

# 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:

**Oct. 25** - Lifetouch Picture Day

**Nov. 4** - Term 1 ends

**Nov. 8** - No School, Staff Development Day

**Nov. 10** - Thanksgiving Reenactment - [Sign Up Here](#) and see page 14 for more info!

**Nov. 11** - No School, Veteran’s Day

**Nov. 14** - Veteran’s Day Program, 1pm

**Nov. 15** - Term 1 Report Cards sent via email

**Nov. 16** - 1/2 day ~ Parent Teacher Conferences (afternoon)

**Nov. 23-25** - No School, Thanksgiving break

**Nov. 29** - Noah Play (K-8) at 1pm



## PRINCIPAL’S CORNER

Welcome to our first edition of Pathways for the 2022-2023 school year! Pathways is one of HCA’s ways that we partner with parents—to keep you informed of what your student is learning and what you will need to be aware of to help them get the most out of their education. Features like Classroom Happenings, announcements from the Parent Teacher Council, and more will provide you with timely information for Big Days like the Thanksgiving Reenactment, class parties, Food for Life cooking days, etc. When you know the topics they are studying, you can complement the learning experience at home with books, movies, or activities that help your kids dig deeper into topics they are enjoying (or need additional support with)! I hope you will check out each feature of Pathways and find helpful information on every page! Happy Reading!.....

*“He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.”*

*Ecclesiastes 3:11*

In our four year cycle of learning, we are back at the beginning! Year One, “Our Heritage,” is, in a way, a study of beginnings. The students will focus on the first five books of the Bible from Creation in Genesis through the Ten Commandments in Deuteronomy. They will also learn about the humble beginnings of our nation from the explorers to the Civil War. As these topics are woven throughout their studies, we come to appreciate the idea that the events that impact us personally span well before and after us, and into eternity. Decisions our ancestors made about where to live and what to believe are part of our heritage, highlighting for us that decisions we make today impact ourselves, others, and future generations.

God has created us as eternal beings, to live on this earth for a time. Our activities here, whether they are to travel to a new land, start a new country, or stand up for what we believe in, can be used by God for His purposes in this lifetime and into eternity.

He made everything beautiful in its time. I am looking forward to the great ways we will use our time together! How will eternity be impacted this year?

~Mrs. Cleveland, Principal

**H**onoring God through  
**C**reative learning and  
strong  
**A**cademics in a caring, fun-  
filled school!

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

# A Word About Social-Emotional Learning ...

**Greetings from Mrs. Heenan! Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year! It has been an outstanding start to the school year, with children settling into school quickly, reuniting with friends, building new friendships, and continuing their learning.**

**Our (SEL) Social Emotional Learning program kicked off into high gear in elementary school. Each student completed an activity that prompted them to recall four things they learned over the summer. We are not talking about video games or superheroes here, but skills they may carry with them through life, such as learning to ride a bike, learning to write their name, how to knit, etc!**

**In grades Preschool through Grade 6, we will continue to use the Zones of Regulation Curriculum that we began last year, and add new and thought-provoking activities to our SEL binder. New students will catch on quickly! “Zones of Regulation” is an approach used to support the development of self-regulation in children. All the different ways children feel, and the states of alertness they experience are categorized into four colored zones. Children who are well regulated are able to be in the appropriate zone at the appropriate time. More information can be found [here](#).**

**Grades 7 and 8 have been working on guided journaling using books that were donated to HCA. Students in Grade 7 are using The Big Life Journal for Kids, and students in grade 8 were given The Big Life Journal. These journals are kept private unless they want to share their thoughts after completing a lesson. More information about these can be found [here](#).**

**The students are enjoying these, and have enjoyed searching scripture that corresponds with each lesson. If you have any questions about Special Education or Social Emotional Learning please do not hesitate to reach out [kheenan@holdenchristianacademy.org](mailto:kheenan@holdenchristianacademy.org).**

**OUR THANKSGIVING REENACTMENT IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, NOV. 10TH!**

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO HELP ON THAT DAY, AND VOLUNTEERS TO PREPARE FOOD ITEMS. [MORE INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 14 OF PATHWAYS](#) SO PLEASE DON'T MISS IT!**

**PLEASE CLICK [HERE](#) TO SIGN UP FOR THIS EVENT.**



# PLEASE TAKE NOTE...



## From Mrs. M's Art Room....

**Needs:** The Art Room is in need of foam or plastic egg cartons (clean, dry, and without eggs in them!) to use as paint trays. If you have some, please send them in anytime throughout the year!

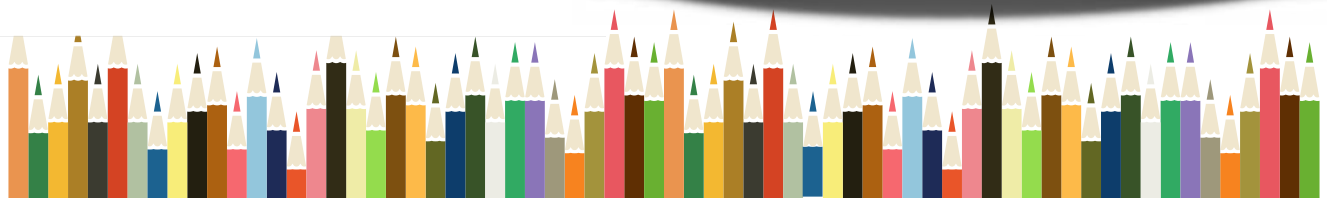
**Square 1 Art:** Students have been working on some "out of this world" art for Square 1 Art. Ordering information and a free sheet of stickers with your child's artwork will be sent home by Nov. 5th, so please be on the look out. A portion of the sales goes back to HCA, and Square 1 Art products make excellent, personalized Christmas gifts for family! Order online and have it shipped directly to your home by Christmas.

## SPIRITUAL EMPHASIS WEEK UPDATE:

Our parents and staff donated \$2,670 for the Spiritual Emphasis team this year, exceeding last year's donations! Thank you to all who donated, participated, and prayed during this special week.

## Calling all prayer warriors!

Prayer is a powerful tool that can be exercised anywhere and on behalf of anyone. The Lord tells us to "bear one another's burdens" (Gal. 6:2) and to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thess. 5:17). With that in mind, consider joining the HCA **prayer chain** to support our school community when needs are expressed. **We are looking for people to pray!** If you are interested in being on this list please email Rebecca Burley at [beckabur1@gmail.com](mailto:beckabur1@gmail.com). If anyone has a PRAYER REQUEST for our warriors to pray over, please fill out [this form](#).







# Preschool News!



Preschool at HCA has started out strong this fall! After greeting a boisterous group of new students, we have settled nicely into our school day routine, with lots of learning through play, beautiful fall days in Nature Explore, and discovering our many emotions and how to respond to them appropriately in a group setting!

In late September, we sent our beloved Mrs. Frances Queen onto a new job that will fully use her God-given gifts. We were so thankful for her time with us in Preschool and the joy she brought to so many kids and their parents alike. In early October, we welcomed Mrs. Ruth Malavet to our Preschool team. In just a short time, she has showered the children with her love and patience, and has been a wonderful asset to our classroom!

Preschoolers have been learning how God created each of them as someone special; how He created the fall season; and that we can be on God's Team by trusting in Jesus! Letters, numbers, colors and shapes are part of our everyday play and structured activities, and the Preschoolers love building, running, jumping, singing, and digging outside in Nature Explore as we extend our Center Time each day from our indoor Centers. Preschool teachers love pouring into the children and reminding them what gifts they are and how happy we are to have them here with us at HCA!



The Preschool Trike-A-Thon yesterday was a success. It's not too late to donate at <https://www.holdenchristianacademy.org/trikeathon>

Some highlights we enjoyed were getting to watch a butterfly emerge from its chrysalis and setting it free, learning about God's creation of the dinosaurs and pretending to be them ourselves, erupting a volcano together, singing silly songs and moving our bodies every day, lying in the sunshine to learn how to breathe, resting and soaking in the beauty of God's creation while re-setting our bodies and minds, and the Trike-a-Thon!

As the seasons begin to change, we look forward to seeing how the preschoolers grow in their individuality and gifts that God has given them.

# Team A News!

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

Kindergarten has been on a roll to start the year off fast and furious! The transition from Preschool to Kindergarten can often be a challenge, but we have found ways to incorporate fun with learning to keep everyone engaged throughout each day. We are learning how to form our lowercase letters and numbers. To keep the students interested we often take a break from using the traditional pencil and paper and instead practice writing in shaving cream and sand. We have been enjoying the beautiful Fall weather God has given us. We have incorporated nature into our lessons, learning to count everything in His creation.

It's so exciting that we have already had two opportunities to venture out of the classroom and take our students to experience life first-hand on field trips. First, we enhanced our "Food for Life" program and enjoyed a day at Brookfield Orchards, picking fresh apples and then making homemade applesauce and apple treats. We also traveled to Plimoth Patuxet Museum where we talked to villagers about their arrival to the new world and about their daily lives. We enjoyed learning about the different foods that the Wampanoags ate and how they used animal skins for clothing. All these new facts will propel us forward as we continue learning and prepare for our exciting "Thanksgiving Reenactment" in a few weeks! So much fun has been had already with much more coming in November.

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

Happy Fall! Can you believe we are almost half way through October already? Time sure does fly when you are having fun! The transition from Kindergarten to First Grade can be tough as there are a lot more academics this year. However, the students have transitioned very quickly and we are taking flight in learning!

We have had one Math test and are about to take our unit 2 quiz in Foundations. We are currently learning about doubles facts in Math and how to tap out words in Foundations. In Bible, we have learned all about our beautiful world in which we live. Science has been a deeper study about God's creation. So far First Graders have learned about different types of landforms and the layers of the earth. In Social Studies, our conversations and learning have revolved around the pilgrims and the Wampanoag tribe. Food For Life has been focused on what plants need to survive, the parts of a plant, as well as the parts of an apple.

Coming up next, we will be learning about digraphs in Foundations and continuing to stretch our Math fact knowledge. Stay tuned in Science as we will be learning about volcanoes AND even making a volcano in class (so fun)! In November, we will be having our Thanksgiving Reenactment Day. Team A will be dressing up as Wampanoags. We are looking forward to putting our learning into action for the reenactment!



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

*Cool crisp air, leaves falling, chatter during apple picking, corn mazes, and the excitement of tricks or treats means we are in full swing of school! Term One of Second Grade is a major transition time for your child and they have all been busy bees getting in the routine.*

*What's to come :*

*In these last weeks of Term One we will keep the train moving as we continue working through the Old Testament learning about the building attempt of a giant staircase to heaven, the son of laughter, the present, and the girl no one wanted. Next week we begin Unit 3 of Math which will focus on Addition to 100 Strategies. FUNDations will be all about suffixes in Unit 4 as well as new base words and sounds. In Science, we will continue to learn about volcanoes, lava, minerals, rocks, and erosion. Social Studies continues to be full of historical information as we continue to learn about the Wampanoags, Pilgrims, the voyage of the Mayflower, Jamestown, and Pocahontas. Food for Life will “fall” into fitness fun, discuss where pollinators will go as our biome prepares for winter, and a scavenger hunt in nature!*

*Please continue to keep a lookout for my weekly “Sneak Peak of the Week” so that you are in the loop on our next big day event: The Thanksgiving Reenactment! Team A will be dressed as Wampanoags, and are so excited for the fun of fellowship that will be held that day.*



# Team B News!

## From Ms. Rennie's Desk:

What an awesome start to this new school year. Third grade has been so busy learning about early European explorers and then did an amazing presentation of the Wampanoag Indian tribe along with the Fourth Grade's representation of Plimoth Plantation. We are excited for the Thanksgiving Reenactment on Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. I hope that you are able to participate in this fun big day with us. We are working on our writing assignment of "Life as a Wampanoag" story that will definitely be ready for classroom display by 11/10. We have read about Jamestown compared to Plimoth, and we'll finish up this term studying Mass Bay and the 13 Colonies. Then we will springboard into the French/Indian War, the American Revolution, and the branches of the government.

We have learned some interesting facts about our solar system. Did you know that...?

- The whole of Mars is as cold as the South Pole.
- One day on Uranus is 17 hours long.
- Jupiter's largest moon has a salty ocean that contains more water than on Earth.
- Mercury takes roughly three Earth months to orbit the Sun.

During Term 2 we will dive into landforms, rocks, and minerals, expounding on God's incredible creations!

Everyone is doing well adjusting to the new Math curriculum. It would really help if each week you could focus on a multiplications time table to practice and work towards mastery. Even if it's for 5 minutes in the car - every little bit helps! THANK YOU!!

Have you asked your child to sing a Shurley Grammar Jingle to you? You will be entertained. It's a fun way to learn parts of speech. How about asking your child to identify our backyard birds for our Food for Life focus? They have caught on so quickly to recognize bird types and behaviors. Third Grade is amazing!!

In Bible, Third Graders drew beautiful pictures of how we can be good stewards of God's creation after reading Genesis 1-3. We discussed how we can help sustain our precious earth by recycling, not running too much water, taking proper care of plants/animals, and replanting what we harvest. Term 2 will be a fun exploration of Mesopotamia and Ancient Egypt.

It was a treasure to connect with you on Parents' Night and thank you to those who chaperoned our field trip to Plimoth Patuext Museum. Your continued support is very much appreciated!!  
Ms. Rennie



### From Mrs. Velarde's Desk

Hello Grade 4 families! I want to start off by saying how proud I am of your children. We have hit the ground running this year and these students have really shown flexibility, perseverance and the joy they have for learning. I am so proud of the hard work they put into our first major project, the Plimoth Preview. Each house, costume and presentation was so unique and thorough. It was a wonderful way to prepare not only our class, but the whole school the day before our Plimoth Patuxet field trip. The field trip and Plimoth Preview were both a huge success and the 4<sup>th</sup> graders should be especially proud of their accomplishments and hard work. We are going to use the momentum we have built to drive us toward the end of Term 1 and beginning of Term 2. We have many more experiences to prepare for like the Noah play and our Thanksgiving Reenactment. Be on the lookout for emails as we get closer to these events as they will have important information for our class. It has been such a joy to work with these students this far and I am excited to see where the Lord guides us in the coming year.



Grade 3 in the wetu they built in their classroom



Students from Grade 4 during their visit to Plimoth Patuxet



# Middle School News!

## **Fifth Grade Update:**

Our fifth graders have transitioned into Middle School life seamlessly! They are a fun-filled, respectful, and hardworking group. We began this school year by spending time building community with the entire Middle School, introducing and reviewing procedures to set us up for success academically this year, and drawing nearer to God and strengthening our faith in Him through Spiritual Emphasis Week. At the beginning of October, we had the opportunity to visit the third and fourth grade "Plimoth Museum" and went on our first field trip to Plimoth Patuxet. These events set the scene for our first "Big Day", a Thanksgiving Reenactment, on Thursday, November 10th. The Middle School students have been brainstorming what they will be doing, either as a person from the Wampanoag tribe or as a Pilgrim.

In addition to this fun project, our class will be making and bringing "cheate bread" to the Thanksgiving feast which ties nicely into the fifth grade Food For Life objective to learn about fermentation. If you have sourdough starter that you would like to share with us, please send it in! Also, please let me know if you have a bread maker that has a bake setting that we may use on November 10th so we don't have to compete for oven space with the rest of the school. Thank you!

## **Sixth Grade Update from Mr. Shea:**

This first term is off to an excellent start. Students have spent time getting to know classmates, learning expectations, and getting used to new environments and curriculum. The first chunk of term one is a time of transition and change that everyone has been working through with optimism and a sense of fun that (looking back) has been missing. We recently participated in a school wide field trip to Plimoth Patuxet. Middle School students were asked to keep an eye out for ideas that we can use for our Thanksgiving Reenactment. The trip was an awesome springboard for our activity planning and learning throughout the remainder of the term.

As we move into the second half of Term 1, please remember to help your student with assignments by checking their planners and coaching him/her to complete homework on time. We are moving into a larger writing project in Language Arts and Middle Schoolers will likely need help, both in the classroom and at home, to complete the project little by little over the next few weeks.

As always, thank you so much for your partnership! Feel free to email any questions you have!



### Seventh Grade Update from Mr. Curtis:

The expression in like a lion out like a lamb typically is used in connection to winter but I am not so sure it doesn't apply to the beginning of the school year. Frantically parents and teachers alike are scrambling to get everyone and everything ready for late August. There is so much excitement with new students and teachers, and a new year of learning. Somehow, we find ourselves in the middle of October and finally settling down into a more focused rhythm. We participated in team building activities as a Middle School, spent time discussing God's Word, and worshipped together during Spiritual Emphasis Week. Most recently we were transported back in time to the 1620's to visit our ancestors the Pilgrims' and Wampanoag on our first field trip.

As we continue Term One, we are searching to find the historical accuracy or inaccuracy as well as the true heart behind the First Thanksgiving. Middle School students will be researching daily life and leisure activities for both the Wampanoag and Pilgrim families. They then will be using what they learn to help recreate an authentic and engaging reenactment of the First Thanksgiving for the entire H.C.A. community. In Bible class, students have begun to unpack and wrestle with the issue and ramifications of original sin as seen in the early chapters of Genesis. This is an issue we continue to deal with each day as broken people who live in a fallen world. Please feel free to continue to unpack how sin affects our daily lives and how God has a plan for our redemption through Jesus with your child.

### Eighth Grade Update from Mrs. Gordon:

The 8th grade class has kicked the year off to a great start! They are maturing nicely into their roles as the student leaders of our school. Here are some recent highlights from our homeroom:

- Starting the aeroponics tower garden early with strawberries, tomatoes, herbs, and edible flowers
- Participating in ACSI's virtual leadership conference and beginning their impact project using their time and gifts to bless the HCA student community
- Journaling with the team during Spiritual Emphasis Week and utilizing that opportunity to ask important questions during the Coffee Can sessions about faith, doubts, relationships, high school, technology, and more
- Working to establish good academic rhythms for the school year ahead
- And perhaps the sweetest of all, laughing together, bonding, and just plain enjoying the company of their classmates



8th Grade leadership conference

Coming up, we will be working out the details of our Plimoth Reenactment which will take place on Thursday, November 10th. Information will soon be sent out about what to wear, what to bring, and other ways to prepare. The student-led worship team is also about to start up again under the leadership of our new music teacher!

**Volunteer Opportunity:** If you have a desire to share any specific knowledge or expertise about the natural world during an Outdoor Education class, please reach out to let me know.

# Thanksgiving Reenactment, November 10th!

Our Kindergarten through Grade 8 students will be working over the next four weeks to prepare for our Thanksgiving Reenactment. They will have an opportunity to impersonate a Pilgrim or a member of the Wampanoag tribe, as well as to visit classrooms, outdoor spaces, and participate in an authentic feast for lunch!

As is the tradition for HCA Big Days, we invite parents to volunteer - both by supplying some pre-cooked/pre-cut food, or by coming in person on Nov. 10th and spending the day with us. Parents are strongly encouraged to come dressed as a Pilgrim or Wampanoag (the staff and students will be in costume; don't be left out!).

Please click [HERE](#) to see what is needed for the event. Thank you so much for helping us create an authentic and exciting learning opportunity for our students!

