



# Pathways

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

A Newsletter for Holden Christian Academy

February 11, 2016

## Principal's Corner

Dear Friends,

*Let us not become weary in doing good,  
for at the proper time we will reap a harvest  
if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9*

One of my mentors from ACSI once told me not to ask parents to make any decisions in February. He explained that it is often a negative, light-deprived, depressing time of year for many people. As a young mother I remember crying with my doctor as I explained that something was terribly wrong. I was usually a positive person but recently I had been feeling depressed. He said that he could give me medication but he would guarantee that in six weeks I would feel better without it. Why? You guessed it, it was February and in six weeks spring would be well on its way, I would be out gardening, and walking, and my kids would be happier as well.

Are you feeling weary, cranky, a little depressed, and like hiding inside until spring? You are not alone. Since I'm writing this from my own felt need, I can't help but notice the admonitions not to become weary and not to give up! There's the promise of a harvest if we don't. When a farmer plants a garden he can't give up and fail to water, weed, and tend that garden. There are so many obstacles- bugs, droughts, floods, and weeds, yet if he doesn't give up he will reap a harvest that he couldn't see while he labored in the field.

I have a dear older friend who is a hot ticket! She spoke at an ACSI conference. Others gave stir-

ring, inspirational speeches that spoke to me and raised the bar a little higher in my heart but she said the words I'll always remember. She said some times the best she can do is **JUST SHOW UP!** In other words- not give up. Jeanne is in her seventies and has served the Lord in school administration for many years. She is real and authentic and I so appreciate her candidness.

There is a way through these times. I believe it is to admit our weariness and let Jesus carry us. It is not a character flaw to grow weary; it's life. It's not the fault of anyone else; it's life. Jesus promises to be with us, to carry our load, and encourage us, **if** we admit our need and turn to him. I believe we need to let others know how we are feeling so they can pray (and take cover if necessary!!). Let's try to encourage one another in these stressful months. Let's give one another the benefit of the doubt and remember that this just might be a day when the best someone else is able to do is **JUST SHOW UP!**

In His strong & gentle arms,

Susan Hayward

Please Join Us for Holden Christian Academy's

**STEM Open House!**



Thursday, February 25th at 7 PM!

~ Our Mission ~

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

Holden Christian Academy  
508-829-4418  
[www.holdenchristianacademy.org](http://www.holdenchristianacademy.org)



## Mark Your Calendar!

February 11	Theater Production of Alice in Wonderland, 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm show times
Feb. 15-19	Mid-Winter Break-NO SCHOOL
February 25	STEM Open House, 7 PM
March 11-12	HCA hosts ACSI Early Childhood Conference
March 25	Good Friday-NO SCHOOL
April 8	Banquet
April 12	Science Fair, Grades 5-8

### Service Hours Opportunity!

Help is needed Tuesday, February 16th (week of February vacation) to assist Matt Brouillet in installing new wall mats for the gym!

*Please send a note in or contact the office if you are able to help. THANK YOU!*



# Disney Alice in Wonderland JR.

**HCA's Theater elective is presenting Alice in Wonderland TONIGHT, Thursday, February 11th at 7 PM!**

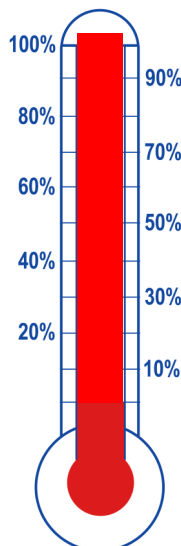
Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at the door.

## Annual Fund 2015

*Current Donations and Pledges:*  
\$ 11,470

*Goal for 2015:*  
\$11,000

*2014's Total: \$11,150*



- Principal's Book of Excellence celebrates...*
- Kindergarten**
- Ella, for enthusiastically playing games with ALL of her classmates.
  - Patrick, for figuring out the riddle of St. Ives—ask him the answer!
  - Jocelyn, for doing two things at once so well ~ listening to a story and coloring a picture!
- Second Grade**
- Ryleigh, for offering on her own to sit with a younger student who was feeling nervous.
- Third Grade**
- Daniel, for giving up an earned prize for another student.
- Sixth Grade**
- Vinny, for exemplary work at the Chicago World's Fair as George Ferris.
  - Victoria, for excellence in preparing for the Chicago World's Fair.
  - Abigail G., for brightening the class with kindness and cheerfulness.
  - Abigail L., for brightening the class with kindness and cheerfulness.
  - Tobias, for deliberately including and partnering with a new student.
  - Noelle, for perseverance in math focus.
  - Isabella, for excellence in preparing for the Chicago World's Fair.

### 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 our upcoming Open House and the families that the Lord would lead to visit and prayerfully consider joining our HCA family.
- Continued prayer for loved ones that are battling sickness and health struggles.

### PRAISE & THANK YOU

- To the MANY parents, grandparents and friends that helped prepare, set up and for participating in our Chicago World's Fair!

See Pathways issues in color and clickable links at [www.holdenchristianacademy.org](http://www.holdenchristianacademy.org)



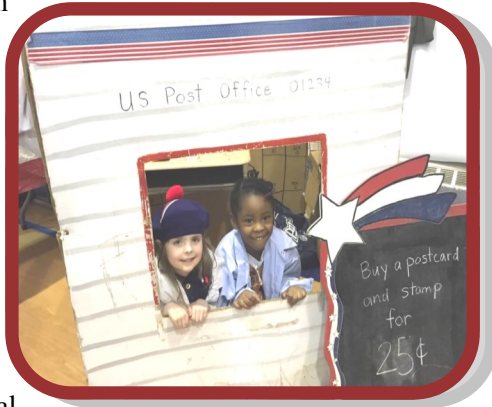
# Classroom Happenings



## Team A ~ Grades K, 1 and 2

Dear Team A Parents,

Thank you so much for all your help with the Chicago World's Fair! The gym and community room looked fabulous with all the borrowed props. Without your help we never could have made it such a fabulous day! A special thank you to all the kindergarten parents who cooked a dish/dessert representing your heritage-delicious!!



This year we are reading different genres and associating them with the states of the United States. If parents could help their children choose stories that are associated somehow with a state. For example an author that is from Massachusetts counts for the state of Massachusetts. If you read a story that takes place in Alaska, that story counts for the state of Alaska.

The Librarian is asking you to choose different genres from fiction stories to cook books (in which you make something for the class to share) to periodicals and everything in between. She will be rewarding those who read, based on how many states they 'read' through. A log book will be sent home to keep track of the states.



This term we will continue our study of our 'Friends From the Past' using the decades as benchmarks. Last week we learned all about Henry Ford and the assembly line.

This week we learned about Crayola crayons, President Roosevelt and what things have changed since the 1900's. Ask your children about the tea party we had using our manners as Samantha (an American girl doll) would have done. Next week on to 1910's: World War I, President Taft and the Titanic. Thank you for your partnership!

## **READ-A-THON, VALENTINE'S DAY AND THE 100<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF SCHOOL WHAT A BUSY MONTH!!**

### Read-a-Thon

The Read-a-Thon starts this week by getting sponsors for the number of states you think your child will be able to 'read' through. If your child can get \$200 in pledges per family they can attend a party being held after vacation. Sponsors can either be a dollar amount by state or a flat sponsor donation.

### 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School

So far, unless we have a snow day, the 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School is Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup>. Please **help your child** count and send in something that is 100!! It should fit into their backpacks. A perfect vacation activity! Kindergarten has been working on counting cubes and putting them into piles of 10 and then counting by 10's to get to 100.

**Thank you!**

**Mrs. Hughes, Mrs. Caron and Mrs. Torres**

Team A and B: Please collect and send in to school the following: zippers, lace, buttons, rickrack, cording, ... Anything FLAT that can be used in a glue on collage. Label for art room. Thank you, Mrs. M





# Classroom Happenings



## Team B ~ Grades 3 & 4



I am so thankful God has brought Jonetta to our grade 3 classroom! She is a wonderful addition to an already amazing class.

What an absolutely memorable experience to be a part of the Chicago World's Fair 1893 Reenactment. It was so exciting to see everyone in costume representing a particular guest at the fair, in addition to viewing all the buildings

and midway. A special shout out to grades 3 and 4 for doing a great job with the Buffalo Bill Show! You are all amazing.

Grade 3 has transitioned nicely back to 2016. We have begun our study of World War I. Students are improving their writing skills and working to master their multiplication tables.

Just a reminder to partner with your child to get sponsors for our Read-A-Thon. This is a wonderful way to show them you value them reading and a practical way to encourage them to read more! We have set aside additional time in the classroom to help them accomplish their goals.

Thank you again to all who worked in any way to make the Chicago World's Fair a great success!

Blessings,   
Mrs. Jorritsma

**A note from Ms. Reed:** Thank you for all your help during the Chicago World Fair!! We all had a blast!! Fourth grade is working hard with fractions and loving them...well I know I am! February Mystery book reports have been started. See the sheets in your child's binder. They are due Friday, February 26th. Thank you for working on getting sponsors for our annual Read-A-thon. See binders for the giant envelope of information. Remember to help your child fill out their "My Family Tree" Workbook for our genealogy study. Thank you again for all your support and love. Blessings to you all!

## Team C ~ Grades 5 & 6



The Chicago World's Fair was a memorable event for everyone, but each student remembers it for different reasons. The fifth graders will remember that they were in charge of the pancakes and the mining building where students could mine for 'diamonds.' The sixth graders will remember making Cracker Jacks and running the Ferris Wheel. Each class sponsored so many fun and memorable things that students remembered more 'favorites' the more we discussed it. I hope you were able to attend and have the lasting memories with them!

Moving forward, Team C students are finishing up their study of light and the eye. There will be a quiz next week. Please help your student go over the study guide to be sure they have all of the information they should study.

In Bible, students are typing up their wonderful bio-poems on Ruth. We are continuing to push forward into First and Second Samuel to study the life of David—a flawed character that God used for so much good. He gives hope to our own flawed characters when we open ourselves to be used by God.

Fifth grade is beginning a new chapter on geometry this week. For some, this is a welcome break for their brains as they can see math in picture form.

Sixth grade is beginning a new chapter on using integers—with key concepts to master for algebra that will be used from this grade through high school. So exciting! ~ Mrs. Cleveland & Mr. Curtis



# Classroom Happenings



## Team D ~ Grades 7 & 8



We are truly blessed to have amazing, hard-working, talented, and dedicated students at HCA. It is my privilege and pleasure to work with them each day. Our students embraced the preparations for the 1893 Chicago World's Fair reenactment, while gracefully balancing the demands of everyday curriculum. I was moved by their tenacity and focus. You should be proud of your children for their desire to learn and 'lean in' at HCA.



As we shift our focus to immigration, with particular emphasis on Ellis Island, and make our way through more of our nation's history, the theme of 'change' becomes even more prominent. The integration of LA and HOH in grades 7 & 8 finds us diving into "Kids Discover: Immigration" as a basis for introduction. We will also be reading excerpts from *Ellis Island Interviews: Immigrants Tell Their Stories in Their Own Words* by Peter Morton Coan for perspective on the immigrant experience. Additionally, grade 8 is reading *Ashes of Roses* about an immigrant family coming through Ellis Island and the struggles they faced after arrival. Lastly, we are memorizing Emma Lazarus' poem "The New Colossus" famous for being inscribed on the Statue of Liberty. This integrates nicely with Mr. Hayward's history class as well.



We continue to progress through LA and Spanish grammar and vocabulary nicely. Our sentence structure is making great headway, as we become more articulate writers and speakers in both disciplines. Recently, we jumped into the *100 Words*...series for spelling/vocabulary. This is great fun for those of us who love words!

I greatly appreciate your support and collaboration. Thank you for working with us for the best education of your children. I look forward to seeing you all at "Alice in Wonderland" this Thursday, February 11th.

With gratitude,  
~ Mrs. Campbell

Happy Term 3 ~ 7th grade math and science classes successfully completed midterms last week and are jumping into new content this week. Eighth grade successfully completed their math midterm and will take their science midterm on 2/11/16. We will learn from and build upon this experience of preparing for tests covering a diverse amount of material. I am proud of how the students prepared and performed on these tests. I am excited to share that in Science classes this week we began discussions on the 2016 SCIENCE FAIR! I presented the layout of this 7-week project and we took time to review the Science Buddies Project Selection Tool. This tool surveys student interests and makes suggestions about potential project ideas. Letters and proposals went home on Thursday, 2/4/16. Please review the details with your student. Students will need your

permission and approval for the project they select. Ask them to show you the Science Buddies website! Students are required to have their projects selected and approved by their parents by this Friday, 2/12/16. No experimentation may begin prior to 3/11/16; after research papers and hypotheses have been written. This is an exciting, fully integrated project that will earn much of our focus for the next several weeks. I have encouraged students to pick a project that interests them so they are able to stay focused for the full 7 weeks. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions after discussing the project with your student.

In Partnership,  
Mrs. Holgate

MIDDLE SCHOOL ART: Term 3 upcoming project will require students to bring in items for a Picasso inspired junk sculpture. Grades 5-8 families should start putting "junk" aside for this project. Suitable items are: aluminum cans, bottle caps, jewelry, zippers, buttons, unidentified junk., anything that might be cool for a sculpture. Items should be clean; no glass or sharp items.