

*C*ALENDAR ITEMS

AUGUST 2007

- Tues. 21** Prospective Family Information Night 7 P.M.
Invite your Christian friends and family to attend

- Fri. 24** Class Lists Posted 12:30 P.M.
Ice Cream Social 1 P.M.

- 27-28** Secondary Books & Schedules 10 A.M.

- Mon. 27** Preschool/PreK Back to School Night 6 P.M.

- Tues. 28** K-12 New Student Orientation 10 A.M.
Kindergarten Picnic 3 P.M.

- Wed. 29** First Day of School 2007-08

- Fri. 31** 7-12 Field Day

SEPTEMBER 2007

- Mon. 03** Labor Day NO SCHOOL NO CHILDCARE

- Thurs. 06** 7-12 Back to School Night

- Thurs. 13** K-6 Back to School Night

- Tues. 25** 1st Partnering With Parents

- 26-28** High School Retreat

ONLINE CALENDAR: WWW.HILLCRESTCS.ORG

**All New K – 12 Students
 Don't Miss New Student Orientation**

In the HCS Auditorium
 Tuesday, August 28 at 10:00 AM

Meet your teachers and fellow new classmates. Elementary students will visit their classrooms and secondary students will pick up books and schedules.



by Stephen Allen, Head of School

**Welcome Back to School –
 31 Years and Counting**

Welcome to the 31st year of Christian education at Hillcrest Christian School. There is a stir of optimism in our school that this year, Lord willing, could be our best ever. Keep in mind that each year represents 365 days of which “the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it (them).” (Psalm 118:24) First, however, let me indulge a bit in the past.

Looking Back:

This past year we were able to see our school advance in a number of ways. Here are a few them.

We rejoice that we were able to provide a nurse for approximately 50% of the time that school is in session. Besides the ongoing day-to-day needs, our nurse, Mrs. Matsuo, also lead in greatly advancing our emergency/disaster preparedness – of which she will improve even further this coming year.

Our science lab was able to be fully used this past year. We are thankful to the many who contributed to this project. Due to other donations, we moved the computer lab out of a stationary room by upgrading to new laptops and moving the lab onto a mobile cart. We started two academic contests in grades four and five.

About mid-year we rejoiced in the opening of our long-awaited grass field. Near the end of the year we installed a trophy case in the hall way by the conference room. Six classrooms were improved with technology advancements to allow the use of overhead ceiling projectors.

Finally, we are pleased to announce that our average scores on the Stanford Achievement Test – version 10 improved another three months to the level of two years ahead of the national average. Congratulations to all who

continue on page 4

SHORT SUBJECTS



Friday, August 24
Class Lists Will Be Posted
12:30 P.M.
Ice Cream Social 1:00 P.M.

Every year the anticipation mounts as it gets closer to the first day of school. What teachers will my children have? Which students are in their classes? This year, come view the lists and then celebrate (or ease the pain) with a big scoop of ice cream at the Ice Cream Social sponsored by PFA in the auditorium at 1:00 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.

Monday, August 27
7th Grade Orientation 2 P.M.

Incoming seventh grade students and their parents are invited to attend a special orientation session on Tuesday, August 28 at 2:00 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.

Kathy Horan, Principal



Anticipation Builds As We Get Ready

Because our eldest child has an early January birthday, he celebrated his first Christmas when he was nearly a year old. We decided at that time that Christmas presents would never go under the tree until after he, and later his siblings, were fast asleep on Christmas Eve because we did not want

Ryan Windle

I am pleased and excited to introduce you to our new vice-principal, Mr. Ryan Windle. Although new to this role, Mr. Windle, affectionately called "Winny" by his students has taught geometry, calculus, and Bible for the last three years and has been an assistant coach for the varsity girls' basketball team. Before coming to Hillcrest, Mr. Windle taught at Laurel Hall in North Hollywood. Shortly after coming to HCS (approximately three days), Mr. Windle married his beautiful wife, Natasha, and they will be celebrating their three year anniversary in just a few days.

Currently in his second year of a master's program in education, Mr. Windle will bring not only his recent education, but he will also share his passion for teaching and his love for kids...especially God's kids. In fact, the reason that Mr. Windle is even at HCS is because a former HCS graduate advised him to "check out HCS" because it would be a place where he could share his love for the Lord, his desire to train students to live a godly life in a growing secular world, and fulfill his passion for teaching. In his very first year at HCS, one teacher confided in me that Mr. Windle inspired him/her to be a better teacher...quite high praise indeed from a colleague!

The secondary staff and students know Mr. Windle as a patient and dedicated teacher, a firm but loving disciplinarian, and a mentor of our young men. I am so excited that the elementary students and staff will have that same opportunity to get to know and be ministered to by him. He's the bicycle under my Christmas tree.

Mark Kempf

Hi, my name is Mark Kempf and the Lord has blessed me in allowing me to join the staff as admission director, athletic director, and activities director.

I graduated from Concordia University in Irvine, California with a BA in Secondary Education and a MA in Instructional Strategies in Education. I have been in secondary and elementary education and administration for 19 years beginning my ministry at Lutheran High School in Honolulu, Hawaii. I continued my secondary ministry by moving to Orange, California and joining the Orange Lutheran High School Ministry Team teaching, coaching, and assuming partial administration duties. For the past three years, I was the principal of Ascension Lutheran School in Thousand Oaks.

My wife Anna and I have been married for 20 years. She has been in education for 13 years and is currently teaching 3rd grade at Ascension Lutheran School. We have three children. Our son Isaiah is a senior at Oaks Christian High School. Our daughter Alana, is an eighth grader and daughter Mariah, is a seventh grader. I look forward to working with all of you as we share the love of Christ to parents, students and the community!



HILLCREST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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



for the New School Year

their focus to be on presents during the Christmas season. As a result, I would go to bed on Christmas Eve too excited to sleep. I couldn't wait for morning when they would wake up and see what was under the tree. While it is August and over ninety degrees, I have that same sense of excitement as I wait for the school year to begin so that you can meet the new staff members who will complement our returning staff and experience the improvements that we will be making in our academic, spiritual, and enrichment programs.

Bridget Luebbert

Miss Bridget Luebbert will join the secondary staff teaching honors American literature, British literature, seventh and ninth grade English classes. Ms. Luebbert will also be secondary ASB moderator. Her family is a source of inspiration to her as her dad, Scott, was a Christian school administrator and her mom, a teacher. Her past experience teaching in Christian schools and leading a secondary ASB will make her transition into HCS a smooth one. She is also very familiar with our school as her younger sister Lindsay, a junior, has been an HCS student since her freshman year.

Ben Waggoner

My name is Ben Waggoner. I was born and raised in Ohio, graduated from Fremont Ross High School in 1994, and then came to CA to attend the Master's College. I graduated with a BA in Biblical studies in 1994, and went on to Master's Seminary earning a Masters of Divinity in 2005. I also graduated from singleness in April, 2006 when I married the most beautiful and wonderful wife in wifedom, Kate.

I am completely stoked that I get to study God and His Word with the secondary students of Hillcrest this year. I hope to be challenged in my own walk with God and love for Christ by learning from and with these young adults. This is what I look forward to the most.

The Hitchcocks: John and Elaine

Mr. John Hitchcock (and his wife Elaine) will be joining our staff as they move into our area from Mentone, CA. Mr. Hitchcock will be teaching math and chemistry. He has a great deal of knowledge and experience teaching science from a Christ-centered perspective. Mr. Hitchcock taught and was the science department chairperson for many years at Arrowhead Christian School in Redlands. He also taught a class at APU where a HCS alum motivated him to check out HCS and sang his praises as a professor. Most recently he has taught chemistry at Bloomington High School in Bloomington, California. Mr. Hitchcock has written his own book, *Radical Excellence*, reflecting on many of his experiences and values in both Christian and secular education.

Mrs. Elaine Hitchcock will be teaching fifth grade. She has many years of experience in Christian education, most recently at Arrowhead Christian School in Redlands, California. Mrs. Hitchcock has experience in elementary school (grades 2, 3, 4, and 5) middle school (English, Bible, Latin, keyboarding, math, music, and U.S. history), as well as in assisting students with special needs. She believes that every student is blessed with unique gifts and talents and able to do good work. To facilitate this, she will be implementing an after-school learning lab. Along with a variety of hobbies, she and Mr. Hitchcock enjoy traveling in their RV.

Sonya Sweet

Mrs. Sonya Sweet will be joining the Hillcrest teaching staff this year as the new pre-k teacher. Before moving to Westlake with her family, Sonya worked at a preschool in Roseville, Ca as the office manager. She also aided and substituted in the classrooms as needed. Though this will be her first year teaching, she has a heart for 4 year olds. Along with teaching pre-k, Mrs. Sweet will also be working with Mrs. Jackson in the 2 year old classroom. Sonya and her husband, Michael Vrchota, have two daughters, one who is 20, and 10 year old Sarah who will be entering 5th grade at Hillcrest this year.

Mrs. Sweet is excited to be a part of Hillcrest this year because of the love and encouragement that her daughter and family received as they adjusted to a new school and new area last year. She is hoping to bless other families with that same love and encouragement that made her own family feel so welcome.

Ivy Baylen

Ivy Baylen will be joining the staff as a preschool assistant and extended child care and yard coordinator. Ivy and her husband Glenn have five children. Her youngest children, Emery and Cherish, will be attending school at Hillcrest Christian. Ivy has been working in Christian schools since 1993 and has a background in music and working with ACSI. Ivy is excited to work with great teachers and to be able to share her love for Christ with our children through her EDC program.

New Family Orientation with Mr. Allen

It is important that each family at HCS fully understand our institutional values and processes. Each family new to HCS is required to attend an orientation meeting with our Head of School, Mr. Stephen Allen. The meetings are conducted in small groups of 4-5 families. Families that are not new to HCS are welcome to attend a meeting as well. Please call the office at 805-497-7501, ext. 200 to reserve your place at one of the following meetings:

Friday, August 24 at 2 PM

Thursday, August 30 at 7 PM

Tuesday, September 4 at 7 PM

Thursday, September 6 at 2 PM

Tuesday, September 11 at 3 PM

Tuesday, September 11 at 7 PM

Thursday, September 13 at 3 PM

continue from page 1

Welcome Back cont.

donated funds, materials, and expertise, spent time at volunteer workdays, and diligently worked with your children toward academic excellence. I was also pleased to witness our families reaching out to families in need. I thank the Lord for His motivation for each of us to be the body of Christ at HCS.

Looking Ahead:

We are so thankful for our teaching staff. These individuals are instrumental in planning and providing learning experiences for your children. We are thankful to the new teachers and other employees who are joining our team for 2007-2008. Besides reading about them in this and other publications, take the time to get to know them personally.

In preschool we anticipate another great year. One improvement that our preschool director, Mrs. Jackson looks forward to is taking the curriculum outside as an extension of the classroom activities.

In elementary and secondary school, Mrs. Horan is looking forward to advancements in instruction as the teachers collegially work together to implement instructional improvements such as the new writing curriculum, and extending teaching time in mathematics, as just two examples.

We have received additional funding to upgrade our security system here at HCS. We wish we did not have to expend funds in this area, but this need is a fact of life anywhere in the world. Even though any security system is not foolproof, we are thankful for the funding to move forward in this way. I am excited to see the energy and freshness being provided in the leadership of HCS's PFA – Parent-Faculty Association. Encourage them by getting behind their leadership.

Our year ahead will be greatly dependent upon our individual and corporate submission to a Holy and Magnificent Lord. Fully receive from Him and fully share Him with others out of His love for you. Have a great year! ■



by Meighan Kelleher, PFA President

PFA— A New Year of Parent Involvement

Welcome to all new and returning Hillcrest families. My name is Meighan Kelleher and I, along with Christina DeGiosa, have the honor of serving as the new Parent Faculty Association President and Vice President for the 2007-2008 school year. We are happy to announce that after a summer of reorganization, we have a new PFA Board dedicated to serving all of the needs within the Hillcrest family.

Our goals this year are 1) to provide better communication between the faculty, parents, and administration, 2) to build a sense of community within our Hillcrest family, and 3) to honor the Lord by encouraging and supporting those around us and in our community. Over the next two weeks, we invite each and every one of you to come and see what improvements have been made to the PFA and to get involved by volunteering for the many school-wide events held throughout the year.

The PFA will be hosting an ice cream social on Friday, August 24th following the class list postings. Come and connect with classmates, meet members of the new PFA board, and see how you would like to participate this year. The PFA will also be hosting a first day of school coffee on August 29th at 8:45 A.M. after drop off, and we would love to see you at our 1st general meeting on Thursday, September 6th at 1:00 P.M.

Please take a moment to view and return the enclosed list of PFA Volunteer Opportunities. Our new email address is hcsdfa@hillcrestcs.org should you have any questions or suggestions, and please visit our web page on the school website for ongoing PFA updates. With your help, we can bless our children, our school, and our community as the Lord has intended. "The one who blesses others is abundantly blessed; those who help others are helped." Proverbs 11:25 (The Message). We thank you for your support.