

Hickory Christian Academy

THE SHIELD

“Celebrating 14 years of excellence in Classical Christian Education”

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'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.' – Jer. 29:11-13

Dear HCA Family,

We all know the general story of how the Puritans (Pilgrims) and Native Americans partnered to hold the very first Thanksgiving feast in American history in the autumn of 1621. After a devastating winter, where over half of the people who arrived on the Mayflower died of sickness and starvation, the Puritan colony was decimated, discouraged, and teetering on total extinction. With the assistance of the local Indian tribe, the Puritans learned to fish, plant crops, and build winter-proof housing which would allow the colony to survive for many years to come (at least through 2009, so far!). As a result of these new-found blessings and skills, the Puritans invited the Indians to join them in a three day feast to celebrate God's provision and protection.

Unfortunately, this is all that most of us heard in school when we were growing up. While this true account of the story is heartwarming and restores our faith in the generosity of the human spirit, there is a significant miracle in this story that fades further from our memory each year. Without this

particular fact, the rest of the story would be complete tragedy, but when we include this part, we truly see the hand of God in a remarkable way. It is the story of Squanto.

Squanto (short for Tisquantum) was born to the Patuxet tribe around 1585 in what is now known as New England. In 1605, he met an English explorer named John Weymouth, who convinced him to return to England as part of a New World Exhibit. Squanto lived in England for nine years, learning the English language and culture, but when an opportunity came to return to his homeland, he quickly took advantage. Squanto travelled back to the New World with Captain John Smith in 1614, arriving at the Virginia Colony, and serving as a guide for some time. He was later given permission to return north to his tribe, but on the way, he was kidnapped by another English explorer, Captain Thomas Hunt.

Hunt took Squanto back to Europe, hoping to sell him into slavery. Squanto was purchased by a group of Spanish Christian friars, who instructed him in Christianity and scripture. Around 1616, Squanto believed in Jesus Christ, and began his life-journey in the Christian faith. Knowing that he had a desire to return to see his people, the friars helped Squanto return to England so that he could board a ship across the Atlantic. In 1619, he finally got his chance to return home on the ship of Thomas Dermer, who was to use Squanto to help him deal with the Indians. Squanto eventually found his way back to the Patuxet village, only to find that the entire population had died from disease. He was the only person left from his tribe.

In 1620, a neighboring tribe, the Wampanoags, agreed to let Squanto live in their territory, and to become a surrogate member of their people. Later that year, a small ship carrying 102 cold, shivering English passengers anchored offshore near the Indian village. The Puritans began to build their own settlement around New Year's Day, 1621. By then, the New England winter had settled in, and the death toll began to rise rapidly. By the first sign of spring, the Pilgrims were so sick and starving that only a miracle could save them. Was God paying attention? On March 16, 1621, while exploring the surrounding area for food, a group of men encountered a local Indian named Samoset. They were astounded to hear him use a few broken English words. The next day, Samoset returned to the Plymouth Plantation with Squanto.

In a world with seemingly zero European influence at the time, this Indian spoke to them in perfect English, understood their culture, and even shared their faith in Jesus. Because of his knowledge of the English people, he was not intimidated by the Puritans, and seeing their desperate conditions, offered to help them turn the colony around and to get back on their feet. Imagine the sense of awe that must have fallen upon this group of people, when four months of prayer was answered with an English-speaking Christian walking out of the woods to offer his help. Talk about building your faith! No wonder they were thankful!

But, don't make the mistake of thinking that this is a foreign scenario to us in 2009. You see, God has planned from day one to take care of those who would place their faith in Him. There is no way that Squanto could have known at the time that there were specific reasons for his travel back and forth across the ocean, when all he wanted was to come home. But, keep in mind, had he been allowed to return home during that time, he would have died with the rest of his tribe and the Pilgrims would have been doomed. God knew what he was doing then, and He knows it now as well.

There are people being molded, and events taking place at this moment which are providentially designed to bring blessings to God's people today. You and I are part of a plan too great for us to follow in our own minds, but no less remarkable than the story of Squanto and the Puritans. However, there is another unchanging truth from this account that we must keep in mind – we only

get to enjoy the full benefits of God's plan when we choose to rely on Him completely. As the Pilgrims watched their sons and daughters dying daily around them, they never lost sight of the fact that God is good in spite of our circumstances.

So, today, I challenge you to do the same. Choose to recognize that you serve a good God; One who wants the very best for you because He loves you. And as we all sit with our families this Thursday to carve the turkey, remember that your life is no less of a miracle than any of the original Pilgrims who enjoyed the first Thanksgiving feast that fall day in 1621.

May God Bless you richly as you celebrate His loving kindness!

Tracy Robinson
Headmaster

"Trash into Cash" Fundraising News:



THE COLLECTION bin for PLASTIC BAGS has been moved to the Box Tops Bulletin Board area to reduce clutter in the lobby. Also, please help our volunteers who count the labels & lids by separating Box Tops labels from Campbell's labels, etc., since different people collect and count them. And no staples please! Thank you!

Box Tops News: Thank you to everyone who continues to send in their Box Tops! In October we collected **3,161** of them, for another **\$316.10** for HCA. We're making great progress towards our goal—keep up the good work! Our prize winners for October are: **Ethan Palmberg**, in Mrs. Preachers' First Grade, and **Gabriel Walker**, in Mr. Kniskern's Third Grade. The traveling trophy goes to **Mrs. Dwyer's Second Grade classroom**. Congratulations! With Christmas fast approaching, consider checking out the Marketplace on the Box Tops for Education website for any online shopping you may do. That's a great, easy way for HCA to earn more "free money". And use your Target Visa or REDcard for any Target (through the Marketplace - purchases give a percentage from General Mills & Target) of your purchase price back to HCA. Every little bit helps!

Campbell's News: 451 labels were collected by students! 450 were earned by parents in the **School vs. School contest**, meaning that 9 parents entered the contest at <http://lfechallenge.foodlion.com> – this FREE once a month entry could be profitable for us! Thanks!!! Our total for Campbell's for October is 901, with 3625 points for the year. Way to go! Our prize winners for October are: **Andrew Clark**, in Mr. Kniskern's third grade and **Amber Meadows**, in Mrs. Smith's fifth grade. The traveling trophy goes to **Mr. Kniskern's** class. Keep collecting and turning them in to the orange bin just outside the library! Just a reminder from the "Participating products" email sent out earlier this month, Campbell's is offering the opportunity to double our points if we can turn in 3,000 UPC's by 12/31/09. This means we need to ask our family and friends to pitch in and help collect. Please collect as many as you can and turn them in by December 17th for a chance to earn double points for HCA which equals more points for more athletic equipment!!!

Tyson A+ News: We also collected 6 Tyson Project A+ labels bringing our total this year to 20 labels.

Harris Teeter: No need to turn in milk caps, since the program has ended. **We are still collecting plastic shopping bags to earn money for HCA.** We collected 5 full bins of plastic shopping bags this month. Look for the cardboard bin in the new location outside the library 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: Enter to **win** extra Campbell's points from Food Lion in the **School vs. School Contest** at <http://lfechallenge.foodlion.com>! Enter every month for 50 more points. (We earned 450, so far!) The school with the most points at the end of the contest in April 2010 will win 1,000,000 Campbell's points! **MVP & Box Tops Specials : NOVEMBER (valid 11/1/09–11/30/09)** Buy any 20 participating* General Mills Box Tops for Education products in one shopping trip using your MVP Card to receive **170 Bonus Box Tops** (certificate received via checkout coupon; \$17 value) Offer valid more than once. **DECEMBER (valid: 12/1/09–12/31/09):** Buy any 5 participating* General Mills Box Tops for Education products in one shopping trip using your MVP CARD to receive **20 Bonus Box Tops** (certificate received via checkout coupon; \$2 value) Offer valid more than once. *Even if you don't shop Food Lion on a regular basis (or at all) what matters for HCA is how many cards we have linked, not the amount purchased by our supporters. Just see Amy Swank 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.

Office Depot: Remember to give them our Back to School number **BTS-70112762** when you check out or order on-line!

My Coke Rewards: Donate points all this month and Coke will match each donation point for point! Wow, you all donated **1260 points** to HCA through the mycokerewards.com website in October for a total of **1872** points so far! Great job! We are working toward PE equipment from this program, so please remember to enter those codes!

My School is Cool: In October, we earned **14.218** points from your receipts! 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. Asian Wild Wok, Buffalo Wild Wings, Coldstone, Oreck, HH Gregg and Bed Bath & Beyond purchases/receipts count too. All retail purchases on **Wednesdays offer triple points. Triple Point Weekend 11/20-11/22; Double Point WEEK: 11/30 – 12/6; Flu Shot Clinics each Friday=200 pts.** And, while HCA isn't specifically endorsing this offer, if your family likes to have "holiday" pictures, those photos earn 150 points from 11/21 to 12/24. A "holiday" breakfast on 12/5 earns 200 points. See the mall website for more information at www.valleyhillsmall.com on the events page.

Thank you all for taking the extra time to register on-line with these programs... these programs offer FREE money to HCA for just a few minutes of your time and most offer you the choice of receiving monthly news or not. If you haven't registered with www.btfe.com and <http://lfechallenge.foodlion.com> and www.mycoke.com rewards or gotten a **VIP or MVC** card, please check it out! In many instances, just the fact that you register earns us money or points that we can most definitely use. Thanks again!

Jill DeVries & Amy Swink



HCA participated in the NCCSA- 2A State Tournament recently with great success thanks to all the many parent volunteers, coaches and athletes!!. Congratulations to our HCA Varsity Volleyball team who won the State championship and to Varsity Soccer who placed third. Our Cross Country Girls were runner-up for State and Cross Country Boys won First Place!!! The middle school volleyball girls placed 4th and soccer placed 2nd in the CCISAA tournament.

Varsity Volleyball also participated for the second time this year in the NACA-National Tournament in Dayton, Tennessee placing fourth. Congratulations Volleyball girls, and to all of our teams. You have all made us very proud to be Knights!!!!

Congratulations to all our HCA Teams for a great Fall Season. A special “thank you,” to all the coaches, volunteers and parents who sacrificed their time to make HCA Athletics such a success.

God bless you,
Athletic Director
Toby Tate



STUDENT PICTURES

**Were sent home this past week—
CHECK YOUR CHILD’S BACKPACK FOR A
PROOF AND ORDER FORM
From Hefner Photography. Parents should
follow instructions on the outside of
the order form/envelopes when
ordering. All orders are due back on
Monday, November 30th.**

CALENDAR REMINDERS

Nov.

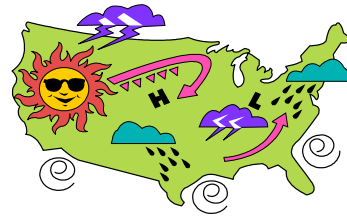
- 10 Biltmore House
- 11 Veteran’s Day Holiday
- 16 Spirit Night Chickfila
- 20 Samaritan’s Purse Shoebox Turn in
- 25-27 Thanksgiving Holidays
- 30 2nd Mid-quarter

Dec.

- 3 3rd-Narroway, SC
- 5th-Gatlinburg, TN
- 4 Math Superstars Store
- 5 4th Annual HCA Gift Show
- 10 L/R Christmas Chapel in Gym (Chorus)
- 15 Grammar Christmas Chapel in Gym
- 16-18 8th-12th Mid-quarter exams
- 18 Early Dismissal at 12:00 all students
- 19-Jan.3 Christmas Holidays

**Students return to school on
Monday, January 4, 2010.**

Inclement Weather Procedure



In the case of bad weather this winter, please refer to the parent handbook Bad Weather Policy on page 27. Briefly stated, HCA administration will make the decision to cancel or delay school generally by 6:30 am. You may find these announcements by clicking on the Internet to the HCA website at www.hickorychristianacademy.com under Breaking News at the top of the Web page or by checking the local TV stations 3-WBTV, 6-WCNC, or 9-WSOC.

Staff/Faculty Birthdays	
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November **Anna Friesenhahn (10)**
 Robin Cannon (16)
 Wendy Kordus (16)
 Beth Ballhausen (18)
 Angela Hull (19)
 Wheezie Young (21)
 Angela Sigmon (29)

December **Gail Owensby (3)**
 Sharon Sturgess (19)
 Jessica Robinson (26)
 Kristi Stephenson (31)



4th Annual HCA Christmas Gift Show & Silent Auction

Just 1 week from this Saturday, on December 5th, HCA will again be bustling with Christmas cheer. The Fourth Annual Christmas Gift Show & Silent Auction will be held from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. in the Gym and Cafeteria with over 30 vendors and HCA student entrepreneurs selling a variety of items from home décor to handbags to kitchen ware, jewelry... and more. HCA Preschool, TK and Kindergarten moms are working hard to give all you Martha Stewart hostesses this year off as they prepare items for the bake sale; so, take this baking season off & purchase your Christmas goodies for all your guests at the gift show. Beautiful crafts handmade by HCA students and many other donated items will be auctioned silently & live. I have seen some of the items the students are working on, and as always, you won't want to miss your chance to take some of them home. No need to worry about breakfast or lunch on the 5th. Come over and enjoy a hot meal at the show.

This event is a wonderful opportunity to do some one stop shopping for Christmas gifts and is great exposure for our school to the Catawba Valley. So, invite all your friends, family, neighbors and your church to come visit with us & experience the love of Christ through the warm spirits of our HCA families. 100% of the funds raised through the bake sale & auction benefit HCA. Vendors pay a small booth fee and are asked to give a donation of their sales back to HCA, as well. For more information or to donate an item for the silent auction, contact Carol Johncock.



Angel Tree Opportunity

In our continued partnership with Safe Harbor Rescue Mission, HCA has committed to provide a location for an Angel Tree. During the week of Thanksgiving, the Christmas tree erected in the entrance hall will be hung with twelve to sixteen “ornaments”. Many of you are familiar with the process. You choose an ornament which will list a specific item to purchase for the recipient. Presently, Safe Harbor houses four women. Through our combined efforts, we will provide three or four gifts for each lady. These gifts will be returned to the school by the date found on your ornament and transported to Safe Harbor by members of our student Beta Club. You are under no obligation to participate. This is simply another opportunity to show the love of Christ to those in our community. These ornaments will be limited and once they are gone... well... they will be gone. Please only grab an ornament if you are certain that you can and will provide the gift. Thank you for choosing to participate in this ministry!



Pledge Reminders

The year is quickly coming to a close & the holiday season is upon us. In the next few weeks, you will be receiving HCA capital pledge reminders. Please take a moment to review them carefully, and make Angela Hull or Jennifer Jones aware of any errors. Also, please remember that in order to receive credit on your 2009 tax return, all transactions (i.e., checks, stock transfers, etc.) must be dated on or before December 31, 2009.

As always, thank you for your faithfulness to God's work in and through Hickory Christian Academy. He has been and continues to be faithful to meet our needs and bless our mission to "equip children today to become (HIS) leaders tomorrow." We are a vessel created for HIS glory. Some scripture & a couple of thoughts.

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also..."

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?"

"And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is

how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

Matthew 6:19, 25-34

"HE IS NO FOOL WHO GIVES WHAT HE CANNOT KEEP TO GAIN WHAT HE CANNOT LOSE."

Jim Elliott

"MY HEART ALWAYS GOES WHERE I PUT GOD'S MONEY.

Watch what happens when you reallocate your money from temporal things to eternal things."

"GOD PROSPERS ME NOT TO RAISE MY STANDARD OF LIVING, BUT TO RAISE MY STANDARD OF GIVING. God gives us more money than we need so we can give-----generously."

Excerpts from The Treasure Principle



The 9th Annual HCA Golf Classic
Nets \$52,000!

Not only did GOD grant us beautiful weather on the day of the tournament, but HE graciously allowed us to raise over \$60,000 through the 9th Annual HCA Golf Classic. After all expenses are paid, HCA will net approximately \$52,000 to supplement our annual operating budget and support our

Tuition Assistance Program. This is a remarkable blessing at a time when many businesses and individuals have experienced a financially challenging year.

THANK YOU

to our generous sponsors, many of whom have sponsored before and sacrificed to support us again this year.

A couple of interesting statistics:

- ❖ Our sponsorships were only down about \$5000 from last year – and that is without a \$10,000 tourney sponsor! *PTL!*
- ❖ We had 28 *new sponsors* this year & 7 *others* who had sponsored in previous years, but not last year, *who returned as sponsors!*

Please take a few minutes to look over the attached list of our generous sponsors, and be sure to support their businesses. And, when you do, be sure to thank them for their support of what God is doing in and through Hickory Christian Academy.

The HCA Golf Classic Committee would also like to *THANK our Board, students, parents and grandparents* for their participation in this year's tournament. Many of you helped find sponsors and/or generously volunteered your time and/or sponsored. The annual Golf Classic not only raises money to support HCA's mission, but it is an opportunity for us to share the heart of HCA with others who may not understand what we are all about.

It takes a lot of time, energy and effort to pull this large event together. Many hands worked many hours to secure these sponsorships and to make tourney day a success.

Please take a moment to THANK Sam and Julie Rhodes and the Golf Classic Committee for their hard work.

By the way – next year will be our 10th Annual HCA Golf Classic, and we are already

working to make it an extra special tourney. If you have been contemplating helping out with this important event, this would be a great time to get involved. Many hands make light work, and we need your help. As always, the tournament is scheduled for the last Monday in October at the Catawba Country Club. Please prayerfully consider how you can participate.

By HIS grace,
Jennifer Jones

2009 Golf Classic Committee

Sam & Julie Rhodes, Chairs

Lela Wakin

Jenny Smith

Kipper Lackey

Debbie Turnbull

Jerl Greene

Beverly Peterson

Selina Shue

Josh Walker

Toby Tate



Happy
Thanksgiving
From
HCA

