

Hickory Christian Academy

THE SHIELD

“Celebrating 14 years of excellence in Classical Christian Education”

Volume 13 Issue 5

January - 2010

Dear HCA Family,

This past Saturday, we celebrated perseverance, accomplishment, and God’s provision by hosting our first ever Hickory Christian Academy Alumni Dinner. This event was designed to maintain connections with our former students, to thank them for their contributions to HCA during the early years of the school, and to encourage them to maintain a faithful walk with the Lord in their post-high school years.

Obviously, after graduation, life takes on additional responsibilities which prevent everyone from attending an occasion like this. But, we were blessed to have 35 of our original 43 graduates (including the part-timers) with us to reminisce and get reacquainted. We decided the timing was right for this event because our original grads (the class of ’06) are getting close to finishing college and becoming “real” people. We needed to catch them before it was too late!

The evening began with a social gathering over ginger-ale punch and a nostalgic slideshow. We greeted everyone, gave out 35 hugs each, and quickly caught up on lost time. Within minutes, it was as if we had never parted ways. The alumni sat down for dinner (mostly according to graduating class), immediately filling the place with conversations and laughter. The meal was a gift to the former students in appreciation for their role in forming the current school we now enjoy.

When these kids entered 9th grade (all 5 of them), beginning in 2002, things were very

different. We were still trying to figure out what classes a Classical Christian school should offer, and when we arrived at a solution to that question, we had an even bigger problem: Who is qualified to teach Latin, Logic, Rhetoric, Debate, and Greek Literature? We had not yet begun formal high school sports, so they just had to watch as the middle school students got to have all the fun. We were split between two church campuses, in debt, and struggling for identity.

These students could have easily bolted for the door. They could have made a valid case that we were an unproven school where their future was uncertain. They could have pointed out the fact that other area schools had larger student populations and more social opportunities. They could have even left to play football! Even though all those things were discussed and considered in the early years, these students (and their parents) chose to trust God to provide their needs through this fledgling institution called Hickory Christian Academy. And how God did provide!!

Our first graduates (the class of 2006) all attended 4-year universities after high school. This was in light of the fact that several others had left, believing the school was too young to gain acceptance from quality colleges. Since that time, we have steadily improved our organization, discipline, curriculum, personnel, and success level. Of the 43 who have walked across the stage the past four years at HCA, 40 are currently enrolled in college, one is a full-time missionary (several others have done short term mission work as well), three are engaged to be married, and many are part or full-time employed.

It was amazing to see the maturity level in these folks. I have known most of them for nine years, and have watched as they have progressed from little kids to adulthood. There were some whom I wondered if they would ever make it. I especially recall one young man who cried every morning for the first two months of 7th grade. He is now on the verge of acquiring his degree in criminal justice, and already has a job lined up with the Federal Penal System. Amazing.

The bottom line is that this dinner not only honored the accomplishments of these wonderful young people, but it solidified our hope that HCA is indeed having an impact on the future. Those who have gone through our hallways are now reaping the rewards of their diligence and faithfulness, and so are the rest of us who remain here. My kids have an excellent educational venue today because these 43 paved the way, worked out the kinks, and chose to be the testing ground for generations to come. And, after spending an evening with the ones who experienced the “worst” HCA had to offer, it tells me that there are great things on the horizon.

I am so proud of all the students who have come through HCA in the past, and those who bless me each day today. We are so privileged to have experienced God’s grace through each of these young people, and I am excited to see how He will use them for His kingdom in the years to come.

CALENDAR REMINDERS

- Jan. 20** Report Cards
25-29 Spirit Week (see breakdown below)
29 HOMECOMING GAME
 Hotdog Dinner 4:30-6:30
 \$3.50
- Feb. 1-Mar. 1** Re-Enrollment for current HCA Families
3 HCA Spelling Bee (3-8th)
5 Math Superstar store
12 ½ Day early dismissal
15 President’s Day Holiday -no school
23 5th grade Play 9:00 and
 encore presentation
 6:30 pm in the gym (more details to come)
- March**
1 Chick-fil-A Family night
4 OPEN HOUSE
19 Teacher Workday
15-19 Teacher Appreciation Week

Staff/Faculty Birthdays

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|------------------------|
| January | 19 | Katie Taylor |
| | 28 | Libby Harren |
| February | 21 | Charissa Loftin |
| March | 3 | Lee Huffstetler |
| | 23 | Mark Maier |
| | 23 | Stephanie Case |
| | 26 | Anne Dwyer |

Box Tops for Education and Tyson Project A+ News

Trash into Cash is looking for a volunteer to count and bundle Campbell’s labels for next school year! Please call Amy Swink at 324-5405 if you have 2-3 hours a month to volunteer!

Drum roll please! The November winners for Box Tops are **Tessa Kirby** in Mrs. Fox’s Kindergarten and **Daniel Bennett** in Mr. Kniskern’s 3rd grade. A total of 2,920 Box Tops were turned in, earning \$292.00 for HCA! December Box Top winners are **Aaron Roberts** in Mrs. Young’s Kindergarten and **Emily Sigmon** in Ms. Ray’s 3rd grade. A total of 1,076 Box Tops were turned in, earning \$107.60 for HCA! The classroom trophy was awarded to **Mrs. Preacher’s 1st grade!**

Campbell’s winners for November are **Blake Saine** and **Carmen Cerrito** in Mrs. Dwyer’s 2nd grade. December’s winners are **Ean Swink** in Mr. Brown’s 4th grade and **Molly Dwyer** in Mrs. Coffey’s 5th grade. A total of 942 points were collected over both months. The classroom trophy was awarded to **Mrs. Fox’s Kindergarten!**

Eleven Tyson A+ labels were submitted, earning \$2.64 for HCA!

Keep those Box Tops coming, as our next submission deadline right around the corner in February. We are right on track for meeting our goal of \$3,400 if everyone keeps those Box Tops coming in!
 Jill DeVries
 Amy Swink

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Hickory Christian Academy

NO LONGER use PO BOX 5203

**NEW ADDRESS- 3260 6TH Street Drive NW
Hickory, NC 28601**

Grammar School...

The first newsletter of 2010... a new decade! It is so exciting to think about what God has in store for HCA in this "new season"? I feel so honored to say I've watched as the Lord blessed this school over the last decade. I've witnessed His faithfulness as we've encountered many challenges as well as victories. One of the biggest events was HCA's move from the desert to the "promised land". Many of our present students never experienced having a "mobile school" and the thrill of putting down roots in one location. I don't want us to ever take for granted just how blessed we are to have this facility to call a school home. The Lord has been very generous to take us from 19 students to a population of 350+. It is important to remember our meager beginnings as the growth reflects the favor the Lord has upon us. Through the witness of our fruit and much prayer, new families will be drawn to His school. Pray for the new families God has chosen to join our family.

We have the finest group of parents a school could ever desire. I want to commend HCA parents on the choice to provide a Christian education for their child. There has never been a time in HISTORY, that I can remember, the enemy working so subtly to pull people away from the Lord, especially children. We have become a nation that so promotes "self" worth there is barely a mention of the Creator.

Daily I pray as a parent and administrator that I will not fall for the lies of the enemy. The Lord took a very daunting step to provide us with Salvation. How can we be forced into believing our precious children will grow strong for Him if they are not challenged to do so? Or, what would happen if a child was not taught obedience and responsibility? At HCA, we are not only united in Christ; we are a family. Pray for teachers and parents working as a team to accomplish godly goals.

In Chapel this week, I shared with the children that I'm praying for them to have a godly new

year...one where they understand the differences in godly choices and choices which do not honor the Lord. That sounds so simple but it isn't. First Timothy 4:8 says, "...but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come." New years and new decades bring about chances for new beginnings. I pray for all of us to recognize godly choices as we raise this generation together to become strong warriors for Him. Thank you for allowing the staff that has been called to minister at HCA to work with your family. It is a privilege! The newness of this year and this decade gives hope for all of us to start out hand-in-hand doing our very best to glorify our Heavenly Father. Pray for His wisdom as we all work to discern godly behavior.

Mrs. Peeler
Grammar School Principal

Inclement Weather Procedure



In the case of bad weather this winter, please check the HCA **website first** for information at www.hickorychristianacademy.com

HCA administration will make the decision to cancel or delay school generally by 6:45 am. We will also run the announcements on the local TV stations 3-WBTB, 6-WCNC, or 9-WSOC.

HCA Christmas Chapel DVD's are ready!!!

Attention Parents: Grammar Christmas Chapel DVD's are ready. If you ordered or would like to order a copy, please stop by the school office, drop off your payment and pick up your copy or place your order. The cost per DVD is \$10. Please make checks payable to

HCA and note on the memo line that it is for the Christmas Chapel DVD.

***We would like to extend a great big
THANK YOU
to HCA parents Bill and Amy Rahn
for their hard work and generosity with
their time and talent in videoing the
Grammar School Christmas program..***

The HCA Board reports abundant blessings...

What a mighty God we serve! For those of you who were unable to attend the State of the School Address given by the Board on Tuesday, January 11th, you missed a blessing. The Board reported that our Operating Budget is in the black again this year as a result of God's continued blessings and frugal spending. We have now been in the black for 5 consecutive years! In addition, as a result of your commitment to HCA and your faithfulness in honoring your pledges, we were able to pay down approx. \$370,000 to the principal debt on our building bringing our principal loan down to \$1,614,424 million in 2010. *Praise the LORD!!*

We refinanced our loan with a new variable interest rate of 2.23% last year. As a result of reducing our debt and interest payment, we are paying down the principal balance more each month. In January 2008, our monthly interest payment alone was over \$18,000. In January 2009, it was a little more than \$4000. This January 2010, it is \$3000. Something good always comes out of difficult times.

Enrollment increased last year from 345 students to 360. We were certainly surprised considering the strain on the economy and the current job loss market in our area. The board chose not to raise tuition last year because of the financial strain even though the cost of operations still increased. God continued to be faithful to provide in all areas. Our projections for enrollment next school year are 375 students. Because the expense items have increased over the past year the Board has felt it necessary to adjust the tuition this year. The end result is a 2.5% increase which amounts to an average monthly amount of \$9.60 per student.

**Thank you for your faithfulness and
commitment to HCA.**

Just a few reminders... from Administration

Here are several reminders for this "new year" that will help keep all of us safe and on track for a great 2010. They are as follows:

- Please contact your child's teacher with any concerns about grades, curriculum, etc. The quarter ends January 13th. Report Cards will come home on January 20th.
- Being on time to school benefits your child greatly. Late arrivals interrupt the class and your child misses important information. We understand that some doctor appointments occur early in the day so please bring doctor notices. These late arrivals are still counted as tardy but will not count toward policy mandated consequences. Parents and students must come in the office and sign students in if tardy. The student will receive a note to give to the teacher upon entering class.
- Students picked up early or in the middle of the day, are responsible for missed work. Please notice the number of times you are removing your child from class and how that affects your child's awareness in subject areas.
- If you have dropped off your child, please immediately pull to the left of the car line so those behind you may pull forward and unload. This helps the car line operate as efficiently as possible.
- Thank you for waiting in the foyer or outside when picking your child up from school at the end of the school day. Teachers are responsible for students until 3:05 p.m. They will be glad to speak with

you after student dismissal. Please do not come in the back cafeteria door to get your child.

- At student pick-up, please move close to the car in front of you. If needing to speak to someone in the pick-up line, please keep moving to the next empty spot. That person may walk with you. Also, pause your cell phone call or turn off the cell phone when approaching the sidewalk. Parents distracted by calls have led to some very unsafe incidents for children.
- To be respectful of everyone's time, please move your vehicle to the end of the striped area when buckling or unbuckling car seats/ seatbelts or when dealing with a child not ready to exit. Thank you for having your child ready to exit your vehicle as quickly as possible. Also, we will try to have your child to you quickly at pick-up. It is quite a job to have 357 students safely arrive and depart from HCA in a 20 minute time span each day. Thank the Lord for His hand of protection.
- Please send a note to your child's teacher when others are taking your child from school. Also, if there are changes in carpools, let us know by phone or note.
- Teachers are working to promote independence and responsibility. Please help by allowing your child to walk in the classroom and put away supplies. Encourage them to do this in a timely manner. It always helps to have responsibilities at home for you to gauge how your child is doing in this area.
- PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE YOUR CAR IN THE FIRE LANE IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL AT ANY TIME.
- We have changed 3 front parking spaces for your convenience marked for 15 minutes.

This should be especially helpful if you are picking up a child for an appointment, dropping off a lunch, etc. (15 minutes only). We must keep the fire lane free of traffic for the safety of all our students. If you are going to be here for an extended amount of time, please park in the upper lot, the gravel lot or any empty regular spot in the area around the flag pole.

- Class fieldtrips or athletic teams traveling during the school day within 30 minutes of drop-off time; will exit from the back of the lunchroom. If you are traveling with the group, please pull to the back of the school. This helps to keep traffic flowing smoothly at the front of the building. Fieldtrips should return to the back of the building when arriving close to pick-up time. Parents transporting students should pull to the back of the school so that returning students are not entangled with exiting students. This creates an unsafe situation for all.
- In the winter months, send appropriate attire for recess. Label gloves, scarves & coats with your child's name. Students will go outside everyday the weather permits.

RE-ENROLLMENT Begins Feb. 1- March 1

Each Family will receive a re-enrollment packet on Monday, February 1. Data forms on each current student at HCA are inside along with annual medical, tuition and enrollment contract forms. Please double-check all data, and correct errors (where necessary) on each child including any address changes, email addresses emergency contacts, allergies, etc. When all information is correct, sign the bottom of the sheet to verify completion. Please do not put "same as last year" or "same as sibling" on any form as these are copied and go separately into each child's classroom. Then

return all the completed forms for your family in one envelope to the HCA office.

If you would like to enroll a child who did not attend HCA during the 2010-2011 school year, please fill out a complete application (i.e. new student, homeschool, etc.). If you need additional new-student applications, please contact the office. Keep in mind that older siblings who were pulled out of HCA for any reason (including home-schooling) are not guaranteed a spot in next year's enrollment, and should be re-enrolled as a new student, filling out a complete application. Younger siblings (of current families) who are entering Preschool, TK, or Kindergarten for the first time are included in the re-enrollment process, and will get first priority in those classes. Remember; call the office if you have any questions or concerns. If your family is in need of financial assistance you must contact Angela Hull. Even if you have had financial assistance in the past, every year it is a re-evaluation system and must be applied for again, it does not automatically renew. The deadline is May 1st for financial assistance.



We as an Administrative Staff would like to take this opportunity to thank PTF, the Board, all the parents, and students for their kind and thoughtful gifts at Christmas this year. Your generosity, as always, is so overwhelming to us. The Christmas Staff/Teacher luncheon was delicious and the atmosphere absolutely fantastic! Thank you again from all of us and may God richly bless you and HCA in this New Year.

*Mr. Robinson, Mrs. Peeler, Mr. Maier,
Mrs. Keller, Mrs. Featherstone, Mrs. Hull,
Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Lambert, Mrs. Swink,
HCA Teachers, and Maintenance Crew*

A Word From Your Upper Grade Administrator-

Recently, I was caught off guard at an HCA basketball game when a parent asked me about the biggest struggles of my position as an administrator. This is not a question that I am accustomed to so I had to think a minute before responding. I work with a supportive, caring group of parents, respectful children and teachers who truly love their students. I work in an atmosphere cloaked in prayer and surrounded by brothers and sisters in Christ who truly seek to honor the Lord. I am able to address life issues with your children from a Biblical perspective. I have been moved to the brink of tears observing classes where teachers passionately present the truth of scripture to your children.

So where are the struggles? Thankfully, my primary struggle is in the very place where it should be: not discipline issues but in working to create an environment that is honoring to Christ. I speak of an environment where students can receive a classical education that is not simply baptized by a daily prayer or chapel service, but where God's truths inculcate every subject. That is where a Christian education truly becomes Christian- when students are trained to view the world through the lens of God's truth. Satan fears this very thing- the training up of children who are persuasive in their speech and unwavering in their faith. That is who our ultimate struggle is against- for scripture tells us that "we battle not against flesh and blood, but against the principalities of darkness". That is why our school and our lives must be bathed in prayer!

So at mid year I stand committed to work toward becoming the best school that we can possibly be for the glory of God. Thank you for your prayers and encouragement. Please feel free to contact me with questions, concerns and encouragement as we struggle to Walk Worthy together!

Sincerely,
Mark Maier
Logic/Rhetoric Principal

Spirit Week!!!!

Dear HCA Family,

In case you didn't know, your school has a great athletics program! But in order to be successful, we need your support and enthusiasm. We have designated January 29 to be our annual Homecoming game, and the week preceding to be Homecoming week. To energize the teams and show them that we are behind them, the Cheerleaders and Yearbook Staff will be sponsoring Spirit Week – One full week of wacky events to get us out of our normal routine and into being true Knights-backers. Each day will have a crazy theme in which all students may participate. You will notice that some of the days have changed from the past to make it interesting. Should any student not wish to participate, they will simply attend school in their normal school uniform. The Spirit Week days are as follows:

Monday, Jan. 25 – Career Day.

Doctors, Lawyers, Professionals, Waitresses, Cashiers, Factory Workers, etc. Choose your profession, and dress the part!

Tuesday, Jan. 26 – Camo / Animal Prints / Super Hero Day.

Students may wear camouflage or dress in animal prints on this day as usual, but an added twist allows you to choose your favorite super hero. So, to all Batman, Spiderman, Superman, and Green Lantern fans, feel free to be the hero for a day.

Wednesday, Jan. 27 – Twin Day.

Find a friend and dress as twins. Triplets, Quads, and Quints are fine too!

Thursday, Jan. 28 – Retro Day / Tacky Day

Students may wear styles from the 60's, 70's, 80' etc. or tacky combinations.

Friday, Jan. 29 – Blue & Gold Day

Students may wear any HCA athletic wear, PE clothing, or combinations of navy blue, white, and gold. Nice jeans are allowed.



These days are meant to be fun and we would like to continue this tradition for future years. Please do not take advantage of this opportunity by wearing anything inappropriate, immodest, or controversial. Teachers and administrators have permission to ask any student to change clothes or remove certain items of clothing for any reason. Full cooperation by parents, students, and staff is necessary to make this week a success. With that said, let the wackiness begin!

HCA games to watch during Spirit Week:

- Jan. 25 Boys' Blue Team / Boys' & Girls' Gold Team vs. St. John's (HOME)
- Jan. 26 Boys' Blue Team vs. First Assembly (HOME)
- JV Boys, Varsity Boys & Girls vs. New Manna (Away)
- Jan. 28 Boys' & Girls' Gold Team vs. St. Mark (Away)
- Jan. 29 JV Boys, Varsity Boys & Girls vs. Tri-City (HOMECOMING GAME)

**Hot Dog! It's Homecoming!
Friday, January 29th 2010**

**HCA v/s Tri-City
(HCA Gym)**

**Hot Dog Dinner 4:30-6:30
\$3.50**

(Includes hot dog, drink, chips, beans, and dessert)

**Jan. 29 Game Times
4:00-JV Boys
5:00-Varsity Girls
6:00-Varsity Boys**

Prizes & Other events planned
Free throw exhibition with
HCA's Administration during
halftime

Come out with the whole family
and support your Knights!!!