



HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL, KINGSTON

January, 2012 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

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. I extend a special welcome to **Mrs. Kathleen Burt** who will be joining our office staff. A fond farewell and best wishes for **Mrs. Jeannette Berry**, one of our cornerstones, who is off to new adventures.

Excitement was in the air in the month of **December** just ahead of the break. **The Phantom of the Opera** was phenomenal, a **Kingston** first; thanks to all the talented staff and students whose efforts were rewarded by appreciative full houses at each performance. The bands entertained us all at lunch time and during the **Katharine Splinter Memorial Concert**. **Mrs. Diane McCombs** was feted at this performance, to thank her for her many years of contributing to the music program at **Holy Cross**. I acknowledge the various charitable and social justice issues taken on by a number of student groups, for example **Students' Council** and **CICS** organizing our yearly **Advent Campaign**.

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. It is not acceptable to expect staff to rewrite and reschedule final exams because of a family holiday.

We enter 2012 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 2012 a great year for our school and community.

Paul A. Walsh

PASTORAL UPDATE

December was certainly a busy month here at our school. We celebrated our monthly **School Mass** in the second week of **Advent** and each **Monday** morning gathered our students and staff for an **Advent Wreath Liturgy** in the **Main Lobby** of the school. During **Advent**, our school fundraised for several different charities. Our **Advent Campaign** saw our homeroom classes raise \$5,404.10 for our "**Brick by Brick**" **Campaign** to build a school in **Kenya, Africa**. This is one of the largest **Advent Collections** ever at **Holy Cross**, especially when it is combined with the food and money that we collected for **Christmas Hampers**; these were delivered to our adopted families during the last few days of school. Many thanks to all those who helped with this and with all our fundraising efforts this month.

'**LIFETEEN**' continues in the **New Year** at **St. Paul the Apostle Church**. If you haven't been to it yet, come check it out – **Sunday** afternoons starting with dinner at **5:15 p.m.** followed by talks, discussions, games and a **LifeTeen Mass** at **7:30 p.m.** in the **Church**.

Our **Jamaica Mission Team** students are now busy with final preparations for their **February 11th – 19th** trip to **Kingston, Jamaica**. Everyone is looking forward to working with the people at **St. Margaret's Remedial School**, the **St. Patrick's All-Stars Marching Band**, and at **St. Monica's Home for the Elderly**. Many thanks to all those who supported our fundraising efforts, especially our **Fish Fry** back in **November**.

We are looking forward to our final school **Mass** for this

January Events at Holy Cross

Sunday, January 1.....	World Day of Prayer, NEW YEAR'S DAY Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Feast Day
Monday, January 2.....	Feast of the Epiphany
Monday, January 9.....	First Instructional Day of the New Year January Field Trip Moratorium Begins
Wed, Jan 11	OUAC online application submission deadline
Friday, January 13.....	School Mass
Week of January 16....	Nat' Non-Smoking Week, www.nnsw.ca
Tues. &Wed., Jan. 17 & 18.....	EQAO Gr 9 Academic/ Applied Math Assessment Days
Wed, Jan 18.....	HC Gala Vocal Concert, 7:30 p.m., Cafeterium
Thurs, Jan 19	The Memorial (at RND), Green & Silver Day
Wed, January 25.....	Last Instructional Day for Semester One
Thurs -Tues., Jan. 26 -31...	Final Examinations Days for Sem 1 Final Day for Semester 1 Textbook Returns
Wed, Feb 1.....	Inclement weather day (exams, if necessary)
Friday, February 3.....	P.A. Day (no classes)
Monday, February 6.....	Turnaround Day, Exam Returns & Second Semester Classes

semester which will take place on **Friday, January 13th**. At this **Mass**, we will continue to pray for those who have experienced illness or who have lost a loved one over the holidays. We will also ask **God** to bless students who will be writing final assignments and preparing for final exams and any students or staff who will be leaving us after this semester. As we begin a **New Year**, and as we return to our work and studies after the **Christmas** break, I would like to extend to each member of our **Holy Cross** community, **Christmas** greetings and prayers for a blessed **New Year**.

Chris Forster, Coordinator of Pastoral Services

STUDENTS' COUNCIL

On behalf of the **Students' Council**, we would like to welcome back all students and staff from this year's **Christmas** break. **Students' Council** and our **Crusaders In Community Service** have decided to dedicate this year's **Advent Campaign** to helping raise the **\$8500.00** that is needed to build a school in **Kenya** through the **Brick by Brick Advent Campaign**. We would like to thank the **Crusader** community for their generous donations towards this amazing cause. The **Students' Council** was also very thrilled to see the **Christmas** spirit throughout the school. A **Tacky Christmas Sweater Day** was held on **Thursday, December 22nd** and students also had the opportunity take a picture with **Santa** and **Mrs. Claus** for a donation to our **Advent Campaign**. The **Students' Council Executive** also organized a movie trip to see **Sherlock Holmes** or **Mission Impossible** on **Friday, December 23rd** to kick off the holiday season! We wish the staff and students of **Holy Cross** health, happiness and continued success in the **New Year!**

Stephanie Constantinidis, Communications Officer

JANUARY 2012 EXAMINATION PERIOD

The **Final Examination Schedule** is posted on the **HC TODAY** website. Exams are scheduled to be written at **8:30** and **12:00** beginning on **Thursday, January 26th** and are to conclude on **Tuesday, January 31st**. 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 28th** then all exams scheduled for the Friday would be written on **Monday, January 30th**, 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.

JANUARY EXAMINATION RETURN

Students will pick up their **January** examinations at the end of the day on **Monday, February 6th**. An abbreviated Semester Two timetable will be in effect for the day. Students will be able to pick up Semester One exams at the end of the day providing classes with the opportunity to take up and review the exam and final mark calculation (where available).

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 60 minute 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 over two days during the student's regular math period. The test dates at **Holy Cross** are **Tuesday, January 17th** and **Wednesday, January 18th** for both **Applied** and **Academic** classes. Students and parents can get extra practice for the **EQAO Math Test** by visiting www.eqao.com under **Student Resources** and **Parent Resources**. More information will be sent home in **January**. *Please note that for students in the **Academic Program**, this accounts for ten per cent of their final mark; for students in the **Applied Program**, an exemption from final exam may take place if they: 1) have term work at level three or four, 2) submit an **EQAO** review book at level three or four, and 3) score level three or four on the **EQAO** assess-*

ment. Teachers will inform their students of exemptions prior to final exams.

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 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. We of course do not "charge" for textbooks but only recoup for replacement or repair.

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.

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 sale. Your ongoing support enables our students to experience many exciting learning opportunities.

CRUSADER ATHLETICS

The **23rd Annual Memorial** will be held this year on **Thursday, January 19th** in the **Regiopolis-Notre Dame** gymnasium. Thanks to the alumni and local businesses who have already contributed to the event. If you, or someone you know, would like to make a contribution for the silent auction or directly to the **Memorial**, you are asked to contact **Robin Dzierniejko** at dzierobi@alcdsb.on.ca. We are recognizing all of our sponsors this year on both the **RND** and **HC** (www.gocrusadersgo.com) websites. As well, the date of the **Memorial** will be a green and silver day, as we hope to start the excitement early and push our **Crusaders** on to victory. The games tip off at **6 pm**.

"**The Memorial**" will be video recorded by **TV Cogeco** with an **HCTV** crew of **Specialist High Skills Majors (SHSM)** students. The Jr & Sr games will be cablecast (tape delayed) on **TV Cogeco cable channel 13** and **HD channel 700** at a later date.

HC Lacrosse Indoor Training

This training starts on **Tuesday, January 10th, 8:00 p.m. to 10 p.m.** in the large gym. Interested students should see **Mr. Esford** in **Room 218** for more information.

Good luck to all of our winter teams as their seasons reconvene and travel toward the championships.

FALL 2012 UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN

Thank you to staff who contributed **\$ 2,500** to this year's **United Way Campaign**. Thank you to all who contributed by making a donation through payroll deduction and 50/50 draws and to **Ms. Shannon Guay** and **Mr. Chris Corcoran** who organized and helped with the various **United Way** activities.

HOLY CROSS CLASS OF 2012 GRADUATION CEREMONY

The graduation ceremony for this year's graduating class will

be held on **Thursday, June 28th** here at the school. Please mark this date on your calendar if you plan on graduating in **June 2012**.

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 11th** and college applications by **Wednesday, 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 Access** on the **Holy Cross** website <http://hcsc.alcddb.on.ca/hctoday>. The link is under the "Academic" section of the **Home Page**. Students should also verify demographic information here and notify **Student Services** of any changes. 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 **Monday, February 6th, 2012**.

Course Selection 2012- 2013

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, March 29th, 2012**. All **Grade 10 students** who are working towards an **OSSD** will write the test. Senior students new to the province, or who were unsuccessful on the test/absent the year before will also 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.

Contact information for Special Education Resource Teachers:

Grade 9, A-M: **Mrs. Poels** ext.3425; Grade 9, N-Z: **Mrs. Hulse**, ext. 3428; Grade 10: **Mrs. Poels**, ext.3425; Grade 11: **Mrs. Hulse**, ext 3428; Grade 12: **Ms. Gavan Knox**, ext.3426; and **Ms. Terri Daniel**, **Vice-Principal for Special Education**, ext.3406, danielte@alcddb.on.ca.

An **Individual Education Plan (I.E.P)** is developed each semester for your son or daughter. As you, **Parents/Guardians**, are our valued partners in the **Consultation Process**, we invite you to communicate any recent information on your child that might affect his/her learning process. If you are a **Parent/Guardian** interested in meeting with others to discuss the challenges/issues facing your children with disabilities, contact **Ms. Gavan Knox**.

Post-Secondary Transition Planning:

The deadline for registration for the **On-Line to Success** course has been extended to early **January**. This course provides a great opportunity for students in grades 11 and 12 with a **Learning Disability/ADHD** to increase their self-knowledge and polish their self-advocacy skills. It is strongly recommended that graduating students take this course as well as complete a **Transition Portfolio** available from **M. Gavan Knox, Room 117**.

EQAO Math and Final Exams: Students will continue to use

the same accommodations used during the semester and recommended by their subject teachers and SERTs. Contact us if you have any questions and/or concerns.

Premier software programs are available on the library computers and at home for use by all students and their families. Contact your child's SERT for username and password.

An invitation to the annual **Identification Placement and Review Committee** meetings for grade 12 students who have an **IPRC** status will be sent home during the next few weeks. Please return your response to **Ms. Gavan Knox**. Thank you.

Learning Strategies courses (**GLE 10, 20, 30, 40**) are offered at all grade levels, every period, every semester. **GLE 10** counts as a compulsory credit; the other three count as electives. These credits are included in the 30 credits needed for the **Ontario Secondary School Diploma**.

ECO-CORNER

Welcome to 2012; a great time to make some green resolutions! With the mild **December** passing many have wondered if we are observing the beginnings of climate change. In order to take action on climate change, the **David Suzuki Foundation** recommends three main areas where we can reduce our carbon footprint. As transportation accounts for about 30% of our carbon emissions consider carpooling, walking, and taking public transportation. Secondly, reduce you home energy use by lowering your thermostat and using energy efficient appliances. Thirdly, much of the food we eat comes from far away places, try to buy as much local produce as possible. These three changes will go a long way to improving our sustainable use of the planet. A big thank you to all homeroom classes that participated in the **Green Christmas Challenge**. Many great ideas were generated on how we can make **Christmas** more sustainable! **Keep it Green HC!**

NEXT MONTH AT HOLY CROSS

Wednesday, February 1.... Snow Day (Exams if necessary)
Textbook Return / Pick-up Deadline
Thursday, February 2Groundhog Day
Friday, February 3P.A. Day (no classes)
Fri & Sat, Feb 3 & 4RND Jr. Girls' Vball Tournament
Sunday, February 5.....KASSAA and Regional
Cheerleading Championships
Monday, February 6 ... First Full Instructional Day in Sem 2
Exam Return (end of day)
Tuesday, February 7..... Semester One Final Marks
due at 3 p.m.
Thursday, February 9.....Semester Two Grade Assemblies
Friday, February 10S1 Marks Due to OCAS
Cheques cashed for unreturned/damaged textbooks
Saturday, February 11 Jamaica Mission Trip Depart
Jazz Night 6:30
Monday, February 13Gr 9 Friends Photos in Room 129
Tuesday, February 14.....Sem1 Report Cards distributed
Valentine's Day
Gr 10 Friends Photos in Room 129
2012-13 Course Selection Assemblies
Wednesday, February 15S1 Marks Due to OUAC
National Flag of Canada Day
Gr 11 Friends Photos in Room 129
Grade Eight Parent Information Night
Fri, February 17.....Last Day for Sem 2 Timetable Changes
Sunday, February 19.....Jamaica Mission Trip Returns
KASSAA Championship Day (volleyball and basketball)
Mon, Feb 20.....Ontario Family Day Holiday (no school)
Tuesday, February 21 Pancake Supper, 5 - 7 pm
Tues - Fri, Feb 21 - 24Kiwanis Music Festival
Wednesday, February 22 Ash Wednesday Masses
ShareLent Campaign begins
Catholic School Council Meeting, 6:30, Library
Thursday, February 23Gr 9 and 10 Math Contests
Friday, February 24KASSAA Hockey Championships
Tentative Non-Uniform Day
Saturday, February 25 Kingston Improv Games Finals

SAFE SCHOOLS UPDATE

Through the **Facility Enhancement** process and support by **Safe Schools Initiatives**, we have now installed *eight sets of strobe lights on the walls of the school*. These lights are intended to signal to classes on the palying field to head to our alternate location in the event of a lockdown. Up until now, students and staff outside of the building have had no way of knowing when we have initiated lockdown procedures. We hope never to have to put this plan into use, but will incorporate the strobe lights into our safety drills in order to be as prepared for emergency situations. Students and staff outside of the building are encouraged to check these lights and to alert one another if by chance they ever see them in use.



HOLY CROSS SECONDARY SCHOOL JANUARY 2012 EXAM SCHEDULE

(Revised) **FINAL** (Revised)

Grade	A.M. / P.M.	Culminating Activity DAY Wednesday January 25 th (PM)	DAY 1 January 26 th Thursday	DAY 2 January 27 th Friday	DAY 3 January 30 th Monday	Day 4 January 31 st Tuesday	DAY 5 February 1 st Wednesday	DAY 6 February 2 nd (Snow Day/Exam Return) Thursday
12	a.m. 8:30	Modified Classes Pr. 1 (8:30 – 9:05) Pr. 2 (9:10 – 9:45) Pr. 3 (9:50 – 10:25) Pr. 4 (10:30 – 11:05) Lunch (11:05 – 11: 50) Exams (12:00)	MHF4U1 MAP4C1	BOH4M1 SCH4C1 PSE4U1 SPH4U1	CLN4U1 SES4U1	CGW4U1 SBI4U1		
	p.m. 12:00	BAT4M1 MDM4U1 SCH4U1	ENG4C1 ENG4U1	HRE4M1	HHS4M1 ADA4M1			
11	a.m. 8:30	Modified Classes Schedule Above	ENG3C1 ENG3U1	CHW3M1 SCH3U1	MCR3U1 MCF3M1 SBI3C1	BAF3M1 CHA3U1		
	p.m. 12:00	MBF3C1 SPH3U1	HRT3M1	HSP3M1	SBI3U1 CLU3M1			
10	a.m. 8:30	Modified Classes Schedule Above	ENG2D1 SNC2P1	CHC2D1 CHC2P1	MPM2D1			
	p.m. 12:00	MFM2P1 SNC2D1	FSF2D1	HRE2O1	ENG2P1			
9	a.m. 8:30	Modified Classes Schedule Above	SNC1D1 SNC1P1	ENG1D1 ENG1P1	MPM1D1 MFM1P1	HRE1O1		
	p.m. 12:00	CGC1P1	FSF1D1 FSF1P1	CGC1D1				

February 2nd – Snow day / Exam Return

February 3rd – PD – No students

February 6th –Start of Semester 2 – Turn around day

“The mind of the prudent acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.” *Proverbs 18:15* Good luck and God’s blessings to all on their exams and culminating activities.