



Pathways

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

A Newsletter for Holden Christian Academy

May 21, 2015

Principal's Corner

Dear friends,

Praise God for yet another year of helping parents raise the next generation for Christ. This has been quite the year: record snow falls, Washington D.C. fieldtrip, plays, concerts, Plimoth re-enactment, Pioneer Day, Banquet, Read-a-thon, and on and on. Your children have grown physically, academically, socially, and most importantly spiritually. I remember when the staff met for orientation last August; we called HCA a front for God's work. Like Him, the work of the heart is invisible but has eternal significance.



I was struck by a comment made by an alumnus at the HCA banquet. She mentioned that she came to Christ here, during Spiritual Emphasis Week, when she was in the sixth grade. That is always good news to hear. Up-

on further reflection, I realized that Mackenzie came to HCA in the third grade. She had heard many gospel presentations, devotions, chapels, and sermons along the way and yet it was in three years later that it all clicked for her. She is now a deeply committed Christian who gave up her April vacation to minister to little kids at another school and is taking some heat for being a Christian at her high school.

We don't know what is going on in someone else's heart. This student certainly seemed to understand and believe in the third, fourth and fifth grades, but she was not quite there. It is not our job to probe the hearts of our students. That is the work of the Holy Spirit. Our job is to create an environment where He can do His work. All that input before the sixth grade was not a waste of time, in fact it provided a solid foundation on which mature faith could be built. Mature faith is measured in obedience to God by God, but the evidence is seen by the world.

We are proud of our students whose faith is evident in their lives. They have gone on to take a stand for Christ in their high schools and colleges. We have graduates who are ministering in their churches, on the mission field, and in their places of employment. We see them establishing marriages and families in the Lord. We are seeing more and more students here who are the children of our students. (We LOVE that!) We see our kids making a positive difference in the world- working on human trafficking issues, organizing community soccer leagues, and road races. We have several involved in church planting across the USA. We had a group of 26-year-old graduates at the banquet who spoke about how they are still close friends and get together as often as possible.



This is the work of God in their lives. This is why we have HCA. We are thrilled to be able to help create that firm foundation upon which mature faith can grow, flourish, grow and show in our world. The banquet was a blessing for all who attended. Thank you all for your part in making it happen. I realized that this event is not just about making money, it is about celebrating what God is up to in the hearts and minds of His people, no matter how small. We did reach and surpass our goal of \$13,000! At this point we are at \$14,681 and checks are still coming in! God is good!

Keep up the good work in your families. You are in the trenches and sometimes it is difficult to see out of them. Please let me encourage you to keep your eyes on Christ and keep going in His direction. It is so worth it. The greatest blessing in my husband's and my life is our adult children and their children. Like Paul, we have no greater joy than watching our children walk in the faith.

Have a wonderful long weekend!
In Him,
Susan Hayward

~ Our Mission ~

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

Holden Christian Academy
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Mark Your Calendar!

May 18-22	Scholastic Book Fair
May 26-29	Teacher Appreciation Week
May 28	Spring Art Show and Concert at 6:30 p.m.
May 29	Old Sturbridge Village field trip; K-4
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 school office 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 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 had a part in our Civil War Celebration Banquet—Thank you for your help in making the evening a wonderful time of fun, fellowship and fundraising!

Principal's Book of Excellence celebrates...

Kindergarten

Enson, for sharing his favorite rest time stuffed animal.
James, for learning all the presidents of the United States!
James, for bravery and chivalry, "gloving up" and disposing of a mouse carcass for Mrs. Graham!

Grade 1

Alexi, for her remarkable improvement and focus in Spanish class.

Grade 2

Nathan, for being extra helpful around the classroom, living out Philippians 2:4 by looking out for the interests of others above his own.
Jacob, for encouraging his sister during our partner reading, practicing 1 Thessalonians 5:11. Way to go!

Grade 4

Alison, for always showing kindness and fairness to all.
Madeline, for her honesty and integrity in all things.
Madelyn, for her amazing servant heart.
Charles, for his compassionate and loving prayers.
Charles, for his patience and respectful behavior with his classmates in Spanish class.
Michael, for his consistent Christ-like behavior.
Steven, for his compassionate and loving prayers for others.
John, for academic excellence and fitting perfectly into fourth grade.
Hannah, for her outstanding academics and awesome helpfulness.

Grade 7

Sebastian, for making significant changes in work habits resulting in great academic progress.
Hannah, for demonstrating grace and poise in the face of conflict and challenge.
Hannah, for graciously sweeping the floor after the Cinco de Mayo Fiesta without being asked.
Ryan, for his patience and quiet compassion which resonates and shines the light of Christ to those around him.
Joseph, for his insightfulness and compassionate heart for hurting people around him.
Joshua, for demonstrating patience with his peers and acting on his acute awareness of the needs of others.
Erin, sharing during Devotions about difficult past situations so that her classmates can learn to be more compassionate in their daily walks.
Grace, for her love of laughter which inspires those around her to enjoy the life that God has given us.
Naomi, for her bravery in sharing her positive and encouraging insights with peers in efforts to help everyone improve.
Nate, for demonstrating remarkable patience and perseverance throughout this school year.
Katie, for her mature and positive attitude at school and commitment toward working to the best of her ability.
Charlotte, for her steadfast spirit and ability to inspire others to do their best.



Classroom Happenings



Team A ~ Grades K, 1 and 2

Team A students have been learning about the Civil War. Yesterday during center time switch, students learned about soldier life. They tried hardtack and even carried a heavy pack. They visited with Clara Barton and learned how she cared for wounded soldiers; both Union and Confederate. As a follow-up lesson, students are writing letters to soldiers that are currently deployed to Afghanistan. Mrs. Torres' son will be providing us with an address for one of his units that is currently there.



We are also learning about lifecycles, and have had some wonderful trips to Trout Pond. We have brought back frogs, crayfish, newts, and tadpoles. This past Monday Mr. Coddington caught a black snake but we didn't bring that back! We marvel at all God has made. We would love for you to join in on the fun and could use chaperones. Let us know if you can help.



Reminders:

- **Please remember to send in booster seats for our young travelers. Chaperones cannot transport students without booster seats (unless they meet state requirements.)**

- Send in your Old Sturbridge Village field trip forms. We still need chaperones/drivers for this trip.
- Kindergarten- Please practice identifying and counting money at home for additional math practice.
- 1st Grade- Please send in baby wipes for our class.

Team B~ Grades 3 & 4

Three weeks left until summer vacation! I am always amazed at the end of the school year how quickly time has passed. Grade Three, I am pleased to say, is finishing strong!

We will complete our unit on fractions with this Friday's test and begin decimals on Tuesday.



Grade Three has made great strides in writing. They will continue to work at writing strong paragraphs as well as a poem

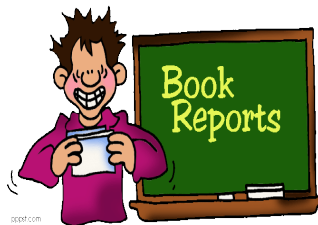
(please check out our I AM poems outside the office), a first person historical story and an autobiography.

In science we continue to study life cycles, in particular the life cycle of a chick. We are on day 13 of our embryonic life cycle. May 30th is our anticipated hatch day!

I am so very proud of these students! Blessings! ~ Mrs. Jorritsma

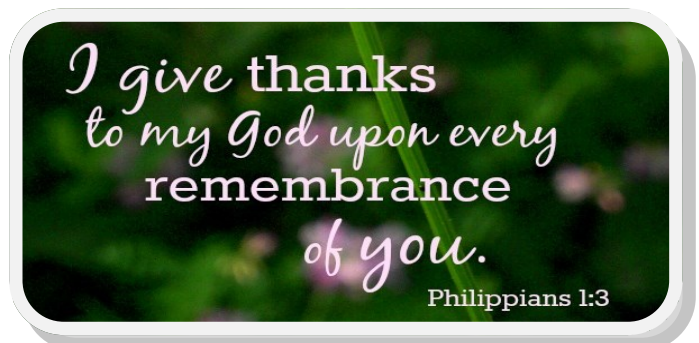
We had a blast at our A L L W O R K party last Friday. :)

Fourth grade has been working on how to research, summarize, and complete their History packets in class on slavery and The Civil War. I am so proud of their progress!



Oral presentations are next Friday for their final book reports!!

Thank you for all your continued support!
~Ms. Reed





Classroom Happenings



Team C ~ Grades 5 & 6

Hello friends of fifth and sixth grade: we are delighted that you are reading our updates on the adventures of learning. Currently in Language Arts we have been finishing up our book report presentations and have started reading "Bull Run" by Paul Fleischman in order to greater understand the different perspectives in the Civil War. This past week students were excited by the Scholastic Book Fair and the prospect of obtaining new books to read. In the words of C.S. Lewis, " You can never get a cup of tea large enough or a book long enough to suit me." Happy reading everyone!

In terms of other news, we are looking forward to planting our gardens for next year, although it looks as though we will have to delay planting until next week as there is a projected weekend frost. Regardless, we are anxious to get our plants and vegetables into the gardens to watch them grow. ~ Mr. Curtis

Team D~ Grades 7 & 8

Team D ~ Language Arts & Spanish



We hope you enjoyed our Civil War reenactments at the banquet. The students' renditions of "Dixie" and "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" were a great backdrop for Jethro Creighton's emotional appeal to President Lincoln and his gracious response for the restoration of those who had deserted their post during the war. Thank you for attending and listening to our first-hand stories of how the civil war affected each one of our characters.



The 8th graders are working diligently on their Memory Book project, which is an annual tradition here at HCA. These creations will be on display at graduation. We hope you will attend and enjoy this reflective and creative work. Both 7th and 8th grades will spend additional time on poetry and integrate with our Emily Dickinson perennial garden.

FYI: The link for midterms was sent by email today. Please check to ensure that you received it.

A Note from Mrs. Holgate



WE'VE GOT BEAK!

Our baby chicks have started to hatch. We will busy watching and learning today and tomorrow.

The students ran the mile this morning and did an excellent job. Mrs. Campbell and I were their cheerleaders... I wanted to run with them but my skirt kept me on the sidelines.



Both the birth of our chicks and the focus on fitness compliments our adolescent health unit which begins on Tuesday. The 7th and 8th grades will hear from a number of speakers over the next two weeks as we explore the many facets of adolescent health.

We have rounded the corner and are in the home stretch to our last day of school for this year. The 8th graders have been focused on graduation... bitter sweet. I had the privilege to spend the morning at St John's with a recent HCA graduate. He is doing beautifully and it reminded me that our current 8th grade students are ready to go and shine the light of Christ wherever He takes them (even if we are not ready to let them go).

I am overwhelmed as I reflect on the distinct privilege the Lord has blessed me with ~ the privilege to lead, guide and teach His precious children for a short time. They are His!

Thank you for your partnership!
Blessings,
Mrs. Holgate