



Pathways

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

A Newsletter for Holden Christian Academy

December 3, 2015

Principal's Corner

Dear friends,

We are excited to see you and your friends tonight at 6:30 for the HCA Open House Animal Adventure. Please use the office entrance where you can sign in and receive your Safari map. There are two different routes depending on the ages of your guests. Our plan is to zip through the classrooms where kids may find the hidden animal and parents can meet the teachers and see the school. Afterwards there will be a brief time for refreshments, followed by the animal show at 7:00!

If you have tried to bring friends but no one will come you may still bring your own kids (No charge). We don't want anyone to miss seeing these amazing animals. Children must remain with parents at all times! Please continue to pray with us that God would nudge the hearts of those He is calling to come to HCA. Remember that we are all ambassadors tonight, and reach out to one another. We have done a great deal of advertising so we hope that lots of people will attend!

Next, I want to encourage you in this Christmas season. I was praying this morning and realized that I was tense and agitated, not still in the Lord. When most hurried we need to actively reach out and truly ask for help from the Lord. I did so this morning and He calmed me down and focused my thinking.

We all work so hard to make things special for our children that sometimes we blow the whole thing because we are tense and trying to check yet another event off the to-do list. Over the years I have realized that it's the tapestry, or feel of our lives that creates memories, not just elaborate events. Exhaustion is our enemy so here are some simple ways to simplify yet still create a Christmas mood or ambience in your home.

- Choose only a few things to attend and fully enter in when there. With kids, make sure they are fully prepped for the event and know what type of behavior is expected and how long things will last. Then be fully there, enjoy the event together and review it later.
- To create a Christmas ambience in your home, remember that smells make the most lasting memories. Scented candles, wood smoke, evergreens and baking cookies quickly grab attention. Add Christmas music and a string of lights and voila, you have created an atmosphere to remember. Turn off the lights and string some lights around your table and eat by candle light. Your younger kids will be delighted! Read a Christmas book at the table after dinner.
- Do simple acts of kindness like feeding the birds, taking cookies to a neighbor and praying for the sick. Little acts done in love are where God is at; we tend to make things more complicated.
- Forget trying to look like your house is in a magazine. Real people live there. Instead create a cozy, relaxed, loving atmosphere for them! I saw a design show recently where a woman decorated her table to perfection. I wanted to go out and buy all her ivory and silver ideas until she said that she had to invite people over to show off her stuff! Well, I thought at least she was honest.
- We have **someone** else to promote, a deeper, more lasting reason to decorate and make memories for our kids. Instead of ivory polar bears and glittering silver balls, our focus is on a rough and uncomfortable stable where the King of Kings and Lord of Lords came down to rescue us! Don't forget to invite Him in and let Him guide you through this season!

Joyfully & thankfully in Him,

Susan Hayward, Principal

~ 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



Mark Your Calendar!

- Nov. 30-Dec. 4 Scholastic Book Fair
- December 3 Open House w/ Animal Adventures, 6:30 PM
- Dec. 4-10 Bring in Christmas Shoppe items
- December 11 Christmas Shoppe
- December 14 Monetary donations due for Belarus chocolate
- December 17 Christmas Program, 7 PM
- Dec. 23-Jan. 1 Christmas Break-NO SCHOOL

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

Principal's Book of Excellence celebrates...

Kindergarten

Lena, for helping her teacher be a teacher for her friends.
Jocelyn, for not giving up cleaning the house area when everyone else left.
Calumina, for kindly pushing a friend on the swings at recess.
Patrick, for showing God's creativity in his cool pictures.

Eighth Grade

Ryan, for cleaning up after his classmates.

Christmas Program Dec. 17 at 7 p.m.

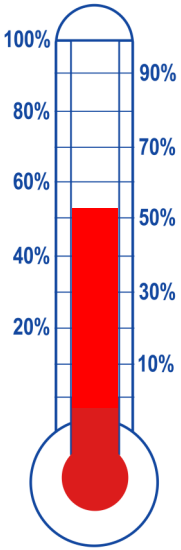
HCA is blessed to be able to present a Christmas concert. As we hear that mentioning Christmas is no longer allowed in many local schools, we count our blessings that we get to proclaim Christ in Christmas! Mark your calendars and invite your family and friends for this celebration.

Annual Fund 2015

Current Donations and Pledges:
\$ 5,705

Goal for 2015:
\$11,000

Last Year's Total:
\$11,150



The Gift of Chocolate

In the month of December it has been our tradition to collect money for buying chocolate for orphans in Belarus. HCA has a long-standing relationship with a mission to orphans in Belarus through our friends and coworkers in the Kingdom, Olga & Yasha Goncharenko.

The traditional Christmas present for Belarussian children is a box of chocolates. For the orphans it is a special treat and if Olga doesn't provide it then the kids will get no gift! Every year we raise funds so Olga can purchase the chocolates.

We pray you might give generously and provide the funds for at least one child (\$5.00). Currently \$115.00 has been sent in to the office; last year we sent over \$1,000! Thank you to all that have donated thus far! All money for chocolate should be sent to the office by December 14. Please make checks payable to HCA.

Chicago World's Fair of 1893 is coming to HCA on January 22, 2016

Every year HCA does some kind of big day. This year is the Chicago World's Fair of 1893!

As you clean out for the Christmas Shop on Dec. 11th please set aside a box of stuff that we will need right after Christmas:

- Old sun hats to decorate
- Fake flowers-all kinds
- Ribbons, trims, bling
- Fake birds
- Feathers or Peacock feathers
- Stuff that would look great on an outrageous hat!

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 our Annual Fund, that former and new donors will faithfully support Christian education.
- Continued prayer for KK as she receives cancer treatment, as well as others that are battling sickness and health struggles.

PRAISE & THANK YOU

- Thank you to all who sent in items for Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes; we were able to put together 35 boxes this year that will go to children around the globe!

I scream, you scream, HCA screams for ICE CREAM!

Beginning tomorrow, December 4, ice cream will be sold on Fridays after lunch for \$1.
All proceeds will benefit our field trip fund.

See Pathways issues in color and clickable links at www.holdenchristianacademy.org



Classroom Happenings



~Preschool~

The preschool is very busy this month! Your children never cease to AMAZE and PLEASE us! They are a true blessing to us and we love them all very much.

We will be celebrating the birth of Jesus with a class party on **Thursday, December 17th**! A sign up list for food will be posted in the foyer. The preschool class will have a gift exchange during this celebration. Girls will bring in a wrapped gift for a girl and the boys will bring in a wrapped gift for a boy. **NO NAMES** on the gift please, just state girl or boy on the tag. Please limit the cost of the gift to \$2. The dollar tree is a great place to shop for this purpose.

IMPORTANT upcoming event: Join us on December 17th for our *HCA Christmas Concert*: **ALL PRESCHOOL STUDENTS** will be performing on **at 7 PM sharp**. Please have your children dress in festive attire. **Preschool students will meet at 6:30 PM in the preschool classroom**. The concert is being held in the Sanctuary at 7 PM. Our class will perform first. **All students will be dismissed to their parents at the end of their performance** to be able to enjoy the rest of the show with you!!!

Christmas break is December 23rd to January 1st. Preschool will be back in session on January 5th.
~Mrs. Younger

Team A ~ Grades K, 1 and 2

- Thank you, dear parents, for your contributions to our Thanksgiving Celebration. We enjoyed feasting in festive pilgrim and Indian costumes! The 2nd grade Reader's Theater "Turk and Runt" was fun to watch and made our afternoon extra special.
- A BIG thank you from Mrs. Torres for the birthday gift card, from her students, to the Old Mill. She and Mr. Torres enjoyed a nice evening out for dinner.

Now...on to the Christmas Season!



This week we are collecting **donations for the orphans in Belarus**. It costs \$5.00 to buy each child a box of chocolates of their own. We have placed envelopes in your child's binder marked "Belarus" for your convenience, should you care to donate. **THANK YOU!**

- Our Annual HCA Christmas Shop will be on Friday, December 11. Put money and labeled gift tags in a Ziploc bag **with your child's name on it**. Don't forget wrapping paper and tape or gift bags. Most gifts are .25 to \$1.00!
- Our Team A **CHRISTmas Birthday Party for Jesus** will be on Tuesday afternoon, December 22. We **need 3 dozen red velvet cupcakes** and enough **white frosting** to decorate them together at the party. If you would be willing to help out, please send in a note.

Here's the plan:

1:00 Happy Birthday cupcakes ~Sing Happy Birthday to Jesus

1:20 Christmas Tradition Show and Tell Students bring in an item to represent a favorite family Christmas tradition (but NOT an irreplaceable family heirloom!) :)

1:40 Open Class Gifts*

2:00 Christmas Movie

*In lieu of a gift exchange, Team A teachers would like to purchase a special class gift for the classes to share. If you care to donate toward a class gift, please send cash in an envelope marked "gift" in your child's binder.

After the New Year, all students will participate in the Columbian Exposition of 1893 AKA the Chicago World's Fair on January 22, 2016. The Kindergarteners will come dressed as one of their ancestors in traditional dress of the time period. Your child should be able to tell which country they are from, which continent it is located on, and a few interesting facts about their country. They will also take turns working in the Government Building, running the post office.

Please be prepared to send in a favorite finger food that has been passed down through the generations in your family. Please include a list of ingredients for those students with allergies.

Grades One and Two will be researching actual attendees at the Fair and should dress the part of their characters. Please look for more information in your child's binder. First Grade will represent the Horticultural Building. Second Grade will represent the Women's' Building.

Don't forget to bring a family to our Animal Adventure Open House at 6:30 TONIGHT! See you there!

We wish you a joyous holiday season with love and the peace that comes from the Lord whose birthday we celebrate. Merry Christmas! To Him be the glory!

~Mrs. Caron for Team A



Classroom Happenings



Team B ~ Grades 3 & 4

Grade three is busy working through the westward expansion and preparing for the Chicago World's Fair. Our focus for science for the next couple of weeks is light and sound. We will be making periscopes in class next week. I am looking for half gallon carton donations to complete this project. If you have any to donate please send in with your child before Thursday. Students will be having a math test tomorrow on their geometry unit. 😊

I am looking forward to seeing you all tonight at the HCA Animal Adventures Open House!



Blessings,
Mrs. Jorritsma

Fourth grade is continuing to work hard at mastering multiplication & division. Remember to practice the time tables as often as you can :)

There is no book report for the month of December.

Thank you to those of you who helped your children gather items together for our Force/Motion & Light/Sound experiment stations we are doing on Friday.

If you are bringing a family to Open House Thursday night, please come by and see the I Am an Inventor stories on the 4th grade door. They are doing a great job getting ready for the Invention Convention, Chicago World's Fair, & the Buffalo Bill Wild West Show.

Thank you for all your continued support. I really enjoyed seeing you at Parent Conferences. You all bless me!

Ms. Reed

Team C ~ Grades 5 & 6

Blessings in this advent season! In chapel this week we discussed that this word means 'to come,' and that the Jewish people were longing for the coming of the Savior. What a great way to anticipate Christmas--with longing for the coming of our Savior. In devotions we are comparing the gospel accounts of the coming of Jesus. It is interesting the details the writers chose to include--as different as our own accounts would be of a shared event. I wonder how we will all report on the Chicago World's Fair in January? I'm sure our accounts will have some information that is the same, then other details of the events that were important to us. Together we can gain a more complete picture, just as we do by reading each of the gospels. We are so blessed to have God's word!



In science we continue to explore the properties of the world God made. We are investigating sound and the types of waves it travels through. Monday we tested the ability of sound waves to be reflected, then Tuesday we investigated the ways sound waves refract with different materials. Even when we cannot see the waves it is fun to experience evidence of them!

In math the 5th graders are beginning a unit on division. Please continue to practice multiplication facts that are not mastered with your student. Division can feel overwhelming to students who do not know their multiplication facts.

Sixth grade is beginning work on balancing equations. They continue to bravely explore new territory in math with success. I am so proud of them!

With Christmas well on its way, team C has decided to begin preparations for a gift swap. Students will choose names secretly and be asked to bring in a gift for that person on December 23rd (\$5 limit please). Just for fun, we will also have a 'white elephant' exchange in addition to the secret swap. Students can bring in a wrapped item from home they no longer want on that day as well. Look for details on party food as the day approaches, but students have been asked to begin thinking of some ideas of healthy foods they enjoy.

Blessings and peace to you!
Mrs. Cleveland for Team C



Classroom Happenings



Team D ~ Grades 7 & 8

What an exciting time to be a student at HCA! There are so many wonderful events to enjoy, in addition to the fun of each day of learning. I encourage my students to “anticipate the fun” of every day.

As we continue our CWF 1893 preparations, we are reading more novels to gain perspectives on the fair and enhance our reading comprehension skills. In Language Arts, we use a worksheet of 50 reading comprehension questions as the basis for discussion. We have a nice “give-and-take” about the novels and we learn more about each another in the process of reading and writing.



Also, we have been receiving wonderful responses to our business letters and are so appreciative of the time and care taken by the officials at our Town Halls and City Halls to reply. We are extremely encouraged just by hearing back from them.



In Spanish, both classes are learning vocabulary, grammar skills, and are working diligently on new verb conjugations. Conjugating verbs is a difficult skill. Practice! Practice! Practice! You must know your subject pronouns well.

As always, I invite students to join me for **Team D Language Arts/Spanish Help Club** on Tuesdays from 3:00 to 3:30.



Enjoy this advent season. Be a blessing and be blessed!

~ Mrs. Campbell

Happy December.

We have FISH in our 7th & 8th grade Science Room! Our new 55 gallon aquarium is up and running and has lots of new friends swimming around (an one bright blue crayfish guarding the bottom of the tank). We are hoping that one of our guppies is pregnant so we can watch the birth of her babies. Guppies do not lay eggs but have live births...very exciting!

Seventh grade is finishing up studying the cell cycle and phases of mitosis. They will have their chapter 2 test next week. Eighth grade has their chapter 2 test tomorrow on Changing States of Matter. Both groups will be working on labs over the next two weeks.

Hard to believe that next Friday is Mid-Term 2! Please remind students to check RenWeb for homework assignments and missing work. In addition, there are lots of things going on this month so please check out the details in this edition of Pathways; donations for Belarus chocolate (orphans), Christmas Shop donation collection begins this Friday 12/4/15, and Christmas Program is Thursday 12/17/15.

Reminder that we have math BOOST every Monday from 300-3:30pm after school for any 7th and 8th graders who would like to join us.

During 8th grade devotion time this month, we will be doing an advent study together recapping memorable Christmases from the past reminding us that we serve a worthy and UN-CHANGING GOD!

In the hustle and bustle of the season, please take time to put Christ first.

Blessings,
Mrs. Holgate

