



# HOLY CROSS

Catholic Secondary School

January 2024

## Principal's Message

Happy New Year! I hope that all Holy Cross community members were able to find a bit of quiet, amidst family time, in the Christmas Season. As we begin the new year, may we all find the resolve and optimism central to achieving the best possible results for the end of Semester One. We continue to pray for those in our community – staff and students – who struggle with their well-being. We need you, value you, miss you and hope for a speedy return to physical, mental and spiritual health.

We will have teachers finish their assignments at the end of this semester and others return to us. For anyone moving on to another assignment, we thank you and wish you all the best. Details will be shared once they are available.

Congratulations to the cast, crew, volunteers and staff supervisors of **Mamma Mia** – a wonderful production. . **Ms. Check-Drumm. Mr. Orser, Ms. Perugino and Mr. Stabile**, the many staff, students and volunteers who made this show magic, thanks for taking on this extracurricular commitment in a time of labour uncertainty. We live in faith, hope and optimism and, as a result of your hard work, our school benefitted from yet another topnotch musical. It is amazing what talent, dedication and commitment will produce – professionalism beyond what anyone could expect of a high school production. To the cast, crew and pit band, you were each amazing and right on point. Bravo to one and all. Thank you to the crew for enhancing the Holy Cross experience. We are grateful for our vibrant and unparalleled HC Arts community and thank them for sharing their time and talents.

## This Month

- Jan 1– Happy New Year**
- Jan 8—First day of class for 2024**
- Jan 10–Gr 11 Pathway Session P2**
- Jan 10-11– Hockey Tournament (Peterborough)**
- Jan 12– Swim Meet**
- Jan 12-13– Sr Boys Basketball Tournament**
- Jan 15– Application deadline OUAC**
- Jan 17-18– Gr 9 Math EQAO**
- Jan 17– Ski Team Training**
- Jan 19-Memorial Volleyball (RND) 1-5 pm**
- Jan 19– Memorial Basketball (HC) 5-9 pm**
- Jan 25-Exam Day1—Period 1 classes**
- Jan 26-Exam Day 2– Period 2 classes**
- Jan 29– Exam Day 3– Period 3 classes**
- Jan 30– Exam Day 4– Period 4 classes**
- Jan 31– Exam Inclement Weather day**

This month, we look forward to the **Memorial Games**. And then, we focus on culminating activities and final exams. Maybe not in that order. Looking forward to all of the blessings this new year may bring.

God bless!

*Terri Daniel*

## **Examination Schedule**

*It has become a more frequent occurrence that school administration receives requests from parents/guardians that final exams be rescheduled to accommodate family vacations booked during the pre-determined exam days in both semesters.*

*Families are reminded that the school cannot accommodate such requests, and therefore any travel arrangements should NOT be scheduled during any of the exam dates as outlined in the school calendar. It should also be noted that in Semester One, inclement weather could potentially “bump” exams to the next day if school busses are cancelled.*

*We ask that parents/guardians please work together with the school administration to ensure that students are present for their final assessments on their scheduled examination dates.*

*Should any extenuating circumstances arise that impact a student’s ability to attend school to complete a final assessment, parents/guardians should contact administration to discuss next steps.*

*Thank you for your cooperation in ensuring the academic integrity of our programming,*

**HCSS Administration**



## Contact Us

Check on-line for more information at [www.hctoday.ca](http://www.hctoday.ca)

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## Coming up in February

**Feb 1 - Course Reconciliation Day  
(No Classes)**

**Feb 1- Application Deadline for OCAS**

**Feb 2 - PD Day (No Classes)**

**Feb 2- Ski Team KASSAA**

**Feb 5- First day Semester 2 classes**

**Feb 13 - Gr 8 Parent Info Night  
6:30-8:00 pm**

**Feb 14- Ash Wednesday Mass  
12:45-1:45 pm**

**Feb 15-1st semester marks due to OUAC  
and OCAS**

**Feb 16- Last day for Semester 2  
Timetable changes**

**Feb 26-Mar1- Wellness Week**

Grade 9 students currently enrolled in MTH1W will be writing the EQAO Math Assessment during their classes on January 17 and 18<sup>th</sup>.

After School Numeracy – Mondays 3-4pm in room 108 with Ms. Raposo



# PASTORAL NEWS

Happy New Year! I hope the Christmas Season brought much time with loved ones and that the arrival of 2024 brings fresh energy and encouragement. With the recent Feast of the Epiphany on January 6th, commemorating the visit of the Magi to Jesus, we are invited to reflect upon what gifts we can offer to Jesus this New Year.

December was a vibrant month for faith initiatives at Holy Cross. On December 14th, the school community gathered for our Advent Mass. Fr. Michel invited us to say “Yes!” to God’s plan for our life just as Mary did. We also gathered multiple times to open each week of Advent in prayer, lighting the candles of our Advent wreath to prepare our hearts for the arrival of Jesus.

CICS was busy reaching out to the community in December as well. CICS and Student Council teamed up to make Christmas cards for those in long-term care and nursing homes. CICS leaders also volunteered at the Nativity Exhibition at St. Paul the Apostle Parish, leading activities for elementary students that helped to explain the significance of the Nativity story.

Our next school Mass will be on Ash Wednesday, which is February 14th this year. CICS student leaders will be busy planning volunteer opportunities for the upcoming semester and selecting a social justice initiative for Lent. In the meantime, I would like to wish our students all the best in completing final assignments and preparing for exams. You are all in my prayers!

*Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

**Philippians 4:6-7**

Blessings,

Nick Cotman, Chaplaincy Leader

# International Holiday Dessert Fair

**Congratulations to the *International Club* for hosting an international holiday dessert fair in December. Approximately 30 students participated in this event over the lunch hour and raised over \$400 to help families in our**



## Counsellor's Corner

### University/College Applications

Applicants should notice that the Ontario University and college deadlines (for equal consideration for admission to programs) are approaching. University applications are due to the Ontario University Application Center by *Monday, January 15th* and college applications are due to the Ontario College Application Service by *Thursday, February 1st*. Students are asked to ensure that all data on the application is accurate (including contact and transcript information). Students require the OEN (Ontario Education Number) which can be found on their report card. Semester 1 final marks will be sent to OUAC and OCAS by February 15th and student should verify their academic information in their OUAC and OCAS accounts. Students should also check to make sure their timetables include all necessary courses for post-secondary admission.

### Grade 9 Registration

A Grade 8 open house is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 13th, 2024**. Parents and Grade 8 students are invited to visit the school and registration packages will be available. Grade 8 partner school students will receive registration packages in January in their grade 8 classes. The Grade 8 open house will include a presentation from 6:30 – 7:00 pm, and then parents and students will be able to tour the school and learn about the many opportunities available at Holy Cross.

### Course Selection 2023- 2024

The course selection process for next school year will be outlined in workshops being conducted from February 20-March 1. Grade assemblies outlining the process will take place on February 8th, 2024





### Information for Parents/Guardians of Grade 9 Students Currently Enrolled in English Courses (Semester One):

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 OSSLT is one of the requirements to earn an Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

To support student achievement on the OSSLT, ALCDSB is implementing a new practice for Grade 9 students. In the exam period, students will write a culminating assessment based on the literacy expectations of the ENL1W curriculum. This will allow students to experience writing the digital test and provide data for any necessary future supports as the test is a culmination of the literacy skills required to move into Grades 10 and beyond. Any accommodations outlined in a student's IEP (Individual Education Plan) will be available for this assessment, as they would be for the OSSLT. This assessment will be standardized across all five high schools in ALCDSB. **Attendance is mandatory under the board's Assessment Policy and Procedures.**

As per Ministry Guidelines found in the document [Growing Success: Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting in Ontario Schools](#), course evaluation is broken into two parts:

- 70% - Term (based on evaluations conducted throughout the course)
- 30% - Summative:
  - 25% - Culminating Tasks (earned by a variety of culminating tasks set by the teacher completed prior to the examination period.)
  - 5% - Literacy Assessment (**to be written during the Semester One examination period: January 25<sup>th</sup> through January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024**)

For more information on the OSSLT and to view an OSSLT practice test visit [EQAO](#).

If you have further questions, please contact the school principal.

# Congratulations to the Remembrance Day Poster Contest Winners

Hayrunnisa Apaydin

Claire Breault

Madeleine Muir

Emma Tadeu

Kyra Papanioloaou-Withers

Deanna Tanner

Abbey Besselink

Leo Tang

Yen Nguyen

Mya Wheeler

*Congratulations!*





# HC SWIM TEAM

The HC Swim team is off to Belleville to participate in a Winter Invitational Swim Meet on January 12, 2024. Best of luck!!

