

Pathways

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

A Newsletter for Holden Christian Academy

March 12, 2015

Principal's Corner

Dear friends,

Tomorrow (Friday) is an exciting day for HCA. We are hosting the Northeast ACSI Early Childhood Conference! ACSI is the Association of Christian Schools International through whom we are accredited. We have never been hosts before and we are excited and asking for your patience in the morning. Drop off will be even more challenging because the BNI folks who meet on Friday mornings in the Community Room. They have graciously agreed to leave early so we can set up for the conference, they plan to leave by 8:00. Registration for the conference is from 8:00-8:30 and HCA drop-off is wedged into the middle. Once you factor in the reduced parking due to snow and the lack of our student entrance due to ice, you see our challenges and why we are asking for your help!

Please use caution and drive slowly for arrival in the morning. We are asking HCA parents to line up in the highest parking lot to free up parking for the 120 delegates in the second tier. Please don't run over Josh Curtis or Gary Hayward who will be directing traffic in a little different pattern than usual.

It is an honor to be asked to host the conference and we are blessed to be able to serve the organization that has served us so faithfully for 21 years. Please pray for Malisa Younger and Eileen Cunsolo as they are representing HCA and presenting a workshop. Thanks in advance to those of you who have agreed to help with set-up, lunch, and clean up! We are also grateful for Deb McCarthy of Holden Chapel who is graciously handling so many details and has volunteered to assist us on her day off!

Next, I just want to thank God for the committed, creative, and hard-working staff we have at HCA. Yesterday Team A did a re-enactment of the Lewis & Clark Expedition. Each K-2 student was equipped with a costume, hat, binoculars, compass, authentic looking journal and a specimen box which they helped to make prior to the expedition. They then gathered in

Mrs. Caron's room to review a video that showed the real terrain they traversed.

After that, they got into their canoes which were laden with provisions and proceeded to go up the rivers, over falls, through the plains and over mountain passes, meeting Indians all along the way. They traded with them, smoked peace pipes, and ate food supplied by the Indians. They even had to wait while Sacajawea gave birth to her son and were finally attacked by a grizzly bear before reaching the Pacific Ocean! Check out the photos at the end. The kids traveled all over the school and were entranced by the trip.

Why do we bother to do such elaborate activities? For several reasons:

1. The longest lasting memories are linked with strong emotions. The kids had a total blast and will remember it!
2. We all learn more effectively when we are actively involved. The names, places, and events just rolled off the lips of the kids as they participated because they had read books, created equipment, and watched video clips in advance to prepare. The re-enactment serves as the glue to preserve all that instruction.
3. We realized yesterday at the teachers' meeting that God uses reenactments to teach His people. We were studying the Passover in Exodus and Mr. Hayward was driving home the point that every year all Jews celebrate the Passover. Jesus participated every year of his life. The Last Supper was a Passover meal. The Passover meal is a re-enactment of the first Passover and a foreshadowing of the perfect lamb (Christ) who was to come and take away the sin of the world. As Christians we re-enact this perfect sacrifice every time we celebrate the Lord's Table (Communion) with one another. How cool is that?

Wow, I just realized how long this is, sorry! I am just so pleased with what is going on in this humble little outpost of the Kingdom of God and I believe God is as well. Thank you all for sacrificing to be a part of it!

Joyfully in Him,
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
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Mark Your Calendar!

March 26	Spring Picture Day
March 26	Washington D.C. Family Meeting at 7 p.m.
March 27	Home School Day-Term 4 Development Day
April 2	Term 3 Ends
April 3	Good Friday-NO SCHOOL
April 8	Parent/Teacher Conferences
April 13-17	Washington D.C. Trip-Grades 5-8
April 20-24	Spring Break-NO SCHOOL
May 15	HCA Banquet

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.

Snow Day Make-ups

Several of you have asked about making up **snow days**, the School Committee discussed it and has decided the following:

1. The staff chose not to take the two days in the fall designated for the NEXUS conference so those days count.
2. We are adding two days to the end of the year so instead of getting out on Wednesday, June 10th we will now get out on Friday, June 12th and it will be a half day. Staff days will be the week of June 15-19th.
3. March 27th is our next Development Day for staff and we will use it as a make-up day for students by considering it a home school day. Teachers will give assignments for the day and all students are to have completed them by Monday morning.

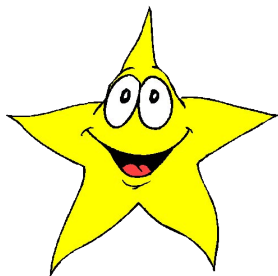
Star Spangled Read-a-thon Update

A great big THANK YOU to everyone for their enthusiastic participation in our read-a-thon this year!

The read-a-thon continues to be one of our largest fundraisers each year. This year, so far, we raised \$12, 643.79

If you still have money to turn in, please bring that in to the office as soon as possible!

Remember, to keep reading even though the read-a-thon is over. You can still log in to reading-rewards.com and enter books and hours read for fun during the year.



Principal's Book of Excellence celebrates...

Kindergarten

Enson, for his diligence in reading throughout February.
David, for sharing his gift of artistry by drawing amazing pictures for the class.

Grade 2

Daniel, for his willingness to help his classmates with their reading.

Erik, for choosing to have a cooperative spirit in the classroom.

Abby, for esteeming her classmates and letting others go first.

Jacob, for lending a hand in the library and helping Mrs. Lundergan organize the Magic Tree House books.

Grade 3

Aliyah, for being a good friend to a new student.

Ethan, for being an enthusiastic reader.

Liana, for working hard in school.

Adriana, for being honest, even if it means no ice cream.

Liam, for working hard on math facts.

Nandi, for a wonderful job presenting her memorized historical report.

Washington DC Prep Meeting!

If you are a parent, student or chaperone going with us to D.C. this year, there will be a meeting on Thursday, March 26 at 7 PM in the Community Room. We offer this meeting as an opportunity for you to ask additional questions or seek further clarification about the trip. A packet of material will be sent home for your review by March 24. We are getting pretty excited around here!~Mr. Hayward



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 .
- For new families being called to HCA, that they will hear God's call and trust in Him.

PRAISE & THANK YOU

- For a wonderful Open House last week! Thank you to those parents that sent snacks in for the evening and for our encore teachers who provided fun activities!
- For the beautiful sunshine and melting of snow this week!



Classroom Happenings



~Preschool~

The children in preschool are very excited! They are growing their own plants that they will eat!!! We have peas, spinach, red lettuce and green lettuce growing right in the class. This was a great way to start off our current unit, "Little House on the Prairie". The children will spend the next three weeks learning all about life during the times of Laura Ingles Wilder. On Tuesday the children made butter, so be sure to ask them all about it. They will even be working in their own primers!!! Your children are such a blessing to us. Thank you for allowing us the privilege of teaching them!

Mrs. Cunsolo and Mrs. Younger are excited to present a class at the ACSI EEC Conference on meeting children's developmental needs through gardening and natural play. God has truly blessed our school and we are looking forward to sharing and connecting with other educators to promote learning that honors God and His creation!

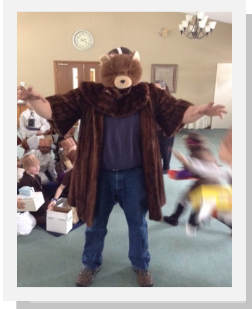
~Mrs. Younger and Preschool Staff

Team A ~ Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd Grade

Yesterday during Our Lewis and Clark Expedition we packed our keelboat and pirogues with boxes of supplies and took off down the Missouri River! We met Indian tribes along the way. Some Indians were friendly and we exchanged gifts and smoked the peace pipe. Others shot arrows at us and tried to take our supplies! We met Toussaint Charbonneau and Sacagawea at the fort we built near the Mandan Indian village where we spent the winter. We saw herds of buffalo on the plains and discovered new species of flora and fauna. Sacagawea had her baby (little "Pomp") and was reunited with her brother Cameahwait. She hadn't seen him since she was taken by the Hidatsa Indians when she was a young girl! He had become chief of the Shoshone Indians. She was able to speak to him and translate our need to buy horses for our trek over the Rocky Mts. It was a dangerous climb but we made it! Later we met Chief Twisted Hair of the Nez Perce tribe. He gave us fish and roots to eat and drew a map of the rivers



on elk skin for us to follow. We rode the rapids, had an encounter with a grizzly bear (grrrr!) and finally reached our destination, the Pacific Ocean! After wintering there we returned to President Thomas Jefferson with reports of adventure and new discoveries! It really was an amazing adventure!



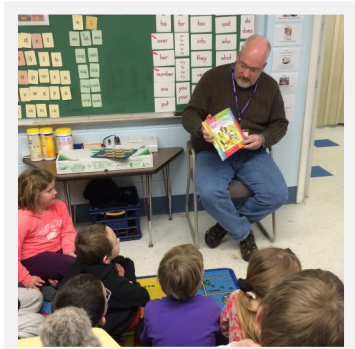
Special thanks to Mrs. Jewett (Teton Warrior), Mrs. Bleau and Mrs. O'Brien (friendly Indians & Chief Black Buffalo), Mr. Curtis (Charbonneau), Mrs. Jorritsma (Cameahwait), Mrs. Hayward (Chief Twisted hair of the Nez Perce) and Mr. Matt Brouillet (the grizzly bear! "Grrrr!")



In Bible we have been studying the story of Joseph and have spent time making discoveries about Ancient Egypt where Joseph went after he was sold by his brothers. We are seeing how God can use a bad situation for good.

Congratulations to our Read-a-Thon winners! Special thanks to our Celebrity Readers: Pastor John Barber from the

First Congregational Church of Holden and Mr. Lew Evangelidis (who is *very* tall!) of the Worcester County Sheriff's Office. We enjoyed your visit!



In Kindergarten they made hats and went on parade for the 100th day of school!



Don't forget the Wearin' o' the Green next Tuesday for St. Patrick's Day!

Now... Westward Ho!





Classroom Happenings



Team B ~ Grades 3 & 4



Grade three's two winners for the Read-a-thon this year are Ethan Enoch and Carlie Paharik! We are so very proud of their hard work and enthusiasm for reading!

Their March book report genre this month is non-fiction. Students have a packet they can fill out as they read. The packet should be completed by March 20th and their final book report on March 27th. Students in grades three and four will be starting micro seeds in the classroom on Friday and planting radishes, carrots and scallions in our Rootvue. It will be fun to watch vegetables grow underneath the soil as well as on top.

We are excited to be preparing for spring!

~Mrs. Jorritsma

Fourth grade is back in the swing of things after all those snow days. Thank you for working so hard over February vacation...it really helped! We have been working on fractions and will start decimals next week.

Reading groups are on Thursday afternoons so make sure that their reading books are always in their backpacks.

We have been doing a lot of writing and identifying the eight parts of speech.

Yesterday we displayed how many grams of sugar are in foods. The students were surprised to see that sugar is in yogurt and milk!

Thank you all for your support in striving for excellence. We are truly blessed!

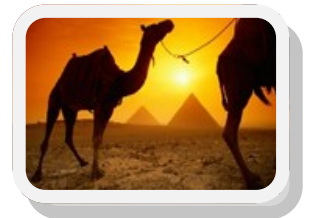
~Mrs. Reed

Team C ~ Grades 5 & 6

Grades 5 and 6 have been moving into the land of Egypt as we study the life of Joseph. We will be comparing and contrasting the two cultures that Joseph experienced. We will also look at the character qualities that Joseph displayed in the midst of difficulty and how God used him to continue His plan.



This week in science, students began to explore the beginning stages of gardening—how a seed grows. The students have dissected seeds, labeled their parts, and learned what each seed part will become once they interact with 3 essential components: warmth, water, and air. I am sensing spring is just around the corner—and so is a quiz! Coming soon...How are the nutrients we need connected to a healthy soil?



Team D ~ Grades 7 & 8

“For you will go out with joy
And be led forth with peace;
The mountains and the hills will break forth into shouts of joy before you,
And all the trees of the field will clap *their* hands. ~ Isaiah 55:12



How fascinating it has been to explore literature this past month. During our close reading of Fever 1793, the students have been amazed by the historical writing style of Laurie Halse Anderson. Her use of a vivid, descriptive style, expressive figurative language, and focused technique through foreshadowing and symbol are great models for us as we draft our own. In our study, we discovered that trees emerge as a symbol in the novel and have made a connection to trees in our own environment. Looking at the trees around us and considering their historical significance, in terms of what our trees have “seen” integrates Language Arts, History and FFL. We are also looking forward to seeing the tulip poplars which George Washington planted at Mount Vernon on our Washington D.C. trip in April.

We are making great headway in Spanish. Spending 5 to 10 minutes per day in practice and review has increased their confidence and they are performing quite well. I appreciate the renewed vigor and focus at present. They are seeing the benefits and excited about their progress. Blessings, Mrs. Campbell