

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:

March 18-21 - Spirit Week
(See page 4 for details!)

March 22 - Development Day, No School

March 29 - Good Friday, No School

April 5 - Term 3 ends

April 8-12 - Iowa Standardized Testing (Grade 2-8)

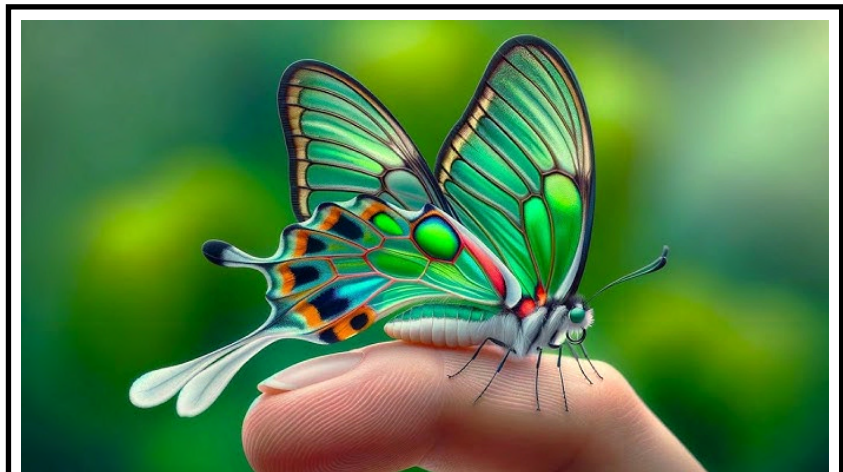
April 12 - HCA hosts ACSI Early Ed Conference (No Preschool)

April 15-19 - April break (no school)

May 4 - HCA’s 30th Celebration - admission may be purchased for this fundraising event using [this link](#)



PRINCIPAL’S CORNER



Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?” John 11:25-26, NIV

The turn of the season into spring is always a welcome change for many, myself included. The longer days and brighter, warmer sunshine, the flowers pushing their way through the soil, and the awakening of outdoor life bring a sense of renewal that is energizing! Of course it also marks the celebration of the cornerstone of our faith - the resurrection of Jesus Christ! Jesus' virgin birth, radical love, and miracles are compelling evidence on their own, but his victory over death leaves no doubt that he was the Son of God who died for my sins. He rose from death to life on the third day in fulfillment of the Scriptures so that we could have the opportunity to live with God eternally - simply by believing. "For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life," (John 3:16, NIV).

But how do we convey this deep truth to young children and adolescents?

First, God's word is powerful and does not return void (Isaiah 55:11) so we can share the Word of God confidently with children. You may already have a version for your child that is age appropriate like the Jesus Storybook Bible, an illustrated children's Bible, or a children's study Bible. These are designed with the developmental levels of children in mind and the version that appeals to your student will often tell you the one they need. The books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John all tell the story of Jesus' death and resurrection with differing details included.

Additionally, there are great object lessons that can help children, who are very concrete-minded, to grasp the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. Since children have not had a variety of experiences, it can be difficult for them to picture what is happening and follow the events of a story that has many words and actions they are not familiar with. Some of these activities can even become traditions that your family can carry on year after year, providing an opportunity for children to gain a deeper understanding of them as each year passes.

Here are a few activities recommended by our staff with live links that provide more details:

- [Resurrection Eggs](#) , [Resurrection Rolls](#) and [Resurrection Cookies](#) are all fun ways to provide a visual as you tell the Easter story . *Our family had an egg hunt with resurrection eggs every year. When my kids were young, I told the story as they opened the numbered eggs in order. When they were older, they opened the eggs and put them in order as they told the story. It was an engaging way to share the story of Jesus' sacrifice as a family.*
- A [Resurrection Garden](#) provides a great opportunity to show a visual of the garden and empty tomb, while also discussing new life when seeds sprout.
- The transformation of a [caterpillar into a butterfly](#) provides a metaphor for the new life we have in Christ because of Jesus' death and resurrection.
- Songs are also helpful for teaching and learning - and praising! [123Jesus is Alive](#) is for younger kids, but there are many [great choices for middle school through adulthood](#).
- If you are looking for a video to share the story, [Right Now Media](#) is a great resource that is free to all of our families! Simply click on the link provided on Holden Chapel's website and an invitation to join will be sent via email. You will be amazed at the resources offered!

As Easter approaches, I hope your family will enjoy the process of preparing for this celebration together and find some of these resources to be a blessing that draws your family closer to one another as you share Jesus' sacrificial love for them.

With gratitude for the hope that we have,
Mrs. Nikki Cleveland, Principal

Pictures from the Dance-A-Thon!

Thank you to every person who raised funds, donated money, or danced your heart out. This was a wildly successful fundraiser for HCA, raising over \$17,000 to support our school!



Please take note....

HCA goes to the WOOSOX!

WHO: ALL HCA FAMILIES

WHAT: We will attend a WooSox game at Polar Park together to celebrate the end of a wonderful school year!

WHEN: Friday, June 7th, 6:45pm

HOW: You must reserve and pay for your tickets through this link <https://fevo-enterprise.com/event/Holdenchristian6>

CONTACT RACHEL JOHNSON FOR MORE INFORMATION OR WITH QUESTIONS.
rjohnson@assebet.org

It's time to buy your wristbands for our 30th Celebration Fundraiser!

Click [HERE](#) to lock in your wristbands at our Early Bird Discount! All-inclusive wristbands are \$5 off before April 1!

ALL are invited to our epic Big Day of Big Days on Saturday, May 4th, 11am-4pm with a special presentation at 2pm!

Get a taste of 5 of our favorite HCA "Big Days", while enjoying time with HCA friends, family, and alumni! There will be amazing food and a variety of activities at this fundraiser. To register and read all about the day, click [here](#).

SPIRIT WEEK @ HCA, March 18-21

MONDAY: Mismatched Monday (clash & mismatch!)

TUESDAY: Timothy Group Tuesday (color wars by Timothy Group)

WEDNESDAY: Work-out Wednesday (workout clothes!)

THURSDAY: Throwback Thursday (dress from the past!)

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





Preschool News!

"Show me your way, Oh Lord, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me! For you, are God, my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long." If you were to visit Preschool at HCA, you would often hear our children singing our school song that is from Psalm 25:4. The joy filled energy of our littlest learners as they worship God wholeheartedly is a gift to all they encounter!

We concluded our month of February, and the beginning of March, continuing to learn about helpers in our community. An HCA parent visited our classroom to teach us about germs and where they hide, and showed them to us with a special light! We practiced washing our hands as best we could, and looked again to see how well we did! The children loved this experience and have been excelling at their hand washing in the classroom since!

We learned about our helpers at church, like pastors who "speak about God" (quote from a preschool student), and other ministry leaders who serve in a church capacity. We did a church scavenger hunt to look for things that we would likely only find in a church building, like a cross and a Bible. The kids loved looking for and pointing these out! We loved being able to pray for our church leaders too and thanked God for all the people He has chosen to lead.

March will wrap up with warmer weather and beautiful changes in our Nature Explore area—we can't wait to see the growth that comes with spring, as well as getting to enjoy our new beautiful instrument from our Trike-a-Thon fundraiser in the fall—it is expected to arrive any day now! Changes will be coming to Nature Explore as we spruce up the area to be used to its best potential and to get ready for the 30th birthday party in May—we are so excited to share in this with our class and honor our school in such a beautiful way!

We thank the Lord for His provision and protection over our school these last 30 years, and delight in the children and families He brings to us. What a marvelous gift!



Team A News!

Kindergarten Update from Mrs. Coombs:

Congratulations to Kindergarten!! They made it through their first Dance-a-thon! Everyone did such an amazing job dancing and dressing for the 90's. It was a heartwarming day to see the whole school come together and dance through the decades. I loved hearing all the laughter and seeing all the smiles as the students danced with other students and teachers.

We are continuing our Bible lessons as we just completed a two week study of Moses. The children enjoyed learning about the 10 plagues and playing 10 Commandments BINGO with their Seventh Grade reading buddies. We will take a pause from our current Bible studies to learn about Easter and what Christ's sacrifice on the cross meant for all of us. Spring will be upon us soon, and the changing season brings new experiences in the classroom and outside.

Kindergarten has started their "Eating the Rainbow" challenge in Food For Life. The objective of this monthly challenge is to encourage students to eat many different colors and try foods they may not have eaten in the past. We created a rainbow for our classroom bulletin board with different colored fruits and vegetables. Each day, students will log which color fruit and/or veggie they eat at snack and lunch. At the end of the week we will tally each color to see what color we ate the most. We will also review what colors we haven't tried so the students can try different flavors of foods. Miss Rose and Mrs. Coombs have been bringing in different fruits and veggies for the students to experience.

Kindergarten has had a lot of fun working with First and Second Grade during "Team Time" in Science. We have been studying magnets which will end the term. Just recently we partnered with First Grade to test magnetic fields. We used tested magnets of different shapes and sizes to see how many paperclips each magnet could collect.

We will continue to study Mathematics by concentrating on numbers 11-20 and learning how to count and write these numbers through games and other manipulatives. One activity we have had fun enjoying is using playdough to form numbers. We encourage students to practice these activities at home, and you can help by grouping items and having them count them. Term 3 has been moving at a speedy pace! Before you know it we will be heading into the final stretch of the school year! On to April, Easter, and Springtime flowers!!!!

Grade 1 Update from Mrs. Shand:

Happy Resurrection month! March is filled with fun events and learning. We danced our way through the decades; we will soon add spirit to our week (next week!); and we will be celebrating the greatest miracle of all-Jesus' resurrection! In our Bible/Devotions time we have been discussing the love Elijah and Elisha have for God. We will pause on these Bible characters and focus on the love Jesus had for us to die on the cross for our sins, but to be soon resurrected three days later.

Our reading focus this month has shifted from smaller sounds to closed syllable types. Students are learning that there are rules to follow when noticing a closed syllable like in the word "shut". Ask your student, how many vowels can be in a closed syllable? Is the vowel long or short? Where does the consonant **have** to be in order to be a closed syllable? (Answer: 1 vowel, short, consonant(s) have to be at the end). They are also enjoying our brand new readers where they learned trick words and words with taught-spelling patterns. Our mathematicians have been learning many different strategies to solve addition and subtraction problems. They have also been working with place value to understand a number better and how to break it apart into ones/tens. We love finding tricks and shortcuts in first grade, and the patterns they are noticing have excited them day after day. It has been wonderful to see our mathematicians add larger numbers like $65+19$ quickly, just by looking at place value. Next up, measurement!

Science and Studies Studies have been a ball of fun! We have worked with Kindergarten and Second Grade to look at energy and to play/experiment around with magnets. We have also listened and watched what entertainment was like in the early 1900s leading up to present day. They are stunned to know there were not any ipads, but just a radio to listen to. Students also love watching silent movies, and listening to old time hits like "Animal Crackers in My Soup" by Shirley Temple. They have practiced "making a movie in their head" by the words and music they hear. Drum roll please....your child is working hard to publish a first grade classroom book. We have been working hard writing our first draft, editing, and revising. We can't wait for you to see the final product!

Looking forward to our in-person conferences in April! See you soon!

Grade 2 Update from Mrs. McGrail:

Ahhhh. Can you hear them? Birds are beginning to sing their morning songs. The subtle scent outside is beginning to transition from the brisk freshness of the cold to a more refreshing, inviting scent of spring!!! Second grade is anticipating spring with great excitement! In the fall and winter terms we have taken a few trips to the HCA garden to check on our Super Shrub (the "Grey Owl" Eastern Red Cedar Juniperus Virginiana) in order for us to write observation data on our super shrub as well as see what our biome is up to. Photos of them in action as well as their writing are on our class Google Photos drive (please email if you'd like to be added on.)

Did your child have a blast at the first HCA Dance-a-thon?!! I know I did! Just want to share some of the awards that were given, I'll write initials only for privacy purposes. Congratulations second grade- woot woot!

Top Fundraiser of the class: J.W.D.

Best Dancer: A.B.

Best dancing as a class: Out of the entire school Second grade won the third place trophy!!

Congratulations to 5th grade on their second place win, and 8th grade on their first place win!

Lastly to my utter surprise, there were some surprise Judges Choice Awards for staff- I won best fashion and rhythm (Let's go!)

Mrs. Gordon won best energy, Mrs. Velarde won best enthusiasm, and Mr. Curtis won best belly dance!

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Second grade is continuing to learn and understand what "quality of work" means, especially as we work to become the Team A leaders they strive to be. Here is a review of some of the academic happenings in second half of Term 3:

- ♦ In the Bible we are fully into the New Testament teachings. Most of the class has all of the Old Testament books memorized, and we have moved on to beginning to learn and memorize all of the New Testament books. We will also be working on a special "Armor of God" lesson.
- ♦ In History, we are going into the heavier topics of the decades: World War I and the Titanic.
- ♦ Science has transitioned from electricity to wind, weather, solids and liquids.
- ♦ In Math, for the second half of the term, Unit 10 will focus on subtraction strategies for hundreds subtraction. Following Unit 10 I will take some time to get into addition and subtraction with thousands.

I look forward to what is to come in this next phase of Term 3 as well as heading into the final term of the year! I wish you all a blessed Resurrection Sunday!! To God be the glory for our Savior who IS risen!!

Team B News!

FROM MS. RENNIE'S DESK:

The Dance-a-thon was a total success. The kids looked amazing, danced their little hearts out and had a blast. Thank you for your incredible support!! We have also been enjoying getting to know the 1920-1940's more. We love Lucille Ball, Charlie Chaplin, and Louis Armstrong to name a few.

In order to get a more personal understanding of History, we have been writing "Our Memories" stories. It's been so fun hearing about all the people, places, and events that they will look back on in their history. We finished our quick view of Pearl Harbor & WWII, and this week we will do a quick view of the Korean War and Queen Elizabeth II. Next week we will continue in the 50's, learn about Civil Rights, as well as Jackie Robinson, Gene Kelly, Walt Disney, and Mitch Miller.

Everyone received a book about a president for their non-fiction March book report. The assignment sheets are in their binders. The sheets are due April 1st. The presentations can be done any day that week.

Ask your child what Direct and Indirect Objects are - we are having SO much fun in Shurley Grammar and next week we start chapter 11 in Foundations with contractions! Thank you for plowing through fractions with us!! We are now onto measurements, weights, & time. Please continue to practice multiplication facts.

We have been learning about the stories of Elijah and Elisha in Bible. In FFL, we have been focusing on sugar content in our foods. In Science, Team B did a fabulous job making solar ovens. We are excited to make s'mores in them when the weather is warmer. The rest of Term 3 we will focus on magnetic fields. Check out the details on page 4 for next week's Spirit Week. More fun at H.C.A.!! Thank you for all of your support and continuing to help make H.C.A. the best!!

Blessings,
Ms. Rennie



A NOTE FROM MRS. VELARDE:

4th grade continues to grow together in community, spiritually, and in their academics. Over the past month, they have worked to create a game to play at recess and it is a big hit with the Team A and Team B students. The teamwork they used to create the game and the leadership skills they have shown as they taught it to their younger peers are a testament to their growing maturity. They are growing more accustomed to the planner system and are learning how to use it effectively - including how to break up long term projects into more manageable pieces. One of our long term projects is a persuasive essay in which the students present their favorite activity and encourage the reader to try it out. Parents will be asked to help their child during the editing process so please check out the essay timeline which is taped in the front of their planner. Our other long term project will be a History project and will take place in Term 4. In History, we are watching the world rapidly change throughout the World Wars, and their impact both at home and globally. In Math, we are preparing for our unit on Geometry. For some students, this is an area where they thrive and it comes very naturally to them. For other students, this can be an area which requires extra practice and patience. The 4th graders continue to persevere through and are building a strong foundation in preparation for Grade 5.



Middle School News!

Mrs. Nkrahene's News:

It's amazing how quickly time flies! We are already in the middle of March!

As Term 4 approaches, I reflect on God's goodness and faithfulness. Our fifth grade class is growing daily in our knowledge of God and our love for Him and for each other. We are learning to treat each other kindly and to support each other with helpful and uplifting words.

In Homeroom, we have been reading and discussing the gospel of John. So far, we have learned about Jesus' role as God [John 1:1], man's sinful nature and rejection of the Savior [John 1:9-13], God's provision for salvation through Christ [John 1:12], and the similarities between Jesus' crucifixion and the salvation from sin and death he gives, and the bronze serpent that God asked Moses to lift up. [John 3:14 & Numbers 21:8-9]. I would encourage you to continue having these conversations at home with your children so that you can hear and answer their thoughtful questions.

Our first ever Dance-a-thon was a huge success! We surpassed our fundraising goal! Thank you for helping your children to fundraise and prepare for the event. Our fifth grade class came in second and received a trophy! More importantly, we had a lot of fun!

In a few weeks, we will wrap up Term 3. Please encourage your child to use the remaining time to catch up on assignments and to request test retakes. If your child is struggling in a subject area, then please encourage your child to seek help from a teacher.

We will be hosting and attending middle school math competitions. Our 5th-8th graders will learn how to solve challenging and interesting problems. Lord willing in Term 4, some of our students will compete in an HCA competition. Additionally, students who are interested may sign up to compete with students from other schools. If you'd like your child to participate, please reach out to me.



Mr. Shea's Shenanigans:

Hello Parents!

As we enter into the second half of Term 3, we are diving into some High Fantasy Literature! We are focusing on the works of CS Lewis (grades 5 and 6) and JRR Tolkien (grades 7 and 8). Both authors were members of the Inklings and supported each others' writing and spiritual well being. (Did you know that JRR Tolkien is credited as the person that helped CS Lewis find faith in Jesus?!) Both authors were heavily influenced by their walk with Christ and it shines through in their writing. As we read through their works, we will be learning more about how stories can be used to share faith with others, how they connect with our own faith, and how we can learn from the things we encounter in God's beautiful world.

A special note for grade 6! As the weather warms up, please make sure that students come to school wearing clothing that they can get dirty in! We are planning to get out into the garden as often as we can the second half of March and all of April!

Looking forward to an exciting rest of the term!

God Bless!

Mr. Curtis' Corner:

Well, hello friends. It's another episode of Mr. Curtis' Corner. I am so proud of my 7th grade homeroom for putting so much effort into fundraising to support HCA's first Dance-a-thon. I will make good on my promise of a Chick-Fil-A lunch very soon, since you all met my fundraising challenge for you! Stay tuned for more information.

In History class we will be heading into the Great Depression and WW2. Like today, this was a trying time in the world, yet we are constantly reminded of God's sovereignty, even in times of suffering. In Bible, Middle School students are in the book of 2 Kings, and have just wrapped up a unit on Elijah and Elisha. Next we are headed into the minor prophets. Can anyone name at least 3 of the minor prophets for me? Speaking of 3 things, I wanted to share a few things about myself in the form of a game. First person to tell me the correct answer wins! I have prepared a little game of 2 truths and a lie. (Now, as your Bible teacher, I do not condone lying but for the sake of this fun little game here we go...)

1) I have never broken a bone. 2) I rode an elephant. 3) I speak 2 languages. I hope some of you have fun with this challenge. Until next time....that wraps up Mr. Curtis' corner.

Mrs. Gordon's Musings

7/8 Science: It always feels good to finish a project! While it was **not easy** to make exhibits displaying the two loop pathway of the circulatory system, it was **good**. I know this to be true because here are a few pieces of the advice the students gave to themselves through self-evaluation at the end of that project:

- Don't make things seem harder than they are.
- Set aside time for the project and take it one step at a time.
- Make a better plan for what to do.
- Don't be afraid to ask questions.
- Spread the project out so I don't have to rush at the last moment.
- Practice presenting.

These are just the sorts of things that will continue to help them throughout their lives in many domains of work. And as what they can remember about the structure of the heart and blood vessels fades, I pray they will hold onto these valuable lessons.

5/6 Science: One concept we recently discussed for Outdoor Education is that of "Friluftsliv" which is the Norwegian word that refers to living an outdoor life. They see a direct correlation between fresh air and overall health and make sure to prioritize outdoor time throughout every season. We had fun playing cornhole outside, and I encourage the kids to consider their science homework each day to get some fresh air. We have also started studying erosion and weathering which will lead us to soil formation and composition where we will end Term 3.

Health: March is all about **movement** in health class. Not only do we learn about the many benefits of movement for the body (did you know you sleep better, have stronger bones, and even digest food more effectively when you move more?), but we also move together in and out of school. I greatly appreciate the parent support for these homework assignments. This week I am encouraging **5 mile walks**. If the students need to spread out the miles they may, but it is a fun challenge to do it all at once for those who have the opportunity. We worship God as we move our bodies because we are using them according to the operating system he designed.

Homeroom Update: Our class wonderfully represented the 1980s for the Dancing the Decades fundraiser, and even **won first place for our group style**...neon colors and big hair for the win! We, for the most part, danced our hearts out and really enjoyed that time together. We are looking forward to spirit week next week!

