

March 2, 2010

Dear Parents:

Much has recently been written about the rich tradition of Hudsonville Christian School and the leaders who have helped to facilitate 90+ years of Christ-centered education. I am excited about the opportunity I have to not only carry on this tradition, but to also continue to push towards academic excellence for all while making sure HCS remains a distinctively Christian education. We always discuss running our decisions through the filter of "What is best for His children?" and we will continue that as we prepare for the next generation of serving through Christian education.

As you know, I love working with God's children and my work at the middle school. As I prepare to focus more of my attention on other aspects of HCS, it is important that the middle school have a leader who can pick up and continue this very important work. This past week our search committee interviewed and offered a contract to Mary Broene to be the new leader at HCMS. Mary was selected from an excellent list of candidates. It is with joy that I can tell you she has accepted the middle school position! While it is difficult for me to take a step away from the middle school, it gives me great comfort to know that a person of Mary's quality will take over the responsibilities. Mary is currently the administrator at Grand Rapids Christian Middle School. She brings to our school a wealth of middle school experience both in the pursuit of academic excellence, but also in working with students at this level. Mary has served as a highly respected mentor, teacher, and administrator at the middle school for more than 20 years. Most importantly, she has a deep love for middle school children and walks the talk of leading by example. She is excited about the move over to Hudsonville and is looking forward to taking our middle school to the next level not only in academics, but also in making sure HCMS continues the pursuit of being a distinctively Christian school.

I hope you will take the time to welcome her to our community and to our administrative team!

Dan Pott, Middle School Principal

Prayer Corner

- Remember the VanRijs family as they consider the best treatment option to pursue for Peter's cancer.
- We give thanks for our new administrative team, and ask for your prayers as we interview and hire new teachers at the elementary school in the near future.

SCHOOL WIDE NEWS

LIMITED BUSING THIS WEEK THURSDAY

There will be limited busing this week Thursday because Hudsonville Public Schools will not be in session. Please refrain from dropping off your children in the bus drive area on this day.

RECORDS DAY ON FRIDAY

Just a reminder that there is no school for students on Friday, March 5 for Records Day. The elementary and middle school offices will also be closed on this day.

PRE-K AND KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT

Pre-kindergarten & kindergarten enrollment will begin at 7:45 a.m. at the central office on Monday, March 8.

CLASS PLACEMENT

Soon after spring break staff will begin constructing next year's class lists. Because parents have information that is important, we wish to provide an avenue for this input. If you have a request, you must provide written information to ensure that it will be considered throughout the process. A form for this purpose is available in the office, and our administrators are available for any questions you may have. The school board policy is as follows:

- Students are assigned to grade and class sections by the principals with the assistance of the child's current teacher. The child's teacher knows the special circumstances under which your child will continue to grow. Factors considered by the principal and teacher in making class assignments are academic, social, and emotional needs, as well as the balance of boy/girl ratio and athletic abilities.
- Parents should request special consideration for their child's placement only if there are extenuating circumstances. Legitimate reasons for special requests in placement may be unique social or emotional needs in relationship to other students, especially those of which the school may not be aware. Parents should not request one specific teacher.

The procedure is as follows:

1. All requests must be submitted to the office in writing by Friday, March 26.
2. The administration will forward these requests with or without recommendation to the Education Committee.
3. The administration will notify the parents of the decision.

HIKE & BIKE FOR TECHNOLOGY

Please reserve Saturday, April 17 for our annual Hike & Bike event! Our goal is to raise \$25,000 for technology upgrades at our school. You have the option of walking, bike riding, or roller blading on separate routes around school. The event runs from 10—11 a.m., with a pancake breakfast following in the elementary gym. Look for more information coming home with your child soon!

THANK YOU FROM CRWRC

"Thanks to money from adults and kids like you, CRWRC has been able to send doctors and nurses to Haiti to help people who were hurt. We've also been giving food and water to families who are hungry and thirsty. CRWRC is going to be helping people in Haiti for a long time by helping rebuilding homes, starting new jobs, and returning to their regular life. Thank you for making this possible!" Beth DeGraff, CRWRC

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

COLOR/DAY SCHEDULE

Mar. 3	Green/Day 3	Mar. 8	Red/Day 1
Mar. 4	Blue/Day 4	Mar. 9	Yellow/Day 2
Mar. 5	No School	Mar. 10	Green/Day 3

HOT LUNCH

Hot lunch this week Wednesday will be hot dogs, BBQ chips, Cheetos, Frozen Gogurt, and M&M Cookies.

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>Tues., March 2:</u>	Mr. DeJonge, Miss Smits, Mrs. Rusticus, Mr. Schnyders, Mrs. McCann, Miss Koeze
<u>Thurs., March 4:</u>	Mr. DeJonge, Miss Smits, Mrs. Rusticus, Mr. Schnyders

5TH GRADE BOYS SEX EDUCATION NIGHT

Fathers of 5th grade boys, please make sure you have our Sex Education Night on your calendar for next week Monday, March 8. We will be meeting in the Middle School band room at 7 p.m.

Elementary School News (continued)

4TH/5TH GRADE MUSICAL

On Thursday, March 18 the 4th and 5th grade students will perform the musical "Operatunists". There will be a matinee performance at 1:15 p.m. for students in grades K-3 and family of 4th/5th graders who are unable to attend the evening performance. The evening performance will be at 7 p.m., and both performances will be held at Grace Church.

GIRLS ON THE RUN BEGINS NEXT WEEK

Girls on the Run will begin on Monday, March 8, and will run from 2:50—4:20 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays. Parents are asked to come at 4 p.m. on Monday for a brief informational meeting to meet the coaches, sign up for snacks, etc.

SUMMER TUTORING

Could your child benefit from one-on-one tutoring during the summer? Several HCS staff members will be providing academic support this summer. Check out their information which will be displayed on tables outside the offices during conferences, or call the school office for a list of names.

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: Blimpie Sub sandwich \$2.50 each, pop \$.50, and chips \$.25.

CHAPEL HAPPENINGS

Friday, March 5: No school for students
Tuesday, March 9: Ben VanderKodde leads chapel

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Conferences continue in the middle school south gym tonight and Thursday 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. The Core 2 staff will be available as listed:

Tuesday, March 2: Melanie Coallier, Edie Heerspink, Linda LeMahieu, Mary Prins, Sara Jager, Brian Knot
Thursday, March 4: Edie Heerspink

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 tomorrow, 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. Parents are welcome and encouraged to come and hear the band perform for this event.

VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULES

Tuesday, March 2
3:45 p.m. 8th Girls Prins Team (A) AWAY at Ada Christian
3:45 p.m. 8th Girls VanTil Team (A) AWAY at Calvin Chr.
Wednesday, March 3
3:45 p.m. 7th VandenBerg Team (A) HOME vs. GRC (Black)
3:45 p.m. 7th Doll Team (B) AWAY vs. GRC (Blue) @ Millbrook
3:45 p.m. 7th Girls Schnyders Team (B) AWAY at Jenison Chr.
Thursday, March 4
3:15 p.m. 8th Girls Prins (B) vs. 8th Girls VanTil (B) in north gym
Tuesday, March 9
3:45 p.m. 8th Girls Prins (A) HOME vs. GRC (Black)
3:45 p.m. 8th VanTil (A) AWAY vs. GRC (Blue) at Millbrook

WRESTLING SCHEDULE

Tuesday, March 2
4:00 p.m. 7/8 Wrestling Match AWAY at Grand Rapids Chr.
Tuesday, March 9
4:00 p.m. 7/8 Wrestling Match AWAY at West Side Christian

Middle School News (continued)

REGIONAL SPELLING BEE

Congratulations to Joel Harkema on his second place finish at the Regional Spelling Bee last week Tuesday evening. Our thanks to Joel and Bailey Arnold for representing our middle school so well!

BAND SOLO FESTIVAL

Plans are underway for a Band Solo event at the middle school for all band members in grades 6-8 on Tuesday, March 16. The performance times will be from approximately 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. and will be made available to band students soon. Please be sure to have your child practice with his or her accompanist. Contact Mr. Brian Knot with any question concerning this event.

6/7/8 SKATING PARTY REMINDER

Our 6th, 7th and 8th grade middle school students are invited to a skating party set for Thursday, March 11 at Woodland Sports Center. Busses will leave school at 6:10 p.m. and return to school at 9:15 p.m. Rides will need to be ready to pick up students at the return time. The admission cost is \$4.00 per student and includes roller skates. This admission amount is collected in advance by homeroom teachers. Roller blade rental is an option for a fee of \$2.00 and this must be paid by students at the rink. Students may bring their own roller blades.

7/8 ORCHESTRA CONGRATULATIONS

Our 7/8 orchestra receive an Overall I Rating at the local MSBOA Festival last week Thursday. The students will now move on to compete at the State Festival at a date and time to be determined. Congratulations to our 7/8 orchestra students!

FUN WITH FOODS EXPLORATORY CLASS

Our 7/8 Fun with Foods Exploratory class with Mrs. Ubels is in need of your extra 8oz. whipped topping containers with covers. If you have extras at home to donate, please drop them off at the middle school. Thank you!

PARENTS' CLUB NEWS

SUB AND COOKIE DOUGH SALE

Please do not forget to turn in your Sub & Cookie Dough order forms. Forms are due NOW! Thank you for participating, and we appreciate your efforts! The Sub Sale Committee.

AUCTION NEWS

The auction is next week Saturday, March 13! Many items go high, but many more go for a steal! Make this the year you see what it is all about! We also ask that you pray for God's blessing on this event. We are in need of three volunteers yet to make potato salad before March 13. Call Brenda Heun at 896-7614 if you can help. We are excited about the over 35 new donors we have, and be sure to look for the Olympic Podium! The auction book comes home this week and is available online at the HCS website. We look forward to seeing you next Saturday!

SPRING GARAGE SALE

Our next drop-off is on March 26. Get a head start on your spring cleaning. Make room in your drawers and closets by donating those gently used things to HCS. Want to get your big items out of the way before May? Call Kristin DeKock at 896-3148. One hundred percent of the proceeds go to your Parents' Club. Thanks for thinking of us!

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Friday, April 30 is this year's Family Fun Night, and the Family Fun Night Committee has been busy planning for this year's event! We have started our annual phone calls of finding game chair people, game workers, and kitchen workers. If you would like to be a game chairperson, or work a shift at a game, please either call or email Lori Hinken (662-1806, dlhinken@sbcglobal.net) or Kari Brinks (669-5375, dkbrinks@sbcglobal.net).

VOLUNTEERS TO MAKE PIGS

Due to the lack of interest in making pigs we have postponed making them until after Spring Break. If you can help on April 13 from 8—11 a.m., please call Mary at 669-8856.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT HUDSONVILLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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
March 11	6/7/8 Skating Party	March 19	End of Third Nine Weeks