



Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School

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For complete information about events at the school visit our website at www.hctoday.ca

Newsletter – October 2014

School Pastoral Theme for 2014-2015 “BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS” (Matthew 5:9)

Message from the Principal

September has flown by, and here we are in October. Our school teams are all up and running thanks to teacher and community coach volunteers. Our Grade Nine Orientation and Retreat Day (led by guest speaker Andy Thibodeau) were well received by all. Our first school dance for junior students run by our talented Student’s Council was a great success. Our grade 12s are preparing to apply to colleges and universities under the expert guidance of our Student Services team. Our move to the new ALT Education site at the West End Boys and Girls Club is complete. Thanks to everyone for their flexibility and understanding as we get up to speed on the 2014-2015 school year.

Our students have settled in well and are adjusting to the new routines. One concern is **attendance**. We know that the single most important factor in student success is being present in class. Letters have been sent home to parents of students who have missed significant days of instruction. Please understand our goal: to provide the best possible opportunity for success. Let us know any time if your Crusader is going to be away from school. (Call 613-384-1919; when connected, press 2 to reach the attendance office)

The school improvement initiative at Holy Cross for 2014-2015 involves teacher-directed inquiries into classroom learning. This involves classroom planning and visits by administration/teacher-colleagues who will observe student learning, collect evidence and provide feedback to classroom teachers about the progress of his/her plan. If you have any questions about school improvement initiatives, please feel free to contact the school.

Ian Stuart, Principal

Important Dates for October

Wednesday, 1st – ‘Drive 4 Life’ Grade 11s

Thursday, 2nd – Kingston Community

Conversation Parent Night @ 5:30

Monday, 6th – Fire Prevention Week begins

Tuesday, 7th – Lockdown Drill; Photo Retakes

Wednesday, 8th – Catholic School Council

Thursday, 9th – Early Semester Reports out

Friday, 10th – Green and Silver Pep Rally

Tuesday, 14th – Queen’s Teacher Candidates

Wednesday, 15th – Wellness Wednesday 2

Thursday, 16th – Thanksgiving Mass

Tuesday, 21st - Grade 10 retreats begin

Wednesday, 22nd – Parent-Teacher Night

Thursday, 23rd – Paul Halligan Classic

Monday, 27th – Professional Activity Day #2

Friday, 31st – October Non-Uniform Day

EQAO Provincial Math Assessment - Grade Nine

If your child completed the Grade 9 math assessment last June, you should have received his/her Individual Student Report (ISR) that provides details about their performance on this provincial test. If not, or if you have questions, please contact the school.

Some Reminders

Poinsettia Fundraiser: Mark your calendars! The Bridges to Community Annual Poinsettia blitz will commence on Monday NOVEMBER 3rd. Call 613-384-1919 ext 2258 for details

School Photos by Lifetouch: All photos were distributed on September 25. School photo retakes take place Tuesday, October 7th in the cafeteria during period 1. Late orders are available only online at mylifetouch.ca. You need the portrait ID and Access Code that came with your proof. Any questions about school photos should be directed to the Lifetouch office at 1-866-969-0489.

Graduation Portraits: All grad photo proofs were distributed on September 24 and 29. Grad photo retakes are on Tuesday, October 7th in room 129 during period 2. Appointments are required. See Mr. Prior in room 129 to make your appointment. Grad photo orders are due on October 6 by 11:30 in room 129 (extensions will be offered to students getting retakes). Any questions about grad photos should be directed to Mr. Prior at 613-384-1919 x 2129 between 8:15 and 11:30.

Graduate Yearbook write-ups are due on October 8th: Don't be disappointed! Submit today.

School Council Update

The next school Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 8th at 6:30. Our Executive includes Michelle Iliescu, Chair; Frank Cameron, Vice-Chair; Jamie O'Neill, Secretary; Sheri Mallen, Treasurer; John Thorburn, Teacher Rep.; Chris Forster, Non-Teaching Rep.; Lisa Lollar, Community Rep.; Darlene Johnson, Parish Rep.

Come out to the Kingston Community Conversation evening on October 2nd. Dinner for free at 5:30. Free child care/activities. Keynote Dr. Lynda Colgan from Queen's will speak about helping students love math. Panel discussion moderated by Maegan Kulchar of CKWS-TV to follow.

Counsellors' Corner

- **Post Secondary Information**

Application information session #1 for students applying to universities has been completed. College information sessions will take place October 2nd and October 7th at 11:10 a.m. In the upcoming months, Student Services will be hosting many presentations from Ontario colleges and universities as well as workshops for the application process. Students may access dates for presentations and the application process online at www.hctoday.ca. A note to parents that the power point presented at the Post-Secondary Info Session will be available on the HC website www.hctoday.ca.

- **Parent-Student Maplewood Portal Access**

All students have access to their credit history through the parent-student Maplewood portal on the Holy Cross website. Passwords and usernames are available from student services. Grade 12 students are encouraged to check their credit histories to ensure all requirements are fulfilled for graduation and post-secondary applications.

- **Take Our Kids to Work**

Wednesday November 5th is *Take Our Kids to Work Day*. Information sheets, including permission forms, will be distributed to Grade 9 students. Students are required to return a signed permission form by October 24th in order to participate.

- **Scholarship News**

The deadline for two prominent scholarships is approaching. The Loran Award (formerly known as the Canadian Merit Scholarship) website is www.loranscholar.ca. We can sponsor/nominate three candidates. If you are submitting your application for consideration please submit by October 6th at 8:30 am. The deadline date for Queen's major entrance Scholarships and Awards is December 1st. Students interested in being nominated for the Queen's Chancellor's Scholarship must submit a copy of their application by November

10th. Students must have an average of 90% to be eligible. If you have any questions about these or any other scholarships, please contact Mrs. Cantarutti in Student Services.

- **EARLY SEMESTER REPORT CARDS AND INTERVIEWS**

On Thursday, October 9th, the early Report Cards for Grades 9–12 students will be distributed in homeroom classes. Parent-teacher interviews are scheduled for **Thursday, October 16th, from 3:30 to 5:30p.m. followed by an evening session from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The second evening is on Wednesday, October 22nd, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.** Each parent-teacher conference is scheduled for ten minutes, and should be booked by appointment, in advance, in the days prior to the interview. Students will be bringing home their report card and a teacher appointment booking form which will require the teacher's signature in order to confirm the appointment time. Parents and guardians should feel free to contact their son or daughter's teacher at any time in order to learn more about his or her performance, but this time, in particular, is reserved for the essential link between home and school.

A Message from Students' Council

As we say goodbye to the month of September we would like to thank everyone for making it a great start to the school year. We had many very successful events: grade 9 orientation, a junior dance, and the grade 9 retreat. As the leaves start to change we say hello to the beautiful fall month of October! We can't wait as there are many fun events coming up. On October 10th, Students' Council hosts the HC Green and Silver Pep Rally. This takes place before the **Friday Night Lights** football games between HC and Regi at the Invista Centre. We hope to see you all there! To celebrate Halloween we have a Halloween costume contest that takes place on Oct 31st at lunch; let's see some amazing costumes! During the first half of October we have the Thanksgiving food drive and we encourage students to bring in non-perishable food items to their homeroom classes in order to help others in need. As always we hope to make this a memorable October and hope it's the best one yet. See you at the Invista Centre!

Gabe McDonald
Communications Officer Students' Council

Arts News

A huge thank you to all those who came to the Band fundraising meeting September 24th. Mr. Orser was overwhelmed by the show of support and our student musicians are truly blessed to have so many volunteers for the April Band Trip to Orlando, Florida. Please note the first of several fundraising Bottle Drives: Saturday, October 18 from 9 a.m. until 12 noon. For all bottle drives we will meet at Holy Cross at 8:45 and split into teams.

Athletics

Our fall sports teams, who are underway, are demonstrating Crusader spirit in their preparations, and fierce but fair play. The 12th annual PH Classic will take place on Thursday, October 23rd at Regiopolis in the evening, with boys' volleyball matches preceding the event at Holy Cross in the afternoon. The **Catholic Cup** will be played "under the lights" this season at the Invista Caraco field on Friday, October 10th. Come out wearing green and silver and support your Crusader athletics this month! The HC Boys and Girls Golf teams both won KASSAA Gold on Sept 25th at Loyalist Golf and Country Club. Both teams advance to the EOSSAA round in Prescott on October 2nd.

Congratulations to the following: Coach Watts, boys team members Noah Steele, Connor Lyon, Mack Hancock, and Carter Kelly, and girls team members Diana McDonald, Kiley Rodrigues, Emily Calder, and Cassidy Hollywood.

There will be a Girls' Field hockey tournament at John Macrae S.S. in Nepean on October 9th.

Looking Forward to November

November 3rd – Bridges Poinsettia Fundraiser starts;
November 5th – Take Our Kids to Work Day – Grade 9;
November 5th – Term 1 Careers/Civics courses end;
November 10th – College Application Workshop @ HC
November 10th – Mid-term marks submitted by teachers
November 11th – Remembrance Day Assemblies
November 12th – Catholic School Council Meeting #3; **Shrek: The Musical** tickets go on sale; Wellness Wednesday Veggie Blitz
November 14th – Jamaican Mission Trip Fish Fry @ HC; Mid-term marks available on-line
November 17th – Bullying Awareness Week begins; Mid-Semester Reports issued; Toronto Street Retreat (Two Days)
November 24th – Matinee Performance of **Shrek: The Musical**; Day of the Arts @ HC, Day 1
November 25th – Day of the Arts @ HC Day 2
November 26th – Opening Night: **Shrek: the Musical**
November 27th – November Non-Uniform Day
November 28th – Professional Activity Day #3
November 30th – First Sunday of Advent

PASTORAL UPDATE

Our home form classes are busy collecting non-perishable food items for this year's PIM Food Drive which runs until October 9th. This annual collection will benefit our Partners In Mission Food Bank and the 6500 local families who must access food from them each year. We will be announcing the totals for our Food Drive at our School Mass on Thursday, Oct. 16th. On October 18th our school will be hosting the "Shine Like the Son" Catholic Youth Conference. Youth from across our Archdiocese will be gathering at Holy Cross to celebrate their faith with upbeat music, a guest speaker, workshops, and the celebration of Mass at 4:00 p.m. All high school youth are welcome.

We are planning for our Grade 10 "Sexuality: Body Mind Spirit" Retreats which will take place on October 21 & 22. All of our Grade 10 students will take part in these day-long retreats which address an important aspect of our lives. The retreat day has been developed in consultation

with our Religion Department, Pastoral Services, Youth Worker Services, and the local Health Unit as we look at our sexuality from the perspective of a healthy and well-balanced Catholic moral framework. We are especially fortunate in that Nadia Gundert from the Archdiocesan Youth Office and Dr. Vanessa Sweet from the "LifeTeen" program at St. Paul the Apostle Parish will be involved this year.

One important date to keep in mind is Friday, November 14th as we host our 5th Annual Jamaica Fish Fry here at Holy Cross from 3:00 – 6:30 p.m. All proceeds will go to this year's Jamaica Mission Trip. Tickets are \$15.00 for take-out or an "All You Can Eat" sit-down dinner. Call my office (ext. 3436) for tickets or more information.

On behalf of the Holy Cross Pastoral Team, blessings to all our students, staff, and family members as we look forward to celebrating Thanksgiving and as we give thanks to God for all our blessings.

A Second Reminder about Communication

As you know by now, our newsletter will be presented in a condensed format this year. While it highlights events, it does not provide full details about the many goings-on here at Holy Cross. Our website - www.hctoday.ca – and, of course, our talented and knowledgeable staff, remain your primary contacts for detailed information. Do not hesitate to call if you need information.