



Pathways

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

A Newsletter for Holden Christian Academy

May 1, 2014

Principal's Corner

Dear friends,

Happy May Day! School year number twenty has only six weeks left! I thank God for His faithfulness toward us. Over the past twenty years despite financial issues, cultural pressures, and all challenges of life, HCA continues to quietly and faithfully assist parents in raising the next generation for Christ! Our children are privileged to hear the same message at home, school and church. There is consistency in answers to the biggest questions of life. Kids believe what they are taught and when they are taught in the context of a biblical worldview they learn to think as a Christian, perceive the world Biblically, and formulate opinions and actions based on Truth that is solid. Like us, they don't do this perfectly, but they don't have to spend years, if not their whole lives, in pursuit of faith, answers, and Truth. They get it and their thinking shows it!

I am proud of our past and present students! They have been given every opportunity by parents and teachers to build a solid base upon which to build faithful, powerful, and positive lives. When my own four children were small I was asked more than once how I could bring little children into such a hurting world. I answered that by faith I believed my children would be part of the answer not the problem. Today, I can tell you that by the grace of God that is absolutely true for my own four and for hundreds of our former students. Has the way been straight and narrow at all times for all students? No. However, even those who stray for a season know the road back. That makes all the difference. If the foundation is laid in the early years, there is a solid base on which to return and build.

Now we need your help to spread the word about this amazing opportunity HCA offers that is just below the radar for many Christian parents. Please help us find those whom God is calling here for next year! I love what God is doing in these walls and I want all He is calling to hear His voice and answer His call. God uses His people and He will use you. Ask Him for a family to bring.

Would you please invite a family to Open House next Thursday, May 8th at 7:00? We have been very excited

about our new format where families bring their friends, show them around the school and introduce them to the teachers who are in their rooms. Afterwards, there are refreshments and a time for question and answers with the principal and teachers. It's low key, personal, and comfortable for all. And...don't forget that if the family is accepted and enrolls at HCA, **you will receive \$100!**

Thank you to all who took a lawn sign at the Science Fair. Please put them up now. We are ordering more so we can saturate the entire region from whence our students spring (how poetic!). This sign campaign has been the most effective form of publicity we have ever conducted and we would like to see it build even more.

20th Celebration Party May 31st 3:00 to evening

Lastly, the 20th celebration party is well underway! Sub-committees have been established and there is much excitement and oh so many awesome ideas! Help is needed in the following areas:



Monday, May 5th right after chapel

the invitations will be stuffed and addressed. We need lots of help! Please call the office if you can help. We hope to mail them later that day.

On Friday afternoon May 30th we need a crew of strong men to set up the stage outside on the driveway. This will be done after school about 3:30.

We also need a crew to help with setup (tables, games, events) etc on Saturday morning (exact times to come), before the party, which starts at 3:00.

We need another crew to breakdown and clean up stuff during and after the party.

Please let us know if you can help.

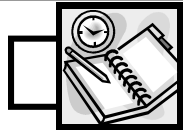
Here's to warm weather, gardens, baby birds and all things good in God's marvelous creation!

Fondly,
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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HCA Calendar

May 1	7 p.m. Info meeting, Gr. 4-7 D.C. 2015
May 8	Open House for Prospective Families
May 15	Spring concert 7:00 p.m. (CHANGE FROM ORIGINAL CALENDAR)
May 19-23	Scholastic Book Fair
May 26	NO SCHOOL—Memorial Day
May 31	HCA 20th birthday party! (Rain date 6/1)
June 4	Fine Arts Day
June 6	Six Flags trip—Eighth Grade
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.

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.

- That God would help each family bring a family to Open House.
- 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 who have already sent in your Family Information/Financial Agreement forms.
- Thank you to Mrs. Younger for her greenhouse repair and beautification project!
- Thank you to all who ordered from Square 1 Art. Our profit from this program was over \$800.00!

Principal's Book of Excellence celebrates...

Kindergarten

Alexi, for her determination to help her teachers clean up the garden when everyone else gave up.

Ryleigh, for being brave while having a splinter removed.

Science Fair awards 2014

Grade 5

1st Place: *Olivia and Bethany*—tie

2nd Place: *Matthew B.*

3rd Place: *Isaiah*

Peoples' Choice: *Matthew L.*

Principal's Choice: *KK*

Grade 6

1st Place: *Elu*

2nd Place: *Katherine*

3rd Place: *Hannah*

Peoples' Choice: *Ryan*

Principal's Choice: *Grace*

Grade 7

1st Place: *Jacob*

2nd Place: *Aidan*

3rd Place: *Josiah and Samuel*—tie

Peoples' Choice: *Deacon*

Principal's Choice: *Deven*

Grade 8

1st Place: *Colin and Jonny*—tie

2nd Place: *Tom*

3rd Place: *Jacob*

Peoples' Choice: *Lauren*

Principal's Choice: *Mackenzie*

Congratulations!

Scholastic Book Fair!

Our Scholastic Book Fair this year will be held in the library from May 19-May 23. Information is being sent home from Mrs. Lundergan with more details.



Thank you HCA received a letter from the African Children's Choir, which includes all of you who made their concert and visit possible. "On behalf of the African Children's Choir I would like to thank you for inviting and welcoming our children and chaperones into your school and into your community. We are deeply grateful for your support and partnership in promoting the beauty, dignity and potential of every African child. Your hard work was a blessing to us!

We want you to know that the effects of hosting this concert and workshop go far beyond what we can see, and hope that it has been an enjoyable experience for all that were involved. You have made a profound, life altering difference in the lives of some of Africa's most vulnerable children.

Through your efforts and generous giving, you have enabled us to provide the basic necessities every child is entitled to: food, clothing, medical care and an education. Your investment will translate into a bright and hopeful future for children who thought they may never have a chance to change their circumstances. We pray and trust you find this labor of love to have been time and resources well spent."



Classroom Happenings

Team A ~ Grades K-2

Ola' Team A Parents! (Hello in Portuguese)

It was so nice meeting with all of you for parent teacher conferences. You all have wonderful students and it is our pleasure to teach them!

We are looking forward to at least two field trips in May. On Monday we will be traveling to Robinson's Greenhouse in Paxton to integrate our Food for Life program.

On May 23rd we will be visiting the Roger Williams Zoo to explore the African and South American Animals we have been studying. Please join us if you are able☺. Permission slips are being created and will be sent home by Monday.

Near the end of the term we will be celebrating with a HCA Carnival Celebration, a Rain Forest Café and Monkey Monday!! (more details as the days approach)

Next week is 'Screen Free Week' celebrated nationally. Each day the teacher will be asking the children of their class what they did instead of using a screen for the night. We are hoping for some fun alternatives!

A big thank you to Mrs. Ramos for sharing her heritage with us about Portugal.

Thank you for completing your homework surveys; it was helpful information.

Team A Teachers

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

Grade 4

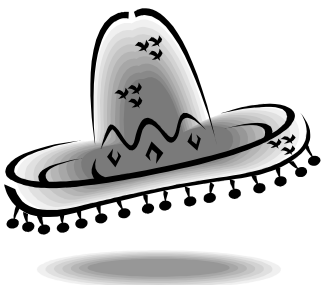
I am not ready to let this class leave me. I am savoring every moment :)

The May book report genre is free choice, as long as it is a 4th grade reading level and approved by both you and me by next Wednesday, May 7th. Please read their Weekly Peeks this Friday for book report assignment.

We are working hard on turning our classroom into the Ecuadorian rain forest! In class (only), we will be working on our Ecuadorian creature posters and Biblical application to the garden projects. The students are learning how to research a topic, skim text, highlight/record important/interesting information, & display it creatively on their posters (which I already bought for them at the Dollar Store:) We will continue to work on these for the term.

Thank you for your continued support!!

~ Mrs. Reed



Grade 5

I didn't realize how much I missed the students, until I got back to school on Monday. The class always has interesting things to share, and I really love the conversations we are having during devotions.

As we move past our Latin America overview lessons, we will be "touring" Mexico. There are some exciting lessons ahead. Mrs. Hayward has loaned us some of her Mexican skirts to display in our classroom; they were given to her when she was in 5th grade. If any of you have any Mexican items that you would like to loan to our class during this course of study, please let me know.

On a different note, I have reviewed the homework surveys that you submitted, and am making adjustments. Hopefully, you will see a change in the homework load and distribution. Thanks again for your input. I am glad that we are able to work as a team in your child's education.

Blessings,
Maggie Torres

From Cassie, our class blogger:

Pentaminoes are squares you put together and there has to be five of them. One of the sides of the squares has to touch another side. For instance, you can't have two squares and then one in the middle. Fifth grade is learning about pentaminoes in math. We are also working on science projects where we pick an animal from the tropical rain-forest and make a power point presentation with it.



Classroom Happenings

L.A. 6th-8th and Spanish 7&8

Finishing well! That's the goal. As we come to the end of the school year, these last few weeks will fly by. This reminds me of the hymn "All the Way My Savior Leads Me." The chorus states, "For I know what'er befall me, Jesus doeth all things well." I find great encouragement here with many events and activities before us. With Jesus at the helm, we can manage. That being said, I'm so excited about LA and Spanish for the rest of Term 4. Here are the highlights:

LA 6 ~ WANTED poet posters & *Esperanza Rising* novel study

LA7 ~ Art/LA Journaling Project, missionary focus, sharing our faith

LA 8 ~ Memory Book Project, Dream Freedom Essay, Art/LA Journaling Project

Spanish 7 & 8: Cinco de mayo & the year in review

Thank you for your feedback about science fair and homework. We are so appreciative of your input.

Blessings, *Mrs. Campbell*

Team D ~ Grades 7 & 8

WOW... We have less than six weeks together with our 8th grade class!

Every year at this time we begin to think about graduation... and it comes with mixed emotions. I do not like saying good-bye but around here, its more like a "see you later"! I can not wait to see what the Lord has in store for each one of them. They are ready for High-School! I am so proud of each one of them.

Please mark your calendars. We have planned our 8th grade Six Flags trip for Friday June, 6th. Morning drop off will remain the same, pick up time TBD. Graduation is Tuesday June 10th!

We are planning our medicinal herb gardens and getting ready to work on our scaled drawings. In Science class we are focusing on the components of Ecosystems. We are heads-down in Math class for both 7th and 8th grade math classes all focused on a strong finish to a very full and successful year.

Thank you for completing the homework surveys. Your feedback and input is very important. We are reviewing and discussing your suggestions and will implement your ideas.

Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for the privilege to work with your child!

In partnership, *Mrs. Holgate*

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!