

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. 29 - "Mini Asia Day" for Team A, Team C, and Team D

Nov. 5 - Term 1 ends

Nov. 11 - Veterans Day (no school)

Nov. 12 - 8th Grade Leadership Conference

Nov. 16 - Lifetouch Picture Day

Nov. 17 - Parent Teacher Conferences (1/2 day)

Nov. 24-27 - Thanksgiving Break (no school)

Nov. 29-Dec. 3 - Scholastic Book Fair

Principal's Book of Excellence Award Recipients:

Alexi - a cooperative spirit

Wesley - having enthusiasm, participating quickly in many opportunities

Lilly - helping a teacher by handing them paper towels for their hands

Maxanne - being a justice-seeker, helping a friend get a turn

Billy & Audrey - being community-helper, helping friends setup cots



PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

At the beginning of this school year, I moved out of the classroom in which I taught math and science for 12 years. This classroom, also the sixth grade homeroom, has four windows and some seriously cheerful light. I was blessed with lots of sunshine and a great view of the field. I delighted in seeing kindergarteners line up 5 minutes early so they could be first, watching middle schoolers play basketball, and catching a glimpse of an occasional fox or cluster of turkeys as they crossed the field, interrupting my morning class with a science lesson. I enjoyed teaching many students basic math and pre-algebraic principles and helping them learn about some of the amazing ways that God created the world. Sharing God's character with students through his Word has been a gift. Suffice it to say that I loved my job as a teacher! God is so good to call me to something more than teaching though. This is why I am so pleased that my transition from teacher to principal is complete with Holden Chapel's recent vote.



Principal's Book of Excellence Recipients:

Alex - being a beauty-creator and putting so much energy into his artwork

Jonathan - being a justice-seeker and sticking up for a friend

Zuri - being trustworthy, gentle, kind, and a safe place for her peers

Andrew - being compassionate and switching jobs with a friend

Eva - having the courage to apologize and making good choices

Luke - being a servant-worker, always willing to help a friend

Jackson - being a servant-worker

Krista - having perseverance and a positive attitude

William - being a peace-builder by righting a wrong

Emma - stepping in gracefully to a leadership role

Arden - helping a younger child and offering advice that will help as she grows up

Emma and Jocelyn - advocating for themselves in a positive way

RJ - following directions, being a great friend, and working hard on academics

Brady - being kind, helpful, and courteous to his friends

Grace - being courageous by choosing to move through a discomfort

Julia - being a beauty-enjoyer, always encouraging friends to smell the beautiful fresh air at recess

I truly love HCA and all that it encompasses. I love the Haywards and the positive influence they have had on my life, both personally and professionally. I love the philosophy of education here that is integrated, concept-based, and experiential. I love our Food for Life program that helps kids to see their bodies as a gift from God worthy of care and gets kids outside to work productively as a community. I love that this is a joyful place. Most of all, HCA is a place that welcomes God and follows Him. This is His school, operating for His glory.

I am happy to drop the “interim” part of my title from the signature line and hang my proverbial hat in the principal’s office each day. Though my new office does not have lots of sunshine (it has one window with a view of the shed roof), my job in leading the staff and students of this amazing school is an honor and full of joy. I look forward to being a part of God’s plan for this wonderful school.

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

Mrs. Hayward “passing the torch” to Mrs. Cleveland!



Susan's Musings

Some final notes from our Founding Principal

Passing the Torch

A unanimous vote was taken by the members of Holden Chapel last week officially naming Mrs. Nikki Cleveland as the Principal of Holden Christian Academy.

Huzzah to Mrs. Cleveland!

We are currently in the final year of a four-year gentle transition of the principal position. Personally, it has been a blessing to have Nikki come alongside me in the beginning, and then to watch her blossom into this position that God has clearly laid out for her.

Passing the torch is so much easier when God does the orchestrating and inside preparation of both participants. I anticipate thoughtful, godly leadership and a continuation of the unique and exciting approach to school that God has planted, grown, and pruned over the past 27 years.

I will still be consulting on Monday and Tuesdays for the remainder of the year.

Joyfully in Him,
Susan Hayward



OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING!

As the holiday season approaches, there are several opportunities for giving that we will participate in as a school. Please join us for as many as you are able! We have listed them here so you know what is coming.

Now until Nov. 8th - Gather Drive for WARM

WARM (Worcester Alliance for Refugee Ministry) will be welcoming up to 800 Afghan refugees in the coming months, and HCA will hear from its Executive Director during a very special chapel on Nov. 8th. She will tie in our weekly memory verse with how WARM ministers to people from the Middle Eastern culture - and she may even have some refugee friends with her! **We would like to present WARM with a generous donation of toiletries for the refugees**. Will you help? The following items may be brought to school anytime between now and Nov. 8th. Please donate as generously as you are able so we can assemble full-sized toiletry kits for many refugees!

- Shampoo
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Soap
- Deodorant
- Lotion
- Razors
- Shaving Cream

Now until Nov. 15th - Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes!

Operation Christmas Child is an arm of the Samaritan's Purse ministry, which delivers Christmas gifts in shoeboxes to children all over the world. To learn more about what to pack, check out [this link](#). Families who would like to participate are encouraged to fill a shoebox and students should bring them to chapel on Monday, Nov. 15th. Watch for a flier that will be sent home!

Dec. 1-17 - "Dollar Drive for Belarus"

As in years past, in December we will collect donations to buy boxes of chocolate for orphans in Belarus. Every \$5 will purchase a box of chocolate, which may be the only Christmas gift these orphans receive. More information will come in the next issue of Pathways.



PLEASE TAKE NOTE....



FROM MRS. M'S ART ROOM:

Did you know Earth without art is just eh?

All students have been working hard on their Square 1 Art. This is a yearly art event where you child's art can be printed on a wide variety of products. Order forms with their original Art will be coming home in November. Like many companies having supply issues, Square 1 Art has been unable to obtain the shipment of free stickers they usually send us, so instead they are offering a 10% discount on all orders.

This week Team A and B are making pandas and next week will be making SUMINAGASHI - What Is Suminagashi? It is Japanese marbled paper. SUMINGASHI means floating ink. Grade 3 and 4 will be painting Koi fish with watercolor. Grades 5-8 will be creating art out of a Chinese word using black ink and glittery puff paint.

Blessings, Mrs. M

Do you have an HCA Lawn Sign (or do you want one)?

If you have one already we would appreciate you planting it in your yard, or around town. If you would like one (or more!), we will plant some near the student entrance for you to grab. Thank you for helping us get the word out about this special school. We hear often from families who have applied after seeing a lawn sign, so never doubt the significance of such a "simple" act of school spirit!

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO
DONATED TO SPIRITUAL EMPHASIS
WEEK! WE WERE ABLE TO BLESS THE
COASTLANDS TEAM WITH A
GENEROUS DONATION, THANKS TO
YOUR GENEROSITY.**

GOT SCHOOL SPIRIT?

Please visit www.globalschoolwear.com/emailsingup to join the email list from our uniform company, so you won't miss out on any future Tommy Hilfiger special promotions or sales.

Preschool News!

Important Things to know for PK:

Yesterday, our Preschoolers pedaled to raise money for our school in our annual Trike-A-Thon. If you are reading this as a relative, alumni or friend of HCA, you are welcome to support HCA's Trike-A-Thon even though it has happened already! It is easy to **donate online**. We look forward to sharing lots of pictures with you of this fun day! We thank God for our school and for all who support HCA!

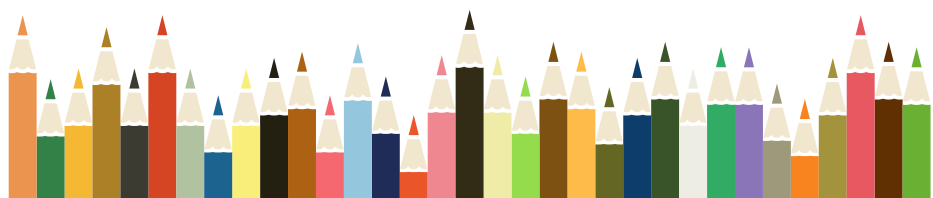
How you can help:

We are always so happy when a parent comes to play! If you are interested in helping our Preschool staff monitor outdoor play time, please email Mrs. McKean kmckean@holdenchristianacademy.org and let her know you'd love to supervise students during their time in the Nature Explore Playspace.

Our HCA Preschool team has been so blessed by the children who have graced our classroom this year! We have only been in school a few weeks (including 2 remote sessions already!), but the classroom community and developing friendships are beautiful to experience. We are very grateful to our preschool families who joined us for remote learning and sat alongside their children to participate in our Circle Time! The experience brought our families and school community together in an unexpected way, and we are blessed that God used this time for good!

Fall provides the perfect opportunity to talk about how God is an incredible and thoughtful designer. Just like a tiny apple seed, preschoolers are growing to understand that everything they are intended to be, they already contain inside of them. An apple tree grows to bear fruit, but that begins from just a tiny seed; each of us grows to be who God has created us to be, and that begins as just a child. Preschoolers have been spending their days learning to identify shapes and colors, numbers and their names, through lots of playtime and engaging Circle Time activities. They are learning about how deeply God loves them, and they are gaining self confidence and independence in their daily routines and self help skills. A favorite activity is always singing, and you can often hear a preschooler request to sing "Genesis 1:1" or "Way Up High in the Apple Tree"!

~Mrs. McKean, Mrs. Queen,
Mrs. Ross, and Mrs. Cunsolo





Team A News!

Help Needed & Announcements:

We are always in need of recess monitor helpers on a daily basis. **Recess for Team A is 11:30am-12:00pm** Monday through Friday. You may sign up to be on the recess monitor schedule [HERE](#).

We want to congratulate all **our amazing Kindergarteners** who participated in the Trike-A-Thon yesterday! For any friends, relatives, or alumni would like to support HCA in honor of these bicycle-riding & scooter-scooting students, you can donate [HERE](#). You can find a cute photo of the Kindergarten participants on page 10!

Kindergarten Update:

What a fun first few weeks in Kindergarten. The boys and girls have been doing a great job - especially with settling into our classroom routines and procedures. We have been learning about each other, and it has been a joy for Mrs. Coombs and Miss Rose to get to know your children. We know that for many, this may be their first time away from family so we will continue to reassure them and remind them of God's love.

Kindergarten started their Cultures unit by learning about themselves and their friends. We have had discussions about our families, favorite things to eat, and favorite things to celebrate. After that, we jumped right into Chinese culture. Last week we even enjoyed some favorite Chinese foods and practiced using chopsticks (see pic on pg. 10)!

For Science, we are exploring the Biome we live in, the deciduous forest. The children really enjoyed learning about the different animals that live in our forest. We have been going outside as much as possible to explore our forest. Our class went on a nature walk to collect as many different leaves as they could find and we brought them back to the classroom to see if we could identify the trees they came from.

It is just the beginning of the year and there are so many more exciting things ahead for Kindergarten and we can't wait to see these wonderful children grow.
~Mrs. Coombs

Grade 1 Update:

We have already learned so much, and are having so much fun in first grade. It has been a joy getting to know the first grade class. We have already had a lot of laughs. The year started off by learning about who we are and where we live. We have transitioned into learning all about China. Grade 1 even had a yummy 'Taste of China' last week!

Science has been full of excitement as we learn more about God's creation. The unit started with us learning all about our forest and what plants and animals we would find in our own backyard, as well as in New England. We then transitioned into exploring the garden, identifying the parts of plants, and going on a bug hunt (see pic on pg. 10). Our next topic of study will be the biome of China and what we would find in China's biome.

Our reading is really soaring! The reading friends we have been learning about are really helping us to identify unknown words. In Foundations, we are starting our knowledge of trick words (words that do not go along with regular letter and sound patterns). First graders are using their trick words to learn how to write sentences. We know all about punctuation (cheers for first grade)!
~Mrs. Richardson

Grade 2 Updates:

Can you believe we are already in week 7 of school ? Time continues to fly by as we go around the world in our Cultures year! We are getting to know one another quite well, and the Cultures theme has given us lots to talk about when it comes to our individual families and traditions. Early on we were busy exploring the United States, and have “flown” into China as of 9/21 where Second Grade has learned about laws, customs, history, and traditions of celebration in China. With that, lots of excellent conversations have been had as we continue to read and explore.

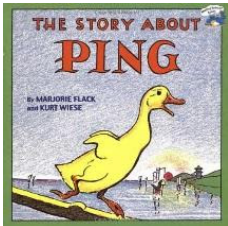
In Science, we have spoken about our own biome (The Deciduous Forest), and are now learning about China’s biome. This week, we are entering Unit 3 in FUNdations. This is a unit we will take our time to get through as we are focusing on Vowel Teams. We are in Unit 2 for Math, it’s a rather long unit- so we are taking our time and will likely have a unit test for it in the next week and a half. All Specials (Art, Music, PE, and Theater) are also in full motion. The kids just love having such a variety! I continue to be so proud of all they have accomplished thus far.

~Mrs. McGrail

Attention Team A Families! You are invited to attend...

China Golden Day!

Friday Oct 29th, 12:30—2:30 pm (rain or shine)

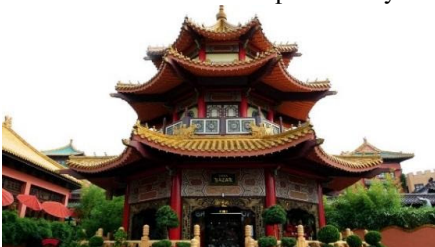


12:30pm PING! Enjoy a performance of this classic Chinese tale performed by our K-2 students in the sanctuary, under the direction of our theater teacher, Mrs. Lundergan.

1-2:30pm Golden Day Activities.... outdoors!

Visit the stations with your children to experience and celebrate Chinese culture. Highlights will be a Chinese Tea House, Panda Scavenger Hunt, Pagoda (craft shack), storywalk, and games.

*This is also a great opportunity to serve as a “chaperone” for a small group, to help run a station or to help set up and clean up. More information about specific ways to help will be sent home next week in an email.





A word about Social Emotional Learning from Mrs. Heenan

What a wonderful beginning to the school year! I have visited every classroom to teach social-emotional skills and strategies to each age group's unique developmental level. Teaching SEL along with life skills is something that I had done for years before joining the HCA family, and I feel like it has been very positive for everyone. I feel blessed to have the ability to utilize these skills again. In Kindergarten, we have learned about emotions and how to recognize and deal with them appropriately. We have also been learning about rules and why they are part of the school - to keep everyone safe, wanted and loved. In Team A and B, we started by establishing the classroom rules, working on a straightforward yet specific goal for each student as an individual. In October, we started our formal curriculum for Term One called Expectations and Behaviors in our Classroom. The curriculum begins with: 'What You Can Control', then moves onto 'How BIG is your Problem', followed by 'Acceptable and Unacceptable Behaviors'. Next week we will start 'Logical Consequences' and 'Arguing with your Teacher or Friends'. In Teams C and D, we started the year by developing specific long-term smart goals. Each student created their own goal and mapped out the course of action to meet this goal throughout the school year. We have also discussed anxiety and strategies you can use to lessen stress. Finally, we discussed friendships and how sometimes they can feel challenging and overwhelming, then role-played some examples.

As you all know, we follow the Matthew 18 principle for solving school problems. In the next few weeks, we will become more familiar with this principle and how we utilize God's word for helping us to solve problems. The students in every grade 2-8 were allowed to vote for an SEL Ambassador within their class. This student took an "oath" to help guide their friends down the right path, be a peacemaker, offer advice, help, listen and be a trusted peer to go to for support. Kindergarten and Grade 1 were elected by their teachers, stating that the students set the best example for others. Some of the SEL Ambassadors 2021-2022 School year are Audrey, Zuri, Tayo, Ethan, Kemi, Alexi, Abby.

Team B News!

Help Needed:

We are always in need of recess monitor helpers on a daily basis. **Recess for Team B is 11:30-12:00pm** Monday through Friday. This is a role for HCA parents to fill. Please make sure you've submitted your CORI check forms (found on our website) as well as a copy of your license before you volunteer. You may sign up to be on the recess monitor schedule [HERE](#).

From Ms. Rennie's Desk:

What a wonderful start to this new year. Third grade has been studying the culture of Russia. Did you know that Russia has 11 time zones? That it would take 15 days to drive east to west and that it has 6 biomes? We enjoyed a bowl of our homemade borscht today while we visited with my dear Russian friend, former HCA teacher, and HCA grandmother, Martha Kohl on Friday. A few weeks ago we were able to Zoom with Mrs. Velarde's cousin, Brooke, a missionary to Russia, where she ministers to orphans. We have been reading many stories by the Russian author Patricia Pollaco. She is also Jewish, which will lead us into next term's study of Israeland then on to Turkey!

Our "working bulletin board" outside of our classroom is filled with evidence of our New England biome: deciduous and coniferous forest creatures. We have amazing artists in 3rd grade.

We are so grateful to have had three in-house 'field trips' to keep safe! What a blast we had to learn about how to make Kombucha from HCA alumna, Haley. This was a fantastic integration of Food for Life and our Cultures study, as we learned that this Asian tea has been keeping people healthy for centuries.

In Math we have been reviewing addition and subtraction, and next term we will start mastering multiplication. *Practicing multiplication facts in the car for a few minutes will help reinforce this skill.*

We are learning about the books of the Bible - God's amazing love letter to us!

Thank you for checking your student's binders and watch out for the Weekly Peek.

I absolutely LOVE your children and I am so grateful for our partnership.

~Ms. Rennie

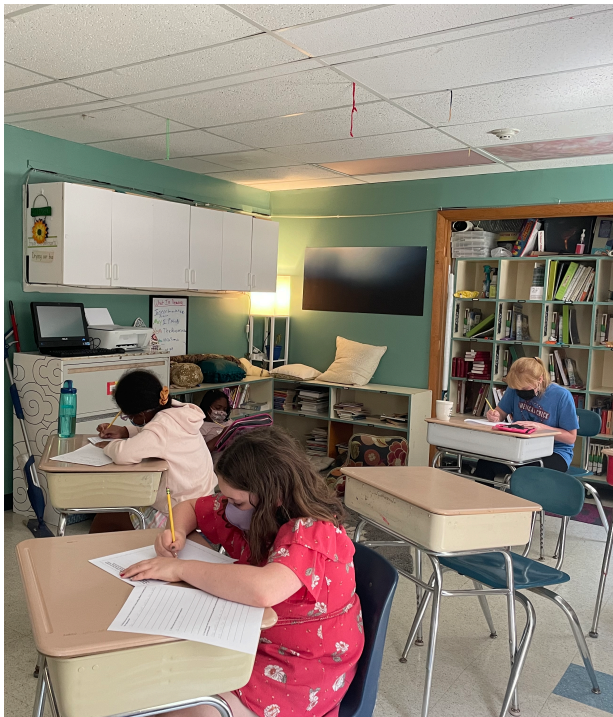


Grade 3 prepping to make Russian borscht together!



From Mrs. Velarde's Desk:

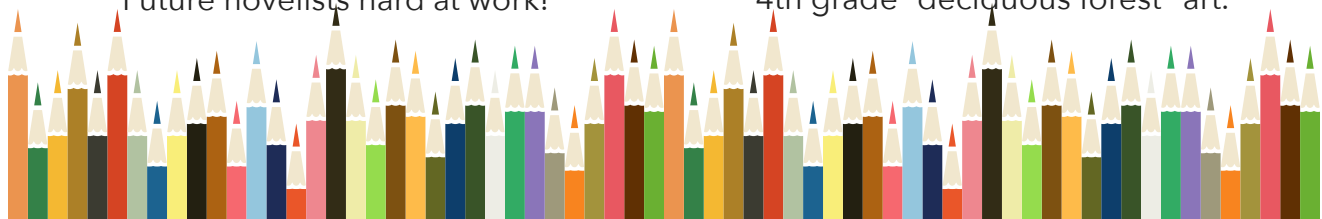
Hello from 4th grade! I am so excited to be in 4th grade this year with your wonderful students. They are all hard-working, kind-hearted individuals and it will be such a privilege and a joy to grow with them this year. I can already see glimpses of their passions for different subjects and ways that we can use those passions to get the entire class excited for learning. Speaking of excitement, we have some very exciting things coming up soon. The one that you have probably heard the most about at this point is NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month). This is a challenge to write a novel in a month. Each student (with help from me) has picked their word count goal for their novel and will work each day toward that goal. Throughout the month, they will work with peer editors to help their writing improve and polish their stories. At the end of the month, we will celebrate each student's achievement from the NaNoWriMo challenge. As a group, they have chosen to have a class word count goal of 5,000 words. They have already begun the planning process and are well underway of preparing for NaNoWriMo next month. The peer reviewing for the novels reminds me of Proverbs 27:17 "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another". This verse is our class theme verse for the year. We will be sharpening, strengthening and encouraging each other over the course of the next 9 months and I cannot wait to see where God takes us throughout this journey.



Future novelists hard at work!



4th grade "deciduous forest" art.



Middle School News!

Middle School Announcements:

BE PREPARED!

The middle school students **must come to school prepared to go outside everyday** in almost any weather. We will continue to take advantage of active learning opportunities in Food For Life, Outdoor Education, and sometimes Science.

Living In and Learning About New

CULTURES

Fifth Grade: As HCA has been learning that a culture is a group of people's whole way of life, our fifth graders have adjusted well to the culture that is Middle School. Middle School is a fast-paced culture with a way of doing things (procedures) and rituals (routines) that have been transferred through education and the rich heritage left by those who have gone before them.

During term one, our fifth graders have also become anthropologists of Indian culture. They have studied the Caste system (and can pronounce the names of each class better than I can). They have learned about contributions Indians have made to mathematics (thank you, Aryabhata, for giving us the number "0") and how much it costs to live in India today as compared to living in Worcester, MA. They are also learning about Hindu, Buddhist, and Sikh religious beliefs and how they compare to the Gospel (good news) of Jesus. They have been reading about Amy Carmichael's missionary work during the early 20th century and had the privilege of hearing from Randy, friend of HCA who works in India, during chapel. Finally, they are looking forward to sharing the knowledge they have gleaned with the rest of the Middle School through their own version of a Diwali celebration at our "Asia Day" on Friday, October 29.

~Ms. Legro

Sixth Grade: This term we are taking the opportunity to learn about Japanese culture in Grade 6. We have been comparing our own culture to the core values and ideas held by the Japanese people. We have been able to identify a number of similarities and differences in how we think about the world around us. As we enter the second half of the term we are looking at Japanese Folk Tales and Legends to help us figure out what people in Japan value. As the term continues we are looking forward to writing our own Folk Tales to highlight important values we have in our own family culture, studying Haiku poetry (and writing some), and, as the term comes to a close, we are hoping to use what we've learned to help us find ways to share God's word with someone from Japan! Students will be presenting what they have learned about Japan and Asia to their classmates in other classes during our October 29th Mini-Asia Day.

There is a lot to look forward to this term; please keep our class in prayer as we continue to learn, grow, and deepen our understanding of the world God has given us.

~Mr. Shea

Seventh/Eighth Grade:

- My favorite part of the school year so far has been enjoying the beauty and wonder of the natural world with my students. It's rarely glamorous (picture complaints and distractions about insects, temperature, amount of sunlight, dew on the grass, etc.), but it is always good in some way.
- We've discussed what we love about the forests of New England, why they matter, and how we should treat them.
- Students should be finishing their Nature Scavenger Hunt as those are due on **Tuesday, October 19th.**
- It is exciting to be working together (staff and students) to educate ourselves, dream, and plan about the garden redesign which will be taking place over the course of the school year.

~ Mrs. Gordon

Words from Mr. Hayward:

Hi everybody! Hope you're enjoying your fall as much as we are in HCA Bible classes. In the last few weeks we've had several spirited and engaging discussions. Some of these conversations (in class) have spilled over into (and *from*) other classes, as well as around dinner tables at home. May all such questioning - and thinking - continue! So much fun!!

For the first several weeks of Term One we are exploring the Biblical Worldview Window (WVW) in depth, relying mostly (so far) on the first 3 chapters of Genesis. We do this because the ideas it summarizes are foundational for learning to think Biblically - about God, our selves, and our world.

The focus at HCA is not so much on *what* to think, but on *how* to think. Such skills are particularly important during this, our Cultures year. How do other people-groups in other parts of the world who may not have a Judeo-Christian heritage, answer the (WVW) questions: What is Truth? How did we get here? Why do we exist? What is my purpose? Why is there evil? Is there a solution? What happens when we die?

Every historical tradition or cultural heritage addresses these basic questions about life - because all humans have always wondered about them. The Bible has the (right!) answers. At HCA we use the WVW "panes" as tools to help us better understand cultures different from our own.

~Mr. Hayward

