



# Pathways

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

A Newsletter for Holden Christian Academy

October 8, 2015

## Principal's Corner

Dear friends,

I want to begin by saying how much I appreciate you all. We've had a lot going on in a very short amount of time and you have responded well beyond my expectations! Thanks you for generously supporting the Spiritual Emphasis Week team by attending many chapels and giving \$2,145! They are so appreciative and always comment on how much they love coming to HCA. Matt Huffman told me on Wednesday that he was starting to get sad because they look forward to coming to HCA all year long and now the week was half gone! We figured out that they have been coming to HCA for 16 years! As I listened to the team again this year, I realized how much I appreciate the respect they have for the faith of our children. So often adults feel they must water down, glitz up, or make fun the central truths of the Bible in order to be palatable for kids of today. Now don't get me wrong, the entire Coastlands team is fun, funny, creative and energetic, BUT when it comes to the message they deliver it in a serious, straightforward, and sincerely passionate way. They are personally living out their faith and it is caught by our kids. It always amazes me that Matt Huffman gives four hard-hitting talks (which would challenge any adult) and the 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders love them and respond. Why? I believe that they sense his respect for them and their faith, and he consistently lives out his faith before them. At 2:25 on Friday afternoon I heard him speaking with a student in the hall. The student had some hard questions and Matt answered them all, patiently and fully. We are blessed to have Coastlands in our lives and I thank God for them! Please see the Classroom Happenings for the comments made by our 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders about what they took away from SEW.

I also want to applaud everyone who came, helped, walked, ran, or was pulled by a pooch at our first ever HCA 5K. Although the weather outside was misty and gray, the spirit of the group was positive and determined. My favorite moment was watching James Njoroge running to the finish line. He came in first by a long shot and looked just as fresh and fast as he did when he began! Go James! Many door prize winners were thrilled to be picked and took home prizes such as a bike, a scooter, a flower arrangement, and lots of gift certificates from local businesses. We were able to make \$1,150 and we are grateful for a fun first attempt. We are always looking for fundraisers that include and benefit our students. This one was

very family friendly, reinforced our Food for Life program, and was fun for all. Many thanks go out to Kim Hughes and Crystal Caron-Duval for organizing the entire event. T-shirts are available in the office for a donation. We have lots of extras so please take some!

The next two Fridays bring extended day field trips for all. Tomorrow, grades K-4 go to the fabulous Mystic Aquarium and beach and next Friday the 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders are spending an extended day in the Amherst area. They will visit the garden of Emily Dickinson, participate in a tour of the U-Mass Permaculture Garden which was featured at the White House, have lunch on campus, and visit with Nate Damon, who grew up at Holden Chapel, and is now the leader of the Navigator Ministry at U-Mass. Nate will bring along some students who are involved in the ministry to talk to our students. Lastly, and just for fun, they will be going to a huge corn maze where the kids will do a scavenger hunt that has the theme of Alice in Wonderland. Since that is the play our students will be doing later in the year we knew we just had to go! Wow...no wonder we are a little tired! Thank you all for a great start to school and your support and enthusiasm! We love your kids and consider it a privilege to serve them.

In Him who is able,  
Susan Hayward, Principal

See Pathways issues in color at  
[www.holdenchristianacademy.org](http://www.holdenchristianacademy.org)

## Scripture Memory Verse of the Week

*How many are your works, O LORD!  
...There is the sea, vast and spacious,  
teeming with creatures beyond number—  
living things both large and small.*



*Psalm 104:24-25*

~ 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](http://www.holdenchristianacademy.org)



## Mark Your Calendar!

October 9	Mystic Aquarium field trip, grades K-4
October 12	Columbus Day—NO SCHOOL
October 16	Amherst field trip, grades 5-8
October 23	Term 2 Development Day—NO SCHOOL
November 4	Equine Show @ Cornerstone Ranch, time TBD <i>(for those participating in the equine elective this term)</i>
November 6	Term 1 Ends
November 11	Veterans' Day—NO SCHOOL
November 18	Parent Teacher Conferences-afternoon

### WELL CHILD and ILLNESS POLICY

*addendum to Parent Student Handbook*

It is our desire at Holden Christian Academy to provide the healthiest possible environment for our students, so we kindly ask that you DO NOT bring your child to school if he or she has any of the following symptoms:

- Green or yellow runny nose
- Persistent coughing
- Discharge from the eyes
- Fever
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Unknown or contagious rash
- \* Any communicable disease

If a student has a contagious illness such as conjunctivitis (pinkeye) or strep throat, he/she **must** be on antibiotics for a **full 24 hours** before returning to school.

If a student has been vomiting or had a fever, he/she should be **sick-ness or fever free for at least 24 hours** (without fever reducing medication) before returning to school.

In the case of chicken pox, a student cannot return to school until all lesions are dried and scabbed over. This usually takes about 5 days; however, each case will vary.

By way of reminder, here is our current **Dismissal Due To Illness Policy**:

Any student who becomes ill while at school will be sent home at the discretion of the staff.

If the student has a fever of 99.6 or above, he/she will be sent home.

*Thank you for your cooperation and partnership in striving to keep illness at HCA to a minimum.*

### School Service Opportunities

Please call the office at 508-829-4418 or send in a note if you can help with these opportunities:

- Elective helpers—share a skill or talent with our students!
- Box top coordinator—great for someone looking for at home service hours!
- Room Parents—being a point of contact for your child's classroom and helping at big events throughout the year.
- Help turning VHS into DVD's with our new machine!

*Principal's Book of Excellence celebrates...*

#### Kindergarten

**Jeremiah**, for gladly sharing his golf ball with the class for a science experiment.

**Ella**, for cleaning up the mats without being asked; being an awesome helper!

#### First Grade

**William**, for helping in the After School program, cleaning the frying pans until they shined!

**Arden**, for helping in the After School program, cleaning the frying pans until they shined!

**Enson**, for turning in summer math pages to Mrs. Hughes.

#### Second Grade

**Matthew**, being a Matthew 18 peacebuilder, noticing and speaking up about hurts he caused at recess.

#### Third Grade

**Jacquelyn**, for being an enthusiastic reader.

**Jacquelyn**, for being a kind friend to younger students and helping them on the swings.

**Jacob**, for being quick to listen to direction.

**Dayton**, for sharing his snack with a student that forgot one.

**Erik**, for helping a friend catch up in science.

**Nathan**, for sharing his snack with a student that forgot one.

**Maddie**, for being a kind friend to younger students and helping them on the swings.

**Maddie**, for working hard in mathematics.

#### Sixth Grade

**Victoria**, for helping in the After School program, washing dishes.

#### Seventh Grade

**Bethany**, for living out Philippians 2:3, consistently holding the door for others to let peers go first during transitions.

**Garret**, for a growing maturity, demonstrated in his character and his school work.

**Kyle**, for his gentleness and patience in bringing awareness of personal space and boundaries to his peers.

#### Eighth Grade

**Joshua**, for caring about someone not feeling well and offering to help.

### 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.

- Thank you, Lord for a great SEW and our first 5K!
- Safe and valuable upcoming field trips!
- Continued prayer for KK and her mom, Tanya, as KK receives cancer treatment.
- For new families being called to HCA, that they will hear God's call and trust in Him.



# Classroom Happenings



## Team A ~ Grades K, 1 and 2

Hello from Team A!

- Field Trip

We and Team B are SO looking forward to visiting Mystic Aquarium on Friday!

Our students will be exploring to see if the ocean animal they have chosen to research resides there!

Please remember:

- The bus is scheduled to leave **at 8:30**. Please arrive between 8:00 and 8:15 so we can take attendance and get everyone settled.
- Send a disposable/nut-free lunch to eat early, and a hearty snack to eat at the beach.
- Please pack lunch and snack separately and label them with your child's name.

*Ex. John Doe LUNCH John Doe SNACK*

Thank you, in advance for doing this as it makes it so much easier to hand them out!

Weather permitting, we will have the kids take off their shoes and socks and roll up their pant legs to go exploring at the beach. Please explain that if they get wet they will have to deal with the natural consequences for the hour and ½ drive home!

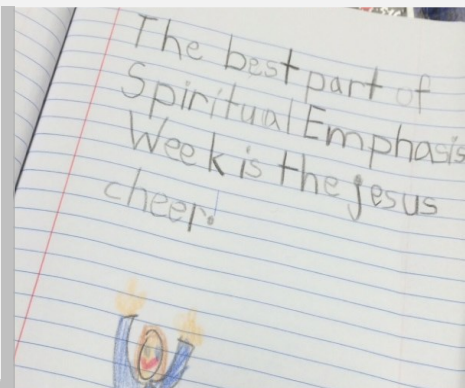
- The Ocean Animal project pages (for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade) will be made available as a web document on Ren Web for your convenience. Please observe deadlines for each required section of the project.

- Center Time Switch

Can you say transcontinental? It's a five syllable word! Students may have had a hard time saying it, but they sure had fun learning about the Transcontinental Railroad this week. Students heard all about Andrew Carnegie, and how he made a fortune making steel and gave most of his fortune away to philanthropic causes. They used teamwork to act out how the two railroad companies raced across the United States (okay it was really across their desks) to build the rail that joined in Promontory, Utah. Ask them to tell you about the golden spike. And they learned about a true hero, Casey Jones, who gave his life to save others during a train wreck.

Thank you for your continuing to keep your children and HCA in your prayers.

Blessings, Mrs. Caron, Mrs. Torres, and Mrs. Hughes





# Classroom Happenings



## Team B~ Grades 3 & 4

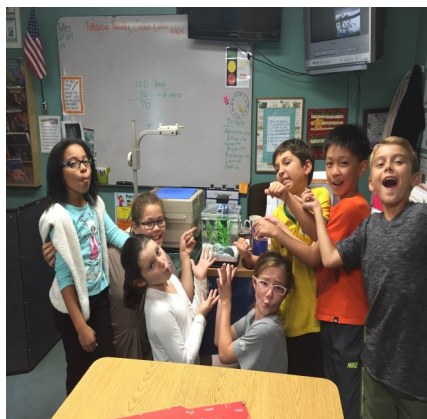
Grade 3 continues to swim through different ocean experiments with a field trip planned to Mystic Aquarium on Friday, Oct. 9.

We are finishing up with the Civil Rights Movement to prepare for MLK day.

Books for book reports should be read by October 25th. We will work on reports in class the last week of October, with a due date of Friday, October 30th.

Have a wonderful long weekend!

Blessings,  
Mrs. Jorritsma



I am SO proud of how well the fourth grade students are working in class!! We are busy working on creating the levels of the ocean box and we finished our 1865-1885 research topics for our working bulletin board. Researching and summarizing are important skills and they are doing really great!

We just started Chapter 3 in our Math book (subtraction review)...soon we will begin Multiplication & Division. I encourage you to practice multiplication facts. There are lots of fun games and apps available. Let me know if you have any difficulties finding them and I can share resources.

Historical Figure Book Reports have been assigned and are due the week of October 30th. See their binders for instructions. I sent home TWO copies last week :)

Reading/Comprehension Book Groups have also been assigned. Make sure that they keep this book in the backpacks at all times so that they can read it at home and at school. Book Group assignments are posted on the white board in class and our book group discussions are always on Mondays, except on holiday weeks, then it will be on Tuesday.

We will clean out our binders at the end of each term, so help your children to keep ALL papers in their binders until we empty it together in class. They will then take home all the papers at once in a plastic bag.

Thank you for all your support & sharing your awesome children with me & HCA <3 Ms. Reed



## Team C~ Grades 5 & 6

Greetings from Team C,

I hope everyone has been able to take a deep breath as we have settled into the first few weeks of school. If not, take a stroll this long weekend and observe the changing colors of the season; they are beautiful. Last week we had the blessing of having the Spiritual Emphasis Team join us from Coastlands Consultants. If you have not had the opportunity to talk to your child about their experience last week I encourage you to do so. It was a wonderful week of learning Biblical truth and how it applies to our everyday lives. On Friday last week students were given the opportunity to share how they were impacted or what they had learned from the week. To see our youth begin to truly understand and apply the gospel to their lives is a confirmation of why we do Christian education. As C.S. Lewis said, "Education without values, as useful as it is, seems rather to make man a more clever devil".

In the classroom, we have just finished the era of Reconstruction in history which puts a cap on the civil war and sets the context for some of the racial and social justice issues that we will see this year as we study the next one hundred years of American history. The students were very excited to get hands on this week in their density lab. They have been also learning about the early scientists and have a quiz coming up next Thursday. The middle school is also looking forward to our Food For Life field trip next Friday to the Amherst area. If you as a parent would like to join us for this trip please let the office know so we can plan accordingly.

Mr. Curtis for Team C



# Classroom Happenings



## Team D~ Grades 7 & 8

Pathways Notice ~ October 8, 2015

Bless the LORD, O my soul, And all that is within me,  
*bless* His holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
And forget none of His benefits; ~ Psalm 103:1-2

After a week of encouragement from Dr. Brady, Huffdaddy (Mr. Huffman) and the Coastlands Team, the students of Team D and I were beaming. We learned incredible lessons with a focused theme of how to L.E.A.D. Useful Lives. What an amazing blessing to hear from the Lord through such wonderfully faithful people of God! Please take time to read the Middle School comments. Your children were blessed and shared from their hearts during the Friday session.

Now, back to the academics... We continue to review parts of speech and have embarked on business letter-writing, as we integrate Geography, HOH, and LA. Our writing binders have been compiled and are in use. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade class is reading a second novel, *The Great Wheel*, after finishing *Search for the Shadowman*. They completed a quick book cover project and comparison/contrast assignment. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade class begins *Fair Weather* soon. Spanish is progressing nicely as well.

**Team D Language Arts/Spanish Help Club** will be offered on Tuesdays from 3:00 to 3:30. We begin on Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. This time is available to any Team D student who is in need of homework help, extra practice, and the like. It is a group setting. Please be aware that in order to participate, you must be willing to stay on task and work independently sometimes. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Finally, midterms are here. You will receive a link by email on Friday afternoon for you to view your child's midterm grades. Please take time with your student to review his or her progress to date.

Blessings, Mrs. Campbell for Team D



## ~News from our After School Program~

This year we have a lot of great energy with our after school kids. Everyone starts in the library for the first forty-five minutes...and that gives them time to start homework, play on the computer, or make a craft. After this it's time for play and boy do they run hard! We've had lots of games of tag, one or two rousing games of soccer on the field, and freedom to romp on the playground. We often have wonderful snacks--like home baked cookies, baked potato strips, kale chips, fresh fruits and smoothies. It's always fun to bring the crew to the

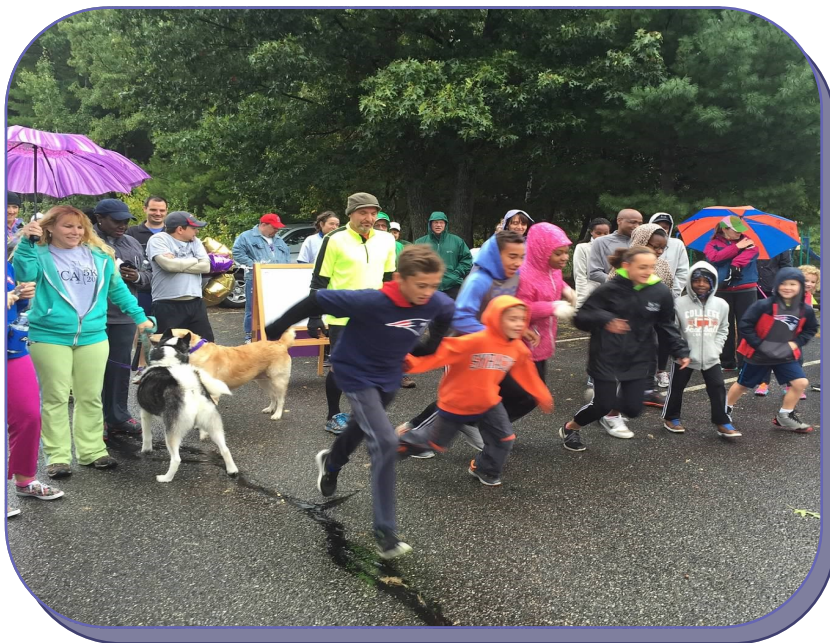
table for group snack time. Parents donate snacks to share as well so it creates a real family atmosphere. We have room for a few more, and would love to see some eighth graders join us to round out the team. Our only problem seems to be that most of the kids don't want to leave early--and resist leaving us at all. They make it fun! Please consider joining us this month! Give it a try!

~Mrs. Ravina & Mrs. Wheatley

# HCA 5K 2015

**THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU** to all of you that braved the elements and joined us for our first ever HCA 5K on Saturday, October 3rd! We had 52 people and 6 dogs join in on the fun!

Thank you, Mrs. Hughes and Crystal Caron-Duval for organizing this fun-filled 5K and many others who helped along the way!



## HCA 5K Prize Winners

Holden Nails & Spa-Trish Doucette

Edith's Floral Arrangement-Bob Richmond

122 Diner Gift Certificate-Beth Caron

Val's Gift Certificate-James Njoroge

Val's Gift Certificate-Michael Doucette

JR Haircutters Gift Certificate-Gary Hayward

Scooter donated by Walmart-Aidan Holgate

Bike donated by Whitco-Esther Njoroge



We still have t-shirts available, so you can still support the HCA 5K! With a donation of any amount, you can get a t-shirt to show your support. All donations made will go toward the fundraising for this event.

Please send a check to the office made payable to HCA, and indicate your name(s) and t-shirt size(s); we'll do our best to fulfill all size requests but you might receive a size larger if we run out of the size requested. T-shirts will be sent home with students or you can stop by the office with your check.

If you did participate on October 3 and did not pick up your t-shirt, make sure to stop by the office and let us know.

## SEW Comments ~ Middle School (Grades 5 – 8)

We all have a gift. We may not know what it is yet. Whenever we are aware of it, we have to use it. We can't just sit around. We have to put it into action.
We have a gift. Even if we don't like it, we have to use it at some point.
It's not enough to have faith, we must put into action.
Faith without deeds is useless. Deeds without faith are useless. That relationship is crucial.
I learned from the lesson on Solomon that we shouldn't have our hearts set on worldly things. Our hearts need to be set on God.
When you do something for a friend, you are doing something for the Master.
What we do and listen to should be pure and of God.
Although my extracurricular activities take up a lot of my time, I need to use it as my mission field.
Jesus would be willing to die a slow and painful death for us and we can't even get out of bed.
Nothing can fulfill you in life except for God.
Life without God is useless.
Sports and things you like can't fill the hole in our hearts, only God can.
We all have things that we struggle with, for example, I struggle with worry. I worry about what people will think about me, especially in high school. I learned that I really need to give it to God and not worry.
I also worry about what people will think of me in high school. What really matters is who I am in God.
Our actions need to reflect our love of God
I used to worry about what my classmates would think of me, but now I know that they accept me for who I am.
Whatever people think about us, we can't let that get in front of our relationship with God.
God knows the number of our days. We should be willing to let Him use us.
We are only alive for so long and yet we try to fill our lives (holes) with something else. We need to let God choose and lead our lives.
We only have so many days. We shouldn't spend them being mad, depressed, or angry at someone. We shouldn't be mad before the sun goes down.
We have a limited number of days. We should use them to do good deeds for God.
We should use our gifts as they are a sign of our love and care
Even at a young age, God calls us to go on missions trips.
Serving doesn't have to be on big missions trips; it can be right in our school or on our sports fields.
Many people are gifted with many talents and we need to use them wisely.
Nothing can fill our hearts but God. No matter how we try to fill it.
We should give our problems to God; everything we do should glorify Him; That's what He wants.
No matter what is going on in your life, put your trust in Him and He will pull you through.
We all do stupid things and sin; Trust God and be yourself.
Never be afraid to talk about God.
Even though you have everything, only God fulfills.
Even if you have a gift you don't want, you could use it to talk to others about Christ.
God gave talents to all of us. We should use them for good, not bad.
We can claim to be a Christian. Christianity shows more in our actions than in our words.
Think about these things: What am I here for? Whatever is pure...
Always trust God, even in the worst times of the day