

“ WE ARE AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY ROOTED IN THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS CHRIST. OUR MISSION IS TO DEVELOP THE SPIRITUAL, ACADEMIC AND SOCIAL POTENTIAL OF ALL, AS BUILDERS OF A JUST SOCIETY”.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

February 21- **FAMILY DAY**

February 22- Speaker's Forum

February 23- Readathon

February 23- **PINK Shirt Day: Anti-Bullying**

February 24- **Grad Photo Retakes**

February 25- **Dress Down Day**

March 3, 4, 5- **NIFTY 50'S MUSICAL @ 7:00 P.M.**

March 9- **Ash Wednesday Mass**

March 10- **Progress Reports sent home**

March 14-18 **Spring Break**

March 24- **Parent Teacher Interviews 3:30-7:00**

March 31- **Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test**

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETINGS @ 6:45:

Everyone welcome to attend!

Tuesday April 12

Tuesday May 3

Tuesday June 7

Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School

Volume 13, Issue IV

February 2011

Believe, Love, Act: "The greatest among you will be your servant." Matthew 23:11

Principal's Remarks...

As we complete the first semester we should all reflect on the many remarkable things we have accomplished this term both individually and collectively. It is also a time for us to review progress and revisit plans for success and growth. I wish all at Holy Cross and those connected to Holy Cross a rich second half of the academic year. We are all blessed by a very talented community that is generous of heart and filled with the Holy Spirit.

Mr. Tim Moloney

Progress Reports will be sent home March 10th.

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS WILL BE HELD ON MARCH 24 FROM 3:30-7:00 P.M. Hope you can join us!

It's that time of year again! **The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test** will take place at Holy Cross during the morning of **March 31, 2011**. Students need to pass this test in order to graduate from high school. There will be a series of mock test activities taking place to prepare the students for the Literacy Test. Please do not schedule any appointments for your son or daughter on this date if possible. The test is province wide and can only be written on March 31st. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the test, please contact the school.

Guidance Department...

February is Option Sheet month. Watch for the school course calendar and the accompanying course selection sheet coming home soon. Course selection started February 14th. The \$20.00 Student Activity Fee is also due at this time.

ATTENTION GRADUATES

- *Grad Photo Retakes* will be taken on February 24. Please sign up in the office with Mrs. Blackie. \$30.00 sitting fee is due at the time of photo. Forms are available in the office for more details.
- *Community Service Hours*: 40 hours of service is to be completed before you are eligible to graduate. Please make sure you return your completion of hours form to the Guidance Office.
- *Jostens School Rings* will be here on March 3rd and 4th at lunch in the forum. Listen to the announcements for more information.

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Superintendent of Schools:
Dale Godin
Chair of the Board:
David Bernier
Trustees: Lorne Corkery,
Joe Whibbs

We're on the Web!
www.hccss.ca



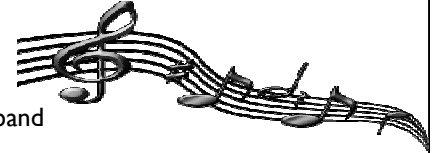
Bussing Information/
Cancellations can be found
on the Transportation web-
site: www.stsco.ca

The Holy Cross Library will be hosting a **Readathon on Wed. Feb. 23**. The donations collected will go to the Board's Good Samaritan Emergency Response Fund. The purpose of this fund is to counter the effects of tragic circumstances experienced by students of the Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board. Students who want to participate in the Readathon should visit the school library for details.



From Room 192...

Congratulations to our first semester grade 9's on their accomplishments. They were a very strong class and we look forward to their contributions to the Tuesday night concert band practices.



Our Christmas Concert, December 7, was a great success. Our Jazz band is definitely a group to watch as we continue to grow in numbers and ability. The audience was very enthusiastic and we are always grateful for their support. We had another very successful performance the next day with visits from the grade 8 students of St. Alphonsus, St. Patrick's, St. John's and Monsignor O'Donoghue.

Our grade 9's, concert band and jazz band did a re-run of their pieces. It was a fabulous opportunity for the students to see where they could be very shortly. We received many compliments and an envelope of "thank you" letters from St. Al's. We look forward to doing this again next year.

The Big News Is....THE NIFTY 50'S will be on stage shortly. The hundreds of hours of rehearsals since October will come to fruition for 3 evening performances, March 3, 4 and 5th in the cafeteria here at the school. It's the story of a group of students who are trying to plan a school dance. The problem is, they can't do it in the school because it is under renovations (do we see a connection?). Conflicts arise, rivalries develop, romance and drama bloom, and promises are made, all to the fun loving, enthusiastic music of the 50's. Our cast features the talents of more than 35 students onstage or in the pit, and many more working behind the scenes on set, costumes, make-up and hair.

Tickets will be available closer to the date or at the door: Adults \$10, students \$5 and a family rate of \$25 for 2 adults and 2 kids. We are looking for 50's costumes if anyone has anything they would be willing to let us borrow for the show-poodle skirts, leather biker jackets etc. Please call the school if you think you have something that could work.

We look forward to seeing you in March!!

Eco-school Committee- We will be focussing for the first 4 weeks of semester two on *healthy eating and litterless lunches* in conjunction with a grant from the Peterborough County Health Unit. In the cafeteria and forum at lunch the students can get draw tickets if they show evidence of healthy eating/litterless lunches as promoted through the daily announcements that week. Each Friday for four weeks there will be a draw for a \$50 gift certificate from Lansdowne Place.

MARCH BREAK TRIPS...

Prior to March Break many of the tour companies and travel agencies solicit high school students and attempt to entice them with Spring Break travel packages. A strategy the agencies often use is to engage one student at a school and offer them a reduced rate if they can "sign up" other students. **Please be advised that Holy Cross in no way sanctions any of the excursions.** We do not permit the advertising or organizing of these trips at school. It is recommended, if your son or daughter is taking part in a Spring Break excursion, that you personally contact the travel company and make inquiries regarding itinerary, supervision, location, etc. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact the school.

PVNC Speakers' Forum on Immigrants and Refugees: "Strangers in Our Gates"

As Catholics we are called to be our neighbour's keeper. The Canadian Council of Bishops has consistently argued that Catholic educators have a mandate to inform their students about important issues of social justice and to provide students with opportunities to engage in activities that lead to action. Thus, during semester two, Holy Cross will be hosting its segment of a board-wide speakers' forum on immigrants and refugees. This year has seen the issue of immigrants and refugees come to the forefront of political and social discussion. Often, our students' understanding of the issues associated with immigrants and refugees is framed by a media and culture that does not welcome the outsider - what being Christ-centered is all about. As Thomas Groome argues, "Catholicity is about welcoming everyone." **Consequently, this forum is designed to provide the students in the PVNCCDSB with an understanding of the issues associated with immigrants and refugees within the tradition of Catholic social teaching.**

This year's Speakers' Forum has been organized by the board's Equity and Diversity initiative under the leadership of Superintendent Dale Godin along with the chairs of Canadian and World Studies in our six high schools. This is a three-part series and is meant to engage students across subject areas from grades 9-12. The themes for the series include:

- 1. Tuesday, February 22 -- Framing the Issue of Immigrants and Refugees in Canada.** A keynote address by Mr. Gary O'Dwyer and 6 subsequent workshops will help students understand a variety of critical issues. Workshops will take place in P3 and repeated in P4. These include:
 1. "We are here, and we are people": Migrant Farm Workers in Canada - Rachel Currie (New Canadians Centre)
 2. The Problems Associated with Professional Accreditation of Newcomers to Canada – Michael VanDerHerberg (New Canadians Centre)
 3. Human Trafficking : The Sex Trade in Canada – Karen Basciano (Kawartha Sexual Assault Centre)
 4. Live in Caregiver Programme: The Domestic Experience – Sherry Sulit
 5. Racial Profiling and Immigration - Chanda Kaziya and Elizabeth Thippawong (Peterborough Community Race Relations Committee)
 6. Arriving to Canada: The First Year for a Political Refugee – Sr. Ruth Hennessey (Casa Maria House for Refugees)
- 2. Tuesday, April 5 - The Immigrant Experience.** During this round, students will be able to listen to and engage with a variety of recent immigrants and refugees' experiences.
- 3. Tuesday, May 3 - A Call to Action!** – Students will be invited, by groups working in our community, to get involved in being an advocate and welcomer of new Canadians. The New Canadians Centre, Casa Maria House for Refugees, and other groups will lead this round.

See Mr. Digby, Curriculum Chair of Canadian and World Studies, for more details.



HOUSE SYSTEM

Standings to Date:

Water-985
Wind-900
Fire- 720
Earth-589

Water, Fire, Wind, Earth--A close race mid-year! Points are accumulated by participation weekly in intramural lunchtime competition, involvement in school "Minute to Win It" mini competitions before any assembly and competitive major House events. Congratulations to Fire for "lighting it up" and coming in First Place with our last big House competition--our Christmas "Spirit of Giving" charity drive. Each House sponsored a local charity (charities included Out of the Cold-Water, YES: Youth Emergency Shelter-Earth, Brock Mission-Wind, Cameron House-Fire). A representative from each charity spoke to the House that sponsored them, educating the students on the need and inspiring them to help. Congratulations to all Houses, as caring and support shown by HC students was impressive and representative of the strong sense of giving that exists at HC! Special thanks to The Social Justice club for all their organization! HC -- look forward to some fun upcoming major House events next semester, including a Winter Carnival, March Madness, a Spring festival and Fun in the Sun. All these events build school community and inspire us to have some fun!

From the Chaplain...

Semester 2 has already begun, and things are happening here at Holy Cross. First off, let me share some information about a new group that has formed here: **Holy Cross in Action**. In response to Chris DeSouza's message to the school in November, around equity and inclusivity, this small group of students and staff formed to promote equity and inclusivity in our school. This group is promoting **Black History Month** currently at Holy Cross, and will support **Pink Shirt Day -February 23** to promote anti-bullying. Students and staff are invited to wear pink shirts next Wednesday. We welcome **EVERYONE** to our group that meets Monday's at lunch in the chapel.

Our Social Justice group continues to meet every Thursday at lunch. They are planning to work on a coffee house, prepare for our Development and Peace Week in March, and help out with the Speakers Forum at School. We are also preparing for our Honduras trip from **April 6-16** this year. Once again, we ask for your support around donations. If you have any of the following items you would like to donate, please drop them off in our Chapel **before April 1st PLEASE MAKE SURE THEY ARE ALL IN GOOD CONDITION:**

Single bed sheets, pillow cases (**no blankets, please**)

Towels, wash cloths, face cloths

Children's women's shoes/sandals (in good condition)

Children/ teen and adults Clothes: (summer) jeans, t's, blouses, skirts, dresses, pants etc. **NO JACKETS, SWEATERS, COATS ETC, THESE ARE TOO HEAVY TO BRING DOWN.**

Any material (to be used at a girls school in their sewing classes)

School supplies (no binders please or paper)

If you would like to make a **financial contribution** towards building materials for the orphanage we are building, please make your cheque out to Holy Cross SS. Anything over \$20 will receive a charitable tax receipt. Please put on the envelope Attention: Teresa Cosentino or Dan Durst.

Once again we thank Parent Council who has funded our group t-shirts and hats for this trip. And thank you to all who have continued to support us.

A reminder that we do have our 6th annual **Silent Auction Bowling Night coming up on March 25th** at Lakeview Bowl from 6:30-9:30. This has proven to be a very successful and fun evening in the past. Tickets are \$20, which include cash bar, snacks, your bowling shoes and the silent auction. Monies raised go to support the Honduras projects. If you are interested in buying tickets please call me at ext. 312 or Mr. Durst at 318.

Our season of lent begins with our Ash Wed mass on Wednesday March 9 at 9:00 a.m. in the Gym. We invite you to join us as we begin our Lenten journey in the spirit of Hope and Joy.

Once again, thank you for all your support around the many endeavors at Holy Cross. We are a blessed community, and we are blessed to have you as part of it.

Teresa Cosentino

Completion of Survey by Families:

Student Transportation Services of Central Ontario (STSCO) seeking feedback on bus service:

STSCO has recently advised the school that an online transportation service survey is available for families, parents and students to complete at their convenience. The intention of the survey is to obtain feedback and input on the bus and transportation service being provided to students this school year. Information collected will be used by STSCO to help meet its goal of continuously monitoring and improving the service provided to students, families and schools. Please follow the steps below and take a few minutes to complete the survey.

Step 1. Go to www.stsco.ca and press the "Enter Parent Survey Here" button.

Step 2. Fill in the STSCO Parent Survey and press the submit button at the end.

Any questions regarding the survey can be directed to Joel Sloggett, C.A.O., or Steve Jackson, Operations Manager, with STSCO. Your participation in the survey will be most appreciated."