

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL, KINGSTON

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January 2010 Newsletter ... visit our web site at www.hctoday.ca

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. Special welcomes to **Mrs. Agostino** and **Ms. Bland** who are returning to the teaching staff from leaves, and **Ms. Storing**, **Ms. Craigen** and **Ms. Alcorn** who will be joining our Resource team as educational assistants.

The bustle around Holy Cross was never so evident as it was in the month of December just ahead of the break. **West Side Story** was phenomenal; 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 drive that raised over \$5000.00, the joint **CICS** and **Council Christmas Hamper Campaign** to help provide Christmas cheer for local families. This marks an improvement of more than \$1200.00 over last year's campaign – in our continued economic turmoil, I know that families throughout our community gave a little extra and in turn some were extra appreciative to be able to have the comforts of Christmas. Now, in 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**. Sometimes, teachers receive requests 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 a price to pay, academically. The 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 2010 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 let's all of us as Holy Cross Crusaders make 2010 a great year for our school and community.

Paul A. Walsh

JANUARY EVENTS AT HOLY CROSS

Friday, January 1..... World Day of Prayer
New Year's Day
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, Feast Day
Sunday, January 3..... Feast of the Epiphany
Mon, Jan 4..... 1st Instructional Day of the New Year
Wed, Jan 6..... Bridging the Gap Meeting, Math Teachers
Thurs, Jan 7..... Equity & Inclusion Training, School Team
Fri. & Sat., Jan. 8 & 9..... Archbishop Spence Invitational
JV Basketball Tournament at Holy Cross
Tuesday, January 12..... School Mass
Wednesday, January 13..... HC Gala Vocal Concert
7:30 p.m., Cafetorium
OUAC online application submission deadline
Thursday, Jan 14..... The Memorial
(pre-paid twoonie for non-uni, basketball games at RND)
Fri Jan 15..... Superintendent of School Effectiveness Visit
Fri., Jan. 15 & Mon., Jan. 18..... EQAO Gr 9 Academic and
Applied Math Assessment Days
Week of Jan 17..... Ntl Non-Smoking Week, www.nnsw.ca
Monday, Jan 18 & Tues, Jan 19..... In-Class Review Days
Wed, Jan 20..... Last Instructional Day for Semester One
Weedless Wednesday
Thursday, January 21..... Culminating Activity Day
Fri., Jan. 22 – Wed., Jan. 27..... Final Examinations Days
for Semester 1
Final Day for Semester 1 Textbook Returns
Thursday, January 28..... Inclement weather day
(exams, if necessary)
Fri, Jan 29..... HC Applications must be received by OCAS
Jamaica Mission Trip Orientation Day @ HC, 9 – 3 p.m.
Monday, February 1..... P.A. Day (no classes)
Tuesday, February 2..... Turnaround Day
Exam Returns & Second Semester Classes



Pictured left: Students gather the forty Christmas Hampers in the Main Foyer ahead of delivery to homes throughout the community.

PASTORAL UPDATE

On behalf of Pastoral Services, I would like to extend to each member of the Holy Cross community, Christmas greetings and prayers for a happy and blessed New Year. Advent was certainly a busy time here at our school. Our homeroom classes worked hard to provide toys and Christmas Dinners for 40 local families through our 3rd Annual **Christmas Hamper Campaign**. Thank you to **Student Council** and **C.I.C.S.** for organizing another successful campaign and for delivering the toys and hampers to our families on **December 18th**. And a big thank-you to all our students and staff who gave so generously to help others in need.

Plans are underway for another **Youth ALPHA** at **St. Paul the Apostle Parish** starting sometime in Semester 2. Students and staff from **Holy Cross** thoroughly enjoyed the **Fall Youth ALPHA** which was held on Wednesday evenings at **St. Paul's** from September to early December. Watch for announcements about another offering of this exciting introduction to the Christian faith.

For those interested in deepening their understanding of the scriptures, **St Paul the Apostle Parish** will be hosting a 'light' study of Paul's letter to the Philippians. It will run on **Mondays, 7-9 pm from Feb 1st to Mar 29th**. Please call the Church to register or for more information (**389-8222**) or call the **Chaplaincy Office here at Holy Cross (ext. 3436)**.

We are looking forward to our final school Mass for this semester which will take place on **Tuesday, January 12th**. At this Mass we will continue to pray for those who have experienced illness or who have lost a loved one over the holidays, especially the family of **James Groody ('03 Grad)**. We also ask God to bless those students who are writing assignments and preparing for final exams and any students or staff who will be leaving us after this semester. May God bless our school community with a healthy and happy New Year.

Chris Forster, Coordinator of Pastoral Services

STUDENTS' COUNCIL

As we arrive back at school in the new year, we hope that everyone had a joyful Christmas and a great New Year. December at Holy Cross had students filled with Christmas cheer as everyone helped out with the **Christmas Hamper Campaign**. Students raised over \$5000 for those less fortunate in our community.

Students' Council and **CICS** hand-delivered the hampers to very thankful families. In the days leading up to the Christmas holiday, HC's band program put on lovely performances in the foyer and the gymnasium. Thank you for helping to build the HC Christmas spirit. The music program also had its first Coffee House of



Pictured above: Joan Savelburg, making waffles to support the Christmas Hamper Campaign

the year, dedicated to **Mr. Rick Thompson**. It was quite a success. **HC Dodgeball** has been going quite well, with over 21 teams and fellow Crusaders always in attendance to cheer on their peers. As exams and Semester Two are right around the corner, we would like to wish all Crusaders good luck with their studies and much happiness in this New Year.

Kaitlyn Barbosa, Communications Officer

JANUARY 2010 EXAMINATION PERIOD

The Final Examination Schedule will be distributed to home-rooms on **Thursday, January 7th**. Exams are scheduled to be written at 8:30 and 12:00 beginning on **Friday, January 22nd** and are to conclude on **Wednesday, January 27th**. 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 22nd** then all exams scheduled for the Friday would be written on **Monday, January 25th**, 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/school websites for bus cancellations and exam delays.

TURNAROUND DAY / JANUARY EXAMINATION RETURN DAY

Students will pick up their January examinations at the end of the day on **Tuesday, February 2nd**. An abbreviated Semester Two timetable will be in effect for the morning to provide time for students and teachers to prepare for the oncoming semester. The afternoon provides an opportunity for Semester One 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. **Note: this is a departure from the schedule of previous years. Please try to be in the right place at the right time! Schedules will be posted in the Main Foyer.**

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, which would have to be paid for. 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 semesters 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 at noon.

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 15th** and **Monday, January 18th** for both the Applied and Academic 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** website - 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

H.C. CLASS OF 2010 GRADUATION CEREMONY

The graduation ceremony for this year's graduating class will be held on **Tuesday, June 29th** here at the school. Please mark this date on your calendar if you plan on graduating in June 2010.

CRUSADER ATHLETICS - THE MEMORIAL

The **21st annual Memorial**, a fundraiser for cancer research, will be held this year on **Thursday, January 14th**. Our sister school, **Regiopolis-Notre Dame**, will host **The Memorial basketball games** with the **Junior Varsity** game beginning at 5:00 and the **Senior Varsity** game scheduled to begin at 6:45. Over the years, our fundraising efforts have been enhanced by many generous donations for the silent auction. If you are able to make a donation or have contacts who might be in a position to donate items for the auction, please contact **Robin Dzierniejko** at dzierobi@alcdsb.on.ca. We look forward to seeing all of our community, Crusaders past and present, to cheer on a friendly rival while raising funds to combat a cruel disease. Wear your green and silver!



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 13th** and college applications by **Monday, February 1st**. 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

Students are able to access their timetable on the **Parent-Student Maplewood Portal Access** on the Holy Cross website <http://hcss.alcdsb.on.ca>. Students should also verify demographic information here and notify student services of any changes. Students received their usernames and passwords from homeroom teachers earlier this semester. If you have misplaced your username and password, contact Student Services. A new timetable with teacher names and room numbers will be issued in Period 1 class on the turn-around day (**Feb. 2nd**).

Course Selection 2010-2011

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 8th, 2010**. 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.

ECO-CORNER

Welcome to 2010; a new chance to make some green resolutions - you may consider your energy usage. Energy audits done at the end of 2009 showed we were meeting our target for turning out lights at lunch and the end of the day, however, we are not meeting our target for computer monitors. Less than half of our monitors are being shut down at the school when not in use.

Here are the numbers: 0.32 kg of CO₂ are emitted per kWh used in Ontario. Our computers use 0.13 kW, so over one year, if one computer is on 24 hrs a day, it would use 1139 kWh which would produce 364 kg of CO₂. An average Canadian car emits 2600 kg CO₂ per year (about eight computers on all the time for a year). Our school has over 200 computers which would produce 72,800 kg CO₂ per year! Just turning off the monitor will cut this by about half. It's easy, press the button when you are done, make it a part of your green routine. Let's do our part to reduce energy usage.

STUDY TIPS

Tips for Reading

General Strategies

- Manage your time so that you complete all sections of the test.
- Read the questions first. This will help you predict what the reading selection is going to be about.
- Skim the selection and then read it closely.
- Underline or highlight important information and ideas as you read.
- As you read, think about what you are reading and ask yourself questions about it.
- Try to “see” what you are reading; some readers say this is like running a video or movie in their heads.
- Look for links between what you are reading and experiences you have had.
- If you read a word you don’t understand, look for a root word that you know inside the larger word; look for prefixes and suffixes.
- If you still don’t understand the word, read to the end of the sentence and look for clues to its meaning. Try reading the sentences before and after the sentence to see if you can find the meaning from the context.
- If a long sentence has you confused, reread it and try to put it into your own words.
- If you are having trouble understanding an idea, either read on until the meaning becomes clearer, or stop and reread.

Strategies for Multiple-Choice Reading Questions

- Read and reread the question carefully.
- Read the four answers and rule out any answers that are obviously incorrect.
- If necessary, reread the relevant parts of the selection to choose the best or most correct answer.

Strategies for Open-Response Reading Questions

- Read and reread the question carefully.
- Keep your answer within the six lines provided.
- Answer the question using specific and relevant details and information from the reading selection.
- Make connections between the ideas and information in the reading selection and your own experience.
- Reread your response and correct any errors you notice.

Writing Skills

- developing a main idea with sufficient supporting details;
- organizing information and ideas in a coherent manner and
- using conventions (spelling, grammar, punctuation) in a manner that does not distract from clear communication.

Tips for Writing

It is important that you follow the instructions and write in the required form. Read the assigned topic for each task carefully before you begin to write. Make sure your work is on-topic and is in the required form. For writing tasks, use full and correctly written sentences.

(taken from the *Getting Ready Guide* at www.eqao.com)

Pictured right: the Junior Band performs during the lunch hour in the Main Foyer, Mrs. McCombs conducting

NEXT MONTH AT HOLY CROSS

Monday, February 1.....P.A. Day, no classes
OCAS Applications Due

Tuesday, February 2 Turn Around Day

Wed., Feb. 31st Full Instructional Day in Sem. 2

Friday, February 5.....Sem. Two Grade Assemblies

Mon., Feb. 8....After-School Literacy Program Begins

Tues., Feb. 9.....Sem. 1 Report Cards distributed

Wed., Feb. 10..... Grade 8 Parent Information Night
Blood Donor Clinic, Library

Thurs, Feb 11.....Course Selection Workshop #1

Friday, February 12.....Semi-Formal Dance
Last Day for Semester Two Timetable Changes
Vancouver 2010 Olympics Opening Ceremony

Saturday, February 13Jazz Night, 6:30

Sunday, February 14.....Valentine’s Day

Monday, February 15.....Family Day (school holiday)

Tuesday, February 16.....Mardi Gras CICS Bake Sale

Wed, Feb 17.....2010-11 Course Selection Workshop
Ash Wednesday Masses
ShareLent Campaign Begins

Sat, Feb. 20.....Kingston Improv Games Finals Night

Sunday, February 21.....KASSAA Finals (Volleyball
and Basketball)

Monday, February 22.....Catholic School Council
Meeting in Library
2010 – 2011 Course Selection Workshop #3

Tuesday, February 23.....2010-2011 Course
Selection Workshop #4

Wed, February 24 2010-2011 Course
Selection Workshop #5

Wed - Fri., Feb. 24 - 26.....Kiwanis Music Festival

Thurs, Feb 25...Gr.9, 10, & 11 Mathematics Contests

Friday, February 26.....2010-2011 Course
Selection Workshop #6
Tentative Non-Uniform Day
Graduate Retreat
2010-2011 Student Course Selection Deadline

