



Pathways

Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths. Ps. 25:4

A Newsletter for Holden Christian Academy

January 15, 2015

Principal's Corner



As you probably know, Susan and Gary Hayward (a.k.a. Wenda and Wilber) are on a trip of a lifetime with a group from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, enjoying an Archaeological study tour of the Holy Land. We will be excited to welcome them back next week to hear them tell the stories of all they encountered. For now, enjoy these excerpts from a blog being written by someone in their group...

"We woke to a glorious morning. Clear skies, a stiff breeze, and a bounce in our step. We packed up early and headed down to the gates. After getting our tickets and passing through the entrance, we began our journey down to the siq (pronounced 'seek') - the huge crevice that opens up into Petra. ...

The siq itself is incredible. It winds for 3/4 of a mile, and still bears traces of the people who brought it to life. We could see hooks notched into the rocks high above us, where oil lamps used to burn as streetlights. The walls were lined with troughs that had been dug into the rock, providing running water for the city with some of the most advanced water supply engineering you'll ever see in the ancient world.

Petra was the creation of the Nabataeans, an Arabic tribe that profited enormously from the trade routes of their region. They flourished especially off the value of frankincense and myrrh, building grand and opulent structures in the stunning cliffs of this mountain pass. Though they were later annexed by the Roman Empire, they prospered for many years. This was an advanced culture, a city teeming with life, bursting with art,

trade, architecture, and agriculture. The place was HAPPENIN'. When the trade routes shifted, though, it began to fade, eventually falling to ruin in the 14th century. It was only discovered by the modern world in 1812.

So there's your history lesson. Now, you want to know how cool it was to walk in Indiana Jones' footsteps? It - was - AWESOME.

We trekked back to our hotel, exhausted and excited, to load up the bus and head to the border. A breathtaking ride over the ragged mountains of Jordan gave us an astonishing view of Mount Hor. This is the burial place of Aaron, where now gleams a white shrine atop the peak.

Getting through the border back to Israel brought us a palpable and surprising sense of relief. Though the border offices sit only 100 feet from each other, the difference in culture is clear as day..."

You can read this blog at <http://gctsalumniandfriends.blogspot.com/>. They have been including amazing pictures and details of each day here. Susan and Gary have been uploading videos to YouTube and we've been putting links on our facebook page. You can see them at [facebook.com/holdenchristianacademy](https://www.facebook.com/holdenchristianacademy). Our staff with iPhones have been able to see the pictures that Mrs. Hayward has been uploading as well, and your students may have seen these videos and pictures in class. On both the blog and the videos, be on the lookout for Wilber (Mr. Hayward's real first name) wearing his Where's Waldo hat!



Our Mission ~

To challenge children to a lifetime of learning, working in partnership with families, to integrate Biblical truth with academic pursuits.

Holden Christian Academy
508-829-4418
www.holdenchristianacademy.org



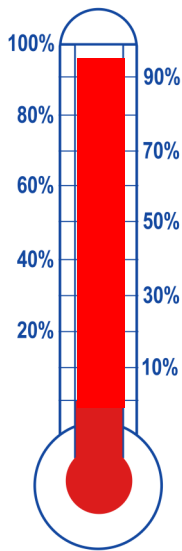
Mark Your Calendar!

January 16	Pocahontas
January 19	NO SCHOOL-Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January 22	Term 2 Ends
January 23	NO SCHOOL-Term 3 Development Day
January 26	Read-a-thon begins
Feb. 16-20	NO SCHOOL-Mid-Winter Break

Weekly:

Parent Prayer Group ~ Thursdays ~ join parents in praying for HCA from 8:20-9:00 in the Holden Chapel Prayer Room.

Fridays after lunch: Ice cream \$1 each. Proceeds will benefit our field trip fund.



Annual Fund 2014

Current
Donations
and Pledges:
\$11, 200

Last Year's Total:
\$11,375

PRAYER (Psalm 68:19)

Prayer requests may also be submitted in writing and our Parent Prayer group will cover these requests in prayer. There is a prayer request box in the office; confidentiality will be maintained as requested.

- For Mr. & Mrs. Hayward, as they finish out their time in Israel, for continued health and safety and travels back home.
- For our 2015 Open Houses, that people will know about HCA, follow God's call, and trust in His provision.
- For our family members struggling with illness during the winter season.

PRAISE & THANK YOU

- Thank you to the Parent Teacher Council for all their hard work and help in the Christmas Shoppe!
- To all our elective helpers, thank you for your dedication!

School Service Opportunities

Please call the office at 508-829-4418 or send in a note if you can help with these opportunities:

- Team A Music Helper, Thursdays from 1-2:30 pm
- Recess Monitors

Principal's Book of Excellence celebrates...

Kindergarten

Enson, for joyfully sharing his AWANA song with the class.
William, for joyfully sharing his AWANA song with the class.

Grade 1

Kaylee, for selflessly waiting in line for a scooter in Gym class, letting everyone else get one first.
Matthew, for being a good listener and fine example to his classmates.

Grade 2

Maddie, for generously giving her Student of the Day sticker to a friend during Spanish class.
Abby, for being an extra good helper to Mrs. Wheatley while Mrs. T. was out for the day.
Abby (and Mr. Reno,) for driving into school during break and feeding Cody, the second grade class fish.
Will, for being an extra good helper to Mrs. Wheatley while Mrs. T. was out for the day.
Nathan, for helping tidy up the Media Center and classroom desks without being asked.
Daniel, for assisting another student during Math class and helping Mrs. T. in the classroom.

Grade 3

Barbara, for a consistent positive attitude in the classroom.
Adriana, for following Colossians 3:17 in the classroom.
Liam, for being conscientious about doing his classwork well.

Grade 5

Vinny, for always leading the way when the class takes on new material.
David, for being a wonderful friend and role model, helping new students feel at home at HCA.

Grade 6

Emma, for her unwavering commitment to collecting the Christmas Shoppe gifts, even in the pouring rain!

Grade 7

David, for being an encourager by noticing and speaking up about the good work of others.
Nate, for demonstrating responsibility by being the only one to remember needed materials for Science class.

Grade 8

Susanna, never failing to greet her teachers with her warm and kind smile.
Jacob, putting 100% into every assignment and setting a standard for others to follow.

*I AM THE VINE; YOU ARE THE BRANCHES.
IF YOU ABIDE IN ME, AND I IN YOU,
you will bear much fruit,
FOR APART FROM ME YOU CAN DO NOTHING.*

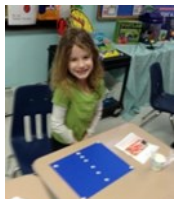


Classroom Happenings



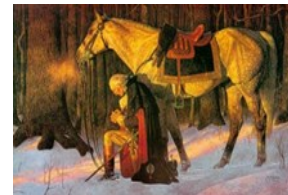
Team A ~ Grades K, 1 & 2

Happy New Year! Thank you for all of your generous Christmas gifts and well wishes. We wish you the best of God's blessings in this New Year.



Did you know that in the early years of the American colonies and within the United States, a New Year celebration was often frowned upon, particularly by religious communities? It wasn't until the 1900s that America began making a "big deal" about bringing in the New Year (*New Year's Eve in the United States 2015*).

Our wing continues to learn more about what happened in the early years of our country. We have learned about Benjamin Franklin: his wonderful inventions and how he helped write the Declaration of Independence. We have also looked at the symbol of our country: the American flag and its beginnings. We've studied the 13 colonies flag and even whipped up some butter (just like the colonists would have done) as we made edible flags. Students also gave a whirl at sewing a star the way Betsy Ross did in 1776.



butter

One of our goals this year is to make students more aware of good nutrition. So, we will be eating the rainbow. Students will receive a colored sticker to represent the different colored fruits and vegetables they eat during lunch and snack. For example, they would get a red sticker for strawberries, green for snap peas, or yellow for pineapple. They would NOT get a sticker for blueberry muffins or strawberry yogurt, even though these snacks are considered healthy. The goal is to encourage eating more fruits and vegetables. According to MyPlate.gov the daily recommendation for 4-8 years old is 1½ cups.



As you consider the New Year and our spiritual heritage, we encourage you to make praying more often a new year's resolution.

Reminder: Grades 1 & 2 Planets Poster projects are due **Friday, January 16th**

Field Trip Plans: We are currently planning third term field trips. More information will follow.

Team B ~ Grades 3 & 4

Grade 3 has welcomed a new addition to our classroom. Gloria is a white haired, blue eyed mini lop bunny. She is now eleven weeks old and has grown so much already.



Students are working on Historical Biographies due January 30th and their 100th day project due February 13th. February 13th is also our Valentines Day party as well. Students can come to school in their pajamas, we will have pizza and share valentines.



As always if there are any questions please let me know.

Mrs. Jorritsma

I pray that Christmas vacation was full of blessings and rest. It certainly was a wonderful time to rejuvenate :)

Everyone in fourth grade is working on their Historical Character Posters. I can't wait to see them. They are due the last week of January (the 27th-30th) Continue to practice multiplication facts every day. Even if it's 5 minutes in the car; any practice with help.

Yesterday we watched Lou Giglio's Indescribable video. What an incredible and glorious reminder of God's mighty hand and awesome love for us!! Ask your children what they thought :)



I thank God for your children & thank you for your continued love & support! You bless me!!! ~Mrs. Reed





Classroom Happenings



Team C ~Grades 5 & 6

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a wonderful break filled with many blessings! I have to say that I don't think we missed a beat in our return back to school. The students seemed rested and ready, and Mr. Reno and I took their cue.

In math, we have worked on some geometry recently in both grades 5 and 6. Grade 6 completed their geometry unit before break, and grade 5 is near completing theirs. The most difficult and fun part of geometry is that it is teaching students to use the information they know to find out what they don't know. It requires problem solving and strategy in every step!

In science, we are wrapping up our study of earth science with rocks and minerals. Students really seemed to enjoy the Mineral Identification Challenge before break. They needed to observe and record their observations of a 'secret' mineral, noting the minerals hardness, luster, color, streak, density (which they found by using a triple balance scale for mass and water displacement for volume!), crystal system, and cleavage or fracture. Once all of the information was recorded, they handed off their recordings to another team to try to identify their 'secret' mineral. I have to say that students had the most fun investigating their own mineral!

Our next experiment was not quite so successful. We were trying to determine the differences that can occur when substances cool quickly as opposed to slowly. To mimic lava cooling, we made a sugar water mixture, boiled it and cooled it. The results between quick cooling and slow cooling were minor and difficult to detect. On the positive side, we did decide to break one of our hard and fast science rules to 'taste science.' Sweet!

Team D ~Grades 7 & 8

Happy New Year and welcome back to school!

We are happily rolling along in 7th and 8th grade with 2 integrated American Revolution projects underway. The first, the Living Wax Museum Project, has our Team D students taking on the role of a Revolutionary character. In addition to a biographical sketch, each student will give a 1st person presentation in the voice of their chosen historical figure.



Please join us on **Tuesday, January 20th 9:45-10:45** as we make history come alive.

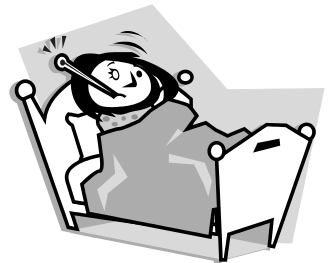
Part 2 of our project will be a re-creation of the Boston Freedom Trail on Friday, January 30th. Each student has been assigned a stop on the trail to research and prepare a representation to share with the rest of the school. We hope you can join us for this day as well. More details to follow.

Additionally, we are making great progress in Spanish and reading, **The Golden Goblet**, a novel of historical fiction, set in Ancient Egypt. This novel provides another great opportunity for us to make comparisons with our Biblical Worldview Window. We put on our "God-goggles" and explore this text through the lens of Scripture. What engaging discussions!

~Mrs. C



Health Notes



As we are back together again with many people in tighter spaces, please remember the following health precautions, from the CDC:
• wash your hands, clean frequently
• used surfaces, stay home if you are sick, especially if you have temp above 99.4.

Sometimes our students (and staff) don't want to miss time from school and come in with a fever or not quite recovered from an episode of vomiting. Please have your child stay home until 24 hours have passed after vomiting or a fever.

If you have any questions about when a child may return to school after any type of illness, please call or email the school office at 508-829-4418 or info@holdenchristianacademy.org.