

March 9, 2010

Dear Parents:

We are all familiar with the phrase "It takes a village to raise a child". There is a lot of truth in that statement, but what is the makeup of that village here in the Hudsonville Christian School Community?

- A village begins with committed Christian parents who commit to providing the best for their children and encouraging them to grow in the Lord and challenging them to serve their Lord by investing in Christ-centered education.
- The village needs dedicated, highly qualified Christian teachers who seek to provide the very best for each of their students, academically, socially and spiritually.
- The village consists of volunteers who support the programs within the school and who encourage efforts to fundraise so that this community can stay healthy and affordable for all parents.
- Another part of the village is a board of directors who oversee the direction of the school and keep it focused on serving our Lord and making sure that the village is financially responsible, as well as educationally sound.
- The local churches provide spiritual stability and worship and service opportunities for our children.
- The administration of the school needs to provide orderly direction and solid Christian perspective, working for each child and each family so that we can continue to challenge minds and lives for Christ.

It has been my privilege to be a part of this village for 42 years. I am grateful for God's leading as I see so clearly his working in and among this Christian community and I have great deal of gratitude for the leading of God's Spirit amongst our families and our children. God has been faithful and we have every reason to believe that He will continue to show His faithfulness to this community as we work at being faithful in serving Him.

May God bless each one of us in the role that we play in this village.

Serving Christ together,

Bob Vander Laan, Administrative Principal

Prayer Corner

- There are many areas that need volunteer help in order to keep tuition at a reasonable level, so please pray for volunteers that God will provide to keep HCS committees functioning well in His school.
- Remember the VanRijs family as they pursue a clinical trial in Detroit for Peter's cancer.
- We ask for your prayers as we interview and hire new teachers at the elementary school in the near future.

SCHOOL WIDE NEWS

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. Students of all ages, preschool through 8th grade, are encouraged to participate, and parents/grandparents can join in as well! 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 today!

HCS PARADE!

Mark your calendar for Friday, May 28! Hudsonville Christian students will be honoring Mr. VanderLaan's career at HCS with a parade beginning at 11:00 a.m. at the elementary building. The parade will end with a chicken barbecue lunch in Hughes Park. More details will follow as May draws near, but for now please plan to attend the parade and enjoy a delicious lunch prior to your Memorial Day weekend.

BACKPACKING

Students in grades 5—8, look for information regarding summer backpacking trips with Mr. Schnyders available next week!

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. A T/TH preschool parent would be excellent for this position.

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. Please plan to join us at this important meeting starting at 7 p.m. in the elementary library.

CLASS PLACEMENT

Class placement request forms are available by the school offices. 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. 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.
- Requests for class placement should only be made 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.

EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL ED. SERVICES

Is your child experiencing difficulty with speaking, developing motor skills, thinking skills, or socializing with others? If your child's development in any of these areas is significantly delayed, he/she may qualify for Early Childhood Special Education services provided by Hudsonville Public Schools. Your child must meet the following to qualify for a screening: 1. They must be age three by October 1, 2010 and no older than age six; 2. You must be a resident of the Hudsonville School District; and 3. Your child must be experiencing significant delays. For more information or to schedule an evaluation contact Georgetown Elementary at 797-9797, ext. 22115 by April 1. For speech delays only, contact Sue McCann, Speech/Language Pathologist at HCS at 669-6689.

END OF THE 3RD NINE WEEKS

Next week Friday, March 19 is the end of the 3rd nine weeks. Report cards will be sent home with students on Friday.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

COLOR/DAY SCHEDULE

Mar. 10 Green/Day 3 Mar. 15 Yellow/Day 2
Mar. 11 Blue/Day 4 Mar. 16 Green/Day 3
Mar. 12 Red/Day 1 Mar. 17 Blue/Day 4

HOT LUNCH

Hot lunch this week Wednesday will be ham and turkey subs, BBQ chips, Cheetos, orange Jello, and ice cream sandwiches.

COOKIES FOR KENYA

Chocolate chip cookies will be sold Friday morning for \$.25 a piece to benefit our Kenya partnership.

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.

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.

EASTER CHAPEL

The first graders will present an Easter Chapel for the elementary students on Thursday, April 1 at 8:15 a.m. and 1:50 p.m. Parents, grandparents, and friends of second graders are invited.

THANK YOU FOR THANKSGIVING COLLECTION

"Thank you so much for collecting and donating food to Wedgwood Christian Services. Through yours and other generous gifts, Wedgwood received over \$10,500 worth of food for which we are very thankful!" From Wedgwood Christian Services

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 on tables outside the offices, or call the school office for a list of names.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

HOT LUNCH

Hot lunch this week: DJ's pizza \$1.00/slice, chips for \$.25, can pop for \$.50.

DONUTS

Donuts will be sold at the middle school during morning break on Friday, March 12. Donut helpers are: Meribeth Schierbeek, Lori Docter, Carol Brookhouse

CHAPEL HAPPENINGS

Friday, March 12: HCMS Chapel Team leads chapel
Tuesday, March 16: Mrs. Sietsema's homeroom leads chapel

6/7/8 SKATING PARTY THURSDAY EVENING

Our 6th, 7th and 8th grade middle school students have a skating party this Thursday, March 11 at Woodland Sports Center. Busses will leave school at 6:10 p.m. and return to school around 9:15 p.m. Rides will need to be ready to pick up students at that time. The admission cost is \$4.00 per student and includes roller skates. Admission is being collected by homeroom teachers and must be paid by Thursday morning. Roller blade rental is \$2.00 and will be paid by students at the rink. Students may bring their own roller blades.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT HUDSONVILLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

March 11	6/7/8 Skating Party	March 19	End of Third Nine Weeks
March 13	HCS Auction	March 23	HCS Society Meeting, 7 p.m.
March 15	M.S. Orientation for 5th grade parents	March 25	Sub/Cookie Dough Pick up
March 18	Elementary Musical	March 26	Report Cards sent home
March 19	Awesome Arts Day at Middle School	April 2	Spring Break begins

Middle School News (continued)

VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULES

Tuesday, March 9

3:45 p.m. 8th Green Prins (A) HOME vs. GRC (Black)
3:45 p.m. 8th White VanTil (A) AWAY vs. GRC (Blue) at Millbrook

Wednesday, March 10

3:45 p.m. 7th VandenBerg (B) AWAY at West Side Christian
3:45 p.m. 7th Doll (A) AWAY at Ada Christian

Thursday, March 11

3:45 p.m. 8th Green Prins (B) HOME vs. GRC (Blue)
3:45 p.m. 8th White VanTil (B) AWAY at West Side Christian

Friday, March 12

3:15 p.m. 7th VandenBerg HOME vs. 7th Girls Schnyders

Monday, March 15

4:00 p.m. 7th VandenBerg (B) HOME vs. Ada Christian
5:00 p.m. 7th Schnyders (B) HOME vs. Ada Christian

8TH GRADE GIRLS VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

Our 8th grade girls volleyball teams will be participating in a league tournament at Ada Christian on Saturday, March 13. Our coaches have sent information home with the girls on their team. Games will begin at 9:00 a.m. Admission will be \$5.00 per family, \$2.00 for adults and \$1.00 for students. Concessions will be available. It should a fun day!

WRESTLING SCHEDULE

Tuesday, March 9

4:00 p.m. 7/8 Wrestling Match AWAY at West Side Christian

Tuesday, March 16

4:00 p.m. 7/8 Wrestling Match HOME

PARENTS' CLUB NEWS

AUCTION IS THIS WEEK SATURDAY!

Auction 2010 is here in four days! Despite earlier concerns, the auction is bursting with items this year and we would love the families of HCS to celebrate God's blessing with us on Saturday. Please remember to drop off your baked goods for the auction on Friday before 8 p.m., or Saturday after 2 p.m. Preschool through Fourth Grade: Please bring bars, cookies, breads, or cupcakes. Fifth — Eighth Grades: Please bring a pie or dessert (homemade is greatly appreciated). We still need two volunteers to make a bowl of potato salad. Please call Brenda Heun at 896-7614 if you can help.

IMPORTANT AUCTION BOOKLET ADDENDUM!

We have a great item that was added to our auction after the book was printed — Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin Resort! Leave the every day behind and enter a world of wonder and enchantment as you spend five nights of your choosing at either resort in a standard room. With seventeen restaurants and lounges, five pools, every recreational activity imaginable, and the Mandara Spa, you will enjoy your most magical vacation ever! Go to this link for additional information and photos: www.swandolphin.com. More information also available at the auction.

SPRING GARAGE SALE

Needed: Does anyone have access to hanging racks that we can borrow for our garage sale? We would need to use them Monday, May 10 - Saturday, May 15. We are also looking for metal sign holders or plastic 8.5" x 11" picture holders to display price lists on tables throughout the sale. Please contact Holly Postma (wjpostma@aol.com) or Jen Byker (rjbyker@att.net) if you have any of these items as soon as possible. **Help Wanted:** A volunteer form was sent home today detailing various opportunities to help. Please prayerfully consider how you can contribute. The forms are due back on Friday, March 19. Thank you!

FAIR BANNER

The Fair banner is now up and there are many opportunities where you can help — work a shift, offline, committee, cleaning before fair, school kitchen, pies, and soup. If you can't help with any of these we also accept cash donations toward food purchases. There is a way for everyone to participate, so sign up today on the banner!