

# PATHWAYS

“SHOW ME YOUR WAYS, LORD, TEACH ME YOUR PATHS.” PSALM 25:4

HCA’s vision is to inspire students to love learning and live lives worthy of the calling of Christ.

## UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

**Jan. 20th** - Term 2 ends

**Jan. 23rd** - Term 3 begins

**Feb. 20-24th** - February  
break (No school)

**March 17th** - Term 4  
Development Day (No  
school)

**March 27-31st** - Iowa  
Standardized Testing for  
grades 2-8

**March 31st** - Term 3  
ends



## PRINCIPAL’S CORNER

### From Read-a-thon to... Colonial Quilt Challenge!

Each year for the past 12 years, the Read-a-thon has been one of HCA’s most successful fundraisers. Students collect donations for the time they spend reading, and those who read the most or who raise the most in donations earn prizes. It is a win-win that improves student reading while earning money for the school. **Why would we change such a good thing?**

*To make it even better, of course!*

The change was initially prompted by alterations to the Reading Rewards website that would decrease the funds we would receive. The result, however, was that Mrs. Lundergan and Mrs. Lucier have come up with a fundraising event that will encourage participation from a higher percentage of students by offering a variety of fun ways to participate with academically integrated activities. **Reading is still an important part of this challenge, but students can also earn money for learning to do colonial activities like baking from scratch, knitting, colonial games, colonial chores, etc.**

The challenges will also provide opportunities for families to spend time together. For example, students can learn how to bake a pie or stack wood with a family member. Friends and family members can sponsor specific activities or offer to donate a flat rate. Students who earn the most points for completing activities or who raise the most money will earn prizes, but everyone who participates will learn!

Another question you may have is, “*Why do we need to raise money when we already provide tuition?*” **The answer is that the cost to educate our students is not fulfilled with tuition alone.** We strive to keep tuition affordable by providing other means of filling the gap. When family and friends support the Colonial Quilt Challenge, they are supporting an HCA education that encourages them to have fun learning.

As always, we want to partner with you in this challenge. To help students get started on their quilt, there will be several activities that will be completed as a class. Also, if you have trouble gathering materials for a specific challenge, Mrs. Lundergan can tell you where to find them or even provide your student with the materials or more specific instructions to begin. Let us know what you need and we will do our best to help!

All of the specifics will be sent home to each family in a large envelope next week (January 23rd-27th) so your student(s) can begin getting pledges. If you have questions once you have read through all of the materials, please reach out to Mrs. Lundergan by email at

[blundergan@holdenchristianacademy.org](mailto:blundergan@holdenchristianacademy.org)

We are looking forward to the excitement about learning this challenge will generate!

By His Grace,  
Nikki Cleveland, Principal

Honoring God through  
Creative learning and strong  
Academics in a caring, fun-filled school!

# It is time... to re-enroll for the 23-24 school year.

Guarantee your child's spot at HCA by logging into the FACTS Family Portal > Student > Enroll. Current families are given priority re-enrollment during the month of January, and beginning Feb. 1st we will begin interviewing sibling and waitlisted applicants. Don't delay!

## Update from Belarus!

We are excited to report that approximately \$1650 was raised to support the ongoing ministry to orphans in Belarus. Olga Goncharenko was able to share a photo slideshow with our students during chapel, which we are including [here](#) as well. She also let us know the following:

"250 kids received chocolates, toys, hygiene items (towels, shampoo, soap), school supplies (paint, crayons, etc), fruits and food for Christmas and New Year! We made crafts and played, shared Gospel and decorated cookies. Thank you very much for your help." ~Olga

## JOB OPPORTUNITY:

We are hiring a Night Custodian, to begin work as soon as possible. This position is 25 hours per week, and work can be done anytime between 6pm and 6am. General daily cleaning responsibilities include sweeping, mopping, vacuuming, trash removal, bathrooms, glass and dusting, etc.

-Cleaning experience preferred.

-Send inquiries to our Facilities Manager, Matt Brouillet [mbrouillet@holdenchapel.org](mailto:mbrouillet@holdenchapel.org)



# PLEASE TAKE NOTE....

Interested in learning more about the Parent Teacher Council? Click [HERE](#) to sign up for more info, or to join!

The next meeting will be Monday, Feb. 13th at 3:15pm in the Holden Chapel Welcome Center

(please bring books or quiet activities to occupy your children if you don't sign them up for ASP)



**Attention Parents of Middle Schoolers!**

Would your Middle School student benefit from some extra help? Have them join us in Extended W.I.N. on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:45-3:15.

This time will be used to:

- complete homework assignments or missing work
- provide additional instruction in areas of weakness
- assist students with binder and planner organization

To sign up or if you have any questions, please email Mrs. Raymond at [craymond@holdenchristianacademy.org](mailto:craymond@holdenchristianacademy.org)

**ANNUAL FUND UPDATE**

Thank you to everyone who has generously donated to the Annual Fund! To date, we have raised \$9,935, which is 66.23% of our \$15,000 budget for this important fundraiser.

Donations are still being collected, so please help us meet our goal! Support HCA by clicking [HERE!](#)











# Preschool News!

## Upcoming Dates to remember:

**January 30-**  
**February 3:** Bring in your Night Sky watcher calendar

**February:** Looking forward to Community Helpers and our Preschool Lending Library

Valentine's Day party info will be sent home the first week of February

Brrrrrrr! Winter weather has arrived for sure! In Preschool, this means lots of snow and ice exploration, seeing God's design through the many changes in winter, and learning about His amazing creation of outer space!

Preschoolers tend to know an amazing amount of information about the planets and outer space. They have such curiosity about our solar system, and it's such a gift to be able to talk about how God created all of that with just His words! The sun is actually a star – and speaking of stars, our class has been Night Sky Detectives, trying to spot the moon around dinnertime on these dark winter days. They are so enthusiastic to report back to school each day what they could (or could not see) in the night sky! Blast off countdowns from 10-1 are a highlight to do together as a class, and can often be overheard in the children's everyday play and conversation. Practicing numbers and cooperative play!

The water table in our classroom is such an amazing asset. Just this past month we have used it for ice and water play, winter animals and snow play, and water beads and scoops/measuring cups. We've learned it even doubles as a light table when we put some bright lights inside and diffuse the light through the top! The kids love building with magnetiles on top, or using colored, see through letters and numbers that were donated by a wonderful Preschool family!

The kids are thrilled to explore outside each day in our Nature Explore courtyard and see how things are so different in the cold months! They stomp on the ground and it is hard, they try and dig in the dirt and the ground is frozen, the water from the day before turns to ice overnight, and never mind all the snow creatures and snowballs they make (and try to eat!). We keep our eyes to the sky to notice if it's sunny or snowing, if there are clouds or blue skies, if we can spot any visiting birds (and try to identify them!). The children notice the bare trees or the one with some red berries that have turned brown and shriveled up—their observations are admirable! Shoveling snow and learning independence in putting on snow gear are strengthening those gross motor and self help skills and it's a joy to see how these skills progress through the season!

We have rounded out our month of learning with lots of storytelling! The preschoolers have been learning to tell stories by first observing, through interactive reading and retelling of stories like The Mitten, Goldilocks and the 3 Bears, and The Gingerbread Man. They've also learned to tell their own stories by responding to a prompt in their very own journals with a picture, then telling their teachers about their picture, developing language and early literacy skills. Journaling is proving to be one of their very favorite things to do in the afternoons after rest time!

We enthusiastically anticipate the month of February, when we can celebrate even more than we usually do the love God has for us as His children and the love we can share with each other. \*We will also be celebrating our Community Helpers—parents, if you work in a position in our community and would like to come share with our class about what you do, we'd love to have you! Please get in touch with Ms. Cunsolo or Mrs. McKean as soon as possible to set this up. In the past we have had visits from nurses, doctors, firefighters, pastors, mail carriers, teachers, physical therapists, etc.\* We have lots of exciting things coming up!

# Team A News!

## **Kindergarten Update from Mrs. Coombs:**

Hello Kindergarten families! I hope you all enjoyed a fun and relaxing Christmas break, celebrating Jesus' birth with your family. It was so nice to see everyone smiling and ready to jump right back into learning. I wanted to thank all of you for your generous blessings to myself, Miss Rose, and the classroom. The children are enjoying the new additions to our toy area and using the kinetic sand to strengthen their fine motor skills.

Term 2 is coming to a close and we had a lot of fun learning this term. "Zoom, Zoom, Zoom we're going to the moon." (Well at least we did in term 2!) We finished our Solar System Unit studying the moon, and what better way to teach about the moon's phases than using Oreos? While studying the Sun, I asked the students to take a moment and enjoy the beautiful works of God during sunrise/sunset. They then were asked to paint what they saw.

We recently had the privilege of going and listening to Mr. Niehaus talk to us about life as a Red Coat soldier during the Revolutionary War. We were able to see what the uniforms looked like and all the things they had to carry while they traveled.

We are excited to have officially completed Unit 1 of FUNdations! I am proud of all the students and the hard work they have put into learning how to write the lowercase letters and learning their sounds. We have now begun Unit 2 where students will work to use these letter sounds in order to blend and make words. This is exciting for them because they will soon discover that they can begin to decode and read words!

Term 3 has some fun things in store for our class and team time. We will be moving West and exploring Pioneer life. We will be using our eyes, ears, fingers, nose and mouth to explore our five senses. Team A will be gathering once a week to help each work on parts of the Early American Challenge. (Don't know what I'm talking about? See Mrs. Cleveland's article in the Principal's Corner on page 1 for details!)

## **Grade 1 Update from Mrs. Richardson:**

Can you believe we are HALFWAY through First Grade? Time sure does fly by when you are learning a lot! Students have been working hard learning about the planets and the Sun. We now know the planets in order and how long it takes for the earth to orbit the Sun. First graders also learned a song about the order of the planets.

Addition, subtraction, and place value... OH MY! Our math skills are surely growing. As Term 2 is coming to a close, we are about to wrap up chapter 6 with a unit test. Learning place value has brought a LOT of fun during math time, it has been one of our favorite math chapters. We can now identify how many 100's, 10's, and 1's are in numbers.

It has been a blast learning about the history of America. We have been able to learn new information and compare and contrast life now and life back during the colonial times. The Revolutionary War has been of great interest. First graders are able to name the first and third presidents as well as their important roles in fighting for freedom.

As Term 3 comes to a start soon, we will be learning about 'greater than' and 'less than' in math. We will continue on reading the Old Testament, and in Food for Life we will focus on a balanced diet and the importance of exercise. Lastly, we will be doing a Founding Fathers seed swap as a school. There is a lot to look forward to in Term 3!



**Grade 2 Update from Mrs. McGrail:**

*And just like that: We are at the completion of Term Two !! Wow, I am just in awe of how hard your children have worked throughout a term that was FULL of shorter weeks and holidays !! We are wrapping up our big project for Science (Planet posters!); saying farewell to Unit 5 of Math; and gearing up for the fun and full Term Three that is soon approaching!! It will be a term in which we see significant growth, as we are in motion to have five full day weeks finally.*

*Here's a sneak peak of what's to come in the beginning of Term 3 :*

*Math units 6, 7, and 8: Fluently adding within 100, understanding place values, and comparing numbers within 1,000.*

*FUNdations units 9 and 10: R-controlled combinations and D syllable types.*

*History: Thomas Jefferson & Lewis and Clark*

*Science: Body and Senses*

*Bible: Continuation through the Old Testament and entering the New Testament*



# Team B News!

## FROM MS. RENNIE'S DESK:

On Friday, January 20th, the students in 3rd & 4th grades will celebrate meeting our MobyMax goals with a calzone party. (Ms. Rennie's family recipe!) MobyMax is an online program that helps close learning gaps with fun games and assessments. The students love logging in when they are done with their other schoolwork. They have worked really hard in their learning about our American history up to the late 1700's, landforms, rocks and minerals, lots of prepositions and objects of the prepositions in Shurley, vowel/consonant suffixes and lately the stories of Joseph. We continue to work on mastering our multiplication facts, so please continue to help them memorize these.

We look forward to learning more about our founding fathers, the Westward Expansion, growing peach trees, our senses, and Moses. I continue to be amazed at the level of passion for learning that 3rd grade has.

Thank you for raising awesome kids!! You'll get to see their successes soon when report cards come out on 2/1/23.

Thank you for all your continued support.

Ms. Rennie

## A NOTE FROM MRS. VELARDE:

4<sup>th</sup> grade did not miss a beat as we got right back into the swing of things after Christmas break! They have been working hard and have been putting in extra effort to stay focused during a very busy month of schedule disruptions. We have been moving along through Math learning about prime and composite numbers, factoring and patterns. In LA, we have been working on novel edits, close reading of fiction and nonfiction, and learning about prepositions, helping verbs, and interjections. Oh my! In Science, we have finished up with landforms and will be discussing the ways landforms affected the outcomes of the Revolutionary War. Our studies of American History continue through the revolution and into peace time, as the government and laws of the land are established and the colonists find their footing as citizens of a new nation. We have been discussing the faithfulness of God as we have seen through our studies of Bible, History, and even in our own lives. As we look to Term 3, there are some exciting things on the horizon (like the American Challenge), but we look forward with the knowledge of God's unwavering faithfulness.



# Middle School News!

## Fifth Grade Update from Ms. Legro

There are often multiple ways to get to the answer in mathematics. For example, you can add  $4 + 4 + 4 + 4 + 4$  or you can multiply  $4 \times 5$  and get the answer 20. Some students are more comfortable with the former and choose addition to get to the answer; while others prefer multiplication (which is just fast addition) because it is a faster way to get to the answer. I love teaching “tricks” to my math students that help them get to the answer in a more efficient way, but they are always welcome to do the work in a more methodical way if that makes more sense to them. Whether it is choosing one strategy over another when it comes to multi-digit multiplication in fifth grade, or it is adding/subtracting exponents the “quick and easy way”, or writing out the base as many times as the exponent says to in seventh grade, I love hearing students explain why they chose the method they did and seeing the work it took for them to get to the answer.

May God multiply His blessings upon your family,  
Miss Legro

## Sixth Grade Update from Mr. Shea:

Hello Parents,

We have wrapped up Term 2. Students are working on research essays in Language Arts, focusing on important historical figures and key events. Please feel free to help your students edit and revise their essays! It is good practice for them to learn about using the opinions and ideas of others to help inform and improve their own writing.

As we move into Term 3, we will be shifting our focus from writing longer essays to creating short responses, persuasive paragraphs, and old fashioned letters related to literature we are reading and working with in the classroom. Students are encouraged to find a book related to the term's historical time period as a book report focus. There are a lot of different things planned throughout the term to help students develop an understanding of how the people of a brand new United States thought and felt. I hope you are able to join your students on their journey!

In Christ,  
Jeremiah Shea  
Grade 6 Home Room





### Mr. Curtis' Corner:

Welcome back to another episode of Mr. Curtis' Corner. I trust you all had a joyous, albeit chaotic Christmas season, full of family gatherings, gift exchanging, nostalgic and praise filled worship services, and the anticipation of a new year. We have returned to History class in 2023 ready to kick off the American Revolution. In order to better understand the past, students were asked to take a look back at the events that led up to the revolution. One of the main causes, they discovered, was the taxation of the colonies by Britain. Britain was greatly in debt after winning the French and Indian War, and was in need of capital - and fast! What better way than to tax the ungrateful colonists they had spent so much money defending.

Now, Taxation is not a concept every middle school student is acquainted with, so I needed a way to familiarize students with taxes without bringing in the IRS tax experts. I found maybe the next best thing: [iCivics.org](https://www.icivics.org) which is an awesome resource to help students understand the importance of their own civic involvement. It was actually created by former Supreme Court Justice, Sandra Day O'Connor, in hopes of inspiring the next generation of Americans to get involved in our democracy, regardless of their potential political affiliation. So our students, after becoming more familiar with the concept of taxes, budgets, and government resources, took part in "People's Pie". "People's Pie" is an interactive game simulation where the user is asked to set tax rates and retirement age, create a government budget and assess pitches for additional spending while trying to balance public approval. Let's just say our students had no idea that collecting taxes and balancing budgets could be so much fun! If you are up for a challenge, ask you student about "People's Pie" and give it a try yourself.

I look forward to the start of Term 3, which begins Monday, as we continue on in American History. Until next time.....

~Mr Curtis



## Science Update from Mrs. Gordon:

One of the best things about being a Middle School Science teacher is relearning tons of fascinating things about God's incredible creation! Most recently we've learned about light waves and the human eye in 5th and 6th grade, and every known atom in 7th and 8th grade (in other words, the periodic table of elements). I hope the kids are internalizing an ounce of my enthusiasm for the material in some way.

Outdoor Education Reminder: we have Outdoor Education once a week and I will also take opportunities to go outside during science class. Students must dress appropriately for outdoor activities and adventures throughout the winter.

In Health, we learned a lot about sleep this term, and each student developed three personalized pieces of advice to improve their own sleep after recording data over three weeks. Be sure to ask your 7th or 8th grader about their advice and if they want help implementing any of those changes. Note: late night screen use is one of the biggest thieves of teenagers' sleep currently.

Finally, believe it or not, the Science Fair is now upon us! Students will begin working toward genuine engagement with the processes of science and engineering. More information will be coming home for parents in the near future, so please be sure to set aside some time to look over those with your students. We will do much of the science fair work in school, but there are components that will need to be done at home.





Even in Middle School you can enjoy the snow



Frisbee game at Middle School recess

**I know we mentioned it on page 4 of Pathways but in case you missed it....here is the EXTENDED WIN TIME INFORMATION:**

Would your middle school student benefit from some extra help? Have them join us in Extended W.I.N. on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:45-3:15.

This time will be used to:

- complete homework assignments or missing work
- provide additional instruction in areas of weakness
- assist students with binder and planner organization

To sign up or if you have any questions, please email Mrs. Raymond at [craymond@holdenchristianacademy.org](mailto:craymond@holdenchristianacademy.org)