



Pathways

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

A Newsletter for Holden Christian Academy

April 10, 2014

Principal's Corner

Dear friends,

On Tuesday, at the end of an ACSI conference I attended, the instructor told the other administrators and teachers present to write down Holden Christian Academy's contact information...and visit us! I was stunned, pleased, and honestly a little intimidated. Something similar happened to Mrs. Holgate and Mrs. Cleveland during the secular graduate course they took through Mass Agriculture in the Classroom last summer. Our methods have been affirmed in grad courses at Worcester State that Mrs. Reed and Mrs. Caron have taken. In fact, everywhere we go and rub shoulders with other educators they are wowed by our approach, curriculum and methods. As the former Chair of the Quabbin Regional School Committee said to me following an extended visit, "You are actually doing what all the other schools only talk about! Congratulations!"

Now, I would love to take the credit for our philosophy, practices, methods, and curriculum but I am just a faithful hunter-gatherer at best. If there is anything I actually got right, I believe it was listening to God and following His lead.

This being our 20th year, I've been doing some reflecting on where we've come from, how we got here, and where God is leading us in the future. At the conference on Tuesday I sat next to Richard Clarkson, Headmaster of West Bay Christian Academy in Rhode Island. I had the honor and delight of relating our story of God's leading us to West Bay and how their founders mentored and nurtured us for years. Our concept-based integrated approach came directly from their research and hard work.

Dr. Kevin Washburn's name repeatedly came up at the conference as well. Kevin is an old friend to HCA. He stayed here for three days and provided training on learning styles in our early years. Next Kevin dove even deeper into current brain and learning research and used those practices in curriculum design. We sent a faculty member

to Alabama for training in the reading comprehension curriculum he designed and we continue to take every workshop and course Kevin offers in our area... with one major exception. Kevin was a featured speaker at an international conference on the brain in Boston a few years ago. The enrollment fee was \$500 and we had already taken his workshop at an ACSI conference, so we sent our love instead! Check out his book on Amazon.com! *The Architecture of Learning: Designing Instruction for the Learning Brain* by [Kevin D. Washburn](#) (Jan 21, 2010)

Why am I telling you all this? Because I want you to know how special God's little outpost in Holden really is. God has faithfully led us to some of the most brilliant educators in our time. Concept-based integrated instruction is cutting edge. It is big picture oriented by design. This promotes higher level thinking skills because concepts, not isolated data, are the basis for thought and connecting concepts is higher level thinking. All the research is saying that we need to produce creative, connective, outside-the-box thinkers to compete in the global community. Learning isolated facts in subjects that are isolated from one another is not enough anymore. It never was. For example today's students don't need to just list the reasons for the Revolution, but they must now be able to analyze primary sources, summarize the data within and construct their own position paper on the topic using examples from their reading. They will need to defend their position in a debate!

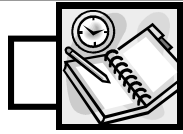
This is the type of learning we've been striving for all along. God led us to the best of the best researchers, mentors and faithful followers of Him who are truly dedicated to creating thinking! We are blessed! Have we arrived? No, we never will. Do we continue to strive toward all that God wants for His kids? Yes, we always will! Do we have a ton to give thanks for together at our party on May 31st? Yes! Yes! Yes! Affirmation from other educators is nice but our true reward is the words we long to hear when we arrive at the finish line and fall into the arms of Jesus, Well done, good and faithful servants." That's what it's truly all about!

Still listening,
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

| | |
|---------------|---|
| April 10 | Science Fair, 7:00 p.m. |
| April 11 | Field Trip Gr. 5-8, <i>God's Not Dead</i> movie |
| 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 |
| April 28 | School Committee meeting |
| May 8 | Open House for Prospective Families |
| May 15 | Spring concert 7:00 p.m. (CHANGE FROM ORIGINAL CALENDAR) |
| May 26 | NO SCHOOL—Memorial Day |
| May 31 | Save the date! HCA 20th birthday party! (Rain date June 1) |
| June 8 | Music lessons recital 2:00 p.m. |
| June 10 | Grade 8 Graduation 7 p.m. |
| June 11 | Last Day of school PK-Gr.8 |

Fridays: ice cream sales after lunch, \$1 each.
Parent Prayer group Thursday mornings 8:15 -9:00 a.m.

Principal's Book of Excellence celebrates...

Kindergarten

Camren and James, for being peace-builders by taking turns in the loft.

Grade 2

Aliyah, for perseverance through new concepts with a great attitude.

Adriana, for tender care and thoughtfulness towards her teacher in a time of need.

Ava, for being earnest and diligent in her academics, striving to do her best.

Ethan C., for tremendous personal growth this year in many areas—so proud of you!

Ethan E., for being quick to serve his teacher and classmates.

Liam, for being a joyous and enthusiastic young man who is a friend to all.

Nandi, for striving for excellence in all her academics.

Grade 8

Clayton, for seeing a need and jumping in to help during Math class without being asked.

Colin, for his willingness to help another student with Math during study hall time.

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 for making the teachers and staff feel special during Appreciation Week. We appreciate your efforts!

Some things to look forward to...

Yard signs are now available! New slogans coming soon, 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

May 8 ~ 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 to whom we should mail an invitation.

You'll also have the opportunity to email an e-vite, and share the invitation on facebook.

Mark your calendars and spread the word!



Classroom Happenings

Team A ~ Grades K-2

Greetings from Team A!

A special thanks to all parents who helped with the recent Africa Day! It was an incredible day of learning and it was enjoyed by all. Students spent many hours making Masai beaded necklaces and mancala games to sell at the Market. Authentic Kenyan foods were also prepared for sale at the African Cafe. Team A students and teachers reenacted life in a Masai (Kenyan) village complete with a hut and a kraal (ask your student what that is!) with beautiful Mt. Kenya in the distance! Kudos to Liam and his wandering chickens; they added an authentic and interactive touch to our day! :)

We were blessed to have Nandi's Mom speak to the 1st and 2nd graders about her life growing up in Zambia. Ava's Dad also shared about his life and adventures as a "missionary kid" in Nigeria. Their personal stories and the opportunities we had to handle many African items truly made this term memorable. Thanks again!!

For our final term we will be studying the South American country of Brazil. We would be most grateful for any visual aids/items that you may have from Brazil or anything related to the topic of the rain forest. If you have lived or traveled there and would like to speak with our students please let us know; we'd love to have you!

Thanks again for the privilege of teaching your precious children!!

Team B ~ Grades 3&4

Thank you to EVERYONE who spoiled us over Teacher Appreciation Week!! Healthy treats, beautiful cards, flowers, gift cards!!! SOOO grateful!! I totally felt the love!! Also, thank you to all who helped on Africa Day! These days run SO much better with your love & support!

Information was sent out on the Weekly Peek about April's book report: Chose a book about any missionary ASAP. I have two more copies of Jim Elliot's life; I depleted those from the HCA library, so if you want to read about him, check your local library.

We're well into Geometry in math. Our seedlings are growing!!! :) Can't wait to continue our Bible research on how many scriptures God uses to connect to planting, plant growth, gardens, weeds, etc. SO cool!!

~ Mrs. Reed

Science Fair Tonight @ 7pm in Community Room!

It's here... you must come see. ALL INVITED to come see the amazing work of our middle school students.

They have diligently worked on these projects for 8 weeks and will be on display tonight.

So much was learned through this process ~ the learning goes well beyond the science.

The students persevered, overcame hurdles, managed their time, and worked together beautifully. They have learned how to attack a large project in small manageable pieces and are proud of the final results.

We received wonderful comments from our 25 judges who were quite impressed with the level of detail and overall project presentation. Way to go!

I am VERY proud of our students. Come and show your support.

Blessings, Mrs Holgate

Honor Roll 2013-2014 Term 2

High Honors

(All A's)

Hannah C.
Olivia C.
Lauren D.
Tom G.
Jacob H.
Aidan H.
Nate L.
Susanna O.
Dylan R.
Elu T.
Faith T.
Jonny V.
Colin W.
Katie W.

Honors

(All A's & B's)

Mackenzie B.
Mollie B.
Cameron C.
Kyle C.
Grace C.
Jacob C.
Emma G.
Deven K.
Joshua K.
Matthew L.
KK L.
Hanna L.
Caroline N.
Cassie P.
Leah P.
Bethany P.
Joseph P.
Ryan S.



Classroom Happenings *continued*

Team C ~ Grades 5 & 6

As I reflect on the activity in the classroom over the past couple of weeks, my heart is warmed by the thought of how the fifth grade class really pulled it together to get their projects completed for the science fair. The work was indeed laborious. But the class persevered through “redo” research paper assignments, and tedious citations: not to mention the long nights testing their experiments. I know that it was an arduous task for them, and we all felt pressed. But, oh the joy to share in their sense of accomplishment! Thank you for coming along side and being a part of this monumental learning experience.

One particular moment stands out for me. Students had been working hard on their display boards all week, and on Friday, while students were putting the finishing touches on their boards, one of the students really needed help. If only I had a video camera to share with you how beautiful it was to see student after student offer to help. It was a proud moment. I loved seeing the class put their faith into action that day. Praise God!

Mrs. Cleveland has worked non-stop assisting fifth and six grade students with their science fair projects, and with coordinating the science fair judging event. We are all very grateful for her selfless efforts!

I am blessed.
Mrs. Torres

p.s. With the new term, come new classroom jobs. Enjoy this “blog” by our new class blogger.

Fun Fantastic Fabulous 5th Grade Blog: Hello, Cassie here from 5th Grade. I will be interviewing Mollie on the classroom happenings, and other stuff.

Q: How do you like the Science Fair?

A: I think the Science Fair is an interesting way to learn how amazing science can be.

Q: What do you think of our class devotional, *Crazy Love* by Francis Chan, and his Youtube videos?

A: I think they are very indescribable, just like our God. Francis Chan makes me think, and I don't think very much so that's a good thing.

Q: What learning type are you: a 1, 2, 3, or 4?

A: A type 1 is someone who has an easier time learning when they're doing something related to them personally. They are people-people, fun and exciting. A type 2 is someone who is all facts and learning for learning's sake. A type 3 is someone who wants people to hurry up, and chop, chop!, be practical and get the job done. A four is someone who is great with ideas. So, I am a type 4 *and* type 1.

That is all for today. What learning type are you?

Team D ~ Grades 7 & 8

According to Merriam Webster dictionary, one definition for **perspective** is “the capacity to view things in their true relations or relative importance.”

Of course, there are other definitions, but this is the one I choose to hold onto for the moment because I think it captures most what the Lord has impressed upon me recently as a parent and a teacher. There are many things that I can ALLOW to upset, aggravate, anger, embitter, and frustrate me OR I can choose to ask the Lord to show me His perspective and hope that mine becomes HIS.

What does this have to do with academics, you ask? About a week ago, I asked the 6th graders to jot down a brief reflection about their experience writing the research paper for the science fair. Collectively, we chose 3 words to describe the experience: annoying, frustrating, and rewarding. I wrote these terms on the board, and then asked the students to close their eyes and put their heads down. With no one looking around, I polled the students. (Students could respond more than once.)

How many of you felt that writing the research paper was annoying?

How many of you felt that writing the research paper was frustrating?

Despite how you responded to the first 2 questions, how many of you felt that writing the research paper was rewarding?

In true Science Fair fashion, here are my results:

Annoying: 6 out of 13 students

Frustrating: 8 out of 13 students

Rewarding: 12 out of 13 students

I thought this was fantastic. Yes, although the process is annoying and frustrating, it brings great REWARDS. JOY! Enough said. Happy Easter! ~ Mrs. C.

Dear Current HCA Families,

Good news! In order to save families the burden of an extra cost at this time of year, no re-enrollment fee will be required this year. As the School Committee worked to set the amount of next year's tuition to cover the actual cost of education, they are sensitive to the fact that a Christian education is a financial sacrifice for most of our families. In appreciation of the sacrifice already shown by our returning families, students of returning families will pay \$100 less than new families next year. See the chart below for new rates and discounts for returning families and Holden Chapel members.

Please review the information below, and then go onto our website

at www.holdenchristianacademy.org/20142015. Here you will be asked for:

the names, birthdates and grades of returning students, any incoming siblings, your payment preference (in full or monthly), your understanding and acceptance of HCA's Financial Policies (included on next page for your review).

All families must complete the online registration form, as this information is crucial as we plan our budget and teaching staff for next year, and to know how many seats we can offer to new families. **If you do not notify us by May 1, 2014 of any non-graduating student not returning for the 2014-2015 school year HCA reserves the right to re-enroll your FACTS account and have payments processed until we receive notification of withdrawal.** If you are moving or leaving HCA for any reason, please notify us immediately by note, call or email to the office; you will be sent a link to complete our online exit interview form.

Use this worksheet for your information regarding next year's tuition and fees.

| 2014-2015 Tuition and Fees | Cost | # students | Total |
|--|---------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Tuition-Preschool 1/2 day | \$2,900 | | \$ |
| Tuition-Preschool Full Day | \$4,650 | | \$ |
| Tuition-Grades K-8 | \$7,100 | | \$ |
| Returning families, deduct \$100 per student | - \$100 | | -\$ |
| Holden Chapel members only, deduct this amount per student | - \$100 PK - \$250 K-8 | | -\$ -\$ |
| Payment Plan Fee (per family)only if paying monthly | \$17 | Per family | \$ |
| TOTAL FAMILY OBLIGATION (Total all rows above) \$ _____ | | | |
| Monthly Payment: Total Family Obligation÷12 (June-May thru FACTS) \$ _____ | | | |

Payments in full are due by June 3, 2014; monthly payments will continue through FACTS at the new amount. Please note that FACTS will charge a yearly fee of \$38 per family to use their service. Information regarding financial aid applications can be found on the next page in our Financial Policies.

Please contact me in the school office if you need a printed copy of the online form, if you would like to make a deposit in order to make lower payments throughout the year, have any questions about your amount due for next year, or have any questions about the financial aid process.

We pray daily for your precious families, that you will continue to trust God's direction for your children's education, and trust in His provision.

In Partnership,
Judy Bleau
Assistant Administrator

Holden Christian Academy

Financial Policies

To be reviewed yearly by each HCA family.

You will be asked to indicate your understanding on the online registration form.

PAYMENT PLAN FEE—\$55 yearly, if paying monthly.

If a family does not pay in full, a no-interest payment plan of equal monthly payments will be processed through FACTS Tuition Management Company, June through May. To use this service, \$17 is included in your Total Family Obligation due to HCA and \$38 is paid directly to FACTS. This fee is not charged if you pay in full, by June 3.

SCHOOL SERVICE FEE - *A yearly fee*

A school service fee of \$225.00 per family is due by June 1, 2015 if you are **unable** to work a minimum of 30 hours of school service for the 2014-2015 school year.

TUITION AND FEES

All tuition and fees must be paid in full by June 3, 2014, or in monthly payments through FACTS Tuition Management, from June 2014 through May 2015. ***If a family chooses monthly payments and does not enroll with FACTS for payments starting in June, they will be responsible to make the total of June through August payments through FACTS before their child can start the school year.***

If a family withdraws their child(ren) from the school *before school begins*, the family will be responsible for monthly payments through the month of notification of withdrawal.

If a family withdraws their child from the school *during the academic year*, the family is responsible for the full tuition for the semester in which the child is participating. Semester break is at the end of Term 2, in late January. *Exceptions to this policy will only be granted in the case of extreme hardship, subject to unanimous approval of the School Committee.*

Delinquency of tuition payment may result in late fees and will eventually jeopardize the child's ability to continue in the school program.

There is a fee for any checks returned, equal to the amount charged by HCA's bank.

FINANCIAL AID - *Awarded yearly*

Financial Aid is available for enrolled families in need.

All families who are awarded assistance will be required to actively participate in the Development Team's activities to raise funds for the following year's recipients.

Applications *and supporting documentation required by FACTS Grant & Aid* are due by April 25, 2014, to be considered in the first round of financial aid awards. If families miss this initial deadline, they may apply and provide supporting documentation by May 23, 2014, for consideration in the second round. **Please be aware that the majority of financial aid monies will be awarded during the first round.** Applicants can apply online through the link at www.holdenchristianacademy.org/tuition. There is an application fee, paid to FACTS Grant and Aid, who processes our applications. Award decisions are made by the HCA School Committee and will be reviewed on an individual .

updated 3/20/14