



Pathways

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

A Newsletter for Holden Christian Academy

May 7, 2015

Principal's Corner



Dear friends,
Hey ya'll, we can't wait to see ya'll at the banquet! WHAT? You are not coming? Why (pronounced Whah)?

"I'm not coming to the banquet because I pay tuition and don't have more to give." We are so glad you said that so we can

clear up a few things. The banquet is free and designed NOT to be a burden to parents who are already financially stretched. The point is to invite people who do have more discretionary funds as your guest (grandparents are the best!). It is an incredibly fun evening and great exposure to the school. It also helps fund many programs and extras that benefit all our students .

This year At HCA we updated the flooring in a wing of the school, purchased 40 iPads that are shared by all the K-8 students, and are continuing to expand the Nature Explore Playground. We also awarded over \$65,000 in financial aid to 25% of our precious families. We plan to award even more financial aid next year and hope to redo the gym floor in a rubberized material!

Some people are stupid rich, for the rest of us there'sfundraisers! I laugh every time I see that Sprint commercial. If we just knew some stupid rich people and they gave us all we needed, all our dreams would come true, right? Well, at times God does choose to do amazing things through smart, spirit-filled people

who are led to give huge amounts...we love that. Right now I know of a Christian school in MA where a person is setting up an endowment fund and giving enough to enable the teachers' salaries to be well supplemented indefinitely because they will just be using the interest. If you know of any people and or foundations that would like to do so here, please let us know immediately.

In my experience, God usually chooses to do His best work through the smaller gifts and work of many. I know He has good reasons because I know He loves us and always has our best interests in mind. I also know that the whole body is built up in love as each part does its work. What is that work? For some it is writing huge checks, for others it is taking home table cloths to iron, cleaning the gym, baking cupcakes, painting, or calling just a few more friends and asking them to attend the banquet with you. For some, it's sharing your testimony or trying on Civil War clothing and parading around the school. (No problem with that, ya'll!) For Holden Chapel, it includes supplying all the food and lovingly preparing and serving it! WOW! For all of us it is prayer!

The point is, that in order to honor God and those who've worked so hard, continue innovative school projects, and provide financial aid, WE ALL need to do our part. At this point we have only 79 RSVPs for the banquet. We are planning for 150. Please do your part so that the entire school will benefit and God will be blessed by our efforts. Attached to Pathways please find a cheat-sheet which may help you invite people.

Lastly, there will be a prize for the family who brings the most people to the banquet! Cool ya'll!

Please enjoy this beautiful weekend. God is so good!!
In Him,
Susan Hayward

~ Our Mission ~

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

Holden Christian Academy
508-829-4418



Mark Your Calendar!

May 11	Final Date to RSVP for the Banquet!
May 11	Spring Pictures Due Back to Office
May 15	HCA Banquet at 6:30 p.m.
May 18-22	Scholastic Book Fair
May 26-29	Teacher Appreciation Week
May 28	Spring Art Show and Concert at 6:30 p.m.
June 10	Fine Arts Day
June 10	Preschool Graduation
June 11	8th Grade Graduation at 7 p.m.
June 12	Last Day of School (1/2 day), Thankfulness assembly, 9:00-10:30 a.m.—all are invited!

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.

Spring Art Show and Concert

Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends and family members, please join us Thursday, May 28, for our Art Show and Spring Concert!

The Art Show will be at 6:30 p.m. Enter through the main school entrance and enjoy art work showcased in the downstairs hallways. Light refreshments will be served.

Then make your way upstairs to the Holden Chapel Sanctuary for 7:00 p.m. when the Spring Concert will begin.

Students are working hard in preparation and are excited to share this special evening with you!

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.

- Continued prayer for KK Legro and her mom, Tanya, as KK receives radiation therapy and they travel to Boston daily.
- For new families being called to HCA, that they will hear God's call and trust in Him.

PRAISE & THANK YOU

- To all those that collected and sent in BOX TOPS for EDUCATION, this year we earned \$279.90! A great big thank you to Mrs. Jensen for her help with this program!

Scripture Memory Verse of the Week...

You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

Exodus 20:7-8

Principal's Book of Excellence celebrates...

Grade 2

- Daniel, for helping a classmate make his Easter basket.
- Will, for helping a classmate make his Easter basket.
- Will, for befriending a student during reading buddies.
- Abby, for making a visiting student feel welcome.
- Madelyn, for making a visiting student feel welcome.
- Jacquelyn, for making a visiting student feel welcome.
- Dayton, for getting desk items ready for a visiting student.

Grade 3

- The entire third grade class for working well as a team in the garden!

Grade 4

- The entire fourth grade class for working well as a team in the garden!

Grade 5

- Abigail, for spending an elective term preparing a thoughtful gift.

Grade 6

- Anthony, for setting up the portable photo printer for the photography elective.

Grade 7

- Debbie, for her meticulous care of photography elective materials and her leadership qualities.
- Naomi, for making a visiting student feel comfortable and welcomed.



a reminder:
Payments for **spring photos** along with any photos that you do not choose to purchase are **due to the office by Monday morning, May 11th!**





Classroom Happenings



Team A ~ Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd Grade

- Can you believe we're in the last term of the school year? The weather for our first trip to **Trout Brook** was a clear indication. It was a glorious day and the children had a blast discovering little critters and catching and releasing them into the pond. Thank you to all of our chaperones that came last week, and those that will come with us on future trips. Ask your child what we learned about the Giant Water Bug we found!

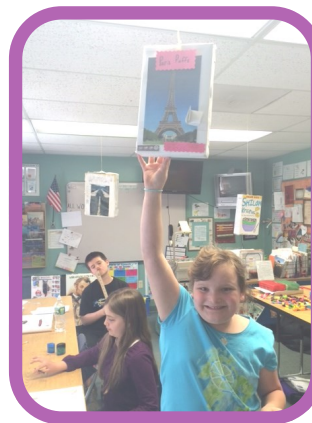


- Our Annual Banquet is May 15th. **PLEASE COME AND INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!** It is a wonderful evening of good food and fellowship and a chance to support our amazing school. *Thank you, Jesus!*
- We are planning a **trip to Old Sturbridge Village** on May 29th. We'll need chaperones and drivers. Watch for permission slip in your child's binder and mark your calendar!
- Mrs. Hughes is looking for donations of **small prizes** for her class store. New or gently used items are appreciated.
- Next Wednesday we'll be **filming** our students for their part in the video presentation that will be presented at the banquet. Please send your child to school on Wednesday, May 13 dressed in **red**, white and **blue**. Thanks!
- Please encourage your child to **keep reading** at night and practice those basic math facts! Don't forget to **return the monthly reading calendar**. We use them to monitor their reading habits. Thank you!
- We send our best wishes for a **Happy Mother's Day** to all of our wonderful HCA moms. May God bless your day!
~Mrs. Caron, Mrs. Hughes & Mrs. Torres

Team B ~ Grades 3 & 4

Grade three fully embraced eighties day! Thank you student council for bringing back Fun Fridays.

We are looking forward to trips to Trout Brook this month, in addition to family pet day. We will be learning about fractions and continuing to develop our writing. Its hard to believe we only have five weeks left of school! ~Mrs. Jorritsma



Fourth grade did a great job with Cereal Box Book Reports. Peek in and see them hanging from the ceiling :) We just started our "lasts" for fourth grade: our last chapter in our Math book on measurements & our last book report. Most have already chosen their free choice book and will do their oral presentations on May 29th.

Thursday we start our visits to Trout Brook for our Life Cycles study with Mrs. Jorritsma. I am having so much fun with third & fourth grade learning more about the Underground Railroad, Slavery, and the Civil War.

Thank you for all your love & support!

I LOVE your kids!!

Ms. Reed





Classroom Happenings



Team C ~ Grades 5 & 6

Hello again families and friends. Time is flying! Can you believe we are already in May? Team C is just now beginning to enjoy the spring weather we are having. Some of us were lucky enough to get a taste of it as we explored our nation's capital and history a few weeks ago. Since then we have been learning about the Oregon Trail and Westward expansion in history class, along with some people who were referenced as the 49ers....ask your kids who they were. We will have our chapter 13 history test next Wednesday so studying has begun. In language arts, students have become excited as they have chosen books for an upcoming book report. Now this is not your typical book report. It is entitled "Book Report in a _____." Students choose some sort of container such as a paper bag, cereal box or other creative container. They then decorate the outside of their box with pictures and words that represent the story. Inside there are more interesting ways to convey the story to their classmates. I will be sending home more detailed and creative instructions soon, but keep reading Team C!
Mr. Curtis

It is finally spring in New England! There seems to be a collective sigh as we experience and enjoy the grass, warmth, and sunshine on a regular basis now. Our gardens will be waking up too as we add compost, seeds, and plants in the next 2 weeks.

In preparation for our planting time, students are learning about soil, including how it is made and how to determine the type of soil it is. This week's lab had students analyzing three soil samples to determine whether each one would be classified as sand, silt, or clay. We made some key observations about particle size and texture, but then timed the drainage ability of the samples to confirm our observations. The quiz on soil will be on Monday, May 11th.

In math, both team C classes have been working with percentages and their relationship to decimals, ratios, proportions, and fractions. This chapter is full of real world math that they have been surprised to find applicable to their real lives. Your students may be able to figure out tips, tax, and discounted prices now!
Mrs. Cleveland

Team D~ Grades 7 & 8

Team D ~ Language Arts & Spanish

We are diving into the Civil War with a great amount of reading. The novels (*Across Five Aprils*, *Bull Run*, *Numbering All the Bones*, and *Shades of Gray*) are deepening our understanding of the emotion involved in the war. As we explore the deep-seated feelings which drive the characters, we further our reading comprehension skills and extend our abilities to analyze for textual evidence and learn characterization. Each student has selected a 'Civil War persona' for our unit and will take on this character for our upcoming poetical work, as well as for the banquet on May 15 which we hope you all will attend.



In Spanish, we are reviewing all we have learned this year in 8th grade, to have a strong finish and a solid foundation for high school Spanish. In 7th grade, we are enjoying some fun ways of learning with children's books. This Friday, May 8th, join us, from 1:00 to 2:35, for our Cinco de Mayo celebration in the gym. Senora Gillon y I will be hosting a surprise for the students. Join us for the fiesta! ~Mrs. Campbell

A note from Mrs. Holgate ~



We had an unexpected treat last week. Mrs. Hughes found a large bird that had run into a fence on her morning run and brought it to school for us to investigate! The 7th and 8th grade science students had two days to work on identifying the bird. Thank you Mrs. Hughes!



We are wrapping up our current chapters in all math classes this week. We are in our final stretch and are evaluating math placement for next year. Please feel free to contact me if you have not heard from me about your child's math placement for next year.

We began incubating chicken eggs last Friday and are viewing them to track their growth. We will have babies on May 21st! We are starting to germinate kale seeds this week and will be out in the garden as much as possible!



We begin our two week unit on Adolescent Health for the 7th & 8th grade on Tuesday 5/26. A letter detailing the unit and requesting permission to participate will go home today (Thursday 5/7/15). Please sign and return.

I am tempted (as I am every year) to fail the entire 8th grade class. They are ready to FLY, but I am not ready to let them go! I cherish everyday with your students and they bless me beyond words. Very grateful I have one more year with our current 7th grade!

In partnership,
Mrs. Holgate