

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:

March 20- 6:30pm Mandatory
Canada trip meeting (see page 4
for details)

March 21 - Term 4
Development Day, no school

March 28 - Medieval Feast &
Faire (volunteers please **sign up**)

April 4 - Term 3 ends

April 11 - Early Ed Conference
at HCA, no school for Preschool
only (K-8 in session)

April 14-18 - Canada Trip
(Grades 5-8)

April 18 - Good Friday, no
school

April 21-25 - April break, no
school

April 30 - 1/2 day release,
Parent Teacher Conferences



PRINCIPAL’S CORNER

At this time of year, we begin thinking forward. We are thinking forward to spring, to warmer sunshine, to the next school year. As we strongly desire to build our enrollment for next school year, I want to share some **research that supports the decision to remain at a good K-8 school until high school.**

Generally, the K-8 model offers several advantages:

- A stable environment through the challenging years of early adolescence
- Maintaining continuity academically
- Mentoring and leadership opportunities as the oldest students in the school
- A strong sense of community
- Consistent expectations within the school culture
- The support of long term friendships

As a *Christian* K-8 school, HCA provides the above qualities with added value. Our students flourish in an **environment where they feel safe, wanted, and loved**. They enjoy **learning experientially**, without losing their sense of wonder and excitement. More importantly, students at HCA are learning to value themselves and others as **Image Bearers of God**. They are created in His image to do His work. This perspective provides purpose and is a **stabilizing force** as students enter adolescence. HCA students are confident to take risks and grow, and they are mentored in how to live together as a community.

As a parent, what I valued most about having my own children at HCA through middle school was that they were confident and stable at a time when they were gaining the ability to understand God's word at a deeper level. Middle school students who feel safe, wanted, and loved with their teachers and their peers ask challenging questions that deepen their faith. This sense of security, coupled with their new ability to think abstractly and reason hypothetically, provides the opportunity for students to mature spiritually. Students wrestle with the Truths of God in new and exciting ways. This **greater understanding of God and His Word has a powerful impact on their high school experience and beyond**.

Will you help us build enrollment for next year by sharing these benefits with friends and family? As you will see on page 4, we now have a **Family Referral Program**, which includes a \$250 incentive per new student referred by your family!

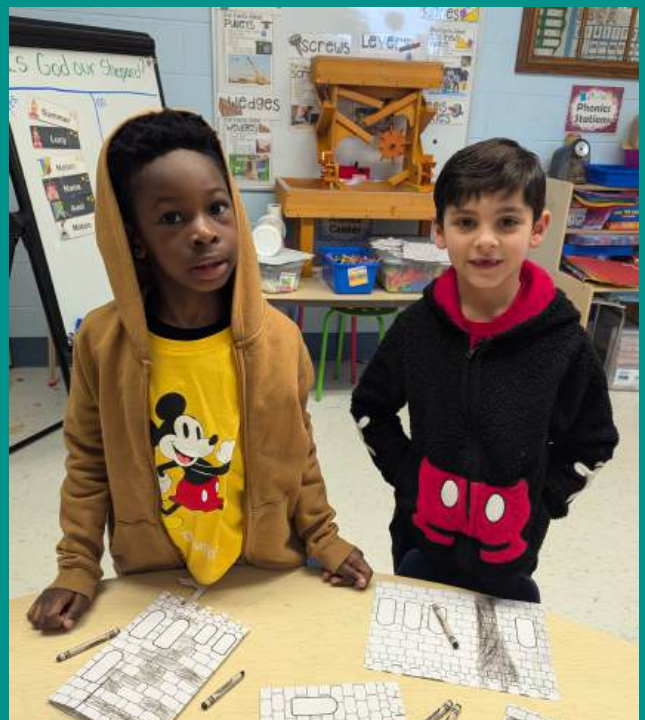
If you yourself are a family wondering about the future, and making a decision about when to move on from HCA (whether during the middle school years, or upon graduation from HCA), you aren't alone. Until we have a high school at HCA, this is a question many parents will ask. I am sure you can guess what my recommendation will be!

HCA's mission and vision remain strong: to inspire students to love learning, to honor God, and to provide creative learning opportunities and strong academics. We look forward to serving your family for years to come!

By His grace,
~Mrs. Cleveland, Principal

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

DISNEY DAY WAS A HIT DURING SPIRIT WEEK!



Please take note....

HCA FAMILY REFERRAL PROGRAM!!!!

Many families initially hear about HCA from those who have had a personal experience with the school. Your personal observations and stories about the HCA experience are impactful and our school community is blessed by your part in its growth. HCA's Family Referral Program is one way we would like to thank you for recommending families who become a part of the HCA community.

Here is how HCA's Family Referral Program works:

1. A new family names you for recommending HCA to them on their application.
2. New students are accepted and the new family completes their enrollment packet.
3. If the new family AND your family are up to date with all tuition and fee payments, then you (as the Referring Family) will receive a check for **\$250** for each new student at Orientation Day in Fall 2025!

We are thankful for the strong academics and warm culture of our HCA community and we look forward to sharing it with many more!

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>

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!

ATTENTION Canada Trip Participants in Grades 5-8!

We have a mandatory meeting in the Holden Chapel Welcome Center next Thursday, 3/20 at 6:30pm. Enter through the glass door under the portico.

Please make sure you have all your forms notarized by this meeting.

See email from Mr. Curtis with details coming next week!

Preschool News!

Hello from HCA Preschool!

While K-8 students are studying medieval times, the Preschool's twist on that theme is a focus on fairy tales and nursery rhymes! We are all about Castles, Kings, Queens, and Knights. You may hear Preschoolers singing nursery rhymes or "He is the King of Kings" in the hallway or on the playground.



We learned about the king and queen of England. See above for some cute photos of them dressed up next to the classroom "castle". We are looking forward to our Medieval ball coming up March 26 & 28. (Refer to the email from Ms. Eileen for those details!)

Lately, our focus letters have been Kk, Qq and Pp. We jumped over candle sticks and measured how many inches we jumped and danced to the armor of God! Preschool is fun!

Love, Ms. Ruth, Ms. Jessica, Ms. Martha, Ms. Jennifer, and Ms. Eileen

Team A News!

Kindergarten Update from Mrs. Coombs:

We are well into Term 3 and the class has thoroughly enjoyed learning about the Middle Ages. The class is still operating under the feudal system and King "N" is doing a wonderful job keeping his kingdom in order. The Lords and Ladies, as well as his Knights, are keeping the land safe. The peasants continue to farm the land for wheat and carrots. (Make sure to ask your student which role they play!) The students worked hard to complete their classroom castle. They researched and labeled the outside parts of the castle and they even built their own fully operating drawbridge with pulley system as part of our Science unit. Next we will learn about Knights, as the students continue to work on their coat of arms for the Medieval Feast. We are all very excited about the Medieval Feast!

While Kindergarten is learning about medieval kingdoms we are also learning about God's Kingdom through the parables as told by Jesus. So far we have learned what it really means to have a firm foundation: one that is built on a "rock" and not "sand". The class got to experience the Parable of Laborers in the Vineyard first hand! Each student was given the same amount of goldfish even though some worked longer than others and through that we learned about God's generosity, grace, and forgiveness as well as how we all can enter the Kingdom of God. We will continue to learn more of Jesus' parables through the conclusion of Term 3.

It's an exciting time in FUNdations! We are finishing up Unit 3 and have started learning about "trick" words. This will include spelling and reading simple CVC (consonant vowel consonant) words. We have also begun journaling once a week which allows the students to express themselves through words and pictures which gives them a chance to self-reflect on what they did over the weekend! As we move into Unit 4 we will take on digraphs and increase our knowledge of trick words.

We will complete addition and subtraction using the numbers 10 and below. Afterwards, we will transition to 2D and 3D shapes in the following weeks. While studying shapes we incorporate this unit into our Middle Ages curriculum but using these unique structures as the basis for finding shapes! Students will draw a castle using the shapes taught during the unit. We are all excited for what the term encompasses, and I encourage each of you to discuss with your child the fun things they are learning in class. God bless.



Grade 1 Update from Ms. LeShane:

Stepping into the first-grade classroom this term, I knew I had big shoes to fill because Mrs. Shand is truly incredible and irreplaceable. However, I am happy to report that the transition into the classroom has gone wonderfully! The shift has been smooth, filled with lots of laughs, and, most importantly, a lot of learning.

In History, we dove into the fascinating world of the Middle Ages! The students learned about feudalism, the system of knights, lords, and peasants that governed medieval society. We explored the significance of coats of arms and the symbolism behind these family crests. The children also discovered what people ate during this time and the architecture of grand castles that protected knights and royalty. The Middle Ages came alive for our students through discussions, stories, and activities! While studying this period, students also learned about the Armor of God. Students learned how God calls us to "put on the armor of light" (Romans 13:12) because it protects us and defends us from darkness. Just as knights used armor to protect themselves in battle, we can use God's armor to help us "fight the good fight of faith" (1 Timothy 6:12).

We recently ended our study of the simple machines we know as axles and wheels. Students celebrated their learning through constructing and racing their own race cars (see pic below!). Next up we will learn about levers and build catapults!

In Language Arts, your children have been hard at work in creating a rough draft of their informational books. They will be publishing their books in Term 4! Your students were also able to write a book for Mrs. Shand before she left on her maternity leave. Each student wrote a page in the book providing Mrs. Shand with their advice on how to calm a crying baby, what the most important thing to teach the baby is, and what they believe the baby's name should be (one student even guessed Mrs. Shand's baby's name!).

Term 3 has been packed full with creativity and fun activities. I am so excited for what's ahead in grade one!



Grade 2 Update from Mrs. McGrail

We have been busy in Term 3 gearing up for all things medieval! Here's the latest happenings: Bible- Armor of God! So far we have learned about the Belt of Truth and Chestplate of Righteousness. Ask your kids what it's all about! This unit has drawn excellent discussions in our group. As we complete each piece of Armor, students are adding onto a poster that will go home for their wall so they are always reminded of the mighty Armor of God.

Math- Like a breath of fresh spring air- we are in measurement! Grade Two has thoroughly enjoyed measuring in centimeters and meters! I look forward to the fun of measuring in inches and yards!

FUNdations: Unit 10- All about the "A" sound from "AI" and "AY." We are also learning about homophones!

History continues to be a blast with all things medieval. We have made paper bag cloaks as an accessory piece for the Medieval Feast. We have learned about the clothing basics and have checked clothing out in person! We are also learning about castles and building individual castles for our table spots! Science will continue to focus on the basics of simple machines (pulleys, wheels, etc.)

For the Medieval Feast - students are allowed to dress up! This is NOT to burden families financially. I have a few outfits I can share and a note with budget friendly ideas to make with a t-shirt have been sent home with your student as well.

~Mrs. McGrail



Team B News!

FROM MS. RENNIE'S DESK:

We have been having so much fun living in our classroom castle and learning so many facts about the Middle Ages! We have been reading and researching (in real books ☺); writing stories about our lives (final drafts are written in cursive); adding pictures and facts to our bulletin board; and testing whose catapult will launch the farthest. Next week, we will build trebuchets and compare them to our catapults in our Science studies of simple machines.

We continue to compare parables in Bible. I love our discussions! You have raised awesome kids!!

Their March book report is a pamphlet on their Medieval book. Most have finished their book and the pamphlet is in the side pocket of their binders. It is due Monday, March 24th.

Everyone is doing fantastic with fractions. We are comparing fractions, working with equivalent and improper fractions, and we even started to simplify them. Next week, we will start measurements of time and the metric system.

We did some indoor planting of flowers this week and they are already starting to show signs of growth. YAY Spring ☺

We are getting excited about the upcoming Medieval Feast on Friday, March 28th. Please see their binders for clothing ideas. Consignment shops are an affordable option for clothing. Make sure to see the email that Lady Graham sent on March 3rd about helping out on Sign-up Genius. All parents are welcome to volunteer, and I just need one parent helper in our classroom that day to help the students work on their activity and visit the guilds.

We are going to dehydrate 4 bags of apples, so if each students could to bring in a bag of Gala apples, by next Wednesday, March 19th, I would really appreciate it!!

Each third grade student is assigned to bring two (2) 16-ounce bottles of ranch dressing on Friday, March 28th.

Everyone starts their day with washing their hands and we are praying for a healthy and healing spring. Blessings to you all.

Thank you,
Ms. Rennie

A note from Mrs. Velarde:

Hello 4th Grade families!

Here are some updates from the 4th grade classroom since the last Pathways. The biggest update is that our Desk Pet Castle is complete! (See pictures below) I am so proud of the hard work that each student put into their castle room and their presentation. The desk pets are happily getting used to their new surroundings and are enjoying the amenities that it has to offer (including a working drawbridge!) 4th grade also completed the memorization of Colossians 1:10-20 and recited it for Mrs. Cleveland! I am so proud of the perseverance and determination each one showed as they worked through the passage. In Science, we continue to make progress learning about simple machines and their uses in the Middle Ages. Our current math lessons are revolving around area and perimeter. We have even begun to dabble in some algebra as we find unknown measures in area and perimeter problems. They are really beginning to hone their math skills and are focusing on making sure they know what each number means in a given problem. I am continually amazed by the way God created each one to be so unique and creative! Their problem-solving skills and willingness to push through more challenging questions in all subjects are a joy to see as a teacher! We continue to look forward to the Medieval Feast and many other exciting things to come! It is such a blessing to spend every day with these students and watch them grow and mature.



News from Mr. Galvão

Hey parents! Term 3 has been rolling, and it's been going excellently! So far, the students have really enjoyed learning more about the medieval era: kings, queens, knights, castles, and especially the lingo of the times. Some of our students have already started practicing the medieval words in their daily speech as we approach the Medieval Feast. This has paired nicely with our reading of C.S. Lewis' The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe, since it does take place in a medieval setting, and a lot of the vocab they're seeing in History is being shown in practice throughout the novel. As for Math, we will be finishing up our lessons on division and dividing decimals by the end of this week.

I would like to remind the parents about the agenda located in the students' binders. If you could please check it every night and initial the right side, it would be very helpful. Since we are approaching the end of the year, some students have forgotten to use their agendas and homework submission has been waning. Let's finish off this year as excellently as we began it.

Thank you so much!

Gabriel P. Galvao - 5th Grade Teacher



"Disney Day" was a hit in Grade 5 during Spirit Week!

Middle School News!

Mr. Shea's Shenanigans:

Hello Middle School Parents!

We are continuing to work towards our Medieval Feast day on March 28th. Grades 6 and 8 have divided into three guilds to create and share some daily life in the Middle Ages with the younger students. Each guild will share some of their purpose and trades through some activities during the first half of the day. In accordance with HCA tradition, students are asked to dress in costume for the event. Please do NOT feel that you have to spend significant amounts of money on these costumes. It is easy to accomplish the Medieval look inexpensively. Here is a link to a quick and easy way to help you and your students create a convincing and inexpensive costume without breaking the bank. [Click here.](#)

As we near the Medieval Feast, Middle School students will be reading one of the first pieces of written English literature, the epic poem "Beowulf." The story focuses on the importance of community, bravery, and friendship as the hero, Beowulf, fights to defend the meeting hall of an early Anglo-Saxon kingdom. The story highlights the importance of the Medieval Feast and illustrates the hero's journey plot line that we have been learning about throughout the school year. After reading "Beowulf," students will try their hand at creating their own epic poems to perform at the feast. As always, I cannot wait to see what our students will create!



6th grade ladies on Disney Day!

God bless,
Jeremiah Shea

Mr. Curtis' Corner:

History: Preparations for the Medieval Feast and Faire Day are well underway. Middle School students have been hard at work researching tradesmen guilds. Their goal is to recreate part of a medieval town with different craftsmen and vendors. Team's A and B students will visit the guilds on the Feast Day to get a taste of different crafts and services during ancient times. We currently have Bakers, Blacksmiths, Beauticians, Carpenters, Falconers and Merchants guilds. **If you have any props or interest in helping in any of these areas please let us know.** All of our Middle School students should dress in time period themed clothing for the day. Please have your student use pieces of clothing they already own to put together an outfit. We are looking forward to an exciting day in the Middle Ages.

Bible: Our Middle School was so blessed by Mr. Huffman and his team of volunteers as they visited a few weeks ago for S.E.W. part 2. It was a beautiful model of discipleship, seeing one generation of students (high school) lead and invest in another (middle school).

In Bible class, we have been continuing to unpack and apply Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Students have really enjoyed and appreciated The Bible Projects' videos on the passage. We also recently took a stab with Mrs. Heenan at trying to put the Lord's Prayer into our own words to try and help students understand what Jesus was teaching the disciples when he taught them how to pray. If you are passing through the Middle School hallway feel free to take a peek at what our students came up with.



Mr. Curtis and some future medical staff having some fun on "Career Day"

MRS. GALVÃO'S MUSINGS

Hi Middle School parents,

We are halfway through Term 3, and it's been a blessing. This is a term where we don't have many breaks during the week, so the students can keep a good pace with their academics, especially in Science.

Since we have the Science Fair this term, I'm taking it slow with Math for both 6th and 8th grade. But at the same time, the students are being able to keep up with the new math concepts that they have been learning.

As I just mentioned, this term for science is solely focused on the Science Fair. It's not an easy task for the students, but that is helping them to build their research skills, which is not just looking for information but understanding it and applying that new knowledge in a scientific paper.

It's a stressful term, so thank you for supporting your child and the school.

Thank you for partnering with me,
Mrs. Galvão

