



ACADEMIC COMPETITIONS 2009-2010

Academic Competitions at HCS during 2009- 2010 include several events, one that is new to HCS and others that are annual occurrences. Below is a list of the various school competitions. Make preparation fun and remember that the process is where the learning takes place. We all become champions by doing our best – win or lose.

ACSI Sponsored Events:

The Place to “BEE” Annual ACSI Geography Bee (Grades 3-8): Last year, ACSI hosted its first ever geography bee as a pilot program in our ACSI Southern California region. This year, all ACSI regions across the county are participating. Eventually, a national competition will take place. The teams for HCS’s participation have already been selected and are preparing for the February 12th competition against other schools. For more information contact Mr. Allen, our Head of School at ext. 210, or email to sallen@hillcrestcs.org. Mr. Allen would be glad to give you information if you want to study with your child to learn geography and to prepare to be on next year’s school team.

ACSI Spelling Bee (Grades 2-8): Hillcrest will continue its tradition of participating in the ACSI Spelling Bee. The spelling bee is an exciting opportunity for all children in grades 2-8. It provides students an opportunity to be involved in a fun academic contest. The ability to communicate with one another and with God is part of His plan for our lives. The written form of our language requires accurate spelling. Thus, spelling becomes an important part of the communication process. It is the written form that allows the transfer of information over space and time. This is unique to humans and is a clear reflection of the nature of God. The ACSI Spelling Bee occurs at four levels: The HCS school spelling bee is December 2. If students qualify, they may then participate in the ACSI District Spelling Bee on January 15 at Master’s College. ACSI will then schedule the ACSI Spelling Bee Regional Finals and the ACSI National Spelling Bee. For more information, contact Mrs. Hawisher at ext. 243, or email at shawisher@hillcrestcs.org.

ACSI Elementary Speech Meet (Grades 1-6):

To encourage effective public speaking and develop communication skills that contribute to Christian leadership, ACSI will host its yearly speech meet at Grace Brethren Christian School on May 14, 2010. (This is the same day as HCS Open House.) Hillcrest students will have an opportunity to compete here at HCS on March 24th to determine who goes to the area-wide meet. Categories include poetry, Bible memorization, fable and folklore, patriotic oration, and original speech. If you have a background in communication, teaching, or English, and would like to volunteer to be a judge, please contact Julie Thurman at ext. 213 or email jthurman@hillcrestcs.org.

ACSI Math Olympics (Grades 3-8): This ACSI event is a great opportunity for students in grades 3-8 to display their math skills in computation and reasoning. A runoff will be conducted at every grade level for each category of competition (computation and reasoning) to determine which students will represent HCS for their grade level at the ACSI Math Olympics. The HCS team will compete at West Valley Christian School on March 26. Contact our sixth grade teacher, Mrs. Zimmerman at ext. 247, or email azimmerman@hillcrestcs.org.

ACSI Piano Festival (Grades K-12): Hillcrest will participate in the ACSI Piano Festival in Santa Clarita at Master’s College on March 9, 2010. Any student currently taking piano lessons is invited to participate. Each student memorizes a selection listed in the ACSI Piano Festival Handbook at his/her own piano grade level. The student performs the piece before an adjudicator. The student is judged against a standard of excellence, not in comparison to other students. Selections include classical and hymn in preparatory through advanced level. Participants receive a certificate and ribbon, as well as a written evaluation on their performance. If interested in participating, please contact our music teacher, Donna Essick at extension 211, or at dessick@hillcrestcs.org.

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To the 21st Century and Beyond! -5th Annual ACSI-Technology Fair 2010 (Grades 5-12):

Mr. James Kosako is not just coordinating this event for HCS, but will be hosting the ACSI Technology Fair 2010 for all of ACSI Southern California at Azusa Pacific University, Orange Campus, across from Angel Stadium. Last year was HCS's first ever participation in this event. Hillcrest students from grades 5th-12th will have the opportunity to represent and participate in this event. This year along with presenting projects, students will be given the opportunity to participate in a workshop entitled Digital Imaging and Podcasting. This event will take place on March 19, 2010. Projects must fall into the following five categories: video, podcasts, desktop publishing, multimedia, and web design. For more information please contact Mr. Kosako at ext. 259, or email jkosako@hillcrestcs.org.

HCS Science Fair: (Grades 6-8): "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork." Psalm 19:1 Seeing the glory of God revealed in nature is one of the many blessings of studying His creation in our science classes. We invite students to investigate God's creation further and bring Him glory through this year's science fair. We have been introduced to what science is and how to study it, and now our students can put this knowledge into action! The HCS Science Fair will take place on January 26, 2010 for grades 6 through 8. Preparations will begin late fall 2009, so stay tuned! The top three 7th and 8th grade students will continue on to an ACSI science fair event on April 16, 2010. Would you like more information? If so, contact Miss Cecil at ext. 254, or email jcecil@hillcrestcs.org.

National Geographic Society Sponsored Event:

Another Place to "BEE": National Geographic Geography Bee (Grades 4-8): The National Geographic Geography Bee is coming to Hillcrest! Hillcrest students in grades 4th-8th will have the opportunity to compete at grade level, followed by a school competition. Grade level students will compete against each other to determine one (1) Hillcrest Geography Bee winner. That student may move on to the state level competition based on the scoring of a written exam. This competition is on our calendar to take place on January 8, 2010 – the Friday after we return from Christmas break. For more information, contact our Head of School, Mr. Allen at ext. 210, or email sallen@hillcrestcs.org. You can also access the NGS's website at <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/geobee/>.

HCS Sponsored Events

California Here We Go: Third Annual Competition (Grade 4): To continue to prepare our fourth grade students for their annual CA Tour, our third annual California Kid Contest will again be held this year. Students in grade four have already been provided an outline of facts from which to study. This is not a comprehensive list, so study California facts, past and present. On April 30, 2010 all of our fourth graders will take a written test (not for academic course grade) to determine the top three students between the two fourth grades. On May 7, 2010 the top three students from the written test will participate in a game-show format contest. Prizes are given to the top three contestants. This contest encourages our students to appreciate the annual trip to Sacramento, to learn about California and to be able to answer the docents' questions. See a fourth grade teacher and/or contact our Head of School, Mr. Allen at ext. 210, or email at sallen@hillcrestcs.org.

U.S.A Geography Expert - Second Annual Competition (Grade 5): Students in grade five have been provided a list of rivers, water bodies, mountains, and other US geography facts (in addition to states and capitals, including correct spelling) for a testing process that will take place beginning in February. The top three students from the two fifth grade classes will compete in a game-show format contest in May 2010. For more information contact Mrs. Davis at ext. 232, or email at jdavis@hillcrestcs.org.