

PATHWAYS

“SHOW ME YOUR WAYS, LORD, TEACH ME YOUR PATHS.” PSALM 25:4

HCA’s vision is to inspire students to love learning and live lives worthy of the calling of Christ.

UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Dec. 18 - **Donations for Belarus due** (see more info in “Susan’s Musings”)

Dec. 22 - **Class Christmas Parties**

Dec. 23-Jan. 1 - **No School** (Christmas Break)

January 15 - **Homeschool Day** (Term 3 Development Day)

January 18 - **No School** (MLK Jr. Day)

January 22 - **Term 2 Ends**

February 15-19 - **No School** (Winter Vacation)

Health & Safety Reminders:

*Please remember to **DRIVE SLOWLY** through all our parking lots!

*Did you know we go outside in all kinds of weather? Please make sure you watch the forecast and your student comes prepared to be outside when the ground is wet, snowy, and everything in between!



PRINCIPAL’S CORNER

One of my favorite Christmas carols is “[Go Tell It On the Mountain](#).” I remember singing it in my church as a child and being filled with joy as I pictured people rushing about to the highest places to share the good news of the Savior’s birth. For only the most exciting news will we drop everything to run and share with others. This was monumental! It had been 700 years since the prophet Isaiah foretold of the birth of Christ, and 400 years since the people had heard from God in any form! The circumstances of the world were such, and I know we can relate, that the people who knew of the promised Savior were waiting expectantly, even impatiently. As it says in [The Jesus Storybook Bible](#), they were waiting for a Rescuer. The Rescuer, Jesus, came as a child born in a stable in the small town of Bethlehem....





Principal's Book of Excellence Recipients:

Eleanor - for compassion and kindness to a friend who was injured

Ruthie - for courage, perseverance, and determination when she broke her arm

Mrs. Gordon - for a fantastic job organizing the archaeological dig for the whole school

The Middle School- for being great role models and guides during the archaeological dig

Emma - for consistent kindness in her words about others

Looking for help!

Each year, HCA publishes a yearbook, full of photos and memories. Yearbooks make wonderful keepsakes for students of all ages! **We are looking for a parent volunteer to handle the online layout & ordering of the 2020-21 yearbooks** -we will supply the pictures! Please email

People, then and now, learned of the Savior in God's timing. Responses to this news vary from disbelief to whole hearted devotion--and sometimes our first response is not the final response.

The apostle Paul is a good example of this change in response. We know much about Paul through 13 of his letters, or epistles, which are now books of the Bible. He grew up as a devout student of God's Word, but he did not believe that Jesus is the Savior until God commanded his attention with a blinding light in Acts 15. Once he 'saw the light', both figuratively and literally, Paul spent the rest of his life traveling around the Mediterranean sharing the message of Jesus.

Your students will be learning all about Paul and his adventures in their Bible classes this term. They will see that Paul left a comfortable life in a respected role for a life of insecurity and danger to 'go tell it on the mountain.' The Good News of Jesus birth is really that good...and transforming.

Whether you go tell it on the mountain, or share it in your family circle, let us be so moved by God's gift this Christmas that our hearts are filled with rejoicing!

Blessings, health and safety to you during this wonderful season of remembrance,

~Mrs. Nikki Cleveland,
Interim Principal

**Honoring God through
Creative learning and strong
Academics in a caring, fun-filled school!**



GIVING OPPORTUNITY FOR CHRISTMAS!

Olga and Yasha Goncherenko's ministry to the orphans of Belarus, Spring of Revival, has been a center-piece of HCA's Christmas giving for many years. Mrs. Hayward writes about this in her article on page 4.

\$5 buys a gift of Christmas chocolate for an orphan, who may receive no other gift this Christmas. HCA families are encouraged to donate money to help purchase chocolates.

You may send checks or make an **ONLINE DONATION** by Friday, December 18th. Please make checks out to HCA and put "chocolates" on the memo line.

Do you hear what I hear?

Our Christmas concert will be held VIRTUALLY on Thursday, 12/17 @ 7pm! Students have performed, recordings have been made, and now its time to gather to watch the performances together! So gather your family, jump on Zoom, and join us for a great evening of song and celebration of CHRISTMAS! Mrs. Velarde will send a Zoom link next week!

From Mrs. M's Art Cart:

Thank you to those who ordered Square 1 Art! By shopping to support our school, we not only beat our sales goal but also benefitted our school. We had \$3160 in sales, the *most ever* since we started doing Square 1 Art over 10 years ago! HCA will receive 33% of the proceeds! Yay!

ART SUPPLIES NEEDED: Mrs. M is looking for *clean, foam egg cartons* to use as paint trays. Donations may be left in the kitchen, or given to her during Art class!



Susan's Musings

Notes from our Founding Principal

Dear Friends,

It's hard not to be self-focused when we are isolated from loved ones and missing our Christmas social traditions. I have found that the best remedy is to lift up my head and consider the needs of others. It's a win-win. I feel better when I pray or reach out in some way and my efforts may just be helpful to someone else.

The Bible says, "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress..." James 1:27

This year, as we have for the past 20 years, we are considering the needs of orphaned children in Belarus by taking a special collection and sending it to our dear friend, Olga. She will then purchase a box of chocolates for each orphan. This will most likely be their only gift. Olga and her husband Yasha have dedicated their lives to ministering to their own people in Belarus, specifically orphans and families in dire need. Through their grassroots ministry, Spring of Revival, they have provided birthday parties, summer gospel camps, clothing, blankets, lessons, and most importantly personal visits to hundreds of children and families who have very little. They now have adults working with them whom they ministered to as children in the orphanages!

Because Olga has a relationship with these kids, she wants them to always know they are remembered at Christmas by her ministry and by Christians around the world who care. Each year, we receive beautiful cards and pictures from the kids who receive the chocolates. It is so little for us, and means so much to them. Each box of chocolates costs about \$5.00, and Spring of Revival ministers to hundreds of kids. Let's show that we truly do care and give generously! Please donate [here](#), or send a check to HCA with "chocolates" in the memo line.

May God bless you and give you a very special Christmas,
~Susan Hayward

P.S. If you would like to learn more about Olga's ministry, you may find her latest newsletter [here](#).



Preschool News!

Important Dates to know for PK:

December 17th will be our first day back together again!

December 22nd is our class Christmas Celebration!

Helpers Wanted:

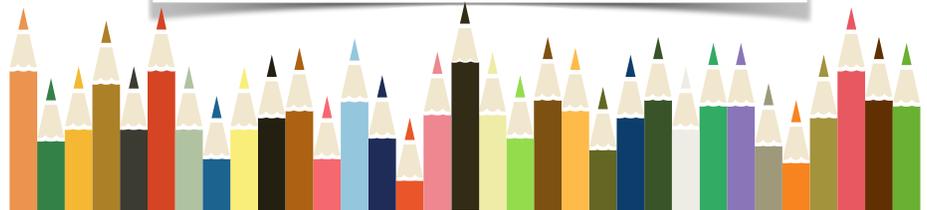
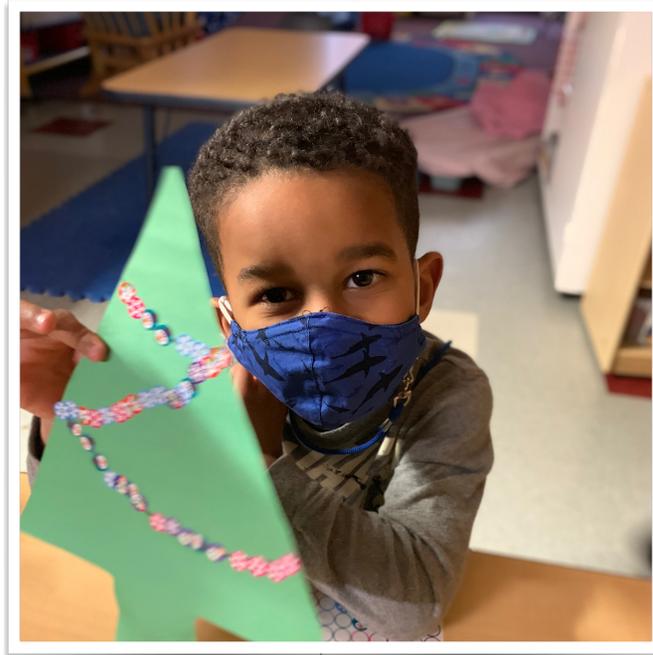
We welcome parent volunteers to be recess helpers on a daily basis.

Recess for Preschool is 10:00am-12:00pm

Monday through Friday.

Please make sure you've submitted your [CORI check forms](#) (found on our website) as well as a copy of your license before you volunteer. Parents may sign up to be on the recess monitor schedule [HERE](#).

What a beautiful month we have had together in Preschool! We spent the month of November learning about having thankful hearts. We talked about the very first Thanksgiving when the grateful Pilgrims were blessed by the generosity of the Native Americans. Preschoolers were eager to share what they are thankful for, and we heard the broad range of answers, from the simplest things (play dough!) to the biggest (Jesus!). The teachers shared how thankful we have been for time together in our preschool classroom --a chance to love these special kids on a daily basis and remind them regularly how much God loves them!





Rocking "baby Jesus" to sleep



Festive Christmas crowns

As of early December, Preschool has had the chance to celebrate the Christmas season both in-person and remotely! The first week of December was spent in the classroom, reading about and role-playing the Nativity story. Preschoolers were able to decorate (and undecorate!) a class Christmas tree to their heart's content, and spent much time singing Happy Birthday to Jesus our King and caring for Baby Jesus! We also practiced many preschool skills through Christmas games and activities! We were blessed with manageable winter weather and could still experience God's changing seasons of crisp cold air and frozen ground underfoot.

Our first week of remote learning has been a beautiful turnout of sweet faces, excited to connect with teachers and friends through song, stories and learning games. We are eager to return to our classroom on Thursday, Dec. 17th, and we will have our Christmas Celebration Dec. 22nd! We have been blessed by the spirit of the Christmas season in our classroom!

The HCA Preschool Team

~Mrs Cunsolo, Mrs McKean, Mrs Queen,
Miss Rose & Miss Joelle





Team A News!

Important Date:

The class Christmas parties will be on 12/22 during the day! Please watch for more info coming from the classroom teachers soon!

Help Needed:

We are always in need of recess monitor helpers on a daily basis.

Recess for Team A is

11:30am-12:00pm Monday through Friday. You may sign up to be on the recess monitor schedule [HERE](#).

Looking for Extra Outdoor Gear:

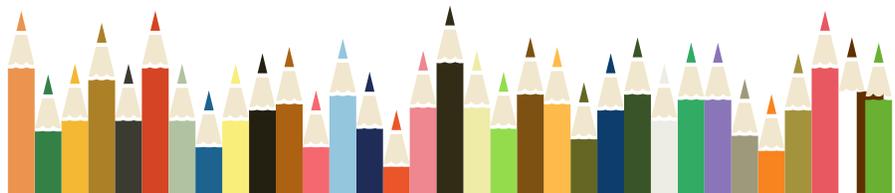
Do you have any clean and in-good condition extra outdoor gear in children's sizes 5 to 9 (boots, gloves, jacket, hat)? Would you be so generous to donate to Team A's "emergency" outdoor gear for children who may have forgotten.

Kindergarten Update:

Kindergarten has been working hard in Term 2. We have been learning about the season of Advent and even created our own Advent wreaths! We are currently learning about the four layers of the earth. Ask your child(ren) what they created during Team Time to show the four layers - it was quite yummy! Kindergarten has learned that during the Roman Empire, boys and girls played games similar to those that we play now, one of those games being Jax!



Layers of the Earth Pizza - yum!



First Grade Update:

As we continue through the Advent season, I am so excited to see the “light bulbs” go off in their minds! They are making connections between the Christmas Story and life in times of Ancient Rome. We are continuing our study of the Earth’s layers in science. We are so blessed to be able to learn in person and I am grateful for this opportunity to be with your children everyday!

Second Grade Update:

I have had the beautiful opportunity to see my 2nd Grade students for 3 months now! That is such a miracle and praise for this year. I greatly appreciate all of the partnership you’ve put towards the success of this year, academically and “in-person”.

Next week we will continue to walk through Advent for our Bible unit. Hearing the stories from the past help make us excited for what is to come!

History and Science are focusing on the Ancient Civilization of Rome, as well as what the Earth is made of (land forms and identifiers), and the physical region of Rome that affects our learning in science; like Pompeii and Mt. Vesuvius.

When we return after Christmas vacation, we’ll be taking a journey through the Mediterranean to learn what is recorded about Paul as he traveled for his missional journeys in the Roman Empire. We’ll taste, see and hear what makes the Lord so good. Be ready for a full immersion experience after Christmas vacation.



Team A Together:

Team A will have their Christmas parties on Tuesday, December 22. Please keep your eyes out for an email from your child's teacher for details about their specific class party. We are excited to celebrate Christmas together!

We would like to remind parents/guardians to send in outdoor winter gear for your child(ren) for the current winter weather. We will be spending as much time as possible outside, even in rain, cold temperatures and snow. Please send your child(ren) with boots to leave at school during the week, as well as an extra pair of gloves and a hat (maybe even extra socks to be kept in their backpacks). Teachers will send outdoor gear home every weekend to be washed.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership with us!

Mrs. Amanda Coombs, Mrs. Bridget Velarde, & Mrs. Kaylyn Penza



An Advent wreath up close



Team A had fun mixing science with pizza!



Team B News!

Class Announcements:

Team B will have their class Christmas parties Tuesday, December 22nd. More info will be coming from Ms. Rennie and Mrs. Heenan!

Help Needed:

We are always in need of recess monitor helpers on a daily basis. **Recess for Team B is 12:00-12:30pm** Monday through Friday. This is a role for HCA parents to fill. Please make sure you've submitted your [CORI check forms](#) (found on our website) as well as a copy of your license before you volunteer. You may sign up to be on the recess monitor schedule [HERE](#).

Grade 3 Updates:

First, I'd like to thank everyone for helping your children remember to bring everything they need to stay warm when we use our outdoor space. On Monday, we started our remote learning adventure from home, but we look forward to returning in-person next Wednesday. Both third and fourth grades have been learning about Volcanoes, Layers of the Earth, Rocks, & Minerals - so many amazing facts about God's awesome world!

Third grade is knee-deep in division. PLEASE continue to practice multiplication facts everyday....even if it's 5 minutes a day.

Fourth grade just started Geometry, but also need to continue to practice their multiplication facts, because fractions are in our future. 😊

We are also learning more about Paul's journeys. Third grade had a sweet devotion recently, learning in the book of Acts how God is ALWAYS with us - because he left His Holy Spirit to live in us. He will never leave us or forsake us!!! Even when you're quarantining!!

Thank you for all of your patience and support!! I am feeling the blessings!!

Love,
~Ms. Rennie



Grade 4 update:

Greetings from Grade 4! While being remote, we have been opening each day with prayer using the Book of Common Prayer. We will be studying and discussing the Nicene Creed over the next few weeks. We are using that prayer frequently, as well as several prayers called "Prayers of the People." We are also continuing with Paul's Journey and the topic of "missionaries."

In History and LA, we are continuing our study on Rome. Currently, we are reading, discussing, and learning about the Roman Arch and how it influences our lives today. Comparing and contrasting the Roman Arch with Ancient Greek architecture has been very interesting! Did you know that the Greeks DID use arches even before the Romans? Though they did not use them in building structures, they DID use them to construct underground vaulted chambers and drains! The Romans DID revolutionize the arch in architecture, making it familiar in widespread use in even today's modern world! Ask your children where they can find an arch that stands today, thanks to the Romans.

We will also be working on some Grammar concepts in both grade 3 and 4, as well as reading a story from the ever-popular *Magic Tree House* series. Until the students return to our classroom, I will be reading Vacation Under the Volcano aloud and asking comprehension questions. When we return to school on the 16th each student will have their own copy to read along with me.

I can't wait to see everyone on the 16th!

Blessings to all.

~Mrs. Heenan



Team B outside on our nature trail!



Middle School News!

Middle School Announcements:

The middle school students must come to school prepared to go outside everyday in almost any weather throughout the Winter. We will continue to take advantage of active outdoor learning opportunities in Food For Life, Outdoor Education, and sometimes Science. **You may send in layers/boots/gloves to leave at school if you have extras or they can bring things back and forth everyday.**

Grade 7/8 Christmas plans:

The 7th/8th grade homeroom will be doing stockings this year! Students should bring **8** small gifts to give, as well as an old stocking, a Christmas giftbag, or a festive container to use. Details and gift-ideas already went out in a flyer from Mrs. Gordon so check that for more information!

What's New in Mrs. Gordon's Science Class(es)?

Outdoor Education - We recently studied fire as a chemical process and considered some of its many uses. (Can you come up with 10? If not, ask your child for some!) We collected tinder, kindling, and fuel from the woods, and we are looking forward to safely building and enjoying fires together before vacation.

Science - The middle school students were excellent leaders throughout the process of preparing and executing the school-wide archaeological dig. We all learned a lot about the intentionality and curiosity with which archaeologists approach their work. 5th and 6th grade continues to dig deeper (pun intended) into learning about



Middle School students led our Elementary students in the archeological dig

archaeology and fossils while 7th and 8th grade are studying chemistry and will present skits on changes in matter this week.

Health - We are participating in a nutrition experiment, testing whether or not we have some control over our taste preferences. The

students all chose a healthy food or drink item they do not naturally enjoy and are exposing themselves to the ingredient in a variety of forms everyday for 30 days. I look forward to reporting our results!

What's New in L.A. with Mr. Shea?!

I hope all is going well during this very odd winter season. Term 2 focuses on the Romans and the Roman Empire, mostly through the eyes of Paul. Paul is one of the Bible's best examples of character growth and dynamic change. He spent most of his life traveling around the Roman Empire spreading the Gospel to Gentiles all throughout the Mediterranean. His growth and character change are a focus for us in Language Arts, allowing us the opportunity to study character development and conflict within stories. As students learn about the different types of conflict and the different ways an author can help their characters "grow up", we will be looking to Paul for a real-life example of how God uses our hardships to help us grow up into the person God wants us to be. Please feel free to point out to your students that God wants us to lean on His character and His strength to overcome our trials!

As we enter the Christmas season, please be aware that you may be receiving emails containing updates about Christmas party activities from both Mr. Shea and Mrs. Gordon. As with everything else this year, plans are ever in a state of flux, and may change unexpectedly. While I don't anticipate that any large changes will occur, I thank you in advance for your understanding if changes need to be made last minute. I am asking that anything being sent in for the Christmas festivities be sent on or before Friday, December 18th. That way everything can sit over the weekend before getting distributed.

I hope you all are having a wonderful holiday season! We are praying for your safety and God's peace for you all!

~Merry Christmas!! Mr. Shea

A WORD from Mr. HayWARD

Hope you all had a thankful Thanksgiving (your kids said you did!) and that you stay safe, rested and healthy for the duration of the holiday season - and beyond, for that matter!

In History class this month, we are moving through the development of the Roman Republic (which suggested much of the structure for the US government to the authors of the Constitution) before it became the Roman Empire (which also warned our Founders to insert a number of protective measures in hopes of preventing the same from happening here).

In Team D Bible, we have just completed a mini "Life of Jesus" course and are now beginning the book of Acts - the first generation of Christians launched into the first generation of the Roman Empire. This will cause quite a clash - and a spiritual/cultural revolution. We will be tracking (along with the rest of HCA) the journeys of Paul, comparing and contrasting the Biblical worldview with that of the 1st century.

Thank you again for entrusting your children to us. They are truly delightful, each and every one, and we are honored to invest in their lives.

Your servant for Christ's sake, Gary Hayward