

Hickory Christian Academy

THE SHIELD

“Celebrating 14 years of excellence in Classical Christian Education”

Volume 13 Issue 1

September- 2009

Dear HCA Family,

Well, the dust is finally settling after the first few weeks of school. Aside from a few minor details, the year has started seamlessly, and I am so excited to see what is in store for us all as we experience 2009-2010 together. Every year, as I think of the number of families (over 200) who have entrusted their own children (about 360 total) to Hickory Christian Academy, I am humbled. Your children are your most treasured possession, so making the decision where they will spend seven hours of each day can be very overwhelming.

When my wife, Gayle, and I first placed our oldest daughter, Kristen, at HCA in 1999, we wanted many things for her (I was simply a parent at the time. I did not become an employee until 2001). But there was one factor that took precedent over all the rest. We wanted our kids to be in an educational setting which supported the key values of our Christian faith and of our family. Too often we were hearing of dedicated Christian parents who were having to “undo” many of the things that their kids were learning at school (in the classroom, as well as socially). We had a desire to offer consistency to our children at

home, church, and school, to reduce confusion in their developing minds.

I was like so many other parents in that I had been led to believe that acceptance into the perfect college was the ultimate goal that we should have for our children. So, what were we doing, placing our daughter in a young, fledgling school, which only went through 6th grade at the time? There were many unanswered questions about curriculum, academic standards, and social climate. Additionally, like most of you, we had attended public schools ourselves, which made the idea of private education foreign to me. I thought that private schools were only for the elite, wealthy population, not for regular folks like us. But as a professional educator in the public school system at the time, I knew that the government’s trend toward socialized education (more government regulations, labor unions for teachers, centralized standardized testing, etc.) was one further step away from parental control over my own children. Our choice to place Kristen (and the rest of our kids) at HCA was a call from God on our family to set ourselves apart from the status quo, and to ensure that they would be educated in a way that we approved of as parents.

No doubt about it, this was a financial stretch for our family. In order to make this happen, we were going to have to sacrifice vacations, new cars, eating out, and even extravagant Christmas and birthday presents. But the longer I considered this decision, the more I realized that this spiritual and educational consistency in my daughter's life was far more important than all these things that are not eternal anyway. So, we took the plunge.

The end result has been far more beautiful than I could have ever anticipated. Hickory Christian Academy has offered us a great spiritual foundation for our kids, just as we thought. But beyond that, it has provided a family of friends who are like-minded with us, and who parent like we parent. So, not only is there consistency between our home and the school, but there is consistency between our home and other homes, so birthday parties, spend-the-night weekends, and social interactions of all kinds are truly exciting instead of stressful.

To top it all off, HCA has begun to stand out in the Hickory area as one of the best quality academic educations around. Of the 43 students who have graduated in the first four ceremonies, 40 applied to attend a 4-year college. The others chose to attend community college immediately after school (which is a great choice, by the way). Of those 40 graduates, every one of them was accepted into the 4-year college of their choice. This means that the thing I thought I may be sacrificing by avoiding the public school option actually increased in probability at HCA. Isn't it just like God to address our fears with unexpected blessings?!?

With Kristen now entering her 11th year at HCA, we are veteran parents at the school. We have seen it grow from infancy to adolescence, and have endured the growing pains with so many of you who are reading these words. To you who took the

chance on a young, unproven school so many years ago, I say "thank you" for your faith and perseverance. On the other hand, if you are one of the families who has recently started at HCA, including the 54 new students this year, I welcome you to come and enjoy what God has put together here. HCA is not (and will never be) perfect, but it has become one of the very special places on earth in my life. It has actually taken me years to see that the "specialness" of this school is far beyond the class work...it is in the people, and the God whom they serve. After a summer of separation, I am thrilled to say to everyone, welcome back to the family! I hope your initial few weeks have been a blessing, and I invite you to give us a call or stop by the office if there is anything we can do for you in the meantime. God bless everyone as we walk this path of consistency together with our children.

Your Servant,
Tracy Robinson
Headmaster

High School Retreat

All 9th – 12th grade students will be dismissed from classes at 10:42 on Friday, September 18 to travel to this year's high school spiritual retreat. 1st – 3rd period will be normal schedule! This year's trip is to Lookup Lodge in Travelers' Rest, SC. We will have devotional and praise and worship music for the weekend. The students will return to HCA around 3:30 on Sunday afternoon, September 20. Each 9th-12th grade student should have received a letter with details of the trip. Please call the office and speak with Tina Keller if you have any questions. All students must complete a LUL Health & Liability release form.

Chapel Begins This Month!

Our formal chapel services will begin on Tuesday, September 1 for all students in Preschool – 5th grade. Chapel begins at 8:10 in the Hickory Community Chapel Sanctuary, and typically ends around 9:00. Parents are welcome to attend any chapel service. The 6th – 12th grade chapel services will begin on Thursday, September 10 at 8:05 until 9:00am. Parents are welcome and invited to attend.

HCA on the Web and the Family Directory

Please visit the Hickory Christian Academy website at: www.hickorychristianacademy.com for upcoming school events, breaking news, weather announcements, calendar updates, and contact information for teachers, administrators, and board members. We would like to send out more information by email this year to save paper costs. We are planning to print the new Family Directory by September 25th and send one copy per family out. These directories will have phone numbers and sibling names. The Faculty list will be at the back of the Directory. Please check them carefully and let us know if there is a problem with any of your information.

Student Council News

Hickory Christian Academy elected new Student Council members last Spring. The nominations and votes are cast by rising 9th – 12th graders, and the students are selected by the following criteria: Each elected member should be a student with at least a 'C' average in academics who displays a positive attitude and reflects the character of

Jesus Christ daily. They should also be students who are well-respected, and who possess leadership ability, as determined by their peers. Student Council members are servant-leaders in the school. They are to make the school better by setting a positive example for other students to follow. They also hear comments, concerns, and questions from the student body, and plan accordingly so that HCA fulfills its mission of equipping children today to become God's leaders tomorrow. The student council examines the whole school from Preschool – 12th grade to ensure that all student needs are being met each day at HCA. The HCA Student Council has a voice with the school administration and with the HCA school board to express student needs. Please congratulate these students on achieving this office, and pray for each one as he/she fulfills this important role at HCA this year.

2009-2010 Student Council

Student Body President – Mason Lehman (12th)
Student Body Vice Pres. – Chris McGrath (11th)
Student Body Secretary – Avery Kordus (11th)
Student Body Treasurer – Joseph Lackey (11th)
Student Body Chaplain – Parker Hart (11th)
Senior Class President – Dillon Keller
Junior Class President – Brett Featherstone
Sophomore Class President – Arden Thompson
Freshman Class President – Keegan Pardon

Coupon Books

ALL COUPON BOOKS ARE DUE IN NOW. If you have not turned in your books or your money please bring them by the office immediately so that we can complete this fundraiser. Thank you for your cooperation.

HCA LUNCH

Lunch has begun. Piedmont Vending is offering several different choices on the menu this year. Please understand that students are not allowed to use microwaves until 4th grade, therefore items such as the Chicken Stromboli, Butch's BBQ, Butch's Chicken Finger Sandwich, Baked Spaghetti, may not be ordered for 1st-3rd grade.

In order for our lunchtime to be successful we need volunteers. Do you have one day a week that you would be able to come and volunteer? Lunch will be distributed daily during two lunch periods. 1st Lunch begins at 11:30 (for volunteers) and 11:45-12:15 for students. 2nd Lunch begins at 12:20 (for volunteers) and 12:30-1:00 for students.

Angie Burnham has agreed to head up our lunch program this year. She already has the schedule for September completed but can always use more volunteers. If you would like to volunteer please contact her at angieburnham@charter.net

- o Name
- o Phone Numbers
- o Email address
- o Days of the week you would be available
- o How many times per month you would like to be on the schedule

Thank you for your willingness to serve.
God bless!

Family Night

Our annual HCA Family Night will be held on Thursday, September 24 at 6:30 pm. We will begin in the gymnasium with brief announcements from Mr. Robinson regarding upcoming school events. Then

proceed to classroom visits. During the classroom visit time, every parent will be asked to sign up for a mandatory Teacher conference time in late October / early November.

HCA BOOK FAIR

HCA will be having the annual book fair beginning Tuesday, September 22-Friday, September 25 in the HCA Library. The fair will be open during both Family Night and the Sports Jamboree. The success of this book fair depends heavily on parent volunteers. Please contact Amy Clark at 855-0606 if you are interested.

Hoodie Order Turn-in

The HCA Hoodie orders were distributed this past week. We place the order for these only one time per year. The deadline is Monday, September the 14th. Please get your order in this week. We will hold the order open for a couple days.

PE Uniforms

PE Uniforms are in. You may come by the office and purchase a T-shirt or shorts if you need them. All are \$10.00 each. Your student may wear the PE T-shirt on dress down Fridays.

STAFF/FACULTY BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|-------|----------------|
| 9/10 | Deidre Lail |
| 9/20 | Lindsey Jones |
| 9/21 | Connie Peeler |
| 9/24 | Wayne Kniskern |
| 9/29 | Sally Walters |
| 10/3 | Terra Beck |
| 10/8 | Scott Waters |
| 10/9 | Tracy Robinson |
| 10/13 | Lynda Gregory |
| 10/14 | Kat Price |
| 10/15 | Janie Lambert |



TEE Time Update

The HCA Golf Classic Solicitation Team has been hard at work! As of today, we are at the \$10,000 mark! Our goal this year is \$70,000. With only 6 weeks left until Tourney Day (Monday, October 26th), that means we need to raise \$10,000 per week. As you can see, we need YOUR help to cover a lot of ground quickly.

Here's how you can help:

1. **SOLICIT SPONSORSHIPS.** – ask anyone you know if they would be willing to sponsor a hole. Sponsorships range from Bronze at \$350 to Diamond at \$5000. Special sponsorships range from \$750 to \$1500 and include longest drive, drink station and more...
2. **Be an INDIVIDUAL SPONSOR.** You may sponsor a hole in Honor or in Memory of a loved one. For a minimum of a \$350 hole sponsorship, you will receive a sign recognizing your loved one.
3. **ASK YOUR COMPANY TO BE A SPONSOR.** It is focused advertising to 100+ golfers, 200+ HCA families, and anyone who reads the Hickory Daily Record. Let them know that we as a school family are faithful to support our generous sponsors.
4. **SHARE NAMES OF POTENTIAL SPONSORS** with the committee. If you know of a

potential sponsor but are not comfortable asking them yourself, contact Sam & Julie Rhodes with the Solicitation Team at 324-5521 or email them at jerhodes@earthlink.net. You may also contact Jennifer Jones in the school office.

Did you know if every family in the school secured at least one sponsor at the \$350 Bronze Level, we would surpass our goal?

Did you know that funds raised through the annual HCA Golf Classic help support our annual operating budget AND

help keep tuition costs down for us all,

not to mention that they support our annual scholarship fund and annual athletic budget!

Also, **we still need a Tournament Sponsor** which includes a **great advertising value.** The sooner you sign on for this sponsorship, the more marketing value you get. **Contact Jennifer Jones through the school office for more information.**



ATHLETICS

Complete HCA Sports Schedules for all teams can be found on the Website. Please come out and support the HCA Knights!!!

Go to website www.hickorychristianacademy.com

then click on *Athletics* to download sport schedules.

After big wins last week against local rivals, Tri-City Christian School and Tabernacle Christian School, the varsity soccer team improved to an overall record of 5-1, while the varsity volleyball team stands at 7-2.

Other HCA team records to date:

- JV Volleyball 2-0
- 5th – 8th V’Ball Gold Team 1-0
- 5th – 8th B’Ball Blue Team 1-0
- 5th – 8th Soccer Gold Team 1-0
- 5th – 8th Soccer Blue Team 1-1

In the Riverbend meet, our varsity cross country teams finished first. The varsity Cross Country Team recently competed in the South Caldwell Invitational meet against 26 other schools, mostly public schools. Our team finished 9th overall! In the same meet, our middle school team finished first overall in their age bracket. Way to go Knights!



Basketball signups for 5th-12th grade will begin next week (Sept. 22-Sept. 25th.) If you are interested in playing basketball and are in the 5th-12th grade, please stop by the HCA office and place your name on the BASKETBALL SIGNUP clip board.



NEW POTENTIAL HCA BASEBALL TEAM FOR 9TH-12TH GRADE-If you are interested in playing, stop by the office and place your name on the BASEBALL SIGNUP list next week (Sept. 22-Sept. 25th).

Baseball signups for 5th-8th grade will also begin next week (Sept. 22-Sept. 25th.) If you are interested in playing baseball and are in the 5th-8th grade, please stop by the HCA office and place your name on the BASEBALL SIGNUP clip board.

Join us at the Jamboree!

The HCA ATHLETIC BOOSTERS are sponsoring

HCA JAMBOREE NIGHT

Friday, September 25th

Volleyball game 4:00- Soccer game 7:00
against Tri-City Christian School

Lasagna Supper 5:00

\$2.00 for games only

\$7.00 for meal and games

\$30 Maximum total per family

(Children under 3 are free)

All money will go to the HCA Booster Club

Mark the date-Calendar Reminders

- 9/14 Lunch Orders for October due
- 9/14 Hoodie Orders due
- 9/18-22 High School Retreat
- 9/21 Teacher Workday (no school)
- 9/22-25 HCA Book Fair
- 9/24 Family Night 6:30 pm
- 9/24 3rd –Science Center
- 9/25 HCA Jamboree Night
Volleyball game 4:00
Soccer game 7:00
- 9/28 Picture Day-details will follow

9/28 Jostens (Packets will be handed out to Juniors/Seniors)
 9/29 Picture Day-details will follow (check students back pack)
 10/2 Dress Down Friday (first Friday of each month see Uniform policy)
 10/1 K-Apple Orchard
 10/14 PSAT (9th-11th grade)
 10/14 3rd –Hiddenite Gem Mine
 10/23 Teacher Workday (no school)
 10/26 HCA Annual Golf Tourney
 10/30 Reformation Day-Early Dismissal 12:00 noon

aims to help them problem solve and think “out-of-the-box”. These skills will help them significantly as they get into the upper grades and begin to have jobs of their own. And, we all need encouragement! Positive parent attitudes help to grow positive student/child attitudes.

Karen Tysinger 256-6619

Trash into Cash” Fundraising News:

Math Superstars News

- We need LOTS of donations to fill the store with items the children would like to “purchase” with their points they receive from working on Math Superstars. Please give any donations you have throughout the year to Julie Rhodes or leave them with the secretaries in the office and let Julie know they are there for her to pick up.
- There will be 3 “shopping” items in the Math Superstars store again this year, early December, mid to late February, and the end of April. Specific dates will be announced well before the date arrives. We would love to have some parents volunteer to help set-up, or take-down, or serve for an hour or more in the store itself on the “shopping” days. Julie Rhodes has pretty much done this herself in the recent past. She is a terrific store manager but she would love a few “employees” for the day. Contact Julie Rhodes or Karen Tysinger if you are interested.
- PLEASE ENCOURAGE your child(ren) to participate in Math Superstars at least some of the time if not all the time. It

Welcome back to school! Because of your efforts, we’ve gotten off to a great start this year!

Please help our volunteers who count the labels & lids by putting each type of label in separate baggies or collection sheets. Thanks!

Box Tops News: Welcome back! We’re off to a solid start this school year with our Box Tops submissions from the summer and August. We brought in **2,837** Box Tops, meaning **\$283.70** for HCA. Not bad! Our prize winners for August are: **Will Elkins**, in Mrs. Young’s Kindergarten, and **Mason Lehman**, a Senior. The traveling trophy goes to **Mrs. Preachers’ First Grade classroom**. Congratulations! Please remember to fully label your submission sheets or bags with name and teacher/grade, to ensure proper credit for the student and classroom. Then just turn them in to your teacher or in the blue bin outside the school library. Thank you!

Campbell’s News: **1,768 labels** were collected over the summer and were not labeled by individual students. Remember to label your collection sheets or baggies so that we can do monthly prize drawings. The **August Trophy winner for Campbell’s is Mrs. Smith’s class**. Our total with Campbell’s to date is **2,268 labels!** Keep collecting and turning them in to the orange bin just outside the library!

Tyson A+ News: We also collected **12** Tyson **Project A+ labels**.

Harris Teeter: The milk cap program is **no longer offered**, but **we are still collecting**

plastic shopping bags to earn money for HCA. Look for the cardboard bin outside the school store to drop off your bags. And **if you haven't linked your Harris Teeter VIC card** to HCA for this school year, please do so at any Harris Teeter checkout counter or online.

Food Lion: Your Food Lion **MVP card can also be linked** to HCA, and this only needs to be done once—ever! Please see Amy Swink in the school office for a form for Food Lion. Your family members can link to HCA through these programs too, even those in other cities.

Target News: We received a check for \$210 from Target this week! Thank you, parents, for linking your cards to HCA!

Office Depot: We received a gift card totaling \$12.84 this month from Office Depot! Remember to give them our Back to School number **BTS-70112762** when you check out or order on-line!

My Coke Rewards: September 22nd is **DOUBLE POINTS DAY** for any PowerAde product code entered on 9/22! Save up those lids and enter them all on 9/22 for bonus points! We have **235 points** donated to HCA through the mycokerewards.com website (and Mrs. Swink has about 100 more bottle caps waiting to be entered). We are working toward PE equipment from this program, so please remember to enter those codes!

My School is Cool: Keep those mall & food court receipts coming! We are competing with other area schools to win \$5,000 this semester. Receipts must be turned in to us in the month of purchase to count – and if you need to keep your original, stop in and see Amy Swink in the school office – she will make a point pass and give you your receipt back. Restaurants on mall property also count, just as HH Gregg and Bed Bath & Beyond do. All retail purchases on **Wednesdays offer triple points.**

9/19/09 Humane Society Weekend – earn 200 points for adopting a pet.
9/25-9/27/09 is triple point weekend.

Thank you so much for your support in these programs. It really does make a difference for HCA!

Jill DeVries & Amy Swink

Knights 5K

Thank you again to all the sponsors and volunteers that made this year's 5K such a great success!! We had over 300 runners participate in the race. We raised approximately \$3,500 toward the HCA building fund. Praise the Lord!! We couldn't do it without the help of our awesome sponsors...so we'll mention them again!!!

Edward Jones

Mike Bell and Steve Reese

Hickory Chiropractic Clinic

Dr. Steve Smith and Dr. Jason Boehme

Carolina Podiatry Center

Dr. Bill Johncock

Covert Threads

Peter Menzies

Cerrito Precision Electronics

Chris Cerrito

State Farm Insurance

Lance Cook

Volare

Williams Pontel

Legacy Furniture

Todd and Tara Norris

Viewmont Self Storage

Peter Ballhausen

Marriage On Fire

Scott and Angela Hunter

New York Life

Sam Rhodes

Techsperts

Sean and Cynthia Turner

Eden's Gate

Shane and Cori Hasty

We also want to thank Lee Timing, LLC for their great work at the finish line, and Premier Screen Printing for the hard work on the race shirts!! We're already looking forward to next year!!

HCA PICTURES

Students will be having their individual and classroom (group) pictures taken on Monday and Tuesday September 28th and 29th, 2009. Please see the schedule below for your student's classroom date and time. If your child is absent on this day he or she will miss the group picture.

Picture Day, Monday Sept. 28, 2009

8:15 1st-Preachers
8:45 4th-Lovette
9:15 PS-Collins
9:45 TK-Saine
10:15 K-Fox
10:45 K-Young
11:15 1st-Jablonski
12:15 2nd Owensby
12:45 2nd-Dwyer
1:15 3rd -Kniskern
1:45 3rd-Ray
2:15 4th-Brown

Picture Day, Tuesday Sept. 29, 2009

8:15 11th Wheeler, Blackburn
8:35 10th J. Robinson
8:55 9th -J. Robinson, K. Stephenson
9:15 6th-Harren
9:30 6th-Taylor
10:00 5th-Smith **
10:30 5th-Beck **
11:00 7th-Blackburn
11:30 7th-Cannon
12:00 8th-Blackburn

**5th graders may wear the uniform of choice to have pictures made on Tuesday, Sept. 28. This is a Chapel day, but an exception will be made for Pictures. **

Make-up picture day TBA at a later date.