

THIS WEEK

@ HILLCREST CHRISTIAN ...



FEBRUARY 04, 2010

CALENDAR ITEMS FEBRUARY 2010

- Thurs. **04** Elementary Awards Chapel
K-3 9 A.M. ; 4-6 9:40 A.M.
- Sat. **06** HCS Work Day 8 A.M. - NOON
- Mon. **08** Child Safety Program
- Fri. **12** Pancake Breakfast 7-8:30 A.M.
ACSI Geography Bee
- Mon. **15** President's Day Holiday
NO SCHOOL NO CHILDCARE
- Tues. **16** Open Registration Begins
- Sat. **27** Uganda Garage Sale

MARCH 2010

- 03-05** 7th Grade Catalina Trip
- 05-15** 8th Grade U.S. Historic Trip
- Sat. **06** HCS Work Day 8 A.M. - NOON
- Tue. **09** ACSI Piano Festival
- Fri. **12** Assembly- History of Jazz
CSUN Jazz Band 1:30 P.M.



ONLINE CALENDAR: WWW.HILLCRESTCS.ORG



by Kathy Horan, principal

The Case for Hillcrest - Why Should You Choose Us?

Last Monday evening, we held our admissions open house to acquaint prospective families with what we do at Hillcrest Christian School. This week, we opened enrollment to our existing families, whom

we would like to encourage to continue choosing Hillcrest for their children. Because we are fortunate to live in a relatively homogeneous and safe community, it is easy to think that there are a multitude of choices that will do the job of partnering with parents. To make my case for a Hillcrest education, I would like to use the metaphor presented by Greg Koukl, a well respected apologist and founder of the Stand to Reason ministry.

Mr. Koukl defined worldview as a picture of reality and illustrated his point by comparing a worldview to a jigsaw puzzle; when the pieces of the puzzle are put together correctly, a cohesive picture emerges. As I thought about this analogy, the Hillcrest mission and emphasis on partnering all fell into place. If a Christian worldview is indeed likened to a jigsaw puzzle, the pieces represent Biblical knowledge like memory verses or courses like the Life of Christ; they also represent practical applications of knowledge as well as chapels, retreats, service projects, mission opportunities and the like. If these pieces are not put together or if they are not put together well, a Christian picture of reality does not emerge; one is simply left with pieces of Christianity which may not result in a real life picture.

"...we are unique in that every teacher, every coach, and every member of the school staff not only knows about Jesus, but is committed to grow to be more like Him and to support parents in training their children to do the same."

Ten or twelve years ago, the Christian community began to talk about postmodernism, a direct attack on Christianity. The ideas of political correctness, tolerance, and relative truth that came with that continue to grow. Mr. Koukl asserts that anyone who has attended ANY institution of higher learning within the past ten years has definitely been subjected to a post-modern point of view. All of the school age children and perhaps some of their parents do not remember anything different, and that is where a partnership with Hillcrest becomes invaluable. Because we teach EVERY SUBJECT from a Biblical perspective, teachers can help students put the pieces of the puzzle together. While it is primarily a parent's responsibility to help their children do this, my question becomes, do you feel adequately

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

SHORT SUBJECTS

Volunteer Workdays Are Back

This Saturday, February 6th is the first Saturday workday of 2010. There is much that needs to be done, and we can really use your help. The clock is ticking on those parent service hours, and this is a great way to get them completed before the May 31st deadline. Join us Saturday from 8:00 – 12:00. As always, lunch will be provided.

Registration for 2010/2011

Registration is underway for next year. Be sure to pick up your packet from Mrs. West's office. Once completed, you may either register by appointment or drop by her office between 8:00 – 4:00, any week day except Wednesday. Don't delay! Open registration begins February 16, and the registration fee increases on March 1st.

Junior Class Valentine Sale Monday Feb. 8 – Thursday Feb. 11

The juniors will be selling Valentine candy-grams the week before Valentine's Day. Middle and high school students can purchase during their lunch period by the portables. Elementary order forms will be sent home with students in K – 6. Valentines will be delivered on February 12. Happy Valentine's Day!

Spring Sports Update

Sign-ups are now in progress for varsity coed golf. If you are interested, see Coach D. Watch this newsletter for middle school and elementary soccer sign-ups coming soon.



Valentine's Pancake Breakfast!!!

The Seniors will be hosting another Pancake breakfast on Friday, Feb. 12th from 7:00 – 8:30 A.M. Come to school hungry, and treat your kids to a valentine pancake breakfast with all the fixings! Donations are greatly appreciated and will be collected at the front door.

Garage Sale For Uganda

What? HCS Garage Sale for God Cares school in Uganda
When? Feb 27th
Where? At HCS!
Why? Because last year God multiplied our efforts and we were able to do amazing things with that money for the kids in Uganda at God Cares School!

The money will be used to complete another project this summer when our second team goes on another mission trip on behalf of HCS. Last year, we were able to raise the funds to complete 80 student desks that our team built in a week's time! We were also able to purchase classroom books and equipment needed for the elementary and high school students.

All YOU have to do to be a part of making this year's project a success is to bring in your slightly used items to donate to our sale. Last year we had a huge sale due to the generosity of our HCS community to our sister school in Uganda. All the money will go towards projects at God Cares.



Want to be involved in this year's trip?

Please contact Don Meyers or Julie Dimas for details. The trip runs from June 23-July 7th.

THIS WEEK
 HILLCREST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
 STEPHEN ALLEN, HEAD OF SCHOOL

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By Mrs. Thurman, HCS Librarian

GETTING A READ ON READING

Ever since man has put pen to paper, great literature has reflected not only enduring universal truths, but also the culture in which the literary work was created. Therefore, the very definition of “great” in the eyes of the world is relative to what is acceptable for that time period. The subject matter contained in many of the current award-winning novels of today would have been considered scandalous or blasphemous just one generation back. As Christians, our standard for literary excellence must always be measured by the Bible, and as Philippians 4:8 states, “...whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.”

If you are blessed to have a child who is a reader, are you aware of what he/she is reading? As Christian parents, we can no longer assume that because a book is a Newberry or Caldecott Award winner that it contains wholesome values, moral themes and a lack of bad language. On the contrary, with the popularity of the Harry Potter and Twilight series, occult and mystical themes are at an all-time high. Consider that last year’s Newberry Award winner was *The Graveyard Book*, which was reviewed as being “grounded in a world in which ghosts, vampires, witches, werewolves, and magic are reality, with elements of Druid or ancient religions that play an understated role in the story”(from teenlitreview.com).

In addition, television has made sassy young people popular; one afternoon of watching ABC Family will confirm this point. Children with no respect for authority and adults who act inappropriately are prevalent in our literature today as well, even in some preschool picture books! Recently I attended a Librarian’s Book Preview night where publishing reps were reviewing the best of their new releases. One picture book was called *Dunderheads*; that was what the teacher called the children in her class. She belittled the students and stole their show- and-tell items until the kids ganged up, broke into her house, and stole them back leaving her a note that said the “Dunderheads were here.” There were several other publishers’ picks that evening for older students that were just as concerning.

On the positive side, there are still many great choices for reading material at all age-levels being published today. The Triple Crown National Book Award Program (www.ChildrensCrownAward.org) is an excellent resource which offers book lists and Crown Award winners which promote wholesome literature for all age ranges. For reviews and information on quality teenage literature, check out teenlitreview.com. Of course, Christian publishers such as Zondervan, Multnomah, Bethany House, Barbour, Standard and others have abundant selections of materials at all age levels. These books can most easily be found at Christian bookstores or online at Christian Book Distributors (christianbook.com).

In the Hillcrest Christian School library, we have thousands of books available for your child to enjoy, from timeless classics to current fiction, and we are always working to update and expand our inventory of books. Every

Reading Resource List

Resources for book award lists, reviews and reading activities. Most of these are secular websites, so use your own discretion when considering material.

www.ChildrensCrownAward.org

Annual lists of high-quality books that feature positive, uplifting themes and inspiring characters. You can also nominate books for their awards!

www.TeenLitReview.com

Current teenage literature reviewed for content and themes. A great resource to stay up on what your teenager is reading.

www.librarysparks.com

Engaging activities to reach every reader, this website includes fun games, storytime ideas, lesson plans, and a wealth of information about books.

www.bookadventure.com

Free reading motivation programs for Grades K-8.

www.kidsreads.com This website offers ALA (American Library Association) notable book award winners



such as Newbery, Caldecott, Sibert, Coretta Scott King and others. It also has book reviews, author interviews, what’s new in paperback, etc.

effort is made to evaluate these materials to ensure they are appropriate for our students; however, the sheer number of books precludes reading every one. If you, as a parent, have any concerns regarding the content of an HCS Library book, there is a Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials form available in the library. Once filled out, an immediate review of that book will take place. We are also looking for a group of parents willing to join a “Friends of the Library” group to occasionally read incoming materials to ensure their quality. If this interests you, please contact Mrs. Thurman. ■



by Coach Dominguez

Boys' Varsity Basketball

Our high school Saints fought hard to the end but came out on the short end 33-60 against West Valley Christian, the number one team in the Omega league. Logan Baltau and Gio Hernandez led the Saints in scoring with 11 points each. Senior Tim Lee added 6 points and 5 steals to aid in the effort against a very talented team. The Saints record is 6-7 overall and 5-5 in league play, West Valley Christian is 12-2 overall and 9-0 in league play. Come support the Saints in their last home game, Tuesday 2/9 at 4:30 vs. rival Cornerstone

Christian, which is also senior parent appreciation night. GO SAINTS!!

by Lisa Smith, parent

MS Boys Basketball

The middle school boys basketball team won a close one (29-25) at Pleasant Valley Christian School last Tuesday, January 26. Having lost by eight points to the Pleasant Valley Lions in their first game in this second meeting, the Saints were led by the hustle of point guard Daniel Fanto and were ahead for most of the game. In the last five minutes of the contest, Pleasant Valley pulled ahead to force the Saints to battle back. Mitchell Williams (8 points) and Blake Jansen (12 points) were the high scorers. Cullen Madden contributed four points with two successful drives to the basket, and Alex Smith clinched the victory with a free throw at the end of the game. All players contributed as coach Matt Madden led his team to their first victory of the season!



By Amanda Zimmerman, coach

Elementary Basketball Team

The elementary girls basketball team continues to improve their teamwork, defense, and rebounding. We played Pleasant Valley last Wednesday and were winning in the first half, 10-9. We had some great steals by Kiana Shane, and Chigo Chukwu made some great assists and a basket! Pleasant Valley got a second wind however, and came back in the second half to take the win, 13-21. Come cheer the girls on as they play Ascension tomorrow at 4:00!

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The Case for Hillcrest cont.

prepared to do the task without a partner? Do you know how the puzzle fits? Are you aware of the ways that postmodernism has crept into your thinking? This year, the Hillcrest faculty has committed to viewing the twelve session Truth Project which is an exploration of Christian worldview as it relates to philosophy, government, history, economics and many other topics besides science and religion. It is an eye opener and a wake up call to see the subtle ways that our thinking has been influenced by a postmodern view.

Children spend the majority of their waking hours at school or with their friends from school. Teachers, coaches, and peers thus have the potential of wielding more influence than parents. A parent of a public school child recently lamented, "I can't understand why my child thinks homosexual marriage is OK; she didn't learn that from us, and I don't think she learned that in Sunday school either." That is an example of a lack of partnership for that family.

As a parent of children who are Hillcrest alumnae, and as a veteran staff member, I can attest that Hillcrest students are adequately prepared to academically compete at the highest levels; they can excel at university level athletics, and become productive members of society who are raising and training the next generation to love and serve Christ.

In this, we are like many other schools who do these things very well; however, we are unique in that every teacher, every coach, and every member of the school staff not only knows about Jesus, but is committed to grow to be more like Him and to support parents in training their children to do the same. As you make your decision for the coming school year, I urge you to ask the question, "Has my child put the pieces of the puzzle together in such a way that the picture that I can see is a Christian view of the world?" If the answer is not a resounding yes, then ask the question, "Who will help him do so?" I hope that your answer will be HCS. ■