



HOME COMMUNICATOR

HUDSONVILLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

February 17, 2009

Dear Parents:

During the month of January, we asked that you fill out a Parent Survey. We have tabulated the results of those and we will gradually share those results with you. Thank you to those of you who completed the survey. We had 158 surveys returned to us. We are grateful for those and have learned a lot from them. We want you to know that many of the suggestions and concerns that were listed are being sent to various committees of the Board. We also appreciate God's leading at Hudsonville Christian School. Since the survey indicated that out of 158 surveys, 155 of our parents strongly agreed or agreed that they are very satisfied with Hudsonville Christian School. For that we give thanks to God and we want you to know that we are committed to continually improving as a school and seeking God's leading as we go into the future.

There are two items from the Parent Survey that I want to mention since they relate to events that are currently taking place. Last week, the 7th graders went to 7th Grade Camp. I'm grateful to Dan Pott and the team of teachers and parents that went along to support these young people. It's amazing how they can grow socially and spiritually in a unique setting. One of the things that many parents indicated in the survey was their appreciation for the middle school. As one parent said, "I appreciate the connections the teachers make with students." Another parent wrote, "They love the kids and they love to teach." Yet another parent wrote, "Our teachers are very concerned about the overview of raising Christian kids, as well as great academics." So, thank you to our staff and parents who supported our students on 7th Grade Camp. I'm grateful to hear the reports that God provided safety, but that it was also a valuable time for our 7th graders. We pray that God will use this experience in their lives to help them to grow closer to Him and to their fellow classmates.

Another event that will be happening this week has to do with our friends, John Mutai and Veronichah Koskei, who will be visiting from Plateau School in Kenya. We look forward to having them here and believe this is another opportunity for us to have our students and us as adults stretch ourselves in terms of learning about another culture, but also growing together with fellow Christians. One parent wrote in the survey, "I appreciate that you are developing a working relationship with the Plateau School in Africa, teaching our children about outreach and impacting the world for Christ outside of Hudsonville." We, too, pray that John and Veronichah will have a safe trip, that their experience here will help them understand Christ-centered education and how we carry it out in the United States. We know that we will also benefit by learning about their faith and their commitment to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We look forward to a good week. We'll talk more about the survey in future *Home Communicator* articles.

Serving Christ together,

Bob VanderLaan, Administrative Principal

PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for a safe trip and good connections for John Mutai and Veronichah Koskei as they begin their flight from Kenya at 3:30 this afternoon (our time.) They are scheduled to arrive at the Gerald Ford International Airport at 7:40 p.m. Wednesday. They will be in school Thursday, Friday, and Monday morning. Their return flight departs at 2:40 Monday. Pray specifically that our students will be blessed with greater global awareness, and awareness of their participation as citizens of God's world-wide Kingdom.

SCHOOL WIDE NEWS

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

Pasta, Partnership, & Participation! Thanks for your wonderful response to our Spaghetti Supper being held this Thursday night from 5 - 7 p.m. in our elementary all purpose room. As we told the elementary students this morning, it will be fun! We will be making the final preparations and shopping for the supper tomorrow (Wednesday). If you plan to attend, please be sure you have let us know how many are coming from your family. The best way to do this is to leave a message on the school's or Mrs. Ophoff's voicemail tonight, or send a note in the morning. We hope to have a good celebration of Christian fellowship that God has intended to happen for all of His children. Thanks for your support! Thanks also to those of you who donated warm clothing for our Kenyan visitors. Your contributions will certainly make them feel welcome, and, we hope, warm.

AUCTION RESULTS

We are very pleased and thankful to announce that the 2009 Auction raised \$41,000! Thank you to everyone who supported us through donations and bidding. We raised \$600 just through the donations of baked goods from the HCS families! We are grateful and very blessed!

TRIP HOURS UPDATE

Effective March 3 there will no longer be TRIP on Tuesday mornings. Monday hours remain the same: 4:30-7:30 p.m. for order pick-up as well as TRIP on Demand.

BACKPACKING

Those interested in backpacking this summer can find information and registration online at <http://hudsonvillechristian.org/bp>.

4TH-8TH ORCHESTRA STUDENTS

Please remember orders and payments for orchestra T-shirts are being collected now. Mrs. Jager requires all orders be returned to her by Tuesday, February 24. Students were given information and order forms. Parents, please check with your orchestra student today about this orchestra opportunity.

LIMITED BUSING

Please note on your calendar that we will have limited busing available on Thursday, March 5.

RECORDS DAY/OFFICES CLOSED

There will be no school for students on Friday, March 6 for a records day. Both the elementary and middle school offices will be closed on this day.

PRE-K AND KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT

Pre-kindergarten & kindergarten enrollment will begin on March 10.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

COLOR/DAY SCHEDULE

<u>Feb. 18</u>	Green	<u>Feb. 23</u>	Yellow
<u>Feb. 19</u>	Blue	<u>Feb. 24</u>	Green
<u>Feb. 20</u>	Red	<u>Feb. 25</u>	Blue

HOT LUNCH

Hot lunch this week Wednesday will be Arby's roast beef sandwiches, Fritos, potato chips, orange Jell-o, and brownies.

COOKIES FOR KENYA

This week Friday will be "Cookies for Kenya" for 25¢ a piece. Our Kenyan visitors will be observing the process, so let's make this a record week!

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS — Continued

RECYCLING UPDATE

Our bag recycling count last week was 17,298. That's up 2,223 from last week, so our collection bags continue to grow! Thanks for supporting this effort to care for God's World.

VALENTINES DAY AT HCS

For a tour of the elementary school on last Friday, check out the picture album "Valentines Day at HCS" on the school's website at www.hudsonvillechristian.org. You can access the photo albums from the menu tab "Elementary School" / Pictures / Events.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

HOT LUNCH

Hot lunch this week: Arby's Roast Beef Sandwich \$1.50 each, chips for \$.25, PowerAde/pop/water for \$.50.

DONUTS

Donuts will be sold at break on Friday morning, February 20 for \$.75 each. Donut helpers are: Sharon Rotman, Lori Schuitema, and Michelle McAlary.

CHAPEL HAPPENINGS

Friday, February 20: Mrs. Linda LeMahieu leads chapel
Tuesday, February 24: Mr. Huisman's homeroom chapel

CONGRATULATIONS 8TH GRADE STUDENTS!

Congratulations to Olivia Boomsma who was a first place winner in the *America and Me Essay Contest*. Mitch Tolman was a second place winner and Britten Docter a third place winner in this same essay contest. Congratulations to all three students!

6TH GRADE PARENTS PLEASE NOTE

Please be sure to ask your son/daughter for the 2010 Winter Camp Parent Chaperone signup form coming home with your 6th grade student today. There are always many parents who wish to chaperone at our Outdoor Education Winter Camp with their 7th grade student, so we invite interested parent(s) to complete this form and return it to the middle school office before 3:00 p.m. on Friday, February 27. The process changed slightly two years ago, so please read the form carefully. Those who have not attended a winter camp before will have first priority. It is a great experience for both students and parents. Check for the flyer today!

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Conferences will be held in the middle school south gym on the evenings of March 2, 3, and 5 from 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. Middle school teachers will be at conference tables in the south gym during these scheduled hours to meet with parents. We ask that parents please be mindful of the conference time frame each evening. Please note that Middle School students were NOT given scheduled times for parent teacher conferences. The following Core 2 staff will be available only on the night(s) listed:

March 2 — Mrs. Heerspink, Mrs. Prins
March 3 — Mrs. Coallier, Mrs. Heerspink, Mrs. Jager, Mrs. LeMahieu
March 5 — Mrs. Coallier, Mrs. LeMahieu, Mrs. Prins, Mr. Knot

PARENTS OF 6TH–8TH BAND STUDENTS

Hudsonville Christian School Band Solo Festival is scheduled for after school on Tuesday, March 24. The piano accompanist information form at the bottom of the information letter that was sent home with band students must be returned by every band student by tomorrow, Wednesday, February 18. If you need another copy, contact Mr. Brian Knot or call the middle school office at 669-7487.

MSBOA ORCHESTRA FESTIVAL

The 7/8 Orchestra performs on Wednesday, February 25, at 10:15 a.m. at Grandville High School. Students will be bussed to and from the event and will return to school in time for 7th/8th hour classes and to ride their buses home.

SENSATIONAL SCIENCE DAY OPEN HOUSE

Please plan on coming to the middle school for our Sensational Science Open House. Walk through the gym and see all of the work that has gone into the projects by our students for this special event. The south gym will be open from 3:30 – 8:30 p.m. for this open house on Thursday evening, March 19.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT HUDSONVILLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

March 2, 3, 5	Parent/Teacher Conferences	March 12	6/7/8 Skating Party at Woodland, 6:45–8:45
March 5	Limited Busing	March 16	M.S. Orientation for new HCMS parents
March 6	Records Day — No School for Students	March 17	HCS Society Meeting
March 9	5th Grade Boys Sex Ed night	March 19	M.S. Sensational Science Day Open House
March 11	7/8 Choral Festival	March 20	M.S. Sensational Science Day

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS — Continued

6/7/8 SKATING PARTY ADVANCE NOTICE

Our 6th—8th grade middle school students are invited to a skating party set for Thursday, March 12 at *Woodland Sports Center*. Busses will leave school at 6:10 p.m. and return to school around 9:15 p.m. Rides will need to be ready to pick up students at that time. The admission cost is \$4.00 per student and includes roller skates. Admission will be collected in advance by homeroom teachers as the date approaches closer. Roller blade rental is \$2.00 and will be paid by students at the rink. Students may bring their own roller blades.

7/8 CHORAL FESTIVAL

The 7/8 choral festival will take place on March 11 at West Ottawa High School. The ensemble will perform at 9 a.m. and the 7/8 choir will perform at 10:20 a.m. Students will be bused to and from this festival.

ACT TESTING/PATH PROGRAM

Parents interested in ACT testing for their son/daughter can stop by the middle school office to pick up an ACT registration and information packet. If you missed the February testing date, you can still register for April or June dates. The deadlines to register are February 27 and May 8. All students interested in the PATH program at Hope College must take the ACT test to be considered for acceptance into PATH. Please call Dan Pott at the middle school office if you have questions or stop by the office to pick up ACT testing and PATH information. Hope College will also be sponsoring a "Coffee with PATH" this Thursday morning from 9:30—11:30 at the VanWylen Library on campus. They will discuss options for your gifted and talented 3rd—6th grade student. Call 616-395-7742 to RSVP.

PARENTS' CLUB NEWS

MARCH IS VIRTUAL GARAGE SALE MONTH!

No time for a real garage sale this spring? Join others in a virtual garage sale and list that stuff on HCS Connect. It only takes a fraction of the time of a real one. Look for the flier coming home today. It includes directions to list items electronically and a form for those of you who don't like the computer.

FARMERS' CO-OP SCHOOL BENEFIT WEEK

The Farmers' Co-op in Hudsonville will host a school benefit week for Hudsonville Christian from February 23—28. Five percent of all sales affiliated with Hudsonville Christian will be given back to the school this week. Be sure to mention you are buying to support Hudsonville Christian!

CASH FOR CLASS DATES

Cash for Class is this week at D&W stores! The dates for Cash for Class at Family Fare stores will be February 22—28. Make sure you give the cashier our school's number — 87580 — when you check out so we receive credit from your purchase.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Believe it or not, spring is coming and so is Family Fun Night - Friday, May 1, 2009! Family Fun Night is a spring tradition at Hudsonville Christian, and is an evening of games, prizes, food, and fun! If you would like to be involved in this event by being on the planning committee, by chairing a game room, or by working a game, please call either Lori Hinken (662-1806), Kim Freerksen (662-0737, or Kari Brinks (669-5375). Please call, and put May 1 on your calendar!

COMMUNITY NEWS

HUDSONVILLE COMMUNITY ED. PROGRAMS

Information is available by the school offices for the following:

- Girls Softball Clinic for 2nd—6th graders; Thursday, February 19.
- Boys Wrestling Clinic for boys K-6th grade; various Mondays and Thursdays in March.
- Lego Classes leading up to Robotics Academy for Junior Engineers ages 5—7 and Elementary Engineers ages 8 and up.