



Pathways

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

A Newsletter for Holden Christian Academy

October 24, 2013

Principal's Corner

Dear friends,

There is one aspect of my job where I continually fall short; in fact I'm hopelessly inadequate. It is my job to try to convey to you what God is up to at His school. We never know for sure what He is doing in the hearts and minds of our students but we are sure it is wonderful, deep and important when we hear their questions and remarks. This week a kindergarten student asked Mrs. Caron this question, "If there is no sin in heaven, how could Satan have sinned when he lived there?" "Yes, I said kindergarten!

No wonder Jesus said, "***I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.***" **Matthew 18:3** What did He mean? I think we are to become like children by being humble, trusting, dependant and full of wonder and creativity. Children live mostly in the moment. We've all witnessed a child stop dead in their tracks to observe a spider making a web or an ant carrying a big load. I watched a group of sixth graders transfixed as they listened to silkworms munching on Mulberry leaves. They aren't hurrying through their agendas or worrying about tomorrow. They are engaged in the **now** and **that** is exactly where God is. He is the great **I AM**. He lives and acts in the present and in order to fully enter into Him, we must be where He is...here...now. We can even enter into the now with Him to make our plans for the future! Cool!

This week I witnessed preschoolers living in the present, displaying a sense of wonder and definitely using their minds creatively. Mrs. Younger brought some exciting new elements into the playground. The children were immediately enthralled and began to play, pretend, and create new things without being prompted. They completely left the climbing toys and went to work...their work...play. What was it she introduced? How much did it cost HCA? From what catalogue did she order? I know you can hardly wait to find out! She brought out a bucket of sticks, softened drift wood and smoothed short ends of walking sticks. She counted them with the kids, described each one, and told them that they had one rule if they wanted to play with them, No swinging the sticks. They practiced dragging them by one end to move them. Then she let them loose.

For the next twenty minutes the kids made an "Indian house" (teepee), cook stoves, houses, and campfires complete with marshmallows (leaves) on twigs for roasting. Mrs. Younger reports to me that the afternoon session was just as enthusiastic and the sticks have become everyone's favorite area...in her words, "they are obsessed!" She is now seeking more safe sticks (no sharp ends) to add to the collection. It has been a joy and delight to watch them "enter in" to play and enjoy themselves so much with sticks and leaves, which are free from God!

As you know, we are planning to slowly turn the courtyard into a certified Nature Explore playground to be completed by next September. Mr. Vardis cut down some huge old bushes last week (Thanks Mr. V!). I got a cool table and benches at an auction. They are made out of thick slices of a tree trunk and Mrs. Younger's brother has just been commissioned to build some exciting new elements that will be delivered before Christmas! This Nature Explore area will primarily be used by our preschool but can also be used by the entire school for science classes, the moms' group that meets on Mondays, and enjoyed as well by children of the church. Check out the plan and pictures at the preschool.

Lest you think that the preschoolers have all the fun, Mr. Hayward recently monitored recess for our oldest students. He came home full of joy, telling me how happily they played games, ran around, acted silly, and unselfconsciously enjoyed being kids! We are so blessed. I thank God for each child, teacher, staff person and parent. It is an extraordinary feat to raise a child for the Lord in America today. We are in it together and I for one am enjoying the process! I'm including a photo page this week so you can see what I've been blessed to see. Let's all thank God for His love and care and try to enter into the now of life more each day, thanking Him for sticks and leaves. Then, I recommend taking some time to jump in the leaves with your kids, pausing to hear the crunch, smell the marvelous fall scents and praise God from whom all blessings flow!

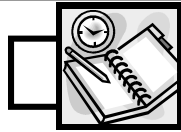
Joyfully in Him,
Susan Hayward, Principal



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

October 25	NO SCHOOL—Term 2 Development Day
November 1	Field trip K-2 Imperial Buffet
November 7	Open House cancelled (Billy Graham event)
November 8	Grade 8 Student Leadership Conference
November 8	Term 1 ends
November 14	Family Dinner Theater (Ping) 5:30 p.m.
December 10	Picture retakes
May 31	Save the date! HCA 20th birthday party! (Rain date June 7)

Fridays: ice cream sales after lunch, \$1 each. Proceeds benefit our field trip fund.

PRAYER (Psalm 68:19)

- For Mrs. Lundergan's surgery next week and quick healing.
- For HCA family members dealing with illness, that they will be healed in God's timing, hear God's wisdom for treatment, and are comforted and encouraged through Christ in all of us.
- That God would make a way for families who struggle to pay their tuition, as they trust in His provision, whether it be through employment or surprising, unexpected ways.

PRAISE & THANK YOU

- Thank you !!!!!!! to the parents and helpers for cleaning the school and outside of the building last week while the teachers attended the ACSI conference.
- Thank you to all who clicked on Give with Target on facebook for HCA. We received a check for \$76, just because you clicked!
- Thank you for donating toward World Hunger Relief this week. As of this morning, students and staff brought in \$226!

School Service Opportunities

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

- 20th Birthday Party committee members needed.
- Recess Monitors



Principal's Book of Excellence celebrates...

Kindergarten

Alexi, for being a great listener during Bible and her prayer proved it!

Emma, bringing in extra books about China to share with her class.

Isabella, for her determination to do her very best.

James, for walking in the hallway instead of running.

Kaylee, for sharing her show-n-tell with the class so they could play with it too.

Madison, for becoming more confident in school.

Matthew, for being an active, excited learner.

Rebecca, for her cheerful attitude every day!

Grade 2

Adriana, for offering and helping to clean up a mess after recess that she didn't make.

Grade 3

Alison, for demonstrating exceptional respect, patience, and self-control.

and for demonstrating Christ-like behavior by helping a younger student.

Hannah, for sharing her gift of prayer with the class.

Madelyn, for making exceptional efforts to stay organized

Steven, for making wise decisions and showing respect in chapel.

Grade 5

Garret, for demonstrating leadership and a Christ—like attitude when helping a fellow student in the office.

Olivia, for showing Christ-like love by helping her classmates dueing study hall..

Grade 6

Erin, for looking out for the needs of a classmate.

Joseph, for offering to help a younger student.

Josiah, for his joyful attitude and fun-loving spirit that blesses those around him.

Grade 7

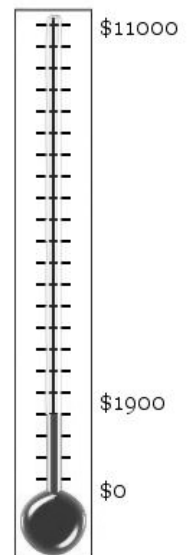
Deven, for being attentive and engaged in class.

Annual Fund 2013

As of this morning, we have received \$1,900 from 12 donors. Our budgeted goal is \$11,000

It's not to late to mail an appeal letter! We have more in the office, just waiting for names and addresses. Please email names and addresses to jbleau@holdenchristianacademy.org.

If you would like to include a personal note, please send that to the office, attn. Judy Bleau, along with your names and addresses.





Classroom Happenings

Preschool ~

The preschoolers are just finishing up their fall unit. We have learned about many of the things that God gives us in the autumn such as apples, pumpkins, fall leaves and harvesting! The children made their very own apple sauce with a secret ingredient (bananas) and said it was better than the store can make! We are now entering our dinosaur unit which should be a roar! What an amazing group of children we have in our preschool. Thank you for entrusting them to us! ☺ ~ Mrs. Younger

Team A ~ Grades K-2

A Note from Mrs. Poirier~*This past month the 2nd grade class has acquired two hermit crabs ("Turbo" and "Snowflake"), a Beta fish ("Fire Swirl"), a bin of worms, and a parakeet named "Jenny."* I love the combination of children and pets; great learning and fun for all! We've enjoyed building the Great Wall out of sugar cubes, making Chinese pickled vegetables, and dehydrating vegetable to reconstitute in a rice and vegetable soup. We're looking forward to Ethan E's mom coming this week to share about her life growing up in Hong Kong.

The Kindergarteners helped Mrs. Anderholm make wheat bread beginning by grinding the wheat into flour. (The first graders are hoping she'll make bread with them too! J) Wheat is a staple crop in China.

In First Grade, we made it through our first spelling test (one of childhood's "rites of passage") with flying colors! We will have our next spelling test on Monday, due to teacher Development Day this Friday.

In addition to red wigglers in the worm bin composter, we now have **silkworms!** Did you know that the strand of silk produced by one silkworm is usually about a mile long?! China was the first to produce silk made from the silken threads produced by silkworms.

Next Friday is our trip to the Chinese Restaurant, Imperial Buffet, in Shrewsbury. Look for your child's permission slip in his/her binder.

HCA teachers were blessed by our participation in the Association of Christian Schools International NEXUS event last week at Barrington Christian Academy, our host site in Barrington, RI. It was exciting to be one of 14,000 participants who were benefitting from the expertise and wisdom of wonderful speakers whose desire it is to educate the next generation to serve and honor the Lord. There was much food for thought as well as practical application for our classrooms. And a big **THANK YOU** to those who worked to clean and sanitize our school while we were gone! Your efforts are *greatly* appreciated! ☺

~Mrs. Caron for Team A

5th Grade News

We had a marvelous time on our Heifer field trip. Students heard about what life is like for other kids their age, in third world countries, and they learned that there are people living in poverty even in our own country. One student wrote in his journal that he learned that queen bees have a red dot on their backs, yak's skin is used for mats and clothing, and that poor people have very small broken down homes. His prayer is that the poor people become healthy and "very Christian." Another student wrote in her journal that she prays, "God will be with them every day."

In our Cultures class we have been working on a Korea book. Each team of students is focusing on a particular culture trait. Our books will be completed and available for other students to read before the end of the term.

During a FFL class this week, we learned about aquaculture. We saw a Korean fish hatchery in action via an internet video. Students learned that Korea is the largest producer of olive flounder. We talked about the importance of having protein as part of our diet, and discussed the pros and cons of farm raised fish versus wild caught fish. We even sampled a Korean recipe for pan fried flounder. Yum!

In L.A. we are working on various types of verbs: action, condition, and linking verbs. Students have also been sharing strategies for comprehension. We are becoming excellent reading detectives, as we use key words to give us clues for how and why a character may respond a certain way.

~Mrs. Torres

Team B ~ Grades 3 & 4

Students in Grade 3 had an exciting week ~ they've tasted sushi and looked at different layers of soil. The students' reactions to the sushi tasting were varied from a wrinkled nose "Yuck" to an enthusiastic "I loved the sweet potato sushi!"

~ Mrs. Mikol

Thank you SO much, parents, for all the hard work you did to make our school more beautiful!!! You blessed us!! We had a wonderful time at the ACSI conference. SO much wonderful confirmations in being a teacher. I loved being reminded to work hard at what's important to Jesus..."to tend my sheep" - sheep = children...I love what He loves & He loves children & so do I :)

Next Friday 4th grade will make a craft and a treat representative of India, & decorate the room.

Our Cultures test has been moved to Monday. Check their binders for study sheets. Book reports are due Thursday, October 31st.

Blessings,
Mrs. Reed



Close up of bees at work at Heifer Project.



Picking fresh raspberries from the Heifer garden.



Cooking up flounder, Korean style.

Classroom Happenings continued...

Grades 6 - 8 Language Arts

A student remarked recently, "This school year is flying by! We are almost done with Term 1." Yes, it's hard to believe. Mid-terms have come and gone.

In addition to 6th grade grammar skills, we are excitedly watching our silkworms grow. They have become a huge part of our class community and everyone is taking part in their care. Just like Julia from *Project Mulberry*, we are finding that these little guys have much personality. We've become quite attached to them. Other classes are fascinated by the silkworms as well. During one class, the 7th graders spent about 15 minutes talking and singing to them.

In 7th and 8th grade LA, we are wrapping up *Seedfolks* with essays, projects, and letters to Paul Fleischman. Additionally, the peppers from 7th grade dried and we attempted to make pepper spice. As we ground the peppers with the mortar and pestle, we found the very fine powder to be EXTREMELY HOT. We'll be using masks from now on. ☺

Many thanks for allowing me to spend time away at ACSI. I was encouraged by Dr. Joe Stowell's message on Peter in John 21 and reminded of why I teach. In this passage, Jesus asks Peter, "Do you love me?" You all know the response Peter gives, not once, not twice, but three times. I find Jesus' words to be most precious as He speaks to Peter... "tend MY lambs, shepherd MY sheep, tend My sheep." I count it a privilege to do just what Jesus says to do at HCA.

~ Mrs. Campbell

Traffic Pattern Review

Parents with students in Grades K-8, please use the upper parking lot, not the parking lot nearest the building, when you are arriving at school, even if you are late. Preschool parents and their children cross that lower parking lot and one of our staff members observed a dangerous situation last week when a parent of an older student drove (too fast) through that lot when Preschool students were arriving. Thank you for your attention to this very important safety rule.

Raking a Difference Day!

The Student Council is looking for volunteers from grades 6-8 who would like to join us in "Raking a Difference Day!" On Saturday November 2nd they are planning to rake the yards of a few people who attend Holden Chapel and are in need of help. There will be a permission slip going home next week. Students will need to arrive at HCA by 8:00 a.m. and be picked up by 12:30 p.m.. We are in need of a few parent volunteers to chaperone and everyone needs to bring their own rake. This is a wonderful opportunity for the school to reach out to the community and help someone in need! Rain date will be Saturday November 9.

Team D ~ Grades 7 & 8

Even though last week was a short week we still managed to have fun while learning. Both the 7th and 8th grade science classes built and positioned their own weather stations and our year-long weather tracking has begun.

Using mirrors laid out in the field we measured cloud cover in Oktas (unit of measure for cloud cover).

We finished our unit on wheat by cooking the winning recipes; Wheat Berry Chili for lunch and Strawberry-Banana Bread for dessert. Absolutely delicious!

We have 500 new classmates too... our worm bin is up and "running". Very grateful they are too busy eating to make much noise!

In Partnership,
Mrs Holgate

Greetings From the Art Room!

We are so excited about the art your children did for our Square 1 Art fundraiser. All the art has been sent to the printer and students will be coming home with a free sheet of stickers with their art on it as well as an order form. There are so many options for purchases and wonderful ideas for Christmas gifts for family and friends. Please take a few minutes to look at what is available. Students will appreciate how much you love their art if you order something with their drawing imprinted on it. Here are a few things that are available; potholders, I-Phone covers, clocks, I-Pad cases, mini I-Pad cases, T-shirts, tote bags, hot plates, jewelry, water bottles, aprons, mugs, quilting squares...How cool would it be for the preschool to have a quilt with their art on it? There are many more items to choose from...You will be seeing your order form and the free stickers near the end of Term 1.

HCA receives 33% of all sales; proceeds go towards the Fine Arts Program. We hope you can support our artists at HCA who are so enthusiastic about their work.

-Mrs. Mikolajczyk



Holden Christian Academy ~ Fall Blessings 2013

