

October 27, 2009

Dear Parents:

The safety and health of our students is a high priority for all of us, as it should be. We appreciate parents informing us of illnesses of their children. Thank you for keeping them home to allow time for them to become healthy again before returning to school. This year, more than in the past, the flu is on all of our minds. It's partly because of the publicity H1N1 receives on the news and also the fact that this virus is so widespread throughout our country. That being said, we want you to know that we have been in contact with doctors and the Ottawa County Health Department. Also, we receive emails from the State of Michigan, so we are well-informed as to what the latest situation is in terms of this virus and how we should respond to it.

Currently, the basic information we are receiving indicates that the H1N1 flu is more widespread than earlier thought and many doctors now are not distinguishing between H1N1 and the seasonal flu. Fortunately, H1N1 has not been nearly as severe as first thought and so doctors are treating it much like a regular flu and we are encouraged at school to treat it as a regular flu as well. If a child's immune system is compromised in any way, you should take the necessary precautions. Less than 1 percent of those who have had H1N1 end up in the hospital or with severe difficulties. This is often due to things that follow the flu itself, so if your child has some areas of concern and they do develop the flu, you should watch them even more closely so that difficulties do not occur.

What are we doing here at school?

- We daily monitor absences and illnesses and we report our absences daily to the Health Department.
- We continue to ask parents to keep their child home if there is a fever and **they should not return to school until they are free of that fever without medication for 24 hours**. This happens to be the policy in our school handbook and we are being told that still is the best policy to follow.
- We encourage hand washing. We have been doing more with disinfectants in rooms as needed to disinfect doorknobs, desks and areas that students come in contact with.
- We would ask that you encourage your children to make sure they wash their hands on a regular basis. If a fever develops, please keep your child home.
- We will continue to monitor this situation on a daily basis and do what's best for all of our children. I think you can understand that we are also being told that we shouldn't panic or overreact with any of this. We do encourage you to call or be in contact with us if you have concerns.

As we go through this flu season, let's continue to be in prayer for all of our children and our families that they may stay healthy and continue to function well in the school setting.

Serving Christ together,

Bob VanderLaan, Administrative Principal

SCHOOL WIDE NEWS

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.

TRIP INFORMATION

The next TRIP sign up and information meeting will be on Monday, November 2 at 6:30 p.m. Many bonus percentages are available right now, and Meijer \$10 cards will be available in November and December. Start buying your Christmas gift cards now! Check out the HCS website for a complete merchant list including VIP and Dining Concepts. You will be amazed at the number of merchants available.

HELP FOR THE CRISMAN FAMILY

A website has been set up by one of our parents to provide assistance for the Crisman family during Jason's cancer treatments. If you are interested in helping the family, go to www.lotsahelpinghands.com/c/61876. You will need to first make a request on the website to join the Crisman community, and then after you receive an acceptance email back you can sign up to help where you would like.

REPORT CARDS

The 1st nine week marking period will end on October 30 and report cards will be sent home with students on November 6.

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!

HALLOWEEN

Hudsonville Christian School's policy on Halloween is that we do nothing to support it in classroom activities or decorations. We will celebrate Reformation Day at school.

CHRISTMAS TREE SALE COMING UP

The Middle School Christmas Tree Sale will be happening again this year at Rick & Sue VanDis' farm south of Hudsonville. Selling dates will be November 27 & 28 and December 5 & 12. More details will be coming out soon!

FIFTH GRADE CARD SALE

This is the last week for you to request a catalog for our imprinted holiday cards. We offer a large selection (general holiday and Christian sentiments), competitive prices, and the profits go to HCS. Please call Amy at 669-0213 to make your business holiday greetings a pleasure, not a chore!

DEVOTIONAL BOOK

Mr. Paul Erffmeyer, fifth grade teacher, has written a family devotional book called Common Objects — Uncommon Thoughts, that works to find spiritual truths in ordinary objects. Copies of the devotional book are available for purchase in the elementary office for \$13.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

COLOR/DAY SCHEDULE

<u>Oct. 28</u>	Red/Day 1	<u>Nov. 2</u>	Blue/Day 4
<u>Oct. 29</u>	Yellow/Day 2	<u>Nov. 3</u>	Red/Day 1
<u>Oct. 30</u>	Green/Day 3	<u>Nov. 4</u>	Yellow/Day 2

HOT LUNCH

Hot lunch this week Wednesday will be cheese breadsticks, marinara sauce, Doritos, pretzels, and orange Jello.

COOKIES FOR KENYA

Freshly baked chocolate chip cookies will be available for \$.25 each Friday morning to support our Kenya partnership.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

HOT LUNCH THIS WEEK: DJ's Pizza \$1.00/slice, pop \$.50, and chips \$.25.

CHAPEL HAPPENINGS

<u>Friday, October 30:</u>	Praise Team leads chapel
<u>Tuesday, November 3:</u>	8th Grade students lead chapel

MEAP MAKEUP TESTS

MEAP makeup tests times for middle school students are scheduled today and tomorrow after school in the middle school from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. If your child missed any of the MEAP tests this year and did not stay after school today, they should plan to stay after school tomorrow for the final makeup test session. MEAP test must be shipped back to the State of Michigan on Thursday.

6th GRADE ORCHESTRA, CHOIR, AND BAND

The 6th Band, Choir, and Orchestra will be performing a Fall Music Kickoff Concert on Thursday, October 29 in the south gym at the Middle School. The concert will be during the school day at 2:00 p.m. The concert will conclude prior to the end of the school day. Please join the 6th grade music groups for a fun afternoon and enjoy some wonderful music. All are welcome!

AFTER SCHOOL STUDY HALL

After school study hall began at the middle school today and will be held again tomorrow. This study hall time is an opportunity (free of charge to students) for middle school students to work on their homework from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. in our school library on Tuesday and Wednesday each week. A teacher will be available to assist students, but it will not be a small group or one on one tutoring session.

6/7/8 SWIM TEAM/SWIM MEET

Students participating in the 6/7/8 swim meet on Saturday, November 14 received practice schedules Friday, October 16. The first practice is on Saturday, October 31 from 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. at the Hudsonville Public High School pool. More dates are listed on the practice schedule. Please ask your child for the schedule sheet.

6th GRADE BASKETBALL

The 6th grade girls have a basketball practice planned for Tuesday, October 27 after school until 4:15 p.m. The 6th grade boys have a basketball practice planned for Thursday, October 29 after school until 4:15 p.m. The boys and girls will be invited to a league "play day" at Grand Rapids Christian High on Saturday, October 31 with game times for the girls beginning at 9:00 a.m. and games for the boys beginning approximately at 11:30 a.m. or when the girls' games are finished.

8th GRADE BASKETBALL

8th Grade Boys and Girls Basketball team tryouts will start on Monday, November 2 and continue on November 3, 4 and possibly 5. Practices and game schedules will be handed out the following week.

7th GRADE BASKETBALL

7th will begin tryouts on Wednesday and Friday, November 11 and 13. Practice and game schedules will be handed out the following week.

PARENTS' CLUB NEWS

LOVE BAZAAR

There are less than six weeks until this year's Love Bazaar on December 4. We are still in great need of bubble wrap, tissue paper, and boxes of all shapes and sizes. If you have volunteered to be a shopper, cashier or wrapper, you will be notified soon. We are currently in need of three more people to join the Love Bazaar committee. If you love to shop for great deals, this is the committee for you! If you are interested or have any questions, please call Deb Klein at 669-3261. Your participation is the key to this special day being a success. 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. Thank you!

COMMUNITY NEWS

UNITY SPIRIT STORE SADER SALE

The next Sader Sale will be held Saturday, November 14 from 9- 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 stadium 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 2 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.

GYMNASTIKS UNLIMITED FALL CARNIVAL AND CRAFT SHOW

Gymnastiks Unlimited Fall Carnival and Craft Show will be held on Saturday, November 7th 5-8 p.m. (carnival 5-7 p.m.) and Sunday, November 8th 10-2 p.m. (carnival 10-2 p.m. also). Come and have fun shopping for Christmas gifts at 55 booths. There will be over 10 carnival games plus food and a yummy bake sale. You may purchase a carnival ticket game card at G.U. starting Monday, October 26th and receive a discount. We still have some booths available for crafters and product reps. Contact Mary DeWeerd at 616-892-7568 or gucraftshow@live.com.

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

Oct. 29	6th Grade Music Program, 2 p.m.	Nov. 17	6th Grade Skating Party
Oct. 30	End of First Nine Weeks	Nov. 21	7th/8th Orchestra Solo/Ensemble
Nov. 2	TRIP Information/Reg. meeting, 6:30 p.m.	Nov. 23	Parent/Teacher Conferences
Nov. 6	Report cards sent home	Nov. 24	Parent/Teacher Conferences
Nov. 9	Focus Group Meeting, 7 p.m. in Elementary Gym	Nov. 25—27	Thanksgiving Break
Nov. 11	Late Start for Students — 9:45 a.m.	Dec. 3	7th/8th Skating Party
Nov. 16	HCS Home Expo Fundraiser, 4—8:30 p.m.	Dec. 4	Elementary Love Bazaar