



Pathways

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

A Newsletter for Holden Christian Academy

March 26, 2015

Principal's Corner

Dear friends,

Tomorrow is Development Day. My mind has been in Term 4 all this week as I have prepared. Despite the longest winter, the school year is going very quickly. May and June will be here in a blink. It seems that the years speed up the older we get. Beth Lundergan was just in my office telling me that her daughter Bridget will be going to Gordon College next year. (Yeah!) I can picture Bridget's little face in kindergarten. I've been looking back at old DC pictures and relived the trips I took with my two sons who are now 26 and 30. I think my HCA polo shirt may be 20 years old!

Last night, my husband and I watched a new documentary called *Privileged Species*. It starts with Bill Nye the science guy saying that we are just blips in the universe that is full of blips. Other scientists went on to give amazing evidence for the perfection of the plan of planet earth and how it was perfectly designed for life- especially human life. The Bible affirms that plan and gives us hope for the future. It says that God planned for us before the foundations of the earth and that we are created in His image.

Which is it? Are our lives just blips in a meaningless universe or are we created in God's image, planned for, and precious in His sight? Is death the end of an incredibly short and insignificant life or the beginning of an eternity either spent with the living God, exploring His universe and enjoying all He has planned for us or forever separated from Him by our own choosing? Behind the plan there must be a planner and we know who He is.

Every year I am blessed by parents who sacrifice so much to give their children a Christian school education. If our lives are just blips, then you have wasted your money. But, if God really is God and His promises really are true, then giving your child the firm foundation of a Biblical worldview is the best, most wise decision you could make. It has eternal significance and I believe that God is pleased!

Blessings to you all and enjoy your home-school 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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Mark Your Calendar!

March 26	Washington D.C. Family Meeting at 7 p.m.
March 27	Home School Day-Term 4 Development Day
March 31	Spring Picture Day
April 3	Good Friday-NO SCHOOL
April 10	***Term 3 Ends***
April 13-17	Washington D.C. Trip-Grades 5-8
April 20-24	Spring Break-NO SCHOOL
April 29	***Parent/Teacher Conferences***
May 15	***HCA Banquet***
May 28	***Spring Concert at 7 p.m.***
June 10	***Preschool Graduation***
June 11	***8th Grade Graduation at 7 p.m.***
June 12	***Last Day of School (1/2 day)***

***indicates new/changed date

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.

Washington D.C. Family Meeting!



If you are a parent, student or chaperone going with us to D.C. this year, there will be a meeting **tonight at 7 p.m.** 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 was sent home for your review earlier in the week. 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 fantastic ACSI Early Educators Conference that was hosted at Holden Chapel/HCA. Thank you to those parents that came in and helped with setting up, cleaning up and preparing lunch for the delegates. Thank you, THANK YOU!

Principal's Book of Excellence celebrates...

Kindergarten

Lydia, for being quick to help a friend clean up his colored pencils when they spilled.

Grade 1

Mia, for being a respectful listener as classmates presented their Lewis and Clark stories.

Kaylee, for being a respectful listener as classmates presented their Lewis and Clark stories.

Ryleigh, for being a respectful listener as classmates presented their Lewis and Clark stories.

Alexi, for her tender heart and thoughtful prayers.

Grade 2

Daniel, for consistently using his manners when he comes to the office for Mrs. T errands.

Grade 6

Matthew for taking the time to work carefully and check his work.

Kyle, for always being available to help classmates with an assignment.

Victoria C., for sharing her joyful attitude with her teacher and classmates.

Sam, for his kindness and care toward younger students.

Emma, for perseverance through difficult math problems.

Isaiah S., for maintaining a high standard of behavior.

Olivia, for graciously sharing her computer cord for the Early Childhood Conference.

Grade 8

Deven, for his thoughtfulness in completing a yucky task, sterilizing the water fountain, benefitting the entire school.

Enrichment Program Coordinator Employment Opportunity

The Enrichment Program Coordinator:

- ◆ Works with the teachers and administration to plan electives based on the next term's curriculum, and finds and schedules volunteers to teach each of these classes.
- ◆ Coordinates volunteers/staff for coverage in Grades K-2 on Wednesday afternoons, as well as office and dismissal coverage.
- ◆ The person in this position is in charge of all volunteers, and therefore the students, on Wednesday afternoons while the teachers are in a staff meeting.
- ◆ Time commitment is an average of 15 hours per week.

Please stop by or email the office for further information and/or an application!



Classroom Happenings



Team A ~ Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd Grade



Save the Date: FRONTIER DAY IS APRIL 10TH, 12:30-2:30 PM.

Look for a grandparent's invitation, to give/send to grandparents, in your child's folder.

Some general items needed are: glass baby food jars, tea lights, coffee cans, any old fashioned tools or paraphernalia (see the team notice for details)



Just like the Pioneers, the students in Team A have been "Moving West." Our center time switch activities have focused on Pioneer life, and have included making miniature covered wagons, making pioneer toys, learning about pioneer clothes, baking maple cakes, and even sewing paper quilts. One student in second grade noted in his journal, "It was a hard life!" We are looking forward to Frontier Day. Please see the separate flyer for additional information.

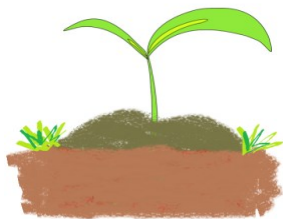


We have also been learning about our bodies in our health unit. We thank Dr. Pollitt, the parent of one of our kindergarten students, who led our classes in a wonderful discussion about healthy bodies. The kids had an opportunity to use a little rubber hammer (to check patellar reflexes,) listen to heartbeats with a stethoscope, and some even had their blood pressure taken. Dr. Pollitt ended his discussion with praise for our ultimate healer and creator, God.



During our Bible time, students made clay scarabs and practiced some hieroglyphic writing. And now we are wrapping up studies of Joseph and Egyptian life, and are shifting our focus on Easter. In term four we will study Moses and the Exodus. As we prepare to celebrate Easter, you may want to consider talking with your child about how God's redemptive plan for us on the cross, and the first Passover in Egypt are connected.

Team B ~ Grades 3 & 4



Grade 3 continues to germinate seeds in the classroom. We have had success with our tomato plants and our root grow! It is very exciting for the kids to see the young seedlings sprout. We have also started our own wild yeast. We will be making sour-

dough bread in the classroom using the yeast, just as we read about in our classroom story *The Bread Sister of Sinking Creek* by Robin Moore.

Students have been sent home with a packet to complete for their homeschool day tomorrow.

Blessings,
Mrs. Jorritsma

I am so proud of how hard fourth grade has been working. Working through February vacation really made a difference. THANK YOU! Tomorrow is a work day to help make up snow days. Please have them work on their Math sheets and they can finish their final draft of their story, if they haven't already finished it.

We planted our cotton seeds - hoping we have success this year...that they will bloom :). We will be moving from decimals to geometry next week, studying the digestive system, and starting our study of the Civil War. The April Book Report criteria is in their binders.

Thank you SO much for partnering with me to help keep your children focused and organized. Bless you!! I LOVE them!!





Classroom Happenings



Team C ~ Grades 5 & 6

Greetings from Team C, I cannot believe that it has already been a month since coming here to HCA. All of you and your children have been so welcoming; it has made it a much easier transition for all! I have sincerely enjoyed getting to know everyone and if we have not met please feel free to introduce yourself.

5th and 6th grade have been traveling the early United States in history with much help from our friends Lewis and Clark. Recently when celebrating St. Patrick's Day, we learned what the Bible has to say about being a saint. We also explored comparing legends to actual historical events when it came to Patrick. Soon we will be gearing up for the divide of our nation and be entering the Civil War. This afternoon, we got to take a sneak peak into the future and took a virtual field trip to Ford's Theatre where Abraham Lincoln was assassinated.

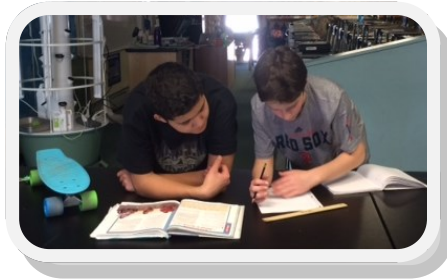


We are all looking forward to the warmer temperatures and green of spring. ~Mr. Curtis

Team D~ Grades 7 & 8

In 7th grade we are now studying the Human Body and we will be focused on this until the end of the year. This week we dissected a raw chicken wing to explore skeletal muscles. We looked for tendons, nerves and blood vessels and got a good idea of how these things work together. The entire class did a fantastic job... but they may never look at a chicken wing the same way.

In 8th grade we are exploring $\text{Force} = \text{Mass} \times \text{Acceleration}$. We completed two labs exploring and measuring friction and force in Newtons. We broke into teams and completed labs simultaneously and presented our findings. Great work!



Next week in Math we will be working together on how to create scaled garden designs. I am very excited about this as it means we will be outside in the dirt very soon. Can't wait!

Students will participate in a garden design competition and the winner will be our project manager and lead us in our planting. What a privilege it is to have our garden and out side classroom!



We have 2 weeks left in Term 3 and then we are off to Washington, D.C.!

May you enjoy your Easter celebrations.
Grateful for your partnership,
~Mrs. Holgate

~After School Program~

Our after school program has steadily grown so that Mrs. Wheatley and Mrs. Ravina can both get hands on activities with the children. We will emphasize doing homework after a little gym time and exercise. Mrs. Ravina loves to make healthier snacks such as apple crisp, kale chips, smoothies, popcorn and veggies with ranch dressing. If anyone wants to contribute to our snack fund they are more than welcome. Thankfully many of our after school parents have freely given us treats and helped replenish our stock! This is only a free will offering so don't feel obligated! We just want those who contribute to know they are appreciated. What we love most is seeing your children make healthy choices in so many areas of life.

The children have shown us their infinite creativity through play. This is one way the brain of a growing child can expand to its fullest potential--through play! Perhaps that is one reason why Jesus said we have to become as children to enter into his kingdom. Children resolve things through play quickly and beautifully. We can praise all our after school kids for the many ways they learn to interact with each other and enhance their gifts and problem solving ability as they play together. That's what after school offers--an interactive refreshing way to be active, creative, and productive--with gym, crafts, snacks, and games...and yes homework too!!! We are grateful for each child who stays after school. It has been a long winter, but a happier one because the loving energy of your children amazes us all and give us new hope for that warm spring we all long for.

