

# 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. 19 - Term 1 Report cards sent electronically

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

Nov. 21 - Incentive #3 for those with 10 donors or \$1000 raised (Pizza and Pie Party at lunch)

Nov. 22 - FTN Packing Party (volunteer [here](#))

Nov. 27-29 - Thanksgiving break, No School

Dec. 2-6 - Scholastic Book Fair

Dec. 6 - Christmas Shoppe (Volunteer [here](#))

Dec. 19 - Christmas Concert 1:30-2:30pm

Dec. 20 - Worcester Art Museum field trip, Middle School (watch for an email with details!)

Dec. 23-Jan. 1 - Christmas break, No School



## PRINCIPAL’S CORNER

*Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Ephesians 3:20*

WE DID IT!!! We have now hit our \$60,000 target for Feed the Need! As we have approached this lofty goal, Ephesians 3:20 keeps surfacing in my mind. When we began planning this fundraiser, it was an act of faith to even set this expectation. It is so far above anything we have done before. Further, it involved an investment of time and money before we had any inkling of its level of success. But as you know, what drew us to this fundraiser was the value that went beyond the funds that came in. It provided opportunities for students to not only support their school, but also to serve and pray for others with greater need.

Next Friday, November 22nd, the fundraiser will conclude with HCA students being the hands and feet of Jesus. I am so excited for our students to pack the meals for refugees both near and far. Many hands will work together in what can only be described as ‘Kingdom work’. When they are not packing meals, they will rotate between four stations to create thank you cards for donors, learn more about Bangladesh, hear inspirational refugee stories, and play games that are played in both America and Bangladesh.

God has already accomplished more than we thought possible, and yet there is infinitely more that may still happen when the meals are delivered with God’s love and Good News, and when our own children experience the blessing of working for the good of others. He is a mighty God and we have much to be thankful for! Thank you all so much for investing in this endeavor with us! Your support and active involvement have made the fundraiser a success. Just to give you one more reason to be thankful, this is the ONLY fundraiser we will need to do this year!!

I have been blessed by the sense that we are coming together as a school for a common purpose. It is for God’s glory that a community grows together, and HCA is blessed to have each member of this community. If you would like to join us for the celebratory packing party, details and a link to sign up can be found on the Feed the Need page in this edition of Pathways. Thank you again for your part in supporting HCA through Feed the Need!

With gratitude,  
Mrs. Nikki Cleveland, Principal

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





# Our Packing Party is one week from today, Friday 11/22!!!!!!

We have been praising God for all your teamwork in our Feed the Need campaign! WE HIT OUR GOAL of \$60,000!!!!!! We have actually exceeded it, and with INCENTIVES and RAFFLE REWARDS still hand out, we are now setting our sights on \$65,000! Think we can do it? Here's the low down:

**Next THURSDAY** >> Pizza & Pie Party for those with 10 sponsors or \$1,000 by Wednesday at midnight

**Next FRIDAY** >> Packing Party, VIP room for the TOP FUNDRAISING students, and raffle!!!!!! Everyone will get 1 ticket per \$100 raised until Thursday at midnight (plus 1 ticket if you attended Kickoff!!!)

### *Raffle Prizes include:*

Gift Cards to 122 Diner, Cute Nails, Donut Kitchen, Price Chopper, Jed's, Ultimate Obstacles, The School Yahd, Chick-Fil-A prize basket, Lunch with Ms. Rennie, Free Bounce House Rental from Paul Rents, 1 free excused absence, Popcorn Maker, Snuggle Time with Mrs. Shand's dog Eli, Dinner made & delivered by Mr. Shea, Christmas shopping excursion with Mrs. Cleveland, 1 dozen cupcakes by Mrs. McGrail, and a New Badminton Set!

*Parents who would like to help with the packing party can volunteer [here](#).*

## Please take note....

### **THE HCA CHRISTMAS SHOPPE IS COMING!!!!**

Watch for a flyer coming out next week. This is an amazing event where families donate new and gently used items, which students can shop for family and friends! Our goal is to provide an opportunity for children to learn that it is more blessed to give than to receive. The Christmas Shoppe is one of the most FUN volunteer opportunities for parents - to sign up click [here](#). This year's shoppe will happen on Friday, Dec. 6th!

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### **The HCA Parent-Teacher Council invites you to join them on Facebook!**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/498197585784957/?ref=share&mibextid=CTbP7E>

This is a private group designed to help parents connect with one another in a positive way! Feel free to click the link and join the group.

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### **News from Mrs. M's Art Room:**

Coming home to you soon is your child's custom catalog for the Square 1 Art fundraiser, featuring their own name and art on the cover, WITH FREE STICKERS OF THEIR ART!

Get a head start, and start ordering keepsakes and gifts featuring your child's art online NOW, if you like! Simply search for your child's art using [Art Search](#), and enter state, school name, and your student's name. Your student's art and code will appear, and you may order! NEW - \*Ship to Home FREE. (\*Customer pays a small processing fee at checkout and order ships to home.)

Order by: 12/3/2024

Upload additional art if you like, using [Art Upload](#)!

If you have questions, or need anything at all, [contact customer care online](#) .

Thank you for supporting our school!

Pamela Mikolajczyk, Square 1 Art fundraiser coordinator



# Preschool News!

Hello Preschool Parents,

It is hard to believe it is already mid-November. October was a blast with lots of fall activities! Preschool learned about pumpkin anatomy. Our focus in Bible was that God saved Noah. Our Science theme was trees. Some fun things we did this past month was hammering pumpkins, painting, and participating in our own Preschool "elections". While voting, we learned voting is choosing between 2 or more things. We used tallies when adding up our votes and talked about numbers 6 and 7. Preschoolers made honey mustard dip! We also enjoyed tasting with carrots. We went for walks on the nature trail, and tried out the big playground as a group.

As we enter the second half of November, our days will be full of activities that focus on thankfulness, as well as a unit on clothing (and why we wear clothes!). Our focus in Bible will be thanking God and looking at the Psalms.

More information will be forthcoming about our class Christmas parties just next month!



# Team A News!

## Kindergarten update from Mrs. Coombs:

The colors are changing, the leaves are falling and there is a chill in the air. November is here! Term 1 ended last week and a memorable time was had by Kindergarten. The students learned about dinosaurs, and thoroughly enjoyed learning about what they ate, as well as the different types. They had fun creating their own dinosaur lands using kinetic sand, rocks, trees and of course dinosaurs! We enjoyed learning so much about the past that we leapt through history from dinosaurs to Ancient Greece where students were able to compete in their own HCA Greek Olympics! The school rose to the occasion and each class competed in different events such as javelin, discus, long running jump, and running. It was a day full of amazing fellowship and tasty foods. We closed the day with thankfulness and prayers as we gathered at the large cross on property for a moment of silent reflection. Thank you to all the volunteers and parents who helped make this day such a huge success.

As we "march" into Term 2 we will continue our studies of Ancient Civilizations. We will transition to Ancient Rome, where we will learn about their houses, clothing, food, Roman roads, and Roman soldiers along with many other wonders along the way. We will also transition between History and other areas of study, such as English, Mathematics, and Science.

This Term, Science will take us on a journey where we will learn about weather, the layers of the earth, and what is always a class favorite - volcanoes! Kindergarten will wrap up learning how to form their lowercase letters and then will move into capital letters with concentration on their correct formation. Working on proper pencil grip and strengthening fine motor skills is something the students will practice continually throughout the year. We will practice these skills through many different mediums, including writing in shaving cream, sand, and with playdough.

Things to look forward to during Term 2:

- Timothy Groups meet for the First Time
- Parent Conferences
- Thanksgiving
- Christmas Shoppe
- Christmas Program

This is such an exciting time of year and I look forward to seeing the joy and excitement your students bring to the classroom. God bless!



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

Happy November! We had a packed 1st Term, full of fun learning moments. The Greek Olympics was a hit! It was fun to be together as a whole school, bringing our classroom learning to life. We cannot wait for our next Big Day in the spring!

I can't believe that I am welcoming you into Term Two already! Students have learned a total of four spelling rules in just two months, and we have a lot more to go! They have been excited to add reading to their everyday life by becoming more aware of words they know on the morning message, bulletin boards in the hallway, or what their snack wrapper says! They have also added many addition and subtraction strategies to their "tool box" and have been choosing one or two of their favorites to apply. They are excited to continue this learning by working with higher two-digit numbers! In our next Science unit, our little scientists will be exploring types of weather, the earth's layers, and volcanoes! Our historians will also be focusing on Ancient Rome and their daily life. We will continue to talk about what is healthy for our bodies. We have talked about how we can physically move our bodies in a healthy way and now we will talk about what should be on our plates when we eat. I am also excited to continue to build our children's faith by diving deep into God's character. We will look at several verses from the Bible to learn more about what we mean to God and who God is.

On the calendar we have some fun activities and events coming up!

- Timothy Group Luncheon (school wide mixed groups)
- Parent-Teacher Conferences
- December Christmas activities! (Classroom party, Christmas Program, Christmas Shoppe) \*keep a look out for more details on these!





Grade 2 Update from Mrs. McGrail

And on to Term 2 we go! Greetings Second Grade families, and welcome to the busiest term of the year. This term will continue focusing on academics but will face many hiccups with the holidays and vacations. But first let's recap on our incredible Big Day! The HCA Greek Olympics was amazing! A huge thank you to our parent-volunteers, your contributions on this full day event were just incredible! Parents, thank you so much for taking the time to join us again. There were so many precious moments that day. It was an incredible experience being in God's creation and exercising our bodies to their potential (and wow, could the weather have been more perfect?!).



Bible- Second graders have continued working on memorizing the 39 books of the Old Testament, and we have officially wrapped up the great "I am" series! This unit has been a blessing as many in depth conversations about the great "I am" have blossomed. It is wonderful to see the littles light up with every "I am." In Term Two, we will discuss Paul's journey, growing up where Jesus lived, as well as utilize our Jesus StoryBook Bibles as well.

Math- Students will wrap up Unit 4 - fluently adding within 100. Then it will be on to Unit 5 - Subtraction to 100 strategies. Unit 5 will look a lot like Unit 4, just with subtraction.



FUNdations: Unit 4 has wrapped up. This unit focused on closed syllable exceptions and suffixes. In Term Two we will move on Unit 5 - combining syllables and multisyllabic words.

As we move on in History and Science, we will shift our focus to Ancient Rome and weather for the start of the term.

I look forward to seeing you in person at parent teacher conferences on November 20, 8 2024.



# Team B News!

## FROM MS. RENNIE'S DESK:

Third grade loved the Greek Olympics! Thank you to everyone who helped make it such a success. We are now ready to dive into the Roman Empire and the apostle Paul's journey. We are knee deep into multiplication. Please help your child practice multiplication facts every day. Even five minutes a day will help. H.C.A. has an account with Mobymax and every student has log-in information. It is an easy and fun way to master those facts. Please let me know if you have any questions.

I look forward to seeing you next Wednesday for conferences. Thank you for all your support with Feed the Need!

Ms. Rennie



Cooking for the Greek Olympics



### A NOTE FROM MRS. VELARDE:

Hello 4<sup>th</sup> grade families!

The classroom has been buzzing with excitement and activity. Since our last Pathways entry, we have conquered double-digit by double-digit multiplication, officially started NaNoWriMo and competed in the Ancient Greek Olympics. Sparta came, we sang, and we conquered! We had a wonderful first term of school learning about the culture of Ancient Greece and specifically, Sparta. It was wonderful to see the students' creativity put to use as we created our flag and chitons for the Olympics in order to represent the things that we had learned about Sparta. Once again, I have asked the students their highlights since our last Pathways entry. The survey says:

1. Having Tea
2. Greek Olympics
3. Decorating the classroom for Christmas
4. NaNoWriMo
5. Flexible seating
6. Preparing for the Christmas Concert and caroling
7. Racing/playing with Chai

These diligent students have continued to amaze me with their kindness, positive attitudes, willingness to help each other, and high-quality, detail-oriented work! We have begun working with long division and they have shown their resilience as they master this skill. Keep working on those multiplication facts so they are quick to recall them. We are looking forward to studying Ancient Rome and learning about the circumstances that made the time right for Jesus to come as a baby over 2,000 years ago. I love when our Bible and History studies go hand in hand! The students continue to make progress in their NaNoWriMo novels and I am loving the way their creativity shines through this project! All together, our class has a goal of 85,580 words. So far, we have written 36% of that goal and have written 31,028 words all together! I am so excited to read their finished stories and begin the editing process with them after Christmas break! Speaking of excitement... Survey says we are looking forward to:

1. Christmas/Christmas concert
2. Feed the Need
3. Foosball
4. Candy Cane Lane Tea
5. Geometry
6. Latin Roots
7. Continuing to watch our class cactus grow

I am so grateful to be able to spend the year with these wonderful kiddos! There is a beautiful community of love, diligence and helping one another in this class. I love learning alongside these kids and look forward to continuing our academic journey this year!





News from Mr. Galvão

**I am personally very excited to start the 2nd Term with our 5th graders. The end of the 1st Term was great. The kids had a blast setting up and participating in the Greek Olympics. We also worked on a project at the end of Term 1 where the students had to do research on well-known scientists and present their research via PowerPoint to the class. The students were expected to be able to answer questions about who their scientists were and what they accomplished throughout their lifetime. As we begin the 2nd Term, we will transition from the Greek Empire to the Roman Empire. We will be talking about their accomplishments, their history, literature, and inventions. Alongside the history of the Roman Empire we will also be looking at the book of Acts and the missionary journeys of the Apostle Paul, contrasting his journeys with his epistles in the New Testament, and seeing how it fits in place historically and culturally with the Romans. As far as Math is concerned, we are starting to finish up our chapter that has to do with decimals, and afterwards we will be looking at multiplication and exponents. The students have already updated their binders with the agenda for the 2nd Term, and I greatly appreciate you parents checking and signing their binders daily.**



# Middle School News!

## Mr. Shea's Shenanigans:

Hello Middle School Parents,

Term 1 has come to a close! Students had an amazing time at the Greek Olympics and studying Greece and comparing Greek mythology to Biblical text. As we look forward to Term 2, we will be shifting our focus from Greek city-states to the Roman Empire! Rome was instrumental in the development of many modern day cultures, languages, and technologies. As we study Rome, we will be viewing it through the eyes of Paul and the Apostles.

Term 2 is a very disjointed term due to many holidays and the onset of winter storms. In Language Arts, we will be learning about Rome and Christ through the book of Acts, the Epistles, and a few biographies written about (and by) people from the Roman era. We will be breaking up Paul's journey through Rome into several episodes/projects to help connect this disjointed term together into a cohesive whole. I'm excited to take a look at Rome through the eyes of a well traveled Roman citizen and evangelist, and discovering history, literacy, and (most importantly) Biblical truth in the process.

God bless!

Jeremiah Shea

PS— please look forward to an email after the Thanksgiving holiday regarding plans for our class Christmas parties!



Grade 6 performing at the Greek Olympics - was it a comedy, or a tragedy?

## Mr. Curtis' Corner:

I know I say this every year but time really does fly here at H.C.A. and we have just concluded Term 1. It has been a blur but it has been a lot of fun here in the Middle School. Recently, students took a term's worth of learning about Ancient Greece and applied it to recreate a semi-authentic Olympic games. 'The Athletes' marched into the games representing their city-state and wearing only the latest homemade Chitons. This year's Olympics featured many athletic contests ranging from discus throwing to the long jump. Samples of Greek foods filled our stomachs as we were treated to performances of poetry and mythical theatre. God truly blessed us with some beautiful weather and an overall great day as we celebrated all we had learned as a community.

Term 2 shifts our focus from Ancient Civilization of Greece to Ancient Rome. In Bible, we will cover the start of Jesus' earthly ministry in the book of John; the book of Acts; Paul's missionary journeys; and Paul's letters to the early church. We have this week already begun to unpack inventions and technology that we can trace back to the time of the Roman Empire. There is much to learn and create this term in the midst of an exciting and full holiday season.

I have another community building opportunity for you parents: in just a few weeks we will be holding our Annual Middle School football game also known affectionately as the 'Turkey Bowl'. In the past we have had parents volunteer to coach, referee, and even help students put together and perform a short halftime show. This year's Turkey Bowl will be held on Tuesday 11/26, if you are interested in helping out please email me at [jcurtis@holdenchristianacademy.org](mailto:jcurtis@holdenchristianacademy.org) - we would love to have your help.

P.S. please keep your eyes peeled for an upcoming email about class Christmas soirees.

*Until next time readers, remember, "Thirst was made for water; inquiry for truth."- C.S. Lewis*

## MRS. GALVÃO'S MUSINGS

Hi Middle School parents,  
Term 1 is over and now we're starting Term 2. In Science, the 6th grade students learned about the scientific method and how to write a lab report. Now, we are going to study simple machines and architecture. In Math, the students learned about fractions and decimals. This week we started Chapter 3 (Ratios and Rates).

Now, with the 8th grade in science, we were able to learn about motion and force. Now we are looking forward to applying some of that knowledge by creating a Roman shield. We will also talk about energy. In Math, during Term 1 we started systems of linear equations, and this will also be part of the beginning of Term 2. After this chapter, we are looking forward to studying spatial thinking.

Term 1 was great! Both 6th and 8th graders are getting more comfortable with word problems, and that is amazing. This term, one of my goals is to have a greater number of students participating in classroom discussions and activities.

Thank you for partnering with me,  
Mrs. Galvão

