

THIS WEEK

@ HILLCREST CHRISTIAN ...



MARCH 11, 2010

CALENDAR ITEMS MARCH 2010

05-15 8th Grade U.S. Historic Trip

Fri. **12** Assembly- History of Jazz
CSUN Jazz Band 1:30 P.M.

Wed. **17** Special Dress Day
with food donation

Fri. **19** ACSI Technology Fair

Tues **23** Elementary Twin Dress Day

Wed **24** HCS Speech Meet

Fri **26** ACSI Math Olympics
Staff In Service Day
NO SCHOOL NO CHILDCARE

29-01 Spiritual Emphasis Week

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

HCS Dinner and Auction

Saturday, May 1st
Spanish Hills Country Club

JOG-A-THON

Thursday, April 15th



ONLINE CALENDAR: WWW.HILLCRESTCS.ORG



by Stephen Allen, Head of School

Go Mitchell, Go!

Congratulations, Mitchell! Seventh grader, Mitchell Williams received notification that he qualified to represent Hillcrest Christian School in the state level contest of the National Geographic Bee. The state bee

will be held on Friday, April 9, 2010 in Sacramento. 100 students in grades four through eight qualified to participate in the state bee sponsored by Google and Plum Creek.

Mitchell took a written test to qualify for this National Geographic Bee after winning our school's bee held in January. The winner of the state bee in Sacramento will advance to the national competition held in May. Alex Trebek is scheduled to host the final round of that competition, held at the National Geographic headquarters in Washington, D.C. In February, Mitchell also won the seven-school ACSI-sponsored Geography Bee held in Simi Valley.



by Kathy Horan, principal

Directing Oneself to Learn

It never seems to fail. At the beginning of the school year, September feels like the longest month of school; however, before I know it, spring is here, and I am looking ahead to be sure that I have enough time to complete my course for the

year. As a history teacher, time is a major factor as each decade brings about two presidential elections and their changing agendas, wars, diplomacy, and more history that I am supposed to teach in approximately the same number of school days as when I went to high school. At some point, educators will have to rethink the way that traditional subjects are taught. Perhaps the answer is that we focus less on content and more on teaching students how to learn.

To that end, Hillcrest has chosen Self-directed learning as one of its Expected Schoolwide Learning Result. It is the "S" in our ESLR acronym ACTS. Throughout the years we have chosen to concentrate on one ESLR each year; however, we have not done that with the last ESLR, self directed learning, because it is not currently something that is easily measured. Self-directed learning does not mean that we ask students to teach themselves a chapter in their textbook. It also does not mean that students choose what they want to learn in any given discipline or class. It addresses more of an attitude toward learning that complements the learning that takes place in

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THAT THE MAN OF GOD MAY BE THOROUGHLY EQUIPPED FOR EVERY GOOD WORK

SHORT SUBJECTS

"The Bible, Our Kids, & Making Hay While the Sun Shines --

An Evening-on Parenting" presented by Jean-Paul Chenette, Tuesday evening, March 30, 7 P.M. at HCS

Join us for an evening of encouragement, teaching, and questions and answers on parenting. Most parents have similar passions, similar struggles, and similar questions. Let's make a night of it! The evening will be hosted by Jean-Paul Chenette, the pastor-teacher of Oakbrook Bible Church, happy father of five, and the writer of recent-letters in the ACORN to single moms, husbands, and fathers.

Special Dress Day and Food Drive

Wednesday, March 17th is the next special dress day. Hillcrest will again be partnering with EV Free in Newbury Park to bless those in our community who are in need. EV Free tries to feed about 100 families a week. Below is a list of items requested for their food pantry. Students are to bring in at least one item in exchange for the privilege of having a special dress day. The theme is St. Patrick's Day. Students may wear green shirts with jeans, shorts, or skirts. Please no inappropriate wording or graphics on shirts, and jeans should be in good condition. Food Items: Instant Coffee, Cooking Oil, Sugar, Canned Foods, Peanut Butter, Rice, Beans, Hispanic cookies.

by Mr. Kosako, computer teacher

Students Attend ACSI Tech Fair

On Friday, March 19, four of our middle school students will be attending the ACSI Student Technology Fair at Azusa Pacific University. This year it is co-sponsored by Azusa Pacific University's Master in Arts Educational Technology and Learning and ACSI. The purpose of the tech fair is to enhance technology education and promote creativity and expression through the use of technology. It was created to provide an opportunity to recognize and exhibit outstanding student technological projects. It also teaches students to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ through the use of their technological skill.

At the fair, students' projects will be judged in the areas of multimedia, video, web page design, desktop publishing, and podcasting. They will receive a rating of Superior, Excellent, Good, or Honorable Mention. In addition, the students will be taking classes on podcasting or Photoshop which will be taught by the APU professors. The event will conclude with an awards presentation.

Please pray for our students as they represent Hillcrest Christian School and our Lord Jesus Christ.



By Coaches Nina and Cathe Middle School Girls Basketball Champions!!!

Tuesday, March 2nd was the Middle School Basketball 2010 Championship game. HCS girls played against Pleasant Valley. Before the game,

the girls were pumped with enthusiasm and determination to play their best. It was a close game but the girls were on fire for that hoop! Each player used her special talent in the game. Grace, Breanna, and Nikki would not let anybody get by on defense. With that trio, along with Allison and Alexa, all rebounds were ours. Makenna, Idee, and Alexa scored shot after shot. Hannah did a great job cheering on her team and showing her true Saint spirit!

MS girls won the 2010 Championship game 36-30! A huge thank you goes out to Coach Hermosillo. We appreciate all his help and his dedication to our team. Special thanks also goes to all the parents that came out to support the team! You have no idea how much your support impacts the girls. A very special thank you goes to Mr. Allen for coming to almost every game.

YOU DID IT GIRLS!

Hard work and dedication always pays off! You played as a team, and we are very proud of you!



STEPHEN ALLEN, HEAD OF SCHOOL

384 ERBES ROAD, THOUSAND OAKS, CA 91362

TELEPHONE (805) 497-7501 EXT. 204

FACSIMILE (805) 494-9355

WEB SITE www.hillcrestcs.org

SUBMIT ARTICLES TO: lmalcolm@hillcrestcs.org

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Directing Oneself to Learn

the classrooms.

In the past few years, our Head of School has introduced various activities to foster self-directed learning within the student body. He began by collaborating with the fourth grade teachers' California history lessons. The California Kid competition provides an avenue for students to expand on their knowledge of California history and to demonstrate that knowledge through a competitive contest in the spring. The following year, he persuaded Mrs. Davis to work with him on the fifth grade U.S. Geography Expert competition to complement her fifth grade social studies curriculum. Then last year, students in grades 3-8 had the opportunity to prepare to compete in the ACSI Geography Bee.

Geography is a subject that is taught in conjunction with history. It is an academic area that comedians like Jay Leno use to highlight how much the "man on the street" does not know about the world outside the U.S. or to show how the education system in the U.S. is failing its students. It is also a subject area that has given Hillcrest students an opportunity to practice self-directed learning.

Although students in grades 3-8 have a geography component in their history classes, competitions like California Kid, U.S. Geography Expert, and the ACSI and National Geographic Geography Bees have given our students an opportunity to learn about their world outside of classroom hours. We recently reported a few weeks ago that our third grade students had scored one, two, and three among all third graders at the district bee, and that seventh grader Mitchell Williams won the championship among all 6-8th grade competitors. Although Mr. Allen made himself available at lunch and after school to work with students, most of the effort to prepare was done by students who were interested enough to spend time learning more about their world than what could be taught in their classes.

Mitchell Williams has such an appetite for knowledge as he has been working diligently on his own to read, study, and learn about not only his country but countries around the world. He has won every competition and was recently informed that he will be representing HCS in the state level finals of the National Geographic Bee in Sacramento on April 9. He is one of 100 participants in the state, and we are hoping that he will advance to the national bee in Washington D.C. However, win or lose, Mitchell (as well as each student who had participated in the various competitions) has experienced a joy and satisfaction in learning aside from what is required to pass tests and "do school." That is what I think we want for our students in choosing self directed learning as a Hillcrest ESLR; that they would through their Hillcrest education have an opportunity to learn something that they can become passionately interested in and desire to independently further their knowledge. ■

P.F.A. NEWS

PARENT FACULTY FELLOWSHIP



Box Top Winners

Congratulations to Mrs. Brown's 2nd grade and Mrs. Hawkins's 4th grade classes who tied for first place during our Box Top Contest. Both classes won a free dress day as well as a pizza party this past Friday. Keep the box tops coming as each one brings money to our school!



The JOG-A-THON is coming!

On Thursday, April 15, the HCS PFA and Boosters Club will partner together to provide another fantastic school wide event. Volunteers are needed NOW. Contact Sherrie Ehman, PFA Vice President, to get involved. For a minimum donation, you can be an EVENT SPONSOR. A family sponsorship is \$100.00; a corporate/business sponsorship is \$500.00. Please contact Wendy Rettinger to get involved



Christendom Simulation in 7th Grade

The highlight of second semester history in the seventh grade is the Christendom simulation. When asked to reflect on this two month unit, the students answered in this way, "Christendom was a

blast from the past. We started off by learning about how the people lived and what the manor looked like. Then each group had to construct their own manor. After that we learned about knights and the lifestyle of the medieval warrior." Evan O'Neal shared that his favorite project was making the shields because he created a custom shield that represented him and was able to see how other people represented themselves on their shields. Students learned that the Middle Ages was a time for advancement and hardship: 1. During the Crusades, Europeans came in contact with a much more advanced civilization in the East which positively influenced their lives upon their return. 2. Castles were very cold and uncomfortable places with no ventilation. Before they were done, students also experienced one day in the life of a monk including taking a vow of silence. (Many middle school teachers wanted the monk simulation to spill over into their class periods as well.) The simulation culminated in their study of the role of medieval trade guilds and their place in the Middle Ages economic system. The final project was market day. Each team produced a product to sell at the fair and competed in the marketplace for customers. At the conclusion, students agreed that this hands-on experience was a great way to learn.

Editor's Note: Ide Medrano, Evan O'Neal, and Sarah Sweet contributed to writing this article.

Athletic Department Fund-Raiser

Welcome to another sports season! Hillcrest will be participating in a fund-raising program that will benefit the athletic program. Fund-raising helps pay for the numerous costs involved in providing the best possible athletic experience for your child. In addition, offsetting some of these expenses helps reduce the monetary contributions requested from parents.

This year, Hillcrest Christian School has teamed with XtraMan Fund-raising selling discount cards personalized for the athletic program. They are similar to credit cards and offer substantial discounts listed on the back (with many more listed on their web site). The use of this card offers substantial savings over the course of a year. The cards will sell for \$10.00 each. Please see Coach Dominguez if you are interested in purchasing a discount card.

by Debbie Baltau

Varsity Basketball Awards Banquet

Last Friday the Varsity team closed the 2009-2010 season on a high note. The banquet was held at the home of Jefferson Blumenthal; there was great food and even better company. The entire team received a varsity letter in basketball, and there were several special trophies awarded. Senior Tim Lee received the Captain's Award for his excellent leadership; senior Jeongmoon Lee received the Coach's award for inspiring his team with his winning spirit; senior Erik Bogeberg received the Most Improved award; sophomores Logan Baltau and Gio Hernandez both received Co-MVP awards and Omega League Second Team for leading the league in statistics. Great job Saints!! The team would also like to thank Jane Park for her commitment as team manager. In all, this is an amazing group of young men being led by an amazing coach who is committed to seeing them do their best for HIS glory!!!

by Amanda Zimmerman

Elementary Girls' Basketball

The Elementary girls had a busy week with a game on Wednesday against Ventura Missionary and a game on Friday against Ascension. The girls had a slow start the first half but bounced back and were able to tighten the score to 37-30 Ventura.

The team went in ready to win on Friday and that's exactly what they did! Hillcrest was up by 4 points at the half, so Ascension came back in the second half ready to fight for their win. The score at the end of the second half was 23-23 forcing us into overtime not once, but twice! The girls played hard, guarded their opponents strongly, and successfully beat Ascension after the second overtime, ending the game with a final score of 27-25. The crowd and the team exploded with cheers as we won our last game! Thank you to all of the family members and friends who showed up to support our girls!

We have a tournament game this week to determine our final ranking in the Elementary Girls Basketball League. We're looking forward to seeing the girls finish strong! Go Saints!