

November 3, 2009

Dear Parents:

The business world recognizes that most organizations go through predictable and sequential phases: formation, rapid growth, maturity, and decline. Where is Hudsonville Christian on that continuum? Where are we headed? In almost every committee meeting and frequently in the staff room God's blessings to HCS are enumerated and celebrated. Our component checkpoints: facilities, enrollment, student achievement, curriculum and instruction, Christian perspective, staff, financial standing, parent participation/community support, to name a few, all check out as healthy if not robust. We are blessed indeed, and we rejoice in being able to offer those blessings in service to our families.

Change is all around us. The sustainability of Christian education is a challenge. The economic situation has had an effect on everyone. Hudsonville Christian itself is in for a change in leadership. Several weeks ago Bob VanderLaan announced his retirement at the end of this school year. A Search Committee is in place and, in partnership with consulting services from CSI, is actively pursuing a slate of qualified candidates for the position of Administrative Principal. Change is anxiety-producing, almost never easy, and inevitable, but we are securely in God's hands, and we trust in His plan for our school.

We need our school community's support more than ever before to prosper our founding vision, recently restated as Challenging Minds and Lives for Christ. As Hudsonville Christian continues to mature and change, may we as a school and community experience God's providence and blessing as we have for 91 years.

How can you help?

1. Attend the Focus Group meeting Monday night, November 9 at 7 p.m. in the Oak St. all purpose room. We recently conducted this meeting for our teaching staff. It was positive and constructive. From these groups emerged several strong strands of thought that will help to frame the interview agenda. The Search Committee is looking forward to similar input from our parents and extended community.
2. Pray for the Search Committee, especially our Board President, Tim Montsma, who is leading this group.
3. Pray for the candidates who are applying for the position, or who are thinking about it.
4. Pray that God will clearly direct Hudsonville Christian to its next leader, whom He has already chosen.
5. Give thanks for Bob VanderLaan's contributions to HCS, and pray for him as he finishes up his work at HCS and anticipates using his gifts in other areas of God's Kingdom.
6. Pray as a family, with your children, for Christian education as a thriving part of God's Kingdom.
7. Love the mission of Christian education!

Karen Ophoff
Elementary Principal

SCHOOL WIDE NEWS

WENDY'S FAMILY FUN NIGHT FUNDRAISER!

Looking for some food, fun and fellowship with other HCS families? Then come to the Family Fun Night at Wendy's Restaurant in Hudsonville (Port Sheldon) on Thursday, November 19 from 5-7 p.m. Come to the HCS table for raffle prizes and face painting for the kids. Be sure to stock up on your Wendy's T.R.I.P. Ten percent of ALL dine-in and drive-thru sales will go directly to HCS, so tell your friends and neighbors too!

FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANTS NEEDED

On Monday, November 9, at 7 p.m., the Search Committee for candidates for the next Administrative Principal of Hudsonville Christian School will meet with members of the school community who are interested in offering input on the process and vision for this important position. Small groups will be facilitated by members of the Search Committee who will solicit responses regarding various specific aspects of leadership at Hudsonville Christian School. The meeting will be held in the elementary school all purpose room, and is open to anyone interested in Hudsonville Christian School.

CORRECTION ON CRISMAN FAMILY WEBSITE

The website noted in last week's Home Communicator for helping the Crisman family was inaccurate. If you are interested in helping the family, go to www.lotsahelpinghands.com/c/618726. Thank you for supporting this family in their time of need!

SMALL TALK CLASSES STARTING SOON!

Our next session of Small Talk Spanish classes will begin on November 9. This 8-week session offers age-specific Spanish curriculum and activities for children ages 18 mos. – 3 years, and for 3, 4, and 5-year olds who do not already attend our school. One parent per child is required to attend this 8-week session. Contact the office at 669-6689 to enroll your child, and be sure to spread the word with your friends and neighbors!

LATE START DAY NEXT WEDNESDAY

Next week Wednesday, November 11 will be another late start day with school beginning at 9:45 a.m. Regular bus routes will be running, but will be approximately two hours later. If this late start causes a hardship in your family, please contact the school offices for assistance.

REPORT CARDS

Report cards will be sent home with students this week Friday, November 6.

HCS HOME AND CRAFT EXPO FUNDRAISING EVENT

We hope you are planning to attend the HCS Home & Craft Expo Fundraiser for the Crisman, Koning, and VanRijs families on Monday, November 16 from 4 - 8:30 p.m. at the elementary building. Come shop for your holiday gifts while supporting HCS families struggling with cancer!

CHRISTMAS TREE SALE

Please plan now to come out and support our middle school by purchasing your tree this year during the following weekends: Friday and Saturday, November 27 – 28, Saturday, December 5 and Saturday, December 12. Red and white pines will be available for you to cut down and enjoy in your home. Cost: All trees will cost \$20.00 each.

Sale Times: Friday, November 27 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Saturday, November 28 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Saturday, December 5 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Saturday, December 12 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Location: The trees are located at 3701 Mason Street. From Hudsonville take 32nd Avenue south to Adams (100th Street). Turn right (west) on Adams Street to 40th Avenue. Turn left on 40th Avenue. Proceed south to Mason. Turn left (east) on Rick VanDis farm at 3701 Mason.

Middle School staff members and their families will greet you when you arrive and would love to help you with your tree needs! Remember, all proceeds from the tree sale will go to benefit Hudsonville Christian Middle School. Thanks for your support!

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

COLOR/DAY SCHEDULE

<u>Nov. 4</u>	Yellow/Day 2	<u>Nov. 9</u>	Red/Day 1
<u>Nov. 5</u>	Green/Day 3	<u>Nov. 10</u>	Yellow/Day 2
<u>Nov. 6</u>	Blue/Day 4	<u>Nov. 11</u>	Adjusted Day

HOT LUNCH

Hot lunch this week Wednesday will be ham & turkey bagel sandwiches, Cheetos, BBQ chips, carrots, ranch dressing, and chocolate sundae cups.

POPCORN

Popcorn will be sold for \$.25 a bag on Friday morning. Team #4 will be working.

THANKSGIVING CHAPEL

Pre-K through fifth 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

The Thanksgiving collection at the elementary school will be a non-perishable food drive that will be divided between Wedgwood Christian Youth Services, Bethany Christian Services, and the Eastern Avenue CRC Saturday Food Program. This is an advance notice as items should be brought to school the week of November 16.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

HOT LUNCH THIS WEEK: This week will be KFC Chicken fingers for \$1.00/strip or \$2.50/3 strips. pop \$.50, and chips \$.25.

CHAPEL HAPPENINGS

Friday, November 6: Mr. Steenstra's homeroom leads chapel
Tuesday, November 10: Mr. Dave Doll leads chapel

REPORT CARDS

Report cards will be sent home with students on Friday, November 6. Parents, please be sure you ask your son/daughter for their report card. You do not need to sign and return the middle school report cards; we will be printing a new card each marking period. Be sure to phone the middle school office if you do not receive a report card for your student or if there are address changes we should update.

8TH GRADE YEARBOOK PICTURES

Appointments are currently taking place at John Dykstra Photography Studio and will continue thru November 12. If you selected the option to have your picture taken at the studio, you must make an appointment for your 8th grade student at this time. Please be sure to call the studio at 669-1755 today! Thanks for your help in taking care of this important matter. If you have any questions please call Dan Pott at the middle school office.

ACT TESTING

Parents interested in ACT testing for their middle school student can stop by the middle school office to pick up an ACT test registration and information packet. All those interested in the PATH program at Hope College must take the ACT test to be considered for acceptance into PATH.

VISITORS TO CHECK IN AT THE OFFICE

When you come to the middle school to drop something off at your student's locker, talk to your student or their teacher, assist with a party, etc., please stop by the office to check in with Mrs. Keuning and sign in on the sheet on the counter. Thank you!

STUDENTS STAYING AFTER SCHOOL

As we look forward to the season, a reminder that students staying after school for a late basketball practice must take along study material to a classroom that we will designate 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.

7TH/8TH BASKETBALL BEGINNING

Over the next two weeks we will be starting basketball at our middle school. Please note the specific dates and times.

8th grade boys began tryouts on Monday, November 2 and continue on Tuesday and Wednesday, November 3 and 4 from 2:45 – 5:00 p.m. Some of the boys could also have practice on Thursday, November 5.

8th grade girls will have tryouts/practice on Thursday, November 5 from 2:45 – 4:30 p.m.

7th grade boys and 7th grade girls will have practices on Wednesday, November 11 and Friday, November 13. The girls will practice from 2:45 – 4:30 p.m., and the boys will practice from 2:45—5:00 p.m.

Team practice schedules and athletic packets will be handed out after the teams are established.

SWIM TEAM/SWIM MEET

Hudsonville Christian Middle School will compete in the league swim meet that will take place at Ottawa Hills High School on Saturday, November 14. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. and the meet will begin at 9:00 a.m. Entrance fees as follows: family \$5., adults \$2, students \$1. A bus will transport students to and from the meet. A letter from the coach will be coming home with more specific times and information.

PARENTS' CLUB NEWS

LOVE BAZAAR

December 4th is only a month away! We are still in great need of bubble wrap, tissue paper and boxes of all shapes and sizes. Due to the high volume of boxes being collected, nesting is appreciated. If you have enjoyed the Love Bazaar for several years or are new to this fun event, we are in need of two more people to join the Love Bazaar committee. This is a fun way to volunteer for our children. If you are interested in becoming a committee member or volunteering at this year's love bazaar, call Deb Klein at 669-3261. Thank you!

HELP THE FAIR COMMITTEE

When you get your new Key Card or Entertainment Books, check out the Gordon Food coupons. If you know you won't be using these coupons, please turn them in to the office for the committee to use. Last year we saved almost \$500 using these coupons and watching sales.

COMMUNITY NEWS

TUTOR

Could your child benefit from additional support in reading or writing this year? Openings are available for elementary students. Call or email Ann DeBoer, certified teacher and HCS paraprofessional (896-1377 or deboer92@aol.com) with questions or to sign up.

UNITY SPIRIT STORE SADER SALE

The next Sader Sale will be held Saturday, November 14 from 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. in Unity's south gym lobby. We have new T-shirts, hoodies, fleece pants, and sling backpacks arriving for the sale! Check out the new stadiums seats and lanyards, too! This is a great way to get some early Christmas shopping done---sizes and styles are at their best! If you have any questions regarding the sale call Nancee at 457-2477.

JENISON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL CRAFT SHOW

Jenison Christian School is having its 13th annual Fall craft show on Saturday, November 7 from 9-2. We have a variety of crafters along with a booth of cultural crafts made by refugee women through Bethany Christian Services. Mark your calendars to come join us and help support over 80 local crafters and women from around the world! Free admission. Lunch and baked goods available.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST MUSICAL

Unity Christian High School is presenting the fairy tale musical, Beauty & the Beast on November 19 – 21, at the Zeeland East High School Auditorium. Ticket information is available by calling Unity at 669-1820. In advance of the performance, Unity's musical cast members will be hosting Breakfast with Belle for children and their families on Saturday, November 14 in Unity's South Gym with two seatings, 8:30 & 10:30 am. This will be a time of sharing in the character's favorite breakfast foods, singing, dancing, and picture taking. Advance tickets are required and can be ordered through the Unity office or via an order form on Unity's web site – www.unitychristian.org – look for Beauty & the Beast. Forms are also available by our school offices. Recommended ticket donation of \$4 per person will support the musical production.

LOVE AND LOGIC SEMINAR

Registration forms are available by the school offices for the Love and Logic seminar being presented by Jim Fay on Monday, November 23. It will be held at Sunshine Community Church on the East Beltline in Grand Rapids, and will run from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. This seminar will focus on teacher and parent strategies in the areas of discipline, raising responsible kids, and more. Cost is \$99. For more information contact Love and Logic at 800-338-4065.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT HUDSONVILLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Nov. 6	Report cards sent home	Nov. 23	Parent/Teacher Conferences
Nov. 9	Focus Group Meeting, 7 p.m. in Elementary Gym	Nov. 24	Parent/Teacher Conferences
Nov. 11	Late Start for Students — 9:45 a.m.	Nov. 25—27	Thanksgiving Break
Nov. 16	HCS Home Expo Fundraiser, 4—8:30 p.m.	Dec. 3	7th/8th Skating Party
Nov. 17	6th Grade Skating Party	Dec. 4	Elementary Love Bazaar
Nov. 21	7th/8th Orchestra Solo/Ensemble		