

November 17, 2009

Dear Parents,

A few weeks ago at our Education Foundation Dinner, Tony Campolo indicated that a generation ago, our parents wanted us to be "good". Parents were concerned that their children were speaking and acting as young Christians in this world. He went on to say that he has found in recent years that it seems to be that parents are more concerned about their children being "happy". This is something that resonated with me as I have seen some of that change over the years as well. Hopefully, our parents still desire for our children to be good, to develop Christ-like qualities. There's nothing wrong with their being happy, but the major goal must be for them to develop and grow in using the Fruit of the Spirit and being more Christ-like.

I was reminded of this recently when we worked on our new School Improvement Plan, which is a part of our being re-accredited by Christian Schools International for 2009-2014. We have to present a School Improvement Plan to them and one of the statements in our SIP is "HCS will intentionally equip students to develop a closer relationship with Jesus Christ and to live out the principles of Biblical discernment and service." As we talked about that goal as a staff, we listed many things that we think we are doing well now. For example, Bible classes, prayer, daily devotions, personal testimonies that students write, and involving students in prayer and in worship. We also listed many things we felt we could do more of and perhaps do better than we are currently doing. This is our goal for the coming years as Hudsonville Christian School looks to the future, that we are more intentional about helping our students to grow in Christ. What a wonderful goal! I trust that as parents and as staff, we can intentionally help our students to be committed to Jesus Christ because then we know they will be good and they will be happy eternally. May God by His Spirit bless these efforts as we move forward as a Christian school.

Serving Christ together,

Bob Vander Laan
Administrative Principal

SCHOOL WIDE NEWS

WENDY'S FAMILY FUN NIGHT FUNDRAISER

Come this Thursday, November 19 to the Family Fun Night held at Wendy's Restaurant in Hudsonville (Port Sheldon) from 5—7 p.m. Show your HCS pride by wearing your HCS apparel or green and white clothing. Stop by the HCS table to fill out a raffle ticket and get your kids' faces painted. Ten percent of ALL dine-in and drive-thru sales will go directly to HCS so bring your friends and neighbors! Be sure to check online for additional coupons at www.michiganwendys.com.

INVENTORY SALE

Cards, calendars, napkins, gift wrap, maybe even a few gift items. You never know what good deals you might find at the 5th Grade Card and Giftwrap Sale's leftover and inventory sale! These miscellaneous items are available from order corrections and extra stuff. The inventory sale will be held one last time on Monday, November 23 during TRIP hours. Look for us by the TRIP information table.

TRIP NEWS

Have you started your Christmas shopping? Start stocking up on gift cards now! Bonus percentages above the normal % effective immediately: Bath and Body Works (5% until 12/4/09), Logans (2% until 12/25/09), Cabelas (1% until 1/1/10), Applebee's (2% until 12/31/09), Red Robin (2% until 12/25/09), and Old Navy (2% until 12/18/09). Also, Gordon Foods will now be available on TRIP on Demand and Hallmark will only be available on regular TRIP. Check out the HCS website for current merchants and order forms!

MAGAZINE SALE/CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEA

The magazine sale at the Middle School will kick off on December 18. Please encourage friends and family to save their renewals and subscriptions until that time. Magazine subscriptions make great holiday gifts. If you would like a packet with ordering information before December 18 there will be a few available to look over at the middle school office by November 20. Please stop by or call the middle school office at 669-7487 if you have questions about the upcoming magazine sale.

MATH PENTATHLON

There will be no Math Pentathlon next week Tuesday, November 24.

SUPPORT THE M.S. CHRISTMAS TREE SALE!

We hope you are planning on purchasing your Christmas tree at Rick VanDis' farm to support the middle school! The sale dates are November 27 & 28, and December 5 & 12, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. All trees will be \$20 a piece, and you will be assisted by middle school staff members and their families. We look forward to seeing you at the farm at 3701 Mason Street south of Hudsonville. All proceeds from the sale benefit our middle school students.

SCHOOL PICTURES

School pictures for students in PS—7th grade came home with your child. Retakes will be Wednesday, December 2 at 9:00 a.m. at the elementary school. Middle school students needing retakes will be transported to the elementary building. Please return your entire picture envelope/package when you come for retakes. Retakes are not for clothing changes.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

COLOR/DAY SCHEDULE

<u>Nov. 18</u>	Green/Day 3	<u>Nov. 23</u>	Yellow/Day 2
<u>Nov. 19</u>	Blue/Day 4	<u>Nov. 24</u>	Adjusted
<u>Nov. 20</u>	Red/Day 1	<u>Nov. 25</u>	No School

HOT LUNCH

Hot lunch this week will be ham pizza, Cool Ranch Doritos, Fritos, strawberry Jell-O, and brownies.

POPCORN

Popcorn will be sold Friday morning for \$.25 a bag. Team #5 will be working.

THANKSGIVING CHAPEL

Pre-K through 5th grade students will participate in a Thanksgiving Chapel given by second grade students on Tuesday, November 24 at 8:15 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. in the all purpose room. Parents of second graders are invited to attend.

THANKSGIVING COLLECTION

Elementary school students are encouraged to bring in non-perishable food donations this week. The items donated will be divided between Wedgwood Christian Youth Services, Bethany Christian Services, and the Eastern Avenue CRC Saturday Food Program. Items can be dropped off on the tables by the kitchen.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

HOT LUNCH

Hot Lunch this week: Blimpie Subs \$2.50 each, pop \$.50 and chips \$.25.

CHAPEL HAPPENINGS

Friday, Nov. 20: 8th Grade Bible Class students lead chapel
Tuesday, Nov. 24: Praise Team leads chapel

CEREAL COLLECTION

At our Tuesday, November 24 chapel at the middle school our Christian Service class students will be collecting cereal boxes from the students as they enter the gym for our Thanksgiving Chapel. What a great opportunity for students to give something that can benefit others! All cereal collected will be divided between two local food pantries.

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCE NIGHTS

The following middle school staff will be available 3:30 – 6:00 p.m. & 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. in their classrooms ONLY on the evening noted during conference nights.

- Mrs. Coallier (7th Skills/Short Stories/8th Lit./Health) – 11/24
- Mrs. Heerspink (Art) – 11/24
- Mrs. Jager (Orchestra) – 11/23
- Mr. Knot – (6/7/8 Band) – 11/23
- Mrs. Sharon Leerar (6/7 SOAR) – 11/24 in her office at the elem.
- Mrs. LeMahieu (Media Specialist) – 11/23
- Mrs. Prins (7/8 Girls PE/6th Exploratories) – 11/23

LOST ITEM TABLE

The tables with lost and found items from the first nine weeks of school are set up now. Parents, when you are in school for conferences, please stop by to check over the items on the lost table for any missing things from your home! The table is located across from the middle school office.

ACT TESTING

Parents interested in ACT testing for their student can stop by the middle school office to pick up an ACT test registration and information packet.

STUDENTS STAYING AFTER SCHOOL

A reminder that students staying after school for a late basketball practice must take along study material to a classroom that will be designated for them. They are expected to remain at school at all times after the school day ends. If a student wishes to go home to a friend's house, a written note from each parent must be given to the office in advance. Anyone who does not cooperate will be sent home. These guidelines are put in practice to help protect our students. Thank you for your cooperation.

BASKETBALL

7th Grade Boys & Girls Basketball

Practice schedules continue for both teams this week and next. All schedules have been handed out to the teams. Please ask your student if they have not yet given the schedule and team information to you.

First Games:

December 2 4 p.m. — 7th Boys Green Scrimmage HOME vs. West Side Chr.
December 2 5 p.m. — 7th Boys White Scrimmage HOME vs. West Side Chr.
December 4 5 p.m. — 7th Girls HOME vs. Calvin Christian

8th Grade Boys and Girls Basketball

Practice schedules continue for both teams this week. All schedules have been handed out to the teams. Please ask your student if they have not yet given the schedule and team information to you.

First Games:

November 20 3:30 p.m. — 8th Boys Green Scrimmage AWAY at Jenison Christian
November 30 3:45 p.m. — 8th Boys White Scrimmage AWAY at Calvin Christian
November 30 3:45 p.m. — 8th Girls Scrimmage HOME vs. Calvin Christian

Middle School News (continued)

SEW (SPIRITUAL EMPHASIS WEEK)

S.E.W. 2009 will be December 7 – 11. *Is It in You?* Please save Thursday evening, December 10 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. for a special middle school activity at school for students.

ADVANCE NOTICE & CONCERT TIME CHANGE

On December 21 our 6th, 7th and 8th grade middle school bands, choirs and orchestras will perform a Christmas concert at Grace Community Church. Plan now to join us at this wonderful event. Please note this concert will begin at 7:00 p.m.

7th GRADE HOLIDAY PROJECT

Aide for AIDS in Africa – As Christmas quickly approaches, the HCMS 7th graders will be focusing on our friends in Africa. After experiencing the AIDS Walk at Fair Haven Ministries, we would like to raise money in support of those who are less fortunate than ourselves. Please encourage your son or daughter to find ways they can raise money for this cause so that they can feel personally involved. The proceeds will be given to CRWRC with the understanding that the monies be used to provide education and medical supplies to this area.

PARENTS' CLUB NEWS

AUCTION HELP CRITICALLY NEEDED!

Dear HCS Family — **Critical** is the state of the auction right now! We have had one parent step forward in the last several weeks to assist as a caller/runner. We have 5 confirmed and need 23. The auction is the #1 way the Parents Club is able to provide reduced tuition costs to each of us. The auction cannot continue without new committee members and caller/runners, not to mention the strain this puts on existing committee members needing to perform additional functions. These fundraisers and activities that always need participants are also the means by which we become a stronger Christian family. Please...help us make the auction as big of a fundraiser as it once was and call Dawn Hulst at 662-0432 or Sonja Dejong at 896-1214 to sign up.

PIGS

We will be making pigs again and need two people to help on Monday, December 7 from 9—12 and nine people on Tuesday, December 8 from 9—12. Please call Mary Miedema at 669-8856 to sign up. Thank you!

HELP THE LOVE BAZAAR COMMITTEE

The Love Bazaar committee still needs one more person. If you like to shop, please consider this as a fun way to volunteer for our children. If you are considering being a committee member, you need to be willing to shop the day after Christmas. This is an important shopping date and replenishes most of our inventory. After that day, you may shop on your own time until inventory numbers are met. It is a three year commitment with minimal meetings per year. Call Deb Klein if interested at 669-3261. Thank you!

COMMUNITY NEWS

4TH—6TH BOYS SADER SATURDAY BASKETBALL

Unity Christian H.S. will be sponsoring a Saturday morning basketball program for boys in grades 4-6. This five week program will be held on December 5, 12, 19, and January 9 and 16. Registration forms are available by the school office or at Unity's office. Deadline to enroll is November 23.

WRESTLING PROGRAM

Information sheets are available by the school offices for a Hudsonville Community Education wrestling program for boys in kindergarten to 6th grade. Deadline to register is November 25.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT HUDSONVILLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Nov. 17	6th Grade Skating Party	Dec. 11	5th Grade Band Concert—2:00 p.m.
Nov. 21	Hudsonville Holiday Parade	Dec. 18	M.S. Magazine Sale Kick off
Nov. 21	7th/8th Orchestra Solo/Ensemble	Dec. 18	4th/5th Orch. Concert—2:00 p.m.
Nov. 23	Parent/Teacher Conferences	Dec. 21	M.S. Christmas Concert
Nov. 24	Parent/Teacher Conferences	Dec. 21-22	Limited Busing Days
Nov. 25-27	Thanksgiving Break	Dec. 22	Elem. Christmas Program
Dec. 3	7th/8th Skating Party	Dec. 23	Christmas Break begins
Dec. 4	Elementary Love Bazaar	Jan. 4	Classes Resume
Dec. 7-11	M.S. Spiritual Emphasis Week	Jan. 8	6th Grade Medieval Festival
Dec. 10	4th Grade Band Concert—2:00 p.m.		