

Hickory Christian Academy

THE SHIELD

“Celebrating 14 years of excellence in Classical Christian Education”

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Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth. – Psalm 127:4

Dear HCA Family,

The Bible is full of directional statements for us as we live life here on earth. It reveals truth from every angle, and often opens our eyes to see things through God's perspective when we would otherwise miss out. As someone who saturates himself in children every day, I am very interested to see what the Bible has to say about how we should raise children. Most folks are familiar with the scripture, “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” (Prov. 22:6). Every authentic Christian parent would agree in principle with this proverb, but few of us know intrinsically how to make it come to pass. We all want children who will not depart from the way they should go, but how do we develop such children?

Well, unfortunately there is no magic formula. Since God has created every child in a unique way, we must approach every child in a unique way. Yet, since God has created every child with distinct similarities, we must also have a consistent approach that will work for them all. Whatever the method we use, scripture is clear on the purpose of children in our lives.

Psalm 127 begins with the statement, “Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it”. Any effort I make to build a home environment for my children is a total waste of time unless it is in submission to God. Notice that it does not say, “Unless the Lord *helps me* build the house...” As parents, we often toil over our children, scraping and planning for their well-being, and we only use God as a bailout when things are

not working well. It must be God building the house, not me. And if He builds it, then the foundation is secure, and I am working for Him, *on behalf of my children*, instead of working for my children or myself alone.

The main components of this submissive home building process are prayer and scripture. God has blessed us by revealing His word to us through the Bible. At HCA, every family has agreed that the Bible is the perfect inerrant word of God. There are no mistakes in its pages, and it can be trusted in every situation for guidance. This is why Jesus said “apart from Me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5). In other words, without the perfect word of God, we are relying on faulty information, and heading down a path of destruction. I find such comfort in the fact that I know my Redeemer lives and that His word is truth yesterday, today, and forever. On top of that, Jesus tells us “And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.” (Matt. 21:22).

So, if we want our kids to enter adulthood knowing the truth, and having the power to receive the blessings of God, it will come through submission to God in the home, and allowing the Lord to build the house. Every one of us wants our children to avoid the trials and traps we encountered in adolescence and young adulthood. The only way to provide that for them is to train them up when they are young.

As Psalm 127 continues, it tells us that children are a gift of the Lord, and even a reward to us from God (vs. 3). When you give a gift to someone, you plan for them to appreciate it, cherish

it, and use it in some effective way. God expects the same of us as we raise and educate our children. So, how does He want me to use my children? Verse four gives us some great insight. "Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth". It is easy to blink as I read this sentence and miss the deep meaning within.

Our children are like *arrows*. What do we do with arrows? The main purpose of an arrow is to cause damage to the enemy. But in order to inflict any harm, an arrow must be sharpened, right? America's churches are producing Nerf Arrow Children by the millions. They kind of look like an arrow. They can be shot like an arrow. But as far as harming the enemy? Not quite. Our goal at HCA is to produce sharpened arrows through our children. We want them to become dangerous to the spiritual enemies out there in the world, and actually cause some damage. This means that they will have to be carefully crafted with a straight shaft and a sharpened tip. Again, this comes through an intimate knowledge of God's word, and a proper worldview of how to put this knowledge to use.

Sometimes arrows come out right the first time, but often, they have to be crafted over and over again, until they are just right for battle. The head of the arrow must be melted into shape under intense heat and the shaft must be carefully cut and sanded to that it is perfectly straight and free of hindrances to its flight. This doesn't sound too much like the modern idea of over-protecting our children to shield them from the world. This is one of the reasons that HCA has chosen to endorse a Classical Christian Education. It is not easy. You have to work for it. Along the way, you may feel like you are being melted, cut, and sanded. But, if done correctly, the end result is not only beautiful, but very dangerous.

This spring, another sixteen students will graduate from this school and head out into the world. My prayer is that they would be much more than an over-protected bunch of Christian kids who happen to pray before meals and deny the theory of evolution. May God use them in a mighty way to inflict damage on the world around us that is in ever-increasing rebellion against the Lord. The world is a much different place for our children than it was for us. The onslaught of non-Biblical words, images, and ideas is overwhelming, and unless we have some really sharp arrows in our quiver, we are going to lose this battle. Thank you so much for your dedication to the Lord, for your choice to sacrifice something else in life so that your kids could attend HCA, and for your efforts to join us in sharpening

these precious arrows who grow up a house that the Lord has built. May we be in total submission to Him, and may He abundantly bless our efforts to serve Him through how we raise our children. And, when it comes time to shoot these arrows into the world, may they fly true and strike the target every time.

In Christ,

Tracy Robinson
Headmaster

CALENDAR REMINDERS

- March 4 OPEN HOUSE**
8-11 8th grade to Washington
15-18 5th grade to Williamsburg
15 Kirk Martin
18 End of 3rd Quarter
19 Teacher Workday
15-19 Teacher Appreciation Week
25 Report Cards go out
25-31 Senior Trip to Puerto Rico
29,30,31 Stanford Achievement Test for grades 3rd -11th early dismissal at 12:00 noon each day for all students NO LUNCH
- April 2-9 EASTER HOLIDAYS-no school**
12 Students report back to school
16 Piedmont percussion 10:30
23 Knights of the Round table Brkfst
25-29 10th grade to Philadelphia
28 4th Mid-quarter
30 ½ day early dismissal 12:00
30 Knight's Night (11th/12th grade)

Staff/Faculty Birthdays

- February 21 Charissa Loftin**
March 3 Lee Huffstetler
16 Amy Saine
23 Mark Maier
23 Stephanie Case
26 Anne Dwyer
April 11 Debbie Preachers
12 John Brown
22 Jennifer Collins, Denise Lehman, Michelle Rafferty

Box Tops for Education and Tyson Project A+ News

“Trash into Cash” Fundraising News:

January was a REALLY good month for Box Tops submissions! Our total January collection was **4,472** Box Tops, or **\$447.20** for HCA. All but 2 classrooms were represented. Let’s shoot for 100% of the classrooms to participate in February, our last month counting towards our goal of \$3,400 for the current school year. The submission deadline is Tuesday, February 23rd, and we’ve got just another \$1,180.90 to go to earn our school-wide ice cream party!! Our prize winners for January are: **Liam O’Neal** in TK, and **Graham Huffman**, in Mrs. Smith’s 5th grade. The traveling trophy goes to **Mrs. Preachers’ First Grade classroom**. Congratulations!

We also collected **7** Tyson Project A+ labels.

Please still consider linking your Harris Teeter VIC card to HCA. We currently have 85 cards linked, while we’ve had over 90 the last 2 years. And if you have a Target Visa or REDcard, please link it to HCA also. We currently have 21 cards linked, and this program typically earns several hundred dollars for HCA each year.

Campbell’s submissions totaled **449** points this month! The traveling trophy goes to **Mrs. Smith’s 5th grade** class. Our prize winners are **Austin Walker** in Mrs. Owensby’s 2nd grade and **Evan Rhodes** in Mrs. Smith’s 5th grade. Thank you for your support!

Scrip News

We are off and running with Scrip orders. Our first week’s orders totaled \$2,192! That is a pretty awesome way to get up and going. As you know, if you place your order online at www.shopwithscrip.com, your name will be entered in a weekly drawing for a \$10 gift card. The winners from February 8th through March 15th are:

Susan Bell, Jackie Griffin, Karen Tysinger, Amy Roberts, and Delane Mitchell! Congratulations, ladies! I hope you enjoyed your prize!

I want to encourage everyone to try Scrip for their daily expenses, such as gas for your cars, groceries, eating out, and shopping that you know you’ll need to do. My family has found that the Scrip cards work very well in helping us plan ahead for expenses and stay on budget.

Another HCA family tells me they are preparing for their uniform expenses for next fall by ordering a \$25 Lands End card each week to “store up” for the costs of the uniforms. A Statesville scrip mom says this is a good way for her to provide gas & snack “money” for her teenager. She orders a

variety of fast food & gas scrip and helps her teen learn budget his money with the cards. It cuts down on the “Mom... can I borrow \$10 bucks” question!

Scrip order forms are available in the Office. You will also find a link for the order form and the online ordering at www.HickoryChristianAcademy.com. Please call me if you have any questions at 324-5405 or after school at 612-2473. Thanks so much!

Hike for Wadupe

From April to May—450 miles for 450 children. Josh Sigmon is hiking 450 miles of the Appalachian Trail to raise money for a new school in Sudan. The school is being built to benefit 450 students of grades 1-7. Josh is raising money and awareness for an organization called “Why The Woods”, started by Billy Riddle Jr. a student and former football player at Appalachian State University. “Why The Woods” is working to aid village of Wadupe in Southern Sudan that was devastated by the Sudan Civil War. In 2009 “Why The Woods” drilled two fresh water wells to benefit the 6000 children and adults of Wadupe and also held many hygiene seminars. Their next project is to rebuild the village school that is currently made of mud and grass. The school is falling apart because of the heavy rains and termites. The students cram into two small huts with holes in the ceilings and walls. Other students are forced to have class in the blistering sun underneath Mango trees. Why The Woods wants to help this village rebuild a bigger, stronger school and train 14 teachers so the children will have a better education and a better future. Please consider supporting Josh Sigmon on his venture into the woods of the Appalachian Trail in order to help children in Sudan.

More Information on the ‘Help me Live/Help me Read’ Project visit: www.whythetwoods.org
More information on the Hike for Wadupe visit us on facebook: www.facebook.com/

Or Go online to Whythetwoods.org and make an online donation!

Former
Alumni 2009
Josh Sigmon’s
Project for the
Children of Sudan





Check out the HCA Athletics for Spring
BASEBALL,
SOCCER & GOLF
Schedules

The Basketball Season has ended and we want to thank all the coaches, players and parents who helped make this season such a success!! Below is a summary of the teams finishing season accomplishments from our AD – Toby Tate.

The Boys Blue team won the CCISAA JV Tournament and finished 13-0 regular season and tournament champions. This is the first undefeated basketball season at HCA. They beat First Assembly 41-28 in the semi finals and beat St John 35-16 for the championship. The Blue averaged 35 points per game while limiting their opposing teams to just under 18 points per game. The Blue Team was coached by Robert Broome.

The Gold team boys finished the season 10-8, 3rd in the Western Conference and won the CCISAA Consolation Bracket Championship finishing 5th place in the tournament. They defeated Community Baptist 50-17 to make it to the consolation finals and then defeated St John 41-27 for the championship. The Gold team was coached by Steve Smith and assisted by Mike Sowers and Bryan Starnes.

The high school junior varsity boys also completed a successful season finishing 5-6 but developing a solid group of starters and contributors for next year's varsity and junior varsity teams. The team was coached by Jimmy Mitchell

The Varsity Boys finished the season as Co-Champions of the Mountain Region and were seeded #2 for region championship after losing the deciding coin toss. However, the team defeated Tri City Friday night in a snow storm 65-58 and defeated New Manna Christian 38-34 in overtime to claim HCA very first Mountain Region Boys Tournament Championship. The team traveled to Fayetteville to face Fellowship Christian from Durham and lost 27-45. They finished in the top 8 teams in the NCCSA 2-A division with a 9-7 record overall, 5-1 in the conference. The team was coached by Robert Colbert and assisted by TJ Tipps.

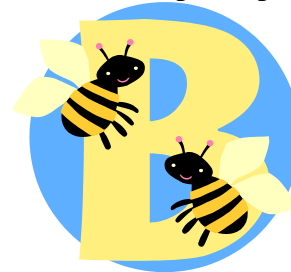
The Varsity Girls finished the season as Mountain Region runner up and were seeded #2 in the Mountain Region Tournament played at Tri City in Conover. The girls defeated Tri City on Friday night and upset #1 seed New Manna on Saturday 33-25 avenging two earlier season

losses to claim the schools very first girls Mountain Region Tournament Champions. The team traveled to Fayetteville to face #2 seed Sheets Memorial and were upset in their first round game. The team finished in the top 8 teams in the NCCSA 2-A division. The team was coached by Bryan Starnes and assisted by JP Jones.

Re-enrollment update:

Upon counting our re-enrollment numbers, we had almost 96% of our current students re-enroll for next year. This is certainly exciting news in an economy that continues to struggle. In addition, we had 24 prospective families visit the school for our annual **Open House** on March 4. Thank you to each family who has chosen to continue your child's education at HCA and to those who sacrificed your morning to help us with Open House. Please continue to pray that God will have His way, and that HCA will have the perfect number of students, families, and teachers to meet His will for us next year.

Congratulations to HCA's Spelling Bee Winner-Reilly Geibhards in Mr. Brown's 4th grade, and to all our classroom participants! .



LEGO ROBOTICS

At the end of 2009, we held a few informational meetings regarding Lego Robotics. We were encouraged by the number of students and parents that expressed interest in potentially participating in this program. Hopeful that the program would begin this semester, that will not be case. We would like to continue pursuing this venture in the form of an after school activity as we begin the 2010-2011 school year. Information will be forth coming as details are finalized. I apologize for the lack of communication in the wake of our meetings.

Sincerely,
Mark Maier
Logic/Rhetoric Principal



Rediscovering Our Roots

When Athens Met Jerusalem

January 11, 2010

“What has Athens to do with Jerusalem?”

That famous question was asked by the church father Tertullian, some 20 centuries ago. He was trying to make the point that the philosophy of the Greeks and the theology of the Christians were incompatible. But Tertullian may have had it wrong, in part. As Dr. John Mark Reynolds of Biola University points out, “The very Greek language that the early Christians used to communicate their message was soaked in centuries of classical thought. Trying to pry Athens and Jerusalem apart usually led to inconsistency and heresy.”

Even Tertullian himself, Reynolds says, “echoed Greek philosophy on nearly every page” of his writings, whether he was aware of it or not! But to this day, for many people—including many Christians—the old tension between theology and philosophy, between faith and reason, still exists. So Reynolds’ new book, [*When Athens Met Jerusalem: An Introduction to Classical and Christian Thought*](#), is an attempt to show not only that faith and reason can co-exist, but that they need each other to survive. Reynolds writes, “Jerusalem gave the world truth; Athens gave it a valid way to express that truth. Out of this creative harmony came the classical Christian civilizations that shaped most of the world in which we live.”

In his position as a Christian writer and educator, Reynolds sees it as his mission to help restore that “creative harmony” that will allow both faith and reason to thrive in a world so desperately needing them.

Much of the book, therefore, is spent studying the classical roots of Western culture.

Reynolds takes us on a tour of Greek philosophy from the pre-Socratic thinkers, through Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle, all the way to the groups who were present on Mars Hill to hear the apostle Paul make his famous speech there.

In many ways, all of Greek philosophy, in its long search for truth and enlightenment, was leading up to

that moment. It was Christianity, Reynolds says, that answered the questions the philosophers had not been able to answer.

Though not all of his listeners accepted Paul’s teachings, Paul demonstrated there in the center of Greek learning and culture that the Christian faith “had the intellectual and moral energy that paganism and philosophy had lost.” The stage was set for Christianity’s triumph over pagan thought.

Dr. Reynolds argues that it’s critically important for Christians to know at least something about this history. I agree. Rodney Stark, in his great book *The Victory of Reason*, argues that Christianity rescued reason, a point I make in my book *The Faith*. This is also why I so strongly support Christian and classical schools. Although there are dangers in philosophy unchecked by Christian worldview, there are also great rewards when the reader has a “mental interaction with the Bible,” as Dr. Reynolds puts it. “Wicked ideas in the ancients illuminate the power of Scripture. True ideas in the ancients expand the world presented in the Bible or illuminate in a fresh way truths already present there,” he wrote.

When Athens Met Jerusalem makes a powerful case for learning all we can about how these ideas interacted to shape our world, our thinking, and our faith. You can get this, and the other books I’ve mentioned, at our bookstore at [BreakPoint.org](#).