



HOLY CROSS

Catholic Secondary School

May 2021

Principal's Message

The first week of May, the month of Mary, marks both the celebration of Catholic Education Week and Mental Health Awareness Week. This year's CEW theme, Nurturing Hope, is more crucial than ever. When we have hope, it is easier to be well. Our faith provides us with hope. Our school community helps each of us to be strong, to belong, to have hope. All are invited to tune in to the virtual celebrations daily at ten a.m.

Congratulations to this year's Beacons of Hope – Megan Cross and Tyeson Hunt. You both have made a difference in our community. Thank you for your generosity.

So often, I am proud of the efforts of our students and staff and that remains true, of course. Today, though, I thank our parent community. Your advocacy for your teens has been invaluable as we all try to do our best emergency learn from home scenarios. You take the time to commend our staff for their efforts and those words of gratitude go a long way in these uncertain times. And, slowly but surely, spring is springing: we know what this means for teenagers. Much like the songbirds and the daffodils, teenagers emerge at this time with extra energy. It cannot be easy to parent teens at this time of year, from home, trying to reign them in, help them to learn, and keep their well-being at the front of mind. We know their springtime ranginess at school. God bless you for the work you are doing with your teens at home – a fine balance between sleeping and healthy productivity is not always easy to achieve. Thanks for all you do to help us to help your daughter or son learn.

To our Class of 2021, please do keep at your studies. We feel your disappointment in occasions missed right alongside you. When we learn more about our ability to celebrate graduation, we will share that with you. We will celebrate your achievements and mark the occasion, one way or another, in

This Month

May 1– response to college offer of admission due

May 3– Octo 7 Midterm

May 7– Virtual Coffee House

May 10– Octo 7 full disclosure date

May 19– half day classes

May 20– Credit recovery/rescue day

May 21– Octo 8 start day

May 24– Victoria Day

due time. Right now, we are seeking interested students for the Valedictorian process. If we are allowed, we will have some form of modified graduation on Thursday, June 24th, done safely in accordance with public health guidelines. If the stay at home order continues during that time, it would be fully online; if things open up a little, we'll take a look at what we can do. Please know your graduation is a significant event and we will celebrate it as best as we can.

Many thanks to Student Council and our leadership groups for continuing to build hope for our school community. You are nothing if not innovative.

When we hear any further news about a return to school plan, we will share that right away. There is nothing to report on that front at this time.

Take care.

Terri Daniel

Counsellor's Corner

ASPEN Student portal – course selection for 2021/22 school year

Students can view their timetable, credit accumulation and course requests for next year on the Aspen student portal found on students' virtual commons. Students should review the courses they have chosen for next year on the 'my info' tab found at the top of the home page. Click on 'current schedule' and then click on the 'requests' tab found on the left. Students should contact their guidance counsellors if they would like to make changes to their course selections for next year. Grade 12 students interested in returning next year should contact their guidance counsellor.

OUAC and OCAS

Marks have been submitted to OUAC and OCAS. Students should check their account to make sure all information is accurate. Students must accept offers of admission in their OUAC and OCAS accounts, and they must do so by the published deadline dates provided by the post-secondary institutions.

Community Service Requirement for Graduates

For the 2020-21 school year, the Ministry of Education has revised the 40-hour community involvement graduation requirement so that students will not be adversely impacted by the ongoing challenges related to COVID-19. For students graduating in the 2020-21 school year, the community involvement graduation requirement will be reduced to a minimum of **20 hours** of community involvement activities. This recognizes that graduating students have had barriers to earning their community involvement hours last school year and there may be continued barriers this school year.

Students can include activities that are performed at home and for family members. Graduating students should submit their volunteer hours by May 31st to ensure the community service graduation requirement is met.

Summer School July 2021

The ALCDSB is offering full credit summer school courses from June 28 - July 23rd. Courses are delivered on-line and are asynchronous. The following courses will be offered:

Careers/Civics - GLC2O/CHV2O (available in French)

English: Contemporary Aboriginal Voices - NBE3U

English: College level - ENG4C

English: University level - ENG4U

Ontario Literacy Course - OLC4O

Functions - MCR3U

Functions and Applications - MCF3M

Advanced Functions - MHF4U

Cooperative Education - one and two credit co-op placements are possible. Students may need to find their own placements.

Please contact your guidance counsellor for registration information

Queen's Virtual Discovery Day in Health Science

Students interested in careers in medicine and health sciences are invited to attend a ½ day virtual event on May 19th hosted by the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame and Queen's University. They will be using a virtual platform called Acelevents.

Workshops include topics on nursing, medical school, obstetrics, data science in medicine and a tour of Queen's cardiopulmonary unit. The workshop catalogue is available at: <https://cdnmedhall.ca/queens-virtual>

STUDENT REGISTRATION (April 29 – May 13) Go to: <https://www.acelevents.com/e/cmhfqueens>

Click **“Get your free ticket here!”**

Enter the Acelevents ACCESS CODE which corresponds to a specific workshop (see catalogue)

1 workshop ticket per student, and workshop spaces are first-come, first-served

Students need a valid e-mail address and will create a password on Acelevents to access the event

Students will select a ticket to the workshop of their choice, which gives them access to the entire event and that particular workshop

Please contact Mrs. Cantarutti for more information

International Student Buddy Program

Are you interested in meeting people from around the world? Are you friendly and like sharing the great things about your school? Do you want to earn community service hours? If you answered Yes to these questions then you should consider becoming an International Student Buddy. The IS Buddy Program pairs our current high school students with a new International student who will be arriving this coming school year. The Buddy acts as an ambassador for the new student – sharing information about your school and what it is like to be a high school student in Canada. You will communicate with your International student at least once before they arrive, will be part of the Orientation Day and then check in with them for the first few weeks. **To Apply** to become a Buddy please login to the Virtual Commons and click the Application link in the International Student widget. Here you can also download the Buddy Handbook that outlines in more detail about the program. We ask that students apply by May 21, 2021. If you have any questions about the program please email them to international@alcdsb.on.ca .

Octomester Dates

Octo 7 class: Apr 19-May 18, 2021

Octo 7 exam: May 19, 2021

Octo 7 Credit recovery : May 20, 2021

Octo 8 class: May 21 - Jun 22, 2021

Octo 8 exam: Jun 23, 2021

Octo 8 Credit recovery: Jun 24, 2021



Welcome all In School Shops:

You are invited to
a Zoom meeting!

As a result of the provincial guidelines due to the COVID-19 situation all In School Shops will remain closed for In person shopping for “Back to School”. New for 2021 we are introducing a new Virtual Agent exclusive for the In School Shops along with our on-line, call centre and virtual options.

Please sign up for our upcoming live “Welcome to Your Uniform” Webinar to learn more about this exciting new way to shop for your school uniform. Our Team will be available to answer any question you might have about your school uniform program along with an on-line demonstration.

Thursday May 6 at 6:30pm

Sign Up Here



PASTORAL NEWS

I hope all of you in the Holy Cross community and beyond are keeping well during this challenging time of separation and remote learning. We are thankful for the graces of the Easter Season and the signs of the Resurrection surrounding us in nature as the weather continues to warm up!

On Holy Thursday, we gathered virtually as a community to make the spiritual pilgrimage of The Stations of the Cross. During this liturgy, we were reminded that God himself empathizes with the struggles we face and invites us to turn to him for strength.

We will begin the month of May by observing Catholic Education Week (CEW). This year's theme is *Nurturing Hope*. As part of CEW, we are invited to increase our environmental consciousness. A list of practices to help us engage with nature in new ways can be found at the following link: <https://www.ocsta.on.ca/project/nurturing-hope-cultiver-lesperance/>. At Holy Cross, we will be concluding CEW with a virtual coffee house during the evening of Friday, May 7th. Keep an eye out on social media for the YouTube link.

Pope Francis has invited Catholics across the globe to dedicate the month of May (traditionally associated with honouring Mary) to praying for an end to the pandemic. All are invited to recite the Rosary for this intention throughout the month.

Although physically distant, we are near to one another in spirit and prayer. In these challenging times we continue to look to each other and our God for strength and comfort.

God is our refuge and strength,

a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,

though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea...

"Be still, and know that I am God!"

Psalm 46

Nick Cotman, Chaplaincy Leader

Twitter: @nick_cotman

All Are Welcome In This Place

Contact Us

Check on-line for more information at www.hctoday.ca

Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School

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(613) 384-1919

Looking Forward to June

June 1-Response to Ontario University offer of admission due

June 4- P A Day

June 8- Octo 8 Midterm

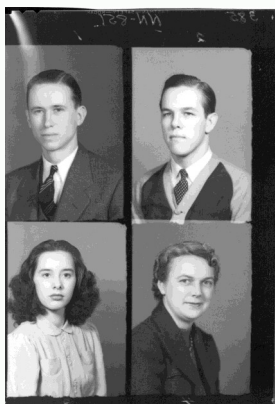
June 16- Full disclosure date

June 23- half day of classes

June 24- credit recovery/rescue day

June 25- P A Day

Coming Soon! - Holy Cross Yearbooks



It is anticipated that the Yearbooks will be delivered near the end of May.

More info to follow.



Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) Update

We would like to provide an update to parents/guardians and students regarding the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) administered by the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO). The OSSLT is a graduation requirement for secondary students in Ontario and is typically written by students in Grade 10. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the OSSLT was not administered last school year and the literacy test requirement was waived for students graduating in 2021.

This year, the EQAO is field testing a new online OSSLT. Participation in this field test is not mandatory and as a result of the government's directive that all schools in Ontario move to remote learning following the April break, **ALCDSB has decided not to participate**. This means that eligible students will write the OSSLT during the 2021-22 school year. This decision not to participate in the field test was made with the best interests of students and families in mind and is consistent with a number of other school boards in Ontario.

Because the EQAO requires the OSSLT field test to be completed in-person, our students currently would not be able to access this opportunity virtually. Nor have we received any information at this time regarding a potential return to in-person learning. Moreover, we are focused on supporting the mental health and well-being of students and families. During what has been a challenging and stressful year for many, we do not believe it would be reasonable to add another item to students' plates.

We feel strongly that this is the best decision for students at present. Looking forward to next year, the EQAO has plans underway to provide multiple sittings of the OSSLT to ensure that all students can fulfill their graduation requirement. Further details on plans for next year will be shared with our school community once EQAO has provided this information to school boards.

Thank you for your ongoing understanding and support.

Terri Daniel

Principal



MAY 1-7, 2021

YOUTH WEEK

FREE EVENTS!
&
PRIZES!

YOGA

Virtual yoga class taught by Erin over Zoom!

Tuesday, May 4 | 6:00-6:45pm

OVERNIGHT OAT RECIPE DEMO

Simple and delicious recipe presented by Loyalist Family Health Team!

Wednesday, May 5 | 4:00-5:00pm

FOREST BATHING 101

Learn all about forest therapy with Claire from Among the Trees!

Thursday, May 6 | 4:00-4:45pm

TAKE & PLANT KITS

Kits include pots, soil, seeds, and clay to make your own herb markers!

Friday, May 7 | 6:30-7:15pm

To register go to:
loyalistship.perfectmind.com



Loyalist Township is once again organizing some events for National Youth Week (May 1-7). This year we're running 4 virtual events.

Pre-registration is required (account needed – can be created during registration) and can be done through loyalistship.perfectmind.com or by visiting <https://www.loyalist.ca/en/explore-and-play/virtual-programs.aspx>.

If you are able to share this content on your platforms that would be greatly appreciated. Note spaces are limited.

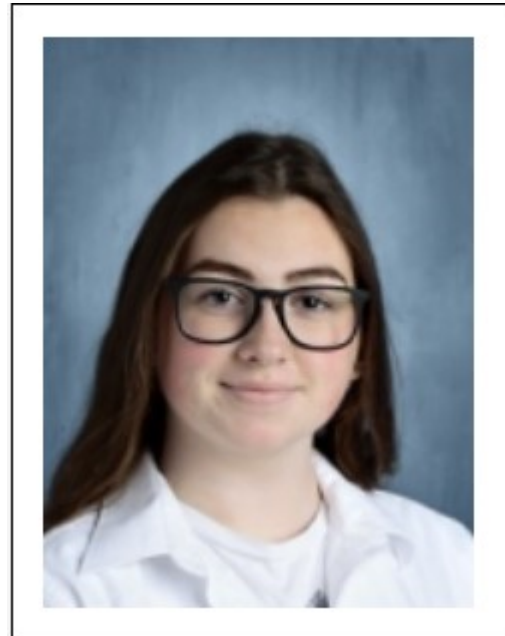
The four events are:

1. Yoga (Tuesday, May 4th 6-6:45pm)
2. Forest Bathing 101 with Among the Trees (Thursday, May 6th at 4-4:45pm)
3. Overnight Oat Recipe Demo in partnership with the Loyalist Family Health Team (Wednesday, May 5th 4-5pm)
4. Take & Plant Kits (Friday, May 7th 6:30-7:15pm)

Holy Cross Beacons of Hope Tyeson Hunt and Megan Cross



Tyeson is humble and gracious, actively seeking to help out those in need in our school and in our community. His work advocating for the homeless, and Special Olympics is amazing. Thank you Tyeson!



Megan is kind, generous, and readily volunteers her time helping children with Cancer at the local hospital. Her compassion and determination are utterly exemplary. Thank you Megan!

