

February 16, 2010

Dear Parents:

Last week, Dan Pott had an excellent opening paragraph about Christian schools and the real meaning of community. Developing community in a Christian school setting has many pieces to it. We're grateful for the tremendous volunteerism we have on the part of our parents which develops tremendous community. Our Parents' Club over the years has developed community through a variety of fundraising activities and other events and this year has established a Hospitality Committee to enhance the sense of community as well.

One aspect of community I would like to mention today is the role of the Hudsonville Christian School Board. I am privileged to work with 14 members of the School Board who have volunteered for this position and who take on the obligation to serve our children, our families and our school. School Board members are not involved to simply express their own opinions or to encourage their own agendas, and not even to simply represent the churches they may be a part of. Rather, their goal is to represent all of our children and all of our families at Hudsonville Christian School. The questions we often ask are, "What is best for our children? What is best for our families at HCS?"

The School Board is in the process of planning for the 2010-2011 school year. As you have read, they recently chose Dan Pott to be the Administrative Principal and the search for a new Middle School Principal is in process right now. I'm thankful for the excellent work the School Board has done in this search process. Last night, the School Board met and decided to continue the Spanish in PreK and Kindergarten for next school year. We have been pleased with the Small Talk Program and wish to continue it in those early years. We are going to study further the feasibility and advisability of continuing Spanish in other grades. They also approved of an all day, every day Kindergarten option for next school year. We will be sending out letters shortly to next year's Kindergarten parents as to the options that will be available to them. Most importantly, last evening the Board approved a budget of \$4,645,000 for the 2010-2011 school year. This proposed budget is \$61,000 less than last year. The Finance Committee did a lot of work on the budget, because we are planning on 40 fewer students next year, since our 8th grade class is 120 and our incoming Kindergarten will likely be under 80. We are pleased to keep the tuition rate in grades 1-8 the same as this current year with no increase. There are some minor changes in Preschool, PreK and Kindergarten. We had to freeze teacher wages again this year, the second year in a row, in order to make this budget work. But we're grateful for a very stable school and very supportive parents who are doing their very best to support Christian education.

As the Board talks about our community, we are well aware that many of our families can afford Christian education but there are also those who struggle. We want to remind you again this year that the Board does not want money to be the only issue for parents. So, if you're concerned about paying for tuition for next school year, please fill out the FACTS application form (www.factstuitionaid.com) call or email me (bvanderlaan@hudsonvillechristian.org) so we can set up a plan for next year. In addition if there are families that are concerned about not being able to complete their commitment for this year, we ask that you please contact us and see if we can work out a plan together for your family. This is Christian community in action. Let's work together to maintain a solid Christian community at Hudsonville Christian School.

Serving Christ together,

Bob Vander Laan, Administrative Principal

Prayer Corner

1. Continue to pray for the Crisman, Dykstra and VanRijs families in their battle with cancer.
2. Please pray for the Middle School Principal search process and the interview team that has been selected.
3. Thanks for our students and teachers, and pray for good, productive learning during these winter months.

SCHOOL WIDE NEWS

HCS EVENT SPONSORSHIP

HCS holds several fundraising events throughout the year where business sponsorships are necessary to help underwrite the events. These include the Hike & Bike, the HCS Golf Outing, the Sporting Clay Shoot, and the Education Foundation Dinner. If you are a business owner, if your family has an interest in one of these areas, or if your employer may be interested in supporting an HCS event, check out the flyer available by the school offices. Businesses or individuals who sponsor an event(s) receive recognition in various ways, so check out the form to see how you can show your support this year!

TUITION ASSISTANCE — FACTS PROGRAM

Families who wish to apply for tuition assistance will need to use the FACTS application format online via a confidential web site (paper applications are also available). Information on this program is available in the school offices. Please note that the deadline to apply for assistance through the FACTS program is March 31.

HCS SOCIETY MEETING

The HCS Annual Society Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 23. The budget and tuition scale for 2010-11 will be presented and voted on, and school board members will be elected. More information to follow!

LIMITED BUSING DATE AND RECORDS DAY

On Thursday, March 4 we will have limited busing available for our students, and there will be no school for students on Friday, March 5 for Records Day. The elementary and middle school offices will be closed on this day.

IMPORTANT TRIP INFORMATION

Beginning February 22, only the new TRIP order blanks may be used for ordering TRIP and purchasing TRIP on Demand. New order blanks are available on Monday nights or in the office.

REGIONAL SPELLING BEE

Next week Tuesday, February 23 we will have four students competing in the Regional Spelling Bee. These students are Trevor Odehnal, Isabella Vruwink, Joel Harkema, and Bailey Arnold. We wish them well as they compete in this event!

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

COLOR/DAY SCHEDULE

Feb. 17 Red/Day 1	Feb. 22 Blue/Day 4
Feb. 18 Yellow/Day 2	Feb. 23 Red/Day 1
Feb. 19 Green/Day 3	Feb. 24 Yellow/Day 2

HOT LUNCH

Hot lunch this week Wednesday will be cheese pizza, cheddar Sun Chips, potato chips, strawberry Jello, and chocolate ice cream.

COOKIES FOR KENYA

This week Friday we will be selling freshly baked chocolate chip cookies for \$.25 a piece to support our Kenya partnership.

LASAGNA SUPPER FOR KENYA PARTNERSHIP

Hope you plan to join us this Thursday, February 18 for the Lasagna Supper from 5—7 p.m. in the elementary gym to support the Kenya Fund at HCS. Dinner is by donation, and hot dogs will be available as well. Please see the flyer that came home or call the office to RSVP for your family!

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

HOT LUNCH

Hot Lunch this week is KFC Chicken fingers for \$1.00/strip or \$2.50/3 strips, pop \$.50, and chips \$.25.

"SPECIAL" DONUT SALE THIS WEEK

Donuts will be sold at break on Thursday morning, February 18 for \$.75 each. Eighth grade students will be selling donuts to raise money for genocide awareness through the work of the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C.

CHAPEL HAPPENINGS

Friday, February 19: GR Chr. Middle School Student Chapel Team (Note: This chapel begins at 9 a.m.)
Tuesday, February 23: Mr. Jon Huisman's 6B Homeroom chapel

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Middle school teachers will be at conference tables in the south gym on March 1, 2, and 4 from 5:30 – 8 p.m. to meet with parents. Please be mindful of the conference time frames and note that these conferences are unscheduled. Core 2 staff will be available only as listed:

Monday, March 1: Mrs. Coallier, Mrs. Prins, Mrs. LeMahieu
Tuesday, March 2: Mrs. Coallier, Mrs. Prins, Mrs. Heerspink, Mrs. LeMahieu
Thursday, March 4: Mrs. Heerspink

CONGRATULATIONS 8TH GRADE STUDENTS!

Congratulations to Ian Billin who was a first place winner in the *America and Me Essay Contest*. Joey Bollo was a second place winner and Jason Wesseling a third place winner in this same essay contest. Congratulations to all three students!

6TH GRADE PARENTS PLEASE NOTE

The 2010 Winter Camp Parent Chaperone signup form was sent home with every 6th grade student and needs to be turned in before 3 p.m. on Friday, February 26. Those who have not attended a winter camp before will have first priority.

6/7/8 SKATING PARTY ADVANCE NOTICE

Our 6/7/8 middle school students are invited to a skating party set for Thursday, March 11 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 of \$4 includes roller skates. Admission will be collected in advance by homeroom teachers as the date gets closer. Roller blade rental is \$2 and will be paid by students at the rink. Students may bring their own roller blades.

7/8 MSBOA ORCHESTRA FESTIVAL

The 7/8 Orchestra Festival will be held next week Thursday, February 25 at 8:00 a.m. at Caledonia High School. Please realize your student will need a ride to school that morning because we will be leaving around 6:30 a.m. Please look for more information coming home soon.

7/8 MSBOA BAND FESTIVAL

The 7th/8th Grade Band will be playing for the MSBOA Band Festival at Holland West Ottawa Harbor Lights Middle School on Wednesday, March 3 at 9:30 a.m. Students will be bussed to and from the event and will return to school before dismissal.

PARENTS OF 6th – 8th BAND STUDENTS

Hudsonville Christian School Band Solo Festival is scheduled for after school on Tuesday, March 16. 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 Wednesday, February 24. If you need another copy, contact Mr. Brian Knot or call the M.S. office at 669-7487.

ACT TESTING

Parents interested in ACT testing for their son/daughter can stop by the M.S. office to pick up an ACT registration and information packet or check out www.actstudent.org. If you missed the February testing date, you can still register for April or June dates. The deadlines to register are March 5 and May 7. 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 if you have questions about these opportunities.

PARENTS' CLUB NEWS

THANK YOU

Thank you to our room parents for arranging recess coverage for Teacher Appreciation Week, and to our many parents who volunteered at recess time to play with our children and keep them safe. Your efforts allowed our teachers to enjoy a well earned break during Teacher Appreciation Week!

SUB AND COOKIE DOUGH SALE

The Sub and Cookie Dough Sale kicked off this past Friday. Please look for the packet of information that was sent home with your students on Friday! This includes order forms, brochure, prize details and more. Thank you for your support of this sale -- we couldn't do it without you! Any questions, please call Suzanne Koop at 669-9886 or email s.koop@sbcglobal.net.

CASH FOR CLASS DATES

This week it is Cash for Class at D&W stores, and next week it will be Cash for Class at Family Fare. Please provide the cashier with our school code at the check out (87580) so that we receive two percent back on your purchases!

SPRING GARAGE SALE DROP-OFF THIS WEEK!

Spring clean and bring that great stuff you never use to our drop-off this week Friday, February 19 from 2 – 6 p.m. at DC Storage, 4114 Ransom Unit 196. We have future drop-offs scheduled in the upcoming weeks at the elementary school but we cannot accept donations of large items like couches there. We will accept items of any size the week of May 10 at the Fair Grounds. If you have large items to donate and these times do not work for you, please call Kristin DeKock to set up an appointment at 896-3148. Check out www.hudsonvillechristian.org; click on Parents; click on Spring Garage Sale. Thank you!

AUCTION NEWS

1. New Items: International goods from countries like Vietnam, Thailand, Mexico, Costa Rica, Nepal, India, Haiti, Uganda, Bangladesh, and Guatemala.
2. Eight volunteers are still needed to make potato salad for the auction.
3. One committee person needed yet to oversee kitchen duties.
4. Don't miss in our live auction: an African Safari trip, Amway Grand hotel room, and reserved tickets at the HCS Elementary Christmas Concert.
5. Please tell close friends and family members to access the auction booklet online after March 1 at www.hudsonvillechristian.org.
6. Big auction change -- Teacher donations will be in live auction this year.

COMMUNITY NEWS

UNITY CHRISTIAN SPORTS CLINICS

Information is coming home with girls in grades 5-8 for Unity's volleyball clinic on February 27 and March 6. Boys in grades 3-8 will receive information on a freestyle wrestling club being held in March. Additional registration forms can be picked up at Unity.

"ADD/ADHD AND YOUR CHILD" SEMINAR

CLC Network will sponsor a parent seminar "ADD/ADHD and Your Child" with Robert Bulten, M.D. and Doug Bouman, Psy. S. on Thursday, March 11 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the CLC Network office (4340 Burlingame in Wyoming). Admission is free but seating is limited. Pre-register by calling Karen at (616) 855-3123.

UNITY'S PLAY "THE LION, THE WITCH, AND THE WARDROBE"

Ticket's for Unity's production of The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe are on sale at Unity's office (669-1820). Tickets are \$5, and performances will be Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, March 4 - 6, 7:00 p.m., at the Hudsonville High School Auditorium.

HCS MENS FASTPITCH SOFTBALL TEAM

Interested in playing fast pitch softball this summer at the Christian Reformed Recreation Center? Dust off your cleats, hone your skills, and prepare to have fun this summer by playing with your HCS friends. For more info contact Duane Hinken at 662-1806.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT HUDSONVILLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Feb. 19	Garage Sale drop off; 2—6 p.m., 4114 Ransom Unit 196	March 8	5th Grade Boys Sex Ed Night
March 1	Sub and Cookie Dough Sale Ends	March 11	6/7/8 Skating Party
March 1, 2, 4	Parent/Teacher Conferences	March 13	HCS Auction
March 4	Limited Busing	March 15	M.S. Orientation for 5th grade parents
March 5	Records Day; no school for students	March 18	Elementary Musical