



# Pathways

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

A Newsletter for Holden Christian Academy

December 4, 2014

## Principal's Corner

Dear Friends,

If you were at chapel on Monday, you probably sensed my excitement over the memory verses.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. Luke 2:8-9

Every Christmas I try to imagine the story with fresh eyes, perhaps from different perspectives: the shepherds', the angels', neighbors', the sheep, etc. I ask God to show me something I haven't noticed before. This year what jumped out to me was THE FIELDS! Why? Because in January my husband and I are going on an Archaeological study tour of the Holy Land and will actually see the fields of Bethlehem! We are getting very excited.

When our kids were small my Mom did a lot of traveling and she always said it was great but she wished we could have been with her. Now I know just how she felt because I wish my family and the entire HCA family could come as well!

According to educational research, the most effective instructional strategies are as follows:

1. Being there
2. Immersion
3. Hands on
4. Second hand –books, videos, lectures

There is no substitute for being there, using all your senses and making your own memories! That is why we take so many fieldtrips. Immersion is number two and that is what we try to do when we focus an entire term on topics and

integrate them into every subject. Our big days are the celebration and perfect expression of this immersion.

Hands on learning is effective as well, so all those models, recipes, experiments and experiences we try to provide have tremendous value and are well worth the time. Second hand learning can be effective especially when multiple modalities are involved like visual, auditory, kinesthetic and the learning is a part of a larger learning experience.

So why the educational talk? Because I want our students to get the most out of our trip! I want the Holy Land to come to life for them so that they can visualize the Bible as they read it and know that the people, places and stories therein are real! They happened to real people who lived in a real place. Our culture is drenched in fabricated realities. Even reality TV is staged. The worlds of video games, Narnia, Middle Earth and even Santa on the North Pole are very real to children. Fact and fantasy are all scrambled in the heads of younger kids and even some adults I know!

Seeing their principal and history teacher in a real place will make a difference in their thinking process. My prayer is that it will bring the Bible to life for them and change their thinking patterns for the rest of their lives. Although somewhat technologically challenged, we plan to make daily uncut, unedited (be forewarned!) video snippets of every place we visit. We will try to post them every evening so our students can follow our trip as it happens. I told the kids we would be playing, Where's Wilber?(Gary's real first name!) and they can check in and track our trip. Attached, please find a calendar of the tour and we'll let you know how to watch the videos as soon as we figure it out! The classes will all read the Bible references that are included and we are asking for questions we can answer in shout outs on the videos. (Parents can submit questions as well.) We are trying to make this trip an immersion experience for all!

Please pray for us as we plan, practice the technology, and travel. We want to make the most of this opportunity for HCA and our church. We are blessed beyond measure to be able to walk where Jesus, Abraham, and Moses walked and look forward to sharing it all with you and your precious children!

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



## Mark Your Calendar!

- Dec. 1-12 Christmas Shoppe donations accepted
- Dec. 9 Anyhow orders due by 1 p.m.
- Dec. 15 Anyhow orders ready for pick up after 1 p.m.
- Dec. 8-12 Scholastic Book Fair
- Dec. 12 Christmas Shoppe
- Dec. 12 Donations for Belarus orphans chocolate due
- Dec. 15 7 p.m. School Committee
- Dec. 18 Christmas Program 7 p.m.
- Dec. 22-Jan.2 Merry Christmas! NO SCHOOL
- Jan. 7 Ski Elective begins
- Jan. 15 & 16 Pocahontas

### Weekly:

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

Fridays after lunch: Ice cream \$1 each. Proceeds will benefit our field trip fund.

## Christmas Program Dec. 18, 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.

## Scholastic Book Fair Dec. 8-12

This is a great opportunity for gifts, but also to get ready for the read-a-thon coming in February!

## Pocahontas January 15 and 16

Mark your calendars for our theater performance of Pocahontas. Watch Pathways for more details!

### **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.

### **PRAISE & THANK YOU**

- Thank you to all who attended Papa Gino's and Noah performance. Papa Gino's donated \$167.66 to us as a fundraiser!
- Thank you for sending in money for the Belarus orphan chocolate gifts, and for items for the Christmas Shop.
- Thank you to the parents who have been in helping to sort items for the Christmas shop.

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

### *Kindergarten*

- Arden, for her servant 's heart, finding a friend's pencil and then volunteering to put it away without being asked!
- Audrey, for making an awesome rock collection on her own. David, for keeping his promise to his teacher.
- Phoebe, for being an excellent example to her classmates during Center Time Switch.

### *Grade 3*

- Nandi, for choosing to set herself up for success and avoid temptation.

### *Grade 4*

- Alison, for her servant heart to all.
- Hannah, for her wisdom with classwork and for getting the teacher's jokes!
- Levi, for his gentle and kind spirit and for always working so hard.
- Liana, for working so hard to make her work neater and more accurate.
- Madeline, for being one of the most determined and hardest workers ever seen in the 4th grade!
- Madelyn, for her outstanding ability to solve problems.
- Michael, for his awesome presentation during the Papa Noah play.
- Steven, for always being willing to help out with recycling.

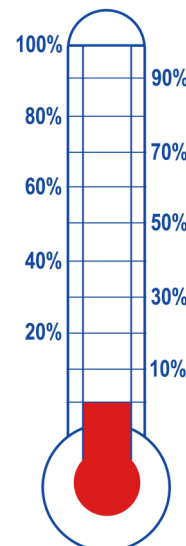
### *Grade 6*

- Sarah, for being a particularly fantastic kindergarten helper

## Annual Fund 2014

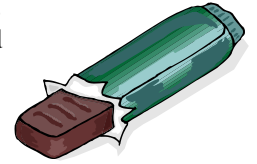
Current  
Donations  
and Pledges:  
\$7,145

Last Year's Total:  
\$11,375



## 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. Olga started Spring of Revival Ministry many years ago as a single woman. Today they serve hundreds of orphans in several different orphanages. 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). All money for chocolate should be sent to the office by December 12. Please make checks payable to HCA.

## ANYHOW Program Returns to HCA!

We are bringing the program back due to popular demand; families requested we bring it back especially for the Christmas season of gift-giving. Buy shopping cards through HCA, and a percentage of the price of the card is credited to us from the retailers participating in this program. You can buy shopping cards to stores you shop at already, including grocery, gas, clothing, online and entertainment. Seventy-five percent of each credit will be credited to the family's tuition account, or the family may choose to have their credit applied to another family's account, HCA's financial aid fund, or next year's tuition. Twenty five percent of each credit will be retained by HCA for administrative and fundraising costs, including shipping. *What's the catch?* You just have to plan ahead!

### Get started today!

- \* Visit [www.ShopWithScrip.com](http://www.ShopWithScrip.com) and use enrollment code [AD779DF213848](#)
- \* Sign up for PRESTOPAY, a direct debit from your checking account; this is the easiest and most efficient form of payment. Alternatively you can send in a personal check or checks, made payable to HCA, once you've placed your online order.
- \* Order online\* and pay online, or send payment to the office for the full face value of the cards.
- \* Send your enrollment form to the office, along with payment if you haven't already paid online.
- \* Your FACTS payments will be adjusted to reflect your credits each month. If you have paid in full, you will receive credit toward next year's tuition.

\*In order to streamline the program this year we prefer that all orders are placed online. If you do not have online access you may send in a retailer list (available in the school office) as an order form; be sure to highlight the cards you would like, and include your name on the form.

### Can other people order?

- \* Anyone can order through you; just include their order and payments with yours, then you will be responsible for distributing the cards when they come in.
- \* Any staff member or community member who places an order will have their credits made to the HCA Financial Aid fund.

### Necessary Details...

- \* Payments for Anyhow orders are not tax-deductible because participants receive dollar for dollar value.
- \* Anyone writing a nonsufficient funds (NSF) check will incur a fee equal to the fee charged by HCA's bank.
- \* The vendors & percentages are subject to change due to holiday and seasonal special promotions as well as changes dictated by the vendor.
- \* In no way does Holden Christian Academy or the ANYHOW program endorse the participating stores. You must make your own decision whether to purchase from each store.
- \* Each store has their own policy on change back from certificates. Find out before paying for your purchase.

### Anyhow schedule 2014-2015 school year

<u>orders due by 1 p.m.</u>	<u>order pick up after 1 p.m.</u>
November 25 .....	December 2*holiday delay
December 2 .....	December 8
December 9 .....	December 15
December 12.....	December 19 *extra order for Christmas
January 20 .....	January 26
February 3 .....	February 9
February 24.....	March 2
March 10 .....	March 16
March 24.....	March 30

**The next order is due Tuesday, December 9, by 1:00 p.m.**



# Classroom Happenings



## ~Preschool~

We will be having our Christmas Party in Preschool on Wednesday, December 17th for the AM and PM sessions. We are asking that each student bring in a small gift costing no more than \$3. A great place for purchasing gifts is the Dollar Tree. Girls bring in a gift for a girl and boys bring in a gift for a boy. Please label the gift with the word **boy** or **girl** as appropriate. *We do not draw names for our preschool party as it causes stress and confusion for the children.*

During the party we will decorate nut free Christmas cookies. For anyone with a child who has other allergies, please send in a safe to eat cookie for your child to decorate. Please note, the *snow date for our party is Thursday the 18th.*



Mrs. Younger, for Preschool

## Team A ~ Grades K, 1 & 2

Greetings From Team A!

The EcoTarium visit was awesome! We were especially enthralled with the planetarium. As teachers, we have commented many times about the impact of seeing the earth, the home that God prepared for us, as a tiny dot in the Milky Way Galaxy. It brought to mind Psalm 8! Please take a moment sometimes soon and read this wonderful passage of scripture.

I was so pleased with the questions our kids asked the docent after the presentation. They have a Nature Explore Playground that was also a BIG hit! Thank you, so much, to those who chaperoned!



Christmas is coming! In addition to our regular studies we are busy planning a Birthday Celebration for Jesus on Friday afternoon the 19th and are asking that each family send in \$5. This will cover the cost of party supplies, refreshments, and your child's gift exchange gift. We hope that this will alleviate additional stress in this already stressful season. Our desire is for you to enjoy this "most wonderful time of the year." Each child will be given a portion of the money to buy a gift at the HCA Christmas shop. Gifts will be wrapped, kept at school, and exchanged at the party. Please put cash in a separate envelope marked "PARTY." Thank you!

The Christmas Concert will be Thursday, December 18 at 7 P.M. This is your child's opportunity to wear his/her "Christmas finery!" No jeans, please.

♪ "O Come Let Us Adore Him ... Christ the Lord!" ♪

## Team B ~ Grades 3 & 4

Grade three has begun the second quarter making planets for our classroom solar system model. It is so fun to watch these students work well together. What a great team!

They will also be putting together a Steps to the American Revolution display if you are interested in learning along with us.

Christmas is fast approaching. Their Birthday Party for Jesus will be December 19th. More details to follow.

Mrs. Jorritsma



THANK YOU fourth grade parents and students for making me feel SO loved on my Birthday!!! The generous gifts, cards, beautiful flowers, & amazing cake!! I am truly blessed by you all!!

Fourth grade has been working hard, especially in Math. Please continue to practice multiplication facts, even during Christmas break; 5-10 minutes a day will really help :) No book report for the month of December. Our celebration of Advent has begun. All praises to Jesus our Savior! We will have our Christmas Party on Friday, December 19th. We will pick names out of a hat. Please keep the gift between \$5-\$10. More details to follow on the Weekly Peek.

Blessings,  
Mrs. Reed



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# Classroom Happenings



## Team C ~Grades 5 & 6

My colleagues warned me that term two was fast and challenging. They were right! So far we have visited Boston, studied how the early settlers of America became colonists, and examined the growth of colonial America and the changing relationships in our heritage that led us to the costly war for independence. And the best is yet to come: We will soon be studying the Declaration of Independence and Constitution. This will be our first close study of primary sources—actual documents from the historical period as opposed to books written in our own time about the period. Reading 18th century documents is very challenging, so please do not be surprised if we move much more slowly over the remainder of the term. This is a skill that is both important and rewarding as we guide students toward thinking critically and independently about our heritage.

As our historical studies get deeper and more demanding, I have tried to counterbalance with lighter material in language arts class. Our main focus this term is creative writing. We have workshopped setting design and are now turning to a study of characters. Our reading book, *The Printer's Apprentice*, serves as a good example of both. We will continue to use the book as we work our way toward plot design at the end of the term.

Over the next week please look for lots of additional information from Mrs. Cleveland and me. We are in the process of planning our Team C Christmas party and will be in touch soon with requests for healthy snacks and treats. Also, the students have elected to do a book exchange at the party—timed nicely with next week's Scholastic Book Fair. Finally, please note that next Wednesday marks the midpoint of term two. You will receive an e-mail with a link to your student's progress report just as you did in term one.

As always, it is a great privilege to be in partnership with the Team C families. Let us continue to lift one another in prayer, especially in this blessed season of advent.

Yours in Christ,

Mr. Reno

## News from Mrs. Lundergan in the Library

The Scholastic Book Fair is next week in the HCA Library! Your children will have time to browse and make their wish lists beginning on Tuesday. Teachers will also be making wish lists for their classrooms. This is a wonderful opportunity to come in and shop for your child or their teacher, we will even wrap books for you! Parents may come in during school hours on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday as well as after school Wednesday and Thursday until 5 pm. Please come and check it out!

Blessings for a great Christmas season,  
Beth Lundergan

## Team D~Grades 7 & 8

We are working diligently on Roanoke essays in both 7th & 8th grades. 7th grade is focused on writing a theme-based essay, while 8th grade has honed in on very specific individual topics. Grammar will come alive as we add edit our essays in the next week. Additionally, we are tackling one of two units on poetry this year. This first one guides us gently into a focus on the birth of our Savior.

During Devotions and LA, coupled with Scripture, we are reading poems from *A Widening Light: Poems of the Incarnation* by Luci Shaw. The students are becoming so skilled at noting the craftiness of the poets. I love watching this stage of discovery and development in their minds.

In Spanish, my encouragement is to study, study, and study. The basics are necessary. Five minutes a day in review will go a long way. Enough said!

Have a joyous Christmas. Feliz Navidad.  
Prospero Ano y felicidad. ~ Mrs. C

This term goes particularly fast given the breaks and days off. I have shared with the students the importance of staying on top of what we are doing after days off and breaks. The days we are in school will be packed full!

8th Grade Science is exploring the amazing details of the periodic table. Next week we will begin to prepare for a two day long lab where students will use tests and observations to compare the properties of some unknown metals and make predictions using their knowledge of the periodic table.

7th Grade Science is focused on Fishes, Amphibians and Reptiles until the end of next week. We will have a chapter 3 test next Friday, December 12th. Students will complete a virtual dissection online over the weekend for homework. We will do a few "real" dissections in the Spring!

Exciting New Addition to our FFL program ~ We are now the proud owners of a Tower Garden®. This is a state-of-the-art vertical aeroponic growing system. We are in the process of setting it up to grow green leafy veggies with grow lights through the winter. More to come....

Math ~ We will be taking Benchmark Tests in all Math classes this week and/or next. Benchmark tests do not count toward a student's grade. They are a way for us to measure how well the student is grasping and applying taught skills. Students will only be tested on skills that have been presented in class. Progress is tracked on a form that helps highlight strengths and weaknesses. These are a valuable tool for me and for the students.

Thank you for your partnership and please let me know if you have any questions.

Blessings,  
Mrs. Holgate