



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 – January 2015

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

Message from the Principal

I trust you and your family enjoyed a happy and holy Christmas, a joyful and festive start to the new year, and restful and rejuvenating break from school. On behalf of Mr. Melim, Mrs. Gallant and the entire staff at Holy Cross, I wish you every blessing for 2015 and a warm welcome back to school.

December was a busy month of fun-filled activities, but now, as we move toward culminating tasks and final examinations, I would like to re-emphasize our commitment to supporting academic success and encourage all families to plan ahead for your children’s course completion tasks. While we will always work with families to find solutions to issues that might arise, the Education Act does not permit absence from school for vacations and the published examination schedule cannot be adjusted to meet individual needs of this type. January is the month where students will show what they know and it is our responsibility to give them the best opportunity possible to do so.

The start of a new year holds out the promise of great things to come. Check out the important dates for January listed to the right: you will see a number of exciting events – the vocal music concert and the Memorial basketball games to name just two. I hope to see you out at these and other events during the month of January.

Ian Stuart

The Survey Says...

Thank you to everyone who completed the on-line and paper versions of the uniform survey. I want you to know that the committee appreciates hearing your views and that you have been heard. Results of the survey are summarized below:

5th – First day of classes and start of our Field Trip moratorium

9th and 10th – Jr. and Sr. Basketball and Volleyball teams at tournaments

13th – End of Semester 1 School Mass

14 – Grade 9 EQAO Assessment of Mathematics Day 1; Grade 11 Vocal Concert; OUAC Application Deadline;

15th – 27th Annual Memorial Basketball Games @ Holy Cross; Examination Prep and Culminating Task Day 1; Twoonie for Non-Uni in support of Cancer Research

16th – Grade 9 EQAO Assessment of Mathematics Day 2; Examination Prep and Culminating Task Day 2

19th – Examination Prep and Culminating Task Day 3

20th – Examination Prep and Culminating Task Day 4

21st – Examination Prep and Culminating Task Day 5; Last day of instruction semester 1; Wellness Wednesday #5

22nd – Examination Day 1 and textbook return

23rd – Examination Day 2 and textbook return

26rd – Examination Day 3 and textbook return

27th – Examination Day 4 and textbook return

28th – Examination Day 5, snow day, final textbook return day; Semester 2 textbook pick up day

29th – Course completion day

30th – Professional Activity Day #4

Identify yourself – 690 students responded to the paper survey and the results were collated by Mrs. McLean’s Data Management class. It seems our grade 11s were the most interested in responding and also (surprisingly given the two questions specific to the girl’s uniform) a higher proportion of male students – 430 of them – took the time to respond. 546 responded to the on-line survey, 440 parents and 68 staff and a smattering of students and ‘others’. The largest group on-line were grade 10 parents.

Footwear – Among students, over 80% approved of changing the footwear policy and 56% approved of the definition, allowing alternate colours and styles. Among on-line respondents, 54% approved of changing the policy and over 70% approved of the definition.

Pants – Definitive results here! 93% of female student respondents wanted a new style of pants. Even the males were on board at 75%. The on-line survey came in at 85% in favour. We have already begun this process and samples are circulating at the school.

Kilt – Again, a definitive result. Of the student responses, 83% of females preferred keeping the kilt as an option. Overall, 69% of students want to keep the kilt. On-line, 60% of respondents want to keep the kilt. It is interesting to read the “Responses” for while the majority wish to retain the kilt, many, many parents and staff expressed frustration with how the kilt is being worn.

Please note that the next step in the process is to revise the Holy Cross Uniform Policy in light of these results. The committee meets in January and a copy of a draft revision will be published in next month’s newsletter and on the school website (www.hctoday.ca). While there is no formal process for collecting your input on the rewritten policy, please feel free to contact the school with any concerns. And once again, thanks for your insights and input.

A Message from Students’ Council



Gabe McDonald, Communications Officer, Students’ Council

Stephanie Gagnon presents Ms. Beck from KGH a cheque in support of the **Show Children You Care Campaign** while the members of the Students' Council display the teddy bears our school "earned" over Advent. Good looking uniforms I might add!

Arts News



The grade 11 Vocal Class will present their final concert on **Wednesday, January 14th, 2015** at 7 p.m. on the Holy Cross stage. Singers will be accompanied by a live 4-piece band. There will be a special guest appearance by some members of the Holy Cross dance program. Tickets are only \$5 at the door.

Looking Forward to February 2015

- February 1st** – OCAS deadline for equal consideration
- February 2nd** – Sem 1 Exam return day; final marks submitted by 3:00 p.m.
- February 3rd** – First full day of classes for Semester 2
- February 5th** – Semester 1 marks available online; Semester 2 grade assemblies
- February 6th** – Report Cards issued
- February 9th** – WHMIS certification training for SHSM students
- February 10th** – 2015-2016 Course selection assembly and workshops begin
- February 11th** – Grade 8 Parent Information Night for the class of 2019
- February 12th** – IEP draft review completed
- February 13th** – final day for Semester 2 timetable changes
- February 16th** – Family Day/Heritage Day statutory holiday
- February 17th** – Shrove Tuesday breakfast; Course selection workshop 1
- February 18th** – Lent begins; Share Lent Collection; Ash Wednesday Mass; Wellness Wednesday; Course selection workshop 2
- February 19th** – Course selection workshop 3; Grade 9-11 math contests; Kiwanis Festival begins
- February 20th** – Kiwanis Festival continues; Course selection workshop 4
- February 23rd** – Wellness Week begins; Course selection workshop 5
- February 24th** – Course selection workshop 6
- February 25th** – Pink Shirt Day – Bullying Awareness and Prevention; Parents Reaching Out Evening with Dr. Greg Wells – 7:00 pm start; Course selection workshop 7
- February 26th** – Course selection workshop 8
- February 27th** – Course selection process completed; Grade 8 registration packages due; February Non-uniform day; conclusion of Wellness Week
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EQAO Assessment of Grade 9 Math

In January, all Holy Cross students enrolled in grade 9 mathematics, along with their colleagues throughout the province, will complete a standardized 60 minute math test that includes multiple choice, short answer and extended response questions. The test is administered across the province on January 14th and 16th. This assessment is integrated into both academic and applied level courses and teachers at Holy Cross have already been preparing students. Parents and students requiring more information or practice materials are encouraged to check www.eqao.com and go to Student Resources and Parents Resources.

January Examination Period Reminders

You will find the **January Examination Schedule** posted on HC Today. Exams are scheduled for 8:30 and for 12:00 noon start times. School cancellation will cause the schedule to ‘bump’ one day: exams cancelled due to weather will happen the following day. Please check all media if we experience bad weather, but when in doubt, expect to write! **Textbooks** must be returned to the textbook room before a student’s last examination in order for staff to process, catalogue inventory and re-issue to semester two students. This avoids “lost” textbook issues and makes life easier for everyone involved in the turn-around from semester one to semester two. Textbooks for semester two are available for pick up during the examination schedule and before school, at lunch hour and after school once classes start in February. Students will need their green library/textbook card. (Replacement cards are \$5.00.) **Examination Return Day** is February 2nd. We will be following an abbreviated Semester 2 schedule that day where students cycle through semester one classes to get examinations and then travel to their new classes to meet teachers and receive course orientations.

OSSLT – Literacy Test

The **Ontario Secondary Schools Literacy Test** has been scheduled for Thursday, March 26th, 2015. All grade 10 students working toward a graduation diploma will write, along with senior students new to Ontario or unsuccessful writers from last year. Grade 9 students will write a practice literacy test that day and our senior students will be on independent study.

Athletics

The Memorial and Full Court Press Against Cancer



The 26th Annual Memorial will be held on **Thursday, January 15th** with the junior games beginning at 6 p.m., and seniors following at 8 p.m. The Crusaders will host the Regiopolis Notre-Dame Panthers in the Joe Duffey gymnasium. Over \$250,000 has been raised to help in cancer research over the past 25 years. In other news, all Crusader teams are back in action following the Christmas break, with games beginning Tuesday, January 6th and continuing up until Thursday, January 15th, when, once again, we take a break for examinations. Good luck to all of our winter teams as their seasons reconvene and travel toward the championships.

Province of Ontario, School Council and KFL&A Health Parent Evening - Doctor Greg Wells

Mark it in your calendar now! **Wednesday, February 25th, 2015**. Dr. Greg Wells synthesizes key learnings from his research at the University of Toronto and Hospital for Sick Children and experiences working with Canadian Olympians to highlight best practices that anyone can use to improve their health and performance. His presentation, to your children during the day, and, in the evening to you, highlights mental skills, physical techniques and nutritional tools that help people recover faster, handle stresses more effectively, perform under pressure, and ultimately - to **Be Better**. Don't miss it. It's a great opportunity to enter into a conversation with your children about their wellness. Visit his website for more information. <http://www.drgregwells.com/>

Counsellor's 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 14th and college applications by Sunday, 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 www.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 the Monday February 2nd, 2015

Course Selection 2015-2016

The course selection process for next school year will be outlined in workshops being conducted in mid-February. More details to follow.

Pastoral Care Update

In December we celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation as a school community and gathered for our Advent School Mass on Thursday, December 11th. 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, Hot Chocolate sales, "Soup & Bread" lunches and other events. During the 1st of Advent over \$1300.00 was raised for the Teddy Bear Campaign at KGH. Monies raised during the 2nd Week of Advent went to the St. Vincent de Paul Society and its outreach program for homeless youth here in Kingston. During the 3rd Week of Advent, Christmas Hampers were purchased and clothes collected and delivered either to the St. Vincent de Paul Society or to families in need. Many thanks to all those who contributed to this year's Advent Collection. Please keep in mind that we are looking for school and medical supplies, as well as wheelchairs and walkers, to take with us on our March Break Mission Trip to Kingston, Jamaica. We are now looking forward to our final school Mass for this semester which will take place on Tuesday, January 13th where we will pray for those who are ill, who have lost a loved one, and for our students who are writing final assignments and preparing for final exams.

As we begin this 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 and Happy New Year. **Chris Forster, Chaplaincy Leader**

NEWS FROM SPECIAL EDUCATION AND RESOURCE

Grade 9 , A-L- and Grade 11- Mrs. Poels (613-384-1919 ext. 3426)
Grade 9, M-Z, and Grade 10 -Mrs. Hulse at 613-384-1919 ext. 3428
Grade 12 - Ms. Gavan Knox at 613-384-1919 ext. 3426.

Thank you! Appreciation is sent to all Parents/Guardians for completing the **Individual Education Plan** process for semester one. If you have not returned the Consultation Form, please do so as we are collating them and responding to any comments. If you did not receive your son or daughter's IEP for this term, please contact 613-384-1919, ext.3410.

Final Exams: Students on IEPs are entitled to their regular accommodations during the exam period. Students and their parents who do not wish to access these provided accommodations are asked to discuss this with the individual subject teacher and of course, their Special Education Resource Teacher.

The final IEP for semester one will reflect any changes made during the term as a result your comments on the Consultation Form, parent-teacher/guardian interviews, notes from medical professionals, guidance meetings, phone calls, assessment reports, IPRC meetings, case conferences. This final version, no longer draft, will be attached to the semester one provincial report card which students will receive on February 6. As we begin the draft IEP process for semester two, please continue to give us your input as partners in your child's academic success. If there is anything of a very important nature that

you would like included in the **IEP Transition Plan** for increased success for next semester, please contact us.

Post-Secondary Transition Planning: Grade 12 Students and their parents and Guardians are invited to prepare a Post-Secondary Transition Portfolio. If interested, please contact Ms. Gavan Knox in Room 117 or gavankno@alcdsb.on.ca. The Resource Guide for Students with Disabilities is a useful tool to navigate the college and university websites. See www.transitionresourceguide.ca.

On-Line to Success Program-RARC-Queen's University: This program is for students in grades 11 and 12 with a Learning Disability (LD), Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). It is primarily an on-line course, however, there are three in-person workshop days (Opening Days: March 26 & 27, Closing Day: May 14) Students who complete this course are eligible for a discounted assessment (\$1000 or less) before post-secondary. There is no cost to the program, however transportation is not provided to the three days on Queen's campus. The registration deadline is January 20. For more information, contact Ms. Gavan Knox at 613-384-1919 ext.3426; gavankno@alcdsb.on.ca.

