

# 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:

**Feb. 17-21** - February vacation, (no school)

**Feb. 24-28** - Spiritual Emphasis Week #2 (email was sent 2/10 with details!)  
Support SEW [here](#).

**March 7** - Middle School progress reports issued

**March 10-14** - Spirit Week

**March 13** - School Dance, 1pm

**March 20-** 6:30pm Mandatory Canada trip parent meeting

**March 21** - Term 4 Development Day (no school)

**March 28** - Medieval Feast & Faire (parent volunteers welcome to [sign up](#))

**April 4** - Term 3 ends



## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

As you know, at HCA our favorite way for students to learn is through experiences. Experiences fully engage the student by involving each of the senses and bring the content to life! You may have noticed that your students grow in confidence through them as well! One of the ways you can support your children through the learning process is by providing opportunities for them to process the experiences through discussion. As parents you have seen that discussion can help students of all ages understand their experiences more fully and clarify elements that may be unclear. This is just one of the reasons why the partnership between home and school is so valuable, and why I would like to share with you several upcoming events for you to reference with your students.

- First, when we return from our mid-winter break on February 24th, we will have **Spiritual Emphasis Week #2!** We are blessed to have Matt Huffman return with a large team of high school students and HCA alum who are ready to pour into our students once again. The theme for the week will be emotions and, as always, the purpose is to help students bridge the gap between God's Word and their daily lives. The week is not only fun, but so valuable!

- Next, the week of March 10-14 will be **School Spirit Week**! Each day students can participate by dressing up according to the daily theme. Spirit week is not only fun, but unifying for our student body.  
Monday: Career Day  
Tuesday: Twin Tuesday,  
Wednesday: Anything but a Backpack Day  
Thursday: Disney Day  
Friday: Fitness Friday
- In addition to Spirit Week, on Thursday, March 13th, we will have a **school dance** from 1:00-2:30pm. This dance is the school reward for reaching our goal for the Feed the Need fundraiser. The eighth grade class has been taking the lead on plans for the dance and they have decided on a royal Disney theme! Students can come dressed as their favorite Disney character. There will be light refreshments, a photo backdrop, and lots of dancing fun with friends!
- **Thursday evening, March 20th, at 6:30pm** there will be a mandatory **parent/student meeting** for all who will be on the Middle School Canada trip. This trip will be one of the highlights of the attendees' HCA education. It will bring to life what they have been learning all year about ancient civilizations, architecture and archaeology. In order to provide a seamless experience, we want to be sure everyone is well prepared. This informational meeting will answer many detail questions and provide important information about the week. Please mark your calendars and let Mr. Curtis know if you will not be able attend.
- Finally, **Friday, March 28th** will be the K-8 re-enactment of a **Medieval Feast and Faire**! The day will be a celebration that brings together information the students have been learning all term in the form of an experience. Students will come to school dressed for the time period. (Homeroom teachers will provide more information on attire). In addition to the grand feast, Middle School students will share their guild projects with younger students, and Grades 3-5 are creating a Princess/Knight Quest for K-2! We will need lots of volunteers for this day, so let us know if you can join us using the Sign Up Genius.

Although experiences require more planning and effort to carry out, we have found that they are not just more fun, but they provide a depth of learning that cannot be matched. Thank you for investing in your child's education at HCA, where they can learn and grow in ways that are both memorable and joyful! ~Mrs. Cleveland

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

### **Electives are returning for the 2025-2026 school year!**

- Electives will run on Wednesdays from approximately 2:00-4:00.
- Students will be able to sign up for an elective on a first come, first serve basis for a set number of weeks.
- Some electives will be free, some will cost \$ (like skiing).
- Any students not attending an elective will be dismissed.
- More info forthcoming!







## Please take note....

### HCA goes to the WooSox!

We are excited about this annual family event, where HCA has a block of tickets for a WooSox game after the last day of school. This annual event is sponsored by the Parent Teacher Council, and all HCA families are invited to purchase tickets with our group!

**The game will be Friday, June 6th at 6:05pm.**

Please visit the following link to purchase your tickets. First come first serve!

<https://fevo-enterprise.com/event/Holdenchristian3>

### \$ MONEY MEMORANDUM \$

**Giving Statements for donations** received here at school were issued at the end of January and mailed to home addresses on file. All online donations, including Legacy Partners and Feed the Need donations, have been recognized through our online giving platforms, [churchcenter.com](http://churchcenter.com) and [onecause.com](http://onecause.com), with emails sent by the platforms either at the time of donation and/or in January.

**Financial Aid applications** are being accepted through April 18. Please visit <https://www.holdenchristianacademy.org/tuition> to read more about Financial Aid at HCA. This needs-based program is available for students in Kindergarten through Grade 8.

If you have any questions about donations or financial aid, contact Accounting Manager Judy Bleau at [jbleau@holdenchristianacademy.org](mailto:jbleau@holdenchristianacademy.org)

### Service Hour opportunities

**Please contact Ms. Graham if you would like more information or to volunteer for these projects!**

- #1: Looking for experienced indoor painters
- #2: Looking for someone to refurbish (sand, repair, repaint) wooden shelving unit and bench
- #3: Looking for someone to repurpose an old bookshelf into cubbies for Team A students

*Several of these projects can be done over the next few months, or even over this coming Summer.*

**Re-enrollment  
is now open for 25-26!**

**Please visit [www.factsmgt.com](http://www.factsmgt.com) to save your child's seat in an HCA classroom!**

**Family Portal > Apply/Enroll**

# Preschool News!

Preschool is all abuzz because God's love is in the air. This week we celebrated Valentine's day with the knowledge that God is love and we are to love our neighbors. We celebrated with crafts, a great snack, the bounce house, and sharing cards with one another.

We have been learning about wheels! Preschoolers have been learning about all kinds of wheels and what their functions are. We tested different objects on a ramp, and Preschoolers predicted which items would roll and why. Students also talked about what could make something roll. We also learned about wind turbines and how they produce electricity with the power of the wind.



The weather has been cold, but not to worry, we have been riding our bikes in the gym. HCA is blessed to have a gym we can enjoy when we can not make it outside. We have been riding our WHEELS in the gym for two weeks now and students are working on motor coordination, strength, and endurance! It is also great fun and I have seen our students' self confidence grow. That is exciting!

Ms. Ruth, Ms. Jessica, Ms. Martha, Ms. Jennifer

# Team A News!

## Kindergarten update from Mrs. Coombs:

Once upon a time there was a Kindergarten class. Overnight this class turned into a medieval town, filled with lords and ladies, knights, peasants and a wonderful King, our God! Huzzah, Term 3 has started and we have begun studying The Middle Ages, simple machines, and The Kingdom of God. The students are really excited to be learning about castles, knights, kings, and queens! We are learning about God's Kingdom and all its wonder. We have also been acting out the Feudal System, so make sure to ask your child how the system works. In the next few weeks, the students will be learning about castles and castle life and will even create their own castles, featuring the shapes they will be learning about in Math. All of this learning will help prepare them for the Medieval Feast that will be held on March 28th. The Medieval Feast will be another Big Day that K-8 will participate in. More details to come in the following weeks.



Working hard to transform the classroom into a Medieval castle

During Term 3 we will be learning to make healthy food choices and how to "eat the rainbow". During the month of March I will be asking that parents try to send in snacks and lunch that contain the wonderful colors of the rainbow. Students will be tracking the different colors they eat on a chart.

Kindergarten continues to work on their fine motor skills, often using play-dough and clothespins to help strengthen the small muscles in their hands and wrists. When these muscles are strong, it becomes easier and more comfortable to hold pencils and cut paper. Let's not forget that our gross motor skills are just as important as our fine motor skills. These are especially important when we are not able to go outside because of temperature and/or weather. So we have been practicing our gross motor skills in the classroom with some medieval moves!



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

Happy February and Welcome to Term 3!

This time of year is always my favorite! Not the cold, but getting to reflect on the immense progress the first graders have made since the start of the year. It is always rewarding to see students soak up and apply skills that have been learned. Their hunger for wanting more and more is contagious and truly makes teaching very exciting! You have probably noticed your little readers reading much more, confidence rising in mathematics, and coming home with fun facts about our world. Most importantly, I have loved to see their growth in Jesus. When we have casual conversations about what Jesus is doing in our lives-my faith enriches with their very accurate and pure perspective on Him.

Term 3 is here! We are excited to hit the road running on Simple Machines and the Medieval Era! This is a packed term full of creativity and fun activities. We have started experimenting with pulleys and also started our study on castles, kings, queens, knights, and much more! Your writers have also started an Informational Writing Unit where they will be studying one animal, researching that animal, and going through a writing process to publish their very own informational book!

We have also gained an incredible teacher to add to our classroom family as I gear up for motherhood. Thank you to Ms. LeShane for taking on the first graders with much love and grace. She has already fit right into our little family, and she is excited to share her talents and love of teaching with your children. Welcome Ms. LeShane!



Coming up in Term 3...

- February 17-21: Mid-Winter Break
- March 28: Medieval Feast

### Grade 2 Update from Mrs. McGrail

Winter greetings- as they say "You can't get too much winter in the winter!" I hope you all have been well. It has been quite the term for our class and for others throughout the school who have been affected by illness. We have been busy in Term 3 gearing up for all things Medieval ! Here's the latest happenings:

**Bible-** Away from the Old (Testament that is,) and into the New Testament ! Most second graders seem to have a firm mastery of all the Old Testament books in order. With that, we are now working to memorize the New Testament books ! We are thoroughly enjoying the New Testament jingle. In Term 3 we are also learning about the Parables of Jesus. We are utilizing the Adam Raccoon book series which is geared towards children to have a visual and easier understanding of Jesus' parables. Later in the term we will also learn about the Armor of God (along with a special poster project!)



**Math-** We are now in Unit 10 ! This unit replicates Unit 9 but with hundreds subtraction instead of addition. This unit is generally far more challenging for students as subtracting doesn't come as easily since it often requires a deeper understanding of number relationships and the concept of "taking away." All the reminders to practice those math facts really shows in this unit.

**FUNdations - Unit 9-** We are now learning the remaining three r-controlled sound combinations.

**History-** This is likely the most popular term of the year = Medieval times. Kids just love all the stories and history of castles, kings, queens, knights, etc. ! We just learned about the Feudal System - ask your child about it so they can share their knowledge of Middle Age history.

**Science -** We will focus on the basics of simple machines (pulleys, wheels, etc.).

Please continue to check out the weekly sneak peek of the week I send home for the latest.

Warm wishes to you all for a restful winter break,

Mrs. McGrail



# Team B News!

## FROM MS. RENNIE'S DESK:

Third grade has been working hard to master distributive, communicative, & associative properties in Math, then we will be off to fractions. We are well into Unit 8 in FUNdations, learning many different phonetic helps. In Grammar, we are starting Pattern 2 sentences introducing direct objects and verb-transitive ....and most of our writing is now in cursive!!

The students did an amazing job making the classroom into a Medieval castle- brick by brick! Well, painted bricks on sheets, but it sure does look great. In Bible, we have had some great conversations about the parables of Jesus. Keep a look-out for information about our simple machines project and next book report genres in their binders. Thank you so much for raising such amazing little people and for your continued support. We are blessed by you!!!

Ms. Rennie

## *A note from Mrs. Velarde:*

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

It's hard and a little sad to believe that we are over half way through the school year! Since our last installment, we have finished NaNoWriMo and have begun the editing process. In Math, have conquered long division, fractions and decimals. In Science, we learned about the layers of the earth and everyone's favorite topic, volcanoes. Historically, we studied the Roman Empire and created a mini Desk Pet version of a Roman city featuring shops that would have been found in the Ancient Roman Empire. The students really dove into this project and the creativity of each one was brightly on display! There were so many wonderful things that occurred over the past few months. Here are the students' top picks since our last installment:

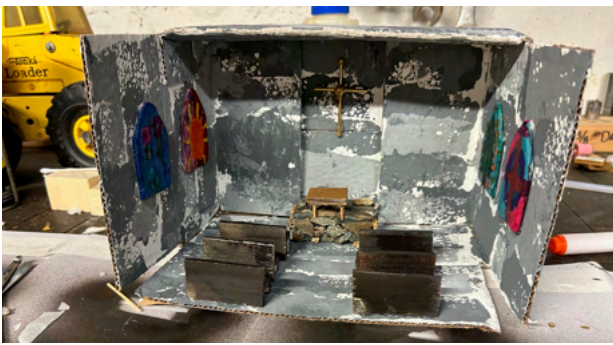
1. Building a snow fort
2. Latin Roots
3. Burning Rome (see pictures on next page)
4. Book Club
5. Leading hand motions and running slides at chapel
6. Simple Machine Scavenger Hunt
7. Our Class Christmas Party

(Continued on page 10!)

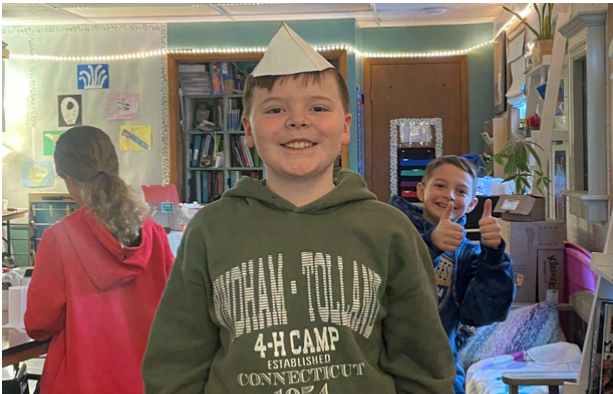
We are looking forward to:

1. Desk Pet Castle (see a preview below!)
2. Magic Tree House Musical
3. Performing Pastime With Good Company
4. Medieval Feast
5. March 4th
6. Spiritual Emphasis Week (Part 2)
7. Reciting the entirety of Colossians 1:10-20 together

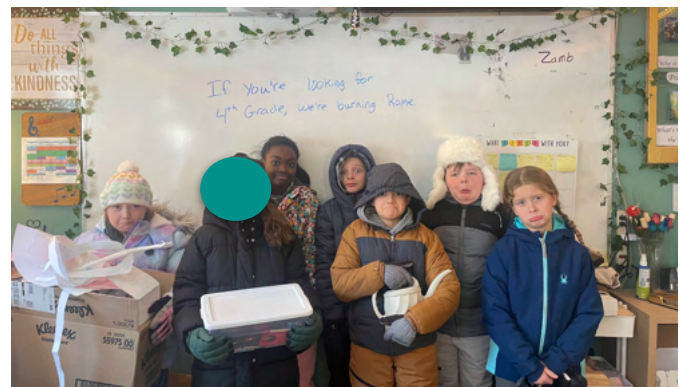
This term is full of exciting things to learn and experience. Be on the lookout for an email regarding details for our Medieval Feast reenactment in the coming weeks!



Pet Desk Castle preview



Burning of Rome



Farewell, Rome, we bid you adieu....



News from Mr. Galvão

**Hello parents!**

**We finished Term 2 on the right foot, and Term 3 has already begun. This Term we are leaving Ancient Rome and going into Medieval Europe. Talking about how these smaller kingdoms rose after the fall of the Roman Empire, and how history progressed up until the Renaissance. In Science, we are going to start talking about writing our own procedures and developing scientific methods. We are also going to start learning about the moon, stars and the solar system.**

**I do also want to remind you that the students are still writing their homework every night in their agendas. If you could be sure to always check and initial their agendas to make sure they are not missing anything it would be very helpful. We started off the year really well, let's make sure we're ending even better! I'm really looking forward to this second half of the school year with our fifth graders!**

**Gabriel P. Galvao - 5th Grade Teacher**



Grade 5 helping in chapel!

# Middle School News!

## Mr. Shea's Shenanigans:

Hello Middle School Parents!

Term 3 is underway and we have been working on some expository writing! Students are learning how to identify academically acceptable sources online, how to filter search results in online search engines, and how to sift through non-fiction writing for the information they need to create a short research essay on a medieval topic of their choice. This essay will hopefully give students the background they need to help each other understand the stories in our next unit.

After we get back from break, we will be kicking off our Second Spiritual Emphasis Week! Mr. Huffman will be back at HCA to help refocus us on God's truth and ways as we continue on into the second half of the school year. As Mr. Huffman leads SEW, Middle School Language Arts will be diving into poetry through some ancient epic poems. We will be focusing on Gilgamesh (a Persian retelling of Noah's Ark and the oldest piece of writing that archaeologists have ever found) and Beowulf (a story about community and the first piece of literature to be written in English). Both stories are narrative poems. As students learn how to read poetry and understand symbolism, they will be asked to create their own epic poem!

I'm looking forward to seeing what the kids are able to accomplish this term and hope that they have fun telling you all about it as it happens!

In Christ,  
Jeremiah Shea



Middle Schoolers are creating Illuminated letters in Art



## Mr. Curtis' Corner:

Welcome back readers,

I know it has been awhile, but Middle School has been up to some exciting things this winter. In History class we have now pivoted from the Roman Empire to the Early Middle Ages. We have traded Caesars for Kings and Queens; Plebeians for Serfs and Peasants. Not only are we currently unpacking the Feudal System, we are also introducing the concept chivalry to our students.....who said "chivalry is dead"?!

Just this week, students have begun a new research project to sharpen their research skills and explore topics of personal interest from the Middle Ages. This project spans the gap across three subject areas for the term: History, Language Arts, and Science. Feel free to ask your student what topics they have been exploring and learning about.

In Bible class, we have begun to unpack Jesus' Sermon on the Mount and the Beatitudes. We will be trying to comprehend what these descriptive and vivid statements from Jesus in Matthew chapters 5-7 mean. Jesus once again has flipped the world upside down from how we as humans have structured it. How these words from our Savior give us another guideline for how to live out our Christian faith in a fallen and broken world.

We are also very much looking forward to Spiritual Emphasis Week #2 after February break. Matt Huffman and his team return to H.C.A. in order to continue to challenge and encourage our students to deepen their faith. Please join us in praying for our students' hearts to be open to what God has for them to learn and do that week.

Until next time my friends,

Mr. Curtis



Middle Schoolers at their Creation vs. Evolution debate

## **MRS. GALVÃO'S MUSINGS**

Hi Middle School Parents,

Term 3 started two weeks ago for our 6th grade and 8th grade scientists. Students are working on their Science Fair projects, and they seem excited to try different experiments and learn more about the Science behind them....all while having some fun!

In 6th Grade Math, we just finished chapter 5 (Algebraic Expressions). I'm very pleased with the level of learning that this class is showing.

In 8th Grade Math, we are entering the last two chapters in the 8th grade Math book. After that, we'll be able to move forward to a High School level math book! I love how this class is showing effort to learn, and their good grades reflect that learning.

I know that the Science Fair means students will bring extra work home, so I want to thank you for supporting the students with their work.

Thank you for partnering with me,  
Mrs. Galvão

