

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. 22 - Family Kickoff -
aiming for 100% participation!
6-8pm, dinner included

Oct. 25 - Term 2
Development Day, No School

Oct. 28 - Reward for families
with 2+ sponsors

Nov. 1 - Greek Olympics
Reenactment - info on page 3

Nov. 4 - Lifetouch Pictures
Retake Day

Nov. 5 - Reward for families
with 5+ sponsors

Nov. 8 - Term 1 ends,
Veteran’s Day program 1pm

Nov. 11 - Veteran’s Day, No
School

Nov. 20 - Parent-Teacher
Conference, 1/2 day (11:30am
dismissal, no after school
program)



PRINCIPAL’S CORNER

Welcome to this year’s first issue of Pathways! This newsletter is intended to provide practical information that will enable you to effectively partner with HCA for your child’s education. In this issue, I would like to provide some practical information about our upcoming reenactment, the Greek Olympics, including why we have reenactments and what this day will look like.

Why do we have these huge reenactments?

Experiential learning is a hallmark of our school because research shows that the best way to learn about a time and place is by being immersed in the environment. Of course, we cannot travel back in time to ancient days or even visit modern day Greece, so we do the next best thing - recreate the experience in the most authentic way possible. This is the purpose of our whole school reenactments, or ‘big days.’ If you have never experienced one of these days, it can be difficult to envision what your student(s) will be taking part in so I would like to give you a quick overview for our upcoming reenactment, the Greek Olympics.

(Continue on page 2!)

Overview of the Day

On Friday, November 1st, students should arrive in clothing that will be appropriate for running and jumping and playing in. **Please provide clothing that is appropriate for students to spend the majority of the day outside in - jackets, hats, gloves, etc as needed. Please also pack a disposable, nut-free snack and lunch!** Students will put on their chitons, or the Greek clothing they have prepared with the class, over their outdoor clothing. The chitons are likely oversized t-shirts decorated with symbols, patterns, and colors typical of ancient Greece. Additionally, there may be elements of the t-shirt decoration that are representative of the Greek city-state their class is representing.

Aside from clothing, an important part of a reenactment is recreating the environment. The Greek Olympics is special in this regard because we will be [*traveling by bus](#) to the *Ron Burton Training Village in Hubbardston*, where they have huge fields and structures like those found in Ancient Greece. Students will begin the opening ceremonies for the Olympics at the 'colonnade' with a march onto the field, led by a student carrying the Olympic torch. After the opening ceremonies, they will compete in track and field events and visit the agora, or marketplace, at the 'Parthenon.' At the 'Parthenon', each class will contribute something different. There will be a variety of authentic foods, mini-performances, souvenirs, and activities. The beauty of the reenactment is that the students have been expertly led by their teachers to provide marketplace items that contribute to the experience for other students to learn from and enjoy so the learning continues for everyone throughout the day! (Don't worry; we will use fake currency!) Once the events are completed, we will pack up all of our equipment and materials and return to school on the bus prior to dismissal.

How can you get to see this amazing learning experience in person?

You can sign up as a volunteer! The value of these experiences is undeniable. They tie together all that has been learned throughout the term, they are fun, and they are remembered by all! Volunteering is a great way for parents to partner with us and have a shared experience with their children that is forever remembered by both of you. We understand that volunteering during the day is not possible for all parents, so do not fret if you cannot! There are a variety of ways to partner in education at HCA and we appreciate all efforts, whether it is through special events, homework help at home, or other shows of support.

Although 'Big Days' require much more of us as educators, we believe in their value and we are obsessed with your kids' smiles and joy when they experience them. Thank you for all you do on your end to make these days happen as well!

Have a wonderful fall weekend with your family, and I look forward to seeing you at the Feed the Need Kickoff Dinner Tuesday at 6pm!

By His Grace,
Nikki Cleveland, Principal

**Please remember to provide permission for your child to attend the 'Greek Olympics' by clicking the hyperlink and completing the form.*

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



WE ARE SO EXCITED ABOUT
OUR
FAMILY KICKOFF ON
TUESDAY from 6–8pm!
Please join us!

We will serve your family a delicious, professionally catered dinner & introduce you to our amazing, serviced-based fundraiser called Feed the Need. We hope every family will join us for dinner, some fun, and to catch a vision of what God is doing at HCA, locally, and globally.

Each family who comes will receive raffle tickets for some giveaways; students will receive homework passes (or a prize box treat for the littles ones!); and you will have the opportunity to see which staff member was voted to get “pied” in the face! There will be rewards for classes who are in 100% attendance at the Kick Off, and so surely this is an event you will not want to miss!

ATTENTION CURRENT K-8 FAMILIES: GREEK OLYMPICS!

On Friday, November 1st, teachers and students will be traveling by bus to the Ron Burton Training Village in Hubbardston to reenact the Greek Olympics. There is an incredible Parthenon replica on this property, as well as many fields for our Olympic events. This will be an amazing culmination to our first term, in which we have studied ancient Greece! The field trip is FREE because of a generous donation to cover the cost of the buses!

We do, however, need a permission slip for each family, and kindly ask that you complete THIS FORM by Friday, Oct. 25th. Details for the day are included on this form.

We welcome parent volunteers for this fun event. If you are interested in helping out, please use our Sign Up Genius to learn more about what our needs are, and to reserve a spot. All volunteers must submit a CORI form.

Please take note....

Greetings from Mrs. Heenan!

Welcome to the 2024-2025 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! We have been discussing our curriculum theme of Great Civilizations, so that we could pick out our favorite term and complete a fun activity. Medieval Times was the clear winner! We also learned about rules and emotions for the younger students in Team A. In Team B, we have been discussing strengths and weaknesses and how God knits our world together, making everyone different so that we can be prepared to help each other and utilize our gifts and talents. At the same time, as we realize our weaknesses, it becomes easier to ask for help.

In Preschool through Grade 6, we will continue to use the Zones of Regulation Curriculum and add to our SEL binder new and thought-provoking activities. *“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 at: <https://www.zonesofregulation.com/learn-more-about-the-zones.html>

Grade 8 will continue to have work on mindfulness-guided journaling. They were each gifted, through a donation, a copy of The Big Life Journal for Kids . These journals are kept private unless they want to share their thoughts after completing a lesson. More information about these can be found at: <https://biglifejournal.com/> 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



Preschool News!

Hello Preschool Parents!

Life in Preschool has been a whirlwind with Fall activities, dinosaurs, volcanoes, and our yearly Trike a Thon! Your children have been learning about community, friendships, and what it means to be on God's team, the importance of exercise, as well as bible stories like Zacchaeus and the Good Shepherd. Thank you so much for your participation in our Trike a Thon fundraiser. It was a fun-filled time. Moving forward we are focusing on Fall and family and all the fun things that come with Thanksgiving.

Blessings Ms. Ruth



WE DID IT!

HCA has received \$4,085 toward our \$4,000 goal for our Trike-a-thon. Thank you to all who have donated, asked for donations, and came out to support our youngest students and cheer them on. It was chilly but we had a great crowd and the kids had so much fun! All funds raised for this event are used directly for the upkeep and improvement of our nationally certified [Nature Explore Courtyard](#).

Team A News!

Kindergarten update from Mrs. Coombs:

What a fun first few weeks in Kindergarten! The students have been doing amazing as they settle into classroom routines and procedures. We have been learning all the fantastic things about each other including our families, favorite foods, and most loved things to do! It has warmed my heart to hear the students tell each other about all the things that make them unique and wonderful. I 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.

In studying about the Bible, Kindergarten began the school year learning the "Peace Builders" pledge and the ways we can put the pledge into action. We recently participated in SEW (Spiritual Emphasis Week). We were so excited to have Mrs. Gordon visit HCA to teach the class about wisdom. We learned that children make about 3000 decisions a day; 300 of which have rules! Kindergarten will soon be learning about Creation and the story of Adam and Eve!

What do Dinosaurs and Ancient Greek have in common? Not only are they very, very old but the word "dinosaur" actually stems from the Greek Language. The word 'dinosaur' comes from two Greek words and means terrible lizard. In Greek, deinos means "terrible" and sauros is the word for "lizard". To kick off our dinosaur unit, Kindergarten participated in a mock archaeological dig and went on a field trip to a Dino Park. We have been talking about the different types of dinosaurs and will soon be "chomping" into which dinosaurs were herbivores, omnivores and/or carnivores.

We have begun to study Ancient Greece, specifically a day in the life. We talked about Greek houses and are in the process of making mud bricks so we can make our own Ancient Greek houses! Along with the rest of Team A, Kindergarten took part in tasting some traditional Greek food such as dates, olives, feta, tzatziki, grapes, cucumbers and honey. Be sure to ask your child what they liked most! Over the next few weeks to prepare for our big day, the Greek Olympics (11/1), Kindergarten and Team A will be working together on their "tunics" to represent their city state.

It's been an exciting start to the school year and we look forward to more fun as we transition to the holidays!



Kindergarten students at the dig!

Grade 1 Update from Mrs. Shand:

Welcome to First Grade! We have had a wonderful start to our year. Students are mastering classroom routines and keeping HCA rules close in their heart. Their contagious love for learning has set a fantastic tone for our year.

We have covered a lot in these few weeks of school. Your children have become archaeologists, historians, mathematicians, and little readers! It was wonderful to bring archeology to life when visiting the Dinosaur State Park and also taking a risk to try different Greek foods during our Team A time. We have studied God's beautiful creation and learned about all the parts of the Trinity. Your readers are learning more and more sounds including digraphs like (ch, ck, sh, th, and wh). They are applying these skills to their spelling with individual words and sentences. Our mathematicians are creating a toolbox of strategies that they can use when they are adding or subtracting. They are using patterns that they notice, number lines, and manipulatives to help find the sum or difference.

Coming up next! Students will be using The Beginner's Bible to look at stories from the Bible. They will learn how to follow along, and most importantly see God more and more in their own lives. In Foundations, we will blend and segment sounds within a word, learn more "trick" words, and understand the structure of sentences. In Math, students will continue to explain strategies they use to solve addition/subtraction problems and understand fluency when solving these types of problems. We are also preparing big-time for our Greek Olympics! We are getting excited about the activities that are coming soon by learning a lot about the history of Ancient Greece—like what they wore! We will be designing our very own chitons and wear these on Greek Olympics Day (November 1st)!



Grade 1 at the Mock Archaeological Dig



Grade 1 helped out with "What's Wrong with this Picture" during SEW chapel!

Grade 2 Update from Mrs. McGrail

Harvest blessings to you all Second Grade families!

It is incredible to think that we are already in the middle of October! Second graders have been wonderfully transitioning into their new classroom, adapting to the new schedule, and understanding the meaning of leadership and their roles as the “Team A Leaders.” Here’s what life in our classroom will look like for the remainder of Term I:

Bible- Second graders have been working on memorizing the 39 books of the Old Testament! We had a great Spiritual Emphasis Week last week, and now we will continue focusing on the “I am” statements of Jesus, as well as going through the Old Testament of our Jesus Storybook Bibles. I hope you all enjoyed the special book that Second Graders created for the Peacebuilders Pledge.



Math- Second graders are busy working through unit 3: addition to 100 strategies. By the end of this Term, students will be in Unit 4 which will focus on fluently adding within 100.

FUNdations: Unit 2 will be wrapping up this week and the remainder of Term I will have Units 3 and 4, which will focus on closed syllable exceptions and suffixes. Second graders have really enjoyed seeing Mrs. Lucier on Tuesdays and Thursdays when she joins us!



For the remainder of the term in History and Science, we will continue learning about Ancient Greece as well as dinosaurs. As we prepare for the Greek Olympics on November 1, we will be creating our own special attire to wear for the big event! There is much to look forward to for this year, it’s going to be a roaring good time!

Team B News!

FROM MS. RENNIE'S DESK:

Thank you, parents, for raising such awesome kids!!! I am so grateful that you took the time to come to Parents' Night; it was so nice to see you!! We are off to a great start this year. We are knee deep in learning our multiplication facts. Please use any time you have to practice them together for a few minutes a day and even asking them in a car ride. The more they master their multiplication facts, the easier Math is. ☺

They have been doing a fantastic job learning about Ancient Greece and displaying their knowledge on our interactive bulletin board. We are working hard on getting ready for the Greek Olympics for November 1st by designing our flag and T-shirts to represent our city-state of Delphi and memorizing an Olympics poem to perform on that day. The day before, we will make a delicious chickpea and rice dish in school. The Mock Archaeology Dig and visit to Dino State Park was such a fun way to experience all we have been studying about geologists, paleontologists, and archaeologists.



They did a wonderful job on their Life in Ancient Greece stories. We are on the second round of Odyssey book series, for our reading groups.

All the information for their first book report (Fiction) is in their binders, due by Friday, November 22nd.



In Bible, we have been researching and studying about Jesus and his amazing miracles. We are working on a lapbook to organize all of our findings.

Its impressive to see how much growth has occurred in just a few months, in building their independence and confidence!

Blessing,
Ms. Rennie

A NOTE FROM MRS. VELARDE:

Hello 4th grade families!

It has been a fun and exciting beginning to an amazing school year! It has been such a joy to begin to get to know these students and see the amazing qualities that God has given them. As I was preparing to write this first Pathways entry, I was curious about the students' perspectives on the school year so far. So, I asked them what their highlights for the year have been so far.

The survey says:

1. Building our class fort
2. Mrs. Velarde being my teacher*
3. Trying Sourdough bread with herbed olive oil
4. Learning Greek Roots
5. Playing with Chai
6. Desk pets/the economy
7. Building our own civilization

We have had a wonderful time learning about what makes a civilization a civilization and creating our own. We have chosen our own language (Pig Latin), mapped out our territory and have even created our own game! Ask you 4th grader more about our civilization and the exciting things that have been happening so far. In Math, we have been conquering double-digit by single-digit multiplication and are beginning to learn to multiply double-digits by double-digits. Please continue to practice multiplication facts 1-12 at home! In LA, we have been learning where some of our words come from by studying Greek Roots. We have also begun to prepare our novels for NaNoWriMo which brings us to our next category. I asked 4th grade what they are the most excited about for the rest of the school year.

Survey says we are looking forward to:

1. Having tea
2. NaNoWriMo
3. The Greek Olympics
4. Christmas Concert
5. Spring Concert
6. Book reports
7. Spring Spiritual Emphasis Week

We have begun to create our activity and design our flag and clothing for the Greek Olympics on 11/1/24. For that day, please make sure your child comes dressed in sneakers, long pants and a long sleeve T-shirt to wear under their class-made costume. It will probably be a chilly day, so dressing in layers is encouraged. More information about the Olympics will be coming soon. This school year is off to a wonderful start and we have many more exciting things in store. I thank God for the blessing of these students every day and I look forward to the learning that we will do together this year!

*These are the opinions of real students – not paid actors



News from Mr. Galvão

The beginning of this year has been a wonderful time for the Fifth Graders. They have been getting along with each other and building friendships together. Academically, they are being challenged and learning through a few different means. In Bible, we have been going through the main points throughout the Gospel of John, talking about who Jesus is and how his ministry is displayed throughout the Gospel. In Math, we have been going through how to evaluate bigger equations and going through the order of operations. Soon we will be looking at evaluating equations with fractions and decimals, while applying them to real life circumstances.

Students have been having a blast in Science, looking through the introduction of what Science is and the scientific method, while putting that in practice by learning about archaeology (with our dig) and paleontology (with the Dino State Park field trip). Likewise, they are really excited for our Greek Olympics, coming up November 1st. To get ready for that we have been looking at Greek history, Greek architecture, Ancient Greek culture, and in our English class we have been looking at different Greek myths and how they explained the natural world through stories. I would also like to take an opportunity to thank all you parents for keeping in-check both their "take home binders" and the "weekly folders" that they take home with graded assignments.

Middle School News!

Mr. Shea's Shenanigans:

Hello Middle School Parents!

I'm excited to be writing this article of the first Pathways for the 24-25 school year! So far this year we have been studying Greek Mythology and how it relates to Greek tradition and thinking. Students have compared Greek mythology to Biblical stories to see how the beliefs of the ancient Greeks matched up with God's design in many places, but differed greatly in others. Currently students are creating a news article to explain the character of the Greek Olympians. We'll then be sharing those articles with each other and comparing them to God's character. I'm looking forward to what students will be able to discover through this process.

Coming up in a couple of weeks: We have the Greek Olympics field trip coming up on November 1st! Please make sure you check your email for the permission slip and volunteer opportunities. Grade 6 will be representing Athens. Students will be studying a new type of ancient story, called a foundation myth, to learn the legendary origins of Athens. Grade 8 will be focusing on Knossos and the story of the Deadalus and the Labyrinth. Both stories will give students insights into the culture, history, and traditions of the city they will be representing at the Greek Olympics.

I'm looking forward to all the things that we will be doing and learning about during the rest of the term. I hope to see you all at the Greek Olympics in a couple of weeks!

God bless,

Jeremiah Shea



Middle Schoolers summited Wachusett Mtn. during SEW

Mr. Curtis' Corner:

Welcome back to another episode of Mr. Curtis' Corner, your source for H.C.A. Middle School happenings, History, and Bible. This school year is off to a tremendous start especially with the addition of Mrs. Galvao to the team. Our 6th and 8th graders have begun to gel as a unit and really work together to help establish a servant-leader culture here at H.C.A. Already, they have led the school by sharing their gifts on the worship team for chapel, and established mentor-like relationships through reading buddies with younger students. This helps promote peer relationships as well as strengthens literacy skills for both older and younger students. Our Middle School students created and carried out a mock archaeological dig for the rest of the school to experience what it would be like to be an archaeologist, using their archaeological findings to try and uncover secrets of the past right here in the H.C.A. garden.

Just this past week, H.C.A. hosted Matt Huffman from the 'Purposeful Connections' ministry for our fall Spiritual Emphasis Week. The focus of the week was on Proverbs' teachings on wisdom and folly. Our students were not only asked to look at what scripture says about wisdom and foolishness, but to begin asking themselves questions such as, "*am I searching for wisdom when I make decisions?*" If you have not done so yet, please have a conversation with your student about Spiritual Emphasis Week and how they can begin to live out what they learned.

In Bible class this term, we are unpacking the gospel of John, looking at the start of Jesus' earthly ministry. Recently, we have been focusing on Jesus' call to discipleship and his first miracle of the Wedding at Cana. History class has been a study of Ancient Civilizations and Term 1 is all about Ancient Greece. Not only did we create and lead a mock archaeological dig in the H.C.A. garden, but 8th grade also assisted Kindergarten in extracting precious chocolate chips from being buried in cookies using our archaeology tool kit. Now our historical focus pivots to preparing for the Greek Olympics in just a few short weeks. Our Middle School students are intently researching their class city state. 6th grade is Athens and 8th grade is Knossos. We will then be creating flags and costumes as we prepare to represent our city states on November 1st in the Olympics. We hope you will be able to join us for the festivities.

As you read, much is happening around Middle School; we hope you'll stay tuned throughout the year.

Thank you for your continued readership and support,

Mr. Curtis

MRS. GALVÃO'S MUSINGS

Hello Middle School Parents,
In Science class, the 6th Graders were able to work on answering “what is Science?”, early science, and archaeology. Now we are learning about the Scientific Method and how to write a lab report. In Math, the students learned about numerical expressions, factorization, GCF, LCM, and multiplying and dividing fractions. This week I will introduce them to operations with decimals as we look forward to finishing Chapter 2 (Fractions and Decimals).

Our 8th graders have had an introduction to Physics, instruction about how to do a lab report, as well as learned about simple machines and motion. We also did a small recap on archaeology. Next in Science, students will learn about force and energy. In Math, we started the year with a review of what they learned in 7th grade and a jeopardy quiz. After that, we went over what's a function and a slope, then how to graph and recognize them in tables. Now we are working to identify and solve functions in word problems. My next step with them in Math is to start a chapter about math systems.

So far this term has been great, and one of my biggest goals with the 6th and 8th graders is to help them to be confident in resolving word problems.

Thank you for partnering with me,
Mrs. Galvão

