



# HOLY CROSS

Catholic Secondary School

September 2015

## Principal's Message

It has been a busy summer at Holy Cross, with the ongoing facility upgrades on top of our regular preparations for 2015-6 keeping staff on their toes. Welcome back, and I trust you've had a refreshing and rewarding holiday. Our thoughts and prayers are with our graduates as they begin the next step on their educational journey, even as we turn our minds to our new Crusaders, the class of 2019.

Our school pastoral theme this year fits beautifully with our school mission: "Blessed are the merciful." (Matthew 5:7) Our pastoral team, Chris Forster, Father Leo Byrne and new addition Fr. James Quirk, has completed planning for the year. Watch for more information about upcoming initiatives from our Pastoral team in this and every newsletter.

The ongoing labour unrest in the educational sector has caused some concern. Throughout, staff have taken the view that we prepare for the year as we always have, hope and pray for resolution, so news that OECTA has signed a tentative agreement with the province is welcome news. We will be starting the school year as we always do with a full slate of activities and events. And, I might add, with increased enrolment of about 70 students over projections back in May. Thank you for showing confidence in our school.

Our School Improvement Planning (SIP) for 2015-6 will focus on 'student inquiry' in all of our instruction: enhancing the already engaging learning environments in our classrooms by allowing students to operate independently, to make decisions and to attempt challenging tasks. The teachers' role, to ensure students have the necessary knowledge, skills and strategies, remains our fundamental order of business as we move forward with our SIP plan. Updates on progress will follow throughout the year.

Parents interested in getting more deeply involved in their children's education are encouraged to attend the first meeting of the Holy Cross Catholic School Council on Wednesday, September 16th, 2015, at 6:30 in the school library. Our chairperson, Michelle Iliescu (eliescu@cogeco.ca), would like to welcome all our new families and hopes to see you on the 16th.

On a related note, parents know that students who are involved in school outside the classroom perform at a higher level inside the classroom. Holy Cross offers a wide variety of extra-curriculars—so encourage your Crusader(s) to get involved.

*Ian Stuart, Principal*

## Staff Update

There have been a few changes in our staff over the summer. We are pleased to welcome **Father James Quirk** to our Pastoral team. Father Quirk is presently at St. John's Parish and will be at Holy Cross one day a week.

**Miss Asia Zolnierczyk** joins the science department, teaching senior chemistry and **Mr. Billy Garland** joins the Arts Department while Ms. Bouvier is on leave. No stranger to Holy Cross, we welcome back **Mrs. Heather Johnson** in Math.

## In This Month

- Staffing Update
- Important Dates for the September
- Community User announcement
- Crusader Certificate standards change

## Changes to the Uniform Policy

A big thank you goes out to members of the Uniform Committee and to Tanya Lackey for their efforts in working through the uniform policy review. After surveying the community and working with our partners on revisions, the new policy is in place for this September. You can find the updated policy on page 6 in the 2015-6 Student Handbook/Agenda. Just a reminder that the uniform has an important role to play at Holy Cross. It is a symbol of our school. It readily identifies our students and helps us supervise our facility. It creates a level 'playing field' for students and can significantly reduce clothing expenses for families. As such, we ask that you encourage your Crusader to not just wear the uniform, but wear it well. Occasionally, students may find themselves out of uniform and because admittance to class requires students to be in full uniform, this can cause stress. Know that our front office staff are here to work with students to ensure they are in proper uniform. A warning will be issued for the first uniform deficiency, followed by contact home for the second. A third issue and the student will not be permitted in class and will work in the main office until a solution can be found, which usually involves having the uniform or missing part delivered to the school. If you have any questions regarding the uniform, please consult the Student Agenda or contact the school at 613-384-1919.

### “Every School Day Counts”

As you can imagine, tracking the whereabouts of 1100 students over four periods a day for an entire school year is a daunting task. Fortunately, we are blessed with expert staff—Mrs. Kathy Burt and Mrs. Kim Nowak—who keep us all up to date on attendance. Parents and teachers know that being in class is vital to student achievement. Just a few reminders as we begin a new school year:

1. If your Crusader is going to be away, particular for an extended amount of time, please contact the school at 613-384-1919 x 3409.
2. Classroom teachers will be contacting parents of students who are truant, particularly when it begins to impact achievement.
3. Holy Cross uses SYNERVOICE, an automated calling system, to contact homes if students miss a class. Please let us know if there is a reason for your child's absence if you receive one of these calls.
4. As part of our Code of Conduct, students who have an unexplained absence will be asked to make up the missed class work during a portion of their lunch hour.
5. At five, ten and fifteen days absent, parents can expect to receive notification letters. This total includes excused and unexcused absences. Early intervention to re-engage our students is our goal.

We are confident, that in partnership with parents, our school team can do wonders in supporting student attendance at Holy Cross.



**Coming to the Holy Cross stage this fall**

### A Note on Communication

Last year, Holy Cross reduced the length and format of the newsletter. In addition, we moved to a paperless (as much as we could) communication plan, sending material electronically whenever possible. We are continuing this move to paperless communication in 2015-6, but never to the disadvantage of you. Please let the school know if you need hard copies of any routine communication and it will be sent home with your child. We continue to look at ways of making [www.hctoday.ca](http://www.hctoday.ca), our website, more helpful to you. Along with our electronic message board, automated voice messaging system, agenda, and this newsletter, not to mention our staff who are here to answer your questions, we trust we keep in in the loop.

## The New Basketball Court at Holy Cross

This summer, the new outdoor basketball court opened in the west parking lot. A big thank you to the graduating classes of 2013, 2014 and 2015, as well as the Taylor Auto Mall, the Sports Leadership Class, led by Mr. Dzierniejko, and all our community partners, who made this project possible. It has been well used and is a positive contribution to our school and our community.



While open to all, users need to be aware of certain **Court Rules**, posted on site. Use is restricted by City of Kingston By-laws to the posted times—no play between 9:00 pm and 7:00 am, and by-laws also prohibit any amplified sounds or loud yelling, shouting or language. Spread the word to all of our community partners. **Let's**

**keep our court open and available for play by adhering to the spirit of our project and not abusing the privilege. Report any concerns to Holy Cross at 613-384-1919.**

### ***Grade 9's Get in FREE!***

Show your **ActivPass** or **Holy Cross Student Card** and there is **NO CHARGE** when you visit the YMCA, INVISTA Fitness Centre, and area pools and rinks. Check out the schedule for free access times:

#### **No way to Get There?**

Grade 9's ride Kingston Transit for **FREE!** Get your bus pass today. For more information, visit: [www.cityofkingston.ca](http://www.cityofkingston.ca) or [www.kingstongetsactive.ca](http://www.kingstongetsactive.ca)

⇒ Brought to you by KFL&A Public Health

### *Accessibility for the Holy Cross Community*

Every member of the Holy Cross community has the right to full access to the services we provide. Accessibility does not simply mean accommodations to allow physical access to our facilities, such as ramps and automatic doors, which are

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only the most obvious examples of how public sector organizations have been responding to the needs of citizens. At Holy Cross, we are committed to providing access to every aspect of our school, and that includes communication, information, transportation and, of course, public spaces.

If you have accessibility needs that we have not already met, please let us know and we will make it right.

## Attention Returning Students and Parents

This year, administration in conjunction with the Graduation Committee have decided to increase the number of community service hours required to earn recognition and receive a Crusader Certificate. The expectation from the Ministry of Education for all students in Ontario is unchanged: each student will perform 40 hours of community service before graduation from high school. At Holy Cross, special recognition in the form of a certificate and announcement at graduation will now require 80 or more hours of documented and approved community service. It is the belief of the Graduation Committee and administration that raising expectations in this way will encourage and promote even greater commitment to serve those in need as Jesus taught us to do.

## Arts News

The Holy Cross Drama Club presents its major dramatic production, ***Guys and Dolls*** on the Holy Cross stage this November. Once again, like *Shrek: The Musical* last year, a large number of students will be required. Please consider either auditioning for a role or volunteering for the crew. The first meeting will take place on Thursday, September 10th. Pay attention to announcements for more information.

## Contact Us

Check on-line for more information at  
[www.hctoday.ca](http://www.hctoday.ca)

**Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School**  
1085 Woodbine Road,  
Kingston, Ontario, K7P 4V9

### Looking Forward to October

- Oct 1—Graduating Athlete and Artist Photos continue in Rm. 129
- Oct 5—Take Our Kids to Work Day forms distributed
- Oct 6—College Application Process presentations begin at lunch; university visits happening all month
- Oct 9—Lockdown Drill 1
- Oct 12—Grad portrait orders due
- Oct 13—Early Report Card process begins
- Oct 14—Department Head Meeting 2
- Oct 15—Thanksgiving Food Drive ends; October School Mass
- Oct 16—Early Semester Reports issued
- Oct 17—Archdiocesan Youth Rally at HC
- Oct 20—Grade 10 Retreat Day 1
- Oct 21—Draft IEPs mailed home; Grade 10 Retreat Day 2; Wellness Wednesday #2
- Oct 22—Parent Teacher Interviews
- Oct 23—Grade 9 Take our Kids to Work forms due
- Oct 28th—Parent Teacher Interviews
- Oct 29th University On-Line Application Workshop
- Oct 30—Non-Uniform Day 2 and Jamaican Mission Trip Fish Fry

### ATTENTION COMMUNITY USERS

**AT SOME POINT THIS FALL, DEPENDING UPON PLANT AVAILABILITY, THE ENTRANCE LOCK AND ALARM CODES AT HOLY CROSS WILL BE CHANGED. THIS IS A SCHOOL SECURITY NECESSITY. YOU WILL RECEIVE INFORMATION VIA EMAIL ABOUT THIS CHANGE AND A SIGN ANNOUNCING THIS CHANGE WILL BE ATTACHED TO THE ENTRANCE DOOR. THE SCHOOL IS STAFFED ALL SUMMER, EXCEPT FOR A ONE WEEK SHUT DOWN IN AUGUST. INFORMATION ABOUT SUMMER HOURS APPEARS IN THIS NEWSLETTER AND ON OUR ELECTRONIC SIGN. HOLY CROSS APOLOGIZES FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE TO OUR VALUED COMMUNITY PARTNERS.**

### **Attention Students and Parents - All Grades Medical Alerts and Responsibilities**

Families are reminded to alert the school about any existing medical concerns (anaphylaxis, diabetes, epilepsy etc.) and to supply the front office staff with any needed medications required in the case of emergencies. Please inform your child's teachers and coaches about any allergies and conditions that might impact their health and safety while off school property. Together, we can make Holy Cross a safer place to be.

## Important Dates for September

Sept 1st—Grade 9 Locker and Textbook distribution from 9 to 3; Grade 9 orientation visits for students with IEPs

Sept 2nd—Grades 10 to 12 Textbook and Locker distribution from 9 to 3 during the day and 6 to 9 in the evening

Sept 4th—First Professional Activity Day; opening liturgy and staff meeting

Sept 8th— first day of school; Crusader school team tryouts begin; Grad Photo sign up begins and continues all week.

Sept 9th—Grade assemblies periods 1 and 2; grade photographs in main foyer.

Sept 10th—Grade 9 Orientation morning; Jamaica Mission Trip Parent Meeting; *Guys and Dolls* Information Meeting in Room 246.

Sept 14th—Fire Drill 1; *Guys and Dolls* auditions begin after school.

Sept 15th—School Photo Day; payment required; *Guys and Dolls* auditions continue after school all week.

Sept 16th—School Council Meeting 1 at 6:30 in the library; University application Process meetings 11:15 and 2:35; school photos for absentees.

Sept 17th—Fire Drill 2; First School Mass; Grad Photos begin in Rm. 129.

Sept 18th—Last Day for Timetable Changes. Grade 9 Retreat. Terry Fox Run on Sunday @ St. Lawrence

Sept 21st—2014 EQAO Math results distributed.

Sept 23rd—Band Trip 2016 Parent and Musicians Meeting @ 6:30; Wellness Wednesday 1 brought to you by the Wellness Team.

Sept 25—Professional Activity Day 2

Sept 30th—Staff Meeting #2 after school; September Non-Uniform Day; Class of 2016 Post Secondary Information Evening @ 7:00 in the cafetorium; Graduating Athlete Photos in Rm. 129 at lunch.

## Crusaders In Community Service (CICS) Executive

Recently six students were appointed to serve on the Crusaders In Community Service Executive for 2015-2016:

- **Anna Stafford** (Co-chair)
- **Olivia Lynch** (Co-chair)
- **Naomi Gazendam** (Secretary)
- **Hayley Maloney** (Communications)
- **Reid Cameron** (Senior Rep – Grade 11)
- **Faith Lollar** (Junior Rep – Grade 10)
- **TBA in September** (Junior Rep – Grade 9)

These students all have experience working on various social action projects here at Holy Cross and next year they will inspire even more members of our school community to put their "Faith Into Action". If you have a charitable group or a social action project that you would like to see supported here at Holy Cross please see any member of the CICS` Executive.

**Chris Forster, Chaplain**