



Pathways

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

A Newsletter for Holden Christian Academy

November 21, 2013

Principal's Corner

Dear friends,

It's the most wonderful time of the year...and the second verse should be...it's the most difficult time of the year. Both are true all the time at the same time. Paul tells us in Romans 12:15, "Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn." It wasn't until I was in ministry for a few years that it occurred to me that both are happening at the same time, all the time, in the church. Because my husband is a pastor, we've actually had days of going from a grief-filled family to one who is rejoicing, and we are called to enter into both.

Sometimes both can be happening at the same time in our own hearts. We rejoice as we watch our children totally enjoying Christmas, but we mourn for the missing participant. The holidays have a way of magnifying emotions and bringing them right to the surface. Everyone is a bit raw and rushed. What can we do about it? In a world filled with bad news, problems, and hurt we can feel overwhelmed and incapacitated. We feel like there is nothing we can do to help; in fact we'd like some help ourselves!

This morning a dear friend reminded me that there is something we can do that can make a world of difference to others. We can do what God did at Christmas: little, quiet things. This friend noticed that I seemed stressed by some outside issues and brought me a framed photo with a quote from Ann Voskamp on it. She took the picture herself and knew that Ann is one of my favorite authors. In the scheme of things her gesture was small; in my hurting heart... it was monumental! In fact...you are reading this now because of her thoughtfulness.

So, you're not a photographer, not good at quotes, and have a hard time picking up on the emotions of others? Not to worry....here are some even smaller gestures that can be a lifeline to others.

1. Ask God to use you in a small way today. He knows the hearts & emotions of others and loves to answer those prayers.
2. Say a thing for which you are thankful out loud to someone. A positive heart is contagious.
3. Smile at strangers and make eye contact.
4. Let someone else go first or have the good parking space.

5. Encourage parents of small children who have to take them shopping.
6. Leave a note of appreciation for someone unexpectedly.
7. Invite a neighbor to a church concert, Christmas play, or live nativity.
8. Make that call to a friend you've been meaning to catch up with for a long time.
9. Offer to pray on the spot with someone in pain.
10. Slow down and really listen, listen, listen.
11. Cook a nine course meal and invite every hurting person in your town to dinner at your house. Offer to pick them up and make sure you have a personalized gift for each child wrapped beautifully under the tree. Afterwards, give out the hand knit blankets you made for each one and finally drive them home. Make sure you tuck an envelope into each one's pocket with enough cash to get them through the entire winter. Promise to call daily to check up on them and give them rides to the doctor, grocery store and church!

OK...so #11 is what we'd like to be able to do, and some of us actually struggle with guilt feelings for not doing all of the above, but I hope it makes 1-10 seem more do-able! Remember that even Jesus needed solitary time to rest and pray. He didn't heal everyone or meet every financial need. He came to earth in a quiet, small way...obeyed his Father daily and completely changed the course of countless lives in this world and the next.

So Happy Thanksgiving and welcome to the most wonderful/difficult time of year. May we follow the example of Jesus and humbly obey our Father in little, quiet ways!

Thankfully in Him,
Susan Hayward, Principal

Calendar Note: Our Christmas Program on December 19 will be at 7:00 p.m. An older version of our calendar said this was a school day event, but this concert *will be held in the evening.*

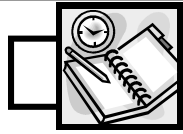
Thank you, Parent/Teacher Council!

Thank you, thank you, thank you for the wonderful Family Fun Night. It really was! Your games were great and really did the trick to get us all talking and laughing together. We loved the simple, hassle-free dinner so the focus could be on people. You are a real blessing to all of HCA!

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
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HCA Calendar

November 21 Online Square 1 Art orders due by midnight!
 November 27-29 NO SCHOOL—Thanksgiving
 December 3 Every Family Bring a Family O.H. 7 p.m.
 Dec. 3-6 Bring in items for Christmas Shoppe
 (see attached)
 December 10 Picture retakes
 December 13 Christmas Shoppe, afternoon
 December 19 Christmas Program 7 p.m.
 May 31 Save the date! HCA 20th birthday
 party! (Rain date June 7)
 Fridays: ice cream sales after lunch, \$1 each.

PRAYER (Psalm 68:19)

- For each of our families' recognition of blessings during the season of Thanksgiving.
- 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 all who attended Family Fun Night, and to the Parent Teacher Council for their coordination of this great evening!

Picture retakes December 10

If you are not pleased with your child's pictures taken by Lifetouch in October, or if your child was absent, Lifetouch will be returning to HCA on December 10. If your child was absent and you need a new order form, please let the office know and we'll send one home. If you would like retakes, send your unwanted photo package in on December 10. Lifetouch will try to get the new packages to us before our Christmas break, but cannot make that guarantee.

Principal's Book of Excellence celebrates...

Kindergarten

Alexi, for kindly sharing with a classmate.
 Jocelyn, for trying harder to remember to raise her hand.
 Kaylee, for being a sheet expert, helping lots of friends put their sheets on their mats.
 Madison, for "praising people" as a peacebuilder does, by speaking kind words to a classmate.
 Mia, for being the only Kindergarten student who did her own FABULOUS biome project!
 Ryleigh, for being a helper to a friend who had a hurt leg.

Grade 2

Adriana, Aliyah, Ava, Carlie, and Nandi for embracing a cultural experience and trying baby octopus at the Imperial Buffet!

Grade 4

David, for his contagious laughter and gentle spirit.
 Isaiah, for his awesome prayers and compassion toward others.
 Noelle, for her willingness to be honest when she makes a mistake.
 Tobias, for his heartfelt prayer for a friend's parent.
 Vinnie, for his servant heart in helping Mrs. Reed put away LOTS of books.

Grade 5

Anthony, for faithfully taking the attendance and other messages to the office for the whole term.
 Bethany, for sharing her artistic talent in making an awesome poster of a Korean leader statue.
 Cassandra, for her giving heart, sharing carrots grown from her garden with the class. *and* for helping her teacher set up for morning work.
 Garret, for taking ownership of presenting the Korean map & DMZ during Asia Day.
 Isaiah, for his prayerful heart, offering to pray over lunches. *and* for doing a great job presenting the Korean map for Asia Day.
 Kaitlyn, for sharing her gifts to bless her class by tending the cabbage plants. *and* for making an awesome poster of a Korean palace for Asia Day.
 Matthew L., for doing a great job presenting the Korean map during Asia Day.
 Mollie, for sharing her artistic talent in making an awesome poster of a Korean palace for Asia Day.

Happy Thanksgiving!!

Next week during Center Time Switch (Tuesday), Team A will be celebrating Thanksgiving. Your child may come to school dressed as a Pilgrim or Native American :-). (See sample costume ideas below.) Grades 1 and 2 will be making cornbread and butter during Food for Life on Monday and we will all enjoy it on Tuesday during our celebration. Look for a centerpiece and placemat coming home to be used for your Thanksgiving Feast on Thursday.

You are also invited to a Thanksgiving play performed by Kindergarten on Tuesday at 2:15.

Kindergarten: Mom and Dad... Please help! On the way to school and on the way home... practice those lines!!!

In the tub, eating breakfast, before bed... practice those lines. I know they can do it!!!)

Indian Costume idea: Large brown TShirt-cut fringe on sleeves and bottom.

Girls: wear TShirt past knees as a dress. Boys: wear TShirt and tan/brown pants.

Headbands, necklaces (made in class) can also be worn.

Pilgrim Costume idea:

Boys: felt or paper hat, any color jacket and pants rolled to the knees, knee socks and shoes.

Girls: long dress, apron, paper or cloth bonnets.



The Parent/Teacher Council has asked that we think of the week after Thanksgiving as **Purge, Shop & Pre-order Week**.

Purge all your gently used and new items for the Christmas Shoppe- Bring them in Tuesday-Friday. (see attached flyer). Donate new, wonderful gifts and services to the on-line auction.

Shop for new and amazing items (trips to Disney and wonderful services) at our on-line auction. This is the only actual fundraiser on this page/ All proceeds will go toward HCA programs and tuition assistance program.

Pre-order our fabulous Healthy Family Cookbook and new HCA calendar featuring HCA family nature photos.

Please return ASAP- Quantities are limited!

*****Cut here  *****

Order form

I would like to order ____HCA Healthy Family Cookbooks (ship date is 12/4)
The prices are one for \$12 or two or more for \$10 each

I would like to order ____HCA Nature Calendars

The price for one is \$10.

Total included is _____

Name_____Phone_____

Checks should be made out to HCA, no cash please.

Gift of Giving Christmas Shop

December 13th 2013

Here's how it will work

- Gently used items for people of all ages can be brought to HCA the weeks of Dec. 2-6.
- The Parent & Student Council will be out at drop off and pick-up to collect specific gifts on:
 - ☺ Tuesday 12/3 (Open House Day) Moms, Grandmas & grown-up girlfriends.
 - ☺ Wednesday 12/4 Dads/ Grandpas and grown men friends
 - ☺ Thursday 12/5 Kids of all ages
 - ☺ Friday 12/6 Home, Garden, Office, Decor
- Helpers will categorize gifts and set up for two weeks.
- Each gift will be priced at 25 cents- \$1.00. Super-duper gifts will be put on the ticket table to be fair to all students. Each student may buy \$1.00 worth of tickets.
- Students will shop on Friday afternoon, 12/13, with mixed aged groups.
- Each group will shop in rounds. Round 1- students purchase only two gifts each, then wrap.
- Students will bring in their own **shopping list**, wrapping paper or gift bags and tags
- Shopping is to be done for others. Students may not buy things for themselves!
 - So for just a few dollars
 - ☺ kids can really do their own shopping & wrapping
 - ☺ we've recycled usable stuff (very green!)
 - ☺ Kids have had a chance to truly think of others!

All donations should be items that folks would actually like to receive.

Please donate

Please do not donate

Re-gifted new items Kids-Very gently used toys & other small items Men- sports, fishing, tools, ties, gift books Lady items- accessories, jewelry (in boxes if possible), scarves, purses, etc. CDs Home décor Bath & toiletry items Garden items Pet items (small) Kitchen items Gift books- cook books, decorating, handyman ...	Broken or worn out items Computer equipment Clothing (ties & scarves excluded) Used books- unless in prime condition Large, difficult to wrap/carry gifts Furniture
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Back by popular demand....

Every family brings a family!

HCA

OPEN HOUSE

- ★ Tuesday, December 3rd, 2013
- ★ 7:00–8:00 PM
- ★ Give your friends a tour of the school
- ★ Meet the teachers in their rooms
- ★ Meet our wonderful students
- ★ Enjoy the art and decor
- ★ Enjoy some refreshments
- ★ Relaxed time for Q&As with the principal
- ★ Remember...every family who brings a student who enrolls earns \$100!!!

It's a win/win for all!