

PATHWAYS

“SHOW ME YOUR WAYS, LORD, TEACH ME YOUR PATHS.” PSALM 25:4

HCA’s vision is to inspire students to love learning and live lives worthy of the calling of Christ.

UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

June 5 - The Amazing Race
(K-8 only, 10a-12p)

June 7 - 8th Grade class trip
to Six Flags New England

June 8 - Graduation day!
Preschool Graduation
9:30AM

8th Grade Graduation 7PM
(details on page 4)

June 9 - Last Day of School
with Thankfulness Chapel,
Shirt Swap, Backpack
Collection - 1/2 Day,
11:30am dismissal with NO
After School Program

September 5 - Student
Orientation (9-11am, details
coming over the summer)

September 6 - 1st day of
classes for the 23-24 school
year!



PRINCIPAL’S CORNER

He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.
Ecclesiastes 3:11

As we have seen in our study of Our Heritage this year, *God makes everything beautiful in its time*. The Bible and History curriculum this year have focused on our national heritage and spiritual heritage, highlighting the humble beginnings that led to a beautiful nation and an even more remarkable opportunity for eternity in heaven. As Ecclesiastes says, no one could have known what God would do, nor do we know the plans of God moving forward. We only know His eternal plans are good, they will come to fruition, and we can choose to be a part of them. All good things!

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I was recently visiting the Kindergarten class and saw Mrs. Coombs showing the students pictures of her as a baby, then a child, then as an adult. She related this to the stages of the butterfly. The beginning stages of a monarch butterfly give no indication of the beauty and ability it will have as a butterfly. Likewise, we cannot know what our children will be like or what they will do as adults when they are young. *But God has made everything beautiful in its time.*

As our eighth grade class prepares to graduate, we are already getting a glimpse of the gifts and abilities God has equipped them with. Even as they prepare to transition to high school and fly on to the next stage, we can see the beauty God has created in them. This class has a caring spirit that has inspired them to spend their free time with younger students. They are hard working, joyful, and they love God. Although we know there is still more to discover as their academic, emotional, and spiritual development continues, it has been a privilege for all of us at HCA to be a part of these early stages of their lives. We look forward to seeing the beautiful work God will do through them in their high school years and beyond! They will surely be missed, but I am confident they will be a blessing to their next school too.

It has been a privilege to partner with all of our families this year and be a part of students' academic, emotional, and spiritual progress. I hope everyone's summer is filled with the perfect balance of rest and adventure and you enjoy watching your children continue to grow in all ways!

By His grace,
Mrs. Nikki Cleveland, Principal



Honoring God through
Creative learning and strong
Academics in a caring, fun-filled school!

THE AMAZING RACE comes to HCA on Monday!

We are excited for our K-8 students to work with their Timothy Group to complete The Amazing Race on Monday. We encourage groups to wear the same color if possible. Please do not spend \$ on this - if you don't have a shirt in the right color, consider a bandana, bracelet, etc. The list of Timothy groups and colors are below (your child should know which group they are in, but if not Ms. Graham sent an email this past Wednesday with the complete list!).

Mrs Coombs/Miss Rose - Red

Mrs McGrail - Orange

Mrs Velarde - Yellow

Mr Shea - Green

Mrs Richardson's - Purple

Ms Rennie - Black

Ms Legro - White

Mr. Curtis - Grey

USED SHIRT SWAP AND BACKPACK COLLECTION JUNE 9th 11:15-12pm!

On the last day of school, we will have a simple HCA Shirt Swap outside* beginning at 11:15am and lasting until 12:00pm (just before/after Dismissal). If your students have outgrown HCA t-shirts or blue polos, please donate them to the Office this week (or bring them Friday!), and feel free to take a replacement in a different size - leave one, take one! This is a great opportunity since HCA t-shirts are required and factored into PE participation grades, and the HCA blue polo uniform shirts are required on all field trips.

Additionally, we will be collecting empty, used backpacks in good working order to donate to a missions project spearheaded by an HCA mom. These backpacks will be heading to the Dominican Republic for underprivileged children to use for school. We will have a bin to collect any backpacks you would like to donate. Thank you!

*In the event of inclement weather, this swap will be set up in the gym and the gym door will be unlocked.



PLEASE TAKE NOTE...



GRADUATION INFORMATION!

We can't believe it, but it is time to celebrate our 29th graduating class from Holden Christian Academy! All are invited to celebrate our 8th graders' accomplishments on Thursday, June 8th at 7pm in the Holden Chapel Sanctuary.

The reception to follow will be in the Community Room, and hosted by the 7th grade families. Grade 5&6 have been asked to donate drinks - please refer to the email sent by Ms. Graham with specific assignments!

We hope everyone will come support our grads during this special evening of celebration!



Our 8th grade class on the Middle School D.C. Trip last month!

Greetings from the Art Room:

During the final days of school, students will be coming home with their portfolios containing their artwork from the entire year. Your child will greatly benefit from undivided time to show you their hard work, and to explain what they learned in class. I have known families/children to set up a mini reception just like a real art gallery opening while the viewing takes place.

What a wonderful family activity!

Thank you for the opportunity to share the gift God has given me, and show them how fun making art can be.

May God bless you with a happy summer!
~Mrs Mikolajczyk (aka Mrs. M)





Whether our students exploring are off-campus or learning on-campus they are SAFE, WANTED and LOVED



SOCIAL SKILLS AT HCA ~ An Update from Mrs. Heenan

As we wind down this school year, we will finish some scrapbooking for our Social Skills binders. Just a reminder that the binders will be kept here at school for next year unless your child is graduating or not returning. I am excited to announce that “Big Life Planner” has decided to gift us the planner/workbook for 7th and 8th graders next year! This is so exciting! The students love it, and it promotes a growth mindset and helps them recognize their uniqueness and importance in the world. It also challenges them to find Scripture to match each theme. The themes covered are: ‘believe in yourself’, ‘mistakes help you grow’, ‘be persistent’, ‘be grateful’, ‘be unique’, ‘challenges make you stronger’, ‘effort’, ‘love learning’, ‘be kind’, and ‘make a difference in the world’. Next year, 6th graders will also be working on a curriculum from the makers of Big Life Journal. I am so grateful to Big Life Journal for this donation.

This year in social skills, we covered many topics; here is a quick list:

- ◆ Big Life Journals
- ◆ Big Life activities from their curriculum
- ◆ Zones of regulation (Emotions)
- ◆ Communication with others
- ◆ Behavior/ Consequences (positive and negative)
- ◆ Making choices
- ◆ Social judgement
- ◆ Roleplaying
- ◆ Smart goals
- ◆ Good sportsmanship
- ◆ Scrapbooking
- ◆ Any topics that teachers requested and not listed above

I am excited to be preparing next year’s curriculum for Social Skills over the summer. On our Orientation Day (Sept. 5th), Social Skills binders will be displayed at your child’s desk so you can see some of our activities throughout the school year. Have a wonderful, blessed, and safe summer. See you in the fall!

Mrs. Heenan



Preschool News!

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

Move Up Day—
Tuesday, June 6th—an opportunity for upcoming kindergartners returning to HCA to visit the kindergarten classroom and teacher

Preschool Graduation/Celebration—
Thursday, June 8th, 9:30AM—a Celebration for all Preschoolers and their families (please see email with details)

Can you believe we have spent a whole school year together? Your HCA Preschool Team cannot believe it! Through each season, we have been amazed by your precious children and all that they are becoming.

During the month of May, we talked all about God's life cycles and purposes for His creation. Our classroom has been abuzz with the excitement of observing tadpoles changing into froglets, visiting kindergarten to see their Painted Lady caterpillars in their chrysalises, and sharing the joy and wonder of releasing 10 new butterflies into nature after their miraculous metamorphosis. God's fingerprints can truly be seen all over His beautiful design for Creation.

We've been blessed with many amazing, sunny days, which means we get to engage in our learning centers outside in Nature Explore. Dressing up as insects has been a huge hit this spring, as well as water play, watercolor painting in the cool shade, and building with blocks of all kinds! You can often find mud pies baking in the sunshine, children sifting sand and digging in the sand box, and gentle hands carefully observing the new baby birds in our bushes.

Like the beautiful transformation of a caterpillar to a butterfly, our preschoolers have grown into such competent, confident, God-worshiping wonders before our very eyes this year. We have been honored to nurture them, laugh with them, guide them, and help them feel safe, wanted, and loved here at HCA. We hope they leave this year knowing that God is always with them, wherever they go.



Team A News!

Kindergarten Update from Mrs. Coombs:

We are almost at the end of the school year and what a year it has been. I am not sure about you, but I cannot believe how quickly this year went. I can't help but think back to the beginning of the year when all their sweet little faces were coming through my Kindergarten door as I watched them begin their school adventure. My heart felt for them, as so many were scared, nervous, shy, and apprehensive. Now I look and I see joy, happiness, and an eagerness to learn.

This last term gave us many opportunities to explore the world around us, past and present. We made our last trip to Trout Brook, where we were able to see frogs, newts, and even a surprise visit from a turtle. We continued the exploration in the classroom with caterpillars and tadpoles. We watched as the caterpillars formed chrysalises and tadpoles started growing legs.

We explored the Civil War and the separation of states. We learned some important facts about Abraham Lincoln and even had a "visit" from a pretty famous lady, who talked about being able to use the gifts God gave her to help wounded soldiers. Ask your students if they remember the name of the woman born in Oxford, MA who founded the American Red Cross!

Just as the caterpillars in our classroom are ending their journey to become butterflies, about ready to emerge from their chrysalises, my students are about to emerge from Kindergarten ready to be successful first graders. The students have grown, developed, made mistakes, and ultimately succeeded in their journey. Much of their progress is due to your parent/family support and involvement. Thank you again for walking alongside me on this journey to help your children become lifelong learners. I am so thankful to have had the opportunity to watch your children grow and see their personalities flourish this year.

I pray that everyone has a wonderful summer and that I will see all their sweet faces, returning to HCA next year!

Grade 1 Update from Mrs. Richardson:

Wow, how have we reached the end of the school year already?! I am so beyond proud of first grade! First graders have worked SO HARD this school year. It has been amazing to see every student grow this year academically, socially, emotionally, and spiritually. This last term has sparked a lot of fun and joy! We have learned about life cycles in Science. We were able to observe and watch the butterflies grow in Kindergarten and Grade 1 even had the opportunity to watch an animal grow. Our class had the privilege to see a tadpole, "George Jr.", grow from a tadpole to a frog. It has sparked so much curiosity and joy!

(continued reading on next page....)

As we come to a close in Math, we can now say we are masters at identifying both 2D and 3D shapes. To close out first grade Math, we are learning about fractions/equal parts. First graders are now mathematicians!

History has covered a lot of ground this term as we learned about the Civil War! We have covered the reasons behind the Civil War, learned all about the underground railroad, Abraham Lincoln, and will wrap up History learning about Clara Barton.

It has been a joy and an honor to be your child's teacher this year. Thank you for partnering with me and HCA. Thank you for trust and support this year. It has been an amazing year filled with so much joy, laughter, projects, hard work, and growth.

It is a bittersweet feeling ending this school as I will not be returning next year. Thank you for your support and prayers in our growing family! Please know I will be praying for you all as you enter the summer and the new school year next year. Enjoy your summer!

~Mrs. Richardson

Grade 2 Update from Mrs. McGrail:

And just like that: Here we are, at the finish line. I truly cannot believe I will soon bid farewell to my awesome second graders. Can you believe nearly 9 months ago I was welcoming you all into my classroom for Parent's Night sharing with you how big of a year it will be for your children?! I pray my weekly "Sneak peak of the week" was helpful for your family as we navigated through this busy milestone year. We have worked SO hard, and your children have handled it with grace, especially with the content for Social Studies being rather heavy the entire year. I would like to personally thank you all for your continued support, words of encouragement, and prayers. It has been an honor being your child's teacher.

This week we wrapped up the following in our core topics:

Math: Unit 14 - Money

FUNdations: Final unit !!! Unit 17 was completed yesterday!! Well done!!

History: We are wrapping up with our Clara Barton reports and drawings.

Science: Chicks and chick reports!

Bible: Finishing off the year in the New Testament- finishing the Jesus Storybook bible.

Next week will be full of 'final week' activities : from the Amazing Race, to a visit from the Kona Ice truck, to our class party, to the final chapel of the year, and so much more! Have a fantastic summer !

~Mrs. McGrail



Team B News!

FROM MS. RENNIE'S DESK:

Teams A&B had a blast going to Trout Brook for our life cycles focus in Science. So many fun discoveries of frogs, salamanders, fish, & even leeches. Thank you to all who took time out of their day to chaperone and/or drive. We could not have done it without you!

We have been wrapping up our writing on life during the Civil War and we finished reading our books about Abraham Lincoln this week. Third & Fourth graders read the true story of Henry's Freedom Box, then they did a fantastic job in five language arts centers on sequencing, comprehension, story elements, graphic novel, and each group wrote an acrostic poem for F R E E D O M. Ask your child about our fun vocabulary activity with Landsdowne cards using our FUNdations sound-a-like words. (See the pics below!)

We did it!! We finished the Math book. We have been reviewing the concepts that we learned this year. Keep up with those Math Facts throughout the summer! The end of the year is always bitter sweet. I am going to miss my class SO much, but thankful that I'll get to see them in fourth grade. I am also excited for the incoming class. A flyer about our end of year party has been sent home and the students have chosen their "flavor" for their walking taco. As mentioned in the flyer, all food will be provided including one free flavored ice from the Kona Ice Truck.

It always means so much to me to partner with you in helping your children be the best they can be!! I pray that you all have a wonderful summer - filled with fun, family, and friends! Thank you for your support.

~Ms. Rennie





Grade 4 has “traveled” from east to west in the US this year!



4th grade

A NOTE FROM MRS. VELARDE:

Over the past year, 4th grade has journeyed through the beginning of American history, followed the Hebrews through the desert, mastered fractions and long division, explored different disciplines of Science, and surely enjoyed some grammar!

Just a few housekeeping items as we wrap up the year:

- 1) If your child has brought in sweatshirts, shoes, hats, coats or other items and they have not returned home, please encourage them to check out the lost and found before the end of the year.
- 2) A flyer about our end of year party has been sent home and the students have chosen their “flavor” for their walking taco. As mentioned in the flyer, all food will be provided including one free flavored ice from the Kona Ice Truck.
- 3) Summer work will be announced soon, so be on the lookout.
- 4) Students will not need backpacks on Thursday 6/8 or Friday 6/9. We will be cleaning out cubbies on Wednesday 6/7 so please send in an extra bag or two.

This year has been full of learning, singing, high energy, laughter and forming bonds with each other. It has been such a blessing to me to love these students. I have had the privilege of watching as these students grow in their friendships, character, and faith. Thank you for making this year so special and so memorable!



Middle School News!

Fifth Grade Update from Ms. Legro:

By the time you read this, we will have finished the “academic” portion of our learning for the 2022-2023 school year! I am so proud of our students as they continued to build upon their strong Math foundation. They took notes in their Math Glossaries, made connections with earlier learning as they added layers to previously learned concepts, persevered through difficult Math problems, and put up with Miss Legro's stories (ask about the dog running to the house) and drawings (ask about the sombrero car and roller skate truck) to help them remember different concepts.

Please note the following...

- ◆ The Underground Railroad Escape Room will be on Tuesday, June 6.
- ◆ Math books will need to be returned on Wednesday, June 7.
- ◆ Math Glossaries will be collected from students returning to HCA in the fall on Wednesday, June 7.
- ◆ Summer Math enrichment for incoming fifth thru eighth graders will be available the week of the 12th (sent via email by Ms. Graham)

A few of our eighth grade graduates have asked about work they can do to prevent learning loss through the summer to which I have recommended using Khan Academy.

Blessings,
Miss Legro

Sixth Grade Update from Mr. Shea:

Hello Parents,

We are wrapping up the term and the year with some fun units! In Language Arts, we are closing out the year with a study on non-traditional literary formats. Students will be studying literature with added audio and visual elements. Please do not be surprised if they come home with homework related to movies, cartoons, or video games this week as these are all forms of non-traditional literature.

For Grade 6, we are planning to have our class party on Wednesday (June 7th). Students will bring home their party supply assignment by today. I will be providing pizza for the party.

I'm looking forward to finishing this year up strongly. I hope you all have a wonderful summer break!

PS– Summer work assignment sheets will be coming home before the end of the year. I'm happy to send the assignments by email if that is preferred. Please let me know.

In Christ,
Jeremiah Shea
Grade 6 Home Room



Mr. Curtis' Corner:

Welcome back to another episode of Mr. Curtis' Corner. This is our last episode of the 2022-2023 school year. Also known as our season finale, but don't worry we won't end on a cliffhanger. We are excited to announce that Mrs. Cleveland and the School Committee have decided to renew our show and we will return next fall for season two. It is hard to believe that this school year is coming to a close. It feels like just yesterday we were beginning the year, studying early explorers and the Creation story in Genesis. This year's highlights must include our field trips to Plimoth Patuxet, Washington D.C., and Spiritual Emphasis Week with Mr. Huffman (always a favorite as we spend time together in God's Word). New this year was Spirit Week in March, which was an opportunity to come together and show our school spirit. I must remark that it's amazing to see how much our students have accomplished and how they have grown over the course of a year. Although I am sad to see our beloved eighth graders graduate and leave us, I am also excited to see how they continue to grow into the young women and men God is calling them to be. We all have a mission from God to share the 'Good News' with the world, so now we will send out seven graduates who will have an opportunity ahead of them to share God's love with a new school community while hopefully remembering ours. With that, I wish you all a safe and restful summer, and remember we never stop learning. So pick up a book, go to a museum, learn from an older generation, join a Bible study, and find opportunities to grow.



Science Update from Mrs. Gordon:

We have officially reached the end of the end. This is a bittersweet time in my homeroom: we're all excited for summer, there's joy in celebrating this milestone, and yet we know our time together is ticking to an end.

- The 8th grade class hosted a beautiful finale to their **impact project** on Friday, May 26th through a special event they planned to pass the baton to the current 7th grade class! They offered some of the wisdom gained throughout this year and inspiration for this next group of HCA's oldest students.
- We're practicing lots of **cooperation** and **healthy communication** through working together on everything from designing class shirts to choosing a graduation speaker, and much more. My, how these kids have grown!
- There are *many* moments of celebration coming up next week including the **Six Flags** field trip on Wednesday, June 7th and **Graduation** on Thursday, June 8th! It is bound to be a packed and fun-filled end to the year.

I pray you all enjoy a playful, restful, and relationally rich summer!



2 students at Heavens Harvest farm in New Braintree, MA