



Pathways

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

A Newsletter for Holden Christian Academy

March 13, 2014

Principal's Corner

Dear Friends,



Two weeks from today is,,,,drum roll please....**AFRICA DAY!**

Big days are a hallmark of HCA. They are meant to be a showplace where students celebrate their learning and share it with others. Each classroom is currently being transformed to reflect an Africa country with décor and activities that represent a slice of life from that country. The gym will have an African café and market. Each class will be divided into thirds and students will spend the morning rotating between:

1. their own class, where they will participate in an ethno-drama, which is a slice of life from the daily life and customs of their people.
 2. other classes and the gym, where they are the guest anthropologists visiting African countries. They will fill out a passport page with pertinent information about each country they visit.
- the gym, where they will work at the market or the café. (Team A will make a stop at an African movie to rest during this rotation.)

We then break for lunch. The after lunch activities are still being finalized but may include music, an African game show, a fashion show, and more!

Details to come!!

As you can guess, we will need lots of parents to help in the classroom, shepherd kids and oversee the café and marketplace. Each teacher needs at least three helpers. Please let your child's teacher know if you can help. Big days are not shows, but we encourage parents to attend and help if you are able. Warning....If you attend... be ready to help! Grandparents are allowed to attend without working although they must RSVP so we can plan crowd control and food. My mother is bringing a group of 12 elderly women from Connecticut. They attended the Chicago World's Fair two years ago and have been excited to return!

Each student will wear appropriate (easily constructed) African clothing, make something to be sold at the market place, cook something for the café, and donate fruit or vegetable for the market. The teachers will let you know what is being done at school and what needs to come from home. I'm sure they could use some extra help with cooking and creating next week as well. Please let us know your availability.

We are very excited and look forward with joyful expectation (and just a little stress) to this glorious day!

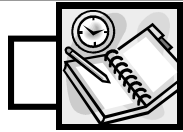
In Him, Susan Hayward, Principal



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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www.holdenchristianacademy.org



HCA Calendar

March 14	Grades K-8 Hearing screening
March 17-21	Teacher Appreciation Week
March 20	7 p.m. Open House—bring a family!
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 birthday party in May; that many will attend as we celebrate 20 years!

PRAISE & THANK YOU

- Thank you to all that participated in and donated to our Read-a-thon!

Some things to look forward to...

Yard signs will be coming soon! New slogans, as well as the ones we used last year.

Are you on facebook? Make sure to LIKE Holden Christian Academy at www.facebook.com/holdenchristianacademy, or follow the facebook link from our webpage www.holdenchristianacademy.org

March 20 ~ invite a family to our next Every Family Bring a Family Open House at 7 p.m.. Word of mouth is still our best form of advertisement.

May 31.....Invite everyone who has ever had anything to do with HCA...it's our 20th birthday party and we're going to celebrate big! This will be in lieu of our banquet this year; invitations will be coming soon. Send in addresses of anyone you would like to have receive a mailed invitation. You'll also have the opportunity to email and e-vite, and share the invitation on facebook.

Principal's Book of Excellence celebrates...

Kindergarten

Rebecca, for writing 100 words for the 100th day of school!

Ryleigh, for being a peacebuilder like David in the Bible.

Grade 1

Dayton, for being a good sport, saying "good job" to the Read-a-thon winners

and

for taking responsibility to put away the gym equipment in the morning.

Grade 3

Brianna, for sharing nutritious snacks with friends.

Carlie, for being a great friend to the African Children's Choir.

Charles, for sharing snacks when a friend did not have one.

Liana, for cleaning up a mess that she did not create.

Maddie G., for working hard on her minutes for the read-a-thon.

Nate, for sharing nutritious snacks with friends.

Steven, for his bravery playing drums at the African Children's Choir workshop.

Grade 5

Bethany, for expressing a heart of worship during Chapel

and

her great contribution in class and being helpful to a substitute teacher.

Cassie, for helping Mrs. T. put up the conjunction bulletin board.

Garret, for improved effort in class assignments, and for helping Mrs. T. put up the bulletin board.

Olivia, for helping a classmate get settled into her new school.

Sam, for outstanding effort and positive attitude in Spanish class.

Sarah, for putting forth great effort in her classwork.

Grade 6

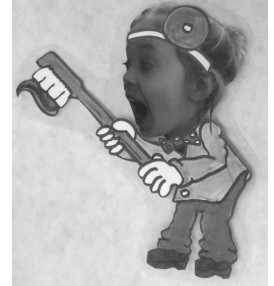
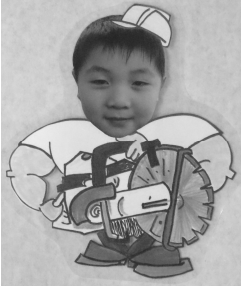
Elu, for her tremendous use of vocabulary and vibrant enthusiasm in Spanish class.



Classroom Happenings

Preschool

Preschool has just wrapped up our unit on community helpers. The children enjoyed visits from Dr. Mulroy (Vaughn's dad) our local dentist, a mail carrier with the Holden post office, a police officer who showed the children his police car and the items he carries on his police belt, and a firefighter from the Holden fire station. They enjoyed playing the part of these important community helpers with dress up clothes and props.



This week we have begun our "Children Around the World" unit! We will learn about the countries that represent our HCA Preschool students. So far, on our list we have; America, England, Hong Kong, Kenya, Ghana, Brazil , Haiti and Puerto Rico! We are looking forward to fun and informative visits from parents of our preschoolers who will share something from their cultural heritage with us (food, songs, stories , pictures and more). So, we have an exciting month ahead of us as we learn and grow! How blessed we are to have such a wonderful , culturally diverse class! How awesome to be able to teach that Jesus loves the little children of the world! ~ Mrs. Younger

Team A ~ Grades K-2

Jambo! Learning about Kenya is *so* fascinating! We wish we could go on a field trip to visit the Masai tribe and see the animals on a *real* safari!

Thank you for providing soap and sticks for projects we are currently working on. We will need clean, empty **juice boxes** and **milk bottle caps** for Tuesday, March 18.

Mrs. Stewart is requesting that each student bring in a **coffee can** for music.

For Africa Day on March 27, Team A students will wear batik t-shirts (done in art). We'll send them home when they're done. The Masai wear brightly colored cloth over this undergarment. Red is a predominant color. (See pic below (this will be in color online.) Please provide fabric of your choice for your child to wear to school that day.

Parents are welcome to *come and help* on Africa Day. Grandparents are welcome to attend.

Blessings, Mrs. Caron, Mrs. Hughes, and Mrs. Poirier



P.S. Thank you for the Happy Birthday gifts and wishes. Love, Mrs. Caron :-)

Team B ~ Grades 3&4

The third grade is beginning to feel excited while getting prepared for Africa Day on March 27. We are making beads out of paper and will be painting them to sell at the market. This term we are focusing on sentence structure, the parts of speech, and writing. We are also working on strategies to improve reading comprehension. The students are now writing sentences in cur- sive and their progress is excellent! I am looking forward to the blessing of being able to watch them develop even more new skills.

Blessings, Mrs. Mikol

We are truly enjoying our South African fiction book discussions on Zulu Dog & The Dolphin Song. Only one more week to go - so keep up with the great reading and be finished and ready for our last discussion next Tuesday, March 18th.

All South African topics have been assigned and we look forward to getting ready for Africa Day on March 27th. The geography map test on the continent of Africa has been changed to Friday. Be ready :)

We need a large appliance box (washer or dryer) for making an African house; if you have one, please contact me.

I can't believe we're finishing up fractions this week. Decimals....here we come!

Fourth grade is grateful for spring...but a bit sad that our time together is closing in :(I LOVE your kids!!

~ Mrs. Reed



Classroom Happenings *continued*

Team C ~ Grades 5 & 6

A typical day in 5th grade includes devotions. In the last two months for devotions, we have been doing some topical studies taken from the resource, *Parenting with Scripture*. The topics we have covered so far include character, bragging, and choices. We define the topic, and then we discuss the scriptures that can help us deal with the various topics. This has spurred on some good conversation, and hopefully some personal reflection as well.. I know that not all of the scriptures in these studies will be memorized, but we do try to capture some of them in our journals. I am confident that the Holy Spirit will bring these scriptures to mind when they are most needed.

I want to thank you for your continued support in prayer for our class. The students have been growing in many areas. Please continue to pray that their pursuit of excellence is directed toward pleasing our Heavenly Father. Also, pray that their classroom friendships remain healthy and pleasing to the Lord.

As for their academics, you may have noticed, that the homework load in LA has been reduced so that we can focus on the various assignments associated with the Science Fair. Please encourage your child to keep on track with the assignments. There are many steps involved in the process, and falling behind will place them at a disadvantage. Also, students should be prepared with their science folder data, resource cards, and resources each day. By the way, our class has chosen some interesting topics, and I am looking forward to seeing their final project results. Check out your child's project schedule for the science fair dates.

Finally, we have Africa Day coming up soon. I am looking for some help so that we can transform our class into a Liberian village. I will also need a parent helper on Thursday, March 27th to help in the classroom during our Africa Day festivities. Please send me a note or email if you are available.

May the Lord richly bless you.

In Christ, *Maggie Torres for Team C*

Team D ~ Grades 7 & 8

While exploring learning styles through my FFL studies, I've discovered that I tend to be more kinesthetic in my teaching. I love to dance and move around in general. I can be quite animated. We've done the Electric Slide during 8th grade sentence peer review this year. 6th grade had to 'do a little dance' if they had the correct adjective when we were correcting homework a while back. Well, this time, I've brought the art of massage into LA.

Some people greatly enjoy the feeling of a wonderful massage. The relaxation it brings as you ease out the kinks and knots present in the body is a soothing sensation.

As we have been revising our Science Fair research essays in Language Arts for style, organization, and conventions, I've used the imagery of massage with the 6th-8th graders. In essence, we are massaging our Science Fair research essays. We're working out the kinks and knots to make our essays smoother, to make them flow better, to create the professionalism that is required in our writing for this type of assignment. The students have embraced this idea whole-heartedly. I wish you could witness these workdays. Students bent over essays with pencils in hand, attacking their essays, making revisions, with the intent to improve their work. It has been a thing of beauty.

I'm so proud of them. Although the final copies will be neat and presentable for Science Fair night on April 10th, I'm tempted to put out the ones they have been revising for you to see the work they have put into these essays. Who says LA isn't fun?

~ Many blessings, Mrs. Campbell

We're halfway there!... We only have 4 weeks until the HCA Science Fair! The 7th and 8th grade students have been hard at work and have completed the first half of their projects and are beginning experiments this weekend. Very exciting!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for Thursday April 10th @ 7pm ~HCA Science Fair. An invitation went home today in WOW folders.

We are looking for 25 science fair judges. If you know someone with a science background who might be interested in being a judge, please share their name with me (Heather Holgate - hholgate@holdenchristianacademy.org) and I will reach out to them.

Friday is Pi day! Given the date is 3.14, we enjoy celebrating this all important number in mathematics! We will eat pie and enjoy pi activities. Remember: $C=2\pi r$

Very grateful for your partnership, *Mrs. Holgate*



Read-a-thon Update

Our winners for the limo trips were chosen as those that raised the most money and read the most minutes in each class. The winners in Grades K-4 enjoyed a limo trip to Friendly's in Holden. Our winners in Grades 5-8 went in the limo to the Scholastic Book Warehouse in Clinton. A fun time was had by all! Thank you for your donations...over \$14,500 was raised.

Grade K ~ Emma and Matthew
Grade 1 ~ David and Nathan
Grade 2 ~ Adriana and Carlie
Grade 3 ~ Charles and Madelyn
Grade 4 ~ Breanna and Daniel

Grade 5 ~ Bethany and KK
Grade 6 ~ Cameron and Elu
Grade 7 ~ Aidan and Jacob
Grade 8 ~ Conway and Hanna

Congratulations to our winners, and thank you to all who participated! Remember you can still use www.reader-rewards.com to keep track of minutes and books read.