

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 16 - Field Trip to Roger Williams Zoo (K-4)

May 16-20 Scholastic Book Fair (Book Fair will be open during Art Show 5/19)

May 19 - Informational Meeting for 2023 DC trip (for rising 5th-8th graders), 6pm

May 19 - Fine Arts Evening (Art show @ 6:30pm and Spring concert @ 7pm)

May 21 - HCA 5K - [register here!](#)

May 23-27 Teacher Appreciation Week - [click here to sign up](#)

May 30 - Memorial Day (no school)

June 7 - Godspell Jr. 7pm

June 9 - Preschool Graduation, 9:30am in sanctuary, 10-11 picnic with families

June 9 - 8th Grade Graduation, 7pm in the sanctuary (reception afterward)

June 10th - Thankfulness Chapel, 8:45am in sanctuary (all welcome); Last Day of Classes; 11:30am dismissal and no After School Program



PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

As we near the end of the school year, I cannot help but glance back and wonder where it has gone! We have created memories with special people during the year while participating in both everyday activities and planned special events. It has been our goal that joyful memories and learning experiences would overlap! Even more so, it is our heart's desire at HCA that our experiences would draw us into a deeper trust relationship with God.

Looking back, this has been a year of transition in so many ways. Although Covid is still in our midst, we were able to move back into many of the freedoms we enjoyed pre-pandemic. In school, this meant that we threw out the pool noodles for measuring six feet of separation and thought in terms of three foot markers. Students began playing together in earnest and working in cooperative groups again. Once we made masks optional, children began talking again too! We brought parents and guests back into the building for wonderful events like China Golden Day, the Veteran's Day program, the Christmas Shoppe, and Africa Day. We re-started a long dormant Parent Teacher Council - a valuable group that has offered feedback and served the school community well this year!

The Parent Teacher Council even initiated some new ideas like the family field trips, the resurrection egg hunt, and a parent prayer link (available on the website and on page 4 of this Pathways issue). The eighth grade class participated in the ACSI Leadership Conference with Mrs. Gordon and instituted the prayer box for students to share their prayer requests. Students have been prayed with, prayed for, and supported through this God-honoring initiative. Mrs. Lundergan came back to teach theater and library - and lead the school in our first theater production since Covid - Godspell Jr.! Some very important elements of HCA continued as well. We had a meaningful Spiritual Emphasis Week in September and a super fun and successful dog-themed Read-a-thon in January.

The Food for Life program continues to develop at HCA with a garden renovation this year (in progress); Nature Explore updates (to be completed this summer); pedometer fitness challenges; and a field trip to UMass to learn more about permaculture. As our Cultures year draws to a close, I cannot help but think of our how appropriate our concept statements, or big ideas, are for this year in our history. "Cultures evolve, change, and are affected by historical events, politics, socio-economic factors, natural events, contact with other cultures, etc." Our culture is being affected by some intense elements, but participating in activities that are culturally 'normal' this year has had a healing impact on us and our students. God is so good to provide that for us, and it is so perfectly merciful of Him not to ever change Himself regardless of changes in our world. Thank you for your part in making HCA what it has been this year. I pray that this school year has blessed your family, and that you enjoy a relaxing pace this summer!

~Mrs. Cleveland, HCA Principal



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

-Retirement and Graduation Announcement-

Sunrise....embarking on a new horizon!

We send our love with them as they sail off, not into the sunset, but the sunrise of a new season....

Mrs. Susan Hayward, founding principal of Holden Christian Academy and visionary extraordinaire. Mrs. Hayward loves fun and learning, so she created a school with both! She has followed God's lead and persevered in leading His school, His way for 28 years. We are so thankful!

Rev. Dr. W. Gary Hayward (aka "Mr. Hayward") has been a part of HCA since the beginning. He has led the staff in weekly Bible study and taught middle school history and Bible for 28 years, all while pastoring a church. As HCA's biggest supporter (and married to the founding principal!), he is quick to bring us back to our real purpose by saying, "HCA is a front for the kingdom of God."

**TO SHARE YOUR FAREWELL MESSAGES WITH THE HAYWARDS,
PLEASE [CLICK HERE](#).**

Mrs. Lila Suchocki has taught music and provided music lessons for the the students at HCA for over 25 years. She has a gift for bringing out the very best in students as she shares God's love through worship. We will miss her!

**TO SHARE YOUR FAREWELL MESSAGES WITH MRS. SUCHOCKI,
PLEASE [CLICK HERE](#).**

You're invited...to the HCA GRADUATION!

~Honoring the Graduating Class of 2022~

We are pleased to announce the graduation of the HCA Class of 2022. Please join us for a celebration of God's faithfulness in these young women's lives in the Holden Chapel sanctuary on Thursday, June 9th at 7:00pm. Family, friends, alumni are welcome to attend this event, and to stay for the reception after the graduation.

Congratulations to the the graduates! We love you and celebrate your accomplishments.



PLEASE TAKE NOTE...



Spring Fine Arts Evening!

Our Spring Art Show and Concert will be held this coming Thursday, May 19th.

The Art show will be held throughout the school beginning at 6:30pm, followed by the Concert in the sanctuary at 7:00pm. All families should enter through the gym for the Art Show! Students in Preschool through Grade 8 will perform in the concert, and there will be designated seating for classes in the sanctuary. Please dress in your "Sunday best" (no jeans!) From 6-6:45pm, the Scholastic Book Fair will be open in the library for shopping. Following the Spring Concert we will have a reception to honor our longtime music teacher, Mrs. Lila Suchocki, who is retiring at the end of the school year. We look forward to celebrating the Arts with you then.

ATTENTION RISING 5th-8th GRADERS (and their parents!)

There will be an informational meeting about our 2023 trip to Washington, DC before the Fine Arts Evening. This meeting will be held in the Community Room and is for parents and students entering Grade 5-8. Mrs. Cleveland sent an email with more details, but please plan to join us for this important meeting!

Calling all prayer warriors!

Prayer is a powerful tool that can be exercised anywhere and on behalf of anyone. The Lord tells us to "bear one another's burdens" (Gal. 6:2) and to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thess. 5:17). With that in mind, HCA is **forming a school prayer chain** to support our school community when needs are expressed. **We are looking for people to pray!** You would be on an email list of individuals committed to pray for requests from families at HCA. If you are interested in being on this list please email Rebecca Burley at beckaburley@gmail.com. If anyone has a PRAYER REQUEST for our warriors to pray over, please fill out [this form](#).



Teacher Appreciation Week, May 23-27

HCA parents,

Teacher appreciation week is almost here! There are 4 ways to partner with us to give the teachers and staff an awesome week

- Sign up to contribute to the Wednesday potluck lunch using sign-up genius <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0444ABAF2AA5FE3-teacher>
- Contribute by sending in items or donating money for the themed day your child's team is coordinating. Money can be sent in with your child with note "TO MRS FOOSE" on the envelope or Venmo Sade @Sade-Foose by May 20. Look for communication from your room parents with details about what items are needed.
 - Monday- Morning drinks
 - Tuesday- Breakfast and fruit
 - Wednesday- devotions/sacred space
 - Thursday- Snacks and veggies
 - Friday- bless your teacher
- Make a small donation (\$5-\$10) for personalized gift for teachers and staff
- Have you or your child write a card, draw a picture, or write down their favorite memory from the year and send in your "letter of appreciation" with your child to your class parent by Friday May 20th

Thank you and we look forward to partnering with you to make this a week of blessing and appreciation for our teachers and staff!

-Sade Foose

on behalf of The Teacher Appreciation Week Committee

HCA 5K!

Mark your calendars so you can join us for the 4th "annual" HCA 5K Walk/Run. This fun, family-friendly event will take place on **Saturday, May 21st**. The 5K benefits our school and students, as well as increases our visibility within the community. We hope you will partner with us to make this event as successful as possible.

REGISTER to walk/run (form a team to multiply your impact!)
Volunteer at the event as a Road Marshall

We hope to see you there!

Pictures from the 4th-8th Grade Field Trip to UMASS Permaculture Gardens on May 4th!



In May, our students have enjoyed time inside and outside HCA - playing, learning, and growing with friends. Students also participated in an Electrical Safety presentation.



Preschool News!

Important Dates to Remember:

(Pre-K parents—please see forthcoming email with details about these special days):

May 18th:

Kindergarten Move Up Day with Mrs. Coombs

May 19th:

Fine Arts Night (6:30PM)
Art Show, 7PM
Concert—Preschool will perform first)

May 21st:

HCA 5K

May 23-27th:

Bring your wheels to school

May 30th:

Memorial Day (NO SCHOOL)

May 30th-June 8th

Water Play Days

June 9th:

Preschool End of Year Celebration

June 10th:

Last Day of School
11:30AM Dismissal (NO After School)

Spring has sprung in Preschool at HCA! These little busy bees have been buzzing about, with lots of hands on learning and joyful smiles! We began Term 4 celebrating Easter, that Jesus is ALIVE (oh, oh, oh, oh It's a Happy Day—a favorite song!) Preschoolers have an amazing ability to recall the Easter story, and their happy and sad faces throughout the story remind us of our happy ending knowing Christ is alive and coming back for us!

We then moved onto the rainforest, where we spent time comparing God's creations and adaptations of rainforest animals to those that live in the deciduous forest of the United States! Some highlights of this unit were: rain forest sounds upon arrival, a visit from an HCA parent to teach us about her native Brazil, learning about frog life-cycles, and admiring beautiful flying macaws.

We will finish our school year celebrating God's new life in the treasures of Spring around us. Nature journaling, springtime observations of changes, worms, butterflies, and insects will round out our time together, and we are looking forward to spending our learning time in the garden in Nature Explore. We will celebrate how God is nurturing the Fruits of the Spirit in our classmates, and savor these last weeks together.

We are grateful for how God has woven this class together for such a time as this. We as HCA Preschool teachers have cherished these children we have been gifted this year, and we have loved watching them mature into the treasures God has desired for each of them.

Team A News!

Kindergarten Update from Mrs. Coombs:

We have been together now for almost a year, and the end of the school year is near. Let's give a shout out to God for making this possible! I think back to the beginning of the year when all their sweet little faces were coming through my Kindergarten door. My heart felt for them, as so many were scared, nervous, shy and apprehensive. Now, as I look at their sweet faces, I see joy, happiness and an eagerness to learn.

Just as the caterpillars in our classroom are ending their journey to become butterflies, about ready to emerge from their chrysalises, my students are about to emerge from Kindergarten ready to be successful 1st Graders. The students have grown, developed, made mistakes and ultimately succeeded in their journey as full-time students. I am so thankful to have had the opportunity to watch your children be themselves this year.

As we wrap up our biomes study, we are excited to be taking a field trip! Kindergarten is excited to be making the trip to Roger Williams Zoo, where we will be able to see many of the animals we have been studying this year. **We ask that your child comes dressed in their HCA shirt with a full disposable labeled brown bag lunch and single use water bottle.**

Kindergarten has worked so hard in Music and Theater preparing for the spring concert and Godspell Jr. These classes have played an imperative role in student's character-building. As these productions draw near, more information will be available.

I pray that everyone has a wonderful summer and I pray that I will see all your sweet faces return to HCA next year!



Grade 1 Update from Mrs. Richardson:

It is hard to believe the school year is almost over! Wow, we have learned a lot in first grade. Even though it is almost time to wrap up this school year, we continue to learn more in our academics and more about the world God created. The country we are studying this term is Brazil. We have learned about the different layers of the rainforest, animals of the rainforest, the weather, and more.

FUNdations has gone by quickly this year. Currently we are on Unit 12 and learning all about syllables and compound words. We are starting the process of how to write a story and become authors. First graders are now experts on the difference between fact writing and opinion writing, as well as how to write a letter. Our next goal is how to write a fiction story.

It has been such a blessing having your student in my class this year. When I think back to our Student Orientation Day, it is amazing to think about how much every student has grown since then. It has been such a privilege seeing your student grow this year. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your partnership, and patience this year. May the Lord bless you this summer, and God-willing I will see you next school year. Happy (almost) summer!

Grade 2 Update from Mrs. McGrail:

Hola! It is SO bittersweet to think we are in the final weeks of the school year- but for now I won't think about it because I will likely cry. So let's instead chat about what we've been up to since Africa Day! Africa Day was a huge success, and our class had a fabulous time sharing the home life, foods, and culture of Kenya. Thank you all for joining us.

Now we have landed in our final destination in our cultures year: The beautiful land of Puerto Rico !

In Social Studies, we have been learning in depth about Puerto Rico's roots in history (from the time of the Taino Indians to Christopher Columbus' arrival, slaves being sent over from Africa and the many events leading to Puerto Rico becoming a territory of the United States.) Our class has been able to watch documentary videos that focus on the kids' perspective of living on the island and their family life. We are currently working through an engaging Puerto Rico workbook that focuses on a child named Luis who lives on the island. This book has been informative, and second graders have been making great connections with their life here in Massachusetts compared to those who live on the island.

For Bible, we have been busy continuing to work through the New Testament section of the Jesus Storybook Bible, never rushing, with focus on taking time to participate in activities and in-depth conversations to strengthen our relationships with God.

FUNdations has been full of fun as we gear up to complete Unit 14 this week. We are on pace to complete all 17 units in the entire FUNdations book ! What a HUGE accomplishment !

In Science, we have gone into the very layered land of rainforests- focusing on 4 of the 7 levels of it. FUN FACT: Did you know that Puerto Rico's El Yunque National Forest is the only tropical rainforest in the United States National Forest system? Yes, it's true ! What a special gem on the island!

Food for Life has been all about movement, what is happening in our biome in this season, pollinators returning, flowers, power of the sun, and last but not least : the foods of Puerto Rico! Lastly, in Math we are continuing to wrap up Unit 8 this week, and will close out Unit 9 before we say farewell for the summer.



Team B News!

From Ms. Rennie's Desk:

I am SO proud of the growth and positive changes that 3rd grade has made from the beginning of this year. All praise and glory to our Lord!!

We had two fun visits from parents. The first parent came in and shared her story of growing up in Cameroon. We were blessed by her delicious food and we were able to share all that we learned about her culture through our studies.

Another parent also came in and reminded us of how he found his passion to help youth find their passions and interests when he was doing an elective at HCA, a few years ago. The students wrote and drew pictures of what they are good at and hope to become. He also shared about his life in Haiti. What an honor to hear these stories to enrich and bring our studies of culture to life.

Our character book reports for April are lined in our hallways. Come see them when you attend the Art Show on Thursday, May 19th at 7:00pm. They did an amazing job!! Our May book report is a focus on summarizing text. We have also been quite busy decorating two bulletin boards, one outside our classroom and one down the hall with Mrs. Heenan on the layers of the rainforest. I am amazed at the creativity and details! I hope that you can come to see their work.

We will finish our Math curriculum studying the concept of time, and then onto review of this year's topics.

We hope that our moms enjoyed their Mother's Day gift of Gerbera daisies. We started growing them in January and thoroughly enjoyed watching them grow. They are perennials, so we hope that you will feel the ongoing love as they can bloom every year in your gardens.

We received another wonderful safety presentation from our friends at the Holden Light Dept. Their focus was on bike and summer safety. You can see pictures on page 7. Below are photos of our parent visitors!





3rd grade book reports



These students really got into their books!

From Mrs. Velarde's Desk

The 4th grade has been quite busy over these past few weeks and we will keep our forward momentum right up to the last week of school! We joined the Middle School and went on a field trip to the UMass Permaculture garden, which gave us new ideas as we prepare to submit ideas for the new design of our school garden. One idea that the students have come up with and proposed is a terrace like those found in Machu Picchu. As part of our studies of Peru, the students have learned about the mysterious and historic site of Machu Picchu which was built without the use of the wheel or other modern technology and is still standing today. Ask your student about our idea for a Machu Picchu style terrace in our school garden.

We have a field trip coming up on Monday May 16th to the Roger Williams Zoo. This field trip will be a great way to highlight some of the animals from the different biomes we learned about throughout the year. In addition to the field trips, there are many projects taking place in our classroom. We have been learning about missionaries and each student is currently focused on a specific missionary as they do the final book report of the year. The students will build a "mini Peru" to display in the classroom.

Other exciting events coming up are the Art Show and Spring Concert on May 19th and Godspell Jr. on June 7th. The students have been working very hard for both of these performances and I am so excited to see their hard work pay off. The 4th graders has persevered throughout the year and I am very proud of them and their accomplishments. Be on the lookout for an email with details about the final week of school in the coming weeks.



Middle School News!

Fifth Grade Update: Cultural Integration

The Middle School students have had the opportunity to integrate our study of cultures into Math this year. We have calculated and compared the cost of living of each country we have studied and have discovered a sad reality: the average person in the majority of these countries cannot afford a 3-bedroom apartment in the city's center.

In Fifth Grade, Term Four has been full of Guatemalan fun as we have integrated cultures into Food for Life and into our own traditions and celebrations. In Food for Life, we have taken up the 'Move More Challenge' by playing our own version of Ulama and flying kites. We are looking forward to playing more games from Guatemala. We have learned how they celebrate Semana Santa (Holy Week) in Guatemala with alfombras, and adapted it into our Holy Week celebration. We also made Día de la Madre (Mother's Day) cards that represented the loud music and fireworks Guatemalans use at the break of dawn on May 10 to honor their mothers.

At the end of the Term, we are looking forward to spending a little time with next year's fifth graders. We will be sharing what we have learned about Guatemala with the Fourth Graders and learning about the country they are studying in our own Mini Latin America Celebration.

Sixth Grade Update from Mr. Shea:

We are closing in on the end of our school year! Students are wrapping up their year studying Latin American cultures in Central and South America. In Grade Six, we are focusing on the country of Mexico. Students are diving into different aspects of Mexican culture and creating projects and presentations to share with their classmates. Each student pair is working to become an "expert" in one area of Mexican culture with the aim of teaching what they have learned to the rest of their classmates. We will be wrapping up our Cultures year with those presentations.

In Language Arts, we are starting a unit on Filmography. Students will be taking what they've learned about understanding and interpreting literature and applying it to some films that we will be watching in class. The ultimate goal is for students to start using what they've learned in more familiar contexts. I've always seen storytelling as God's primary way of revealing His will to us, and am hoping that through this unit students will start seeing God's story in every story!

As we get to the end of the year, I would love your partnership in keeping students moving through their assignments. In particular, I am thinking of the short story project that we have been working on since the middle of term three. I am pushing students to do their best work, but know that with summer on its way, they will be losing motivation and momentum on their stories (especially with how long we have been focused on this project). Rough drafts of their stories are due ASAP, and the sooner they get them to me the more helpful feedback I can give them.

Thank you so much for partnering with us!
God bless,

Jeremiah Shea
Middle School Coordinator
Grade Six Homeroom

Seventh/Eighth Grade from Mrs. Gordon:

What prevents you from moving more? The kids brainstormed answers in chapel this week as we consider how God made our bodies to move. I am enjoying watching the FFL pedometer challenge help our students to make active choices both indoors and out. Together we conquered 80 flights during our garden tour and hike last week, and the kids did an awesome job! Here were some of the highlights of that trip in their words:

- hiking in the rain
- spending the whole day together not stuck in a classroom
- exploring the college campus
- checking out the greenhouse
- laughing with my friends/classmates
- the view from the top of the mountain
- eating beef jerky
- learning that we can grow bamboo, prickly pear, figs, rice, kiwi berry, and so many kinds of mint
- EVERYTHING!

If you would like to take a hike or walk with your family some afternoon or weekend soon, here are a few local spots I consider worthy of your time:

- Cascade Falls in Worcester
- Moore State Park in Paxton
- Mount Watatic in Ashburnham
- Purgatory Chasm in Sutton
- Lookout Rock in Northbridge
- Greenhill Park in Worcester
- Rail Trail in Sterling (or anywhere!)
- Wachusett Reservoir Dike Trail in Clinton
- Hodges Dam in Oxford

Mr. Hayward's Pathways Farewell:

It happens every year at this time: *TIME!!* Where did it go? The teacher has yet to teach who does not find him/herself in May wondering how the year went so quickly - and the end so soon upon us. This recurring phenomenon always reminds me of one of the Bible's (and Life's) clearest Truths: We are created for eternity; time is an interlude. No wonder it slips through our fingers. In God, it doesn't even exist! This is both comforting and challenging, for time is God's gift to prepare us for eternal life with Him. So by His grace may we use it wisely and well.

I am so grateful to have been able to spend 28+ years of my professional life involved with HCA; so humbled, honored, blessed, and changed for the better by the countless students, parents, colleagues, staff, friends, and experiences enriching my sojourn here. It feels fitting that for my last term teaching Bible at HCA the focus would be on Jesus Himself - the fulfillment of everything (and more!) God promised us in the Old Testament.

So that's what we'll be doing - examining that One Life which truly transforms ours. It has been a delightful privilege to instruct your children, encouraging them to seek out their own God-ordained roles in His story. The Lord be with you all.

Mr. Hayward

HCA PATHWAYS NEWSLETTER