



Pathways

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

A Newsletter for Holden Christian Academy

February 26, 2014

Principal's Corner

Dear friends,

How nice it was to walk into the 8th Grade science room and hear Lew Evangelidis telling our 5th -8th graders what a nice, attentive audience they had been and how blessed they are to attend a great school with such a strong teaching staff, who are providing an excellent education. He said he knows the school well. As most of you realize, Lew Evangelidis is the sheriff of Worcester County. Prior to his being sheriff he was a Republican member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives. He is 6'7" and looked even taller next to Mrs. Holgate! Sheriff Evangelidis is one of the celebrity readers who believes our students are so important that he was willing to rearrange his schedule, come to school, and read to them. (Check out the list of our other guests in Mrs. Lundergan's Read-a-thon report!) We are truly blessed.

I want to thank you for making this Read-a-thon a success and providing so much positive feedback for the high tech tracking system. We heard about a student who has regained her love for reading and another who was late for school due to being lost in a book! Please keep these stories coming! We love to know what is happening at home. Kudos to Mrs. Lundergan for not only taking on the read-a-thon for the first time, but also pioneering the website for us!

Many thanks to all of you who attended the African Children's Choir performance. It was a delightful night and over \$3000 was raised for their ministry! Praise God! We look forward to hosting

them again tomorrow for the workshop they will provide our students. It will be in the sanctuary at 10:50 if you would like to attend. Again, we thank God for raising up two generous donors who volunteered to underwrite this event, making it free to all our families. Thank you!

Lastly, plans for HCA's 20th birthday party on May 31st are in the beginning stages and excitement is starting to build. We hope to have something for everyone-from the toddlers of our alumnae all the way up. If you love parties, or love to organize, or have awesome ideas, please contact the office and we'll add you to the party planners (sounds better than committee!).

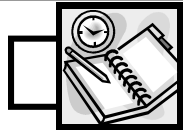
Blessings to you all,
Susan Hayward, Principal



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



HCA Calendar

February 28	Workshop, African Children's Choir
February 28	Last day to log read-a-thon minutes
March 4	All read-a-thon money is due
March 4	Parent Teacher Council 3 p.m.
March 14	Grades K-8 Hearing screening
March 17-21	Teacher Appreciation Week
March 25	Lifetouch Spring Picture Day
March 27	Africa Day—K-8
March 28	NO SCHOOL—Term 4 Development Day
April 4	Term 3 ends
April 10	Science Fair
April 16	Parent/Teacher conferences afternoon, K-8
April 14-17	Terra Nova standardized testing, Gr. 1-8
April 14-17	Bonus Spiritual Emphasis Week
April 18	NO SCHOOL—Good Friday
April 21-25	NO SCHOOL—Spring Break
May 31	Save the date! HCA 20th birthday party! (Rain date June 7)

Fridays: ice cream sales after lunch, \$1 each.

PRAYER (Psalm 68:19)

- For our current families, that you will know of God's call and provision for your family, as you consider re-enrollment for next year.
- For our eighth grade students and their families, as they make preparations and applications for high school.
- For new families being called to HCA, that they will hear God's call and trust in Him.
- For our alumni, that they will be able to join us for our birthday party in May.

PRAISE & THANK YOU

- Thank you to those parents who have sent in recent notes or emails of encouragement to staff members this week.
- Praise God for safe travels over February vacation.
- Thank you to our Celebrity Readers who joined us this week to read to our students.

Parent Teacher Council

Please join us for Parent Teacher Council meeting at 3 p.m., next Tuesday March 4. We need your help in planning the best Teacher Appreciation Week ever! Even if you've never been to our meetings, we would love to have you. Childcare is provided by Mrs. Younger, our Preschool Teacher.

and remember.....

Keep reading!!!

Principal's Book of Excellence celebrates...

Grade 4

Breanna, for her thoughtfulness in praying for a friend (on the attendance slip) without being asked.

Grade 5

Jeffrey and Isaiah, for their service in carrying many boxes of books upstairs.

Grade 6

Dylan, for accuracy and well thought-out work in math.

Grace, for a wonderful, helpful attitude and being a tremendous help after the Read-a-thon party.
And for her thoroughness in her work without prompting.

Joshua, for making a positive improvement in arriving promptly.

Sebastian, for helping Mrs. Lundergan after the party he didn't attend.

Yearbook Team 2014— **members still needed!**

Advisor: Mrs. Osborne (Garret's mom)

Thursdays: 3-4pm

Starting: today :-)

Where: Computer Room or Media Room (as needed)

Topics Covered:

Layout and Design

Basic Photography

Captioning

Interviewing

Graphic Software Training

How to solicit Advertising for a non-profit organization

Public Speaking

Deadline to complete project: May 15th, 2014

**Team Party/Outing at end of school year!

We can only take two students per grade (5th-8th) with the exception of one extra student from 5th & 8th grades (due to current veteran students who have participated before and will be junior advisors).

If your child wishes to participate, please send a note or email to the school office (info@holdenchristianacademy.org) attn. Mrs. Bleau, by Tuesday, March 4. This email will indicate your willingness to pick up your child on Thursdays at 4 p.m. Your email address will be shared with Mrs. Osborne to facilitate communication. If your child currently stays for math help on Thursdays, please indicate that in your email or note and Mrs. Osborne will work within the math help schedule.

Students will be notified by next Wednesday regarding who will be working on this year's yearbook team. Students should come to the first meeting ready to discuss themes for this year's edition so the team can decide on this year's message as early as possible.



Classroom Happenings

Preschool had a blast at the Trike-A-Thon. Thank you to our wonderful parents for supporting this fundraiser for our Nature Explore Play Space!



Team A ~ Grades K-2

Jambo Parents!

As we continue to study Africa this term the first and second grade students will be coming home with an African animal project to complete at home. All students are working on an "African Savannah Diorama" at school; please send in a tissue box if you have not already :-).

In the remaining weeks of our study of Africa, the Kenyan people, we will be creating some original, really cool, 'hands on' projects. Of course we need your cooperation for some of the 'ingredients'.

Hobby 'Zebra': for **Tuesday March 11** all students need to bring in a stick. It must be at least 3 feet tall, but no more than 4 feet. It can be a yardstick, dowel or just a stick from outside as long as it is at least a half-inch thick.

African Soapstone Sculptures: for **Tuesday March 11** all students need to bring in a bar of Ivory soap.

Coming soon we will be making an African drum made from an oatmeal or coffee container and African Toe puppets made from a paper towel tube or 2 toilet paper rolls.

Africa Day, a school wide celebration, will be Thursday March 27th. Thank you for your continued support, your children are a joy!

Blessings,

Mrs. Hughes, Mrs. Anderholm, Mrs. Caron, and Mrs. Poirier

Team B ~ Grades 3&4

Books have been assigned for our March Book Discussions in Grade 4. We have our first book group on Tuesday, March 4th...MARCH??? I can't believe it!! I miss your kids already :(The year is going by too fast!

We are working on the geography of South Africa and Grade 4 will have our test in 2 weeks, on Friday, March 15th.

We had a wonderful visit from Ms. Beverly Dineen from the Gale Free Library. She read a book on Nelson Mandela and then we discussed his great forgiveness that he extended toward his captors. I was very proud of the 4th graders who remembered many things we did weeks ago about Nelson Mandela.

~Mrs. Reed

Team C ~ Grades 5 & 6

Science fair is now well under way! Students should have collected their resources, both print and online, turned in their bibliography of these resources, and be in the midst of taking notes from these resources. The notes will answer the questions on their Background Research Paper worksheet. All of this is working toward writing their first research paper.

As with many of our large projects, science fair is a completely integrated project. Language arts is focusing on writing a bibliography and a research paper, while science class is focusing on note taking this week. Once the research paper is written, students will have enough information to write their hypothesis and set up their experiment. At that point, students will be ready to learn about variables. But one step at a time...

The students have taken all of this in stride so far. The most difficult part for this age group will be continually moving forward on the small steps (taking notes from resources) in order to complete the big steps in time (research paper). Please check in with your student frequently to see their progress. We are checking in and devoting full time to this in school as well.

We very much appreciate your partnership!

By His Grace, *Mrs. Cleveland and Mrs. Torres*

Greetings from the Art Room ~

We have been off to a slow start for term 3 as we have had a few snow days that happen to fall on art day.

Grades 3, and 4 have been busy creating faux Batik and learned how real batik is done. They should be coming home with a t-shirt next week.

Grades 1 and 2 have been busy making a paper mache' mask that will be painted and embellished to become an African mask. It is amazing to me that some kids just do not like to get their hands messy! I cannot fathom how a child would not like to put their hands in slimy glue.

Middle school students will also be doing Batik with African wheat paste as it is a much cleaner way than real Wax Batik, but it is still a real art form of Africa. The boys will make a pillow case and the girls a sleep shirt.

This term is my favorite term of them all; African visuals are so incredible. Today all middle school students will start an African Mask. I am sure they will have reports of it being soooo much fun. Imagine- learning and having fun?! The HCA way, right? I cherish all your children and praise God that I am able to share my gifts with them. *~Mrs. M*



Classroom Happenings *continued*

Team D ~ Grades 7 & 8

7th & 8th grade Science Fair Project work is in full swing! Students have selected projects, developed their problem/question and are currently working on writing their research papers in preparation for writing their hypothesis statements next week. It has been wonderful to work closely with Mrs. Campbell and integrate this project into LA. In the next few weeks we will integrate into Math as well.

7th & 8th grade Math Update: 8th grade Algebra had a very strong finish to Chapter 5. We will breeze through Chapter 6 in two weeks. 8th grade Pre-Algebra is in the thick of lots of new formulas as we calculate the Surface Area of all sorts of shapes. By the end of this week we will attack Volume formulas. 7th grade Math is reviewing all things decimals, fractions, percentages with the addition of variables!

Cultures Update: 8th graders have begun to decorate our room for our African studies. Our focus is the country of Sudan - Africa's largest country. We continue to take closer look at the religion of Islam as the African continent has a large Muslim population. In the weeks ahead we will be watching some accounts of conversions from the Muslim faith to Christianity.

It's hard to believe that mid-term is next week! It is so true that time flies when you are having fun. I trust that your student is enjoying learning about their science project topic and ready to begin experimenting in the weeks ahead.

Your partnership is a blessing,
Mrs. Holgate

From Mrs. Campbell:

I have always loved to jump rope. I can remember as a child feeling the multi-colored beads and aluminum foil tips bouncing and waving as I jumped double-dutch with

my friends in my grandmother's backyard in Hartford, CT. What a blast! Thinking about that experience and the fitness component of FFL sparked a desire to have the 7th grade take on weekly jump roping skills. Each week, Mrs. Burk and I have been working on the following:

- * Learning to locate your pulse
- * Learning to calculate your heart rate
- * Increasing fitness through jump rope
- * Checking heart rate after exercise

We have thoroughly enjoyed these classes. Additionally, I have asked the students to consider how they feel as they head to more traditional classes after our fitness time. We want them to enjoy the fitness for its health benefits, but are interested in the impact of fitness on academics, as well.

This term we also made awesome green smoothies. One recipe is below, and you can find more at <http://simplegreensmoothies.com>. Who knew that adding veggies to smoothies could be so good? Yummy!

Cilantro Limeade

Ingredients

- 1 ½ cups spinach, fresh
- ½ cup cilantro, fresh
- 2 cups water
- 3 bananas
- 1 lime, peeled
- 1 inch ginger, fresh
- Serves 2 -

Directions

Blend spinach, cilantro and water until smooth. Next add the remaining fruits and blend again.



Read-a-thon Update

The readathon officially ends Friday Feb. 28th at 12:00 NOON. Please enter and VALIDATE your minutes before that time.

Now is the time to send in your money and completed sponsorship form. ALL money is DUE ON MARCH 4th

I am hoping that everyone has enjoyed the Read a Thon this year. We are very encouraged by the student and parent response to this event. We will be continuing the Reading Rewards Program after this event ends. I will continue to encourage students to log and keep reading, while providing them with small incentives and challenges along the way!

The celebrity readers who read to the children included, Lew Evangelidis (Sheriff), Sandra Bowles (Landmark Editor), Beverly Dineen (Gale Free Children's Librarian), Bud Cleveland (Grandfather and Writer), Pastor Barber (Congregational Church), Pastor Hesslinga (Baptist Church) Mike Penza (Holden Chapel), and Lt. Dave Armstrong (Holden Police Department). More prizes, more celebrations, more fun to come!

Congratulations to the 4th Grade, for winning the Class Participation Award, for the class that consistently met the 60 minute a day goal as a class.

Thanks to the Parent Teacher Council for their support in the Readathon.

Thanks to all, *Beth Lundergan*