



Pathways

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

A Newsletter for Holden Christian Academy

September 25, 2014

Principal's Corner

Dear Friends,

It was great to see so many of you at Parent Night last Thursday. We take our partnership very seriously and appreciate you making the effort to attend. You are a fun group. I especially appreciated your heart-felt written comments for this year's Annual Appeal letter. Thank you! Your comments were the hit of the last letter, so we plan to use some new ones in this year's Annual Appeal letter as well. It is currently in the process of being edited, but it's not too late to send in your thoughts. If you haven't written comments but would like to be represented in the letter, please jot down why you like HCA, or why you chose HCA, and send it to info@holdenchristianacademy.org. We'd love to hear from more of you.

Donors

The Bible says that you have not because you ask not. Lately, God has convicted me of not asking for or believing that He will provide some major donors for HCA. When our first Accreditation Team came in 2006, they said we needed to cultivate some major donors. They shared that many schools have several major donors who give huge amounts yearly to their schools. One school receives ½ million dollars annually! Admittedly, we joked about this possibility more than we prayed about it so we continue to spend an inordinate amount of time fund-raising. Would you be willing to pray with me, the staff, and the school committee? We are asking God to move in the hearts of His people and lead us to some people who have a heart for Christ-centered education and have the desire to support it? Ask God to put the names of people you know on your heart so you can send in names of new folks who might be interested in supporting HCA. They don't have to be wealthy or a big donor. The widow's mite was more valuable to God. Please take this seriously; fill out the attached sheet and return it to school ASAP. Thanks!

Spiritual Emphasis Week is next week and we can hardly wait! Every year we have the privilege of hosting our friends from Coastlands Consultants to lead us in a spiritual booster shot. It's painless and a lot of fun. We are blessed to welcome back our good friends Pam Brady, Matt Huffman and

Cassie Dahl. They always connect with the kids and do a fabulous job. Please pray for them all this week. Pray that HCA will encourage them in every way as well.

How does S.E.W. work?

We begin each day, Monday-Friday, with a special chapel at 8:30. Parents are welcome as always. Our student worship teams lead us in worship and then the SEW team works together to do some fun activities to introduce and review ideas and topics. They perform skits, teach the kids the Jesus cheer, play "What's Wrong With This Picture", and review lessons with Bible Ball. After worship, the group is split in two for the message. K-4 is led by Pam or Cassie and 5th-8th is led by Matt Huffman. Both groups focus on a theme for the week that will bring us all closer to God. The theme this year is HOPE and the scripture is Romans 15:13.

The week is about relationships. The team visits classrooms, plays at recess, and eats with the kids. They have built lasting relationships with our students in the past and will do so again this year. We choose to have our Spiritual Emphasis Week at the beginning of the year because it makes a tremendous impact that lasts for the entire year.

Who are they?

Here's some background information on these extraordinary servants whose unique, faith-based ministry is primarily to Christian Schools. It's a ministry of encouragement and help. Pam Brady is the director and founder of Coastlands Consultants. After teaching in a Christian school, she completed her Masters Degree in Theology at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in 1985 and earned her Doctorate of Ministry from GCTS in 2007. Pam spent seven years as a full-time Christian school administrator and answered the call to missionary itinerancy full-time in 1995. Pam served for seven years on the Granite State Christian School Board. She served as ACSI District Two Representative covering Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island and Eastern Mass. Pam and I have been friends since the early '80s. She was instrumental in helping HCA get off the ground and has been a tremendous source of encouragement (faith and fun) ever since!

Matt Huffman is starting his 12th year with Coastlands and is a favorite at HCA as well. He graduated from Grove City College, taught at Nashua Christian Academy for five years and

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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
www.holdenchristianacademy.org



HCA Calendar

Sept. 25 TONIGHT! Open House for Prospective Families 7 p.m.
 Sept. 29-Oct. 3 Spiritual Emphasis Week!
 Oct. 13 NO SCHOOL—Columbus Day
 Oct. 14 K-4 Field Trip—Plimoth/Mayflower
 Oct. 16 PK NO SCHOOL—Development Day
 Oct. 23 Lifetouch Picture Day
 Oct. 24 K-8 NO SCHOOL—Development Day

Weekly:
 Parent Prayer Group ~ Thursdays ~ join parents in praying for HCA from 8:20-9:00 in the Holden Chapel Prayer Room.

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 the Lundergan family, as they mourn the loss of their beloved "Muckin". Mrs. Lundergan's mom, nicknamed "Muckin" by her granddaughter Bridget, used to read to our third graders, who are now in seventh grade.
- For our students and staff and their family members that are ill, that God will grant wisdom to their caregivers, and heal their bodies in His time and in His way.
- For our Open House, that people will know about HCA and follow God's call.
- For our Annual Fund, that former and new donors will faithfully support Christian education.

PRAISE & THANK YOU

- Praise God for a beautiful day for the Brookfield Orchard Field Trip last week.
- Thank you to all who sent in goodies for Open House tonight.

Ways to Earn Rewards for HCA!

- * **Return empty ink cartridges to the HCA Office!**
- * **Clip Box Tops from boxes and packages!**
- * **Participate in grocery store rewards programs!**

—Hannaford: Drop printed reward coupon in the HCA slot
 at the in-store collection tower.

—Price Chopper: Use School Code 14218 and sign up at
<http://www.pricechopper.com/savings> sign-up

—Stop & Shop: Use School Code 09765 and sign up at
<http://www.stopandshop.com/aplus/register-card/>

Principal's Book of Excellence celebrates...

Kindergarten

Audrey, for singing a beautiful song to the class.
 Phoebe, for sharing her sweatshirt with a friend who was cold.
 William, for memorizing John 3:16 all by himself.

Grade 1

Isabella and Jocelyn, for stopping and looking both ways before crossing.

Grade 4

Charles, for being such a great helper to a fellow classmate.

Grade 6

Bella, for donating her own goldfish to the classroom

Grade 8

The Eighth Grade Class, for leading our school in worship with enthusiasm and heart!

Principal's Corner continued...

leads the Jr. and Sr. high portion of the ministry. He is a solid man of God and so dedicated that he keeps in touch with our past students and attends HCA events during the year when he's in the area.

Cassie Dahl had been an intern with Coastlands for the past few years and is a favorite with our students. She was first introduced to this ministry as a student in a Christian school. Now she is a real pro and has a heart for Christ and the kids. We have seen many interns built up by this ministry over the years and hope someday that some of our own students will take the challenge to spend a few years being personally mentored and built up as they minister to Christian schools across New England.

A worker is worthy of his wages

Because the ministry is faith-based, **a collection will be taken on their behalf. Last year we were able to give them a check for over \$2,300!** Please send in a check **made out to HCA** for their support by next **Wednesday, Oct. 1st**. We pray that the students will want to give generously of their own money in response to the blessing they have received from the entire team. The gift will be given to them on Friday. In the past HCA has always been incredibly generous and I pray that this year will be no exception. Pam shared with me yesterday that their funds are particularly tight right now because two of their major schools have closed. Very sad. Let's encourage the socks off them and give them a tremendous boost with a large donation.

Please pray with us that God richly blesses our students, staff and guests during the week. Let's pray the same for the team and expect great things from God! Who knows, maybe one day an HCA grad will join their team.

Joyfully in His service,

Susan Hayward





Classroom Happenings

Team A ~ Grades K-2

A great big THANK YOU...



...to all parents who attended Parents' Night. It was great getting to know you better, sharing information, and giving you a peek into your child's school day.

...to those who were able to chaperone the field trip to Brookfield Orchards. The tour was informative and the weather was perfect! We had fun picking apples and peeling them with an old fashioned apple peeler when we got back to school. Then we enjoyed warm apple crisp while viewing *Johnny Appleseed*. Did you see the statue of Johnny at the orchard store?

Please remember to...

...check your child's binder every night...label *everything*. ...send in a brown T-shirt for your child if you have not done so already.



Thank you!

Team B ~ Grades 3 & 4

Thank you for all your support in helping your fourth graders :) It was so nice to see you all at Parents' Night!

Third and fourth grades have all been assigned a historical figure to share with the school on October 10th for our Plimoth Preview. Thank you for helping your child build their Plimoth houses at home. We've been working hard to gather 10-5 special facts to share with everyone.

Check their binders for The Wampanoag study sheet. We will have a test on this nextFriday, October 3rd.

Fourth grade, remember to practice multiplication facts and read everyday :))

I hope you can join us for a chapel next week for Spiritual Emphasis Week. It's a very special week for H.C.A to see what God has to show us through Coastland Ministries! ~ Mrs. Reed

Team D ~ Grades 7 & 8

Have you ever watched a receiver catch a pass and run into the end zone for a touchdown? If so, you know the elation experienced by the player, the teammates, the coaches, and the fans when this occurs. I can relate. This is how I feel teaching your students every day. The 7th and 8th graders are an absolute JOY to teach. Each day, I feel like the quarterback. I make the pass and they catch the ball with grace and finesse. Then, as they run with what they have learned, I coach, cheer, guide, encourage, and rejoice with them. It's just plain awesome! Here are some highlights from the "game":



- ~ Greek & Latin Roots have commenced – quizzes each week on Thursdays
- ~ Verbs (transitive/intransitive/infinitives) – much Spanish integration here
- ~ 8th grade literary work on theme in Roanoke
- ~ 7th grade a touch of poetry and novel introduction coming soon

RenWeb: All 7th graders have been given their personal log in information as set up by the office. I allowed each student to log in for practice. ~ Mrs. Campbell

Hello from Mrs. Holgate,

We are all excited about Spiritual Emphasis Week (SEW) next week. We will have chapel each morning, extra devotional time and "coffee can" time. Coffee can time is the opportunity for students to anonymously ask any bible question they'd like. Please be praying for all our students... that none of us will miss what The Lord has for us!

MATH: 7th & 8th grade Math will have their first chapter test of the year next week. Ask your student how they should be studying for this test!

SCIENCE: 7th & 8th graders got the microscopes out and had fun discovering what their own cheek cells look like 400x magnified. We are wrapping up our 3 week Bio-Chem Unit on the Origins of Life this week with the Final-Final copy of their Evolution vs. Creation Essays. The students are learning to master writing for Science. No pronouns, no opinion... just the facts! They are working hard and making good progress.

Team C ~ Grades 5 & 6

We have had a terrific couple of weeks in Team C! In Language Arts we have worked with Greek and Latin roots and affixes to build and decode new words. The students cheered with enthusiasm when they decoded the word meteorological, and they were also very happy when they learned that the word photograph literally means "writing in light." In history we have been comparing the two worldviews that dominated the Age of Exploration and Discovery. The students have enjoyed learning that being created in God's image and commanded to increase the rest of His creation is the basis for our natural rights and freedom. Soon we will be turning from Europe to the shores of the New World. Jamestown and Plymouth are out next destinations.

~ Mr. Reno

Things are really moving in Team C now! Students have become adept at the routines and procedures, and the focus is completely on the learning.

In science, both 5th and 6th grade have been practicing the Scientific Method as a means to solving a problem. Last week, they used this process to fix broken flashlights, experimenting to see why they were not working. They are also learning that scientists record everything as they write, so they have written lab reports for each of their experiments. This week, we are focusing on the history of science, taking a look at some of the earliest known scientists. Even though they may not have been entirely correct in their beliefs, their contributions have led up to some of our modern scientific thinking. Even mistakes can have significant value!

In Bible, we are closely examining God's word. We are looking at the details of the stories of Genesis with the hope that we will continue to notice new things, ask new questions, and strengthen our faith in the awesome creator we have!

I have marveled this week at how easily the Team C students have begun the school year. They are doing a great job of focusing on the tasks at hand and participating in the lessons as they are presented. Keep up the great work!

~ Mrs. Cleveland

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Classroom Happenings! continued...

Team D continued...

GARDEN: We enjoyed another cantaloupe this week and the flowers are hanging on. Given the cold evening temperatures, we are done harvesting this Fall. Planning for early Spring planting will begin before long!

Thank you for the abundant blessing of working with your child.

In partnership,

Mrs. Holgate

After School Program

Mrs. Ravina's after school kids are having fun, fresh air, and healthy snacks. They've made smoothies, popcorn, kale chips and apple-sauce so far. She brings in her guitar and sings with them at least once a week. The students have enjoyed lots of outdoor time at free play and team games. Last week they made a tent, played rope games, created an obstacle course and danced to the music in the gym. There is often time for homework to be done as well but with the good weather, our focus is outside in the clear sunshine and sweet air of the fall. We've also had nature walks and plan to collect leaves for our own collages next week. The students share freely their favorite scriptures, songs, and growing faith. They seem to get along very well with no real friction between them and that makes space and time for a little heaven on earth. If you have any ideas of things you'd like to add to our program feel free to share it with us. They are all a wonderful and lively group of students who have enjoyed many things together in their after school time. Let us know if you'd like to join the program or have any feedback to share with us.

Greetings from the Art Room

Students are working hard on their Square 1 Art pictures. It's amazing to see the ideas they have come up with. I am sure you will be pleasantly surprised. Kindergarten is doing a self portrait, and the rest of the school is working with the theme "Our Heritage."

Later this term students will learn about printmaking (historical artist Albrecht Durer) ; They will be making a monogram for themselves (Also Durer) and grades 1-8 will be doing a self portrait while learning about Rembrandt.

I do love donations, however, due to limited storage space, please call the office before bringing unsolicited donations of supplies, so we can plan for the use or storage of the items. Thank you for your help in this area.

Students at the elementary grade level often think of art as their favorite class of the week, this is mostly because it is a wonderful way to learn without concrete instruction- stress free. Sadly, I often find out students are not encouraged at home to spend time in free creativity. PLEASE, if you don't already have markers, colored pencils, simple stencils, scissors, glue, tape, and paint available for your child to use, please go to Michael's, AC Moore, Walmart, or Target and get some age appropriate supplies for free creativity! Your child will be thrilled!

Blessings!

Pam Mikolajczyk, Art Teacher

Students in Grades 6-8...Student Council

If you are interested in becoming a member of the **HCA Student Council**, please submit a 1-2 paragraph essay on why you would like to represent our student body and what ideas you have that could enhance our school experience. As a member, you will be required to attend a weekly meeting and any special events that we plan and sponsor. Please give the essay to your classroom teacher to be collected by Senora Gillon, who is the Student Council Staff Advisor. The deadline for the essay is **Friday, October 3rd**.

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.

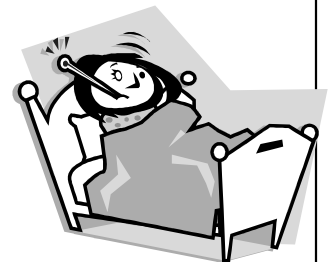
Thank you for your help.

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.

If you have any questions about when a child may return to school after any type of illness, please call or email the school office at 508-829-4418 or info@holdenchristianacademy.org.



Who do you know that believes in the importance of Christian education? Fill this out and return to the office by September 30, 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: _____

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Your Name: