

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:

Nov. 6 - WARM Collection begins (see page 6 for details)

Nov. 9 - Term 1 ends; Lifetouch Picture Re-take Day; Veterans’ Day ceremony, 1pm

Nov. 10 - NO SCHOOL
Veterans’ Day Observed

Nov. 21 - Square 1 Art orders due (see page 4 for details)

Nov. 22-24 - NO SCHOOL
Thanksgiving holiday

Nov. 27-Dec. 1 - Scholastic Book Fair at HCA

Nov. 29 - 1/2 day for all students (no After School Program); Parent-Teacher Conferences

Dec. 4 - WARM Collection ends

Dec. 8 - Christmas Shoppe

Dec. 14 - Christmas Program (PK-8), 7pm Holden Chapel



PRINCIPAL’S CORNER

As the cooler temperatures prevail and the calendar leads us into the holiday season, we know that those with limited resources will have an increased need as well. This holiday season HCA will present two optional *opportunities* for giving. For the month of November we will collect items to support the Worcester Alliance for Refugee Ministry (WARM). In December, we will host a monetary collection for our orphan friends from Belarus to provide each child with a box of chocolates for Christmas.

Often these can be spoken of as fund raisers, but *I would like to draw a distinction between ‘opportunities for giving’ and ‘fund raisers.’*

Opportunities for giving have a clear humanitarian objective that is in agreement with HCA's mission and vision. The funds or goods donated do not benefit HCA, but are passed on to organizations that serve people in need. These opportunities are completely optional, but are intended to provide a chance to give when the Lord prompts us to share with those in need. As in Hebrews 13:16 "And don't forget to do good and to share with those in need. These are the sacrifices that please God," (New Living Translation).

Fund raisers, in contrast, are an integral part of the school budget. As a tuition based private school, HCA makes every effort to keep the excellent Christian education our students receive affordable. Fund raisers are combined with tuition, grants, and gifts to contribute toward operating expenses, salaries, curriculum materials, and supplies. Three fund raisers are planned annually. They are an opportunity for families, friends, and the greater community to support the education provided by Holden Christian Academy.

In all cases of giving, HCA actively encourages heartfelt, joyful, and generous giving *as the Lord prompts individuals and families*. As in 2 Corinthians 9:7, "You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. For God loves a person who gives cheerfully." (New Living Translation).

I pray that God blesses your sacrificial gifts abundantly with His love and joy, blessing the receivers with the same.

~Mrs. Cleveland, HCA Principal

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



Calling All Veterans!

You are invited to be our honored guests
Thursday, November 9
12 p.m. Luncheon
1:00 p.m. schoolwide Veterans Day ceremony

RSVP to Mrs. Heenan, kheenan@holdenchristianacademy.org
if you would like to participate (or for more information).

We hope you will join us!



Holden Christian Academy



PLEASE TAKE NOTE...

NEWS FROM THE ART ROOM:

Students have been working hard in Art Class! They created Square 1 Art projects, which make wonderful personalized Christmas gifts for those who love your child! Packets went home with ordering information yesterday, but we'd like to give you this friendly reminder that online orders are due **NOVEMBER 21**. You can use the code on the packet or simply search for your child's art using Art Search and enter the state, school name, and student's name. Your student's code will appear and you can order. You can also upload additional artwork using their Art Uploader.

If you have questions, please contact Square 1 Art's Customer Service.

Thank you for supporting our school!

Pamela Mikolajczyk

FRIENDLY GREETINGS FROM THE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM!

Greetings parents of after school students!

It has been great getting to know your children this year, and they are in for some great fellowship and fun. We start the After School Program off with a prayer and a question of the day. I am impressed by what they are learning about the Lord at home and at HCA. So far I have not been able to stump them with bible trivia! Our ASP students are eager to help in the kitchen. So far we have made spaghetti sauce and pizza. We try to remain gluten free and nut free to keep students with allergies safe. Our schedule is as follows: we usually go straight outside from 3:15-4pm and then back inside for snacks, homework, art and free play. If you have any questions please be sure to speak to me at pick up and my cell phone number is on the after school sign.

God bless. Ms. Ruth





OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE



WELCOMING ALLIANCE FOR REFUGEE MINISTRY

Building a bridge between the Church
and our city's refugees

As Mrs. Cleveland said in her “Principal’s Corner” article, we have an opportunity to give to those who are less fortunate here in the month of November. We will support refugees who are connected with WARM (Worcester Alliance for Refugee Ministry) by hosting an optional collection of items that will be placed in Welcome Baskets for refugees. Please send in any of the following items (new, unused only) anytime from now until Monday, Dec. 6th when we will finalize our collection. Thank you for considering this worthwhile opportunity to give. Donations may be brought to your child’s homeroom teacher. Thank you for considering how your family may be able to participate in a meaningful way this month.

Kitchen Items: • Dish towels • Dish cloths • Paring knife • Large kitchen knife • Pots and pans • Wooden spoons • Shelf paper • Large kitchen garbage with lid

Cleaning Items: • Broom and dust pan • Cleaning supplies • Bucket • Rags • Trash bags • Laundry detergent • Toilet paper • Paper towels • Laundry basket

Bedroom Items: • Blanket - twin • Blanket - queen • Sheets set - twin • Sheets set - queen • Bed pillows

Miscellaneous Items: • Small hammer • Multi-bit screwdriver • Measuring tape • Scissors • Stapler • Pad of paper • Pens • Tape • Calendar • Map of the US • Map of their city • US flag

Hygiene Kit Items: • Shampoo • Conditioner • Toothbrushes • Toothpaste • Soap • Feminine products • Hair brush/comb • Deodorant • Lotion • Toilet paper • Razors

Diaper Bundle: • Diapers of all sizes • Wipes • Diaper rash cream • Formula for infants • Nido for toddlers

Preschool News!



HCA's annual Trike-A-Thon fundraiser was a tremendous success! Our Preschool and Kindergarten students raised \$4300 with the help of friends and family who sponsored them to ride for 30 minutes on our parking lot track. Our whole school came out to cheer them on, along with parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles! This fundraiser aligns with our school-wide Food For Life Program which promotes healthy living by engaging students in gardening, nutrition and fitness activities. All funds raised will be used to maintain and improve our certified Nature Explore outdoor classroom. This beautiful courtyard play space has a building area, mud kitchen, water play area with working pump, a messy materials area, art areas, trees for climbing, rock for jumping off, a

sensory garden to wander through, an herb garden bed, and lots of grassy space for running, rolling, and enjoying fresh air and sunshine!

Our Nature Explore play space is well loved. Our Preschool students use it daily and Kindergarten students use it several times each week. To provide for the general maintenance for this beloved courtyard we will be adding more impact absorbing ground cover, landscaping rocks for drainage in our water play area, placing new signs for each area, and maintaining the upkeep of our sensory garden and picnic table area. We will be enhancing our space with the addition of a butterfly garden and pumpkin patch. We will also be purchasing a beautiful Akambira (outdoor xylophone) and creating a music wall using recycled materials attached to a pallet. We are very excited to have the funds for this mini reboot!

Many thanks to all who contributed to the Trike-A-Thon this year!

Love, The Preschool staff
Ms. Cunsolo, Mrs. McKean, Mrs. Malavet, and Mrs. Ross



Team A News!

Kindergarten Update from Mrs. Coombs:

Why are fish so smart? Because they live in schools, of course! Kindergarten just had to share this joke, especially since we just went on our first field trip to Mystic Aquarium. A huge thank you to all the parents who came to chaperone. We had a wonderful time getting to see penguins, sea lions, beluga whales and especially the sharks. Learning is so much better when you can immerse yourself into your subject. I loved being able to hear the children name some of the sea creatures that they learned about in Science this term.

Ever hear of the Greatest Showman? Well Kindergarten did, when we learned about one of our "Friends From the Past"...P.T. Barnum! The students loved listening to Twenty One Elephants and Still Standing by April Prince. If you are not sure what the story was about, ask your child to tell you about it. We ended that week with Team A going to the Circus. Well, not the actual circus, but one that took place in the Team A classrooms.

It is hard to believe that Term 1 is coming to end. It has been a blessing getting to know the students. Each student brings something special to the class, and our classroom community continues to grow. Speaking of growing, we took a closer look at pumpkins for Food for Life. We learned about their life cycle, and how just like God created us to be all different, he created pumpkins of all different shapes, sizes and colors. We used our investigative skills to measure our pumpkin, draw our pumpkin, and look at the inside of our pumpkin.

As we move into Term 2, we will continue to work on our letter sounds and formations of lowercase letters. We will also begin our letter of the week unit that will continue through until the end of the year. The students will have many opportunities to practice writing their letters with different things, such as shaving cream and sand. Writing in these different textures is not only fun but it is a very useful tool in helping kids remember the motions needed to create their letters.

Will will continue to keep up our Bible learning and transition during Thanksgiving to enjoy the Book of Psalms. As we approach the Christmas season, we will spend time learning about Christ's birth. Continue to keep our class in your prayers and stay warm as we move into the winter months!

Grade 1 Update from Mrs. Shand:

We can't believe Term 1 is already over! Where did the time go? A special highlight was Spiritual Emphasis Week. First graders participated in many conversations and games to expand their knowledge about what the Bible says about Heaven. We also added a class pet to our classroom family!



(continue on page 9)

Students have established an understanding of how the Bible is made up (Old and New Testament, and the books of the Bible). We completed our study from Creation to Ruth and we will pick up with Saul in Term 2. In FUNdations, we solidified our sounds and moved into deeper parts of words like digraphs and bonus letters. Students fell into a solid routine of writing sentences and reading those sentences with fluency. In Term 2, we will continue to learn parts of the words including suffixes, blends, and more. Our mathematicians have been practicing their addition and subtraction strategies by showing their work and explaining their thinking. They have been quick to learn their doubles facts and combinations of ten. Going forward, our mathematicians will continue to practice our addition and subtraction strategies, discuss the importance of organized work, and how to explain their reasoning.

We ended Term 1 with visiting the Mystic Aquarium that made our oceans unit come full circle. Students made exciting connections to ocean life, and enjoyed seeing a few ocean creatures that we studied closely! Our historians also studied several "Friends From The Past" which we will continue to do in Term 2 to get ready for the Chicago's World Fair! In our Food For Life activities, we studied apples and pumpkins. Not only did we get to learn about God's creation, but we got to taste them, too! We focused on what is healthy to put into our bodies and how it is important to move our bodies physically. We will continue to do this all year!

First graders are excited for Term 2, which is packed with holiday fun and our "Big Day"! Parents, we are excited to get you in the classroom as well—please be on the lookout for those opportunities!

Grade 2 Update from Mrs. McGrail:

 "Baby beluga in the deep blue sea- swims so wild and you swim so free. Heaven above and the sea below. And a little white whale on the go!" 

K-4 grade had a blast at Mystic Aquarium. Our parent volunteer turnout was just incredible! Parents, thank you so much for taking the time to join us on this cool fall day. There were so many precious moments that day. It was an incredible experience exploring and discovering God's ocean creations together from watching the belugas, seals, turtles, and even jellyfish!

Second graders have been working hard as we make our way to the finish line of Term 1. In the Bible, we have been continuing to work on memorizing the 39 books of the Old Testament. As we wrap up Term 1, we will dive into the story of strength of Samson, as well as Ruth, Samuel, and Saul.

In Math, we are wrapping up Unit 3 where we learned many ways to add using different strategies such as decomposition and even compensation. We are still practicing our doubles pop quizzes. Unit 4 will be the last unit of Term 1 which will focus on addition to 100 strategies as well as fluently adding within 100. FUNdations Unit 4 will be completed this week and we will test on all we learned about syllable exceptions and suffixes.

For the remainder of the term, we will continue learning about "Friends from the Past" during history, and in Science we will learn about volcanoes.

Term 2 will be our busiest term of the year due to holidays and our Chicago World's Fair Big Day. Please keep a lookout for email communications in regards to these events. 😊



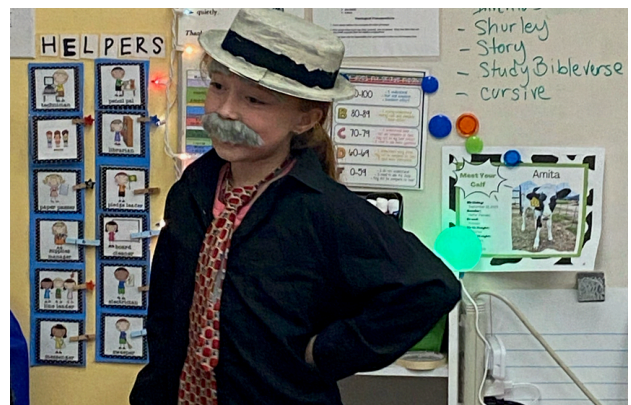
Team B News!

FROM MS. RENNIE'S DESK:

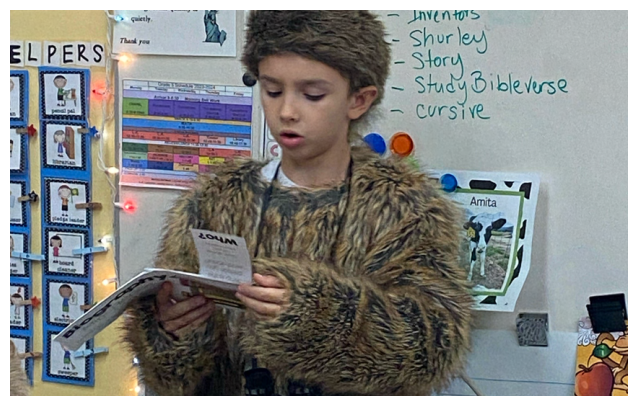
I am so proud of how much growth I've seen in the 3rd grade students. They have been working so hard with their multiplication, writing a multi-paragraph story, Shurley Grammar, layers of the ocean, our history's reconstruction, the Old Testament story of Joshua..... and they rocked their historical biography book reports!

We will enter into our 2nd term getting ready for January's Chicago World's Fair, the all-school Big Day. We will pick the person and the building we will represent. Keep an eye out for information given on their Weekly Peeks and/or inside their binders. The next book report criteria for Free Choice Genre will go home today. Thank you for your support in helping your child become more proficient in their multiplication facts. Please keep that going, as it really makes math easier as it builds.

Blessings,
Ms. Rennie



NAME THAT "FRIEND FROM THE PAST"
Who is Milton Hershey? How about George Washington Carver? Any guesses who is Earnest Shackleton?



A NOTE FROM MRS. VELARDE:

We made it to November! Of course, that means it's NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month). The students have been busily preparing to take the challenge and write a novel in a month. We began on Wednesday, November 1, with a PJ party, plenty of herbal tea, and time putting "pen to paper" (or fingers to keyboard). The excitement has been building toward this month and I am thrilled to watch their careful planning bloom into creative stories. Each student has set a word count goal and in order to meet that goal, it is important that they take time to write EVERY day in November (including weekends and holidays) so they can meet their goal. They will have time to write in school, but it is important that they stay diligent to the commitment they made and try to write each day. Of course, we will continue through our Shurley Grammar, and will be reading Frindle by Andrew Clements.

In Bible, we have moved on from Joshua to the book of Judges. We have begun to examine the cycles of the Israelites, which we will continue to observe as we move through the Old Testament. In Math, the students continue to work on their skills of multiplying two-digit by two-digit numbers. We had a wonderful time at Mystic Aquarium on Tuesday, as the students had a chance to interact with and see some of the sea creatures that we have been studying this past term. Many students particularly enjoyed the touch tank and the Sea Lion Show. While at Mystic Aquarium, I learned that sea lions have so much hair that their skin never gets wet! It reminded me of the unique ways that God equips us to serve him in whatever situation we may find ourselves.

"Now may the God of peace — who brought up from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, and ratified an eternal covenant with his blood — ²¹equip you with all you need for doing his will. May he produce in you, through the power of Jesus Christ, every good thing that is pleasing to him. All glory to him forever and ever! Amen." (Hebrews 13:20-21)



Middle School News!

Mrs. Nkrahene's News:

Fifth graders had a great October. They are still adjusting to life in Middle School and are growing in knowledge and grace every day. This month, we continued our reading of Genesis. We learned about God's covenant promise to Abraham and his faithfulness in fulfilling that promise in Jesus Christ. Students are learning through our daily readings that God is trustworthy. Spiritual Emphasis week was a huge success. Fifth graders learned a lot about heaven. One of the main takeaways is that it is important for us to keep our minds on the joy of being with Christ forever, rather than just focusing on making it to heaven. Students asked very thought provoking questions about heaven and the reliability of Scripture. We are looking forward to continuing these conversations in November. Students have also been improving in their ability to reason mathematically. During Homeroom and in Math class, students are given an opportunity to solve challenging math problems. Students are learning how to collaborate with others to solve challenging problems. They are also learning how to study for tests in groups and individually. As first term draws to a close, I hope that the new Middle School routines start to feel familiar to students, and that they learn to master them. I am very appreciative of your support in this area!

Mr. Shea's Shenanigans:

Hello Team C parents!

We have wrapped up our first writing composition (a narrative poem about a life event). Our students did an excellent job taking a narrative story and turning it into line and verse. You will be able to find a photocopy of the narrative in communication folders sometime in the next couple of weeks. The original will be kept in a classroom portfolio for use in a future unit! For many students, this was a first attempt at narrative poetry and they should be proud of the results.

As we move into Term 2, we will begin to work on the Chicago World's Fair, our biggest Big Day! Mrs. Nkrahene and I are excited to have the 5th and 6th grades work together to create some authentic spaces for everyone to experience at the CWF. Please be on the lookout for supplies lists and wishlists being sent home. Any and all help with these projects will be gratefully accepted and appreciated. Part of the preparation for the fair will include reading and reporting on a biography about a historical figure that attended/contributed to the fair, creating costumes to play the role of that historical figure, and reading some historical fiction related to the experiences people had at the fair.

I hope that you will be just as excited as I am to work through this big event with both you and your students!

Thank you again, and God bless!

Mr. Shea



Mr. Curtis' Corner:

Gone is summer and the beginning of our school year; we find ourselves amidst the changing of seasons and entering autumn. Middle School students find themselves immersed in a bevy of learning.

There has been the opportunity for spiritual learning and growth with the recent Spiritual Emphasis Week which focused on Heaven. Your students asked many great questions and I believe they came away from it with a better idea of what Heaven will be like. If you have not yet had a conversation with your student about their takeaways from S.E.W. please do; I find it can be one of the most impactful weeks of the year.

In U.S. History, we have just wrapped up some exploration of the westward expansion of the mid 1800's and now enter a time of growth and development. This week, students learned about some paramount inventors and their contributions to, not just American society, but to the world as a whole. It is my hope that we may even have some inventors among us who can help connect us to the problem solving process that is inventing. This is all building up to our Term 2 focus - the 1893 Chicago World's Fair, which was the summation of years of development and invention. We will be reenacting and recreating the Fair at the end of Term 2. Each Middle School student will be responsible for a research project on an important attendee of the Fair and will participate in the reenactment as that individual. So, please be on the lookout for future communication about this future event.

Looking forward, next week is our annual Veterans Day service. If you are or have a family member who is a Veteran please reach out to Mrs. Heenan, we would love to have you come share with our students about your service to our country. Our Middle School students have also begun preparations for our 5th annual Turkey Bowl. It is one of our annual team building activities where students participate in either the flag football game or in the halftime show on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. If you would like to help with this event either with our football game or halftime show please let me know.

Until next time,
Mr. Curtis

Mrs. Gordon's Musings:

8th Grade Homeroom

- Today we had our Leadership Conference intended to grow the 8th grade class as servant leaders in our HCA community. I am excited to update you about this in the next issue of Pathways!
- We just started the video series *For the Life of the World: Letters to the Exiles* in devotions. I recommend checking it out! Also, feel free to ask any 8th grade student, "What is your salvation actually for?" Once you hear their answer ask them what that means. I hope this opens a neat conversation that should only get richer over the next few weeks.
- Students are mostly accepting the rhythms of being back in school, but could still use extra support from home related to developing their work ethic, consistency with checking planners and getting their homework done on time, and respecting the boundaries set up to help the whole group thrive. Thank you for your partnership.

Science

- **5th & 6th** grade have a test on 11/9 which includes our introduction to **Earth Science**: the causes of Earth's days/seasons/years, Earth's moon and its phases, the interactions of Earth's 4 spheres, and the layers of the Earth. Please quiz your child on this material in the Science section of their binders to help them prepare.
- **7th & 8th** grade have a test on 11/9 which includes our introduction to **Biology**: the PMC definition of life, comparisons between prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells, the organelles and their functions in both plant and animal cells, and the parts/workings of a microscope.

