



May 19, 2009

Dear Parents:

In the last issue of the *Spotlight*, I indicated that we have many reasons to celebrate Christian education. Since writing that article, I have a few additional reasons to give thanks for God's leading and reasons to celebrate Christian education.

The first reason for celebration came as a result of our accreditation process with Christian Schools International (CSI). Part of the process of re-accreditation with CSI involves a self-study, which has been valuable. We had a site visit team with four seasoned educators review our self-evaluation and visit our school. They had many recommendations for us to follow and we will be placing many of those in our School Improvement Plan, which we will be accountable to CSI for the next five years. But as they concluded their report, they were very positive about what they saw at Hudsonville Christian and gave this statement, "Hudsonville Christian School is a superb school that is doing great things for God's children. This is a school that is teaching children to walk in the light of God's Word and Spirit. It is a shining example to other Christian schools of what high quality Christian education is all about." I give thanks to God for our staff, our students and families who have worked so hard to contribute to quality Christ-centered education and it's very encouraging to have people come from the outside and recognize that these goals are being met at Hudsonville Christian School.

The second reason for giving thanks is that the Board of Hudsonville Christian School is committed to helping families to stay at Hudsonville Christian School and to continue their education. We are very much aware that in these unusual economic times, there are strains on families and tensions that have never been there before. Through use of the FACTS Program, the School Board has approved of providing up to \$80,000 in tuition assistance for families who need it. So we repeat what we've said so many times before — if you have a financial need, please talk to us. We want your children to stay at Hudsonville Christian School. May God bless you as you look at your enrollment form and make the plans for your child's education for the 2009-2010 school year.

A third reason for praise is that the School Board is also committed to continuing to provide a quality Christian program for your children. With only a 1% tuition increase, we are grateful that we are not taking away any programs that your children already have. In fact, we are continuing to improve the SOAR Program which began last year and we're grateful for Sharon Leerar's work with that program and will be expanding it into 3<sup>rd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade, along with the current 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade program. In addition, the School Board last evening approved of the "Small Talk" program, which is a second language program for young children. During this coming school year, we hope to offer Spanish for children who are 18 months to 4 years old. Parents who wish to have their children involved with this program will pay tuition for that program. We believe it's an excellent opportunity to offer this in our school for families that desire to have their children learn a second language at a very young age, which according to research has proven to be a window of opportunity for learning a second language. We also intend to include this program in our preschool during the 2009-2010 school year so that the children in preschool will have some Spanish instruction during their preschool time. This program is dependent on finding a teacher who can work with very young children and families and who can speak Spanish fluently. If you know of someone who is qualified and might be interested in such a position, please let us know. Let's continue to celebrate Christian education at HCS!

Serving Christ together,

Bob VanderLaan, Administrative Principal

### PRAYER CORNER

Rachel Koning continues to wait for her bone marrow transplant. Please pray specifically that the fevers she has been experiencing will go away, that her counts will recover better/faster on their own without more transfusions, and that the cold she has will go away quickly. Pray that the family will have strength to face the challenges they encounter, and that Rachel's bone marrow transplant will be able to take place soon. Please lift up Rachel and her family in both your family and personal prayers.

*"Those that wait upon the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." Isaiah 40:31*

### SCHOOL WIDE NEWS

#### SPRING BAND CONCERT

The 4th – 8th grade bands will have their spring concert at Grace Community Church tonight at 7:30 p.m. Students need to arrive by 7:00 p.m.

#### CHOIR & ORCHESTRA CONCERT

The Spring Choir and Orchestra program will be on Tuesday evening, May 26 at Grace Community Church. The concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. The concert will feature our 6th – 8th choirs and the 4th – 8th orchestras. All performers should arrive to the church by 7:00 p.m.

#### PIZZA HUT FUNDRAISER FOR RACHEL KONING

Take the night off from cooking dinner for your family! Make plans to have a "pizza night" on Monday, June 1 as Hudsonville Wingstreet Pizza Hut has a fundraiser for Rachel Koning. More details will be sent home next week. Mark your calendars!

#### ASSISTANCE NEEDED AT THE KONING'S HOME

We are in need of people to help clean the Koning's house on May 28 or 29, and also a few dates in June. Please call Suzanne Koop at 669-9886 if you are available to help. Thank you!

#### LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

The last day of school for grades PK—7, Thursday, June 4, will be a half day dismissing at 12 noon.

#### HELP US RAISE \$2,000 AT DEGRAAF INTERIORS

Remember that through May 22 you can help raise up to \$2,000 for the HCS Tuition Assistance Program simply by visiting a local retailer. Stop by DeGraaf Interiors at 6450 28th Avenue, complete a three item scavenger hunt, and DeGraaf Interiors will donate \$10 to HCS! Turn in your answers before you leave to enter into a drawing for \$200 of FREE flooring.

#### BAND PARENTS

Summer private lesson forms were given to all band students (4th - 8th). If you are interested in lessons, please return the form to Mr. Knot by Friday, May 22.

#### MATH PENTATHLON COACHES — WE NEED YOU!

Kim Honore is asking for your help! She will be leading Math Pentathlon games at Kids Games at the fairgrounds June 22-25 and needs coaches! Fiar, Ramrod, and Kwatro Sinko are the games we will play this year with possibly 80 children! Past and current coaches, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders – we need your help! Please call Deb Bobiak at 292-9119 to sign up!

#### TRIP SCHEDULE

There will be no TRIP on May 25. Be sure to pick up a summer TRIP schedule when you pick up your order! Reminder: If your child is starting school this fall, or if your last child is entering Unity in the fall, you need to fill out a form instructing us to change your TRIP credit from future to active, or from HCS to Unity. This must be done in May!

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

### COLOR/DAY SCHEDULE

<u>May 20</u>	Yellow	<u>May 25</u>	No School
<u>May 21</u>	Green	<u>May 26</u>	Blue
<u>May 22</u>	Adjusted Day	<u>May 27</u>	Red

### HOT LUNCH

Hot lunch this week Wednesday will be popcorn chicken, Fritos, potato chips, raspberry rainbow yogurt, and Rice Krispie bars.

### COOKIES FOR KENYA

Friday is our final day of selling chocolate chip cookies to benefit our Kenya partnership. They are \$.25 a piece; team #2 will be working. Thank you for your cookie purchases this school year!

### SECOND GRADE PARENTS

Does your child easily master classroom math, write for fun, or read above grade level? SOAR services will be available in third grade. SOAR is a program designed for students who easily master the goals of the classroom. Students receive additional instruction at their level with like ability peers in language arts and/or math. Students will be identified for the program on the basis of parent nomination and additional testing at HCS. Forms for the nomination of your child can be picked up at the school office. The forms are due by Thursday, May 21. Contact Sharon Leerar (sleerar@hudsonvillechristian.org or 662-1520) with any questions.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO PIANO STUDENTS

Several HCS students recently participated in student achievement testing in piano through the Michigan Music Teachers Association. We congratulate Cassi Niemeyer, Abraham VanderTuin, Abby Brummel, Ellie Dekkinga, Jason Entingh, and Riley Sterken for their hard work and great performances!

### THANK YOU FROM GIRLS ON THE RUN!

Thank you to all parents and other supporters who came out this past Saturday to cheer on our 4th and 5th grade Girls on the Run participants. They all did a great job in the 5K celebration run, and we are very proud of them!

### RECYCLE LEFT OVER YARN

Third graders are weaving in their art classes and could use some more yarn! Please bring to the elementary office or art room anytime soon.

### YEARBOOK SIGNING RECESS

Students in the elementary school will have a special opportunity on Wednesday, May 27 to have their HCS yearbooks signed by the teachers during a joint long recess. Please remind your PK - 5th grade students to bring their yearbooks to school next Wednesday!

## MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

### HOT LUNCH

Hot Lunch this week: Arby's Roast Beef Sandwich \$1.50, chips for \$.25, and Powerade/pop/water for \$.50.

### CHAPEL HAPPENINGS

Friday, May 22: HCMS Chapel Team & Mrs. Hollenbach lead chapel

Tuesday, May 26: Mr. Steenstra leads chapel

### UNIFORMS/LIBRARY BOOKS

Parents, please take a few moments with your student to check your homes for things that may need to be returned to school. Make sure that all team uniforms are washed and returned to school by June 1. All media center library books must be returned by May 22. Please make sure your son/daughter does not have any overdue books and/or fines due in the library.

### 8TH GRADE STUDENT SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS

May 26 through May 29 are exam and final project days and will be full days of school for your 8th grade students. The class trip to Cedar Point is Monday, June 1. We will be leaving from the middle school at 4:45 a.m. and returning at 10:45 p.m. On Tuesday, June 2 students will not be required to be in school. On Wednesday, June 3, students will have a breakfast at the multi-purpose room at Hillcrest CRC at 8:00 a.m. The 8th grade students will need to be picked up at the middle school at 11:30 a.m. Ask your 8th grade student for the detailed schedule that was distributed.

## Middle School News — Continued

### 7/8 TRACK SCHEDULES

Tuesday, May 19

4:00 p.m. Track Meet at Grand Rapids Christian High

Thursday, May 21

2:45 – 4:30 p.m. Track practice

Friday, May 22

4:00 p.m. Track Meet at Grand Rapids Christian High

Tuesday, May 26

2:45 – 4:30 p.m. Track practice

Wednesday, May 27

4:00 p.m. Track Prelims at Grand Rapids Christian High

Thursday, May 28

2:00 p.m. Track Field finals at Grand Rapids Christian High

4:00 p.m. Track Running finals at Grand Rapids Christian High

### TENNIS TOURNAMENT RESULTS

The Grand Rapids Area Christian Middle School tennis Tournaments took place this past Saturday, May 16. We thank the following participants for representing HCMS at this event: Tessa Glashower, Rachel Janke, Kristiana Volkens, Alec Jolman, John Koetsier, Joel TenHarmsel, Seth Verkaik, Blake DeGroot and Stephan Hooker. Congratulations to Kristiana Volkens for her 1st place finish in the 7th Grade Girls Beginners, to Alec Jolman for his 1st place finish in the 7th Grade Boys Beginners, and to Blake DeGroot and Stephan Hooker for their 1st place finish in the 8th Grade Boys Doubles.

### CONGRATULATIONS!

We extend our congratulations to Tricia Boeve and Jason Wesseling whose poetry was accepted for publication in the anthology A Celebration of Poets. This book is a celebration of the young poets from Michigan for 2009. Congratulations!

### LOST AND FOUND TABLES

A table with "lost" items is set up at the middle school – the items could belong to your son or daughter! Please remind them to browse through the items and/or parents you are welcome to stop by the school to locate any items missing from your home closets!

### SATURDAY SUMMER BASKETBALL FOR BOYS

We would like to invite any boys going into 7th or 8th grade next year to join us on Saturday mornings from 8:30 — 10 a.m. at the outdoor courts at Hudsonville Christian Middle School beginning Saturday, June 20 and through Saturday, July 25 (no basketball on July 4). Greg Honderd and Bill Teisman will coordinate Saturday Morning Summer Basketball. Each Saturday will consist of instructional coaching on fundamentals and full court pick-up games. All boys in these grades are welcome. Please sign-up by sending an email to [saturdaybball@gmail.com](mailto:saturdaybball@gmail.com). Please include the following in your email: boy's name, parents' names, email address for weekly communication, and an emergency contact phone number. Please call Greg Honderd at 669-0987 or Bill Teisman at 669-6778 with any questions.

### GIRLS ON TRACK COACHES NEEDED

Fitness minded women with a passion for 6th and 7th grade girls are needed for the Girls on Track team at the middle school. Girls on Track coaches are needed to commit to a 10 week season meeting twice a week, with a celebration 5K run at the end. Please call Holly at 896-7097 for more information!

## PARENTS' CLUB NEWS

### RELAY FOR LIFE

**We need to order t-shirts by Friday!** If you are thinking of joining us on the walk please call Greta (669-2637) or Meribeth (896-6568) this week. For the remembrance luminary walk we need names of who you are walking in honor/memory of. Luminary bags are available for \$10. The names will be played on video that night! This will be a great night of fun...pajama lap walk, inflatables for kids, face/nail painting, and much more. Please sign up to join us!

### BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Since many of the box tops expire in June of 2009, a submission for Hudsonville Christian was just sent in. Thank you very much to ALL of you who collect box tops. Our total was \$1,218.60 in cash for Hudsonville Christian. Please continue to turn in your box tops!

### UPCOMING EVENTS AT HUDSONVILLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

May 19	Preschool Graduation, 6:30 p.m. at Hillcrest CRC	June 1	8th Grade Class Trip to Cedar Point
May 19	4—8 Band Concert, 7:30 p.m. at Grace Church	June 3	8th Grade Graduation at Fair Haven Ministries
May 26	6/7/8 Choir and 4-8 Orch. Con. 7:30 at Grace	June 4	Last Day of School Grades 1-7
May 26-29	8th Grade Exams		(dismiss at 12 noon)