

“ 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:

Grad Photos: November 28–
December 7

Advent Mass– December 2

Spirit of Giving/Shoe Box Drive– December 5-9

Christmas Concert-Dec.6

Christmas Assembly–
December 23

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
December 26– January 6

January 9 - classes resume

Semester I Exams—
January 27– February 2

PA DAY– February 3

First Day of Semester 2–
February 6

FAMILY DAY– February 20

MARCH BREAK– March
12-16

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETINGS @ 6:45:

Tuesday December 13

Tuesday January 10

Tuesday February 14

Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School

Volume 13, Issue II

November 2011

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

Principal's Remarks...

Holy Cross Secondary School is a community of faith as much as it is a centre of learning. The presence of the Divine within the life of the school is given visible expression in the form of prayers, liturgies, symbols, retreats, activities, discussions and sacraments integrated into our academic and co-curricular programs.

We are proud of the efforts of our students and staff during our recent Terry Fox Campaign. There has been a focused energy, enthusiasm, a lot of hard work in our effort to help in the battle against cancer. Once again this campaign has been a fantastic success. This year we raised just over \$14,000.00.

Congratulations on the successes achieved and reported upon in the mid-term reports. At this mid-point of the first semester, students should take the opportunity to evaluate their progress and goals to continue to plan for success. After reviewing mid-term report cards please feel free to contact the school to discuss your son or daughter's progress and/or make an appointment with their teacher.

Please take some time to review the contents of this newsletter and the accompanying information. I hope you find the information a valuable resource as we work together in Catholic Education. God Bless as we approach the Advent Season.

*Sincerely,
Mr. Tim Moloney*

Homework Help

This fall, the Ministry of Education and the Independent Learning Centre have launched a program called Homework Help. Homework Help is an online mathematics support for students in grades 7 through 10. Homework help offers:

- Interactive mathematics tutorials
- Listen and learn videos
- A mathematics glossary
- An online scientific calculator
- Access to one on one tutoring offered by Ontario certified mathematics teachers

Homework help is free, anonymous, and is available to students 24/7. Tutors are online to assist students from Sunday to Thursday, 5:30pm to 9:30pm. Tutoring takes place in chat rooms which are monitored by the Independent Learning Centre and all chats are reviewed daily. Students can self-register now at <https://homeworkhelp.ilc.org>. To register, students will need their Ontario Educational Number (OEN), which can be found on any student report card. Parents and guardians are also welcome to create guest accounts. As a guest you will be able to access the site's resources, but you will not be able to ask questions to tutors.

For more information on Homework Help contact your principal, classroom teacher or Jonathan Berlinger, Student Achievement Consultant, at jberlinger@pvnccdsb.on.ca or 705-748-4861 x168.

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Tobi Ryan

Director of Education:
Greg Reeves
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

Greetings!

Advent is my favorite time of year at Holy Cross. There is always a sense of excitement and hope in the air as the Christmas season approaches. Advent is also a very important time to reflect on God's graces and the abundance of blessings that we receive in our daily life.

Each home room during advent receives an advent wreath, candles and a daily reflection prayer book. The advent candles are lit, prayers are said as we anticipate the coming of Christ. We also have our **Advent mass on Friday December 2, at 9 a.m.** and everyone is welcome to attend. The theme is around the Spirit of Giving. Following our mass, there will be an assembly where students will be divided into their houses and will learn about the 4 charities that Holy Cross will support during this season. During the week of **December 5-9**, students are asked to please bring in items to support their "House collection" for different charities: **Casa Maria House, Crossroads Shelter, *OPIRG and Out of the Cold.** Items we are looking for are: toiletry items such as deodorant, shampoo, conditioners, soap, shower gel, lotions, hand creams, **NEW** hats, gloves, mitts, scarves, socks, gift cards for grocery stores. Also, if your child is in the house Water, there is also a need for coats, winter boots in good condition, all sizes, small toys in good condition. We ask for your support at this time, during our advent season.

Note about *OPIRG: Ontario Public Interest Research Group- they are based out of Sadler house. They service over 250 families in the community with a food bank that anyone can access once a week, and a 'household and clothing' market place where people can take what they need- i.e. household goods, clothing etc. at no cost.

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the food drive for Farm Credit Canada. We collected 650 lbs. of canned goods for the St. Vincent de Paul food bank, thanks to your support. I hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas, and a restful holiday following.

Teresa Cosentino
Chaplaincy Leader

New Roman Missal Coming Advent 2011!

As we are sure most of you have heard in your parishes, there are going to be some changes to the Mass because of some new translations of the Roman Missal. The English version of the Mass will now reflect the translation from Latin that all the other countries are using. For example, if you look at the changes to the responses in the Liturgy of the Eucharist, they will reflect what the responses have always been in French or Polish, etc. The changes are a formal translation of the Latin Mass into English as opposed to the dynamic translation that it has been since 1960's. These changes will begin on November 27, which is the First Sunday of Advent. Our students will be learning the new responses in homeroom so they will be ready for our first Mass of the Christmas season this year.

Chastity – A pastoral letter to young people on chastity from the Commission for Doctrine of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB).

We have included, with the report card this semester, a copy of the Bishop's pastoral letter on Chastity. Our students are inundated with images and messages that are sexual in nature and it is difficult to present a theology of sexuality that recognizes the dignity of the person and the uniqueness of the individual and special gift that their sexuality is. The Bishop's document focuses on the fact that sexuality is one of God's gifts to us and we are called to respect and cherish this gift before we share it with someone we love, as best expressed in a married relationship. The focus of the letter is a positive one, not designed to increase shame or guilt. This letter will be discussed with all of our students this year during our Religion classes in both semesters. After this year it will become embedded in one of our Religion Programs. It is our hope that by sending this letter home, you can use it in your talks with your children, perhaps as either a starting point or as part of a continuing discussion.

ATTENTION GRADUATES

November 28– December 7: Grad Photos will be taken during these dates. Please note this year students will be *booking their own appointments online*. Please pick up an information pamphlet in the office for instructions on the new procedure. Your student number is your OEN number which is found on your report card or timetable. **A \$30.00 sitting fee is due at the time of photo.**

It's an exciting time for our potential graduates as they are making decisions for next year. Many students have already actively made contacts to pursue Apprenticeships and work experiences while others are looking at volunteering or coming back to Holy Cross. Many potential graduates are preparing to apply to college and university. The students have been working hard to research the best possible programs and are learning to manage the stress that this time of their lives inevitably brings. We have an exemplary graduating class for 2012 and we are all proud to see them moving towards a great future.

At Holy Cross, we offer the service of helping the students apply. We ask that they complete a practice application (entitled "OCAS Applicants" or "OUAC Applicants") and return it to Guidance. OCAS practice applications are due back by Monday, November 28th so that they can apply on Tuesday, December 13th. OUAC practice applications are due back by Monday, December 5th so that they can apply on Monday, December 19th. We also encourage students to complete the on-line tutorial to aid in applying (steps on how to do this are detailed on the practice application).

November is often the month where post-secondary schools host Open Houses. It is always a good idea to visit the campus as part of one's research of a particular school and program. Even if a student is not graduating this year, it might be a good idea to start to see what's out there!

Additionally, all students are encouraged to complete their 40 hours of Community Service (a grad requirement). There are many great opportunities prior to Christmas to accumulate a number of hours (e.g. Festival of Trees and church bazaars). Please encourage students to see advertisements in the Guidance office for upcoming events. Good luck to all students in the second part of the semester!

Ms. Hickey, Guidance

Greetings from the Music Room!!

We are excited to say we have reached our number 40 for the New York trip!

We may be able to squeeze 1 or 2 more on, for any students involved in the music department, but they need to see me ASAP.

Relating to the trip...

We are having a Craft/Bake/Garage Sale on **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26 from 10:00 a.m.-3:00.p.m.** in the front hallways of the school. Groups of students have been getting together for crafting parties to make great stocking stuffers and decorative items. We have been asking families to go through the house to collect any items that are taking up valuable space that they would have considered donating to charity. Well, drop it off to us first. Whatever we don't sell, we will deliver to St. Vincent de Paul and any funds raised will help bring down the cost for our group. If you have any items that you would like to donate, they would be gratefully appreciated. Just drop them off at the Office or Music Room over the next week. We are here until 4:30 Tuesday and Wednesday. No clothing please, although gently used summer clothing and practical shoes can go to our Honduras trip, also in April. Consider coming out to the sale to pick up a few things.

Performances coming up

Thursday, November 24 @ 12:15 p.m.- the Concert Band and Jazz Bands will perform at The Venue as part of the Festival of Trees

Tuesday, December 6 @ 7:00 p.m. - Christmas Concert in the CAF

Wednesday, December 7 @ 9:30 a.m. - Christmas Concert highlights for our feeder schools

We are offering advertising spots in our Concert Program to local businesses for \$25 (please contact me at the school if you are interested 705-748-6664 ext. 522) and a silent auction of items for view in December. Again, all monies going to bring down the cost for our trip.

Thank you again for the great support we get from the Holy Cross community and we look forward to seeing you at our many upcoming functions.

Mrs. Kraus

YEARBOOKS- If you would still like to purchase a yearbook from 2010-2011 we have some books available. To reserve one, please call 705-748-6664 extension 318 and talk to Mr. Durst or send your son or daughter in to see Mr. Durst in room 191. This book is the best one Holy Cross has ever produced so don't be disappointed. The cost of the yearbook is \$40.00. Cash or cheque is accepted.



The annual 24- Hour Project is here!!

Holy Cross Drama will be presenting the "24-Hour Project" on Saturday, November 26 at 8 p.m. Student writers will be creating short, one-act plays in a 12 hour period, and cast/crew will arrive at 8 a.m. on Saturday and have 12 hours to stage the plays. Admission is \$5 per adult and \$2 per student/child. See you at the plays!

White Pine Book Club at your School Library

The White Pine Book Club has started again and will be running until May. It offers teens at all grade levels the opportunity to read the best of Canada's recent young adult fiction. There are 10 nominated Canadian young adult fiction books. New this year, are 10 non-fiction books as well. Monthly meetings are held to discuss the books. Door prizes are available at each meeting. In April, students get to vote for their favourite book, and based on student voting across the province, the most popular book is then selected for the White Pine Award. The club promotes the enjoyment of reading and makes students aware of quality Canadian young adult books.

HOUSE SYSTEM...

The Spirit of Giving is happening at Holy Cross again this year during the week of December 5-9. This will be a House Challenge in order to support: Casa Maria House, Cross Roads Shelter, Ontario Public Interest Research Group and Out of the Cold. Please help support these worthwhile charities.

Standings to Date:

Water - 544 Wind - 241 Earth - 86 Fire - 380



WIND



FIRE



EARTH



WATER

Last week Holy Cross held 2 presentations regarding Facebook. The students were informed on the risks involved and safety procedures to think about while using Facebook. There was an evening session for parents to enlighten them on the ins and outs of Facebook and advice to make sure that their children are using it wisely. Please see the summary below for some privacy tips.

1. Your Facebook experience begins with "Adding a Friend." Before adding a friend, however, ask yourself; "Knowing that, for the most part, the person I am adding will have access to my information and content, would I trust them alone in my own home with access to all of my possessions and information." If they don't pass this test, consider not adding them. If you choose to add them, apply your privacy settings so as to limit their access to certain areas of your profile.
2. What you post on Facebook is backed up and archived on Facebook servers, indefinitely. If what you post is shared by others (your Friends), it in turn can be shared even further and is beyond your control to retrieve.
3. **It's a fact that most employers, colleges and universities, and really anyone considering hiring you or having you on their team, will look to your Facebook profile to arrive at a decision, based on the quality of what you post and the nature and tone of your profile, your "Like" pages, and, in some cases, your Friend List.**
4. While we all want to be social and open, to a degree, consider the saying "less is better" when it comes to filling out details about yourself and family members, and the quality of the content that you post (photos, opinions, videos, etc).
5. Consider not posting content (photos, videos, personal details, cell or BlackBerry PIN numbers) that can be used against you, or shared with others beyond your Friend list. Also, consider whether to tag your Friends in photos as what you tag is immediately shared with their Friends, and, depending on their privacy settings, their Friends of Friends.
6. Consider not posting status updates that reveal your location or intentions (vacation, dates, who you're with, your emotional state) as they can be shared with others, depending on your privacy settings and the settings of your Friends.
7. Because what you write on your Friend's Walls are viewable to their Friends, and beyond, consider using the "Send Message" function on your Friend's profile pages. This is a private, email-like function between you and them.
8. If you choose to remove Friends from your list, know that Facebook will never notify that person that you've removed them. It's important from time to time to reevaluate the quality and relativity of our Friends, and it's natural to trim the list to reflect current friendships and relationships.
9. Facebook can be a valuable communication tool on many levels, both personally and professionally - in keeping in touch with friends and family to staying abreast of companies and other organizations and entities that interest us in the world. But recognize that nothing is ever truly private on Facebook, or on any site.

For more information: www.socialmediatrust.net

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