

**January 12, 2010**

Dear Parents:

Last week students and staff alike were happy to be back into the routine of a regular schedule again. The calendar tells us we are already wrapping up our first semester this week. As a result Friday is Inservice / Records Day with no school for students. The teachers, however, will be busy with end of semester anecdotal records and report cards, and the morning will be spent at professional development in both buildings.

In the elementary school, teachers will be working on the new science curriculum as mandated by the State of Michigan. Our students live in a world increasingly dominated by science and technology. To be responsible citizens-both of the USA and of the Kingdom, our graduates will need to have informed opinions on all sorts of issues, from stem cells, to storage of nuclear waste, to global warming. We can only speculate on what issues will arise in the future. After all, 20 years ago no one imagined we'd be talking about stem cells or thought much about global warming. Christian educators must ask, "What sort of science education will best prepare our students to face that world?" Science issues of the future will most certainly be woven into a tapestry of ethical, political, social, economic, and moral ideas. Science knowledge is kind of an entry ticket into the wider debate, and the key to being an effectual Kingdom citizen. They need to be able to comprehend the news and evaluate it in the framework of a biblical worldview. "What is God's intent for this area of His creation?" is a good start.

Developing a sound science curriculum is a challenge because of the vast body of knowledge that demands attention and competes with time for reading, writing, math, Bible, social studies, physical education, technology/media, and fine arts literacy. When God created the universe, He built it with an inherent structure and basic laws that govern the universe. This structure and these laws create a kind of skeleton or web that tie everything together and form the foundation of our view of the universe. It's not really quite that simple, which is why teachers need to spend time (a lot more than a Friday morning!) comprehending what the Big Ideas of science are, and how to teach them in a way that students can make connections. When in the future your child comes across a public issue involving genetic engineering, for example, we want the student to be able to remember what was learned about cells in elementary school, moving on in middle school to how information in DNA is expressed. We also want him or her to frame knowledge and formulate opinions within a biblical worldview. God is the Creator and Sustainer of the universe; He has established laws not only in the physical realm but in the moral and ethical realm-- as expressed in His Word. When you pray for Hudsonville Christian with your family, one more thing you can include is for God to bless the intense but rewarding work of curriculum development with a Christian perspective. We appreciate your prayers!

Karen Ophoff, Elementary Principal

## **SCHOOL WIDE NEWS**

### **TUITION ASSISTANCE — FACTS PROGRAM**

For the next school year we will again be participating in FACTS, a grant application 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 will also be 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.

### **PRESCHOOL/PRE-K INFORMATION NIGHT** **KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION NIGHT**

Please note these dates if you have a four or five year old child:

- Preschool Information Night will be held on January 21 with an open house at 6:30 p.m. with the meeting to follow at 7 p.m. in the all-purpose room. Preschool registration will take place on Saturday, January 23 from 9 to 10 a.m.
- PK/Kindergarten Information Night will be held on January 26 with an open house at 6:30 p.m. with the meeting to follow at 7 p.m. in the all-purpose room.

### **USE OF CHURCH PARKING LOT**

Over the years, Trinity Protestant Reformed Church has been very gracious to allow us to use their church parking lot. Our agreement has always been that we enter and exit from Oak Street and park as close to our school as possible. We have had some parents entering and exiting from School Avenue and this is interfering with the preschool that Trinity PR operates. We want to provide as much safety as possible for their students as well as ours. Once again, we ask that when you use the church parking lot across the street, please enter and exit from Oak Street and drive slowly and carefully. Thank you very much.

### **ORCHESTRA JAZZ & FIDDLE FEST CONCERT**

Make plans now to attend our annual Orchestra Jazz and Fiddle Fest scheduled for Thursday, January 28 at Grace Community Church at 7:30 p.m. This concert will include all of our 4th – 8th grade orchestra students.

### **MAGAZINE SALE**

Did you know that all of the following middle school expenses are funded by our magazine sale profits?

- Expenses for our 20+ athletic teams, including officials and equipment.
- Expenses for our special chapels, assemblies, and concert events.
- Expenses for our "Special Days" at school such as Awesome Arts Day, Sensational Science Day, World Culture Day and Medieval Festival.
- Expenses for our grade level mixers and retreats.
- And much, much more.....

As you can see our magazine sale is so much more than paying for winter camp or class trip experiences! We truly appreciate your continued support of our middle school programs and this magazine sale. Middle school students are currently taking magazine orders and our sale ends on Tuesday, January 19. If you do not receive a call and wish to order to help support the school, please give Julie Doll a call at 893-0645 or call the middle school office at 669-7487. You can also purchase online by inputting our school account (425006987) and near the end of the "checkout" procedure you can type in the name of the HCMS student that you wish to give credit for the sale.

### **TRIP NEWS**

The next information/registration meeting will be Monday, February 1 at 6:30 p.m. at the elementary school.

### **MATH PENTATHLON PARENTS**

Please remember the Parent Training meeting on Tuesday, February 2 at 7 p.m. in the elementary art room and library.

### **BUS SCHEDULE**

Please note that regular buses will run on Wednesday, January 13.

### **RECORDS DAY**

There will be no school for students this week Friday, January 15, for a teacher Records Day.

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

### COLOR/DAY SCHEDULE

Jan. 13	Green/Day 3	Jan. 18	Red/Day 1
Jan. 14	Blue/Day 4	Jan. 19	Yellow/Day 2
Jan. 15	No School	Jan. 20	Green/Day 3

### HOT LUNCH

Hot lunch this week Wednesday will be walking tacos, BBQ chips, Cheetos, fruit cup, and chocolate chip cookies.

### 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 with your child's weekly classroom newsletter next Monday, January 18. In Junior Great Books, students read stories and share their ideas and opinions about them in small discussion groups. The literature has been especially chosen to challenge children of all ages, spark their ideas, and promote thoughtful discussion. Discussions are led by volunteers trained in the Great Books Foundation's Shared Inquiry method. Shared Inquiry discussion makes it possible for all school children, regardless of reading level, to contribute with confidence and learn from one another. Any questions? Call Sharon Leerar at 662-1520.

### 5TH GRADE SPELLING BEE

Congratulations to Trevor Odehnal who was the winner and Isabella Vruwink who was first runner up from the 5th grade spelling bee held last week Friday. They will now move on to compete in the Regional Spelling Bee on February 23.

### HCS MOVIE NIGHT

Looking for a fun night out as a family after a day off from school? Bring your blankets, pillows, and bean bags to the Elementary Gym to watch "Snow Buddies" on the big screen with other HCS families this Friday, January 15 at 6:30 p.m. Drop off a new pair of socks for LOVE Inc. as you enter and grab your popcorn and drinks at the door! Parents should plan to stay with their children at this fun event.

### 5th GRADE PARENT MIDDLE SCHOOL ORIENTATION

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! We believe our middle school is a pretty special place and we want you to see why. All parents are welcome, but we are focusing our discussion on those parents who will be walking our halls for the first time. Do you know a new family who is interested in becoming a part of HCMS? Bring them along — we would love to meet them!

## MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

### CHAPEL HAPPENINGS

Friday, January 15:	No School
Tuesday, January 19:	Mrs. Laura DeJong leads chapel

### HOT LUNCH

Hot Lunch this week: DJ's Pizza \$1.00/slice, pop \$.50, chips \$.25.

### EDLINE GRADE POSTING DATES

Parents, please note the following list of dates will be the days when grades will be posted by teachers during the second semester: February 10 & 24, March 10 & 31, April 21, May 5 & 19.

### SPELLING BEE CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to two of our 7th grade students: Joel Harkema who placed 1st in our Spelling Bee and to Bailey Arnold who was the runner up! They will both move on to compete at the Regional Spelling Bee scheduled to be held on February 23.

### 6TH GRADE MEDIEVAL DAY

Thanks to the room moms who prepared the chicken for our feast. You helped make the day a success! If you have a costume from school, please send it back this week. If you have one you would like to donate we will take those too!

### UPCOMING EVENTS AT HUDSONVILLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Jan. 14	8th Grade Mixer	Jan. 21	Preschool Info. Night, 6:30 open house, 7 mtg.
Jan. 14	End of First Semester	Jan. 22	Report Cards Sent Home
Jan. 15	Records Day — No school for students	Jan. 23	Preschool Enrollment, 9—10 a.m.
Jan. 19	Magazine Sale Ends	Jan. 26	PK/Kind. Info. Night, 6:30 open house, 7 mtg.
Jan. 20-22	7th Grade Winter Camp	Jan. 28	HCS Fiddle Fest, 7:30 p.m. at Grace

## Middle School News — Continued

### 7TH GRADE WINTER CAMP

Parents of our current 7th grade students please ask your son/daughter for the Winter Camp information handed out to them Monday, January 4. Camp rules, what to bring along (and what not to bring!), our time schedule for leaving and returning back from camp, and information on when you should drop off and pick up your student is all included in the packet of information they received last week. Please review the information with your child. Medications necessary at camp for your child must be dropped off in the school office by Friday, January 15. We leave for Winter Camp on Wednesday morning, January 20!

### 8TH GRADE PARENTS

Your son/daughter is invited to school for an 8th Grade Bash/Mixer on the evening of January 14 from 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. Parents, have you seen the note that was sent home with your student describing the great time your son/daughter will be having Thursday night? Ask to see the note that went home last week!

### UPCOMING SPORTS ~ GIRLS VOLLEYBALL & BOYS WRESTLING

Tryouts for those who signed up for the 8th grade team will take place on January 27 and January 28 in both the north and south gyms from 3 – 5 p.m. The 7th grade girls will begin Wednesday, February 3 and Friday, February 5. Specific schedules will be available soon.

Wrestling signups for interested boys in 7th and 8th grade are currently taking place at the middle school. Practices will begin on Tuesday, February 2 and Thursday, February 4.

### SPORTS SCHEDULES

#### 7th GRADE BASKETBALL SCHEDULES

##### Wednesday, January 13

3:45 p.m.	Girls AWAY at Grand Rapids Christian (Sylvan)
3:45 p.m.	Boys Green Team HOME vs. Grand Rapids Christian
4:45 p.m.	Boys White Team HOME vs. Grand Rapids Christian

##### Monday, January 18

4:00 p.m.	Girls HOME vs. Ada Christian
5:00 p.m.	Boys White Team HOME vs. Ada Christian

#### 8th GRADE BASKETBALL SCHEDULES

##### Tuesday, January 12

3:45 p.m.	Boys Green AWAY at Calvin Christian
5:00 p.m.	Girls AWAY at Ada Christian

##### Thursday, January 14

3:45 p.m.	Girls AWAY at Grand Rapids Christian (Millbrook)
5:00 p.m.	Boys White Team AWAY at Grand Rapids Christian (#1) Millbrook

##### Monday, January 18

3:30 p.m.	Girls AWAY at Zeeland Christian
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##### Tuesday, January 19

3:45 p.m.	Girls AWAY at Jenison Christian
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## PARENTS' CLUB NEWS

### AUCTION NEWS

- New for Live Auction — 4 one-day park hopper passes to any Disney theme park in Florida valued at \$524!
- New Food — We are excited to offer pulled pork dinners at this year's auction catered by Up In Smoke.
- Caller Runners — Thank you again for your help for this year's auction. The auction would cease to exist without your work. Please continue to work on your packets and turn them in by January 21.

### VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!

You will find coming home today with the Home Communicator a sheet from the Parents' Club detailing several volunteer needs on various committees. Please examine these opportunities and prayerfully consider how you can help out in one or more of these areas.