

@ THIS WEEK

HILLCREST CHRISTIAN...


DECEMBER 08, 2005

CALENDAR ITEMS

DECEMBER 2005

- Thurs. 08** Intercessory Prayer 8:30 A.M.
Preschool/Kinder Christmas Program
6 P.M.
- Fri. 09** Preschool/Kinder Christmas Program
6 P.M.
- Tues. 13** 4th-6th Christmas Program
- Thurs. 15** Intercessory Prayer 8:30 A.M.
4-WEEK REPORTS HOME
- Fri. 16** Christmas Holiday Begins
NO SCHOOL NO CHILDCARE
- 16- Jan 2** Christmas Holiday
NO SCHOOL NO CHILDCARE

JANUARY 2006

- Tues. 03** SCHOOL RESUMES
- Wed. 04** Korean students arrive
- Thurs. 05** Intercessory Prayer 8:30 A.M.
- Thurs. 12** Intercessory Prayer 8:30 A.M.
- Mon. 16** MLK Day NO SCHOOL NO CHILDCARE
- Thurs. 19** Intercessory Prayer 8:30 A.M.
Room Parents Mtg. 1 P.M.
- Tues. 24** Parenting Seminar 7 P.M.

ONLINE CALENDAR: WWW.HILLCRESTCS.ORG



by Trish Berg, Preschool Director

"Jesus is the Reason for the Season" Right?

At this time of the year, when the hectic pace of the holiday season is overwhelming us, we need to stop and check our focus. The world around us is blasting us a holiday story, but they are not talking about the baby in the manger. "Happy Holidays" has replaced "Merry Christmas"; "Winter Festival" has replaced "Christmas Celebration". An unending parade of catalogs and commercial announcements urge us to rush from store to store purchasing stuff we don't need with money we could invest more wisely. As Christ continues to be removed from Christmas, we need to ask ourselves what we are doing as a family to make Jesus the reason for this season.

Take time to meditate on what God has done for us by sending His son in a selfless and compassionate act in order that "we have redemption, [and] the forgiveness of sins" (Colossians 1:14). As the true message of Christmas fills your heart and mind, ask God to show you how you can redirect this season for your family. You could start by asking yourself a few questions:

Does my family make an effort to minister to others whose lives need a small gift given in the name of Jesus this CHRISTmas season? Perhaps your children can make a gift or earn money to give to those in need. Visit the members of a retirement community who do not have family. Help out at a shelter or food bank.

Should I start or maintain family traditions that would bring peace and security, balance and closeness into my home this season? For instance, instead of your children making a list of what they want for Christmas, have them make a list of the people they would like to bless. Go caroling in your neighborhood and sing the songs that tell the story of the birth of the Savior. Looking for a homemade gift for family and friends? Make and decorate star shaped cookies and package them with a note that tells about the special star that led the wise men to see the new baby king..

What about my Christmas decorations? Do I have the manger or just the tree? Do I have the Star or just the lights?

May a spirit of joy and peace fill your home this Christmas season as you and your family place Jesus at the center of your celebration.

The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11

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

SHORT SUBJECTS



KOREAN KONNECTION

We Need YOUR HELP!!!

On Wednesday, January 4, (the Wednesday after the Christmas break) we have 18 Korean foreign exchange students arriving at Hillcrest Christian School. These boys and girls range in age from 9 through 14, and will be attending class with your children in grades 2 through 8. Now all we need are families who are willing to take one of these students into their homes for the three week period. The students attend school with your children everyday, and then are home with you on evenings and weekends.

This is a wonderful opportunity to help your children model serving others as you share your home, your faith, and our American culture with these children. We are still in need of homes for 10 of these students. Please prayerfully consider helping with this ministry. As an added benefit, hosting a student fulfills all 20 of your required volunteer hours. Contact LuAnn Malcolm at ext. 204..

Christmas Shoppe Giving

We are continuing to collect new toys and clothes for children for the Christmas Shoppe, December 10. The items arriving after December 10 will go to Support for the Kids.. This is an excellent way to involve your children in the joy of giving.



STEPHEN ALLEN, HEAD OF SCHOOL

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IT'S ELEMENTARY

FOCUS ON PRIMARY: K-3

KINDERGARTEN: READING

Students enjoy listening to Mrs. MacLaury reading from James Dobson's series on Christian character traits. Reading to students is foundational for learning. Our kindergarten phonics approach builds the necessary background for confident reading. Teaching phonics trains students to listen carefully, to obey willingly, and to develop good habits of thinking, analyzing, organizing, memorizing, and applying important facts and rules. Our kindergarten program prepares students to be comfortable with correct grammar, pronunciation, and usage in conversation and other forms of speech. Mrs. MacLaury, Miss Lee, and Miss Brennan certainly believe, "Everything I ever needed to know, I learned in kindergarten."



FIRST GRADE: PICTURE FRAME ART PROJECTS

First graders are creative in making picture frames as Christmas gifts for their parents. Artist Jennifer Lindstrom (Morgan Bogust's aunt) shares her talents and assists students in Miss Price's class. What a great hands-on learning project! Parents will enjoy a personalized gift, something much better than a store-bought gift.



SECOND GRADE: MANNERS & SPORTSMANSHIP

Second-grade students are involved in a ten-week study in manners based on the book, 365 MANNERS KIDS SHOULD KNOW, by Sheryl Eberly. Each week, they spend time in class learning and practicing new manners. Courteous behaviors learned each week include proper ways of asking for something and expressing gratitude, interrupting versus raising one's hand, apologizing, opening doors, and helping others; body posture and sitting properly, sneezing, coughing, and staying in one's own space are also emphasized. Other areas of focus are sportsmanship at recess and P.E., basic table manners, and tea service etiquette. At the culmination of this study, second graders will host a Christmas Tea Party.



THIRD GRADE: BLANKET MINISTRY

Third graders share "Good Tidings of Great Joy" by providing blankets for hurricane victims. Students cut out fleece and made blankets, wrapped them around stuffed animals, and wrote Christmas cards. Missionaries will be distributing these lovely gifts to children on the Gulf Coast.



Ron Matthews, Elementary Principal



**THIRD GRADE:
PARAMOUNT RANCH
FIELD TRIP**

The required reading of *Little House on the Prairie* by Laura Ingles Wilder is better understood with a visit to Paramount Ranch, where filming once took place for the television series. Mrs. Cole's class enjoyed touring the set in Agoura and eating a picnic lunch on the 2,700 acre western town. Students enjoyed dressing in western attire and acting the parts. Old-time sack races and bucket brigade firefighters carefully passed buckets of water in a relay to win a "No Homework" pass. Mrs. Cole said the teams, for the first time ever in her class, saved equal amounts of water, barely spilling a drop! ■

Thank you James and Janice George!

Recently the George family donated some die cuts for our Ellison lettering machine. This is a device that saves teachers, aides, and volunteers hours of time cutting out paper for bulletin boards, etc. The Georges donated die cuts related to Christmas and the armor of God. If others would like to purchase more die cuts for the teachers, check with Mr. Allen or go to www.ellison.com for more information. Thank you, Georges, for helping our staff!

Re-enrollment

Beginning in early February 2006, we will release re-registration packets for the 2006-2007 school year. Last year, there were a few of our current families who did not register in time and thus were not able to continue their child's enrollment at HCS. We give our current families first priority but must open registration to others eventually. Watch for more information on how we will handle the re-registration process differently in the January newsletters. We want to help facilitate the process for our families. We do anticipate that some grade levels will fill up rather quickly.

Scrip Reminder

Don't forget Christmas is coming. HCS may be the best place to do your Christmas shopping. We had a huge response last week from our School Team announcement. We sold nearly \$5,000 in scrip last week alone. Consider purchasing \$100 or \$25 denominations of Home Depot gift certificates. These make great gifts for the do-it-yourself types on your Christmas list or for tackling your own home improvement projects over the vacation. We have gift cards for everyone on your list in amounts from \$5.00 to \$100.00. Thanks for your support of Hillcrest! Don't forget to fill out the back of the order form to designate which class gets credit for your purchase.



Girls' Basketball Team VICTORIOUS

The girls kicked off their season against Discovery Prep last Friday. Hillcrest took an early lead and never looked back as they defeated DPHS 33-26. Junior Nicole Megowan scored 18 points, and Freshman Liz Cornelison added 7. The Saints have two more games before the Christmas break. On Tuesday night (12/13), HCS will take on rival West Valley Christian at First Christian Church of Newbury Park. The game will begin at 4:30. On Thursday the girls will travel to Los Angeles to play Joel John Scholastic Academy at 7:00. This year's team members are: Sarah Taylor, Shanen Fernandez, Jenelle Lee, Claire Kenney, Nicole Megowan, Leanne Lansang, Elyse Menger, Megan Ameche, Hannah Rhodes, Liz Cornelison, and Lindsey Luebbert. Mr. Gutierrez and Mr. Windle. coach the team.

Varsity Boys to Cuyama

HCS went into the locker room at halftime only down 2 points. Coach Paul Ramirez and the boys could not overtake the Bears and ended up with a 52-42 loss. Hillcrest will take on rival West Valley Christian at 6:00 P.M. on December 13 at First Christian Church in Newbury Park. The 2005-06 Saints are Cole Muzio, Derek Barksdale, James Schatz, Scott Menger, Cameron Fernandez, George Ontiveros, and Patrick LaMartina.

OUR SPORTS SHACK NEEDS YOU

The Sports Shack is looking for a parent to work in the store 2:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M. a few days a month. This is a great way to get to know the students and work off your volunteer hours. The Activity & Sports bulletin boards need to be updated as soon as possible. If you would like to help out with updating these boards, please contact Debbie MacPherson, Ext. 251.



An HCS Family Event!

All are invited. Bring your family.
Bring your friends & neighbors for a
FUN(d)raiser!

Hillcrest Christian School is having a fun, Winter Wonderland event at The Lakes in Thousand Oaks on Thursday, January 5!

Show up at any time. Plan to head on over to California Pizza Kitchen or the ice skating rink at The Lakes or BOTH. They will donate a certain percentage of their proceeds back to HCS! More information will be coming, but reserve the date. Let this be our first HCS FUN event on your calendar for January 2006. This could be a great way to bring students together for some pizza and ice skating as a New Year's class event ... special family time... or have some hot chocolate and ice skating with your friends! Get creative and let's enjoy the fellowship of this fundraiser together! CPK is open from 11 AM to 10 PM. The skating rink will be open from 11:30 AM to 9:30 PM. Take out orders at CPK also qualifies for the donation back to HCS.

Heritage Fund

We are thankful for the early responses to the Heritage Fund appeal. One of the major goals of our annual fund campaign, the Heritage Fund, is 100% participation. No matter the size of the donation, each gift is significant and helps us to reach our goal of 100% participation. One of our desires is to be prepared if an outside funding agency asks for the participation level of our own school families as a prerequisite for its gift. Outside agencies or donors may not support HCS if they feel our own families are not participating. We would love to tell them the participation is 100%. Again, each gift, no matter the size, makes a difference in what HCS can offer to your child's education. We thank you in advance!



A WORD FROM OUR SPONSOR

The ParentLink telecommunication technology system allows our school to immediately contact parents by phone in case of emergency and to personally deliver important messages about your children directly to you, the parents.

ParentLink sponsor, JoAnn Tattersall of Active Real Estate has donated the use of the school-to-home outreach communication technology to Hillcrest Christian School. JoAnn welcomes any questions regarding how your own real estate transactions can raise money for HCS.

JoAnn Tattersall, Active Real Estate

Direct: 818-991-9931 :: Cell: 805-370-7688

tatsells@JoAnnTattersall.com

310 N. Westlake Blvd. #240 Westlake, Village, CA 91361

Yearbook Ads

The yearbook staff is now selling space for personal ads/dedications in the 2005/2006 yearbook.

ADVERTISING RATES

COLOR ADS

¼ page - \$100

½ page - \$175

Full page - \$300

BLACK & WHITE ADS

⅛ page (max 50 words only) - \$45

¼ page - \$75

½ page - \$135

Full page - \$250

NOTE: Have you taken any pictures on a field trip, at the carnival, or maybe just inside a classroom? If so, please send them to the yearbook staff ASAP!

CONTACT: Debbie MacPherson EXT 251;
dmacpherson@hillcrestcs.org



AWESOME AUCTION ITEM OF THE WEEK!! A Night to SOAR

MAMMOTH ANYONE? Come bid on this beautiful, newly remodeled vacation home in Mammoth that sleeps 8-10 and is centrally located to the village and the slopes. With views of the mountains, you can leave LA for an incredible 1 week family vacation!

Don't forget...Hillcrest's 2nd annual auction and dinner is on February 11th at 5:30 P.M. at Air Force One Pavilion, the newest addition to the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library. Come dine and fellowship in this historic location!

Hillcrest is still seeking donations for the silent and live auction. Come by the front office to pick up a form. All donations must be turned in by January 18. Call Melissa Dundas, 805-390-3144, or Megan Hamlin, Ext.202, if you need more information.