

January 19, 2010

Dear Parents:

Perspective. It is a word I have written about previously. It's the topic we often speak about when we talk to parents and to students and when we discuss issues, particularly in our team meetings. Perspective is the difference between a glass that is half empty or half full. It's the learning experience vs. the devastating loss. It's the unwelcome change vs. a new opportunity for growth.

It is our job as parents and teachers to always try to help our children see the "big picture" of things and to structure their world or educational process with opportunities to gain a "big picture" perspective. This past Saturday was one of those opportunities as a few of our teachers and students had an opportunity to work at the Eastern Avenue CRC Food Pantry. It was a rewarding experience for everyone to watch the food we had collected just a week earlier be distributed to the hands of those in need.

One by one young mothers and fathers came through the line as well as grandpas and grandmas. It is a picture I will not soon forget as I watched students place much needed food supplies in the hands of those in need. A few minutes into the work we were all asked to come inside and pause to pray. I expected to hear a prayer for those walking through the line but instead the prayer was offered on behalf of those who are in Haiti. One elderly gentleman mumbled next to me about how he was so blessed compared to those on that island. Once again, I was reminded of that word...perspective.

Dan Pott, Middle School Principal

SCHOOL WIDE NEWS

WELCOME NEW STUDENTS!

We want to extend a warm welcome to three new students at HCS. We welcome Arry Holtrop into Mrs. DeWeerd's second grade class, Nathan Strickler into Mrs. Duthler's second grade class, and Sydney Faber into Mrs. VanTil's eighth grade homeroom class. We are happy to have each of you at Hudsonville Christian School!

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Mr. Jon Huisman, sixth grade teacher, and his wife, Rachel, on the birth of Reid Alan on Friday, January 15. We praise God for a healthy baby boy for the Huisman family!

PRESCHOOL INFORMATION NIGHT & ENROLLMENT

Preschool Information Night will be held this week Thursday, 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 enrollment will take place this Saturday, January 23 from 9—10 a.m. in the elementary school library. Please come with your completed enrollment form (which you will receive at the Preschool Information Night) and your first month's payment to enroll your child.

PK/KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION NIGHT

PK/Kindergarten Information Night will be held on January 26 with an open house at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting to follow at 7 p.m. in the all-purpose room.

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.

REPORT CARDS

This week Friday report cards will be coming home with all students in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade except seventh graders. Seventh grade students will receive their reports cards on Wednesday, January 27 because of Winter Camp. Parents of PK—fifth grade students, please sign the report cards after you have reviewed them and return them to your child's teacher.

SECOND SEMESTER MILK ORDERS

Milk orders for students in grades 1—8 are due back on Friday, January 29. The cost for milk for the second semester is \$10.

TRIP NEWS

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

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Individual conferences for students in preschool through grade five will be scheduled by our office for March 1, 2, and 4. Please note that the due date for the conference form is Friday, January 29. There will be no school for students on March 5 for Records Day.

MATH PENTATHLON

The final day of Math Pentathlon for students not going on to the tournament is January 26. Parents of students going to tournament, please remember the Parent Training meeting on February 2 at 7 p.m. in the elementary art room and library.

MAGAZINE SALE

Our middle school wraps up the magazine sale today. If you still wish to order a magazine at a great price that will benefit our school (we get 40% of the sale!), please drop off your order and payment at either school office. If you have any questions, please give Julie Doll a call at 893-0645 or call the middle school office at 669-7487.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

COLOR/DAY SCHEDULE

Jan. 20	Green/Day 3	Jan. 25	Yellow/Day 2
Jan. 21	Blue/Day 4	Jan. 26	Green/Day 3
Jan. 22	Red/Day 1	Jan. 27	Blue/Day 4

HOT LUNCH

Hot lunch this week Wednesday will be sausage pizza, Cheddar Sun Chips, potato chips, carrots, ranch dressing, and ice cream sandwiches.

COOKIES FOR KENYA

This week Friday morning fresh baked chocolate chip cookies will be sold for \$.25 each to benefit our Kenya partnership.

NEWS FROM KENYA

We received an email from Veronicah Koskei from Plateau School, who visited our school last February, that they have begun their new school year. In Kenya the new school year begins the first day in January that students return to school after the holidays. She also mentioned that all the 8th graders at Plateau School passed the national exam to enter secondary school. The teachers at Plateau are rejoicing in this success and expressed gratitude to our students and teachers for praying for this outcome. Students in Kenya get only one chance to take that test at the end of 8th grade. If they do not pass, they may not go to high school and do not have an educational alternative other than training for a trade or getting a job if they can find one. The unemployment rate in Kenya is 40%, so an education is critical. Please keep our sister school and its staff and students in your prayers.

Elementary School News (continued)

HELP FOR HAITI

The elementary school students are "Letting their Light Shine" by conducting a fundraising effort for relief in Haiti through CRWRC. They invite you to participate with your contribution of any amount. Please read the flier accompanying today's Home Communicator for details.

5TH GRADE BOYS SEX EDUCATION NIGHT

Fathers of 5th grade boys, please make sure you have our Sex Education Night on your calendar for Monday, March 8. More details will be available soon!

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

CHAPEL HAPPENINGS

Friday, January 22: No Chapel – 7th Grade at Winter Camp
Tuesday, January 26: Mrs. Roode's 8th Grade Bible class chapel

HOT LUNCH

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

EDLINE GRADE POSTING DATES

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

7TH GRADE WINTER CAMP

Our 7th graders leave Wednesday morning and will be exploring God's world at Spring Hill Camp returning to school Friday afternoon. Please pray for travel safety, favorable weather conditions, great fun, and fellowship for the students, staff and parent volunteers.

UPCOMING SPORTS ~ GIRLS VOLLEYBALL & BOYS WRESTLING

Tryouts for the 8th grade team will take place for all girls signed up 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

Monday, January 25
4:00 p.m. Boys Green HOME vs. Allendale Chr. 8th team

8th GRADE BASKETBALL SCHEDULES

Wednesday, January 20
3:15 p.m. Boys Green Team vs. Boys White Team – HOME
Thursday, January 21
3:45 p.m. Girls HOME vs. Calvin Christian
5:00 p.m. Boys White Team HOME vs. West Side Christian

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congrats to the following students whose work was chosen to represent HCMS at the annual Scholastic Art contest for middle and high school students: Nichole Schuitema, Jonny Hoekstra, Ellie Deur, Kristiana Volkers, Joel TenHarmsel, Jessica DeJong, Tessa Glashower, Grant Blouw, Jeremy Schnyders, Melissa Wilkins, Michaela Ehrich, Katelyn Venema and Jacob Herzog. Special congratulations to Tessa Glashower who earned a Silver Key award and to Michaela Ehrich who received Honorable Mention. The art work will be on display at the Kendall College of Art and Design Gallery until January 31.

PARENTS' CLUB NEWS

AUCTION NEWS

- This year's auction on March 13 is looking for additional international items to auction off to support our Olympic theme this year. If you or someone you know can provide a new item from another country, please contact Sonja DeJong at 896-1214. Thanks to JP and Suzanne Koop, Sue Klein, Mary Jo Staal, and Mandy Shaarda for their international items.
- Here are a few more new donations for this year's auction: Century Driving School sessions, 2010 Calvin vs. Hope basketball and volleyball tickets, Lost City laser tag in Holland, and a tour on the very top of the Mackinac Bridge for two people.
- Anyone who would like a receipt for their cash/check donation of \$10 or more to the 2010 auction can pick one up in the elementary office.

URGENT NEED FOR COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS

- We are so thankful that our **Family Fun Night** Committee has many, many willing volunteers. However, we need a few capable people to step up and coordinate this fun community building event. Call Lori Hinken at 662-1806 to help.
- **September Fest**, our craft fair, is in critical need of volunteers. This successful fundraiser was launched three years ago and has raised over \$10,000 every year! These funds come primarily from outside the HCS community. Call Sonja DeJong at 896-1214.
- Our biggest fundraiser, the **Auction**, needs capable people to join their team. This fun event provides the bulk of Parents' Club funds that enhance your child's education. Please join this team! Call Sonja DeJong at 896-1214.
- The **Parents' Club Executive Committee** is also in need of volunteers. 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.

PIG-IN-THE-BLANKETS

It is wonderful that we have delicious pigs made by volunteers available for purchase in our elementary kitchen freezer as a fundraiser for our school. However, people have been taking pigs without paying for them, and now more than three dozen are gone without being paid for. Please do not take pigs out of the freezer without paying for them, and if you forgot to pay for some you took previously, please put \$7.00 per dozen in the box inside the freezer. Thank you!

EARNING BOX TOPS FOR HUDSONVILLE CHRISTIAN

Through January 20, Meijer is offering Bonus Box Tops. It would be fantastic if many from our Hudsonville Christian School family took advantage of this offer earning Box Tops and Bonus Box Tops which equal cash for Hudsonville Christian. At Meijer's until January 20, if you buy any ten Box Top for Education products you will earn 70 Bonus Box Tops in the form of a register receipt. For a complete list of Box Top Products available at Meijer go to www.boxtops.meijer.com. This is a great way to raise money from outside of the Hudsonville community for Hudsonville Christian School. We just received a check for our latest Box Top turn in, and HCS earned \$2,536.87. Our next turn in date is coming up soon! Please turn in your trimmed Box Tops and Bonus Box Tops to the bin by the gym in the elementary, the homework table at the Middle School or at Hillcrest CRC, Georgetown CRC, First CRC, Messiah CRC, and Forest Grove CRC. If your church would be willing to have a collection box for Box Tops for Hudsonville Christian School please contact Brenda VanderPloeg at 669-3497.

COMMUNITY NEWS

UNITY SENIOR CLASS FUNDRAISER AT THE OUTBACK

Come to enjoy a great lunch at the Outback Steakhouse on Saturday, February 6, with all proceeds to benefit the Senior Class of Unity. Tickets for this lunch consisting of a bloomin' onion, salad, steak and chicken, and a beverage cost \$10 and are available at Unity's office.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT HUDSONVILLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Jan. 20-22	7th Grade Winter Camp	Jan. 28	HCS Fiddle Fest, 7:30 p.m. at Grace
Jan. 21	Preschool Info. Night, 6:30 open house, 7 mtg.	Feb. 8-9	Kindergarten Screening
Jan. 22	Report Cards Sent Home (7th gr. on 1/27)	Feb. 12	Sub/Cookie Dough Sale starts
Jan. 23	Preschool Enrollment, 9—10 a.m.	Feb. 15	Professional Day; no school for students
Jan. 26	PK/Kind. Info. Night, 6:30 open house, 7 mtg.	March 1, 2, 4	Parent/Teacher Conferences