



# HOLY CROSS

Catholic Secondary School

September 2016

## Principal's Message

Welcome parents, guardians, and students to the 2016-17 school year at Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School. I speak for all of us when I say we are proud and humbled to welcome such a large number of students to our school: our enrolment is very strong, and your confidence in us is appreciated. A particularly warm welcome to the class of 2020—our incoming grade 9 students who enjoyed a two day orientation this past Thursday and Friday, September 1 and 2.

Take a moment to look around the school. There are so many opportunities at hand. *Les Miserables*, this year's musical, has auditions starting almost immediately. Junior and senior football, boys' volleyball, girls' basketball, field hockey, clubs and activities of all kinds. Pick one and get involved, whether you are a returning student or a new arrival. Statistics tell us that students involved in at least one extra-curricular activity will outperform their peers who do not engage outside of the classroom. And that goes for parents, too.

Our first School Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 14th at 6:30 in our new Learning Commons. Be a good role model for your child and get involved in the school. We have one meeting per month for about an hour. In year's past, parents and guardians have helped fund student events, wellness activities, form policy on our uniform, and organize parent engagement evenings.

This summer, as part of our on-going upgrade of facilities, we upgraded our roof, added a security fence around our outdoor basketball court and upgraded our library—now 'learning commons'. Part of this process that, perhaps, is not as visible, is the change to our on-line presence. We have a new public website, we have a new internal electronic communication system for staff, and we have a new student information management system through Microsoft Office 365. Information will be conveyed to students and families through this new system. Teachers will be reviewing these changes with their homerooms in September.

You will note our pastoral theme for the 2016-17 school year— "Created in God's Image" - which speaks to the inclusive nature of our school community. We are all created in God's image, and, as such, deserve a place, deserve to be heard, deserve respect, and deserve care.

Finally, I am happy to announce that I will be retiring from my employment at the Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic School Board, effective February 3rd, 2017, the end of the first semester. I'm not gone yet! But I want everyone to know that it's been an honour to serve this community and that I can step away knowing that the school rests on a firm foundation and is in good hands. *Ian Stuart, Principal*

## Staff Update

We welcome new staff, **Ms. Brooke Kasaboski**, who will be teaching science, **Ms. Alanna Larsen**, English, **Ms. Victoria Potts**, **Ms. Lisa Wolsey**, **Ms. Leisha Dow** and **Mr. Jeff Brown**, Educational Assistants, and **Ms. Liz Anderson**, Front Desk.

## Pastoral Theme for 2016-7

Created in God's Image  
(Genesis 1)

## In This Month

- Staff Update
- Accessibility Information
- CICS Update
- Electronic Communication Information
- Medical Information Request
- Photos from our Move On Up Grade 9 Orientation Days

## “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. Liz Anderson—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, including 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 are late or 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.

### 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 only the most obvious examples of how public sector organizations have been responding to the needs of citizens. At Holy Cross, we are commit-



ted 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.

### Crusaders In Community Service (CICS) Executive

Recently six students were appointed to serve on the Crusaders In Community Service Executive for 2016-2017:

- **Faith Lollar & Naomi Gazendam: Co-Chairs**
- **Hannah Aikman: Secretary**
- **Marie Lynch: Communications**
- **Cici Siju & Hannah Gibbons: Senior Reps**
- **Kendra-Lynn Page: Junior Rep**
- **Staff Advisors: Mr. Jeff Brady & Mr. Chris Forster**

These students all have experience working on various social action projects here at Holy Cross and this 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**





**Images from the *Move On Up* Grade 9 Orientation Days, September 1 and 2**



## Arts News

The Holy Cross Drama Club presents its major dramatic production, ***Les Miserables***, on the Holy Cross stage this November. Once again, like *Shrek: The Musical* in 2014, and *Guys and Dolls*, 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 8th. Pay attention to electronic 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**  
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Kingston, Ontario, K7P  
2V9

## ATTENTION COMMUNITY USERS

AS WE MOVE TO A NEW ON-LINE BOOKING SYSTEM, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT YOU CHECK OUR BOOKING CALENDAR TO ENSURE YOUR BOOKING IS IN PLACE AS YOU REQUESTED IT. PLEASE ACCESS [WWW.HCTODAY.CA](http://WWW.HCTODAY.CA) WHICH WILL DIRECT YOU TO OUR NEW WEBSITE. FROM THERE, YOU WILL FIND A BUTTON FOR COMMUNITY

### Looking Forward to October

In newsletters past, in this space, we provided a list of upcoming events to facilitate your planning. This year, we are promoting the move to our electronic calendar, where students and families can find up to date information easily and more accurately, as we are able to update our electronic calendar with any changes in our schedule.

**To access the electronic calendar, go to our website at [www.hctoday.ca](http://www.hctoday.ca) and click on the calendar button.**

### 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. All medical information is confidential, shared only with caregivers as required. Together, we can make Holy Cross a safer place to be.

