

January 26, 2010

Dear Parents:

A few weeks ago, I mentioned how it is important for us to look to the past with gratitude in order to be confident of God's leading in the future. I hope it was obvious through some of that historical information that God has led the Hudsonville Christian School community in providing wonderful facilities for our staff and students to work in each day. Today, I'd like to focus on another one of God's blessings and that is the people He has chosen to lead us in Christian education. First of all, the children are most important. God has indicated in His Word that each child is very important to Him and is a child of God. We are grateful for them. Secondly, we are grateful for parents and families who want the best for their families and want to honor God by providing Christ-centered education.

Another important gift that God has given us are the teachers who have guided children over the many years of our school's history. I think of teachers who have retired and have given a good part of their lives in service to God and His children. When I look at children and families, I see how God has blessed those efforts and has raised up leaders in the community and in our world to represent Jesus Christ. So, I am thankful for all of our current staff, and I'm also thankful for those who have led us in the past. During our history, we have had three teachers who died while they were teaching at HCS. In 1984, Miss Marian Nienhuis, a 4th grade teacher, died following a car accident on her way home from school. In 1988, one of our 1st grade teachers, Kathy Reitsema, became ill and passed away. In December of 2005, our 7th grade teacher, Ken Malefyt, died suddenly from a heart attack. These lives ended too early, but God used them to have a significant impact on their students and on our community.

God has also led Hudsonville Christian School with leadership that has been extended over the years:

Edward Wezeman, Principal 1930 – 1942; 1948 – 1977

Gord DeKruyter, Principal 1977 – 1997

Bob Vander Laan, Principal 1997 – 2010

Hester Monsma, Assistant Principal 1965-1990

Karen Ophoff, Elementary Principal 1990 – present

Dan Pott, Middle School Principal, 1997-present

On January 18, 2010, the School Board offered the Administrative Principal position to Dan Pott. We are grateful for Dan and wish him God's blessings as he takes on these new responsibilities.

There are so many other names that could be mentioned, but I hope as you read this and reflect that other names of people come to mind who have been intricately involved in Hudsonville Christian School. I trust you can give deep thanks to God for their leading and seeing how God uses His people to advance His kingdom in Christian education. We look to the future with great hope that God will continue to use His people because we know that He has done so in the past. Our God is faithful!

Serving Christ together,

Bob Vander Laan, Administrative Principal

Prayer Corner

- Pray for the family of Eric Helm, the Jenison High School student who was recently killed in a car accident in Hudsonville.
- Remember HCS parents Peter VanRijs, Jason Crisman, and Lisa Dykstra who have cancer, and pray that their doctors will have wisdom to know how to best treat them.
- Pray for the people in Haiti and those who are ministering to them.

SCHOOL WIDE NEWS

PK/KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION NIGHT

PK/Kindergarten Information Night will be held tonight with an open house at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting to follow at 7 p.m. in the all-purpose room. This meeting is meant for parents only.

ORCHESTRA JAZZ & FIDDLE FEST CONCERT

The annual Orchestra Jazz and Fiddle Fest will be held this week Thursday, January 28 at Grace Community Church at 7:30 p.m. This concert will include all of our 4th – 8th grade orchestra students. Students should be to the church by 7 p.m.

PRESCHOOL, PRE-K, AND KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT

Hudsonville Christian School is accepting enrollment for preschool for Monday/Wednesday classes, and for Pre-Kindergarten. Enrollment for Kindergarten will begin March 8 at 7:45 AM.

TRIP NEWS

The next information/registration meeting will be Monday, February 1 at 6:30 p.m. at the elementary school. Also, TRIP will be open on Monday, February 15 even though there is no school for HCS that day.

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Individual conferences for students in PS—5th grade will be scheduled for March 1, 2, and 4. Please note that M.S. teachers will be available in the south gym for unscheduled conferences between 5:30 and 8 p.m. on these dates. Conference forms are due by Friday, January 29. There will be no school for students on March 5 for Records Day.

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.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

COLOR/DAY SCHEDULE

Jan. 27	Blue/Day 4	Feb. 1	Green/Day 3
Jan. 28	Red/Day 1	Feb. 2	Blue/Day 4
Jan. 29	Yellow/Day 2	Feb. 3	Red/Day 1

HOT LUNCH

Hot lunch this week Wednesday will be popcorn chicken, Cool Ranch Doritos, Fritos, orange jello, and doughnuts.

POPCORN

Popcorn will be sold Friday morning for \$.25 a bag. Team #3 will be working.

REPORT CARDS

Parents of PK—fifth grade students, please sign your child's report card after you have reviewed it and return to your child's teacher.

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.

Elementary School News (continued)

HELP FOR HAITI

Last week the elementary students collected over \$1,100 for relief to Haiti--nearly doubling the goal of \$600! We are so excited that our students have such a heart for helping others. We set this campaign for two weeks, and will wind up the collection this week Friday. We will be sending our funds to CRWRC that has a mission established there, and whose response was immediate. In this final week a few of our student need the opportunity to contribute, but we would also like to open up this collection to anyone who has not yet had a chance to make a contribution, or who would like to make another donation. Let's see how our students' seed money will grow! 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 hope to others.

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 that was attached to your child's weekly classroom newsletter yesterday, January 25. 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 Foundations 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. Sign-ups will continue until this Friday, January 29. If you need the information and sign-up sheet pick one up at the school office. Questions, call Sharon Leerar at 662-1520.

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! 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

HOT LUNCH

Hot lunch this week: Arby's Roast Beef sandwich for \$1.50 each, chips for \$.25, Powerade/pop/water for \$.50.

CHAPEL HAPPENINGS

Friday, January 29: Praise Team #1 leads chapel
Tuesday, February 2: Mrs. Linda LeMahieu leads chapel

CONGRATULATIONS

We extend our congratulations to Jason Wesseling an 8th grade student at HCMS who auditioned and made the All State Orchestra! Jason is one of eight bass players who is a member of this honors orchestra. Jason performed this past Saturday with the orchestra at DeVos Hall in downtown Grand Rapids. Great job!

ORCHESTRA JAZZ & FIDDLE FEST CONCERT

Our annual Orchestra Jazz and Fiddle Fest is this week Thursday evening, January 28 at Grace Community Church at 7:30 p.m. This concert will include all of our 4th – 8th grade orchestra students. An informational letter has been sent home with the students regarding call time, uniforms, and information for the rehearsal during the day. Students should arrive at the church no later than 7:00 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL TRYOUTS

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 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. The 7th grade girls will begin Wednesday, February 3 and Friday, February 5. Specific schedules will be available soon.

Middle School News (continued)

SAFETY FOR STUDENT DROP OFF & PICK UP

Parents, please remember to drop off and pick up your students in the middle school parking lot near the north gym entrance and/or along the sidewalk on the east side of the school building. On many mornings, we still see students dropped off on Van Buren Street out in front of the middle school and then they run across the road to school. PLEASE HELP US KEEP YOUR CHILDREN SAFE! Parents, you can help us by checking on older siblings who may drop off students...be sure they know this information as well.

WRESTLING

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.

PARENTS' CLUB NEWS

URGENT NEED FOR COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS

- **The Family Fun Night** Committee needs 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! 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. 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.

SPRING GARAGE SALE

Check out the flyer coming home today with the Home Communicator. Find out how to donate those gently used items!

ATTENTION ELEMENTARY ROOM MOMS

Letters have been sent home asking you to cover recess duty for Teacher Appreciation Week which is Feb 8 – 12. Please call Jana DeVries if you have any questions.

BOX TOP CHALLENGE WINNER

Congratulations to super shopper Leticia Dykema who spent \$.44 and earned \$25 in box tops for a ratio of .0176!! Leticia will receive a \$25 Meijer gift certificate. Thank you to everyone who participated – total \$'s earned in next week's HC.

COMMUNITY NEWS

CLC NETWORK AUCTION THIS SATURDAY

Please join us for the annual CLC Network Auction on Saturday, January 30 at Calvin Christian Middle School, 3740 Ivanrest in Grandville. Supper and Silent Auction will begin at 5 p.m. and the Live Auction will begin at 6 p.m. Donations of food items may be dropped off at the Calvin Christian Middle School gym anytime on Saturday the 30th. Other donations (children's items/homemade items) should be brought to CLC Network's office building at 4340 Burlingame Ave. as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please call Bev, Julie, or Cathy at the CLC office 616-245-8388.

UNITY CHRISTIAN UPCOMING SPORTS CAMPS

Unity Christian will be offering the following sport camps during February and March. More information will be sent home with your son or daughter soon:

- 5th/6th Girls Basketball — February 13 and 20, 9 – 11 a.m.
- 5th—8th Girls Volleyball — February 27 and March 6
- 2nd-8th Flag Football — February 13, 20, 27, & March 6

UPCOMING EVENTS AT HUDSONVILLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Jan. 26	PK/Kind. Info. Night, 6:30 open house, 7 mtg.	March 1, 2, 4	Parent/Teacher Conferences
Jan. 28	HCS Fiddle Fest, 7:30 p.m. at Grace	March 4	Limited Busing
Feb. 8-9	Kindergarten Screening	March 5	Records Day; no school for students
Feb. 12	Sub/Cookie Dough Sale starts	March 8	5th Grade Boys Sex Ed Night
Feb. 15	Professional Day; no school for students	March 11	6/7/8 Skating Party