

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. 1 -28 - Read-A-Thon!

Feb. 21-25 - February vacation (no school)

Feb. 21 - Family Field Trip to the Springfield Museums (info on page 5)

Feb. 28 - Pooled Testing upon return from Feb. break (for those who have provided consent)

March 11 - Middle School Term 3 Progress Reports issued (via email)

March 14 - Read-A-Thon grand prize limo trip!

March 18 - Term 4 Development Day

April 1 - Africa Day (parent volunteers needed - sign up to help; Term 3 ends (no joke!))



PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Parents,

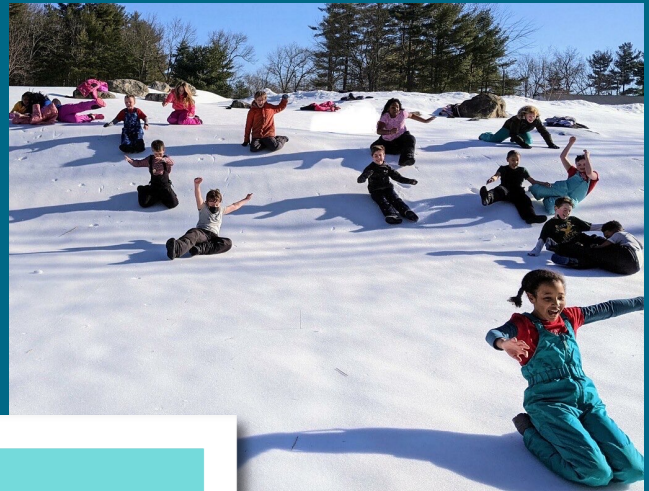
As you are aware, our School Committee is prayerfully considering a decision that will impact the whole school community: when to modify our current mask policy. As a school, HCA takes this decision seriously and we recognize the value of honoring God through the process. With that in mind, I thought it may be helpful to know a little about how we arrive at these decisions.

As you can imagine, we take school wide decisions very seriously because they impact every student and family, and we care very much about the effect of each of these decisions on the individual as well as the group.

The first step we take in making schoolwide decisions is to pray for God’s guidance. Next, we gather information and seek wise counsel from professionals with pertinent experience. We also look for a fuller perspective from those who have a stake in the results of the decision – especially parents, teachers, and students. We are blessed to have a wide variety of knowledge and experiences with the diversity of our group. It can help us to evaluate our own assumptions when we hear a variety of viewpoints.

Next, we seek the Lord’s wisdom in our interpretation of the information, by praying both individually and together as a group. As we begin to organize the information we have gathered and look for God’s guidance, we also check to be sure our leanings align with the school’s mission and vision statements. We strive for all our decisions to bring our school closer to these goals.

When our School Committee gathers on March 3, they will take into consideration the most updated Covid-related information available, pooled testing results after February break, and the recent survey responses from parents and teachers. Thank you all for your valued input on the issue, and for being a part of a community that strives to honor God!



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

Principal's Book of Excellence Award Recipients:

Luciana - helping another student with Math

Elena - for helping her teacher sort math curriculum

Billy - for cleaning up after everyone following a messy (but fun) project

Emma - for persevering in Math and achieving high grades

Lydia - for being so calm, patient, kind, and a good friend

Eva M. - for always taking good care of Argus (Mrs. Cleveland's dog)

Savannah - for being courteous to everyone, and always being a good friend to others

Ella - being helpful and compassionate

Aria - for being a hard-worker and taking pride in her work

John Wayne - for being hospitable and sharing his special toys with his classmates

Elyse - for being self-governed, a great example for her classmates in following rules and directions

Xander - for being polite and respectful at all times

Micah, Lydia, and Ella - for building community, helping classmates during self-directed work times

Giordanny and Caleb - for seeking God through deep and meaningful questions and conversations

Eva H. - for consideration of others in making sure rooms are clean before she leaves them

Yearbook Pre-Orders!

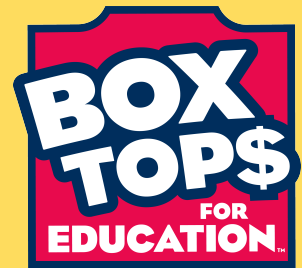
It's not too soon to let us know you want to reserve a copy of your 2021-22 yearbook. Please [fill out this form](#) to indicate how many yearbooks you would like to pre-order. Payment will not be invoiced until May 1st, but having people pre-order will help us get an accurate assessment of how many to order!



PLEASE TAKE NOTE...



YOU CAN SUPPORT HCA WITH THE CLICK OF A BUTTON! PLEASE DOWNLOAD THE BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION APP AND SCAN RECEIPTS FOR POINTS. THANK YOU - EVERY SCAN BENEFITS



Calling all prayer warriors!

Prayer is a powerful tool that can be exercised anywhere and on behalf of anyone. The Lord tells us to "bear one another's burdens" (Gal. 6:2) and to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thess. 5:17). With that in mind, HCA is **forming a school prayer chain** to support our school community when needs are expressed. **We are looking for people to pray!** You would be on an email list of individuals committed to pray for requests from families at HCA. If you are interested in being on this list please email Rebecca Burley at becka2911@gmail.com. If anyone has a PRAYER REQUEST for our warriors to pray over, please fill out [this form](#).

Thank you to those who donated!

We are thrilled to celebrate God's goodness, and thank everyone who donated to the Annual Fund.

To date, the annual fund has raised **\$16,135.00** in donations and pledges!

Praise God!



Family Field Trips!

Mon. Feb. 21st - Springfield Museums

A group of HCA parents will be heading to the Springfield Museums....Email Rachel Johnson for more info - rjohnson@assabet.org

Friday, June 3rd - WooSox game!

HCA will be heading to a WooSox game together, but NOW is the time to sign up! [RSVP here](#) to reserve your tickets.

FROM THE ART ROOM:

Africa is my favorite term to teach and we are ramping up with cool projects:

Team A is working on Batik and will be bringing their pillowcases home 2/17 to soak them and remove the glue which will reveal their unique design! Please return them to school so we can all see the finished result.

Team B is starting their batik and will be finishing them up after vacation break.

Teams C/D are starting their African Wrap dolls this week. We are very excited to work on these; many students tell me that this is the most fun project we do.

Have a great break, and de-stress by doing ART!!



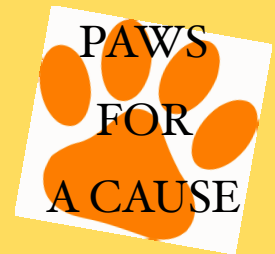
Mrs. M

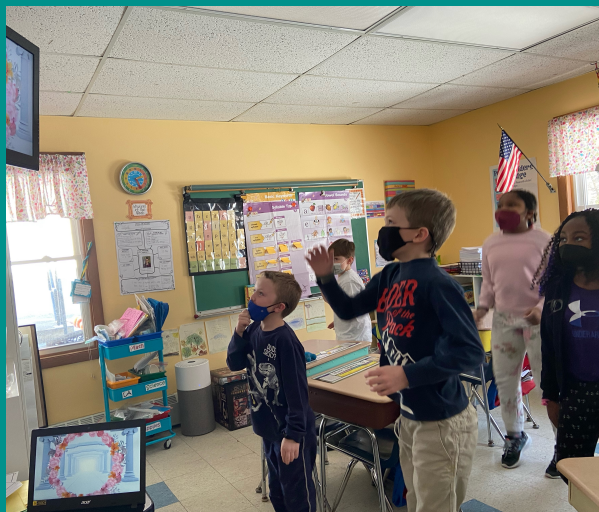
Read-A-Thon Update!

We had a wonderful time at the Read-a-thon “Party with the Pooches” this past Monday. There were themed snacks and games, and it was a wonderful way to celebrate all of the reading and fundraising that has been taking place over the past month. We just wanted to update you on a few things:

1. Students can log minutes until February 28th at 11:59 PM.
2. Next week while we are on break is a great time to raise your minutes....and continue your fundraising!
3. Students must collect and turn in money no later than March 4th in order to be considered for our grand prize!
4. With the money donated so far, we only have \$11,369 left to raise to meet our budgeted goal!

Our grand prize was announced at the Party on Monday but in case you missed it, [here's](#) the video!





Preschool News!

Important Dates to Remember:

February 21-25 *Winter Break-NO SCHOOL*

Month of March
We begin our Cultures Unit! If your family has a way you'd like to share your culture, please contact Mrs. McKean as soon as possible!

March 18
NO SCHOOL-Term 4 Development Day

How you can help:

We are always so happy when a parent comes to play! If you are interested in helping our Preschool staff monitor outdoor play time, please email Mrs. McKean (kmckean@holdenchristianacademy.org) and let her know you'd love to supervise students during their time in the Nature Explore Playspace.



Officer Sean!

Roses are red,
Violets are blue.
And have you been wondering
What in Preschool we do?

I'm happy to tell you,
Our learning is fun,
These kids' hearts are filled
When their days are done!

This month has been full of
Helpers from 'round town,
Like when Officer Sean
Brought his police car down.

Mr. Matt showed us how
The heat works in our room.
He's a special church helper,
Without him, we'd be doomed!

We learned about church;
Pastor Tom filled us in!
He prayed with us and showed us,
The place we can pray, listen and sing!

From nurses and doctors,
Mail carriers, and builders,
God gives us our neighbors,
To both love and to pray for!

The Preschoolers played Post Office,
"Mailed" a letter to friends,
Ate a delicious fruit rainbow,
And 2 books they could lend.

And speaking of books!
Our own Library we shared,
With books about Jesus,
His Love and His care.

Our month will conclude
With more visits from Helpers,
Lots of reading with our grownups,
And, we hope, some warm weather!



Mailing letters at the "Post Office"

Team A News!

Help Needed & Announcements:

We are always in need of recess monitor helpers on a daily basis. **Recess for Team A is**

11:30am-12:00pm

Monday through Friday.

You may sign up to be on the recess monitor schedule [HERE](#).

Kindergarten Update from Mrs. Coombs:

Our safari hats are on and our binoculars are ready. What will we find? What will we see? We have already learned about two exciting animals of the savanna. Did you know that elephants can sleep standing up? Be sure to ask your child about some of the other fun facts they learned about the African elephant and lion. As the term continues we will learn about many more animals.

Term 3 brings us to the country of Kenya. We will look closely at Kenyan traditions, education, language, and home styles. We will be celebrating all that we will learn at our school's "big day", on April 1, Africa Day.

Excitement is in the air, as we are learning to decode simple words in FUNdations. This is exciting for the students as they have come to the realization that they can actually read, which is building their confidence and self-esteem. This is a great opportunity to encourage your child to continue to read at home. They can read to you, to a pet, to a sibling, to other family members. Remember it is just as important for children to be read to as it is for children to practice reading on their own, so I ask that you keep reading at home!

Grade 1 Update from Mrs. Richardson:

Elephants, giraffes, and lions, oh my! This term we are learning all about the continent of Africa. As we go throughout the term, we will be learning what biomes are found in Africa, and more specifically in Kenya. At the end of the term we will be having our school-wide Africa Day on Friday, April 1st. First graders can now identify the Kenyan flag, where Kenya is on the map, and what continent Kenya is found in. As we learn about Kenya, some upcoming topics are: foods commonly found in Kenya, dehydrating fruit, learning about the climate, and so much more. As a part of Food For Life, first graders will plant seeds within the next few weeks.

In Math, we have been exploring measurement, especially capacity and how to measure capacity. We have learned about some 3D shapes and even have a song to help us remember the names of our 3D shapes. We have also become experts on how to use a ruler to measure length. Our brains are really growing!

Bible has been one of our favorite subjects! We have learned about king Solomon, David, and are now learning about Daniel. It has been amazing to see the class grow in their faith and their knowledge of the Bible. As we continue with Term 3, we will be heading into the New Testament very soon.



Grade 2 Update from Mrs. McGrail:

Hujambo! Time continues to zoom by as we embark on our newest global adventure in our Cultures year: Term 3 ~> A F R I C A ! We have already begun the trek of learning about this massive continent, and wow is it impressive! The country that we will be landing on to focus our study this term is Kenya. With that, in Social Studies we will learn in depth about Kenya - its traditions, home life, home styles, education, language, and background history of this land. For the Bible, we are now in the New Testament. Bible lessons will now shift to focusing on one to two bible stories per week as I am going further in depth in the New Testament stories, to include team building games, Q & A, and open responses.

In Science, we will be learning about the African Grasslands and the animals who live there. This term will be full of research, exploration, and discovery especially as we work on upcoming projects. Food for Life will continue with topics discussing respecting personal space, Rainbow Foods, MyPlate, and preparing Kenyan dishes.

For Math, our brains continue to work hard as we master time and money in Unit 6. Lastly, this week in FUNdations we are already wrapping up Unit 9! Unit 10 will begin once we return from winter vacation. I sincerely hope you all have a vacation that is full of family and fun! Kwaheri!



Grade 2 with Asgard McGrail



Team B News!

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

*Make sure you read the Weekly Peek, please! It is in the front cover of your child's binder. If for any reason your child is absent, please help them keep up with the math. Thank you so much!!!

*Due to the uncertainty of sudden absences, please log your child onto their Google Classroom. The login to your child's gmail account is your child's first initial and last name and then holdenchristianacademy.org, (for example: drennie@holdenchristianacademy.org), and their password is there user name, TWICE. For example: drenniedrennie (no spaces).

Blessings of health and blessings to you and your family.

~Ms. Rennie

From Ms. Rennie's Desk:

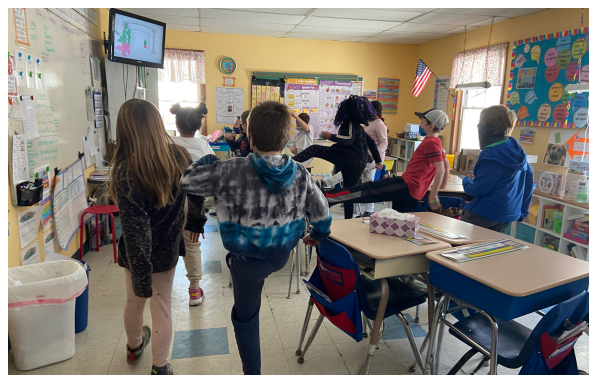
So many wonderful accomplishments in 3rd grade....we have awesome readers; hard workers in mastering multiplication facts; and learning about the beautiful African culture of Cameroon, where one of our student's Mom is from. Did you know that Cameroon is known as "mini Africa", they speak 230 languages, and they have 4 biomes?

Also...PHEW! We made it through long division. I am so proud of everyone's hard work!!! Please keep reading over February vacation and practicing multiplication facts. Thanking you, ahead of time ☺

Ask your child about our interactive brain breaks, so much fun!! (see photo below!)

On Monday, February 28th, the Missionary Book Report forms are due, and the students will have that week to do their presentations. I am so excited to see them!!

After vacation we will begin our planning displays, clothing, and foods for Africa Day. I will keep you posted via Weekly Peeks and future Pathways of any items or help we may need. I am so grateful for each of your children and pray that you all have wonderful family time during February vacation.



Help Needed:

We are always in need of recess monitor helpers on a daily basis. **Recess for Team B is 11:30-12:00pm** Monday through Friday. This is a role for HCA parents to fill. Please make sure you've submitted your [CORI check forms](#) (found on our website) as well as a copy of your license before you volunteer. You may sign up to be on the recess monitor schedule [HERE](#).

From Mrs. Velarde's Desk:

Hello Fourth Grade families! It has been such an electrifying experience as we dive into Term 3 and our study of Ethiopia and the grassland biome. Already, the classroom is buzzing with excitement about the things we are discovering about Ethiopia's biomes, cultures and diversity. The Read-a-thon is well underway and I am very pleased to say that our class has 100% participation in both reading and raising sponsors! I am so proud of this class - small in number but full of enthusiasm. It is such a joy to be their teacher and to watch them continually grow, change and challenge themselves. An email was sent out a few days ago about Africa Day on April 1st and ways you can help us make this big day a HUGE success. Thank you for your continued support!



Middle School News!

Winter Dress

Please encourage your children to come to school prepared to comfortably spend time outside everyday. This is one way we can all contribute to our physical, mental, and spiritual health during this dark and cold time of the year.

Africa Geography

The 5th through 8th graders are learning the names and locations of the 54 African countries during Term 3! One great way to practice is using [this tool](#).

Fifth Grade Travelogue: February 2022

After a quick jaunt to Iraq last month, we flew west to visit the "Warrior Kings" in the country known as Ghana. We have begun exploring this small country that is about twice the size of New York state. We have discovered that Ghana has one of the fastest growing economies in Africa which has remained relatively stable throughout the pandemic. We don't quite understand why Ghana imports chocolate and pineapple juice from other countries, since it is one of the top producers of cacao beans and pineapple in Africa.

To get a taste of what Ghana is like, we have spent time in the Food For Life kitchen dipping pineapple and other fruit in chocolate for Valentine's Day, trying our hand at making our own chocolate from cacao beans, and boiling, frying and baking plantains to see which we prefer and talk about which is healthiest for us. Our tribe has shown great respect by not refusing any food presented to them... and some have been surprised at how much they like some of the food they tried!

We will be traveling throughout the countryside over the next month to find out what everyday life is like in Ghana – from greeting people and etiquette to family and work life. We are looking forward to sharing more about our adventures in Ghana at Africa Day on April 1!

Sixth Grade Update from Mr. Shea:

As we continue into our third term, students in grade six are focusing their study on the country of Nigeria. More specifically, they are studying the way that Nigerian culture practices hospitality. Students are learning about some of the incredible differences between Western hospitality and African hospitality. As we move towards our culminating event (Africa Day) on April 1st, we will be learning and practicing different ways to make people feel welcome in our community, even when our friends arrive unexpectedly.

When we return from our Mid-Winter Break, we will be diving into some biographies and historical fictions to help foster our understanding of the achievements, daily lives, and needs that people in other countries (and sometimes even our own) may have. I am looking forward to learning and sharing with our students as the term progresses.

Finally, some possible needs or opportunities to help out: Grade 6 will be growing and cooking a number of different foods over the course of Term 3 and the beginning of Term 4. We have some ideas about what we want to cook together as a class, but if there are any parents that have African (or even more specifically, Nigerian) recipes that you can share, please feel free to let me know. (You are even welcome to help us cook!) Please encourage your students to continue researching and finding ideas that we can incorporate into our cultural explorations!

Seventh/Eighth Grade from Mrs. Gordon:

We are currently learning so much about...

- Ugandan culture, customs, crops, and more as we look forward to preparing and sharing a feast together on March 11th and Africa day on April 1st.
- Our own bodies, particularly the fascinating circulatory system currently...are you aware that your blood travels approximately 12,000 miles daily?!
- How God uses us to help the world flourish in every area of life! Go ahead and ask your 7th or 8th grader, "What is your salvation for?" and then ask them to explain the answer. :)
- Some of the dangers of the Western diet and advantages of making small steps away from it through the book *Food Rules*.
- The ability we have to impact our taste preferences through repeated exposure to undesirable or unfamiliar foods.

Words from Mr. Hayward:

In Term 3 we complete our (very broad!) outline of Israel's history right up until the "time of silence" between the last prophet (Malachi - about 400 BC) and the coming of the Messiah (circa 6 BC). We also survey the writing prophets (Isaiah - Malachi) in their political and cultural contexts, concluding with the all-purpose wisdom literature of Job through the Song of Songs. Concurrent with this mad gallop across the remainder of the Old Testament, we will be discussing what we at HCA call some of the "cross-cultural themes" of Scripture. That is, what are the Biblical principles relevant to *every* culture, in *every* age? For instance, why *don't* we greet one another with a holy kiss, like the Bible says (1 Thessalonians 5.26), or wash one another's feet as Jesus commands (John 13.14-15), nevermind insist that all ladies wear hats when in church (1 Corinthians 11.5-6)? These are the kinds of questions with which all believers must struggle: What is bound by culture, and what is applicable to all, all the time, everywhere? It's great fun! Feel free to join us and "participate" through your students.



Who needs a sled?
Having pure winter fun during
Outdoor Ed class.



Photo credit to an 8th grader who
captured this beauty on her Sabbath
rest experiment.