



Pathways

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

A Newsletter for Holden Christian Academy

June 4, 2015

Principal's Corner

Dear friends,

Once again the year has flown by and this year was certainly not without its difficulties, delights, challenges and blessings. We've enjoyed Spiritual Emphasis Week, our Plimoth Re-enactment, the Christmas Concert, our theater production of *Pocahontas*, the Read-a-thon, my husband's and my trip to Israel, the 5th-8th grade trip to Washington DC, amazing electives, the Art Show and Civil War Banquet, Team A's Pioneer Day and Lewis and Clark's Expedition, Teacher Appreciation Week, and multiple Trout Brook and other field trips. We are in the middle of planting our amazing 20 raised bed garden with each grade representing a curriculum-related theme and we look forward to Fine Arts Day, Graduation and our Thankfulness Assembly next week!

Sadly, for us here, Dane Burk, dad of 6th grader Mollie, lost his battle with cancer in the fall, but happily, won his crown of victory in heaven! What a blessing to be sure of that! How difficult to get used to life without him. In January we underwent a major adjustment of one teacher transitioning out while another transitioned in; we had additional challenges of a switch in FFL coordinators, piles of snow and MANY snow days. Then our precious 6th grader, KK, got sick with a brain tumor! We have prayed with her through multiple surgeries and were thrilled when she attended chapel on Monday. Please remember to pray for her and her mom Tanya, this summer as she undergoes further treatment, and continue to pray for the Burk family. They have all walked every step of this journey with God and it shows!

I have been blessed by how you parents have stood by us and with us through these storms. God is so good and walked with us through it all. Some of these issues had the potential for additional hurt and division but instead through prayer, dialogue, and the support of the School Committee and Holden Chapel Elders, God was able to use it all for good in our lives. I sense His pleasure in our collective response. During our staff orientation last August I referred to HCA as a "front" for the Kingdom of God. I am more convinced of that now than ever. Academics are important, but academics in the context of faith lived out by everyone in your school become transformative.

I believe HCA is like a little theater. God uses aca-

demics to get us all together but the real story is His. We are all the audience watching one another handle life events with God, one after another, all year long. We don't do it all well, we goof, we fall, we have bad days, but hopefully the difference is the taking of God's hand and letting Him pull us back up and lead us along His path. The kids are watching. They are more aware and tuned in than we realize. They see us fail and then they see us confess and persevere. That life lesson is caught, not taught. They see us enjoying one another and encouraging one another. We adults are the constant show on the HCA theater. As we live our lives before them, seeking peace and reconciliation along the way, we teach them good life habits of conflict



resolution, giving others the benefit of the doubt, and loving those with whom you may not have a natural affinity.

Most importantly, I hope we all model an authentic, warts and all, walk with God. This planet is not always an easy place on which to live. Real life, good and bad, happen here all the time, at the same time- just like this school year. It is a privilege and a joy to live our lives together before God. It has been a joy to serve you all this year and I pray you will all have super summers with your precious families. For those of you graduating and/or moving on, please know that our love goes with you and you will always be a part of the HCA family. Families visit and keep in touch, so that is your last homework assignment! May God bless you and keep you this summer! In His love,

Susan Hayward

~ Our Mission ~

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

Holden Christian Academy
508-829-4418
www.holdenchristianacademy.org



Mark Your Calendar!

June 7	Music Lessons students' Recital 2:00 p.m.
June 9	8th Grade Trip to Six Flags
June 10	Fine Arts Day— <i>parent volunteers needed!</i>
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!



Music Notes

Music Lessons Recital

Please join us at the music lessons student recital at 2 p.m. on Sunday, June 7 in the Holden Chapel Sanctuary.

Summer Music Lessons available

Mrs. Suchocki will be at HCA on Mondays from 8:30-4:30 p.m. and Thursday mornings from 9 a.m.-noon .

Lessons will be \$20/half hour and charged on a week to week basis due to people's various summer schedules.

There will be a sign up sheet at the music recital on Sunday for students that are already taking lessons. Any one else interested may contact her at lsuch43@gmail.com or 508-886-4460.



Fine Arts Day—Wednesday, June 10!

Fine Arts Day is an annual, all day event for grades K-8 where we celebrate our creativity here at HCA!

We need parent volunteers for this day, 8:00-2:30; please contact the office if you can help for any part of this fun day.

Request for supplies: for one of our projects we need textured things to glue down—ie.: lace, screen, tapestry, zippers, twine, small rope, buttons, corduroy, other items. No food, glass or very large items. Send in a.s.a.p. for advance prep.

Questions? Please email Mrs. M. through RenWeb.



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.
- For a safe, fun filled and restful summer vacation!

PRAISE & THANK YOU

- To the Parent Teacher Council and HCA families for blessing our teachers and staff abundantly during staff appreciation week!
THANK YOU!

Principal's Book of Excellence celebrates...

Kindergarten

Enson, for encouraging a fellow student to be a gentleman, and then lending a female student his marker to demonstrate.

Lydia, getting out a classmate's binder and loading it with papers, without being asked.

Grade 2

Abby, Will, Erik and Nathan, for staying back to clean the classroom on Wednesday during electives with Mrs. Cook.

Grade 5

Abigail, for always being willing to share with others.

Breanna, for being selfless for the sake of a friend.

Isabella, for being the class prayer warrior.

Katie, for consistently standing up for what is right.

Tobias, selflessly and kindly giving his extra book fair money to his younger brother so he could buy a much desired book that he couldn't afford.

Victoria, her compassion and selflessness for the sake of helping a friend.

Victoria, for being a leader in the classroom.

Grade 6

Matthew, Garret, Jeffrey, Anthony, Mollie, Isaiah, Logan, Emma and Bethany, for their unselfish use of flex time to help their teacher.

Bethany and Kyle, for using creativity and ingenuity to recreate a flower and pollinator.

Anthony, for consistent quality work.

Bethany, for taking the initiative to repair hula hoops for recess.

Kaitlyn, for the quiet encouragement and help she brings her friends.

Mollie, for sharing her joyfulness, caring and optimism with others.

Victoria, for her dedication to doing her best.

Grade 7

Cameron, his growing inquisitiveness and maturity in making connections in Language Arts and Spanish.

David, his faithful service to our school community on worship team by working the sound system.

Debbie, for her diligence and attention to detail in Language Arts.

Dylan, his quiet, yet formidable presence in the classroom which brings focus to everyone around him.

Elu, for her bubbly attitude in school and a love for God that is evident in her joyful responses in class.

Grade 8

The entire 8th grade class, for faithfully sharing their passion and gift of worship with the HCA family.



Classroom Happenings



Team A ~ Grades K, 1 and 2

Hello Parents!

As this year winds down I am writing this so thankful for all of **you** wonderful parents! We have done so many wonderful things this year and it would have not been possible without your help. Thank you for your dedication: from field trips to special days! As teachers we were also so blessed by your generosity, kind notes and gifts for teacher appreciation week :-)

We are looking forward to our last trip to Trout Brook on Monday so if you have not joined us yet, it is not too late, we leave at 1:00 and return by 2:45. Join us! Don't forget car seats J.

This **Friday** grades K-4 will be re-enacting the 'Exodus' outside in the field during the **afternoon**. For our 'Wandering Day' please have your child bring a bathrobe or long plain t-shirt and wear or bring sandals to dress as the Israelites.

Next week during Center Time Switch as a culminating activity for the end of the school year we will be 'Floating our Boats'! We have changed our plans because of the predicted weather. Your children will be making a toy from the past, enjoying a root beer float and playing a capture the flag game between the Union and Confederate states in the gym. Go Union!

Hope to see you all on the last half day of school at the Thankfulness Ceremony in the sanctuary.

Wishing you all a blessed summer and looking forward to seeing you all again in the fall!

Team B~ Grades 3 & 4



Grade three completed their awesome bunny tractor using lots of measurement skills, math skills, & team work. They continue to prove to be an amazing class!

We have three new additions to Team B....THE CHICKS HATCHED!! We have named them Sunflower, Twilight, and Fluff Nut. They are SOO cute!! -thriving and doing very well!!



Due to the late arrival of our caterpillars, we have been watching them transform into a chrysalis in class. The students will then take them home, observe the last -but most incredible part of the metamorphosis cycle, and release them at home.

Third and fourth grade are working on finishing up their History packets...they are looking good!

This Friday 4th grade is going to participate in the Wandering Day, a reenactment of the Exodus, with third grade & team A. Be sure to ask your kids about it :) **THIRD and FOURTH GRADERS:** Please bring a bathrobe as we will be pretending to be the Israelites.

I will send home the last Weekly Peek for fourth grade. this Friday. Here are the highlights for next week's schedule:
Monday - A day of academic applications, ex: We will roll out sugar cookie dough into the shape of the USA map & place mini

chocolate chips on the states I call out, math games, etc.
Tuesday - We will dig up our Time Capsule that we buried the first weeks of school

Wednesday - Fine Arts Day

Thursday - End of the year party in the a.m. & clean everything in the p.m.

Friday - "Thankfulness Chapel" and closing activities from fourth grade :(

Report cards will be available on RenWeb, Friday,

June 12th. You can print out a copy from RenWeb, if you would like a hard copy. If you do not have access to a printer, let us know by Wednesday, June 10th, and we will give you a hard copy on June 12th.

I am SO grateful for all the growth and maturity your children have shown throughout this year. I cannot thank you enough for blessing me with awesome students. I love your kids and I will miss them dearly!!

Highlights from the past weeks include a fabulous field trip to Old Sturbridge Village and a horse show featuring the students who

were in the horse elective at Mrs. Connell's Cornerstone Ranch. We are so thankful for these opportunities. Watch the HCA website and facebook page for more photos!



Ms. Reed & Mrs. Jorritsma



Classroom Happenings



Team C ~ Grades 5 & 6

The last few weeks have really flown by! It is hard to believe that we are already at summer's door!



In keeping with the season, team C has been studying flower anatomy and pollination in science. Students shared their collective knowledge last week after they each investigated a specific flower and its pollinator. Some of the displays were so creative! (There will be a quiz Friday on flowers and pollinators.) We have also been studying the scientific categories of fruits and creat-

ing a game for practice. Some fruits are very surprising! (acorns!)

Some things to remember for next week:

- ◆ We will be continuing classwork and homework next week—right up until Thursday. Grades officially close Friday and final report cards will



be sent home by mail the following Friday.

- ◆ Please check Renweb for missing assignments. (especially Bible!)
- ◆ We will have a class party on Thursday. We are still working out the details, but we plan to have a pizza lunch. We would appreciate a one dollar donation from each student for the pizza. *An email will follow with more details.*
- ◆ If your student has extra text books at home (or library books) please send them in by next Wednesday.
- ◆ Summer assignments will be posted on the HCA website after the last day of school. There will be a language arts assignment and a math assignment to avoid summer brain drain.

Last, but not least, it has been an absolute pleasure working with your students this year. They never cease to make us laugh and it has been a blessing to watch them grow.

Thank you also for the many blessings we received during staff appreciation week last week. The notes from you and the students were a special treasure.

We hope your summer is wonderfully relaxing and refreshing and filled with great family time!

In Him, *Mrs. Cleveland and Mr. Curtis*

Team D~ Grades 7 & 8

As we wrap up this school year, our goal is to finish strong in all areas. We have a few LA and Spanish cumulative tests on the horizon. The students have been diligently preparing for those in LA and Spanish. Additionally in LA 7, we are integrating our perennial garden and discussing Emily Dickinson's choice of nature as her focus, while others, such as Jack Prelutsky, just want to make his readers laugh. Considering that your audience can be anyone, your topics are unlimited, and that you don't have to follow the rules makes poetry a unique genre. In LA 8, we are reading *How to Read Literature Like a Professor for Kids*. What a great tool to help our students with literary analysis. The techniques we have used all year are nicely packaged in this little book. Thomas Foster makes some profound literary comments that have left them speechless. Summer reading information will be forthcoming on the HCA website. There are many things to accomplish to finish up this year. Let's focus here first and glorify God by giving our best to the end.



Thank you for allowing me to minister to your children this year. I have been blessed by each one. In my "Welcome" slideshow, way back in September, I shared that I wanted school to be a place of learning, obviously, but I also wanted the students to come each day 'anticipating the fun.' This is one very special and exciting opportunity we have at HCA. Learning happens, yes, and at the same time, it is outrageously fun! Thank you again and have a blessed and safe summer!

In His love, *Mrs. Campbell*

In Math and Science we are heads down, running hard to the finish line. Both 7th and 8th grades will have a cumulative math test on Monday June 8th. We are finishing up our Adolescent Health Unit on Friday June 5th. It has been a great two weeks of outside speakers and long discussions. The students were amazing and handled all of our discussions with a wonderful level of maturity. I was very proud of them.

GRADUATION is Thursday June 11th at 7pm. Please plan on attending to support our current 8th grade students. It is always a wonderful evening showcasing what the Lord has accomplished in their lives.

It is with a sincere heart that I thank you for the privilege to lead and teach your children over the past year. As I look back on our year, I am in awe of all that the Lord accomplished in all of us! His love and provision are sufficient!

Enjoy your summer! In Him, *Mrs. Holgate*

PS - Summer math work will go home on the last day of school and will be posted on the HCA website.

Grades 5-7 Graduation Reception reminder

It is our tradition that the 5th, 6th and 7th grade students and parents provide the refreshments for our 8th Grade Graduation, which will be held this year on Thursday, June 11. We ask all parents to provide the items for the reception; assignments are listed below. We also need parents who can set up and then clean up the refreshment area for the evening. Please contact Christine O'Brien at 508-829-4418 or admissions@holdenchristianacademy.org to sign up.

Your contributions will be as follows:

Boys: Last names beginning with A-C bring 2 bottles Sprite, D-K bring 2 bottles cranberry juice, L-Z bring 1 cans of fruit juice concentrate; Girls: please bring a variety of finger foods, 1 dozen each.

Bring your contributions to the kitchen beside the school office anytime during the day on June 11th. You are invited and encouraged to join us for the graduation ceremony at 7 p.m. in the Holden Chapel Sanctuary.

Thank you for your help creating this special evening for our eighth grade students!

Soccer Match

Thursday June 11 at 1:00 p.m., all students who participated in the soccer elective will meet in a soccer match on the school playground. Come and cheer on your friends!



Back to School 5K ~ All are invited, Dogs too!



Save the date..October 3, 2015...plan to run/walk with us to support the school!

Holden Christian Academy is sponsoring our very first 5K run/walk on Saturday October 3, 2015. We would like you to consider making a donation to sponsor this event through your business or church. Maybe you have a friend that would like to help? As a sponsor your affiliation will be printed on the back of the t-shirt. There is a donation request letter available in the office if you need something official to show a business owner, church, etc. This is a great advertisement opportunity!

This fundraiser is a great fit with our Food for Life curriculum and we hope many will join us. You can even bring your dog! You'll get a t-shirt and your dog will get something special too. More details will be sent home at the beginning of the school year.

Civil War Re-enactment

This weekend Paxton is holding a Civil War Re-enactment, a great family weekend activity to integrate school learning.

For Paxton's 250th anniversary there will be a Civil War reenactment on June 6th and 7th at Wentworth field, 19 West Street, Paxton. See a schedule of events:<http://paxton250thcelebration.org/SpecialEvents.html>

Summer Enrichment Program

We are offering an exciting summer enrichment program run by Marilyn Ravina and Angela Wheatley. Two different summer sessions are offered with themes of both land and water to include the garden and a refreshing way to cool off. There will be things to learn as the children play and work together to discover more about plants, bugs, healthy foods, songs, and a little garden work! The second half of the morning will have ocean themes including sea shell crafts, knot tying, making boats that float, sea shanties, and possibly getting wet on hot days! Each day will include worship and a Bible related story to tie into our themes.

We hope you sign up soon so we can prepare ahead for you! It will be a great way to start your day! See flyer and registration form that will be sent out along with Pathways. Whatever you chose to do this summer, may we all stay active, healthy and close to Jesus as he leads each one on the pathway upward toward our heavenly home. God bless you!