



February 24, 2009

Dear Parents:

A couple weeks ago I was showing a prospective new family around the middle school. The parents came with a list of questions ranging in topics from curriculum, to athletics, to extracurricular activities. As we were finishing up our walk around the school building, I shared with them our mission statement. Once we got back into the office, I asked them if they had any other questions. They paused and said "How does challenging minds and lives for Christ play out in my child's education?" The next twenty minutes were spent talking about what it means to integrate faith into curriculum and learning.

I always enjoy talking about our school and how we attempt to be distinctively different. I believe we do challenge our students minds and lives for Christ, both in the classroom, but also through activities outside of the formal classrooms. Through such things as state music festivals and competitions or Sensational Science projects; leading worship services at Mel Trotter Ministries or Spiritual Emphasis Week are all examples of how our students are challenged for Him.

Two weeks ago we took 118 7th grade students to Spring Hill Camp to experience God through another means of education. I was amazed as we watched students, teachers, and parents interact in a way that brought out the best in everyone. Whether it was encouraging each other to climb the rest of the way up the climbing wall when it seemed a student had reached the end or watching students pick each other up when something went wrong. One parent who was in attendance said it this way: "This is what makes a Christian school a Christian school. God was there 100% of the time and I believe God was smiling."

Check out the next issue of the *Spotlight* in a couple weeks, I hope it will give you even more insight into how we try to challenge our students for Him!

Dan Pott
Middle School Principal

**PRAYER
CORNER**

Pray for a safe trip for Mr. John Mutai and Mrs. Veronichah Koskei who departed from the Gerald Ford Int'l Airport yesterday at 2:20 PM. They will be traveling today to London, then on to Nairobi. They are scheduled to arrive in London at 1:40 AM (our time), Wednesday, and then Nairobi at 1:35 PM (our time) Wednesday. This will be 9:35 Kenya time, and then they plan to journey back to Eldoret through the night, a bumpy four-hour journey through poor roads, many unpaved areas. Pray that they will be protected from all our germs, that they may have strength for the journey, and joy in their hearts.

SCHOOL WIDE NEWS

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>.

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.

THANK YOU FROM THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP TEAM

We want to thank all of the families who hosted our Kenyan guests, opening their homes for lodging and meals. We also want to thank everyone who helped out at the Spaghetti Supper, and for the wonderful turnout. We took in about \$1,900 which will help tremendously to support the Kenya Partnership at our school. Mr. Mutai and Mrs. Koskei are fluent and articulate, but confessed they did not have words to express appreciation for what they experienced here. They did say that though America is very cold, the people have warm hearts. We know they returned blessed and enriched by the experience, and we can say the same for us. We also appreciate the demonstration of hospitality and friendly welcome from our families at the Spaghetti Supper and the three churches that they attended on Sunday. The Hudsonville Christian family has the spiritual gift of hospitality and we thank God for that.

REGIONAL SPELLING BEE TONIGHT

Meghan Schilthuis, Jason Entingh, Joel Harkema, and Ryan Holwerda will be representing Hudsonville Christian School at the Regional Spelling Bee this evening. It will begin at 7 p.m. at St. Michael's School, which is located at 17150 88th Avenue in Coopersville. We wish them well in this competition!

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

COLOR/DAY SCHEDULE

Feb. 18	Green	Feb. 23	Yellow
Feb. 19	Blue	Feb. 24	Green
Feb. 20	Red	Feb. 25	Blue

HOT LUNCH

Hot lunch this week Wednesday will be sausage pizza, Cheetos, BBQ chips, strawberry yogurt, and vanilla ice cream.

COOKIES FOR KENYA

This week Friday will be "Cookies for Kenya" for 25¢ a piece. Remember to bring in your quarter on Friday! Team #2 will be working.

WAX MUSEUM COSTUMES NEEDED

The third grade is looking for old Wax Museum costumes that you are willing to share or donate for our program on March 27. Please contact the office or one of the third grade teachers if you have something that we might be able to use. Thanks!

5TH GRADE PARENT ORIENTATION TO M.S.

Fifth grade parents who will be having their first child come to our middle school next year, please reserve the evening of Monday, March 16 at 7 p.m. for a special night at the middle school. The 6th grade staff, along with other middle school teachers, will be welcoming you to life at HCMS! All parents are welcome, but we are focusing our discussion on those parents who will be walking our halls for the first time.

LOST & FOUND

Parents please take time to stop by the tables set up by the kitchen in the elementary school during conference nights to check for any items your student may have misplaced.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

HOT LUNCH

Hot lunch this week: Blimpie Subs for \$2.50 each, chips for \$.25, Powerade/pop/water for \$.50.

CHAPEL HAPPENINGS

Friday, February 27: HCMS Praise Team leads chapel
Tuesday, March 3: Mr. Bob VanderLaan leads chapel

6TH GRADE PARENTS

Your 6th grade student was given a form to take home last week Tuesday for the 2010 Winter Outdoor Education Camp Parent Chaperone signup. This form must be returned to the middle school office before 3:00 p.m. this week 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 next week 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:

Monday, March 2: Edie Heerspink, Mary Prins
Tuesday, March 3: Melanie Coallier, Edie Heerspink,
Sara Jager, Linda LeMahieu
Thursday, March 5: Melanie Coallier, Brian Knot,
Linda LeMahieu, Mary Prins

LOST & FOUND

Parents please take time to stop by the tables set up across from the middle school office during conference nights to check for any items your middle school student may have misplaced.

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.

CHORAL FESTIVAL

Our 7/8 Choir and 8th Girls Ensemble will attend the Choral Festival at West Ottawa High School on Wednesday, March 11. Our Ensemble will perform at 9:00 a.m. and the 7/8 Choir will perform at 10:20 a.m. Ensemble students will leave school at 8:00 a.m. and 7/8 Choir students will leave school at 9:00 a.m. Students will be bussed to and from the event and will return to school at 12:45 p.m. A letter will be sent home with your student with more details. Parents are welcome to attend.

SPORTS SCHEDULES

Tuesday, February 24

3:45 p.m. 8th Volleyball/Prins (A/B) vs. 8th Volleyball/VanTil (A/B) – south gym

Wednesday, February 25

3:45 p.m. 7th Volleyball/Los HOME vs. GRC – south gym
3:45 p.m. 7th Volleyball/Schnyders HOME vs. Jenison Chr. – north gym
3:45 p.m. 7th Volleyball/VandenBerg AWAY at GRC - Oakdale

Thursday, February 26

3:45 p.m. 8th Volleyball/Prins (B/A) AWAY at West Side Chr.
4:00 p.m. 8th Volleyball/VanTil (B/A) HOME vs. Ada Christian

Friday, February 27

3:45 p.m. 7th Volleyball/Schnyders AWAY at Calvin Christian
3:45 p.m. 7th Volleyball/Los HOME vs. Calvin Christian – south gym
4:00 p.m. 7th Volleyball/VandenBerg HOME vs. West Side Chr – north gym

Tuesday, March 3

3:45 p.m. 8th Volleyball/Prins (A/B) AWAY vs. GRC #1 at Millbrook
4:00 p.m. 8th Volleyball/VanTil (A/B) HOME vs. West Side Chr. – north gym

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

PARENTS' CLUB NEWS

SAVE THOSE GFS COUPONS FOR THE FAIR!

We'd like to save money on our purchases at Gordon Food Service and use the coupons that are occasionally in the paper or mail. So, if you're not going to use your \$5 off \$50 purchase coupon, please clip it anyway and send it in to the school office. We'll use them for non-perishable items now until fair time. Thanks for helping us to save money!

FARMERS' CO-OP SCHOOL BENEFIT WEEK

The Farmers' Co-op in Hudsonville is hosting a school benefit week for Hudsonville Christian all this week! 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 AT FAMILY FARE

Cash for Class is this week at Family Fare! Make sure you give the cashier our school's number — 87580 — when you check out so we receive credit from your purchase.

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. Simply go to our website: hudsonvillechristian.org; go to "Parents"; click on "HCS Connect"; the user name is "connect"; the password is "klein"; click on "Application Form" and list as many items as you would like. Be sure to email Steve Schnyders when an item sells at sschnyd@hudsonvillechristian.org. Don't like the computer? Pick up a form by one of the offices, fill it out, and turn it in.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

The plans for this year's Family Fun Night on Friday, May 1, are really coming together! We have some new, fun games, and some of our old favorites! Thank you to those who have already volunteered to be chairpersons of our game rooms. We will soon be making calls to recruit volunteers for shifts in our game rooms. We still have need for more people to join our planning committee, and we still need three more game room chairpersons. Please call one of us if you can help: Lori Hinken (662--1806), Kim Freerksen (662-0737) or Kari Brinks (669-5375).

COMMUNITY NEWS

SUMMER CAMP INFORMATION

Information on summer camps at SonLife, Camp Geneva, and Camp Roger can be picked up from brochure boxes by the school offices.

KID'S CLOTHING AND TOY SALES

- Borculo Christian School will hold a sale on Saturday, March 7 from 9 a.m. to noon at the school located at 6830 96th Avenue in Zeeland.
- Heritage Christian School will hold a sale on Saturday, March 14 from 9 a.m. to noon at the school located at 4900 40th Avenue in Hudsonville, just south of Chicago Drive.
- Allendale Christian School will hold a sale on Saturday, March 14 from 9 a.m. - noon. Half-price sale 12:30 - 1 p.m. School located at 11050 64th Avenue.

HOME AND CRAFT EXPO

A Home and Craft Expo will be held on Saturday, March 21 from 9 a.m.—3 p.m. at Fair Haven Ministries gym.

UNITY CHRISTIAN WRESTLING CLINIC

Unity Christian High School will be sponsoring a freestyle wrestling club for boys in kindergarten to eighth grade, with students separated by age and weight class. This will be held on Monday's and Wednesday's from 3—5:30 p.m. at the former Midway Carpet beginning March 9. Cost is \$30. Information will be distributed to all boys in these grades or will be available by the school office. Contact Jerry DeGroot at 669-1820 with questions.