

*C*ALENDAR ITEMS
AUGUST 2008

- Fri. 22** Class Lists Posted
Ice Cream Social 12:30 P.M.
- 25-26** Secondary Books & Schedules
10 A.M.- 1 P.M.
- Mon. 25** Preschool-PreK Back to School Night
6 P.M.
- Tues. 26** K-12 New Student Orientation
10 A.M.
7th Grade Orientation 1 P.M.
- Wed. 27** First Day of School 2008-09
PFA Coffee/Prayer 8:30 A.M.
- Fri. 29** 7-12 Field Day 11:30-3:00 P.M.

SEPTEMBER 2008

- Mon. 01** Labor Day Holiday
NO SCHOOL NO CHILDCARE
- Thurs. 04** PFA Meeting 1:30-3:00 P.M.
7-12 Back to School Night 7-9 P.M.
- Sat. 06** Saturday Workday 8 A.M. - Noon
Movie Night
- Mon. 08** Booster Club Meeting 1:30-3:00 P.M.
- Tues. 09** Washington D.C. Meeting 7 P.M.
- Thurs. 11** K-6 Back to School Night 7-8:30 P.M.
ONLINE CALENDAR: WWW.HILLCRESTCS.ORG



by Stephen Allen, Head of School

**May the Forge Be With You:
Setting Goals**

Forge: noun – to form or shape out in any way; or to move forward slowly and steadily

Welcome to the 2008-2009 school year. No, I did not misspell “force” in the title. As HCS parents, understand that you have the power to be the forger or shaper of the kind of school year your child will experience at Hillcrest Christian School this year. If you want the best year possible, consider that in the remaining days of summer you can help your school-age children understand the power of written goals. As employees are returning to HCS, I will be emphasizing this to them – so join us and form a partnership that has the potential to bring significant dividends to your child.

“While we work to plan and shape our lives, remember that the master forger desires to be the one who shapes us and encourages us to make improvements in various areas of our lives.”

Your goal-setting pep talk with your child does not need to take an excessive amount of time, but the time you do spend is well worth it. Here are some points to consider. (1) Try to develop no more than three to five goals. (2) Make the goals measurable and reasonable. (3) Allow at least one of the goals to be what I call a “stretch” goal. In other words, you probably won’t fully succeed at it – this year. (4) Share your goals with someone. (5) Schedule a routine of periodically reviewing your goals with an encourager or someone who will help hold you accountable to work at the goals. (6) There is power in writing out goals, but consider what adjustments are needed to really accomplish the goals.

I know this is basic; however, often it is just this kind of basic strategy that brings success in our lives. I will be asking students and parents to share some of their goals. Feel free to ask me about my goals. I’ll be ready for you and will gladly share one or more of mine. This can be a great year for our children, our homes, and our teachers and other staff members, but keep one last thing in mind.

Who is the master forger? While we work to plan and shape our lives, remember that the master forger desires to be the one who shapes us and encourages us to make improvements in various areas of our lives. Stay open to the Lord’s leading. The simple prayer of “Lord, I am open to change my heart according to Your will” is powerful. As He says in Psalm 32:8, “I will

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SHORT SUBJECTS

Reminder From the Finance Office

All book, material, and activity fees were due on June 30 and must be paid prior to the first day of school. Students with outstanding fees on the first day of school will not receive their books. (This includes the elementary students and secondary students who come for schedule and book pick-up).

Friday, August 22 Class Lists Posted Ice Cream Social 12:30 P.M.

Every year the anticipation mounts as it gets closer to the first day of school. This year, come view the lists and then celebrate with a big scoop of ice cream at the Ice Cream Social sponsored by PFA in the auditorium at 12:30 P.M. This is a great way to reconnect with HCS families, say "Hi" to your child's teacher, meet your PFA representatives, and catch our enthusiasm for the year ahead.

7th Grade Orientation Aug. 26 1:00 P.M.

Both new and returning incoming seventh grade students and their parents are invited to attend a special orientation session on Tuesday, August 26, at 1:00 P.M. The transition from elementary school to middle school is often intimidating for parents if not for their children. During this one hour session, we will share some tips on how to make the transition go smoothly. We will talk about schedules, lockers, passing periods, and electives. You will have a chance to ask questions and meet some of the teachers who both teach in the middle school and who have successfully guided their children through it.



by Carlyn Krause, K-12 Dean of Students

God Has Opened A Window

Someone once said that when God closes a door, He opens a window. In my case, my beloved P-4 classroom will no longer be open for secondary English and history as it has been for the last five years. While I will still be teaching two classes in world literature and history, I will also be serving our Hillcrest family as the new College Advisor and the Dean of Students for K – 12. Juniors, get ready to win all the high school class competitions as I will be your homeroom advisor as well.

I look forward to developing a college counseling department under the mentorship of Mrs. Malcolm and Mrs. Horan to better assist and equip students in their preparation for college. It's never too early to begin thinking about where you will spend the four years after graduating from HCS (or what your next mascot and school colors will be).

For those of you who do not know me, I have been married to my college sweetheart, Steve for twenty-nine years, and we have three children. An avid Bruin fan, I graduated from UCLA with a B.A. in Communications and went on to complete a M.A. in Psychology from Pepperdine University. Although spare time will not be in abundance this year, my hobbies include reading historical fiction and doing needlepoint.

Please stop by P-2 whenever you have a moment as I look forward to getting to know all the Hillcrest families. It is with enthusiasm that I plan on sharing the 2008-2009 school year with all of you!

New Roles for Not So New Faces

Many of you may have heard that Mr. Kempf and his family have moved to Arizona. After much prayer, he accepted a position as a principal in a school where both he and his wife can serve. It was a difficult decision for him, and we will miss his enthusiastic presence in the halls of Hillcrest. We wish him the very best in this new adventure.

In restructuring the administrative responsibilities, we have made the following staff assignment changes:

Mrs. Lorna West will assume the Activities Director role in addition to her role as registrar.

Mrs. Malcolm will assume the position of Admissions Director in addition to her role as Educational Administrative Assistant.

Coach Dominguez has accepted the position of Athletic Director along with his teaching and coaching responsibilities.

As Mrs. Krause has explained, she will be limiting her teaching responsibilities to accept the role of College Advisor for secondary students and Dean of Students for the K– 12 program.

We look forward to these very capable committed employees fulfilling their new roles with excellence.



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Please Welcome These Smiling New Faces to HCS



Mrs. Trish Berg- Preschool 2s

Mrs. Berg feels blessed that God has made a way for her to rejoin the Hillcrest team to teach the 2-year-olds and provide extended childcare. After leaving Hillcrest in 2006 to stay home with her newborn baby girl, she will be bringing Emmersen Rae with her to start the 2-year-old program.

Earning her Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education with honors from Metropolitan Community College in Omaha, NE, Trish has over 20 years experience working with children from infant to school age. In addition, she received her CA Child Site Supervisor Permit in 2005.

Trish and her husband Philip have been a part of Hillcrest since moving to California in 1997, when their oldest daughter Kassi, now a freshman at HCS, started the preschool program.



Mrs. Kerry Tran- Pre-Kindergarten

Mrs. Tran joins us as a pre-kindergarten teacher. She attended Cal State Northridge and received a BA in Liberal Studies in 2004. Continuing her education at CSUN, Kerry earned her multiple subject teaching credential in 2007. At age seventeen, Kerry knew God was calling her to work with children. She has seven years of experience working with children in preschool, kindergarten, second, third, fourth, and fifth grade. Kerry feels blessed to be part of Hillcrest Christian where she can incorporate God's word into her teachings.

Kerry and her husband have been married almost 15 months and are still enjoying being newlyweds. She loves to spend time with her nephews, Ryan, Nathan, and Colin, who are students here at Hillcrest. She also loves to cook, watch old movies, eat sushi, and all things to do with turtles.

Kerry Tran is excited to be a part of HCS. She looks forward to meeting her students and is eager to be a part of their spiritual and educational growth.



Miss Lauryn Nicole- Pre Kindergarten

Miss Nicole graduated from Cal State Long Beach with a B.A. in Communication Studies. Throughout her college career, she worked for a law firm and real estate development company. Upon graduating she relocated to Thousand Oaks and soon realized that the office was no place for her. Her prayer immediately became that God would place her where her natural talents and gifts could best be used for His kingdom, and through a series of "God-incidences" she was offered a position at Hillcrest teaching pre-kindergarten in late spring of 2008.

In addition to spending time with children, Miss Nicole also loves spending time outdoors, enjoying the beauty of God's creation – sunshine, riding her bike, going to the beach in the summer, and snowboarding in the winter. She also enjoys serving at Cornerstone Simi and loves spending time with her wonderful friends and family.

Miss Nicole is looking forward to the coming year and the amazing opportunity God has given her to begin to plant the seeds of faith and to give the children an accurate picture of their Heavenly Father.



Mrs. Rachel Cunningham - 5th Grade

Mrs. Cunningham comes to us with over six years of teaching experience. After graduating from Aquinas College, in Grand Rapids, MI, with a B.A. in Language Arts and completing her elementary teaching credential, she felt God calling her to California. She first took a teaching position in San Jose and shortly thereafter met her husband, Brent. They were married in July, 2003, and moved to Simi Valley in August, 2003. Mrs. Cunningham taught for two years at a private school in West Valley and three years at a private

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school in Simi Valley before accepting a position this year at HCS teaching fifth grade.

Lately, she and her husband enjoy spending time watching their eight month old son Noah grow each day. They also LOVE going to Dodger games, serving at their church, Cornerstone Simi, being outdoors, and going to the beach. Mrs. Cunningham is very excited about the opportunity to teach at HCS and looks forward to seeing how God works in her life and the lives of her students this year!



Mrs. Amanda Zimmerman- 6th Grade

Hillcrest welcomes Mrs. Zimmerman who joins our elementary staff as the new sixth grade math, science, and history teacher. Mrs. Zimmerman who grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio is an alumnus of the University of Kentucky.

As a first year teacher, Mrs. Zimmerman says that she can't wait for school to start, and she is looking forward to meeting all of her students and families as well as all the awesome things that God has in store for her this school year.



Mrs. Katherine Farah-Gilroy Elementary Spanish, ELD

Mrs. Farah-Gilroy comes to us from Barranquilla, Colombia (South America). She's been a teacher for over 12 years, specializing in second language learners in the elementary level. She also has a university degree in business. This year she will combine both careers by being our elementary Spanish teacher and also the director of our ELD program.

She's been married to a T.O. local for 2 years, but just recently moved to the U.S. with her husband and two children. They enjoy going to the movies and spending family time together playing Wii, swimming, and attending EV Free church, where she and her family continue to learn how to walk in Christ. She's looking forward to working with us at HCS, and making new friends in her new country.



Miss Jennifer Cecil - Secondary Science & Math

Miss Cecil joins us as a secondary science and math teacher. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Biological Sciences in 2002 from UCSB and went on to serve as the Dean of Women and a Bible teacher at Calvary Chapel Bible College in Siegen, Germany, from 2003-2005. Miss Cecil was also a junior high youth leader for 5 years and has been involved in high school youth ministry for the last 2 years. Since her return from Germany, she has been working as an assistant manager at a local Starbucks and serving at Calvary Chapel Thousand Oaks.

Jennifer has a passion for teaching and for helping our youth discover who they are in Christ and the plans He has for them.

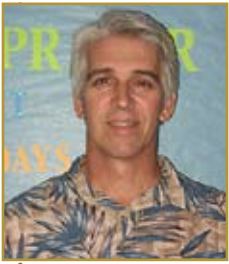


Ms. Danielle Yee – Secondary Humanities

This is Ms. Yee's first year teaching secondary humanities, as she is a recent graduate of Cal State Northridge's credential program. After graduating from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo with a degree in Political Science, Ms. Yee moved back to Westlake Village to be closer to her family and has stayed there ever since. In her spare time Ms. Yee enjoys running, dancing, being outdoors, and helping out in the community.

Ms. Yee is a member of Calvary Community Church in Westlake Village and has been on mission trips to both Mexico and Mississippi to do construction. She is excited to be a part of Hillcrest and is anxious to see what work God will do at Hillcrest next year.

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**Mr. Les Enloe - Secondary Bible, Math, Film**

Mr. Enloe comes to Hillcrest with eleven years of experience teaching Bible, math, creative writing, and film (appreciation and production). With a B.A. from USC's film school, Mr. Enloe has written for Hollywood (The Twilight Zone) and written and produced for the Disney Channel before embarking on a teaching career.

He has been married for twenty two years to his amazing wife, Laurie, and they have four wonderful children: Jacqueline and Christopher, college students, and Matthew and Stephen who are still at home. One of Mr. Enloe's favorite pastimes is spending time with his family. He is looking forward to a great year

with great students here at Hillcrest.

**Miss Courtney Carpenter -Secondary Science and Math**

Miss Carpenter rejoins us as a teacher after graduating from Hillcrest, class of '02. As a student, she excelled in academics and sports including volleyball, softball, basketball, and cheerleading. Upon graduation, she attended UC Irvine and completed two degrees with a B.S. in Biological Sciences and a B.A. in Sociology.

While attending UCI, Courtney also excelled in dance classes including tap, ballet, jazz, African, and Irish dancing. She is currently taking online classes with National University to complete her M.A. in Education specializing in cross-cultural education. Courtney will be teaching high school marine biology,

physics, chemistry, and calculus.

**Mrs. Julie Thurman- Librarian**

Julie Thurman is excited to be joining the HCS staff as Librarian. A graduate of CSU Sacramento with degrees in both English and Journalism, Mrs. Thurman looks forward to expanding our library inventories and curriculum to work with all of our students to enhance their love of literature.

Mrs. Thurman has four children attending HCS, 6th, 7th and 8th grade boys and a 2nd grade girl. She lives in Thousand Oaks with her husband of sixteen years. They attend Cornerstone Community Church of Moorpark and enjoy being a part of the ministry there in addition to attending their childrens the many sporting events that their children are involved in.

**Mr. James Kosako - Technology**

Mr. Kosako comes to Hillcrest Christian School with 24 years of teaching experience. He graduated from Biola University with a Bachelor of Music Education and has a Masters of Arts in Educational Technology from Azusa Pacific University. He has worked in five Christian schools over the years and has taught band, orchestra, choir, vocal ensemble, gamelan, general music, guitar, boys cooking, Bible, 4th-8th grade computers, video yearbook class, and filmmaking.

Outside of school, Mr. Kosako presents computer seminars for many public school organizations. He has spoken recently at the largest technology conference (NECC) in San Antonio, TX. He shares his expertise in computers at the ACSI Convention in addition to many computer conferences in the southern California area.

He is currently the President of the San Gabriel Valley Computer Using Educators, which is an organization that trains teachers in computer integration, both in the public and private schools in the San Gabriel Valley. This organization has members from Thousand Oaks to Hesperia, CA. In his spare time, he takes care of his mother in Los Angeles and is actively involved at his church as an overseer of the hospitality ministry and as a worship leader for the Sunday worship services. His hobbies are photography, singing, and playing the violin. ■



by Kathy Horan, Principal

Welcome Back to School

Although I do enjoy the relaxing days of summer vacation, I am pleased to welcome all of you to what I am praying will be an excellent year at Hillcrest Christian School. God has gathered a talented staff, a roster of precious students throughout the grade levels, and of

course their supportive parents to work together to make this year memorable spiritually, academically, and socially. I am especially excited to announce that we will be reestablishing Spanish in the elementary classrooms and that we will be launching a new physical education program that is grade level sequenced and in compliance with California state standards. At the secondary level, Mrs. Logan, Mrs. Gilchrist, and I are excited to welcome Miss Carpenter as a member of our staff. We all remember her as a dedicated student, and it is gratifying to see one of our alums return to teach the next generation.

As you read through the bios of our new staff members, I hope that you will agree with me that our God is faithful, and that He has blessed us in the staff that He has provided for this school year. I have had the opportunity to see many of your children at the uniform sales, summer camp, and visits back to campus, and I am amazed at how much they have grown over the summer. We have an exciting year planned for Hillcrest, and we are eager to share our vision with all of you. I look forward to seeing all of you at the secondary Back to School Night on September 4th and the elementary Back to School Night on September 11. Pray with us that God will bless our plans and that we will see his blessing on our endeavors.

Football is Back at HCS

We are very pleased to announce that football is alive and well again at Hillcrest. Under the direction of Coach Dominguez, we have a talented group of players that are working hard to get in shape for the new season. The team consists of four seniors, Colby Dundas, Brock MacPherson, Eric Jansen, and Jason Suh along with underclassmen Jeong Moon Lee, Yujia Liu, Logan Baltau, and Gio Hernandez. Watch future newsletters for game times and schedule. Plan to come out and support our varsity football team. Go SAINTS!!

Movie Night is Coming!

Make sure to mark your calendars for our first family event of the year on September 6. Various school groups will be selling pizza, snacks and other items. Grab a blanket and some chairs and come meet with other Hillcrest families for a time of food, fun, and fellowship. The feature film will be *Evan Almighty*, and a short Veggie Tale cartoon for the young set.

Please join the PFA for coffee and fellowship followed by a time of prayer for our school at 8:30 on the first day of school.

Important Calendar at a Glance change!

The auction date has been moved from Saturday, March 21 to Saturday March 28. Please mark your calendar with this correction. Thank you!

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May the Forge Be With You

instruct you and teach you in the way you should go. I will counsel you with My eye upon you.” This is a wonderful promise of provision with intimacy. Praise God that He knows us personally.

Enjoy our wonderful staff and the various improvements we have implemented this year. This newsletter is full of pertinent information that you need to know. We do spend significant time and resources preparing this publication. Thanks for reading it. Please reach out to our new families to make all of them feel welcome. Have a great school year. ■

World Vision's Step into Africa Comes to Thousand Oaks

Step into Africa is an interactive AIDS experience designed to raise awareness and resources to help children in Africa affected by the Aids epidemic. This interactive AIDS Experience comes to Ventura County and its neighbors from August 22-26 at Calvary Community Church. Their goal is to welcome 5,000 members of the community through the exhibit over five days. For more information on the potential impact of this amazing event, visit www.worldvisionexperience.org.

There is plenty of opportunity for Hillcrest families to get involved: attend the exhibit, volunteer, pray, post flyers at their places of business, and give financial support. If you have any questions or are interested in communication materials, contact Jeff Witten, Area Director of Advancement for World Vision, at jwitten@worldvision.org.