

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL, KINGSTON
January 2014 Newsletter... visit our web site at www.hctoday.ca, or Twitter @HCToday1
Main Office 613-384-1919; Attendance Office 613-384-1355; Student Services 613-384-2023; Fax 613-384-8665

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. The bands and vocal class 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** 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.**

On **January 30th, 2014**, **Mr. Chris Corcoran** will retire after a 34.5 year teaching career which began in the fall of **1979** at **Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School**. **Chris** then taught at **St. Patrick, Harrowsmith** and **Holy Name**. In **September 1983**, **Chris** was transferred to **Regiopolis-Notre Dame CHS** where a thirty year career as a teacher of high school mathematics would begin. **Chris** came to **Holy Cross** in **September 1991** where he has taught for the past twenty

two years and also served as the **Department Head in Mathematics**. **Chris's** smile, kindness, gentle nature, chuckle and ability to always see the good in others have characterized a very successful career in teaching. He is a person who often put the needs and interests of others ahead of his own. He has demonstrated an exceptional love for his family, school, and parish throughout his life. On behalf of all, I thank you for your integrity and dedication. Congratulations to both of you on your retirement.

We enter **2014** with many opportunities ahead of us. I wish all students and their families a very **Happy New Year** and let's all of us as **Holy Cross Crusaders** make **2014** a great year for our school and community.

Paul A. Walsh

January Events at Holy Cross

- Wed, January 1..... World Day of Prayer, NEW YEAR'S DAY
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Feast Day
- Monday, January 6..... First Instructional Day of the New Year
Holy Cross Semester One Field Trip Moratorium Begins
Feast Day of Brother Andre Bissette
- Fri & Sat, Jan 10 & 11 RND Sr. Girls' Volleyball Tourn.
- Saturday, January 11 Sir John A. MacDonald Day
- Sunday, January 12 ... Feast Day of St. Marguerite Bourgeoys
- Monday, January 13.....National Non-Smoking Week Begins
- Tuesday, January 14 School Mass
- Wednesday, January 15.....Gr 11 Vocal Concert
Weedless Wednesday
OUAC deadline for equal consideration
- Wed & Fri, Jan 15 & 17Gr 9 EQAO Mathematics Test
- Thursday, Jan 16.....25th Memorial Basketball Games
Culminating Activities and Review Begins
- Thurs – Wed, Jan 16 – 22 ... Exam Preparation & Review Days
- Tuesday, January 22.....Last Full Day of Instruction, Sem 1
- Thurs – Tues, Jan 23 –28 Exam Days
- Wednesday, January 29 Inclement Weather Day
- Thursday, January 30 P.A. Day #3 (no classes)
- Friday, January 31 Chinese New Year, (Year of the Horse)
Turnaround Day
- Fri & Sat, Jan 31 & Feb 1 RND Jr. Girls' Vball Tournament
Sr. Boys' Basketball Tournament at Notre Dame Classic

PASTORAL UPDATE

December was certainly a busy month here at **Holy Cross**. We celebrated the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** as a school community during the first week of **December** and gathered for our **Advent School Mass** on **Thursday, December 12th**. Each Monday morning students and staff gathered in the **Main Lobby** of the school to offer prayers and to light candles on our **Advent Wreath**. During our **Advent** fundraising campaign our school raised money for various charities through class room collections, bake sales, "Soup & Bread" lunches and other events. During the 1st of Advent over \$3000.00 was raised for the **Typhoon Haiyan Relief Effort** in the **Philippines** through **Catholic Development & Peace**. Monies raised during the 2nd Week of Advent will go to **Home Base Housing** and its outreach program for homeless youth here in **Kingston**. During the 3rd Week of Advent, **Christmas Hampers** and clothes were delivered to the **St. Vincent de Paul Society** and to families in need. And, for the 4th Week of Advent, our school encouraged donations to our school's **Jamaica Mission Projects** through the "Gifts of Sunshine" Catalogue. Many thanks to all those who helped with our school's efforts to help people in need this month.

We are looking forward to our final school **Mass** for this semester which will take place on **Tuesday, January 14th**. At this **Mass** we will pray for those who have experienced illness or who have lost a loved one over the holidays. We will also ask God to bless our students who are writing final assignments and preparing for final exams and recognize those students and 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, prayers for a blessed New Year.

Chris Forster, Coordinator of Pastoral Services

STUDENT COUNCIL

Welcome back and Happy New Year! It's hard to believe that **2014** is upon us. I hope everyone enjoyed a safe, healthy, and relaxing holiday with family and friends. Make use of your rested brains as due dates and exams creep closer. **Student Council** considers **January** a quiet month, compared to the hustle and bustle of **December** festivities. Through the **Advent Charity Campaign**, **Student Council** and **CICS** raised money for the relief effort in the **Philippines**, to help homeless youth in **Kingston**, and to support the **Jamaica Mission Trip**. The **Coffee House** showcased the great talent of the students at our school and proved to be one of the greatest events this year so far. Our **Christmas Spirit Week** was a festive success! **Student Council** had an amusing lunch session of **Karaoke**, a **Gingerbread House Making Contest** with a great turnout, a **Christmas Sweater Day** that included pictures with **Santa, Mrs. Claus**, and their favourite elf, as well as a movie trip to see **The Hobbit 2**. This month we look forward to the **Grade Eleven Vocal Concert** to be held on **Wednesday, January 15th**. The last instructional day of semester one is **Tuesday, January 22nd**. We wish each and every student the best of luck in the final weeks of semester one. A bittersweet change comes at the end of this month

when we welcome semester two. Remember, "The best way to finish an unpleasant task is to get started." Happy New Year and happy studying.

Sarah Flisikowski, Communications Officer

JANUARY 2014 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 23rd** and are to conclude on **Tuesday, January 28th**. 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 24th then all exams scheduled for the Friday would be written on Monday, January 27th, 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. **Wednesday, January 29th** is the "snow day", where exams happen if necessary.

JANUARY EXAMINATION RETURN

Students will pick up their January examinations **at the end of the day** on **Friday, January 31st**. 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 **Wednesday, January 15th** and **Friday, January 17th** 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**.

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 Two**. 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 Two**.

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 **25th Annual Memorial** will be held this year on **Thursday, January 16th** 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 @ dzierobi@alcdsb.on.ca**. We are recognizing all of our sponsors this year on both the **Regi** 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**.

Good luck to all of our winter teams as their seasons reconvene.

HOLY CROSS CLASS OF 2014 GRADUATION CEREMONY

The graduation ceremony for this year's graduating class will be held on **Thursday, June 26th** here at the school. **Please mark this date on your calendar if you plan on graduating in June 2014.**

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 15th** and college applications by **Saturday, 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 [hctoday](#). The link is under the "Student Services" 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 **Friday, January 31st, 2014**

Course Selection 2014- 2015

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 27th, 2014**. 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 Two**. Please see your **Guidance Counsellor** if you qualify to take this test. **The test date is set provincially and cannot be changed – please save the date in your family calendars.**

NEWS FROM RESOURCE

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, M. Hulse in 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

As **2013** came to a close, the **Green Team** was busy with several projects and events. On **Friday, December 6th**, members of the **Green Team** travelled to **Plainfield, ON** to visit the **H. R. Frink Centre**. The **Frink Centre** is a conservation area and outdoor education centre operated in partnership with the **Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board**. We enjoyed team-building activities, a nature walk, and a potluck lunch led by local educator and outdoor expert **Shelsey Taylor**. Themes for the day included biodiversity, teamwork, and environmental sustainability. On **Tuesday, December 17th**, the **Green Team** hosted a presentation by **Chris Ketola** and **Kate Lennan** of the **Ontario Specialized Species Centre**. The **Centre** is a charitable organization located in **Peterborough, ON** which promotes conservation through education, maintains the captive breeding of specialized species, and rehabilitates injured birds of prey. **Chris** and **Kate** gave two presentations to over 200 students on the biology of and threats to certain specialized species. They brought live bats, owls, and birds of prey as part of their interactive presentation. Just before the holidays and continuing the theme of conservation, the Green Team created small signs for many of the school's computers. The signs are

NEXT MONTH AT HOLY CROSS

Sat, Feb 1 . Earliest day college applicants can confirm admission
 Sunday, February 2Groundhog Day
 Mon, February 3.....First Full Instructional Day of Semester Two
 Semester One Final Marks due at 4:30 p.m.
 Thursday, February 6.....Semester Two Grade Assemblies
 Fri, Feb 7..... Cheques cashed for unreturned/damaged textbooks
 Semester One Report Cards Issued
 Winter Olympics Open in Sochi, Russia
 Fri & Sat, Feb 7 & 8 Sr. Girls' Volleyball Tournament
 Mon & Tues, Feb 10 & 11.....Canlan Girls' Hockey Tournament
 Queen's Student Teachers Second Practicum Begins
 Wednesday, February 12 S1 Marks Due to OCAS
 Grade 8 (Class of 2018) Parent Information Night
 Thursday, February 13..... February School Liturgy
 S1 Marks Due to OUAC
 Friday, February 14 Valentine's Day
 Final Day for Semester Two Timetable Changes
 Saturday, February 15 National Flag of Canada Day
 Sunday, February 16 Boys' Basketball Championships
 Monday, February 17.....Ontario Family Day Holiday (no school)
 Girls' Volleyball Championships
 Tuesday, Feb 18 Aboriginal Dancers Assembly, Gr 11 Religion
 Tues – Thurs, Feb 18 – 27Course Selection Workshops
 Wed - Fir, Feb 19 - 21 Kiwanis Music Festival
 Thursday, February 20 Gr 9, 10 and 11 Math Contests
 Friday, February 21 Semester Two Review of IEP
 HC Student Council hosts ALCDSB Student Senate mtg.
 Saturday, February 22..... Kingston Improv Games Finals
 Sunday, February 23 Closing Ceremony, Sochi Olympics
 Tuesday, February 25 Canadian Computing Competition
 School Council Parent Reaching Out Night with Jessie Miller
 Thurs, Feb 27 . KASSAA Boys' and Girls' Hockey Championships
 Friday, February 28 Tentative Non-uniform Day



A mentoring program for Aboriginal high school students interested in academic and cultural enrichment.

**ABORIGINAL
 YOUTH
 LEADERSHIP
 PROGRAM**

Interested in joining?

Contact Ashley Maracle & attend our Meet and Greet session Thursday, January 16th 2014 to be held 5:00pm-6:30pm at the Four Directions Aboriginal Student Centre (146 Barrie Street).

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT:

- Academic Support
- College & University Prep
- Cultural Activities & Workshops
- Leadership Development
- Social Activities

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

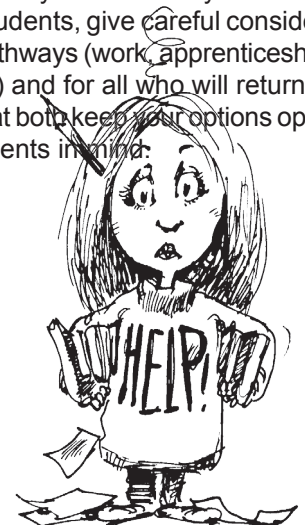
RUNS
 EVERY THURSDAY
 JAN 16-JUNE 19 2014
 3PM-5:30PM

OPEN TO GRADE 9-12 ABORIGINAL LEARNERS

reminders to turn monitors off when they are not in use. Considering **2014** is upon us, make a resolution to live more sustainably. Happy New Year, and **keep it green HC!**

ONTARIO CATHOLIC SCHOOL GRADUATE EXPECTATION

4. A Self-Directed, Responsible, Lifelong Learner
FAITH IN ACTION: Now is the time to create study schedules (and then implement them), to check first semester tasks off one by one until they are done. For our graduating students, give careful consideration to your future pathways (work, apprenticeship, college, or university) and for all who will return to HC, select classes that both keep your options open and your interests/talents in mind.



For inquiries or to register, contact Ashley Maracle.
 613-533-6000 ext. 77986
 fd.recruiter@queensu.ca