



# HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL, KINGSTON

## January, 2009 Newsletter... visit our web site at [www.hctoday.ca](http://www.hctoday.ca)

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The Holy Cross newsletter is issued during the first school week of each month.

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

I hope that the holy seasons of Advent and Christmas were 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 bustle around Holy Cross was never so evident as it was in the month of December just ahead of the break. The play was a resounding success, thanks to all the dedicated staff and students whose efforts were rewarded by enthusiastic crowds at each performance. The bands entertained us all at lunch time and during the **Katharine Splinter Memorial Concert**. The various charitable and social justice issues taken on by a number of student groups, for example **Students' Council** organizing a toy drive, the joint **CICS** and **Council Christmas Hamper Campaign** to help provide Christmas cheer for local families, and the **EcoTeam's** efforts to make us all a little more aware of the ways we can conserve at school and at home. The **International Program** once again regaled us with song and dance and fed our stomachs with cuisine from around the world.

This January, we reserve a little more time to ready ourselves for **culminating projects** and **final exams**. The **field trip moratorium** is one way as a school that we show that academics do take precedence. Another way we can show this is to **encourage families to take vacations during the scheduled holidays**. Over the last month, we have had an unprecedented number of requests for teachers to provide work for students as they go on vacation. Time together as a family is to be cherished; however, when you do so during the school year, there is an academic price to pay. In-classroom learning cannot be replicated. The Education Act tells us that students may be absent from school for illness, religious holiday, music instruction, or some other unavoidable cause (such as inclement weather). If a student is absent from school for vacation purposes, it is his or her responsibility to get caught up on the work missed and, if possible, to make up any missed assignments. Some opportunities (for example, labs or group projects) may have to be accomplished in some other fashion, at the discretion of the teacher.

We enter 2009 with many opportunities ahead of us provided we choose to make the most of our opportunities. I wish all students and their families a very Happy New Year and as Holy Cross Crusaders, let's make 2009 a great year for our school and community.

Paul A. Walsh

### PASTORAL UPDATE

On behalf of Pastoral Services, I would like to extend Christmas greetings and prayers for a happy and blessed New Year to each member of our Holy Cross community. Advent was certainly a busy time here at our school. Our homeroom classes worked hard to provide toys and Christmas Dinners for 32 local families through our annual **Christmas Hamper Campaign**. A big thank you to **Student Council** and **C.I.C.S.** for organizing the campaign, and to our students and staff who gave so generously to help others in need, so much so that we were able to provide money and food again this year for the **St. Vincent de Paul Society's Christmas Dinner**.

For those interested in deepening their understanding of the Catholic faith, St Paul the Apostle parish is offering a special evening course called 'Catholicism 201'. This interesting video series will be of interest to all Catholics as well as those who are interested in finding out more about the Catholic faith. The introductory session is on **Monday, Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm**. The series runs every Monday evening until late April. Please call the Chaplaincy Office at **Holy Cross (ext. 3436)** or the church office (**613-389-8222**) for more information.

Our final school Mass for this semester will take place on **Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup>**. We look forward to welcoming **Archbishop Brendan O'Brien** who will be presiding at this Eucharistic Celebration. Let us continue to pray for those students who are writing assignments and preparing for final exams; and, of course, for those students and staff who will be leaving us after this semester. May God bless all our students, staff, and their families with a healthy and Happy New Year.

Chris Forster, Coordinator of Pastoral Services

### JANUARY EVENTS AT HOLY CROSS

Thursday, January 1 ..... 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  
Wednesday, January 7..... OUAC online application submission deadline  
Fri. & Sat., Jan. 9 & 10..... Archbishop Spence Invitational  
JV Basketball Tournament at Holy Cross  
Wednesday, January 14..... HC Gala Vocal Concert, 7:30 p.m., Cafeterium  
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)  
Monday, February 2... Turnaround Day, Exam Returns & Second Semester Classes  
Tuesday, February 10 ..... The Memorial

## STUDENTS' COUNCIL

Before the holiday season, everyone was very busy at Holy Cross. The **Music program** had our **Coffee House** in December to help raise money for equipment in the guitar room. Thank you to **HC's Band program** who put on lovely performances in the front foyer leading up to the Christmas holiday; they were very enjoyable. **International Day** this year was better than ever. Our International Crusaders put on an excellent show and made their popular dishes to share their cultures with us. It was well done - thank you! **Students' Council** and **CICS** have been hard at work on our **Christmas Campaign**. Each homeroom did a wonderful job donating food and money to make every recipient family's Christmas merry. Thank you to all - without your generosity, our efforts would be lost. We celebrated our **Christmas Mass** on **December 18<sup>th</sup>**, thank you to all those who helped out. Hope the door decorating and candy-grams got you excited for Christmas! However, please keep in mind the **MADD presentation**. The presentation was visual, very informative, and certainly a lot to swallow. Their message was an important one: do not mix driving with alcohol. We hope everyone had a safe and Merry Christmas and we look forward to a successful 2009!  
Laura Brown, Communications Officer

## JANUARY 2009 EXAMINATION PERIOD

The Final Examination Schedule will be distributed to home rooms on **Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>**. Exams are scheduled to be written at **8:30** and **12:00** beginning on **Thursday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>** and are to conclude on **Wednesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>**. 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 Thursday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> then all exams scheduled for the Thursday would be written on Friday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, and the remaining part of the schedule adjusted accordingly.** Further instructions will be given to these students if necessary. Listen to the radio or check the board website ([www.alcddb.on.ca](http://www.alcddb.on.ca)) for bus cancellations and exam delays.

## JANUARY EXAMINATION RETURN

Students will pick up their January examinations on the morning of **Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>**. An abbreviated Semester 1 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.

## 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. Each year, the Immunization Team reviews the immunization records on their Immunization Record Information System (IRIS) and sends questionnaires home to parents of students whose information is not up-to-date. The questionnaire will show you the immunization information they have for your child and will indicate the immunizations they do not have recorded in their system. **This does not always mean that your child needs more immunizations, just that Public Health does not have all the dates on file.** If your child receives a booster at the doctor's office, ask the office to send the information to **KFLA&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.

Parents need to have immunization records for all children, and keep them in a safe place. Doctors move and retire, so you need to keep an up-to-date record at home. The immunization record is an important piece of your child's health history.

## ECO-CORNER

Happy New Year from the EcoTeam! We hope you had a wonderful Christmas and perhaps started some environmentally friendly traditions this holiday season. Did you get a new cell phone for Christmas? Do you have a collection of used batteries from new and old electronics? Holy Cross is a collection center for used cell phones, eye glasses, ink cartridges, and household batteries. Place these items at the **recycling center** located across from **Mr. Prior's Photography Room (129)**. Make it part of your New Year's resolution to do more to reduce, reuse, and recycle.

**EcoTip:** To reduce energy consumption and your heating bill, reduce your daily thermostat setting by one degree from your normal setting and a few degrees at night (recommended setting is 18 degrees Celsius) or while you are away. Installing a programmable thermostat can help make these changes simple and very effective.

## TURNAROUND DAY

On **Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>**, 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.

## HOLY CROSS CLASS OF 2009 GRADUATION CEREMONY

The graduation ceremony for this year's graduating class will be held on **Thursday, June 25<sup>th</sup>** here at the school. **Please mark this date on your calendar if you plan on graduating in June 2009.**

## NEWS FROM SPECIAL EDUCATION AND RESOURCE

Students on IEPs are entitled to their regular accommodations during the exam period. Students and their parents who do not wish to access these provided accommodations should indicate this request in writing to the Principal, **Mr. Paul Walsh**, by **Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>**.

## TEXT BOOKS FROM SEMESTER ONE

We remind students that textbooks must be returned by the end of their last exam day. The Textbook Room is open for this purpose every exam day. Students should bring textbooks to the Textbook Room themselves. Please do not leave textbooks in the classroom or examination rooms. These may be considered as "lost" books, for which the student would have to pay. Each student's record must be clear of textbooks, library books, or library fines before s/he may sign out books for Semester 2. If a book is lost or damaged, it must be paid for before next semester's books can be loaned. Deposit cheques for \$100.00 will not be used at this time. They will be held until the end of Semester 2.

## TEXTBOOKS FOR SEMESTER TWO

Students are responsible for picking up their books before classes begin. They will need their **green Textbook/Library card** (Replacement cards cost \$5. and will take 24 hrs. so students must arrange for a replacement card ahead of time). The



Textbook Room will be open for textbook pick-up every exam day. (Some textbooks may not be available until nearer the end of the exam schedule after previous users will have returned them.) There is no textbook sign-out service during class time once classes begin, but the Textbook Room will be open before and after classes, and during the lunch hour.

#### **EQAO GRADE 9 ASSESSMENT OF MATHEMATICS**

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 is a component of the Secondary School Reform occurring in Ontario will be administered on two days. The dates for the testing at Holy Cross are **Friday, January 16<sup>th</sup> and Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup> for the Academic classes and Friday, January 16<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup> for the Applied classes.** 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** web site - [www.tvo.org](http://www.tvo.org) <<http://www.tvo.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!.

#### **BRIDGES TO COMMUNITY THANKS YOU!**

The students of the **Bridges to Community Program** would like to extend a sincere thank you to all those who so enthusiastically supported our **annual Christmas poinsettia and craft sales.** Your ongoing support enables our students to experience many exciting learning opportunities.

#### **CRUSADER ATHLETICS**

##### **The Memorial and Full Court Press Against Cancer**

The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Memorial and Full Court Press Against Cancer. On **Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>,** Holy Cross will host The Memorial basketball games with the Junior Varsity game beginning at 5:00 pm and the Senior Varsity game scheduled to begin at 7:00 pm.

#### **HALPERN'S IN-SCHOOL HOLY CROSS UNIFORM STORE**

An in-school uniform store at Holy Cross will be located in the Tuck Shop. The store will open the week of **January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009.** At this time, the store is scheduled to be open two days a week during the school year and four days a week in August. Halpern's has hired **Tanya Lackey** to assume responsibilities for the operation of the HC and RND Uniform Stores.

#### **COUNSELLORS' CORNER**

##### **University/College Applications**

Applicants should notice that the application centre deadlines (for equal consideration for admission to programs) are approaching. University applications are due to the centre by **Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>** and college applications by **Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>.** Students are asked to ensure that all data on the application is accurate (including address and transcript information). Please contact Student Services with any concerns.

##### **Semester 2 Timetables**

A student verification sheet with demographic and semester two timetable information will be distributed in early January. These forms should be signed and returned to Student Services. A new timetable with teacher names and room numbers will be issued in Period 1 class on the **turn-around day (Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>).**

##### **Course Selection 2009-2010**

The course selection process for next school year will be outlined in workshops being conducted in mid February. More details to follow.

##### **Looking for a Job OR Volunteer Hours?**

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

##### **Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course / Test**

The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) has been scheduled for **Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009.** All Grade 10 students who are working towards an OSS will write the test. Students who have been eligible to write the OSSLT and have been unsuccessful at least once, are eligible to fulfill the requirement through the Ontario School Literacy course (OSSLC) which is being offered in Semester 2. Please see your Guidance Counsellor if you qualify to take this course.

#### **TRI-BOARD STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES**

Tri-Board Student Transportation Services Inc. receives many calls from parents looking for everything from eligibility information to bus stop locations to pick up times. We now have an Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system that will provide transportation information directly from our data base. This office already uses Trapeze MapNet for routing and planning and with the addition of our IVR system, which uses our existing data base, we are confident our level of service for parents will increase. Tri-Board Student Transportation Services Inc. can now offer our parents up-to-date transportation information for their children. Parents can dial into our office and log in using the student's OEN (Ontario Education Number) which is found on student report cards along with the student's date of birth (6 digits - year-month-day ie. 04 12 25) to access the student's transportation information, including pick up/drop off times and locations. To access the IVR system please dial **613 354-8202 OR 1-866-934-7209.** Users have the option of speaking directly to a Tri-Board Student Transportation Services Inc staff member at any time. This Student Transportation Information feature will also be available on our web site ([www.triboard.on.ca](http://www.triboard.on.ca)) at a later date using the same access information (OEN and date of birth). We are optimistic the system will not only improve the quality of service but parents will be able to access transportation information for their children at any time of the day or night. For more information or comments please contact us at [info@triboard.on.ca](mailto:info@triboard.on.ca).

**NEXT MONTH AT HOLY CROSS**

Monday, February 02 ..... Turn Around Day  
 Deadline for schools to provide Sem. 1 final marks to OCAS  
 Tuesday, February 03 ..... First Full Instructional Day in Semester 2  
 Friday, February 06.....MacHomer Presentation  
 Monday, February 09..... After-School Literacy Program Begins  
 Tuesday, February 10 .....The Memorial Basketball Games at HC  
 Semester 1 Report Cards distributed  
 Wednesday, February 11 .....Grade Eight Parent Information Night  
 Friday, February 13 ..... Semi-Formal Dance  
 Last Day for Semester Two Timetable Changes

Saturday, February 14 ..... Valentine's Day  
 Monday, February 16.....Family Day (school holiday)  
 Tuesday, February 17.....2009-2010 Course Selection Workshops  
 Wednesday, February 18..... Grade 9, 10, & 11 Mathematics Contests  
 Tues. - Thurs., Feb. 17 - 19.....Kiwaniis Music Festival  
 Monday, February 23..... Catholic School Council Meeting in Library  
 Tuesday, February 24.....Pancake Breakfast, Cafetorium, P1 & 2  
 Canadian Computing Competition  
 Wednesday, February 25..... Ash Wednesday Liturgies, Share Lent begins  
 Friday, February 27..... 2009 - 2010 Registration and Course Selection Deadline  
 Tentative Non-Uniform Day

**Final Exam Schedule JANUARY 2009  
 JUNIORS**

Grade	A.M. / P.M.	Day 1 Thursday, January 22	Day 2 Friday, January 23	Day 3 Monday, January 26	Day 4 Tuesday, January 27	Day 5 Wednesday, January 28
Grade 10	a.m. 8:30		BBI2O	FSF2D/P		HRE2O
	p.m. 12:00	MPM2D MFM2P	ENG2D ENG2P	CHC2D CHC2P	SNC2D SNC2P	
Grade 9	a.m. 8:30	SNC1D SNC1P	CGC1D CGC1P	MPM1D MFM1P	ENG1D ENG1P	HRE1O
	p.m. 12:00		FSF1D FSF1P			

**Final Exam Schedule JANUARY 2009  
 SENIORS**

Grade	A.M. / P.M.	Day 1 Thursday, January 22	Day 2 Friday, January 23	Day 3 Monday, January 26	Day 4 Tuesday, January 27	Day 5 Wednesday, January 28
Grade 11	a.m. 8:30	HRT3M	ENG3U	SCH3U	BAF3M ENG3C/E	HSP3M
	p.m. 12:00	SPH3U CHW3M	MCF3M	MBF3C MCR3U	SBI3C SBI3U	CLU3E/M
Grade 12	a.m. 8:30	ENG4U	BOH4M ENG4C/E SPH4U PSE4U	CIA4U SCH4C SCH4U SES4U	SBI4U BAT4M	MHF4U
	p.m. 12:00	MAP4C MDM4U	HHS4M	CGR4M	CLN4U HZT4U	ADA4M ADA4O

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