

February 3, 2009

Dear Parents:

The three "C's" we talk quite a bit about in our school are: Care, Commitment and Communication. We see these as important pieces in the success of your student's journey through school and part of our commitment to doing "what is best for your student."

We believe it is very important to care about others in our school community as well as to care about the academic work completed. It was just this week I had two different situations brought to my attention by students who were genuinely concerned about fellow students. There was no benefit to them, they were simply concerned. I told them how much I appreciated what they did. Commitment can mean finding a way to get it done. This is an important concept and is a part of all parts of school from a commitment to their work, to their friends, and of course, to Jesus Christ. Communication is so important, both from a school perspective, but also from the home. It is a critical component of the "partnering with parents" concept. This is why we try to call home whenever something comes up and why we encourage you as parents to call the school when you have concerns as well. Striving for better communication is one of the reasons we have now made your students' grades available to you online. We believe this better enables you to monitor and work with your child and the school concerning their progress

I believe the three "C's" are also vital to the health of a school community as well. The Hudsonville Christian School community is important to all of us and in many ways we are like a family. Someone asked me the other day if I see any changes in our community with the recent economic struggles. I responded by saying that it seems that people are more in tune with each other and concerns that may come up from family to family. I hope you have had similar feelings in recent weeks.

Hudsonville Christian School is a caring community and we are committed to you, to do your best to assist you in any way we can. It is vital that you as parents communicate with us and let us know how we can help to provide quality Christian education for your children and how we can assist you in this process. This includes monetary help if it becomes an issue. This, I believe, is a critical component of partnering with parents to challenge our students' minds and lives for Christ.

Dan Pott, Middle School Principal

**PRAYER
CORNER**

Dear Friends at HCS — Thank you for the love and financial support that you have shown to our family and many here during this time of economic difficulty. From gift cards to weekly hot lunch, our family and others are blessed. Let's pray that we can continue to support one another spiritually and physically in the months ahead, because it is truly making a difference in our family's lives. *(From an HCS family wishing to remain anonymous)*

SCHOOL WIDE NEWS

AUCTION THIS WEEK SATURDAY!

It's finally here and we can't wait to see you! Remember to grab an addendum sheet at the auction for last minute additions like "Assistant to Mr. Jack". This is the school's largest fundraiser. These funds are used to meet resource, tech room, curriculum, media center needs, school trips, and playground costs or improvements, to name a few. Doors open at 4 p.m. on Saturday, February 7, and supper is available! In an effort to recycle, please return your auction book to school if you are unable to attend and we will use as extras for the night of the auction. Also, please remember your pie, dessert, or baked good for the auction. We are asking for one item per family: Preschool—4th grade — Bars, cookies, or cupcakes; 5th—8th grade — Pie or dessert. Please bring these items to the kitchen on Friday or by 3 p.m. on Saturday. Correction — The silent auction tables will be closing at 5:30, not 6 p.m. as indicated in the book.

LATE START DAY NEXT WEEK

Next week Wednesday, February 11, we will have a late start day with school beginning at 9:45 a.m. Regular bus routes will be running two hours later than your normal times. Our staff will be meeting together in a professional development session at our normal school start time.

LIMITED BUS TRANSPORTATION

Because Hudsonville Public Schools will not be in session on Friday, February 13 and Thursday, March 5, we will once again have limited bus transportation available. Please mark these dates on your calendar.

MATH PENTATHLON

Training for parents who will be assisting at the tournament will be held TONIGHT at 7 p.m. in the elementary library.

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

Information regarding a Spaghetti Supper being hosted by the elementary school Kenya Partnership Team is coming home today. The dinner will be held on Thursday, February 19 from 5—7 p.m. in the gym. Our two visitors from the Plateau School in Kenya will be in attendance, so look for the information and RSVP sheet in your child's backpack!

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

COLOR/DAY SCHEDULE

<u>Feb. 4</u>	Yellow	<u>Feb. 9</u>	Red
<u>Feb. 5</u>	Green	<u>Feb. 10</u>	Yellow
<u>Feb. 6</u>	Blue	<u>Feb. 11</u>	Green

HOT LUNCH

Hot lunch this week Wednesday will be hot dogs, cheddar Sun Chips, Cool Ranch Doritos, frozen Gogurt, and chocolate ice cream.

POPCORN

Popcorn will be sold Friday morning for \$.25 a bag. Team #5 will be working (Sheryl Bollo, Cathie Hunt, and Tracy Ridder).

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Individual conferences for students in preschool through grade five will be scheduled by our office for March 2, 3, and 5. Please return your conference form as soon as possible. There will be no school for students on March 6 for Records Day.

5TH GRADE GIRLS NIGHT

Just a reminder that the 5th Grade Girls Night will be next Tuesday, February 10 beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the orchestra room.

PARENTS OF 2ND AND 3RD GRADERS

Do you want your child to experience the enjoyment of reading and discussing outstanding literature in a stimulating, but relaxed environment? If so, look for Junior Great Books sign up information that was attached to your child's weekly classroom newsletter yesterday. Sign-ups will continue until Thursday, February 5 on a first come, first served basis. Extra information/sign-up sheets are in the office. Any questions? Call Sharon Leerar at 662-1520.

RECYCLING PROJECT UPDATE

As of last Friday, elementary students have collected 12,163 plastic bags. That is almost 3,000 more than last week! Be sure to look for these displays of good stewardship when you come to school. We are trying to maintain momentum through visibility, yet keeping our school tidy-looking and attractive. Thanks for your help so our students can think about how our daily decisions affect our caretaking of God's World.

ART CAMP 2009

Art Camp 2009 will be the week of June 8-12. Morning sessions are available for students currently in grades 3-5. The afternoon session is now full. Sign up sheets are available either in the elementary office or by the art room. Call the school office or email mrusticus@hudsonvillechristian.org if you have questions.

KENYAN VISIT UPDATE AND NEEDS

Our Kenya Partnership committee wishes to thank all of you who offered to open your homes to our visitors from Plateau School on February 18 - 22. We will be making decisions about the schedule and plans for those days in the coming week, and will be notifying you if we need you to help. We have been trying to anticipate things that will make our guests feel welcomed and comfortable. One immediate item will be warm clothing. We will need to bring warm coats to the airport when we pick them up. If you have any warm winter coats, jackets, or sweaters that you don't wear anymore in a women's larger size (14/16), or men's medium size, please contact Mrs. Ophoff.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

HOT LUNCH

Hot lunch this week: DJ's Pizza \$1.00/slice, chips for \$.25, Powerade/pop/water for \$.50.

DONUTS

Donuts will be sold during morning break on Friday, February 6 for \$.75 each. Donut helpers are Ellen Kloosterhouse, Lisa VanKampen, Meribeth Schierbeek

CHAPEL HAPPENINGS

Friday, February 6: Mr. Dave Doll's homeroom leads chapel
Tuesday, February 10: Mr. Dan Los leads chapel

7/8 ORCHESTRA

The 7/8 Orchestra will be having an extra rehearsal on Monday, February 9 from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. This is an important rehearsal that cannot be missed. Pizza will be provided before the students go home. Please pick up your student at 5:30 p.m. sharp.

7/8 BAND EOCS CONCERT

The 7/8 Band members will be participating in an EOCS Combined Concert on Tuesday evening, February 10. The concert will take place at Fair Haven Ministries and begins at 7:30 p.m.

7TH GRADE WINTER CAMP

Just a reminder the 7th grade students will be heading out to Winter Camp next week Wednesday – Friday, February 11 – 13. Watch for your information coming home with your student this Friday.

VOLLEYBALL

The 8th grade girls tryouts are underway today and Thursday from 3 – 5 p.m. The 7th grade girls practices continue tomorrow and Friday from 3 – 5 p.m. Schedules will be handed out to 7th and 8th girls on Friday.

WRESTLING

The 7/8 boys wrestling team members began practices today and will continue on Thursday. Practices run from 2:45 – 4:15 p.m. Schedules were handed out to participants.

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 in the south gym during these hours to meet with parents. Please note that middle school students are not given scheduled times for parent teacher conferences.

LEGO ROBOTICS MEETING REMINDER

Wizards With Wind and Perfect Storm, don't forget to stay after school tomorrow, Wednesday, for our season wrap up. We will meet in Lab 2. We should be done by 5 p.m.

AUTHORS VISIT THIS WEEK

The middle school students will be treated to a visit from authors Wendy Halperin and John Mooy this week Thursday at school. Please ask your son/daughter about this event!

TEACHER AND STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK

It is Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week! This is a great time to encourage our teachers and staff and thank them for the time, effort, energy and dedication that they put into providing a Christ-centered education for our children. The Parents' Club Board has planned a special luncheon for the teachers on behalf of every one of you.

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! The Farmers' Co-op carries bird seed and feeders, pet foods and supplies, grass seed, ice melts, fertilizers, apparel, equine feed and supplies, oils and lubricants, tires, boots, and much more. Please keep this benefit week in mind if you are in need of items from the Farmers' Co-op.

LIST IT ON HCS CONNECT

HCS Connect — Make money. Save money. Buy and sell on HCS Connect!

FAIR BANNER

Please check how you can help. Sign up with your friends or family now while spots are available. We are always in need of committee members or people to be in the fair kitchen. Sign up on the banner by the elementary gym, or call Mary at 669-8856.

RELAY FOR LIFE

The HCS Parents' Club has sponsored a team at the Hudsonville Relay for Life the last two years, and is in need of a new Team Captain this year. Won't you consider serving HCS and the community at large in this way? Contact Tricia Bosma at 662-9379 to find out more information about this opportunity.

COMMUNITY NEWS

8TH GRADE STUDENT & PARENT ORIENTATION AT UNITY

Eighth Grade Student and Parent Orientation evenings are being held at Unity Christian High School on Tuesday, February 3 and Wednesday, February 11, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Call Judy at 669-1820 to schedule an evening if you haven't already done so.

BOWLING

Information on bowling opportunities for kids through Hudsonville Community Education are available by the school offices.

UNITY VOLLEYBALL CAMP

Unity will be hosting a volleyball camp for girls who are in grades 5—8 on Saturday, February 21 and 28. Information sheets were sent home with girls in these grades or are available at Unity. Deadline to enroll is Monday, February 16.

3 ON 3 BASKETBALL TOURNAMENTS

- GR Christian Middle School's 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament will be March 20 and 21 at GR Chr. High School. It is for boys and girls grades 3—8. Sign up sheets will be in school office; deadline is February 20.
- Allendale Chr. School's 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament will be March 28 at Allendale Public High School. It is for girls and boys in 3rd-8th grade. Registration forms due March 13 and are available at ACS or at www.allendalechristian.com.

ADD/ADHD ADULT SEMINAR

Dr. Robert Bulten will speak on "ADD/ADHD and Your Child". This is free seminar hosted by CLC Network will take place on February 19 from 7 – 9 p.m. at the CLC Network, 4340 Burlingame in Wyoming. Call CLC at 855-3123 or email Karen at knienhuis@clcnetwork.org to register.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT HUDSONVILLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

February 7	HCS Auction — 4:30 silent, 6:00 live	February 13	Limited Busing
February 10	5th Grade Girls Sex Ed Night, 6:30 p.m. orch. room	March 2, 3, 5	Parent/Teacher Conferences
February 10	7th/8th EOCS Band Concert, 7:30 p.m.	March 5	Limited Busing
February 11	Late Start — School begins at 9:45 a.m.	March 6	Records Day — No School for Students
February 11-13	7th Grade Winter Camp	March 9	5th Grade Boys Sex Ed night