

Hickory Christian Academy

THE SHIELD

“Celebrating 14 years of excellence in Classical Christian Education”

Volume 12 Issue 8

May - 2009

For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. - Romans 8:5-8

Dear HCA Family,

I have noticed an interesting trend in America lately. Maybe you have seen it as well. For years, we have been told by the media and by the government that education is the key to success for our nation. NBC consistently pushes the slogan, “The more you know...” during commercial breaks. When I was a child, we were nowhere near the current national emphasis on early childhood education, year-end testing, AP classes, and college acceptances. It is not an exaggeration to say that the average American believes that the top priority in raising children is to ensure they get into a quality college. This emphasis has increased in the past few years because we are told that children overseas are scoring higher on standardized tests than our kids. This must mean that American education is poor, and that we must do everything we can to overcome this perceived deficit.

So, in comes the white knight from Washington (partnered with the red knight from Raleigh ☺) to save the day. If we add more

college-level courses in high school, and if we let kids start school when they are two years old, and if we test everyone to the nth degree to make sure they attain some arbitrary standard, then we will make real progress, right? This has been going on for many years now, and the results are basically the same. Does anyone out there really believe that the quality of education has improved since you were a kid?

In recent months, a series of events has caused the top evening news headline to change. No longer is educational reform the answer to our problems. Now, the key is the economy. The stock market has been plunging, people are losing their jobs, and the easy way of life that we had enjoyed a decade ago is rapidly disappearing. Again, Washington has the answer. We have a new president with new ideas. We have bailout money going to failing corporations. The government is even taking control of some of these companies to ensure that they are run efficiently (or at least as efficiently as the government...). If our elected leaders will just come up with a great plan, everything will be OK, right?

Today, we are facing the biggest challenge yet...the Swine Flu. With a whopping 0.00006% of the American population infected, we are cancelling public activities, closing schools, and wearing masks out in public. All this is true in spite of the fact that the swine flu is treated the same way that any other strand of flu is treated. This time it is another government agency, the CDC, who will protect us. If we will simply listen to their guidelines, and follow their directions, we will be

saved from this newest threat to our American way of life.

Please forgive me because I know that I am coming across (intentionally) sarcastically, and I don't want to completely downplay the importance of each of these issues. Obviously, I believe that a quality education is very important for my children, as well as for yours. My heart breaks for those of you who are reading this, who have lost jobs, suffered reduced income, or had your job situation in jeopardy in the past year. And there is no doubt that it would be miserable to have the swine flu, and I certainly hope that it is contained in the near future (It is important to realize, however, that the symptoms and treatment for the Swine Flu are virtually identical to that of any other strand of flu that we face every year). But the point I want to make is that we are being conditioned by the secular world to place our faith in everything but the God of the Bible.

We need to exercise extreme caution in placing all our trust in the government, the medical field, or the educational system to bring us success or protection. There is a slow fade within the American Christian world right now that is bringing us to a new level of spiritual compromise. We seem to have such a desire to live for God, but still be up to date on all the Hollywood gossip, new network programming, and latest fashion trends. We want to be a Christian, but not so different from the world that anyone would notice. The secular world wants us to trust their system. They want us to believe that the government and agencies have all the solutions to all our problems. And as we slowly buy into that line of thinking, we begin to believe that we can live a successful, fulfilling life apart from the presence of God.

In John 15:5, Jesus said, "apart from Me you can do nothing". And yet an entire generation of believers, who claim that scripture is literal, choose to educate children apart from Jesus, financially support their family apart from Jesus, and fight sickness apart from Jesus (among hundreds of other examples). It is time that we take a stand and make a decision that Jesus was telling the truth, and that if we will make Him our first priority, and not our last resort, He will give us the desires of our hearts. As Americans, we are not immune from the trials of life. We can lose our jobs, we can get sick, and we can live in ignorance. The solution to our problems does not lie in Washington, nor in Raleigh. The

answer is spiritual. True success in life involves faith, hope, and love. It is not found in worry, stress, and fear.

So, while we certainly do face some real obstacles in our nation today, and while we should be concerned about these things, the fact is that our hope is in Christ alone. If the government and educational agencies are to experience success, it will be because of Jesus, not in spite of Him. If those who are called by His name will humble themselves and pray and seek the face of God and turn from our wicked ways, then He has promised to hear us, forgive our sin, and heal this land. That is an awesome promise from an awesome God. But, it is initiated by the actions of a faithful few. May we be the generation who makes a difference, by trusting in God, and not in man (Acts 5:29).

As a family of believers, let's commit to training our children to believe that it is OK to be different. It is OK to know more scripture than secular music lyrics. It is OK to admire David, Joseph, Moses, Esther and Ruth more than popular actors, singers, and entertainers. It is OK to devote my life to God's perfect plan even when it flies in the face of secular "wisdom". May the students at HCA have a different aroma than the students of the world. May they have a boldness to resist temptation and to submit to truth. May they have a desire to make a difference, and not to just blend into society. May they live a life of faith, hope and love. This is my desire for my children and for the children of this school. I hope you join me in the pursuit of this vision.

I look forward to walking this path of faith with each of you as we continue the ministry of HCA under the watchful eye of our Lord. God bless you this summer! Call me if you need anything.

In Christ,

Tracy Robinson
Headmaster

| |
|---------------------------|
| CALENDAR REMINDERS |
|---------------------------|

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| May | |
| 11-15 | Senior Thesis presentation week |
| 12 | 5th Grade End of Year Play 9:00 HCA gym |
| 14 | 6th Grade Greek Play 7:00 pm |

- 15 Knight's Night – Junior/Senior
- 18 Varsity Athletic Banquet 6:00 pm
Dinner will be provided free – reservations must be made by May 11- call the office for more details
- 19 JV Athletic Awards – dinner will not be provided – desserts and drinks only – reservations must be made by May 11 – call the office for more details
- 22 Field Day –Early Dismissal 12:00
- 25 Memorial Day Holiday-no school
- 28 Kindergarten Graduation 7:00 pm
- 29 Graduation Class of 2009 -7:00 pm

- June 2 Chapel 9:00 Grammar E.O.Y. Program 1st-5th grade
- June 3 Last Day of School – early dismissal 12:00 Awards Day –Chapel-9:00 6th-12th

Daily Schedule for Exams 8th-11th Grade May 29- June 2nd

- Session 1 - 8:00-9:50
- Break 9:50-10:10
- Session 2 - 10:10-12:00

Friday –May 29

1st Period/2nd Period Exams

Monday- June 1st

3rd period, 4th period exams 9th-11th -- 7th period (8th)

Tuesday-June 2nd

5th period/6th period

Due to an oversight, LUNCH WILL NOT BE PROVIDED BY PIEDMONT VENDING ON THURSDAY, MAY 14TH. PLEASE PACK A LUNCH FOR YOUR CHILD.

As I end my 11th school year here, I want to praise our heavenly Father for the blessing He continues to place on HCA. The plan the Lord has for His school is much bigger and better than any of us can imagine. This is evident as I think about the part of my job that relates to admissions. To be quite honest with you, I was bracing myself for what would and could happen to HCA because of the slump in our economy. I've prayed without ceasing that God continue the good work He started here over 14 years ago. Even in this economy, Christ is still on the throne! People are still showing interest in enrolling here. I think I've actually talked to as many people over the last year about HCA enrollment as the number that was enrolled when I first came to teach here. Remarkable!

God continues to show us that His school is here to raise strong soldiers for Him. It is not about our number of students, our scores or our plans. Those things are important though. Consistent enrollment, good grades and quality employees are a result of God's provision...not our worthiness. For none of us is worthy. This school is all about HIM! Only our Heavenly Father is worthy of the praise for the constant light this school is in a dark world.

I always share with prospective parents: "We know we are not perfect; but, we know the perfect one." And, only through Christ can we educate His children and partner together to help each child reach their full potential. That potential is God's plan for them, not ours. Sometimes, we believe we are supposed to tell children what they should be as they grow up. Scripturally, we are to equip them to walk in His ways and follow His lead. Through encouragement and faithfulness we develop our maturity. My prayer is that each person leaves HCA understanding His plan for them and has the skills to follow through with that plan.

A part of God's plan is for children to apprentice for the first part of their life. Parents and teachers need to be good role models in this process. It is crucial that the people who oversee our children have personal Holiness. I feel so tremendously blessed to work with the quality of people serving the Lord at HCA. I want to say thank you to each board member and each parent for allowing me to serve the Lord at His school. I've been in many educational settings over my lifetime. Most of you do not have experience with other places of education. I want to testify that Hickory Christian Academy is beyond a blessing. I can't even express how God has, and is growing this place to His glory. I just needed to express my thankfulness for His gift to me.

Blessings for a wonderful summer!
Connie Peeler
Grammar Principal

LIBRARY NEWS

The Library will close on Thursday, May 21st. Please be sure to turn in all library books to the Library by that day. Thank you to Delane Mitchell, Wanda Thompson and all our Library Volunteers!!

THANK YOU!!

All Volunteer Coaches and Assistants
HCA Booster Club
Athletic Committee
All PTF Reps.
Piedmont Vending
All Lunch Volunteers
All Library Volunteers
All Math Superstar Volunteers
All Fundraising Volunteers
i.e. example HCA 5K,
Golf Tournament, Coupon Books,
Holiday Gift Show, Chickfila, (Restaurants)
Field Trips, Uniform Sale, Yard Sale and many more...
All Parent Volunteers, (i.e. recess, reading, tutoring)
All HCA Assistant Teachers
All Substitute Teachers
All Party Classroom Volunteers
All Field Trip Chaperones and Drivers
All Bus Drivers
All HCA Teachers and Staff
All Prayer Committees
All Student Volunteers
All Board Members
All Capital Campaign
All Finance Committee
All Volunteers for-pick up, delivery, set-up, breakdown,
closet organizers, picture hangers, window washers,
dishwashers, trash carriers, classroom treat purchasers, and on
and on.....

Hickory Christian Academy can not operate solely on the effort of principals, teachers, and office staff. It takes over 300 parent volunteers working alongside faculty and staff as a team in order to be successful. God has richly blessed HCA with loving parents who truly have servant hearts. **HCA raised \$4500 at our recent YARD SALE!!!** Thank you for all you do and may God richly bless you!

MATH SUPERSTARS

Greetings from the Math Superstars corner! We have had another terrific year of learning, encouraging many more math superstars! There has been good participation from students and many days of great help from our volunteers. **THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!** If we continue in a positive attitude toward learning, even some new ways, our students will find it more enjoyable and interesting as well.

We are seeking a co-manager to help Julie Rhodes with the store preparations for next school year. If you like to shop and/or like to set-up/organize stores on a very small scale, you will enjoy this position. Contact Julie Rhodes (381-3856) or Karen

Tysinger (493-0574) to inquire or volunteer and we will update you with specifics.

Thanks again to all our volunteers, and have a safe, fun summer!

Karen Tysinger

Board Nominees

Board nominations

The HCA school board is looking for spiritually strong leaders to fill the three vacant spots on next year's board. Denise Lehman, Dennis Kevitt and Kelly Duncan will complete their three year term in June, and we will be electing three new faces onto the board. If you know of someone with a servant's heart, a love for the school, and a love for the Lord, we are currently accepting nominations for new board members. Board members must be parents of HCA students who have completed at least two years at the school. The board meets one evening every month to discuss the current climate and future vision for Hickory Christian Academy, and to direct the administration accordingly. According to HCA policy, a school parent may be nominated for the board by petition of 10 or more current HCA parents. If you are interested, or if you know of someone who would make a great board member, please contact Andy Puryear, Mr. Robinson, or any current board member.

The current Board Members are:

Andy Puryear- Chairman
Beverly Peterson
Gardy Munoz
Josh Walker
John delCharco
John Perry



ATHLETICS

- May 18 Varsity Athletic Banquet 6:00 pm**
Dinner will be provided free –
reservations must be made by May 11-
call the office for more details
- 19 JV Athletic Awards – dinner will not be**
provided – desserts and drinks only –
reservations must be made by May 11 –
call the office for more details

Cheerleading tryouts, Saturday, May 16th 9:00-3:00 for 5th-12th Grade HCA Gym – Sign-up in HCA office.

Summer Camps are now being put in place for all our athletic teams. Please look at the dates below and check with the school office for handouts if you are interested.



HCA Baseball Camp for boy & girls ages 5-17

with Catawba Valley Stars June 16-19

HCA Summer Cheer Camp

June 24-26 Preschool-5th grade 9:00-12:00/1:00-4:00

Volleyball Camp-Lenior Rhyne 8th-11th Girls

July 12th-15th

Volleyball Camp-7th-8th

July 7-10 –Wofford College in Spartanburg

Varsity Boys Basketball Camp at HCA

June 22-26 4:00-8:00 pm

Varsity Boys Soccer Camp

August 3rd-8th

Congratulations to alumnus Shannon Gregory who made the Tarheel Conference all-academic team for volleyball at CVCC.

Greek Play

The 6th grade will be performing its annual Greek plays in the H.C.A. Gym on Thursday evening, May 14th at 7:00 pm. The public is welcome and admission is free. The show usually lasts about 45 minutes and is filled with non-stop action- complete with three-headed dogs, vultures, gods and goddesses. Young children especially find the plays quite entertaining. This a fun family event. We hope you can attend.

TRASH FOR CASH

“Trash into Cash” Fundraising News:

In April we brought in another **1,216** Box Tops, for another **\$121.60** towards next year’s goal (official goal figure TBA). And the **school wide ice cream sandwich party** will be held **Thursday, May 14** as the reward for exceeding \$2,800 in Box Tops proceeds for the current school year. You won’t want to miss it!

Please keep sending in those beautiful Box Tops through the end of May, as they’ll still count for the monthly classroom trophy and random drawings, and get us even closer to our goal for next year. Remember that many of them expire 6/1/09, so no hoarding until next school year! However, we do ask you all to continue to collect your Box Tops through the summer. We just LOVE the windfall of Box Tops emblems in August, as everyone brings in their summer stashes!

Our prize winners for April are: **Ean Swink, Julia Robinson, and Ana DeCoe**. The traveling trophy goes to **Mrs. Young’s Kindergarten** classroom. Congratulations! We also collected **62** milk caps and **6** Tyson Project A+ labels. Keep sending in Harris Teeter and Hunter Farms milk caps through the end of May, but this is the last year that that program is being offered by Harris Teeter. However, we will continue to participate in the Tyson program, so eat lots of chicken nuggets through the summer and bring in those red labels next school year, too! Also, we have begun collecting plastic shopping bags from grocery stores, etc. to earn money for HCA. By recycling them through Harris Teeter, we can earn up to \$1,000. Look for the cardboard bin outside the school store to drop off your bags.

My School is Cool has several events happening this month include the Triple Point Food Court purchases on every Tuesday & Thursday. We can earn Triple Shopping Points on May 8 – 10th for each of your purchases in the mall and at Bed, Bath & Beyond, HH Gregg, Buffalo Wild Wings and Asian Wild Wok. Thanks for all your help earning points for HCA!

Lastly, don’t forget about our programs through Food Lion, Target, and Office Depot through the summer. Food Lion’s special promotion for May is: buy 5 boxes of Nature Valley or Fiber One granola bars and get 20 Bonus Box Tops printed with your receipt at checkout. Give it a try!

HCA has joined My Coke Rewards! What is this and how does it work? You simply register at www.mycokerewards.com and enter the code from the lids or boxes of Coke products to earn points, then donate the points to HCA. How does this help HCA? We use the points you donate to earn equipment/supplies for the school, which saves us money to use on other necessities.

Participating products include Coke, Diet Coke, Sprite, Dasani, POWERade, Minute Maid Lemonade & Orange Juice, Vault, Pibb Xtra, Fanta, Fresca & Barqs. For all the details, log on to www.mycokerewards.com. You may also call Amy Swink at 324-5405.

Don't throw away those bottle caps or boxes until you've entered your code... every point counts!

-Amy Swink

BREAKING NEWS



Thanks to so many parents asking about Campbell's, HCA will be collecting Campbell's Labels to earn FREE merchandise for our school! Participating in the program is easy — simply save proofs of purchase from participating Campbell products and send them to our school. Some of the products eligible for redemption during the 2009-2010 program year include:

- Campbell's® soups
- SpaghettiOs® Pasta
- Campbell's® beans, gravies, and canned pasta
- Prego® Italian sauces
- Swanson® broths and canned poultry
- Campbell's® tomato juice
- Pepperidge Farm® breads, cookies, crackers, and frozen products
- Campbell's Foodservice products

Campbell's has made it easier for us to reach our collection goals with products worth 5 points!

- 26 varieties of condensed soup in specially marked cans
- All Campbell's® Microwavable Soups
- All Campbell's Supper Bakes® Meal Kits
- All V8 Splash® Beverages
- All V8® Soups
- All Campbell's® Select Harvest™ Soups
- SpaghettiOs® Pasta (Original and Meatball)

Visit labelsforeducation.com for a complete list of eligible products and point values.

Help multiply our efforts by asking your friends and family to collect proofs of purchase on behalf of our school.

Two or three volunteers are needed to help sort, count and bundle the labels...if you have any questions, or would like to help with our *Labels for Education* collection drive, please contact our program coordinator Amy Swink at 828-324-5405. Don't forget to visit labelsforeducation.com for a complete list of participating products and more information about the program.

Thanks so much for your support. Together with *Campbell's Labels for Education* — we can provide needed supplies for our children.

| |
|---------------|
| SENIOR CORNER |
|---------------|

Congratulations to Wade Hartman and Hillary Modlin for being nominated and representing HCA at this year's Catawba County Sports Hall of Fame Banquet.

THANK YOU to this year's Yearbook Staff for all their hard work, and especially to the Senior classmen. The Yearbook is now in production and is expected to arrive in the next few weeks.

Congratulations to our 2009 graduating class who have been accepted to and are planning to attend the following colleges;
 Liz Adams-NC State , Deanna Alrutz- UNC-Chapel Hill, Clement Bilhorn-Wheaton College, Garrett Bolch-Appalachian State, London Dietz-NC State, Seth Hall-NC State, Wade Hartman-CVCC, Liz Johnson- Montreat College, Hillary Modlin- Mars Hill, Jonathan Myer-Gardner Webb, Taylor Shehan-CVCC, Joshua Sigmon- Appalachian State, Erin Sturgess- UNC-Chapel Hill, Taylor Thompson- Elon University

A Word From Mr. Maier

As another school year comes rushing to a close, I would like to take a moment to share. Many of you know that I am completing my first year here at HCA. As the year began last August, I hardly knew what to expect. My paradigm of school was formed from a number of public school experiences over the last 27 years. I recall the first few days of the year as if they were yesterday. Seemingly in a dream, I was overwhelmed by the respect level of the students and the delightful demeanor of staff members. It took a while for me to hit my stride, but once that occurred, I enjoyed the scenery. As the months progressed, I found myself looking forward to coming to work, even after weekends! I found that I was proud to be associated with such a group of students and community of believers that exists at HCA. I have been encouraged by the commitment to Christ, by the faith in action, and by the unabashed selflessness that I have seen demonstrated by so many. Prior to the school year, a former student of HCA told me that, "this was a special place". Over the duration of the year, I have experienced that to be true.

It has been an honor to work with your children and a privilege getting to know a number of you over this past year. Thank you for the support that you have given me as I have transitioned into the HCA family. I look forward to partnering with you in the future to provide a quality and Christ centered education for your children. Have a terrific summer!

Sincerely,
Mark Maier
Logic/Rhetoric Principal

REPORT CARDS

HCA parents may pick up their student's report cards anytime beginning on June 10th, by coming to the HCA office during the summer from 9:00-2:00 Monday-Friday. If you prefer receiving your report card through the mail, we ask that you send \$1.00 to your child's teacher by June 3rd to cover postage cost.

**Kindergarten Graduation
and Preschool-TK End of Year Program
will be held
Thursday, May 28th at 7:00 pm
in the HCA Gym.
Preschool, TK and Kindergarten's
last day of school will be Thursday, May 28th.**

GRAMMAR CLASS AWARDS

Individual class **awards reservations** in HCC Sanctuary as follows:

Wed. May 20 8:15-9:15 Brown/Phillips 4th grade
Tues. May 26 8:15-9:15 Whitesides/ Kniskern 3rd
12:20-1:50 Smith/Sietz 5th grade
Wed. May 27 11:00-12:00 Hunter/TK
12:20-1:50 Dwyer/Owensby 2nd grade
Thurs. May 28 9:30-10:30 Harren/Taylor 6th grade
12:20-1:50 Preachers /Jablonski 1st grade

Ministry Need

A current HCA employee is in need of rented living space (apartment, duplex, etc.) for the upcoming year. If you own this type of facility, or if you have connections to one, or if you have insight at all, please contact Mr. Robinson. Keep in mind that the rent should be affordable to a private school employee! Thank you.

The Board of Directors,
Staff and Faculty of
Hickory Christian Academy
invite you to a celebration of
God's faithfulness at the Commencement Exercises of
the
2009 Graduating Class on
Friday, May the twenty nine at seven o'clock
in the evening in the
HCA Gymnasium.

HCA OFFICE SUMMER HOURS

Monday-Friday 9:00-2:00