan Spencer, Matthew Stevenson, Christina Stewart, Laurissa Tassielli, Jessie Treneer, Tessa Turkeli, Ashley Upton, Erik Veenendaal, Nicholas Vidotto, Ali Visintin, Katie Wheeler. **Award winner for best overall average: Christine Ferris**

2007 – 2008 Grade 11 Honour Roll Students

Christina Adams, Lucas Azeredo Lobo, Alysha Benn, Joshua Blackstock, Jessica Boczek, Laura Brown, Jessica Buchanan, Rebecca Buchanan, Colleen Burluik, Mackenzie Chamberlain, Brandin Chiu, Ryan Coens, Kathleen Complak, Rachel Craig, Andrew Cunningham, Jenna Desjardins, Matthew DeSousa, Taylor Doherty, Scott Donovan, Brock Evans, Jay Fabbro, Gregory Faulkner, Shannon Fitzpatrick, Cathaleen Flynn, Laura Fox, George Fraser, Lee Ann Fridgen, Stefie Georgiou, Lys'Anne Grenier, Melissa Greyling, Taeyeon Hahn, Jacob Harpell, Jonathan Heffernan, David Héroux, Michelle Hogan, Thomas Holland, Matthew Hulton, Kelly Keates, Logan Kidson, Yoonhee Kim, Jennifer King, Shari King, Kasia Knap, Kaitlyn Landon, Joanna Leake, Cody Lee, Elizabeth Lightbody, Daniel Lowcay, Jena Mackie, Jessica Mallen, Emily Marshall, Stephen Marshall, Neil Martin, John McCombs, Robert McDermott, Christopher McKinnon, Rachel Miller, Cassy Mooney, Amanda Mullin, Brett Murphy, Shelby Murphy, Chris Neilson, Van Anh Nguyen, Matthew Oliveira, Holly Ottenhof, Michael Palma, Nikolaus Pankow, Mathew Parfett, Danielle Perry, Megan Peterson, Bradley Philip, Jessica Pickett, Abigail Poitras, Karin Pryal, Elaina Raponi, Gregory Rochefort, Ashley Rosa, Katrina Schiller, Addie Seguin, Riley Shkimba, Jasmine Silver, Katelyn Siu, Graham Slaughter, James Smart, Andre Sousa, Kayla Springer, Katharine Tessier, Michael Teves, Kylie Valentino, Marissa Valentino, Deidre van Herpt, Sarah Villemaire, Kate Wagar, Jacqueline Wall, Evan Wallace, Dylan West-Sadler, Aaron White, Sara Wilson, Alysha Wornes, Kuba Zawadzki, Monica Zolnierczyk. **Award winners for best overall average: Laura Fox and Joanna Leake**

Looking for a Job or Volunteer Hours...

Students are reminded to regularly check the postings on the Job & Volunteer Board located outside Student Services.

Course Changes for Semester Two

Students intending to make changes in their Semester Two timetable are asked to do so by **December 19th**.

TAKE OUR KIDS TO WORK DAY

275 Grade Nine students from Holy Cross C.S.S. participated in *Take Our Kids to Work Day* with a parent, relative or family friend on **Wednesday, November 5th**. Students found themselves in a variety of workplace situations including offices, penitentiaries, and retail businesses. Many students were treated to tours, career presentations and free lunches. Some felt that the contact might prove useful to them later when seeking part-time employment, and many concluded that the day served as a valuable form of career exploration. One Grade 9 student commenting on her mother's career choice, said, "Now I know what I *don't* want to be!"

ONTARIO YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

The Conference Board of Canada estimates Ontario could be short more than 360,000 skilled employees by 2025, and more than 560,000 by 2030.

The ALCDSB continues to develop programs in numerous areas that lead to a variety of career pathways. The **Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP)** has been profiled as one of the pathways that is making significant gains in providing opportunities for students. OYAP is a school-to-work transition program offered throughout all of Ontario's secondary schools. Full time students in grades 11 and 12 earn cooperative education credits for their graduation diploma through work placements in skilled trades. Students who are committed to pursuing this option as a career choice may also apply to start an apprenticeship. Of this group, many grade 12 students are able to complete Level 1 Apprenticeship Training (Theory) Programs in the areas of Hairstylist, Carpentry, and Brick and Stone Mason programs at **St. Lawrence College**; Automotive, Cook, and Early Childhood Education at **Loyalist College**; and the Construction and Craft Worker program offered at the **Life Long Learning Centre**.

Choosing a career pathway is a cooperative effort involving students, parents/guardians, teachers and guidance counsellors. In the case of OYAP, the equation has even more dimensions added where, in addition to the efforts from those above, the Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities, coop teachers, Technological Education teachers, OYAP Coordinators, employers and members of the community, Colleges and training providers, and other community agencies such as Job Connect, Career Edge, Keys Employment Services etc. are all partners in helping establish career paths for our students.

Who Should Consider OYAP? - Students who:

- 1 Are at least 16 years of age and have completed 16 credits
- 2 Are either in grade 11 or 12 and have an interest in a career in a skilled trade

Information about OYAP may be obtained from the guidance departments or cooperative education teachers in any of the Board's high schools. (web information at www.oyap.com). 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.

College/University Applications

Post secondary application workshops and information sessions have concluded. Although the **deadline for applications to OUAC (University) is January 14th** and **OCAS (College) is February 2nd**, the Holy Cross recommended date is **December 15th**. All PIN numbers for University applicants have arrived, and students should have stopped by Student Services to pick up theirs. PIN numbers are not required for college applications, however, students do require their OEN number which can be found on their report card.

myBlueprint.ca

Grade 9 students have been participating in workshops to introduce them to an educational planning resource. Students are able to build customized high school course plans, identify post-secondary options that are available to them and explore information about apprenticeships, college programs, university programs and work-place opportunities across Canada. To access this site, visit www.myBlueprint.ca and input the activation code "hckington".

EQAO GRADE NINE ASSESSMENT OF MATHEMATICS

In **January 2009**, 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**. This 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: **Friday, January 16th** and **Monday, January 19th** for the **Academic classes** and **Friday, January 16th** and **Tuesday, January 20th** for the **Applied classes**. Additional information can be obtained from teachers in the Mathematics Department.

CRUSADER ATHLETICS

The Winter Season has begun. Up to date information on schedules can be found on the KASSAA website <http://www.kassaa.ca/>. Additional sporting information can be found on our athletics web page - <http://www.alcdsb.on.ca/~hcssa/>.

Special sporting events upcoming at Holy Cross include: The **Holy Cross Sr. Boys' Basketball Tournament - December 12 and 13th** and **Archbishop Spence's Jr. Boys' Basketball Tournament - January 9 and 10th**. Basketball's annual cancer fund-raiser will take place in early February.

NEXT MONTH

January 01..... World Day of Prayer, NEW YEAR'S DAY
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Feast Day
Monday, January 5..... First Instructional Day of the New Year
Wed., January 7.....OUAC online application submission deadline
Fri. & Sat., Jan. 9 & 10..... Archbishop Spence Invitational
JV Basketball Tournament at Holy Cross
Thursday, January 15.....School Mass
Fri., Jan. 16 & Mon., Jan. 19.....EQAO Grade 9 Academic Math Assessment Days
Fri., Jan. 16 & Tues., Jan. 20.....EQAO Grade 9 Applied Math Assessment Days
Wednesday, January 21..... Last Instructional Day for Semester One
Thurs., Jan. 22 – Wed., Jan. 28.....Final Examinations Days for Semester One
Thursday, January 29.....Inclement weather day (exams, if necessary)
Friday, January 30..... Professional Activity Day (no classes)