



Pathways

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

A Newsletter for Holden Christian Academy

September 11, 2014

Principal's Corner

Dear Friends,

Greetings from God's little outpost. During staff orientation in August we spent some time discussing and praying about why we are really here. We decided that the school is a "front" for God's most important work: growing up the next generation for Christ, and we're all a part of it.

Marvin Olasky recently published an article in the September issue World Magazine entitled "A Matter of Seeing". I recommend the entire piece. In it he says,

"The prime purpose of Christian education is not to instill in students a certain set of behaviors, although that may be a side effect of good teaching and learning. It's not even to put into our pert parrots' heads a certain amount of factual information, although a well-stocked memory is a great aid.

No, our greatest educational task is to help students see the whole population of the world, including that which secularists do not think exists. When we see that the world is spiritually as well as materially populated, every aspect of life looks different. That's why Christianity isn't a hobby, and why life is more than the sum of our diversions."

It is poignant that today is the 13th anniversary of 9/11/01. As I wrote about being a "front" for God it occurred to me that many fronts are not for good purposes. Right now around the world little children are being trained to hate and kill and destroy. Hopefully they are only part of the terrorist fringe, but none the less, this is their worldview.

Every fall each class reviews the worldview window hanging in their classrooms. Each windowpane represents one of the big questions of life that everyone, in all time periods, all over the world, tries to answer before they die. As our students mature the discussions grow deeper and the time spent on the worldview window increases. Our students are being taught to think

and reason from a Biblical worldview which makes all the difference: a matter of seeing.

The focus of HCA's front is to advance God's agenda in the lives of our children - and through them, out into the world. We uphold His Word rather than Man's wisdom. We promote good instead of evil, love in place of hate, and life over death, training our children to see God in every dimension of their lives and their world. So let's band together parents, teachers and staff, to further the interests of God's Kingdom in this next precious generation - the most important work in the world.

I pray for God's blessing in every aspect of your homes and our school in this exciting new school year. May the Lord richly bless you all!

Susan Hayward,
Principal

Parents' Night September 18 at 7 p.m.

Please mark your calendars and join us at 7 p.m. on Thursday, September 18. Please do not bring children to this event. We love your kids but this night is for you!



We will be sharing a preview of coming attractions for this year, and you will have a chance to visit teachers in their classrooms, see your child's work, and meet other HCA parents. We share a lot of information; please make every effort to have at least one parent attend.

Please call the office at 508-829-4418 or send an email info@holdenchristianacademy.org if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing you!

Our Mission ~

To challenge children to a lifetime of learning, working in partnership with families, to integrate Biblical truth with academic pursuits.

Holden Christian Academy
508-829-4418



HCA Calendar

Sept. 12	Field Trip, 3rd-8th Grades, Boston
Sept. 15	Olga visits, from Belarus orphanage ministry
Sept. 15	School Committee 7 p.m.
Sept. 18	PARENTS' NIGHT 7 P.M.
Sept. 24	See You at the Pole prayer event
Sept. 25	Open House for Prospective Families 7 p.m.

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.

- For all of our staff, students and families called to HCA for this year, that we trust in God's protection and provision.
- For all of our HCA alumni, from those entering high school to those who are now old enough to have their own children here at HCA, that they always remember what they learned during their foundation here.
- For new families being called to HCA, that they will hear God's call and trust in Him.
- For God's continued provision for HCA, and that we will have wisdom in following His plan.

PRAISE & THANK YOU

- Thank you to the Pollitt family for refurbishing the Team A cubbies.
- Thank you to all who helped with the Team A flooring and painting projects. It could not have been done without a lot of willing hands (and strong backs!)

Principal's Book of Excellence celebrates...

Kindergarten

Max and James, for doing the right thing in getting help for a friend who was hurt.

DRIVE SLOWLY PLEASE!

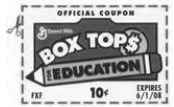
Please use caution and keep your speed down in our driveway/parking lot. There have already been complaints of drivers driving too fast, and it's usually around the time that the arrival door is going to close (8:15 a.m.)

Remember that all drop-off traffic for Grades K-8 should proceed into the upper parking lot, not through the lot near the building, no matter what time it is.

Thank you for your help.

Box Tops for Education

HCA receives two checks per year (Dec. and April) depending on how many Box Tops we submit. Please save those labels and send them to the office. Thank you!



Health Notes

As we are back together again with many people in tighter spaces, please remember the following health precautions, from the CDC: wash your hands, clean frequently used surfaces, stay home if you are sick, especially if you have temp above 99.4.

Sometimes our students (and staff) don't want to miss time from school and come in with a fever or not quite recovered from an episode of vomiting. Please have your child stay home until 24 hours have passed after vomiting or a fever.



Classroom Happenings

Spanish ~ Grades K-6

Hola from Senora Gillon! I am the Spanish Teacher for Grades K-6 and this is my 3rd year at HCA! I am so excited to get back to teaching, singing, & playing games with these AMAZING children to expose them to the beautiful Spanish language:)

In Kindergarten in Term 1 we will be learning the very basics of the language: Hola & Adios, counting, & colors. Your child will be coming home singing Spanish songs to share with you, so get ready to learn along with them!

In Grades 1-4 in Term 1 we will be reviewing the numbers, colors, & parts of the body with our favorite Spanish songs and children's literature. The introduction of the Calendar vocabulary in Spanish will be introduced this term so feel free to ask your children about the days of the week, months of the year, and weather in Spanish:) We will also tie in this wonderful time of harvesting in the garden with Spanish and spend quality time outdoors in God's creation.

Keep an eye open for a date that parents will be able to come in and watch a performance of our favorite Spanish songs in the outdoor classroom!

In Grade 5 & 6 we will be diving into the Expresate Spanish textbook to explore communicating with our classmates in Spanish, introduction to verbs & adjectives in Spanish, and also vocabulary related to harvesting in the garden.

Looking forward to seeing you all at Parent's Night on September 18th!

Blessings, *Senora Gillon*

Turn the page for more news from our classrooms!



Classroom Happenings continued

Preschool

Preschool is off to a SPLASHING start!!!! The children are all getting to know the routine and each other. We are having so much fun getting to know each of your children. They are a true blessing from the Lord! Thank you for allowing us the privilege of being their preschool teachers! We are looking forward to a year filled with love, fun and learning!

~ Mrs. Younger

Team A ~ Grades K-2

Land Ho Team A Parents!

The children have been exploring new lands in the Team A wing! Our classrooms have been updated, changed, improved and renovated and they look FABULOUS! As teachers we are enjoying the improvements, and we worked hard during the summer to put the rooms all back together. We are soooo thankful for all of those who helped us!

Since the start of the school year, we have been learning about our spiritual and national heritage and are moving toward early explorers. (Ask your Kindergarten child what they explored on Wednesday afternoon!) We

are requesting each child in Team A to bring in a paper towel tube for Tuesday to make a telescope during Center Time Switch.

We hope to see you all at Parent's night on Thursday. We would love to show you what your amazing children are accomplishing already at school. We are looking forward to our field trip to the Apple Orchard on Friday of next week. We will go rain or shine! If it is nice we will pick from the trees. We are asking that each child donate one apple from the bag they pick for a cooking activity we will do at school. Hope you can join us! Thank you for sharing your wonderful children with us! They are such a blessing to us and we enjoy the flavor they add to our lives!

Pictures: Students create suns, tigers, and carrots out of gluten-free playdough. You should have seen their faces when Mrs. T took the playdough away and asked them to make something out of nothing. But, God did!



Team C ~ Grades 5 & 6

Hello from 5th Grade! We have gotten off to a spectacular beginning. There are several new students in the class and a new teacher, so much of our time thus far has been devoted to getting acquainted and establishing a set of class procedures. However, we have squeezed in some academic work! In Language Arts students have discovered the poetry of Robert Frost and learned about meter and rhyme schemes as well as symbolism. The class was especially interested in finding evidence of Frost's love for Christ in his poetry.

In History we have focused on the Age of Exploration. We noted that exploration flows from our inability to remain settled, which has been part of the human experience since our expulsion from Eden. This sub-theme will remain with us throughout the year and especially as we move from the explorers to the settlers over the next two weeks.

It has been a blessing to get to know the students and families of the 5th grade. Thank you for the kind and supportive messages many have sent as we started the new year. ~ Mr. Reno

This school year is off to a great start! We began the year with a focus on expectations and procedures, and the students are already becoming secure in them.

In Bible, the 5th and 6th graders have been examining worldviews. We have been comparing our Christian worldview with other worldviews. Since the way we answer life's questions will be determined by our worldview, we used Scripture to confirm our own Christian worldview. Students have almost completed their visual representations--world view windows--which will be posted in the hallway.

In Science, we are beginning the year by learning what we will use frequently in science--the scientific method. (There will be a quiz on the steps of the scientific method next week.)

Students practiced using the scientific method in their lab this week as they tried to answer the question, "How Does Weight Affect the Speed at Which Objects Fall?" Most students were surprised by their own findings. You may want to ask them about it!

~ Mrs. Cleveland



Team B ~ Grades 3 & 4

It has been a wonderful first full week of school! Our focus has largely been review in language and math.

In science, Grades 3 and 4 have been talking about what causes our earth's surface to change, recognizing our Creator's hand in all that we see and learn.

~ Mrs. Jorritsma

What a wonderful start to 4th grade. There has been tons of growth and maturity. It's exciting to spend time with these eager learners :)

We are working hard learning all of our procedures. We're starting out s-l-o-w-l-y in Math; thank you for your flexibility, parents! :)

Please make sure you check your child's binder in the "Take Home Bring Back" section...and also look for important information about our upcoming Plimoth Preview Day on October 10th. We will be working on getting ready to make a replica of Plimoth Plantation to show the whole school!

Thank you for all your help & support! Looking forward to seeing you at Parents' Night this Thursday. I LOVE your kids!!

~ Mrs. Reed



even more Classroom Happenings!



Team D ~ Grades 7 & 8

WOW, how these students have grown over the summer! I'm always amazed at the physical growth, but more astounded at how prepared they are for the next grade at HCA. It is such a joy to be here and I am extremely excited to see what God has planned for us. Each student is a unique treasure from God's hand.

My 7th graders are ALL IN with me. We have adopted a 'football' mentality this year, as I've become a football mom. It's been great using this analogy in class. I've enjoyed watching them 'huddle up' in the mornings for devotions and share together what God is teaching us through His word or work through the 'penalties' of missing work and not using proper headings.

In both Language Arts classes, we'll be diving into spelling/vocabulary and we'll begin reading our first novel next week. I've snapped the ball. They've received it and we are off and running.

Looking forward to an awesome school year! Blessings to you all! ~ Mrs. Campbell

YUM! 8th grade was in the garden this week and harvested our first cantaloupe! Both 7th & 8th grade enjoyed the sweet and flavorful fruit. In addition, we have all the fixings for a batch of salsa.

We are off to a great start and I am blessed to be back with your precious children. I am thoroughly enjoying getting to know our 7th grade class.

In science we are beginning the year with a 2 week BioChem unit the origins of life. We are taking a close look at the theory of Evolution and comparing it to what science has proven and the bible teaches. Students will be working on summarizing their findings next week.

7th graders are easing into their new Math curriculum... and their new Math teacher! We will begin picking up the pace after the honeymoon is over next week. ;-)

8th graders have hit the ground running and are off to a strong start.

I am now posting all assignments and grades on Renweb. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Excited about this year ~ Mrs. Holgate

Who do you know that might like to support HCA? Fill this out and return to the office by September 24, or email this information to jbleau@holdenchristianacademy.org. We will add these names to our mailing list for our Annual Fund. No need to re-submit names if you have given them previously.

Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____


Address: _____

Address: _____



Your Name: _____




Holden Christian Academy
Preschool Highlights
Ocean Unit




“So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that scurries and swarms in the water,... And God saw that it was good.” Genesis 1:21



Dear Parents,
We are diving into learning in Preschool! We are learning about the ocean and the amazing creatures God designed to live in it. Here are a few highlights from our Ocean Unit.




Read Aloud Selections



Rainbow Fish– Marcus Pfister
God Made the World (big book)
Jonah (big book)
Where the Whale Went
A House for a Hermit Crab
– Eric Carle




Special Centers:



Ocean Puppets
Ocean stamps
Sand play (explorations, shells)
Sorting shells and sea creatures
Waterplay (explorations, sea life)
Observing class Pets: Beta fish,




Crafts



Painting Rainbowfish’s friends
Decorate an Octopus
Sand art seashell
Whole class Whale painting
Watercolor explorations




Games



Fishing color and ABC games
Sea life Lotto
Fish, Fish, Shark! (gross motor)




Fingerplays/ Songs




5 Little Seashells
Over in the Ocean in the Deep Blue Sea




Teaching the Whole Child:




Spiritual Development : God made the creatures of the sea. God made me. God loves me. I can pray to God and praise God. God wants me to share and care for my friends.




Social / Emotional Development : Getting along with others, taking turns, sharing, learning to be safe. following directions, raising your hand, and making new friends!




Cognitive Development- Name recognition, sorting by size, shape, color and texture, counting, number recognition, color recognition, matching pictures. Answering who and what questions.



Physical Development- (fine/ gross motor) gluing, painting, stamping, building, running, jumping.



FFL (Fit for Life) - Positive praise for eating healthy foods (rainbow), enjoying fresh air and sunshine.



Mrs Malisa Younger(Lead Teacher)
Mrs Robin Stewart (AM Assistant Teacher)
Miss Chawnee (AM & PM Assistant)

