

**February 23, 2010**

Dear Parents:

Last week we entered the season of Lent. Every year during Lent I have the same thought reoccur: How are our students growing spiritually? In our Christian school we care for our students spiritually all year, of course, but this feeling is especially strong for me during Lent, perhaps because of the many reminders to connect our lives with the passion of Christ.

We have many ways now to measure our students intellectually and academically. But how does a Christian school measure the growth of a student's soul? There is no standardized test for spiritual growth, but there are signs that we can look for and encourage. Yesterday during opening devotions, I asked the students two questions: Can you tell that you're starting to love Jesus more? and Can you hardly wait to meet Jesus someday? I believe that the response of a child's heart to those types of simple questions is a good sign that his / her soul is growing, just as the body and mind are. I also think of Lent as a mile-marker for our students each year, i.e. Where were they last year in their understanding of what Lent means for them? Where are they now?

We have wonderful parents in our school; sometimes I am in awe of discussions and practices I hear happening that show how intentional our parents are about their children's spiritual growth and development. I praise God for those of you who have clearly made that a priority in your home, and that you address it in direct ways.

During Lent this year, I encourage you to walk with our teachers as they prepare our students' hearts to receive Jesus' suffering and victory. I encourage you to look for the signs that those precious souls are growing in Christ, and I encourage you to share them with your child's teacher, perhaps at conference time next week. For the Christian parent, a child's spontaneous expression of faith is one of those immeasurably priceless moments. Those moments can be nurtured. As we do that as partners together in challenging minds and lives for Christ, let's all experience a richer Lent! Blessings as you travel the Lenten journey with your children this year.

Karen Ophoff, Elementary Principal

**Prayer Corner**

1. Continue to pray for the Crisman and VanRijs families in their battle with cancer.
2. Thanks for our students and teachers, and pray for good, productive learning during these winter months.

**SCHOOL WIDE NEWS**

**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.

**CHILDWATCH VOLUNTEER NEEDED**

A substitute Childwatch volunteer is needed for Thursday mornings until the end of the school year for one of our volunteers who is having a baby. This is a very easy job that takes just a small amount of time. Please call Judy Klynstra at 875-7401 for more information.

**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!

**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 IS TONIGHT!**

The Regional Spelling Bee for our area takes place this evening, at 7 p.m. at Allendale High School, Ceglarek Fine Arts Center, 10760 68th Avenue. Our elementary winner, Trevor Odehnal, and runner up, Isabella Vruwink, and our middle school winner, Joel Harkema and runner up, Bailey Arnold, will be representing our school at the bee. Spectators from our school are welcome to be present.

**LOST AND FOUND**

Parents, please check the Lost and Found tables when you are at school for conferences next week.

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS**

**COLOR/DAY SCHEDULE**

Feb. 24	Yellow/Day 2	Mar. 1	Red/Day 1
Feb. 25	Green/Day 3	Mar. 2	Yellow/Day 2
Feb. 26	Blue/Day 4	Mar. 3	Green/Day 3

**HOT LUNCH**

Hot lunch this week Wednesday will be Arby's roast beef sandwiches, Cool Ranch Doritos, Fritos, chocolate chip granola bars, and Rice Krispie bars.

**POPCORN**

This week Friday we will be selling popcorn for \$.25 a bag. Team #4 will be working.

**LASAGNA SUPPER THANK YOU**

Thank you to everyone who came out to the Lasagna Dinner this past Thursday evening. Your support of the Kenya Partnership was greatly appreciated!

**ELEMENTARY SPECIALS TEACHER CONFERENCE TIMES**

Our specials teachers will be available the following dates for you to stop by and have an unscheduled update with them on your child/children:

<u>Monday, March 1:</u>	Miss Smits, Mrs. Rusticus, Mr. Schnyders, Mrs. McCann, Mrs. Leerar
<u>Tuesday, March 2:</u>	Mr. DeJonge, Miss Smits, Mrs. Rusticus, Mr. Schnyders, Mrs. McCann
<u>Thursday, March 4:</u>	Mr. DeJonge, Miss Smits, Mrs. Rusticus, Mr. Schnyders

**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 15 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.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

### HOT LUNCH

Hot Lunch this Wednesday: Arby's Roast Beef sandwich \$1.50 each, pop \$.50, and chips \$.25.

### DONUTS

Donuts will be sold Friday morning during break for \$.75 each. Donut helpers are Lori Schuitema, Sharon Nesky, and Lisa VanKampen.

### CHAPEL HAPPENINGS

Friday, February 26: Mrs. Melanie Coallier leads chapel  
Tuesday, March 2: Praise Team leads chapel

### 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. We ask that parents please be mindful of the conference time frame each evening. Please note that parents of Middle School students were NOT given scheduled times for parent teacher conferences. The following Core 2 staff will be available only as listed:

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

### 7/8 MSBOA ORCHESTRA FESTIVAL

The 7/8 Orchestra Festival will be held Thursday, February 25 at 8:00 a.m. at Caledonia High School. A letter was sent home with your orchestra student with details of our day. We hope you will join us at Festival; everyone is welcome to attend this great event to support our 7/8 orchestra members.

### 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 next week Wednesday, March 3 at 9:30 a.m. Band members will be bussed to and from the event and will return to school before dismissal.

### ATTENTION 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 TOMORROW, FEBRUARY 24. If you need another copy, contact Mr. Brian Knot or call the middle school office at 669-7487 to request a copy.

### VOLLEYBALL SPORTS SCHEDULES

Tuesday, February 23  
3:45 p.m. 8<sup>th</sup> Girls Prins Team (A) HOME vs. Jenison Christian  
3:45 p.m. 8<sup>th</sup> Girls VanTil Team (A) AWAY vs. GRC (Black) at Creston

Thursday, February 25  
3:45 p.m. 8<sup>th</sup> Girls Prins Team (B) AWAY at West Side Chr.  
4:00 p.m. 8<sup>th</sup> Girls VanTil Team (B) HOME vs. Ada Christian

Friday, February 26  
3:45 p.m. 7<sup>th</sup> Girls Doll Team HOME (B/A) vs. Calvin Christian  
3:45 p.m. 7<sup>th</sup> Girls VandenBerg Team (B/A) AWAY at Calvin Christian  
3:45 p.m. 7<sup>th</sup> Girls Schnyders Team (A/B) AWAY at Jenison Christian

Tuesday, March 2  
3:45 p.m. 8<sup>th</sup> Girls Prins Team (A) AWAY at Ada Christian  
3:45 p.m. 8<sup>th</sup> Girls VanTil Team (A) AWAY at Calvin Christian

### WRESTLING SCHEDULE

Tuesday, March 2  
4:00 p.m. 7/8 Wrestling Match AWAY at Grand Rapids Chr.

## PARENTS' CLUB NEWS

### SUB & COOKIE DOUGH SALE

Only one more week left for the Sub & Cookie Dough Sale. Call your neighbors, friends, family. . . anyone that eats and ask them to buy subs, cookie dough or all of the above! Keep up the good work! Everyone benefits from the profits of this sale!

### CASH FOR CLASS AT FAMILY FARE!

This week it is 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!

### VOLUNTEER FOR PARENTS' CLUB EXEC. BOARD

The Parents' Club Executive Board is in need of volunteers. Please prayerfully consider joining the Parents' Club Executive Board. Please contact Carmen VanNoord at 896-0149 for more information.

### SPRING GARAGE SALE

Thank you for donating to our Spring Garage Sale! Our next drop-off is on March 26. Do you have appliances, electronics, furniture, campers or boats that aren't selling on Craig's list? Try our sale. Want to get your big items out of the way before May? Call Kristin DeKock (896-3148). One hundred percent of the proceeds go to your Parents' Club.

### FAIR VOLUNTEERS

The Fair banner will be going up soon by the elementary kitchen. Please call Mary Miedema if there are any changes by March 3.

### VOLUNTEERS TO MAKE PIGS

We need to make pigs again and need your help on Tuesday, March 2 from 8—10 a.m. Six people are needed, so please call Mary Miedema at 669-8856 to help!

### BOX TOPS EARNS \$2,594.10!

The Box Tops turn in deadline is March 1, and Hudsonville Christian just sent in \$2,594.10 worth of Box Tops. Next turn in date is May 1, so keep those Box Tops coming! Are your relatives living out of state? Ask them to mail their Box Tops to you so Hudsonville Christian can earn cash. Box Top collection site is by the gym in the elementary, the homework table at the middle school, or there are collection sites in area churches. Thank you!

### AUCTION NEWS

- We are still looking for a new committee member for the kitchen — please call Brenda at 896-7614 to inquire. This position is not a difficult one. The food is catered so only incidentals are coordinated, volunteers are confirmed, hot dogs are boiled, miscellaneous items are purchased, and baked goods are priced or cut up for dessert.
- Any last donations are needed this week to be printed in the auction booklet.
- Correction: Teacher donations will be in gift boards this year, ending separate from other gift board items.
- We praise God for His guidance and all the items we have received. Please join us on March 13 and enjoy a festive evening with fellow parents, grandparents, and friends!

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### "ADD/ADHD AND YOUR CHILD" SEMINAR

CLC Network will sponsor a free 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. Pre-register by calling 855-3123.

### THE LION, THE WITCH, AND THE WARDROBE

Tickets 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 March 4 - 6, 7 p.m., at Hudsonville H.S.

### HCS MENS FASTPITCH SOFTBALL TEAM

Interested in playing fast pitch softball this summer at the Christian Reformed Recreation Center? Contact Duane Hinken at 662-1806.

### 3 ON 3 BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Byron Center Chr. School 3 on 3 basketball tournament for boys and girls in grades 3—8 on Saturday, March 27. Advance registration required (forms at [www.bccs.org](http://www.bccs.org)).

### UPCOMING EVENTS AT HUDSONVILLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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
March 8	5th Grade Boys Sex Ed Night	March 19	Awesome Arts Day at Middle School