



by Stephen Allen, Head of School
**Geography Week –
 Champions Announced**

Over the years in the U.S., there has been much negative press about the lack of knowledge students have in the area of geography. Our country often doesn't stack up well in international comparisons. At HCS, our first week back from Christmas vacation included two different events for academic competitions related to geography.

ACSI Geography Bee

Earlier in the year, teams were selected to represent HCS at the upcoming February 12th ACSI Geography Bee (for grades 3-8). Last week, a "practice" competition was held among the team members to help them to experience what the February event will be like, and to determine the grade-level champions. The grade-level champions are Alyssa Tomkinson for grade three, Jordan Regier for grade four, Connor Otto for grade five, and Mitchell Williams for the team representing the combined grade levels of sixth through eighth. All of the students are champions and are working to prepare for the ACSI bee. If any parent/student wants to know what they can study to prepare for next year's geography competitions, Mr. Allen would be willing to meet with you.

**National Geographic Bee – Congratulations to...
 Mitchell Williams**

Last week, for the first time in HCS history, our school participated in The National Geographic Society Bee. All students (grades 4-8) were included in that organization's sponsored bee. After determining the top ten students in the morning's oral competitions, Mr. Allen hosted a run-off bee for our top ten geography bee experts. After some tough questions, the eventual school champion was seventh grader, Mitchell Williams. Mitchell will take a qualifying written test that will be submitted to The National Geographic Society to determine if he will be eligible to continue to our state's competition in April. State winners will attend the national competition in Washington, D.C. in May. Best wishes Mitchell!

National Geographic Society Bee HCS TOP !

Champion – Mitchell Williams, Gr. 7

- 2nd Place – Sarah Sweet, Gr. 7
- 3rd Place – Noah Hudgins, Gr. 7
- Other members of the Top Ten:
- Abigail Hume, Gr. 4
- Kirsten Mueller, Gr. 5
- Jackson Lane, Gr. 6
- Alexia Palmeri, Gr. 6
- Lucas Vieira, Gr. 7
- Ethan Ojeda, Gr. 8
- Shane OBrien, Gr. 8



**Fifth Annual Skate at the
 Lakes and CPK Event Next
 Wednesday, January 13**

Join us for Winter Wonderland at the Lakes on Wednesday, January 13. Skating will take place from 5:30 – 6:30 and costs \$9.00. (This is the only skating time slot that will benefit the school.) Head over to CPK either before or after and you don't have to cook. Both the restaurant and the rink will donate a percentage back to Hillcrest, but you must have a flier for both places – one per skater for the ice rink and one per family for CPK. They can be downloaded from our web site. CPK will be donating a generous 20% back to Hillcrest for the entire day, anytime as long as you present the HCS flier, so beat the crowds and go for lunch or dinner anytime, show your flier and your support. Thank you!!

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Math Starts in Preschool!

Hillcrest, we want our students to feel confident in their academic future. With this new preschool math program, we expect them to be better prepared to apply their knowledge to problem solving, logical thinking, fractions, ordering, patterning, geometry, numeration, place value, and much more in their future education here at Hillcrest.

If you stop by the preschool department and see our students working with rice and measuring spoonsbuilding with blocks, or molding with play dough, you will know that there is serious math learning going on. Math is just one part of Hillcrest's well rounded preschool program. Imagine all the fun your child is having and learning life skills in the process! ■

**CALENDAR ITEMS
 JANUARY 2010**

- Wed. 13 Skating and CPK Event
- Fri. 15 ACSI Spelling Bee
 HOMECOMING
 Spirit Day Pep Rally 1:30 P.M.
 Homecoming Game 4 P.M.
- Sat. 16 Homecoming Dance
- Mon. 18 Martin Luther King Holiday
 NO SCHOOL NO CHILD CARE
- Fri. 22 K-12 Teacher In-Service
 Half Day Schedule
 Secondary Dismissal 12:20 P.M.
 Elementary Dismissal 12:30 P.M.
- Mon. 25 Admissions Open House 7 P.M.
- Tues. 26 Town Hall Meeting 7 P.M.
- Wed. 27 HCS Science Fair 6th-8th grades
- Thurs. 28 End of 1st Semester
- Fri. 29 Semester Break
 NO SCHOOL NO CHILD CARE



ONLINE CALENDAR: WWW.HILLCRESTCS.ORG



by Cathe Jackson, preschool director
Building Blocks of Mathematics

As the new year begins and registration draws near, I have had a lot of new preschool parents inquiring about our program. There are so many questions to be answered in order for parents to feel good about the decision to place their child in the "perfect preschool". Some parents are looking for a school where the children "just play", while others want a school that is highly academic. Hillcrest Christian Preschool is a well rounded program. Ours is a spiritual, academic, developmental, and social program.

Hillcrest Christian preschool takes a child's development seriously. Our program is first and foremost a Christ-centered program. Teaching the children about their Lord and Savior Christ boosts their self esteem as they learn about God's love for them and how they can do all things through Him. Although playtime is important and teaches them how to interact socially and builds Godly character in the process, our students do much more than just play. Our goal academically is to provide the tools and training to prepare them to read and write as well as to have the skills to understand and problem solve in the future.

Last year, the preschool department implemented a new math program that helps develop the brain for future academic growth. There are specific steps that a child must master in order to fully grasp math concepts. The first step is exploring materials. As an example, we give them a container of connectors or Lincoln Logs to explore. We let the children play with them and watch as they figure out how to connect them. Then the teacher shows the child a new skill using the same connectors. The child is now ready for the challenge of learning this new skill. This step will help the child in the future with problem solving, logical thinking, sorting, and classifying.

Math is so much more than just learning to count in preschool. We are teaching our students to recognize spatial relationships, classification, one-to-one correspondence, understanding order, creating patterns by extending and comparing, to explore using materials, basic shape recognition, measurement, and recognition of numbers. At



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SHORT SUBJECTS

Big Spirit Day Bake Sale

On Friday, January 15, both kindergarten classes are sponsoring a special bake sale from 9:30 – 1:30 for recess and lunch. Homemade goodies will only be 50 cents each so bring your change and plan to support our K classes. What better way to celebrate Spirit Day than with a yummy treat!!

Admissions Open House Help Spread the Word

On Monday, January 25, at 7:00 P.M. Hillcrest is hosting an Admissions Open House for new families. This is an opportunity for Christian families who are interested in Hillcrest to come see the facility, meet with teachers and administrators, view curriculum, and learn about all that Hillcrest has to offer. We are asking you to help us get the word out about Hillcrest. Most of our new families report that they have heard about us from other Hillcrest families. You really are our best form of advertising. Please spread the word, and invite family and friends to attend this event. Better yet, offer to come with them. We appreciate your partnership!

Town Hall Meeting

The HCS School Board is inviting parents to join them for an open forum meeting on January 26, at 7:00 P.M. This is your opportunity to meet our board members and discuss with them any board related issues. Come to learn more about the direction of the school, how you can partner with them, and how to pray for Hillcrest. Location will be posted in the lobby.

THIS WEEK
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



It's Time for Homecoming! THIS FRIDAY

Friday, January 15 : Spirit Day & Homecoming Game **** Saturday, January 16: High School Homecoming Dance

Hillcrest Saints, it's time to show your school spirit! Students may wear jeans with either a blue or gold top. HCS jerseys and cheerleading uniforms are also encouraged! On Friday there will be a pep rally at 1:30, class banners on display, and most importantly, our big Homecoming Basketball Game at 4:00 P.M. at First Christian Church in Newbury Park. Bring your family and don't miss out the fun! Tickets for the dance are on sale now through ASB. Go Hillcrest!!!



By Coach Dominguez

Boys' Varsity Basketball

Our Saints played two great games of basketball last week! At last Tuesday's game against Ventura County Christian, the Saints led throughout the game and played with tenacity to come away with a 49-21 victory. Gio Hernandez was the leading scorer with 16 points and also the leading rebounder with 10. Logan Baltau pitched in with 10 points and 9 rebounds. The boys played even better on Friday at home with a dominating win over Trinity Lutheran 56-29. Once again, Gio Hernandez was the leading scorer with 23 points and also played great hustle defense with 5 steals. Logan Baltau aided a great team effort with 13 points and 14 rebounds. Point guard Jeongmoon Lee played stellar defense while leading the team in steals with 6 and also added 12 points. YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THE HOMECOMING GAME this Friday at 4:00 P.M. vs. Ventura County Christian. GO SAINTS!!

by Coach Cathe Jackson-

Middle School Girls Basketball

The first middle school girls' basketball game of the year against Pleasant Valley Christian School last Friday was off the hook! The Saints started off aggressive and the energy never diminished. MacKenna Kelleher took the ball from her opponents like she owned it and then dropped it in the hoop like it was easy! Alexa Hermsillo was dropping hoops left and right. Idee Medrano was making shots from the top of the key with success. You should have seen the Saints defense with Breanna Jackson, Grace Aspinwall, Hannah Ross, and Allison Kramer! These girls were all in their opponent's faces and did not let their guards down! This was a truly intense game to watch. The Saints won 34-16! A big "shout out" to all the fans that came to support the girls! Keep it coming!

By Amanda Zimmerman, Assistant Coach

Elementary Girls Basketball

The elementary girls' basketball team is off to a great start with their first game this past Friday against Pleasant Valley Christian. The girls won 16-10! This hard working team includes Chigo Chukwu, Carlie Magallanes, Caoilinn McDonough, Megan Thornton, Alexa Macaluso, Baylee Maina, Alexia Palmeri, and Kiana Shane. Come support the team at one of our upcoming games on Thursday, January 14th at 4:30 at Ventura Missionary, Wednesday, January 20th at 3:30 at Ascension Lutheran and Wednesday, January 27th at 3:00 as we play Pleasant Valley Christian again. Go Saints!

Join us After the Big HOMECOMING GAME,

Friday, Jan. 15th for some food and fun at:
Mago's Pizza

722 N Wendy Dr, Newbury Park (805) 498-7200
15% of the proceeds benefit HCS athletics
Sponsored by the Boosters

By Nicole Thomas, fifth grade teacher

5th Graders Create Cell Models

Recently Mrs. Davis' and Mrs. Thomas' fifth graders studied the parts and functions of plant and animal cells. To enhance their understanding, they undertook the task of creating their own cell model. Jello, Legos, and glitter are just a few of the creative materials they used to build their cells. Each student chose to construct either a plant cell or an animal cell. The animal cell was most popular- the main difference being the absence of a rigid cell wall surrounding the cell. The cell had to include the main parts of a cell (cell membrane, nucleus, cytoplasm, and in the case of plant cells, a cell wall) as well as three cell parts (or organelles) of their choice. The selected organelles ranged from gel-filled vacuoles and pipe-cleaner golgi, to gum drop lysosomes. "It was hard to find three different organelles online," chimed in Carlie Magallanes. Along with their cell, students turned in a key that identified the parts of their cell and listed each part's main function. Chigo Chukwu added, "It was really fun that we got to work on making cells because it was something that was nice to go along with our science lessons."

The fourth graders can look forward to building their own cells next year. Some may anticipate it with excitement while others perhaps with worry. This year, Kirsten Mueller felt some of both, saying, "It was a great challenge, but still a lot of fun." Makayla Jackson agreed, "Doing my science project was fun but you must work hard." Next year's fifth graders will be able to come up with their own creative materials and style. Deanna Bitterly enjoyed choosing how her cell looked. "It was great to make it 3-D and paint it pink!"

The goal was to increase the students' understanding of the cell in an engaging way that went beyond the typical paper and pencil; however, the greater goal is for students to see how complex each cell is. This complexity reveals God's intelligent design. As Caoilinn McDonough put it, "We were learning about God's creation."

