



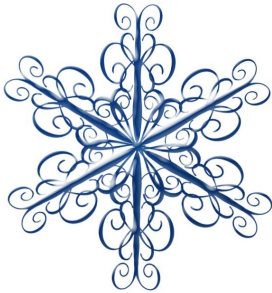
Pathways

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

A Newsletter for Holden Christian Academy

February 13, 2015

Principal's Corner



Dear Friends,

As you can see, despite the snow, the flu, and deep freeze, we are pressing on, continuing to learn, and even enjoying the process. One of the traits I most admire about children is their resilience.

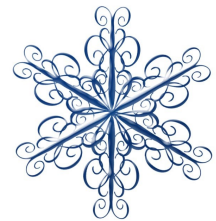
They feel their emotions, express them and move on. Each day is a new adventure. Pajama days, Valentine's, a new student, and the preschool's Royal Ball eliminate the drudgery that plagues adults in February. If you are feeling a little depressed, and who isn't, come spend a morning with our early childhood classes. That's what I do. It really helps. Maybe that's another reason Jesus tells us to be like little children!

Several parents have inquired about making up snow days. The School Committee discussed some possibilities at about 9:45 Wednesday night. Due to our collective exhaustion, **no final decision** was made. A decision will be made at our next meeting when we are able to see how many more snow days we have accrued.

Lastly, I think it's especially important to have **something to look forward to** when we come back from vacation. Therefore, I am happy to announce that due to the extreme generosity of an HCA family who wish to stay anonymous HCA has purchased 40 iPads and cases as well as 5 Apple TV's for the teams to share! All students in grades K-8 will have the chance to use an iPad in school to enhance their education. We are working with Apple to set them

up, provide protection and put on the needed programs. We are excited and extend a great big THANK YOU to our benefactors.

I pray you have all safe, relaxing, and restorative vacations. Please remember to read, read, read. The Read-a-thon is among our top fundraisers, last year we raised \$14,500! To date, we have brought in roughly \$7,000. Thank you to all those that have been busy getting sponsors, remember, there is still lots of time to find more sponsors. Grand prize of a limo ride to the Scholastic warehouse for one student per class who has logged the most reading hours will be announced after vacation! We'll see you all soon when it is a week away from March!!



In His love,

Susan Hayward

Inside this issue of Pathways you will find:

- ◆ Pictures of Preschool's Royal Ball
- ◆ Classroom Happenings
- ◆ Pictures, Pictures and More Pictures
- ◆ Winter Health Reminders
- ◆ An Update from our After School Program

and much more...!

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!

Feb. 13	Hearing Screenings, K-8th grade
Feb. 16-20	No School-Mid-Winter Break
Feb. 27	Last Day for Logging Read-a-thon Minutes
March 3	Read-a-thon Money Due
March 5	Open House, 7:00 p.m.
March 26	Spring Picture Day
March 27	No School-Term 4 Development Day

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.

WELL CHILD and ILLNESS POLICY

addendum to Parent Student Handbook

It is our desire at Holden Christian Academy to provide the healthiest possible environment for our students, so we kindly ask that you DO NOT bring your child to school if he or she has any of the following symptoms:

- Green or yellow runny nose
- Persistent coughing
- Discharge from the eyes
- Fever
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Unknown or contagious rash
- * Any communicable disease

If a student has a contagious illness such as conjunctivitis (pinkeye) or strep throat, he/she **must** be on antibiotics for a **full 24 hours** before returning to school.

If a student has been vomiting or had a fever, he/she should be **sickness or fever free for at least 24 hours** (without fever-reducing medication) before returning to school.

In the case of chicken pox, a student cannot return to school until all lesions are dried and scabbed over. This usually takes about 5 days; however, each case will vary.

By way of reminder, here is our current **Dismissal Due To Illness Policy**:

Any student who becomes ill while at school will be sent home at the discretion of the staff.

If the student has a fever of 99.6 or above, he/she will be sent home.

Thank you for your cooperation and partnership in striving to keep illness at HCA to a minimum.

Principal's Book of Excellence celebrates...

Kindergarten

- Olivia, for her ability to work with only one arm with never a complaint, pout or tear!
- Arden, for kindly sharing her unused spoon with a classmate whose mom forgot to pack one.
- Max, for standing up for what is right and reminding a classmate to use wise speech.
- Lydia, for helping her teacher by stacking chairs at the end of the day without even being asked!
- James, for helping his teacher put together a center-time-switch project for his class to use.
- David, for trying a new healthy snack!

Grade 3

- Barbara, for working hard to accomplish her school work.
- Carlie, for being such a positive influence in the classroom.
- Frankie, for being prepared in class and always ready to begin the next task.

Grade 5

- Isaiah, for sharing stories with the class that show he is constantly striving and ever reaching for the Lord.
- Nathan, for reminding us that the Lord speaks in a quiet voice.

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

Box Tops for Education update...

Our next deadline for Boxtops submissions is March 1; HCA will receive a check in April. Please send in all your Boxtops and Labels in as soon as possible! Thanks!

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 family members struggling with illness during the winter season.
- For new families being called to HCA, that they will hear God's call and trust in Him.

PRAISE & THANK YOU

- A BIG thank you to Mr. Cummings for the *awesome* shelves he built and hung in the Art room!
- Thank you to all the parents that devoted time helping with electives for Term 2!



Preschool's Royal Ball

Our preschoolers enjoyed a fabulous, fun-filled Royal Valentine's Day Ball on Thursday! They dressed in their finest ball gowns and suits of armor and treated everyone like royalty. This special day went along with their study of Fairy Tales, Nursery Rhymes and Castles.



A Peek Inside Our After School Program

After School Care is always seeking new ways to enjoy winter and stay creative and constructive especially with all the snowy days that can keep us indoors. We make pancakes usually on Fridays (gluten free), offer a craft project such as making trivets with colored tiles, yarn dolls, place mats with themes, and clay shapes weekly and have music at least once every two weeks. There are always opportunities for creative play where the students make a fort and live like a "family", a new tag game like line tag, building walls and towers with cardboard blocks, dancing to Irish Celtic music, hide and seek games, and limited computer time. One goal in avoiding too much computer time, is to have the students learn through "boredom" to invent and create their own fullness and not to expect the computer to entertain them. The interaction of all ages makes this a dynamic opportunity for sharing and playing with all ages. Any ideas to share? Please feel free to send them to the office who will pass them along to me.



Classroom Happenings



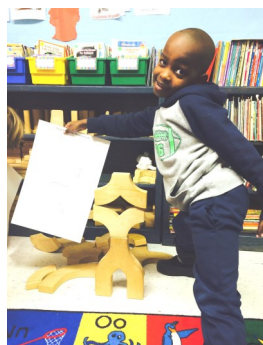
Team A ~ Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd Grades

Happy Valentine's Day Team A Parents!

Did you know the legend of Valentinus says he was a Christian priest who was put in jail by the Romans? While in jail he became friends with the jailer's daughter who was blind since birth. Valentinus taught the girl math and history but most of all told her about God. Her one prayer was that she could see, Valentinus told her she must believe in God. She said she did believe! As they knelt to pray a bright light shone in the jail cell and the girl received her sight. The day before his execution on February 14 he wrote his last note urging her to stay close to God and he signed it, "Your Valentine". No matter how true the legend is, Valentine's Day helps us to focus on loving, helping, teaching and praying for each other. Jesus is the greatest example of walking in this love that this world has known let us follow His example.



Celebrity Readers come to HCA!



Architects like Thomas Jefferson

We celebrated Valentine's Day today by decorating valentine mailboxes, exchanging valentines and reading about St. Valentine in the morning. In the afternoon we had some fun 'minute to win it' activities, a snack and a movie.

Also, ask your children about Thomas Jefferson! We have been doing some great activities during center time switch to exemplify his life. After vacation we will be exploring westward expansion of the United States starting with the Lewis and Clark expedition 'Team A style', which means, lots of learning by doing!

Thank you for your partnership in sending your children with healthy food from the rainbow! We are busy filling up our rainbow charts and anticipate a celebration when they are filled!

If you have not done so, please send back term two's signed report card to your child's teacher.

Keep your children sharp next week by reading or being read to (books on tape are great too), practice telling time and counting money, use flash cards for trick words and math facts, practice using numbers larger than 10, and of course have fun, go on a few family field trips J.

As teachers we are so grateful for you, our parents.
Blessings, Mrs. Hughes, Mrs. Caron and Mrs. Torres

A Look Inside Team A!



Kindergarten replicates Joseph's coat of many colors.



First Grade decorated Valentine's Day boxes & wrote love letters to Jesus.



Second Grade learns about the ear and enjoys a story from a celebrity reader!





Classroom Happenings



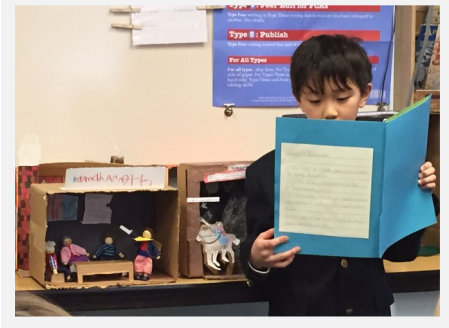
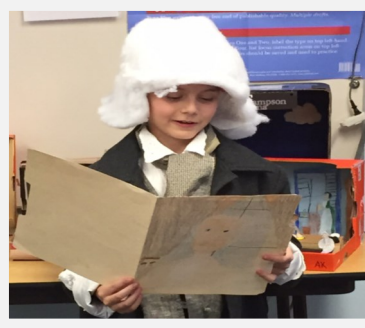
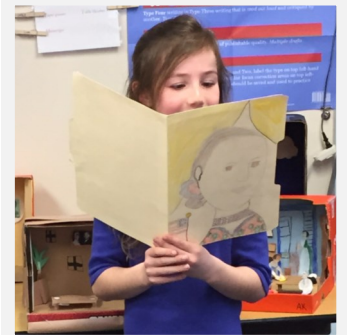
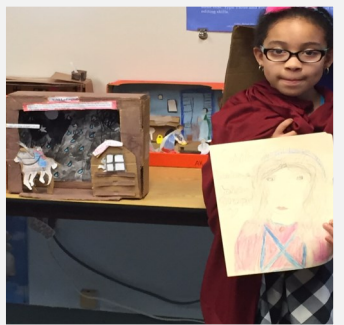
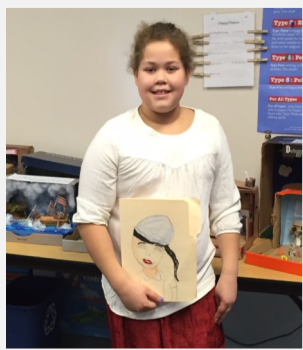
Team B ~ Grades 3 & 4

Grade three did a wonderful job writing their biographies, creating dioramas and dressing historically. It takes courage to stand up and present and they each did a wonderful job! I was a very proud teacher!

We will begin a nutrition unit following February Vacation. Thank you parents for your part in sending your children in with nutritious food. Grades three and four are competing to see who can eat their way up the rainbow the quickest. It's certainly a close competition.

Stay safe and have a wonderful vacation!

Mrs. Jorritsma

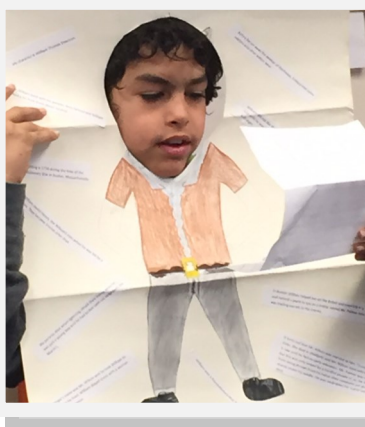
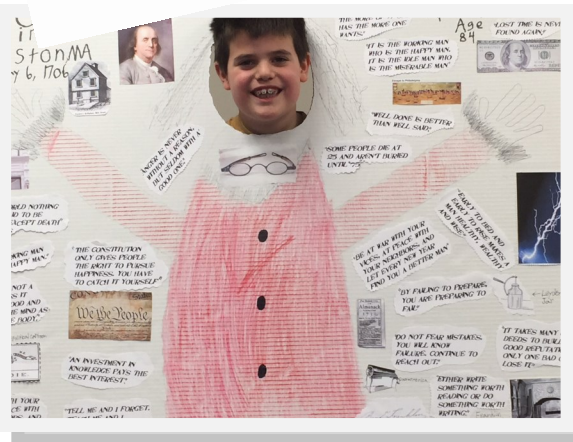


Happy Valentine's Day

We are SO excited and grateful to welcome John Connell to fourth grade. He fits right in! He's already part of the family.

Thank you SO much for your support in helping your children to do school work on snow days and during February vacation. I feel better knowing we will not fall too far behind. Please check their binders and make sure that they finish everything in there before we come back. Email me with any questions or concerns you may have.

Bless you all & be safe during all these blizzards! ~Mrs. Reed



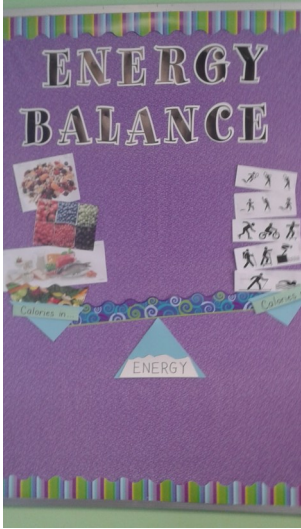


Classroom Happenings



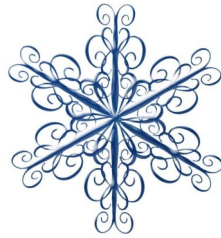
Team C ~ Grades 5 & 6

Snow! Snow! Snow! In December the students were praying for snow so they could enjoy the spoils of winter. Now, even as students who get snow days, they seem ready for some consistency to return to their schedule. We are in agreement there! Despite all of the snow, we have managed to move forward in science, math, and Bible. In science, students are exploring what it means to have Energy Balance. They have a better understanding of what calories are, where they come from, where they go, and how. Math has been dominated by decimals and fractions lately, and how to get from one to another. When we return from our winter break, we can look forward to new weather patterns and renewed consistency for our studies when we can fly forward in our academics with the March winds!



Team D ~ Grades 7 & 8

Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens:
Who created all these?
He who brings out the starry host one
by one and calls forth each of them by
name.
Because of his great power and mighty
strength,
not one of them is missing.
~ Isaiah 40:26



I must admit to enjoying this winter. As I've looked out on those frigid mornings at beautiful sunrises and watched glowing sunsets in the evenings, I've been reminded of the beauty we have in the works of our Creator. It's been refreshing and renewing.

Although academically, these snowstorms are momentum busters, our students and staff are resilient. We pick up right where we left off...with a few reminders here and there. Our American Revolution Living Wax Museum & Freedom Trail Exhibits were phenomenal. The 7th & 8th graders did an amazing job! They are becoming great presenters, using voice, diction, and professionalism.

In LA, we are in the midst of reading Fever 1793, scouring our books for the author's use of figurative language so that we can employ the same technique in upcoming writing assignments. Additionally, we're in the process of compiling our Advent poems, composed back in December, to create our very own poetry Anthology. We can't wait for publication!

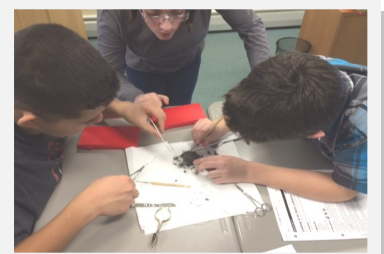
I continue to encourage all 7th and 8th graders to review Spanish vocabulary for 5 minutes per day. This is a significant discipline for increasing a vocabulary base. This is a great way to study for English vocabulary, as well. LA & Spanish club meet on Tuesdays at 3:00 pm. Hope to see you there. ~ Mrs. Campbell

We are hearing the sound of trickling water in the classroom! Our new hydroponics system is up and running. We are testing to see if we are able to germinate lettuce seeds. With all the snow on the ground, it is exciting to focus on growing something green and fresh in the classroom.

8th grade finished our Chemistry studies this week and had a very strong finish with a Chemistry mid-term. We "jumped" into our Physics study with a lab "Inclined to Roll." So FUN!

7th grade will finish their Animal & Mammal unit the week we return from break and will have their first science "mid-term." This test will cover everything we have done from the beginning of the year. While I am not requiring the completion of a science assignment, it would be wise to review and prepare over the break.

All science classes spent time dissecting owl pellets in order to further investigate the diet of owls. Students discovered hundreds of rodent skeletons and we were able to identify the type of animal ingested.



Math Happenings...Given all our snow days, we are working diligently to catch up. I will not be assigning homework over the February break, but expect homework for the next few weekends as we get back on track.



Enjoy the time together over February break.

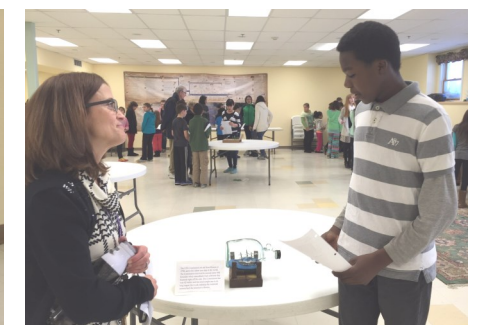
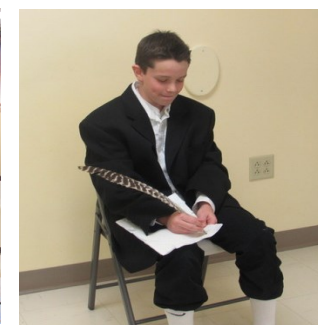
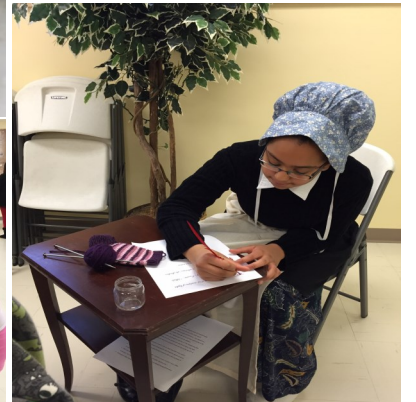
Your children and partnership are a blessing to me. ~Mrs. Holgate



Classroom Happenings



7 & 8 Grade Wax Museum & Freedom Trail Exhibit Photos



Great Job 7th & 8th Grade!