



HOLY CROSS

Catholic Secondary School

October 2023

Principal's Message

As we move into the second month of this school year, I would like to thank students and staff for continuing to strengthen the Holy Cross community. Inside the school, students have been quite good at wearing their uniform properly. Make sure you are using your assigned locker with a school lock – both new and used locks are available in the Main Office. Please remember to be equally diligent about picking up after yourselves, taking care to not damage things in our building, and being good neighbours in the community. Everybody has to do their part. We can focus on these little things during this time of gratitude.

The return of extracurriculars has really brought a measure of joy back into the school life of so many people. Seeing teams on the field and court, hearing musicians, watching dancers, gamers, international student friendships, and listening to laughter have truly been moments of grace. We are truly blessed.

Truth and Reconciliation Week provided us with an opportunity to hear Deb offer the morning song in Cherokee and to explore and reflect on the 94 calls to action. We honour the lost children and intergenerational survivors of the residential school system, a horror we cannot turn away from and strive to learn more about how each of us can ensure the calls to action are not just words. This week and next, we focus on the Thanksgiving Food Drive.

October 5th marks World Teacher Day. I would like to take a minute to mark my appreciation of the outstanding work our teachers (and all staff) have done as they have navigated the various challenges presented during this

This Month

Learning Disabilities Awareness Month
Cyber Security Month
Islamic Heritage Month

October 2– Custodial Workers Day
October 5– Thanksgiving School Mass
October 5– The Classic Basketball Games

October 5– World Teachers' Day
October 9 Thanksgiving
October 10– World Mental Health Day
October 13– Thanksgiving Food Drive Ends

October 13– Pep Rally
October 16-20– Bus Safety Week
October 18– Parent Teacher Interviews

October 20– Orlando Brown Presentation
October 24– Coffee House 6:30 pm
October 31– Hoalloween

pandemic. We appreciate the collaboration and patience offered by all partners in the teaching and learning dynamic.

We pray as well for sustained good health and wise counsel for all those making decisions. I wish all community members a healthy and peaceful Thanksgiving.

Counsellors' Corner

Post-Secondary Information

Students are reminded to check their credit summary through myBlueprint which is found on the Virtual Commons. Grade 12 students are encouraged to check their credit summary to ensure all requirements are fulfilled for graduation and post-secondary applications. Graduating students will also receive a copy of their credit summary in their period 1 homeroom in early October. Please see your guidance counsellor if you have any questions.

Post-secondary presentations continue to take place at lunch and after school. Students who missed the post-secondary information presentation can view it on the Guidance Page located in the Virtual Commons or in the Student Services link on the HCtoday.ca website. Students are reminded to listen to student announcements and check the school calendar to see which presentations are taking place. Students are encouraged to check College and University websites for open house information.

The following are in-person events that may be of interest:

Parent Post-Secondary Q & A drop-in on Wednesday, October 18 from 5 – 6pm in the Lecture theatre.

Guidance counsellors will be available to answer questions regarding the post-secondary application process in the Lecture Theatre during parent-teacher interviews. Guidance counsellors are also available to answer questions throughout the evening – they are located at the welcome table at the entrance to the cafetorium.

The Ontario University Regional Fair will take place on Monday, November 13th from 5 – 9 pm at Queen's Athletics & Recreation Center

The Ontario College Information Program and St. Lawrence College Open House will take place on Tuesday, October 24th from 1-2:30 pm at St. Lawrence College campus in Kingston (Transportation to St. Lawrence College will be provided).

Scholarship News

The deadline for two prominent scholarships is approaching. **The Loran Award** website is www.loranscholar.ca. The deadline date is October 11th at 8pm. The deadline date for **Queen's Major Entrance Scholarships and Awards** is December 8. Students interested in being nominated for the Queen's Chancellor's Scholarship must submit a copy of their application to Mrs. Cantarutti by November 7 at 8:30 am. Student must have an average of 90% to be eligible. Holy Cross can nominate 2 students for this award. If you have any questions about these or any other scholarships, please contact Mrs. Cantarutti in Student Services

Rotary Youth Exchanges

There are long term and short-term exchanges for the 2024/25 school year and the summer of 2024. The registration deadline is December 1, 2023. For application information go to [Rotary District 7040 Youth Exchange \(district7040ye.com\)](http://RotaryDistrict7040YouthExchange.com)

Reporting an Absence

We have made it through the first month of school, and the days are settling into busy routine. At this time, I have a few requests regarding school Attendance.

Until your student is 18 years old, please let the Attendance Office know each time your student will be missing classes, whether it is for 1 period or a full day. Even if your student tells their teachers, and comes by the office to sign out, the Attendance Office still needs to hear from a guardian that the absence is approved.

If the school has not heard from a guardian by the end of the day, calls and emails will be generated by our automated system in an attempt to fill in any attendance gaps we have left. If you receive one of these notices please respond to help keep our records complete.

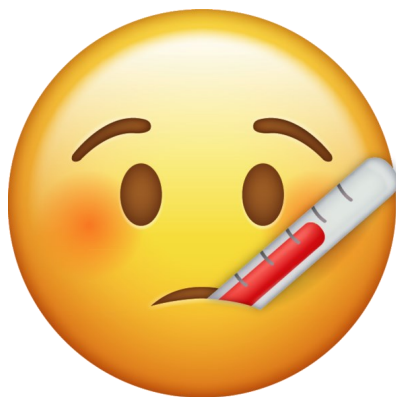
**Absences which have not been explained by a guardian
will be considered truant.**

Report Absences via:

Safe Arrival app, available for download on the HCToday website, in the Parent/
Community drop down menu (method of choice)

Telephone, 613-384-1919 ex 2

Email, flhphcss@alcdsb.on.ca



Contact Us

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

Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School

1085 Woodbine Road, Kingston, Ontario, K7P 2V9

(613) 384-1919

Instagram: @holycrosskingston

Twitter: @HolyCrossCSS

Coming up in November

**Nov 1– Take Your Kid to Work
Day Gr 9**

**Nov 1– Honour Roll Grade
Ceremonies**

Nov 6-12 Treaties Recognition Week

Nov 9– Remembrance Day Liturgy

**Nov 10– International Accounting
Day**

Nov 11– Remembrance Day

Nov 17– Midterm marks to OUAC

**Nov 19-25 Bullying Awareness and
Prevention Week**

Nov 20 - OSSLT week Gr 10s

Nov 23– Full disclosure date



Algonquin & Lakeshore
Catholic District School Board

*"Building communities of faith,
service, and life-long learning."*

The Strategic Communications Team have been working on a survey to send out to the community (including all staff, students, families, community partners, media, etc.) to gauge how people currently receive information and want to receive information from the ALCDSB.

Please add [this link \(https://forms.office.com/r/wBBu6E7c28\)](https://forms.office.com/r/wBBu6E7c28) to your October newsletters. The survey is open now until October 13, however, the Comms team will begin marketing this on Tuesday, October 3.



PASTORAL NEWS

The first weeks of the school year have brought many blessings! On September 14th, we observed The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross with our first school Mass of the year. We are grateful that both Fr. Hibbard and Fr. Quenneville were able to celebrate Mass. In his homily, Fr. Hibbard reflected upon the contradiction of the cross, which calls us to lay down our lives for one another to find true life ourselves. I would like to offer a special thank you to all students and staff for showing such reverence and respect to elevate our liturgical experience!

On September 28th, we observed Orange Shirt Day. Resources outlining the history of residential schools were shared, and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action were made available for discussion. We continue to pray for the process of reconciliation, and for religious and civil leaders to discern the path of justice moving forward. For information on Pope Francis' penitential pilgrimage to Canada in July 2022, you can visit <https://www.papalvisit.ca>.

October promises to be an active month for CICS, our social outreach club. Our Thanksgiving Food Drive in support of the Partners in Mission Food bank is underway. Be sure to bring in non-perishable food items to your homeroom class by October 13th – there will be a tasty prize for the class which collects the most! There will be a Halloween food drive to follow. There will also be visits to Rosewood Retirement Home, pumpkin carving, and more activities to enjoy! Consider joining any CICS initiatives you find appealing to get volunteer hours!

Our next school Mass will be on October 5th, focusing on the theme of gratitude and thanksgiving. I would like to wish everyone a blessed Thanksgiving with loved ones. May this season help us to enter more fully into this year's pastoral theme, reminding us that we are truly *Blessed Beyond Belief*.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus

1 Corinthians 1:4

With prayers,

Nick Cotman, Chaplaincy Leader

Grade 9 ActivPass

What is the ActivPass?

The ActivPass is a program that provides free access to physical activity facilities in Kingston and surrounding areas for grade 5 and 9 students.

How can you obtain and use the ActivPass?

Grade 9 students can show their school student ID cards, or student timetable showing date and semester at the participating facilities for free access. If students do not have a student ID card, they may request an ActivPass card from their school's office.



*Note: In addition to their student cards and ActivPass, some facilities may ask students to sign up for a separate facility-specific card free-of-charge, as they use their own card system to track their members. The only difference with these facilities is that students only need to hold onto and present the facility-specific card, instead of their student card or ActivPass.

Where can the ActivPass be used?

The schedule of all the recreation centres and times that are available can be found at www.KingstonGetsActive.ca

When is the ActivPass valid?

The ActivPass is valid from September 25, 2023, to August 31, 2024.

TVO Learn Mathify offers seamless school-to-home math learning with an interactive classroom tool, and free 1:1, online math tutoring. Transform where and how Grade 4-11 students in Ontario learn math.



Interactive learning

- Share whiteboards with students, and enable students to submit their whiteboard links for feedback or evaluation
- Create lessons and activities to demonstrate to small groups or the entire class
- Explore the Question Bank to access nearly 570 whiteboards with ready-to-use math questions for Grades 4-11



Seamless learning

- Personalized math portfolio to store math learning; easily transition school to home learning; and enable sharing between teachers, students and tutors
- Savable interactive whiteboard with ability to import or upload images or screenshots of math questions or problems to work through



Free live after school tutoring

- Live 1:1 tutoring with Ontario Certified Teachers, two-way audio, integrated text, recorded sessions and ability to choose your own tutors

9am - 9pm ET | Monday to Friday
3pm - 9pm ET | Saturday and Sunday

Registration requirements:

- Students require an OEN
- Educators require a district email address



Register today to learn more and get started!

[TVOMathify.com](https://www.tvo.org/mathify.com)



Education Quality and
Accountability Office



The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) measures whether students are meeting the minimum standard for literacy across all subjects up to the end of Grade 9. Successful completion of the literacy test is one of the requirements to earn an Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

Students in Grade 10 who are currently enrolled in English classes during Semester One will be taking part in the OSSLT during the week of November 20th.

Students will complete the assessment in two sessions (Session A and Session B). Each session is designed to be completed in 60 minutes, and students will complete each session in one sitting. Additional time will be provided for any students who require it. After completing both sessions, students will be presented with a questionnaire that asks them about their experiences, attitudes and perceptions with respect to literacy.

Students have the opportunity to become familiar with the online test and its platform through EQAO's online practice test. Holy Cross is also offering *After School Literacy Sessions* once per week for the next several weeks to help prepare students for this assessment. Sessions will **begin Wednesday, October 4th and continue each Wednesday after school (October 5 to November 15)**. Each session runs from 2:45 – 4:00 pm in Room 244 (with Ms. Downey).

An Individual Student Report will be generated for each student after the scoring of the assessment and will be sent home late January/early February.

For more information about EQAO and to view the full practice test, you are encouraged to visit EQAO's website at www.eqao.com.



FAMILY PIZZA FUNDRAISER NIGHT

OCTOBER 5TH 2023

HCSS SR. BOY'S VOLLEYBALL

Order the special outlined below on October 5, 2023
and **\$12.50** from each order goes back to your group!

**2 MEDIUM
3-TOPPING PIZZAS
CHEESY BREAD
& CINNISTIX**

\$34.99 + tax
Offer code:
3366

Pizza	Cals 180-280 Per Slice, 16 Slices
Cheesy Bread	Cals 120 Per Piece, 8 Pieces
Coke Product	Cals 0-240 Per 500ML Serves 4

(613) 384-4442
1730 Bath Road

(613) 544-4443
2469 Princess St

Carry out or Delivery • Delivery charge \$4.99 plus tax

Adults and youth (ages 13 and older) need an average of 2,000 calories a day, and children (ages 4 to 12) need an average of 1,500 calories a day. However, individual needs vary.

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

Greetings from **Student Council**! We warmly welcome all new students joining us at Holy Cross. We are excited about the upcoming school year and anticipate a fantastic experience for everyone. As a part of the Student Council, our school year started early with the Grade 9 *Moving on Up* event in late August. It was designed to introduce the new Grade 9 students to our fantastic school community and help them connect with their future classmates and peers.

Another event organized for Grade 9 students was **Orientation**. It was an extremely successful orientation event on the second Friday of their first week of school. They engaged in fun activities, showed their school spirit, and got painted by grade 12/13 students.

Grade rep applications were handed in on Tuesday, September 26, and final decisions should be made shortly. Grade reps will attend meetings, starting second semester, brainstorming with the council, ideas for the school community, helping out at events, and being the voice for their grade.

You can look forward to some events, including a **pep rally** on Friday, October 13. We will have a non-uniform on this day, and students will be asked to wear green and silver. This event aims to promote sports teams and encourage students to embrace school spirit. The fall sports teams will make an energetic appearance at the pep rally, and students will cheer them on and get them pumped for their upcoming season. This event is open to both athletes and non-athletes, and it promises to be a fun and energetic time where students can cheer on and encourage our incredible, talented sports teams to push even harder to win. That night, the junior and senior football teams play Frontenac at Caraco field. Juniors at 5:30pm & Seniors at 7:30pm.

The 21st annual "**Paul Halligan Classic**" basketball tournament will feature games played by the Junior and Senior girls' teams on October 5. Students have already paid for a non-uni that day in their student activity fee. Students will be asked to wear **pink** to support people with cancer. The juniors' game starts at 5:00 PM, and the seniors' game begins at 7:00 PM. Junior and Senior girls' basketball teams will be selling raffle tickets for baskets in the front foyer, as well as pink milkshakes in the foyer for a toonie to raise money for breast cancer. All funds will be donated to the breast cancer foundation.

Stay tuned for more exciting activities and events.

Connect with us:

InEmail: holycrosscouncil1986@gmail.com

stagram: [@holycrossstudentcouncil](https://www.instagram.com/holycrossstudentcouncil)

X (formerly Twitter): [@hcstudco](https://twitter.com/hcstudco)





ARTS UPDATE

OCTOBER



We are off to a fantastic start this September! Our choir led our September Mass, the musical *Mamma Mia!* has been cast and has started rehearsals, the art club is up and running and the plans for our music trip to New York City April 2024 (instrumental and vocal music) are also underway!

We have two arts enrichment trips coming up this month:

- Vocal music - October 5th - trip to the Thousand Islands Playhouse for a special matinee performance of the Tony-award winning musical *Once*
- Dance - October 25th - trip to Toronto Dance Industry for Strive Dance workshops in the styles of hip hop, contemporary, jazz, musical theatre, and lyrical!

Auditions for our "Halloween" coffee house (October 26th) will be coming up in the next couple of weeks and we would also love to welcome some new singers to choir!

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Next Choir Practice: Monday, October 2nd in Room 146 (Music Room) at 11:15AM. Everyone welcome! Bring your lunch and a friend!

Art Club: Every Wednesday after school in Room 133

"Behind the Scenes" Mamma Mia! Info: If you are interested in helping out "behind the scenes" of Mamma Mia! please see the drama board on October 15th.

Fall Coffee House - October 26th, 2023 6:30PM

Mamma Mia!: December 6-9th, 2023 7PM

Dance Team Tryouts: December 11-13th, 2023

Music Christmas Concert: Thursday, December 14, 2023

Improv Team Tryouts: January 2024

Vocal & Dance Showcase: January 17th, 2024



Follow us @hcart_ for all the news and updates!
Or on Facebook @Holy Cross Performing Arts

MAMMA MIA!



FAMILY PIZZA FUNDRAISER NIGHT

OCTOBER 24TH 2023

HCSS SR. BOY'S VOLLEYBALL

Order the special outlined below on **October 24, 2023**
and **\$12.50** from each order goes back to your group!

**2 MEDIUM
3-TOPPING PIZZAS
CHEESY BREAD
& CINNISTIX**

\$34.99 + tax
Offer code:
3366

Pizza	Cals 180-280 Per Slice, 16 Slices
Cheesy Bread	Cals 120 Per Piece, 8 Pieces
Coke Product	Cals 0-240 Per 500ML Serves 4

(613) 384-4442
1730 Bath Road

(613) 544-4443
2469 Princess St

Carry out or Delivery • Delivery charge \$4.99 plus tax

Adults and youth (ages 13 and older) need an average of 2,000 calories a day, and children (ages 4 to 12) need an average of 1,500 calories a day. However, individual needs vary.