

February 2, 2010

Dear Parents:

Now that second semester is here, the new school year is well into planning! In the last week and a half we have held information nights for Preschool and Kindergarten parents—exciting opportunities for us to become acquainted with the families of incoming students. We deeply appreciate the good attendance, good questions, and spirit of our parents. We are grateful for the opportunity these information nights offer for planning together to meet our families' needs. For Kindergarten, each year brings its own combinations of scheduling needs; we start from square one each year as we try to balance out student enrollment into classes. At this point we are still juggling numbers, talking to parents, and working toward a clear decision in what schedules will be offered. One thing we have learned is that it appears the time is right to offer a 5 day/all day kindergarten— something new to HCS. We will also likely offer a 5 day/half day class. The curriculum would be the same for both. Some children at 5 still need a half day program or days off in between whole days; we want to be able to continue to offer that. Other children may function best with the consistency of schedule and relaxed pacing that an all day program can offer. Parents know their 5-year-olds' needs the best; we will keep in touch with our Kindergarten parents in the next few weeks as we work toward filling the classes as evenly and efficiently as possible.

Parents of incoming kindergartners are not the only ones thinking about next year. As you all do that in the next few months, we encourage you to contemplate the vision you have for your children and reaffirm your commitment to Christian Education. I often think that our children are growing up in a world where truth is relative and God is compartmentalized for Sunday in church. In the Christian school classroom children learn that there is right and wrong based on God's Word. They learn that history is not just random acts of human designation, and that the world did not come into being all by itself. They learn there is trouble and heartache because we live in a broken world, and that we need to be God's agents of renewal in a world that will be restored to perfection again some day. Our students confront these truths in every class and every interpersonal relationship in the Christian school. They have teachers that care for their spiritual as well as academic growth.

When you enroll you children in Hudsonville Christian, you are entering that partnership because you want the very best for them. We are in a covenant with you for education that equips for strong, rich, aware, and full citizenship in the Kingdom.

Karen Ophoff, Elementary Principal

Prayer Corner

Pray for the families of HCS who are in the process of adopting children, including Brian and Lindsey Hart who are traveling to Ethiopia this week. We also praise God for the safe return of Chris and Michelle Fisher from Ethiopia with their newly adopted daughter, Kidest, this past week.

Pray for healing for those who have had surgeries, including Mrs. Roode and Mrs. LeMahieu.

Pray for families who battle cancer.

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 (technology), the HCS Golf Outing (tuition assistance), the Sporting Clay Shoot (tuition assistance), and the Education Foundation Dinner (Ed. Foundation and tuition assistance). 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 coming home with the Communicator today. 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!

MATH PENTATHLON TOURNAMENT

The Elkhart Tournament has been cancelled, but we are having our own end of year game day at the middle school on Saturday, March 27. It will run the same as the Elkhart event. If you are registered, we consider you registered for this event. If you would still like to register, please contact Kim Honore (893-9197). Parent training will still take place this evening at 7 p.m. in the elementary library.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

Just a reminder that there will be no school for students on Monday, February 15 for a staff professional development day.

TRIP NEWS

TRIP is introducing a new order form with no more write-ins! Everything will be on the order form. TRIP on Demand will remain the same. New merchants added include Shutterfly - \$25 at 8% and DeWeerd & VanDyke Plumbing & Heating as a new voucher merchant. Talbots will no longer be available. Check out the HCS website for the new order form as well as a complete list of all merchants including VIP and Dining Concepts.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

COLOR/DAY SCHEDULE

Feb. 3	Red/Day 1	Feb. 8	Blue/Day 4
Feb. 4	Yellow/Day 2	Feb. 9	Red/Day 1
Feb. 5	Green/Day 3	Feb. 10	Yellow/Day 2

HOT LUNCH

Hot lunch this week Wednesday will be mini ham bagel sandwiches, Doritos, pretzels, raspberry rainbow yogurt, and vanilla ice cream.

COOKIES FOR KENYA

Chocolate chip cookies will be sold Friday morning for \$.25 each for our Kenya partnership.

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Conferences for students in PK—5th grade will be scheduled for March 1, 2, and 4. There will be no school for students on March 5 for Records Day.

BASKETBALL CLUB

Basketball Club for third and fourth grade girls begins this Saturday, February 6, and continues on February 20 and 27. Third grade will meet at 9 a.m., fourth grade at 10 a.m. — each session is one hour at the elementary gym. Questions, please call John DeJonge at 669-6954.

GO USA!

Friday, February 12 marks the opening day of the Winter Olympics! To help celebrate and to show our support for our country we are having a "GO USA" Day! We encourage all staff and students to dress in red, white, and blue! Who can dress the most patriotic and show their enthusiasm for the Winter Games? Have fun!

Elementary School News (continued)

HCS ART CAMP 2010

Art Camp at the elementary school will be June 14-18 and is available for students who are currently in grades 1 - 5. Sign-up forms are in the elementary office or art room. Please phone or e-mail Mrs. Rusticus with any questions.

HELP for HAITI

Our Help for Haiti collection has concluded, and we are grateful to report that our students again outdid themselves in "Letting Their Light Shine". We challenged our elementary students to contribute a dollar of their own money, setting a goal of \$600. In the first week, they nearly doubled that. The next phase was to see if they could find family members and friends who wished to contribute. The money is still coming in, but the total in the elementary building is now over \$3,700! Our middle school students have also contributed \$375 to this cause, bringing our total today to \$4,075. We will announce next week what our final amount is going to CRWRC. Thanks to all the parents and other family members who have a heart for helping others. In these tough economic times, it is so inspiring to see how our families are modeling giving to their children. It's a great lesson for students that when we all participate according to our ability, God blesses those efforts and uses them to bring blessing and hope to others. We are truly blessed to be a blessing!

LASAGNA SUPPER FOR KENYA PARTNERSHIP

On Thursday, February 18 there will be a Lasagna Supper in the elementary gym to support the Kenya Fund at HCS. We are making plans to send five HCS teachers to Kenya this summer to continue to build our partnership, and your participation will help this cause. Look for a flyer coming home today!

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

HOT LUNCH

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

CHAPEL HAPPENINGS

Friday, February 5: Students from Unity Christian lead chapel

Tuesday, February 9: Mr. Tom VandenBerg leads chapel

7/8 BAND EOCS CONCERT

The 7/8 Band members will be participating in an EOCS Combined Concert on Tuesday evening, February 9. The concert will take place at Fair Haven Ministries and begins at 7:30 p.m.

6TH GRADE PARENTS PLEASE NOTE

2011 Winter Camp Parent Chaperone signup forms are being sent home with every 6th grade student today. There are always many parents who wish to chaperone at our Outdoor Education Winter Camp, so we invite interested parent(s) to complete this form and return it to the middle school office before 3 p.m. Friday, February 26. It is a great experience for both students and parents. Please read the form carefully. Those who have not attended a winter camp before will have first priority. Check for the flyer today and be sure to return it to the middle school office by the deadline!

VOLLEYBALL

8th grade girls volleyball practices are underway. Team members will receive schedules this week. The 7th grade girls will have large group practices this week Wednesday and Friday, February 3 and 5 from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Individual team practices will begin next week. Schedules will be handed out on Friday.

WRESTLING

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

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Conferences will be held in the middle school south gym on the evenings of March 1, 2, and 4 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. Please note that parents of Middle School students are **NOT** given individual scheduled times for parent teacher conferences.

PARENTS' CLUB NEWS

COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- Thank you to Amy Schreur, Deb Skogmo, and Lisa VanderVeen for volunteering for the **Family Fun Night Committee**. Three more volunteers are needed yet to coordinate this fun event. Call Lori Hinken at 662-1806 to help.
- We thank Kristin DeKock and Michelle DeGroot for their willingness to join the **September Fest (craft fair) Committee**, however three additional members are needed yet. Remember that the over \$10,000 raised each year from this successful fundraiser comes from outside our school. Call Sonja DeJong at 896-1214 to sign up!
- We are grateful to Kara Kamps, Mary Jane Geers, and Laura Landstra for joining our **Auction Committee**, our largest fundraiser. One more committee member is needed to head up the kitchen work. This fun event provides the bulk of Parents' Club funds that enhance your child's education. Call Sonja DeJong at 896-1214.
- The **Parents' Club Executive Committee** is halfway through the school year and is still working with two positions open for this current year. We have two immediate openings for Vice-President and Vice-Secretary. This committee oversees and coordinates many of our community events and fundraisers, and makes recommendations on how to spend those funds. Call Carmen VanNoord at 896-0149 for more information.

AUCTION NEWS

1. Please prayerfully consider a response to the auction letter that came home last week. We received one volunteer for the use of their camper this summer. We do appear to be low on donations for tangible items this year. All items of any value are appreciated. We have auction formats to complement any value including silent, buy-a-line, and live auction. For those who know they cannot attend the auction, this is a great way to still contribute to the evening's success.
2. The auction will have more sports items this year to follow our theme of "Glowing Hearts" and the Olympics. Thus far we have a wave board and vapor boots, both a single and double O'Brien Water Tube, 24" Girls Trek Bike, 4 lifejackets, and a boys Haro 20" BMX bike. Thank you to those who donated \$10 which allowed us to purchase these items.
3. As is customary for the auction, we will be requesting baked goods the night of the auction to be both sold separately and to accompany the food. If you would prefer, we are in need of 15 volunteers to each make a bowl of homemade potato salad for that evening. Please contact Brenda Heun at 896-7614 if you can help.

SPRING GARAGE SALE

Our first drop-off will be on Friday, February 19 from 2 - 6 p.m. at DC Storage, 4114 Ransom, Unit 196. Wanted: Gently used donations of any size. Our sale will be held on May 15 at the Hudsonville Fair Grounds (*notice the new date and location*). We have future drop-offs scheduled in the upcoming weeks at the elementary school. Check out www.hudsonvillechristian.org (click on Parents then Spring Garage Sale) for more information!

BOX TOPS

Thank you to all of you who participated in the recent Meijer promotion to earn Bonus Box Tops. We had 4,860 bonus box tops turned in for a cash value of \$486. We are grateful to receive money for HCS from General Mills, a source of revenue from outside of our community. Ask neighbors, grandparents, other friends to save their Box Tops for HCS. Keep turning your Box Tops in!

COMMUNITY NEWS

UNITY CHRISTIAN UPCOMING SPORTS CAMPS

Registrations are being accepted for the following Unity Christian sports camps: 5th/6th Girls Basketball (starts 2/13) and 2nd-8th Flag Football (starts 2/13). Registration sheets are available at school or through Unity's office.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT HUDSONVILLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Feb. 8-9	Kindergarten Screening	March 4	Limited Busing
Feb. 12	Sub/Cookie Dough Sale starts	March 5	Records Day; no school for students
Feb. 15	Professional Day; no school for students	March 8	5th Grade Boys Sex Ed Night
March 1, 2, 4	Parent/Teacher Conferences	March 11	6/7/8 Skating Party