



Pathways

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

A Newsletter for Holden Christian Academy

December 19, 2013

Principal's Corner

Dear friends,

I wonder how many people will actually read this in all the hustle and bustle of the week. I hope some will because we are calmed and refocused as we stop and consider the everyday gifts God pours into our lives. I'm up to 411 blessings since I began my thanksgiving journal. I am motivated to jot things down in a quick list because of the effect it has on me. I've reported before how anxiety, fear, overwhelm and anger can't live in the same heart at the same time as thanksgiving. This is what motivates me to stop and write and it works. I am becoming increasingly aware of the little things in my life as my gratitude and perspective are constantly exercised and realigned into God's perspective. This tiny discipline only takes a few minutes but the calming effect of touching hearts with the Spirit of God lasts a long time as thanksgiving grows and deepens.

So what are my HCA blessings? So many I am full to the brim but here are a few;

- * The privilege of working with fun, competent, godly people every day!
- * Watching God take a hazy dream and turn it into a vibrant reality!
- * Spending time with enthusiastic, lively, and optimistic kids!
- * Working with parents who are committed to doing what's best for their kids.
- * Learning together...staff, students, & parents!
- * Hearing that a 2nd grader came to school and announced to a friend that now they are sisters because she asked Jesus into her heart!
- * Witnessing the TLC that our older students poured out on our younger students at the Christmas shop.
- * Feeling the palpable joy and excitement on the day of shopping for others.
- * Watching experienced teachers get excited about new teaching techniques.
- * Watching the Annual Fund creep slowly up toward the goal. We are 60% there.
- * Opening financial gifts from our generous alumnae!
- * Welcoming parents, grandparents and friends into the

building as they work, teach electives, and help in a thousand ways.

- * Being proud of our kids as they asked mature and thoughtful questions about the conflicts in the Middle East after chapel.
- * Entering into the excitement and joy of learning!
- * Watching budding friendships as new students are wholeheartedly welcomed into a class.
- * Rejoicing with a teacher when she said that things are going great and the best part is that her students are so happy!
- * Being led in worship by two fantastic student worship teams.
- * Observing our helpful leaders from the Student Council.
- * Working with a committed, generous, and godly group on the School Committee.
- * Truly feeling just as excited and enthusiastic about what God is doing at HCA as I did in year one, praising Him that we now have a 20 year track record of His faithfulness!
- * Watching everyone here prepare for and get excited about the reality of God coming to earth as a baby to rescue us from ourselves so that we can live FOREVER with Him!

My prayer is that God would continue to bless His little HCA family as we live our lives together for Him in this place. Have a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

In His love and peace,
Susan Hayward, Principal

Christmas Concert tonight!

All students in K-2 should arrive by 6:45,
all students in Grades 3-8 by 6:30.

Meet in your classroom/
homeroom.

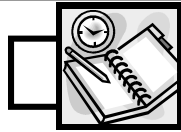
Attire: please no jeans,
sweatpants or sports
clothes.



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

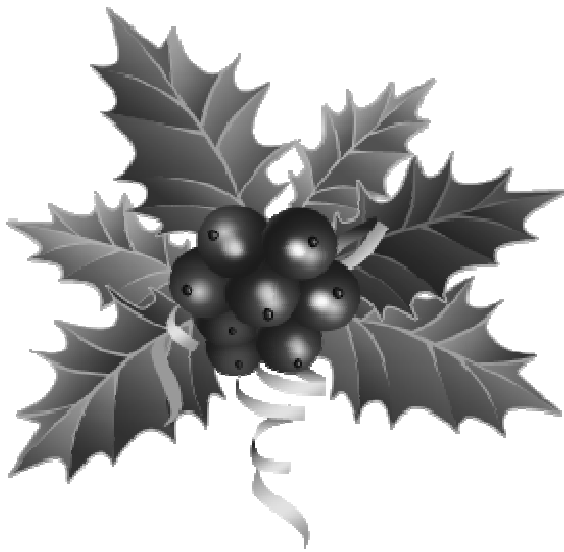
December 19	Christmas Program 7 p.m.
December 20	Classroom Christmas celebrations K-8
Dec. 23-Jan. 1	NO SCHOOL—Merry Christmas!
January 7&8	Schoolhouse Rock, Jr. 7 p.m.
January 17	NO SCHOOL—Term 3 Development Day
January 20	NO SCHOOL—Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 21	Museum of Science Field Trip K-8
January 24	Term 2 ends
May 31	Save the date! HCA 20th birthday party! (Rain date June 7)

PRAYER (Psalm 68:19)

- For our family members struggling with illness during this busy season, that they are able to rest as needed and feel the true peace of the season around them.
- For new families being called to HCA, that they will hear God's call and trust in Him.

PRAISE & THANK YOU

- Praise God for a clear MRI for Dane Burk! Prayers for continued healing.
- Thank you to Shana Piuze for coordinating our online auction.



see the following two pages for Christmas Greetings from our classroom teachers K-8.

Principal's Book of Excellence celebrates...

Kindergarten

Isabella, for unstacking chairs every morning by herself!
Matthew, for being a great helper, stacking chairs without even being asked.

The entire class, for a fabulous job on the Kindergarten play!

Grade 1

Jacob, for his enthusiasm for reading and improved effort in all areas *and* for defending and protecting his sisters at recess.

Jacquelyn, for being a model of obedience.

Madelyn, for her sweet and encouraging spirit.

Michaela, for working hard and not giving up.

Grade 5

Kyle, for displaying a cheerful attitude and "doing all things without arguing and complaining".

Grade 8

Conway, for going above and beyond to fix a broken table and get ice for Mrs. Reed.

Christmas theater DVD's are available in the office for \$2.00 each. Send in cash and a note and we'll make sure we send one home with your student tomorrow. Grades K-8 all appear! Ask your students what their class did with Mrs. Lundergan for this fun project.

Music Lessons update: Lessons will not be held the week we return in January (Jan. 2 and 3). The payments made for these lessons will be applied to the Jan. 30 and 31 lessons and Term 3 billing will start with February 6/7 lessons.

One Call Now app Never miss a One Call again! Download the "My Call Now" app to your smartphone and you will be notified when a call or email is sent out.

Stage set-up Help Needed

Please let us know if you can come in at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 2 to help us set up the stage for Schoolhouse Rock. We need muscles!

Christmas Greetings from our classrooms



To our HCA Family,



Love,

Mrs. Hughes and Mrs. Anderholm

As I reflect on my manifold blessings this Christmas season my students come immediately to mind! The *privilege* of joining with parents in their spiritual instruction is of utmost importance to me; it is an *honor*. So often I verbalize to the Lord "I LOVE teaching children about you!" I am blessed with 9 students whose hearts are tender and sensitive to God and His word. I rejoice to hear them pray for our class needs and beyond...even to the uttermost parts of the world! Last week we made Jewish prayer shawls and the students wanted to wear them during Bible time. During that time together one student told me "Mrs. Poirier, last night I became your *sister*" and she shared with the class how she had accepted Christ as her Savior at home. God be praised!! When we finished Bible time that same day one student remained behind the rest. She said "Mrs. Poirier, I want to pray over you with my prayer shawl!" and as I bowed my head she held the shawl over me and prayed "Dear God, I pray that you would always keep Mrs. Poirier in your presence". I have fresh tears as I'm typing this...how humbling, how precious, how incredibly pure and meaningful to be blessed by one's student. TRULY I AM BLESSED...my cup runneth over and over and over...Amen! Joyous wishes to you and your families as you celebrate the coming of our wonderful Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ! ~ Mrs. Poirier

O Come Let us ADORE HIM



My wish for you this Christmas, is that you and your family enjoy fun and frolicking in the snow as well as quiet moments to reflect on the miracle of our Savior. May you ponder these things in your heart as Mary did at His birth; and may you be blessed with health and happiness in the New Year. Much love, Mrs. Caron

Third grade blessings: I am so blessed to have so many creative and sensitive students. I have students that regularly create artwork for me and the class. I have students that build amazing structures out of just about anything! I have other students who are excellent at imaginative play. It is truly precious.

I also feel very blessed that I have watched the children take over morning devotions and prayer. It is really quite awe-inspiring to watch third grade students take a leadership role and read devotions out loud from *Sticky Situations*, take prayer requests, and then pray aloud for all of the children and their requests. To me, this is an important survival skill as a Christian and third grade has mastered it! I have also seen so much maturation in behavior in Chapel...a huge blessing.

The use of the binders has improved for most students and they have begun to take more interest in keeping their learning environment tidy...thanks to a game they are playing with Mrs. Hayward! Your children are a blessing to me and I love them so much! I am also so grateful for all of the supportive and involved parents I have in this class. Christmas blessings to you all. Love, Mrs. Mikol

I am SO blessed by the love & support that I have received. I am grateful for each student that I have this year and for every student I've had the privilege to teach here at HCA. It's always exciting to see the growth academically, physically & spiritually throughout the year. I thank God for my job, for you all, & the love of our Savior, Jesus! ~ Mrs. Reed

Countless times I have witnessed students display kindness toward one another. This is beautiful. How beautiful it is to hear them sing praises to our Lord, not only during chapel but Right in my own classroom. I am amazed at God's marvelous gift. He has given me the honor to Serve Him by serving His children. And someday, these faces that I pray for each day will Touch the lives of others. Many times I have been encouraged by the fellowship of the godly teachers here. As we gather in the mornings to pray and read the Word, I am blessed. Struggles may come, but God uses them to make us stronger in our faith. This too is beautiful.

Blessings upon blessings have been given to me. Life through the promise of my Redeemer is the greatest of these. Everlasting life in the presence of my Savior is my greatest hope. Our hearts need only Him. So when I reflect on all of the gifts that I have been given, I am humbled by how rich I am. Smiles on kid faces, hugs, prayers, inquisitive students: I am blessed by all of these. Now that Christmas approaches, I am taking time to count my blessings. God loved the world so much that He gave His one and only Son. This is the most beautiful blessing of all.

An acrostic Christmas message from Mrs. Torres.



Christmas Greetings continued...



I want to take this opportunity to share with you how wonderful your children are. Every day they come to school with engaging questions, ready to learn more about this wonderful world God has created. Most recently I was blessed by their enthusiasm as they created a new animal for the tundra biome. Their creations have been a wonderful display of one of God's characteristics--His creativity. As they made a new animal for this cold climate, they incorporated the physical and behavioral adaptations that would be necessary for an animal to survive there.

In math, I have seen a display of another Godly characteristic--order. Math makes sense once we understand it, and students have been working to understand the concepts we are currently learning and give them a sense of order in their minds. They come to class ready to practice, clarify, and learn more. I am so proud of their hard work! Another Godly characteristic the 5th and 6th graders display is generosity and forgiveness. They have given generously of their money for the orphans of Belarus. They have given of themselves to extend help or patience to each other, and forgiveness at times too.

As we learn and grow together, I wanted you to know what a blessing it is to see and work with your children every day.

Blessings to you this Christmas, *Mrs. Cleveland*

Last year I was involved in writing a devotional for our annual Christmas tea at church. The time of reflection and introspection gave me a renewed perspective of Christ's birth. In order to have the proper context, read *Luke 2:1-38*.

For thought: Scripture tells us specifically how God demonstrates His love for us. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). Jesus' incarnation shows us God's great love for the world. "In this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him" (I John 4:9). This little baby...born to a lowly couple, revealed to the least of society, presented to an man and woman waiting in the temple **...is God's LOVE.**

He wasn't born to the richest. He wasn't presented to the best. He wasn't shown to the young. God was making a huge point for us. It's NOT about status. It's NOT about wealth. It's NOT about position. It's NOT about age. **Any ONE, at any TIME, in any CIRCUMSTANCE can receive this gift of love, if he or she chooses to believe.**

This devotional reminds me just how precious the students in my classes are to me. Not only are they mine for this school year, but they are my brothers and sisters in Christ, as well. We share a common bond because of God's greatest gift. May you be blessed this Christmas!

In His love ~ *Mrs. Campbell*

Merry Christmas! Praying you enjoy a wonderful Christmas and some wonderful family time over the break.

It is so easy to think about all the amazing gifts the Lord has blessed me with during this wonderful season. One of my favorite gifts is the students the Lord has placed in my care. It brings me great joy to discover alongside your talented and smart children, the wonders of God's word, His creation and how things work! I am blessed by our partnership, it is a gift.

Enjoy special family time. Happy New Year!
With Love, *Mrs. Holgate*

*******Order Cookbooks and Calendars here ! *******

Please return ASAP~ Quantities are limited!

I would like to order _____ HCA Healthy Family Cookbooks (1=\$12, 2 or more=\$10 each)

I would like to order _____ HCA Nature Calendars (\$10 each)

Total included \$ _____. Checks should be made out to HCA, no cash please.

Name _____

Email: _____

You will receive an email when your order is ready to be picked up in the office.