

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL, KINGSTON April, 2010 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

On **Thursday, April 8**th, 332 students will write the **Literacy Test** at Holy Cross. I am very confident that our students are very well prepared thanks to our classroom teachers, Special Education Resource Teachers, the HC Literacy Committee and our EQAO test preparation team led by **Anne Poels**, and Literacy Co-ordinator **Sean Roberts**. I thank all parents for the encouragement and support they offered to their sons and daughters in the acquisition and development of their literacy skills. The Individual Student Reports are expected by the end of June.

Students who plan to return to Holy Cross for next year should ensure that they have completed the course selection process and have made selections based on their interests, abilities and destinations. At this time, many registrations have been received for the **Class of 2014**. Please ensure that you have completed the course selection process while space is still available. Classes do become full quickly.

Congratulations to our Improv Team who competed at the National Improv Games in Ottawa at the National Arts Centre. Ciara Roberts, Michael Vermeersch, Allison McLean, Luke Ottenhof, Hailey Masterson, Tyler Check, Grace Hill, and Josh Blackstock, under the leadership of Carrie Rose and Vince Stabile, placed seventh in Canada and, more importantly, represented our school with enthusiasm and poise.

Catholic Education Week runs from May 2nd to May 7th this year and the theme is "Catholic Education: Rejoicing in Hope." His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI wrote: "A first essential setting for learning hope is prayer. When no one listens to me anymore, God still listens to me. When I can no longer talk to anyone or call upon anyone, I can always talk to God. When there is no longer anyone to help me deal with a need or expectation that goes beyond the human capacity for hope, He can help me. When I have been plunged into complete solitude ...; if I pray I am never totally alone." Catholic Education Week gives us another opportunity to pray together and in private and to show one another that we are a people of hope.

The Triduum is the high point of the liturgical year and the central mystery of the triumph of life over death. The **40 days of Lent** have been leading us to the three days where Christians gather to celebrate the mystery of the passion, death and Resurrection. With prayer and dramatic ritual we move into Easter, coming to place our hand in the baptismal waters and renew our response to the Lord. The Paschal Triduum is one single liturgical action that comes over three days: **Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil**. The Triduum is not part of Lent but, in its entirity, celebrates the Easter event. The spirit of the fast during the three days is not a Lenten Fast but a **Paschal Fast**. The entire focus of the Triduum is on the Triumph of the Cross and Resurrection. Therefore every Catholic is greatly encouraged and invited to join in the action of the three days of the **Triduum, April 1-3**rd, **2010**. For every Catholic this is

more than the story of Christ; it is the story of our own life, passion, death and resurrection.

On Thursday, April 1st, our school community will be participating in the **Way of the Cross** in the Cafeteria beginning at 8:40 a.m. (repeated three times). This 20 minute Dramatic Reflection on the passion and death of Jesus is being organized by Pastoral Services, Vocal Students and by members of the **2010 Jamaica**

APRIL AT HOLY CROSS April 2009 **Skilled Trades Month Autism Awareness Month** Thursday, April. 1.....Holy Week Liturgies (Holy Thursday) **CICS ShareLent Campaign Ends** Thursday, April 1 – Saturday, April 3.....The Triduum Friday, April 2......Good Friday (no classes) Saturday, April 3.....Easter Vigil Sunday, April 4......Easter Sunday Monday, April 5......Easter Monday (no classes) Tuesday, April 6...Mid-semester Assessment Period Begins HC Students' Council 2010-11 Executive Election Packages distributed Literacy Tuesday Session for Grade 10s, Period 3 Wednesday, April 7...Grade 10 OSSLT Assembly, Cafetorium, Period1 **Kingston Youth Poverty Conference** KASSAA Open Badminton Championships at HC Thursday, April 8...EQAO Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test Independent Study Day for Grades 11 and 12s who've completed the test Regularly Scheduled Classes for Grade 9s Halpern's Spring Uniform Sale, Cafetorium, 3:30 – 8:00 p.m. Monday, April 12...Beacons of Hope Breakfast, Ambassador Hotel Tuesday, April 13...Mid-semester Assessment Period Ends **Euclid Grade 12 Math Contest** Wednesday, April 14..Final Day of Classes for Civics and Careers Battle of the Bands 7:00 to 9:00 The Brain & Gender Learning Differences: What's It All About? Forum @ RND Friday, April 16...ALCDSB Student Trustee Election & Senate Mtg. #4 Graduates Retreat at Rideau Acres Sunday, April 18 – Sunday, April 25.. Administrative Professionals Week **National Volunteers Week** Monday, April 19 - Friday, April 23.....Earth Week Tuesday, April 20......Earth Day Grade Assemblies Wednesday, April 21.....HC Bands Depart for NYC Thursday, April 22..... Earth Day Grade Assemblies Friday, April 23.......Pitch-In Kingston Day Friday, April 23 & Saturday, April 24.Coaching the Coaches Conference Sunday, April 25......HC Bands return from NYC Monday, April 26.....Midterm Report Cards Issued Tuesday, April 27......Energy Check, Grade 10s Spirit Week, Silver and Green Uniform Accents Wednesday, April 28... Students' Council Town Hall Assembly Spirit Week-Green and Silver Non-uniform Day Thursday, April 29......Energy Check, Grade 10s Students' Council Election Day Spirit Week, Grade Colour Day Friday, April 30...PA Day (at RND, focus Special Education) - no classes

Mission Trip.

I pray that the Risen Christ blesses you and your families with His peace and love.

Paul A. Walsh

PASTORAL REPORT

2010 JAMAICA MISSION TRIP: We have now returned from our 2010 Mission Trip to Kingston, Jamaica, but our minds and hearts are still with the people of that beautiful country who once again welcomed us into their homes and their hearts. We enjoyed working with members of the St. Patrick's Foundation All-Stars Performing Arts Band who entertained us at Seaview Gardens and who involved us in dancing, singing and putting on educational skits on stage with them. We also volunteered at St. Monica's Home for the Elderly and at schools funded by St. Patrick's Foundation. We were privileged to be present for the signing of a Twinning Covenant between the two Kingston Archdioceses which took place during a special Mass at Stella Maris Church. We sincerely thank all those who supported our Mission Trip and we look forward to sharing our stories with you in the coming months.

SHARELENT ACTIVITIES: Our ShareLent Collection ended on Holy Thursday. This year monies collected in our classrooms and through special events such as our Pancake Breakfast and Thinkfast will be going to four local charities: Kingston Buy-A-Net, Birthright, St. Vincent de Paul Society and the Kingston Youth Shelter. Over \$3500.00 was raised at our Thinkfast on Friday, March 26th. Thanks to the teachers who gave up their Friday night to make this event possible. And, special thanks to our chef Mr. Tony Oliveira who came in early Saturday morning to put on a wonderful breakfast for all the Thinkfasters.

YOUTH POVERTY CHALLENGE CONFERENCE: We will be taking 8-10 students to represent our school at this year's Youth Poverty Conference at McArthur College on Wednesday, April 7th.

GRADE 12 RETREAT: Our **Grade 12 Retreat** will take place at **Rideau Acres** on **Friday, April 16**th and we are excited to have members of the **Catholic Christian Outreach Team (CCO)** take part again this year. We will be taking three Grade 12 Religion classes on this retreat along with other interested students. Please see **Mr. Forster or Fr. Labelle** for permission forms.

MAY 8TH CATHOLIC YOUTH RALLY: And, don't forget this exciting event which we will be hosting at Holy Cross on **Saturday, May 8**th. We are expecting hundreds of young people to come together for this event from across our Archdiocese. Join us!

PARTNERS IN MISSION FOOD BLITZ: Please mark Wednesday, **May 19**th on your calendars as we will be looking for volunteers to help with this year's **Food Blitz**. Holy Cross is a major participant in this annual effort to restock the Food Bank shelves with non-perishable food items in this time of great need in our local community. We need lots of people to make this possible.

May each member of our Holy Cross community enter deeply into Christ's Passion and Death during this Holy Week, and may we also experience the joy of His Resurrection at Easter.

Chris Forster, Pastoral Services

BEACONS OF HOPE

In an effort to celebrate the extraordinary accomplishments of our students, the **Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board** is hosting "Beacons of Hope" celebrations at a series of community breakfasts in our region. Two Holy Cross students , **Rachel Arnold and Ciara Roberts**, have been selected for this honour, taking place on **Monday, April 12**th at the **Ambassador Hotel**.

STUDENTS' COUNCIL REPORT

March was quite the month for students of Holy Cross in many different ways. It seemed as though Holy Cross was taking on the world with different trips to Jamaica, Bermuda, Italy, France, Spain and Hollywood. All of these trips were very successful, and we are proud to say that all students represented our school in a respectful and Christian way. Students who participated in all of these trips would like to thank all of the staff that helped organize and participate in these trips. The Share-Lent campaign is in its last week and the generous donations of students and staff are very appreciated. So far the collection is almost at par with last year's collection of \$1500. April is expected to be another event filled month at Holy Cross. All of our spring teams have started to come alive and as always it is a fight for the gyms. We would like to wish a good luck to all of our teams in their new seasons. For the council, April is a busy month because of the much-favored Spirit Week. Spirit week is April 26th-30th, and includes many opportunities for students to show off their school spirit, and their green and sliver. The 2010-2011 Students' Council election will also take place during this week, so we hope that up coming nominees have started the thinking process towards this date. Packages for the nominees will be given out at the beginning of April. Right after Easter, Crusaders should be very excited for the return of the HC Dodge Ball league, which has now reached the playoff stage. Lastly, we would like to wish everyone and their families a very Happy Easter!

Kaitlyn Barbosa, Communications Officer

HOLY CROSS OPTIONAL SPRING UNIFORM

The optional spring uniform may be worn beginning on **Monday, May** 3rd, 2010. The spring uniform consists of a school-crested green golf shirt and school-crested beige shorts offered for purchase at Holy Cross. Flat front shorts for girls will be offered once again this year. Footwear for the spring uniform is either sandals or running shoes. Students may continue to wear the fall/winter uniform. Combinations of the seasonal uniforms are not permitted. All staff (and parents) are asked to be particularly vigilant that only school-crested khaki shorts are worn in their classrooms.

HC SPRING UNIFORM SHOPPING

On **Thursday, April 8**th from 3:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. the Spring Uniform will be available for purchase from the **Halpern's Mobile Store** in the **Holy Cross cafeteria**. Please note Halpern's accepts cash, Master Card, Visa and debit cards. Halpern's does not accept cheques. This will be the only day students and their families may purchase the spring uniform at Holy Cross. After this date, the spring uniform will be available at the HC Uniform Store located in the Tuck Shop. Available clothing and prices may be viewed at the Halpern's web site at **www.halperns.ca**.

Boys: Men's green golf shirt, short sleeve, crested

Youth \$19.95 Adult \$24.95

Khaki walking shorts, "H" crested \$29.95

Girls: Ladies' green golf shirt, short sleeve, crested

Youth \$21.95 Adult \$26.95

Khaki walking shorts, "H" crested \$29.95

OFSAA SWIMMING RESULTS

Congratulations to **Jenna Gregg** who represented Holy Cross well at the OFSAA swimming championships in Etobicoke on **March 2nd and 3rd**.

EQAO 2010 LITERACY TEST

The Literacy Test will be written on **Thursday, April 8**th, **2010**. A Literacy Test preparation class is being presented to all Grade 10 students. A practice booklet has been sent home with the students. This year, the test will be conducted on one day for two ninety-minute sessions. In order to serve the test writers (330) properly, our Grade 11 and 12 students not writing the test are granted an **Independent Study Day** (at home) on **Thursday, April 8**th. Grade 9 classes will run as regularly scheduled.

HOLY CROSS STUDENTS' COUNCIL EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS

Students who are interested in becoming a member of Students' Council executive for the 2010-2011 school year are required to complete a nomination package. Holy Cross Students' Council 2010-11 Executive election packages will be available for distribution on Tuesday, April 6th, 2010 from Mr. Coleman. Completed packages are to be submitted to a current Students' Council Executive member by Thursday, April 15th. The Town Hall Assembly is scheduled for Wednesday, April 28th and voting will take place on Thursday, April 29th, 2010.

To be eligible to stand for election a student must:

- i) Attain and maintain a minimum 75% academic average
- ii) Be a student in good standing
- iii) Submit a nomination form with 50 signatures from peers
- iv) Submit 3 teacher references.

TUCK SHOP

Don't forget to check out the Holy Cross Tuck Shop on Wednesdays and Fridays during lunch. Purchase your Crusader gear and lunch time treats! See you there.

SMARTRISK No Regrets Live

This is an internationally acclaimed show about smart risks and personal choices, and is dedicated to injury awareness and prevention amongst teenagers. This one hour multi-media presentation includes a live presentation given by a young injury survivor, who speaks candidly about how their injury has affected their lives. The goal of the program is to help teens save their own lives and escape permanent injury, while empowering them to make the smart choices and giving them the tools to do so. The presentations will take place in the gymnasium according to the following schedule on Tuesday, April 13th:

> P 1 8:45 - 9: 45.....Grade 11 Classes P2 10:00 - 11:00......Grade 12 Classes P3 12:15- 1:15.....Grade 9 & 10 Classes

MODERATED MARKING WORKSHOP

On Wednesday, March 24th the Holy Cross Semester 2 grade 9 math teachers and 18 of the grade 7/8 teachers from all of our feeder schools met at Holy Cross and participated in a moderated marking workshop, as part of the Mathematics Professional Learning **Strategy.** The purpose of this workshop was a cross-panel focus on effective instructional practice and moderated marking of common assessment tasks. During this meeting, teachers engaged in collaborative discussion and moderated marking of common assessment tasks. Teachers were asked to bring at least 5 examples of student work, selected from what they would judge to be each level of achievement. This group will meet again at Holy Cross on May 4th to discuss differentiated instruction strategies and participate in Mr. Watts' Demo Lesson.

HOLY CROSS CLASS OF 2010 GRADUATION CEREMONY

The graduation ceremony for this year's graduating class will be held on Tuesday, June 29th beginning at 7:00 pm in the gymnasium. A Graduation Mass will be celebrated by Father Rene LaBelle at St. Paul the Apostle Church on Taylor Kidd Blvd at 12:00 for the graduates, their families, friends and staff.

HOLY CROSS CLASS OF 2010 REMINDERS

Potential graduates should take note of the following significant dates:

Wednesday, March 24th (10:40 to 11:10) Class of 2010 info meeting
Friday, April 16 th Graduates Retreat at Rideau Acres
Monday, May 3 rd Potential HC Graduates List Published
Week of May 3 rd Grad Invitations distributed in Period 1
Wednesday, May 12 th Valedictorian Submission Deadline
Friday, May 14thCommunity Service Hours documentation due
Tuesday, June 15thFinal Course documentation deadline
Tuesday, June 29th Graduation Mass and Commencement Exercises

COUNSELLORS' CORNER

On Tuesday, April 27th mid semester report cards will be issued to all students in Period 1. Students will be directed to take the report cards home that day. No formal interviews are scheduled at this time. Parents with concerns are asked to contact Student Services. Please note that the turnaround day for civics/careers is April 14th.

Summer Volunteer Opportunities

New volunteer opportunities are available through the Military Family Resource Center, KGH and Hotel Dieu Hospitals, Providence Manor and an Expo taking place at the Invista Center. Please check the bulletin board outside of Student Services or see **Mrs. Vella-Bowry** for information.

Summer Jobs

Students should also check the board for summer job postings. The latest postings are up on the bulletin board located outside of Student

University and College Acceptances

Final first semester marks have been forwarded to both OUAC and OCAS. Please be aware of the fact that universities vary widely in when they send their offers of admission. Some students may have already had an early acceptance, but this is not the norm. Midterm marks will be forwarded to OUAC on April 23rd. Universities will then begin to send offers of admission. Please reassure your son/daughter that they should not be alarmed if they do not hear at the same time as their friends. Students should expect a response from **Universities by May 25**th (latest). May 28th is earliest date by which Ontario universities may require a response to an offer of admission. Grade 12 students enrolled in a night school course must have a midterm mark submitted to Student Services by April 20th and a final mark by June 15th. Please note that you may be expected to write a final exam before June 1st in order to receive a final mark by the deadline. College applicants must confirm their acceptance of a college offer by May 3rd

Course Selection Process

Students have had the opportunity to complete the on-line application process. Any student who has not completed the process must contact their counsellor. A verification sheet outlining courses will be sent out to students in April. This is an opportunity for corrections/changes to selections to occur. Students should make a guidance appointment if they have any concerns.

St. Lawrence College Connections
Some grade 10/11 students have the opportunity to attend a one day enrichment program at St. Lawrence College on May 6th. This program provides students the opportunity to experience one of the following care pathways: Justice Studies, Community Services, Business, Health Sciences, Applied Science and Computing, and Skilled Trades and Tourism. Contact Student Services for a registration form.

Connect and win at St. Lawrence → Grade 12 and year 5 students have the opportunity to attend a job fair at St. Lawrence College to meet with potential employers to hear about job opportunities, tour the college and learn about available programs at the college on Thursday, April 29th. Sign up in Student Services.

Queen's University is offering the **University Experience Program** for students (all grades) who would be the first in their family to attend college or university in Canada. Students and their family members are invited to the Queen's campus on Saturday, April 10th, 2010, for a series of activities including a campus tour with current students and seminars on financial aid, career options and a wide variety of degree programs. Contact Mrs. Cantarutti for more information.

QUEEN'S MINI-ENRICHMENT PROGRAM: Holy Cross students will be participating in E=MC₂, a mini-enrichment program at Queen's University from May 3 – 7th. The program provides students in grades 9-12 the unique opportunity to go to Queen's and study a subject of their choosing at an advanced level for the week. There are several subjects offered, covering aquatic ecology, robotics, sport psychology, dance choreography and anything in between!

A financial representative will discuss OSAP applications on Tuesday, May 18th at 11:10 a.m. in the lecture theatre. Graduating students and their parents are encouraged to attend.

A list of students who are potential graduates of Holy Cross and eligible to receive their Ontario Secondary School Diploma and take part in the June 2010 graduation ceremony will be published in the May Newsletter. The completion of thirty (30) credits (including compulsories), forty (40) hours of Community involvement, and the successful completion of the literacy test, are the key components of the diploma requirements. The community involvement hours (40) are to be completed and submitted to Student

ECO-CORNER

Thanks to HC students and staff for sharing in our celebration of Earth Hour on Friday, March 26th. The hall lights were dimmed in the school and classrooms reduced their lights for at least 15 minutes per class for a total of one hour over the day. This symbolic gesture of our awareness to do our part for the environment was a great success and also a good lead in to Earth Day, which is celebrated on April 22nd. At HC, the Green Team has chosen "We've Got the Power" as our Earth Week theme. One of our goals as a certified Eco-School is to reduce our energy consumption and educate our student body about the importance and ways of reducing our carbon footprint. Earth Week events will run from April 20th to 23rd and will include an assembly on April 20th as well as a homeroom carbon footprint contest. The week will conclude with our yearly participation in Pitch-in-Day on Friday, April 23rd.

Eco-tip: As the days get warmer and brighter consider walking or biking to school or work. There is no better way to get exercise and enjoy the sights and sounds of spring. Go Green HC!!!

Services by Friday, May 14th, 2010. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that all requirements (including night school courses and on-line courses) have been completed or will be completed. The final marks for on-line and night school courses must be submitted to Student Services by Tuesday, June 15th, 2010. Students may contact their counselor regarding any questions concerning graduation.

NEWS FROM THE SPECIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

All Parents/Guardians of students identified as exceptional learners, who requested **IPRC meetings**, have received their appointment time by mail with the **IEP document on March 22nd**, **2010**. The time period is April 19-29th. "Thank you" to all those who have confirmed. Letters outlining accommodations for students on IEPs writing the OSSLT have been mailed to Parents/Guardians.

The Learning Disabilities Association of Kingston Newsletter contains current research on learning disabilities, resources available for loan, and scholarships available to students who are transitioning to college or university. Check out their website: www.ldakingston.com.

Many graduating students are preparing their **Transition Portfolio** which includes most recent psychological assessment, most recent IEP, and IPRC statement where applicable. They are then contacting their chosen college or university to set up an appointment with the **Centre for Disabilities** in April or May. As **Ministry of Trades, Colleges and Universities** govern post-secondary institutions, please be advised that the graduating student is solely responsible for sharing all confidential documentation pertaining to disabilities.

St. Lawrence College is running the transition event "Destination St. Lawrence" for students with disabilities attending St. Lawrence College in September. Registration deadline is April 23rd, 2010.

April is Autism Awareness Month. Activities are being organized at Holy Cross to promote an understanding of students with Autism Spectrum Disorder. The first meeting of the Parent/ Guardian group (ASD) was held on March 11th, 2010 and chaired by Carolyn Krug, one of our parents. New members are always welcome. Contact M. Gavan Knox for further information.

Parents/guardians wishing to discuss the early report card results, academic choices for next year, or any other concerns are invited to make an appointment with the Special Education Staff.

ENERGY CHECK

This in-school event for Grade 10 students features interactive stations that focus on the effects of poor nutrition and skipping meals,

sugar and fat content of popular fast foods, how to make healthier food choices, body image and self-esteem, and the importance of an active lifestyle for overall health. The presentations will take place on **Tuesday, April 27**th & **Thursday, April 29**th in the Duffey Gymnasium during Period 1.

KINGSTON YOUTH POVERTY CONFERENCE

The Kingston Roundtable on Poverty Reduction will host a conference on Wednesday, April 7th from 9:00 to 2:00 at Queen's Faculty of Education. 100 high school students (10 from HC) will participate in a day-long simulation game which will allow them to experience what it is like to be poor, learn what systems exist to assist people living in poverty, and realize how challenging it is to navigate through these systems. The goals of the conference include: to educate approximately 100 high school students about what it feels like to live in poverty; to introduce participants to the systems in place to assist people in poverty and allow them to experience how challenging it is to navigate through these systems; to encourage students to think about how they can take what they have learned back to their schools; and, to encourage students to become agents of social change in the struggle against poverty.

COACHING THE COACHES

MAY AT HOLY CROSS

On the evening of Friday April 23rd and on Saturday, April 24th, many Holy Cross coaches will take part in the 4th Annual Spring "Coaching the Coaches", a clinic sponsored by Tourism Kingston and the Investors Group, and hosted this year at the Queen's University Athletics and Recreation Centre. Featured will be a series of seminars designed to help coaches of children of all ages to provide better learning and playing environments for their athletes. Top level coaches will share their expertise in dealing with athletes and provide examples of their best practices that can be used by coaches for all levels. This clinic focuses specifically on basketball, football and volleyball. Holy Cross coaches should contact Frank Halligan, Clinic Manager by April 10th, 2010. Additional information and registration forms available at http://www.coachingthecoaches.ca.

May 1Coaching the Coaches Conference Day 2
May 2-8Catholic Education Week
May 2-8Catholic Education Week May 3Potential Graduate List published
Students' Council Executive Elections results published
Spring Uniform Begins
May 4Grade 8 Orientation Day at HC
May 5 HC Catholic Education Week Mass in Gymnasium
May 6. Cabaal Board Mass in Kingston for Catholic Education Work
May 6School Board Mass in Kingston for Catholic Education Week
Sir Isaac Newton Physics Contest
May 9Mother's Day May 1Grad Invitations Mailed
May 1Grad Invitations Mailed
May 10– 14Queen's Enrichment Course Week
May 11Queen's Online to Success Closing Day, 9 – 3
May 12Holy Cross 2010 Valedictorian selection begins
KASSAA Track and Field Meet
May 13March for Life Bus Trip to Ottawa
KASSAA Track and Field Meet
May 14.5th Annual Greg Hulse Memorial Soccer Tournament at HC
School Dance #4
Community Service Hours Deadline for Class of 2010
May 19Partners in Mission Food Blitz
May 20Queen's Online to Success Closing Day, 9 – 3
May 21 Grade 9 Student Retreat with N F T
May 21Grade 9 Student Retreat with N.E.T. May 24Victoria Day (holiday)
May 25 Response to Applicants by Ontario Universities
HC Semester Two Field Trip Moratorium begins
May 27Tentative Yearbook distribution date, Room 129
Genesis Awards Evening
May 31HC Catholic School Council Meeting, Library, 7 p.m.
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