

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:

May 9 - “Children of Eden”
play, 7pm in Holden Chapel
Sanctuary (K-8 performing)

May 15-19 - Scholastic Book
Fair (parent shopping
available Thursday before/
after concert)

May 18 - Art Show, 6:30pm
& Spring Concert, 7:00pm

May 29 - Memorial Day (no
school)

June 8 - Graduation day!
Preschool Graduation
9:30AM
8th Grade Graduation 7PM

June 9 - Last Day of School
with Thankfulness Chapel;
1/2 Day, 11:30am dismissal
with NO After School
Program



PRINCIPAL’S CORNER

Dear Parents,

I would like to thank you for completing the parent/student/staff surveys. Your input provides a perspective that is critical to school improvement. I will share the results (which were extremely positive overall) at a later time, but in response to a few concerns regarding safety and security, I would like to let you know about several updates in this area.

First, it is of utmost importance that we do all that we can to pursue the safest environment possible for our students and staff. Although we have important measures already in place such as locked doors entering the school, interior/exterior video cameras, and an intercom system, there is always more that can be done. Security needs have continued to increase in recent years, and we are adjusting to keep pace.

(continued on next page...)

After the tragedy that occurred at Covenant School in Nashville, TN, we took a fresh look at our own safety and security. We are blessed to have an immediate connection with a Homeland Security safety specialist, Mr. David Coombs. Mr. Coombs is the husband of our kindergarten teacher Amanda Coombs, and dad to one of our students. He responded immediately to a request to tour our facility for a safety assessment. The group that met with Mr. Coombs included several members of the school committee, church elders, a vice principal, our facilities manager, and me. As we toured, Mr. Coombs was able to point out areas of weakness and advise us on improvements that can be made. Additionally, Mr. Coombs offered to update our school Crisis Management Plan. We will be reviewing the draft of this update this Friday. Once an updated plan is approved by the school committee, it will be shared with the staff, then shared with you, our parents.

I would also like to share with you a list of [facilities updates](#) that are in progress. These updates have been prioritized and are moving forward in a very timely manner, providing additional security to our school.

Although we recognize that it is not feasible for us to provide a facility that is impenetrable, we can provide important barriers, train for emergencies, and be wise in our procedures. More importantly, we are thankful that we serve a mighty God and we are in His care. Thank you for placing your trust in Him and in HCA to keep your children safe while they learn.

By His Grace,
Nikki Cleveland, Principal



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

CHILDREN OF EDEN

This play will include children from K-8 and will be performed in the Holden Chapel sanctuary TOMORROW, Tuesday, May 9th at 7:00pm. See email that went out on 5/3 for details!

Eagle Lake Flatwater Race & Community Day

Eagle Lake Recreation Area, Holden, MA Saturday, May 20, 2023

Registration: 9:00 – 10:45 am. Race Times:

11 AM: 2.3-Mile Recreational Paddler Race (for "casual" paddlers, for those who have never paddled before, or for those who just want to get on the water and have some fun!)

12 PM: 6-Mile Pro Point Race (for "serious" racers)

Entry Fee: \$20 (at least half will be returned to Pro Racers via cash prizes, & raffle prizes for Recreational Racers). To pay, Venmo @FoEL-Holden, PayPal, or cash/check day of event.

What should we bring?

Kayaks, canoes, SUPs (stand up paddleboards) & PFDs (personal flotation devices) if you have them. We have some that will be available to borrow. And, bring your friends!

What else will be happening?

We'll have food & drinks, games & activities for kids, music & merchandise. While the event is centered on the 2 races, it'll be a chance for folks to check out Eagle Lake and "hang out" for a bit.

Contact Info: friendsofeaglelake@gmail.com, or Dan Marinone at 617-312-2567.

All proceeds will go towards preserving Eagle Lake. Visit "Friends of Eagle Lake" on Facebook for more details.

Directions: Eagle Lake Rec Area is accessed by following 122A (Main St) in Holden and turning onto Causeway St.



PLEASE TAKE NOTE...



Interested in serving on the Parent Teacher Council?

Click [HERE](#) to sign up for more info, or to join! The next meeting will be Monday, June 15th, at 3:15pm at the HCA Playground (in the event of rain it will be in the Holden Chapel Welcome Center).

Upcoming PTC events that we need help with planning a summer get-together!!



A second grader "shaves" his grandpa during Frontier Day
(Frontier Day is featured on page 6)





Frontier Day Recap:

Thank you to all the grandparents who joined us on April 11th for a morning of fun and learning as we celebrated our American heritage, HCA style, on Frontier Day! Thank you to all the parents who volunteered, and the HCA staff for making learning come alive. These memories will leave an imprint of joyful learning that will last a lifetime.

So, what is Frontier Day and why am I so excited to tell y'all about it? Well, Frontier Day is what we at HCA call one of our "little big days". At HCA, all of our students are learning about our American heritage this year, and this theme is integrated throughout the academic subject areas and the Arts. Our Preschool students were able to join in the theme for the year too, by reading *The Little House on the Prairie* picture books and engaging in activities that Laura Ingalls and her family would have experienced. Frontier Day was a meaningful, culminating experience for all the children in grades Preschool through 4 to share what they have been learning with their grandparents. This is the HCA way!

Here is what the day looked like: First, we began by honoring God with a Pioneer style Chapel service that included a scripture reading and singing hymns together. Did you know that Trust and Obey and Rise and Shine were around in the late 1800's? Next, we were off to visit the town, the homestead, the dance hall, and the theater. Students and grandparents traveled at their own pace through these areas, having a snack at the Saloon, buying penny candy at the General Store, making a DIY wooden covered wagon, and shaving grandpa in the Barbershop! At the Homestead area, they made log cabins out of pretzel sticks, graham crackers, and chocolate frosting! Many students also designed their own square for our HCA quilt. We moseyed on down to the Dance Hall (gym) to learn square dancing with our grandparents from our K-2 Music teacher, Mrs. Velarde. We took in a show performed by the 3rd and 4th graders, led by our theater teacher, Mrs. Lundergan. Performances of *The Legend of Lightning Larry*, *Chicken Little* ran throughout our time together. Lastly, we rounded up the whole posse and headed back to the Dance Hall to enjoy a folk dance performed by 3rd and 4th graders. It was a foot stompin', hand clappin', rip roarin' time of fun!

Submitted by Ms Eileen Cunsolo ,Early Education Administrator



Preschool News!

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

Thursday, May 18th: Fine Arts Evening-join us in the Preschool classroom to view your child's recent artwork and see what we've been learning about, then join us in the Sanctuary for our Spring Concert, starting with the preschoolers!

Save the Date- Preschool Graduation Celebration- Thursday, June 8th, 9:30-11AM: Join us to celebrate our wonderful year together with a celebration in the Sanctuary, followed by time together playing and snacking in the field!



Spring has sprung in Preschool, and with the new life of spring we have celebrated how Jesus is alive! Easter week was filled with songs and learning about the gift we have through knowing that Christ did not stay in that tomb!

There were not many April showers bringing the May flowers, but lots of life has sprung up around us anyway! Preschoolers have such a curiosity for observing the world around them, and they have loved coming back to school after the weekend seeing new flowers and tree blossoms in our Nature Explore play space. As more outdoor centers open in our play area with the warmer weather, more opportunities to learn through play and engage are explored. We've found so many bugs and worms under our rocks, built our own "pond" in the water table, dug in the dirt and made our own mud, and learned about what lives at the pond! God has such a beautiful order for His creation!

Team A News!

Kindergarten Update from Mrs. Coombs:

Welcome back! I pray that everyone was able to enjoy their April vacation. While I enjoyed some wonderful time with my family, I was excited to come back to school and see how my students enjoyed their spring break. We are in the final stretch with no slowing down in sight before summer is here.

A special thank you to all the parents and grandparents that took the time to attend Frontier Day. It was a joyous experience and I pray that you were able to make some wonderful memories.

Kindergarten along with the rest of Team A and Team B are excited to visit Trout Brook. This is a great opportunity for the kids to learn about pond life and hopefully observe some life cycles. Along with trips to Trout Brook, Kindergarten will also be learning about the frog life cycle, the chicken life cycle, and the butterfly life cycle. Kindergarten will get first hand experience with the butterfly life cycle as we will have an actual live butterfly kit. We will watch the caterpillars eat their way into forming a chrysalis, patiently waiting for the chrysalis to hatch into a beautiful butterfly.

We will continue to build our number sense to 20 followed by practicing counting to 30, 50, and 100. We will also use the last semester to learn about 2 and 3-dimensional shapes. There are great opportunities at home or driving in the car to help your child with their counting journey and assist them in recognizing shapes. Take a walk around your house with your child and see how many different shapes you can find. When driving in the car, have your child practice counting how many signs you pass, or how many seconds you are stopped at a red light.

We will continue to learn about the importance of following God's Word and finish our lessons with the Old Testament. It is a joy to see my students learning the importance of how God works through them and seeing first hand how they apply it in the classroom. They are great little prayer warriors who always pray for their friends and classmates. I'm excited to share with you all we learn in the next month in our final Pathways in June before summer vacation!

Grade 1 Update from Mrs. Richardson:

I pray you enjoyed your April break. As we are in the last term of the school year, 1st grade is in full swing with academics.

Math has sparked a lot of joy in students this term. We are now masters at reading and interpreting data in graphs, and we are at the beginning stages of telling time. Coming next will be identifying shapes and their characteristics.

WOW! First graders' reading is really taking flight! Currently in FUNdations, students are learning two syllable words as well as compound words. First graders now know they can read challenging words by breaking the word apart by syllables.

The Bible is a wonderful topic in first grade. First graders have asked a lot of questions while learning about the promises of God, the death and resurrection of Jesus, and what the Bible says about our character. First graders are at an exploratory age where they are learning so much about the world and making connections between the world, faith, and the Bible.

As our field trips to Trout Brook start today, students are learning ALL about animals, and plants that live in brooks, ponds, rivers, and lakes. First graders can tell you how lakes, ponds, and waterfalls are formed as we have been learning all about it in science.

As we embark on this journey to the end of the year, stay tuned and alert for notifications from myself as well as other HCA staff members. There are a lot of events happening this term so keep an eye out for important updates and information.

Grade 2 Update from Mrs. McGrail:

We are in the final chapter of the 2022/2023 second grade school year. I am in complete awe of this group and all we have accomplished this year. As mentioned in our previous publication of Pathways; the final term is full of many events. Here's what's to come for events during May and June: Trips to Trout Brook, Science Fair, Children of Eden theater performance, Fine Arts evening, Step Up Day, etc.

As we embark on these final 6 weeks, here's what academics will be all about:

Math: Subtraction within 1,000, measurement, and money.

FUNdations: We are in the final stretch of FUNdations. Unit 15 is in full swing focusing on ou/oo/ue/ew/u sounds. Following this unit we will only have two units left!

History: We have already learned so much about the heartbreaking events of the Civil War and how children were affected. As we continue on we will learn about slavery, Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, Abraham Lincoln, and more.

Science: It's all about life cycles: frogs, butterflies, chicks, dragonflies, and plants!

Bible: Continued mix of New Testament and Old Testament stories.

Thank you all for your continued support, partnership, and prayers. I look forward to finishing the year with fun, laughter, and learning !



Team B News!

FROM MS. RENNIE'S DESK:

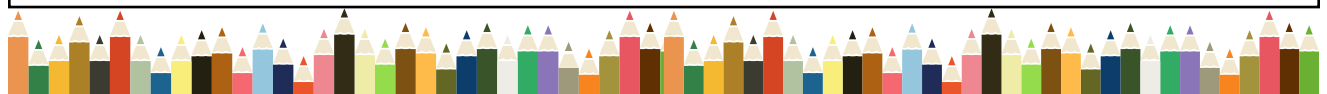
We were so blessed to have an amazing 4th grade parent, Mrs. "C", come in to show us a real bee hive. We know how important bees are to our environment: According to bee experts at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, a third of the world's food production depends on bees. When animals and insects pick up the pollen of flowers and spread it, they allow plants, including many food crops, to reproduce. Thank you Mrs. C for keeping us informed and connected to this important issue.

We are kicking off our trips to Trout Brook for our Life Cycles studies today! We are still short on some drivers, so if you are able to help out, please check out the [Sign-up Genius](#) for volunteer opportunities. Thank you for considering. It's such a great way to learn about Life Cycles and we really appreciate your time to help this happen.

Science Fiction is not always a popular genre for 3rd grade, but they are doing a fantastic job on reading and completing their "Newspaper Article" on this in-class assignment for their last book report, that are out of this world.

We are starting our final "Life In...." stories for L.A. I am so proud of Third Grade for producing great writings.

Third and Fourth grades did some grumbling and complaining in our journals last week and then turned it into joy....Friday we "wandered through the desert" (around the building) reenacting the Israelites journey (see photos below). We learned that all that complaining was not good for our attitudes and that we prefer to live in gratitude and thankfulness. Thank you for your unending support in helping your children master their multiplication facts. I can see how hard they have been working!!!



A NOTE FROM MRS. VELARDE:

Big things are happening as we race toward the finish line! Currently, 4th grade is working on an essay for History about the Oregon Trail, mastering the 3 patterns of sentence structures, comparing units of measurement, wandering with the Israelites through the desert, AND preparing to make our own 4th grade movie! We have been hard at work practicing for the Children of Eden performance which is an all-school production tomorrow at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary. I hope to see you all there!

As we are moving forward, I am reminding the students that they are preparing to move up to 5th grade. We are discussing what that means and the life skills that they should begin to foster now in order to succeed. The growth that I have seen in them this year reassures me that they will thrive upstairs in their new environment. I enjoy seeing the things that God is doing in them and through them and look forward to their next adventure.



Middle School News!

Fifth Grade Update from Ms. Legro:

One of my favorite things to do is to participate in Escape Rooms. I also enjoy creating Escape Rooms. In fact, I have worked with our Middle Schoolers over the last couple of years to create two Escape Rooms based on Paul's Journeys and one for Africa Day. To celebrate what we have been learning this year, the entire Middle School is working on an Escape Room based on the Underground Railroad. Each grade has chosen the theme of their "station" along the Underground Railroad. Over the next few weeks, they will be developing their themes using what they are learning in History and L.A. as well as incorporating the different forms of cryptography they learned about during Flashback Fridays in Math. We will need large cardboard boxes and long cardboard tubes (like those from rolls of wrapping paper) to decorate each of the stations. If you have either of these, please send them to school by May 19.

Thank you!
Blessings,
Conductor Legro

Sixth Grade Update from Mr. Shea:

As we enter the final stretch of the school year. Our students are starting to develop short historical narratives as part of their study of the Underground Railroad. Each grade is focusing on a different aspect of the Railroad based on other projects they are working on throughout their other classes. Grade 5 is writing stories focusing on the moment people "leave slavery." Grade 6 is writing stories that include William Still's Rowhouse in Philadelphia. Grade 7 is writing about the dangers of a Not So Safe Safehouse. Finally, Grade 8 is working on stories that give us a clear understanding of how the Underground Railroad was set up. Students will be asking a trusted adult to help them revise and edit their stories before creating their final draft.

Students are excited about the improving weather as spring gets underway. As a result of the warmer weather, I will be taking students outside to use nature to practice descriptive and reflective writing. Please make sure that students are dressed appropriately for the weather when they arrive at school. In addition, please have your students pack an entire extra set of clothes (including shoes). One of the writing prompts I have planned for my classes is to describe the feeling of "playing in the pouring rain."

Looking forward to the fun we'll have this term!

In Christ,
Jeremiah Shea



Mr. Curtis' Corner:

Welcome back to another episode of Mr. Curtis' Corner. As we turn the page to the last quarter of the school year, Middle School is sprinting to the finish line. We are trying to navigate a sad and difficult portion of our history which is slavery and the Civil War. These are complex realities that we are still trying to unpack 150 years later. Students have also begun to notice similarities between then and now as it pertains to our nation feeling very divided. The hope is that this next generation can continue to learn from the past and present to make a better future. Since our last episode, the Middle School traveled to seven states on our trip to Washington D.C., drank over two hundred cups of coffee, and walked the equivalent of a marathon - all in search of our country's historical and biblical founding. Our trip certainly lived up to its expectations and proved to be memorable for students and chaperones alike. Upon reflection, students felt as though the Museum of Bible, the Pentagon's 9/11 Memorial, and Colonial Williamsburg were some of their favorite stops. Although each day was saturated with historical monuments and engaging exhibits, we only scratched the surface in regards to what our nation's capital has to offer. Students all agreed they wished they had more time to discover on this trip. Hopefully one day we all will be able to return to D.C. and dive deeper into our nation's rich history. One of my favorite aspects of the trip was the opportunity to connect with parents and students outside of the classroom. It is my hope that they feel the same but about their teachers. The trip is already paying dividends in the social and relational department. Our sense of community has been deepened through the shared experience. Not only did we get to learn and experience our nation's history, we also got to learn something new about one another. I am thankful that H.C.A. and our families support and encourage such learning experiences. I am already looking forward to the next one. Until next time, live long and prosper my friends.

~Mr. Curtis



Science Update from Mrs. Gordon:

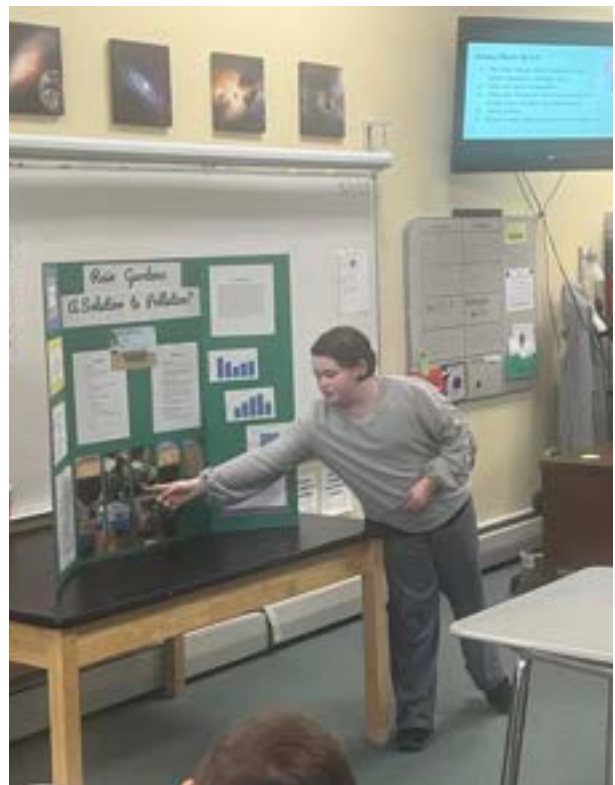
The Science Fair has been a wild ride! Although there were many challenges that came with these 3 months of in-depth research, engineering, and experimentation, there were beautiful things too. Sometimes I think I am here primarily to teach Science, and while that is definitely part of what I do, there are many other lessons I get to teach, and continue learning, along the way such as:

- **honesty** - the process confronted many students on how honest they were being with themselves and others (there were a lot of disappointments, unanswered questions, and things that only got more confusing as students tried to oversimplify or force tidy results)
- **perseverance** - to put it simply: the majority of these students were ready to be done with this whole thing over a month ago, but it kept going, and so did they
- **generosity** - we are not designed to hoard knowledge or view it as mostly for personal gain, and through teaching me, their classmates, and many others about the various things they discovered, the students participated in generously multiplying knowledge

I am proud of the hard work of many students and the perseverance of all! I am also deeply grateful to everyone reading this who helped a student in any way with their project. This was a worthwhile endeavor.



Science Fair Presentations were well done!



Hats off to our students for their hard work!