

THIS WEEK

@ HILLCREST CHRISTIAN ...



JUNE 05, 2008

CALENDAR ITEMS

JUNE 2008

- Thurs. **05** Secondary Awards Chapel
Senior Grad Night at Disneyland

- Fri. **06** Pre-K Promotion 11 A.M.

- Sat. **07** Senior Graduation
Reception at HCS 3 P.M.
Ceremony at Living Oaks 5 P.M.

- Mon. **09** Volunteer Thank-You Luncheon
11:30 A.M. HCS Auditorium

- Tue. **10** Kindergarten Graduation 6 P.M.

- Wed. **11** 6th Grade Graduation 6 P.M.

- Thurs. **12** Last Day of School
Elementary Dismissed 12:00 P.M.
NO CHILDCARE
Secondary Dismissal 12:50 P.M.
8th Grade Promotion 2 P.M.

JULY 2008

- Tue. **29** Norman's Uniform Sale 2:30-7:00 P.M.

Last Day - Lost and Found

Please check on the back lot for any items that may belong to you. After Friday, June 13th, all unclaimed clothing will be donated to the used uniform sale

ONLINE CALENDAR: WWW.HILLCRESTCS.ORG



by Ryan Windle, Vice Principal

What is Your Spiritual G.P.A.?

As the end of academic year nears us, graduation services around the country will look to the select students in every class that represent academic excellence in the form of outstanding grade point averages to stand up and give speeches to the audiences gathered.

Knowing full well the tremendous effort it takes to maintain a high G.P.A., I do not want to take anything away from those students, but I do want to ask some deeper questions that bear mentioning in a setting such as ours. The first question may seem odd coming from a Christian school administrator but I have to ask it anyway. Does a high academic grade point average matter at all? I ask that question for this simple reason, one can fill his mind with all the knowledge in the world, and it can still be meaningless. The deepest thinkers throughout the land can marvel at

I submit to you this; the way one responds to God, to his peers and to authority determine one's spiritual G.P.A.

your depth of understanding, but in the end, it could be worthless.

The United Negro College Fund's slogan, "A Mind is a Terrible Thing to Waste," has remained unchanged since 1972, and most would argue that it brings purpose and truth to today's generation of students. I argue this: a soul is an even greater thing to waste in the vain pursuit of knowledge. If they achieve straight A's, will it matter in the end? What is the spiritual G.P.A. of our students? Before I move on, I suppose I should define what I mean by spiritual G.P.A. As I search through and study God's Word, I cannot help but see the repetitive call to obey God's commandments. One only has to look through but a portion of the law to see how important obedience was, and is to the Lord. However, the call to obey is not just in the Old Testament. Read through the gospels, the letters from Paul, Peter, and John, and you cannot escape the simple truth that obedience matters to God. I submit to you this: the way one responds to God, to his peers and to authority determine one's spiritual G.P.A.

So much can be said about how we respond to God. Countless numbers of books have been written about responding to the love, grace, and mercy of God. The wisdom of so many has been wasted because when it comes right down to it, we already have the answer in the Word of God. Solomon, whose wisdom exceeded that of all in the land, sought the answer to the meaning of life. He tried everything, pursued everything he thought would bring him satisfaction, answers, and happiness but in the end, he says this:

The words of the wise are like goads, and like nails firmly fixed are the
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THAT THE MAN OF GOD MAY BE THOROUGHLY EQUIPPED FOR EVERY GOOD WORK

Calling All Parent Volunteers!

No, we are not asking for your help. We want to honor all of our faithful volunteers for your dedication and willingness to serve at Hillcrest. We are truly grateful for your many hours of service.

You are invited to a special luncheon to be held on June 9, at 11:30 P.M. in the auditorium hosted by the administration. In order for us to prepare, we need to know you are coming. Please RSVP to LuAnn Malcolm at ext. 204 or at lmalcolm@hillcrestcs.org to let us know how many will be attending. Thank you!!

By Debbie Freeman

A Great Year for Art at Hillcrest

We have almost reached the end of our first year on Artsonia and are very happy to announce that not only have we published 2489 works of art, but Hillcrest is number one in the state! Our fan clubs and comments from friends and family are a bit lower; therefore, overall we ranked eleventh in the state – not bad for our first year! In addition, we have earned \$225 from purchases. Thank you parents (and grandparents) for such a great response. I'm hoping that next year we will be number one overall. It is not too late to join fan clubs and give your budding artists comments. If you still need your security code, your child's teacher can give it to you, or you can email me at the school. Thanks again to all the wonderful helpers this year with Artsonia and preparations for Open House. Be sure to come to our end of the year awards chapel where we will have more surprises from Artsonia!

by Kathleen Brooks, Alumni Parent

Watching Your Son Present a Paper at Oxford, England.....

Just another reason to have your kids stay at Hillcrest Christian High School!

Surreal ... that is how I would describe how I felt as my husband and I sat there in the original room of the Oxford, England Library watching our son Kyle present a paper on Saint Augustine . Bubbling up in my heart was a feeling of extreme gratitude to the Lord for such an amazing experience for our son and for the gifts He has given him. I also wished that I could share this moment with Kathy Horan, Judy Logan, and other staff and teachers from Hillcrest that poured themselves into this boy of ours!! You see, Kyle is just one of many graduates from Hillcrest Christian High School who have left Hillcrest as a fully prepared academic student! But beyond the excellent academic education that Kyle (2005) and our older son Damon (2002) received at HCS, our sons came away as confident, balanced individuals who see the world with a Christian World view. As Christian parents, nothing could be more valuable! They were able to take part in many leadership activities here that gave them confidence and public speaking opportunities. They were involved in athletics in a variety of sports teaching them teamwork and perseverance. They participated in chapel, worship team, Bible classes, small groups, and mission opportunities unique for a high school and middle school experience almost anywhere in this area! They went with Judy Logan to Washington DC and on European trips with Kathy Horan preparing them to travel later with confidence and ease. Our sons and other graduates were able to work through real life issues in an environment that, although not claiming to be perfect, shared the common vision and goal of providing educational experience with an authentic Christian world. They received priceless experiences at Hillcrest Christian School that are UNIQUE to our community. We have here what most schools wish they had or could produce!!

As one mom looks back at parenting middle schoolers and high schoolers and now experiencing the college years, I would encourage you to look forward to the future of your child. How do you want him/her to turn out as an adult? Start there. How intimately do you want them to know the Lord? Sports in a smaller school environment gives them the advantages of participation in more than just one sport with perhaps more responsibility to learn new tools of teamwork and commitment, and if they do desire is to play sports at a higher level, talented students are able to leave HCS and successfully go on to play at the highest level of college sports, as well. Our older son Damon has had that experience along with a number of other HCS grad athletes. Let us proactively parent by being gracious, patient, and by living a Godly lifestyle that sets an example for our kids. Let's get involved at HCS as we press on to improve and give more families the opportunities so many alumni have been privileged to have! And may we desire to pass our legacy in the Lord on to our children!!!

We only have a brief stay here on this earth. May we make it count for eternity!



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by Tom Horan, Study Tour Coordinator

The China Report

Twenty six HCS students, alumni, and parents have just returned from an exciting twelve day trip to China that provided an incredible look at the world's most populous nation. In addition to visiting famous historic sights, the group was able to learn first hand about life in a communist country, and to even meet Christians who live there. While many previous trips have utilized buses for commuting, China is so large that the group took three jet flights within China to get around.

The group hit the ground running on their first afternoon in China, visiting the Temple of Heaven. Beijing was busy putting the final touches in place as it prepared to host the 2008 Summer Olympics starting on August 8, 2008. The first full day of the tour included visits to historic Tiananmen Square, the Imperial Palace, and the majestic Forbidden City. Even today, guides are monitored closely to ensure that they only provide the official position on all matters, less they encounter "bad things." That afternoon the group took a boat ride on Lake Kunming to see the Summer Palace.

One of the tour highlights was climbing the Great Wall. The entire group made it up steep steps to Tower Five, with the more athletic and skilled climbers making it all the way to Tower Eight, the highest available point. In between their next stops, the group visited factories and workshops to see demonstrations of silk production, pearl harvesting, textile weaving, jewelry manufacturing, ceramic and cloisonné crafts, calligraphy and painting. At each stop, our group marveled at the intricate workmanship and quality of the craftspeople, who often worked in the simplest of environments, producing beautiful works of art.

The Terra Cotta Warriors of Xi'an have been named as one of the New Wonders of the World, and the designation is fitting. Discovered only in recent decades, officials expect to unearth over 7,000 life-sized warriors, horses, chariots and other figures, all arranged in rows. Hardly any of the

figures survived intact. The group marveled at the painstaking efforts it takes to turn thousands of pieces of broken pottery into the figures we have all come to recognize.

Few sights were as dramatic as the view the group experienced as they cruised down the Li River for three hours and saw the majestic towering rocks and cliffs of Guilin, followed by the enormous formations in the Reed Flute Cave. Often ringed in mist and clouds, artists travel from around the world to capture their mysterious beauty.

One of the most educational and exciting excursions was the chance for travelers to meet with local famers in their homes, and rice fields. The group learned how families still farm the same way that generations before them have, mostly by hand and with water buffalos.

While the cultural, historic, and physical beauty of China were evident, the group was surprised to have a Christian tour guide for one segment who shared how he had met the Lord and about how he practices his faith, even to the disappointment of his communist parents. Like the art gallery guide who radiated joy in a place where most people are of stern expressions, the city guide reflected true joy that can only come from knowing the Lord.

The trip concluded with three days in bustling Hong Kong, where east meets west. Traveling by hydrofoil from Canton, the group arrived at the Hong Kong harbor, home to one of the worlds most famous skylines. This bustling metropolis is home to seven million people. Here, the group visited Victoria Peak and Aberdeen Harbor where they were able to ride sampan water taxis to tour the community of floating houseboats.

The general consensus of the group was that this was the best HCS trip ever. There was a sense that this trip had opened up a whole new world to all the travelers. While visiting historic sites is an important part of every trip, there is little that compare with hearing about the history of a country from the people who live there, as told through their lives.

**The 2009 trip will be to Italy.
Details will be released shortly.**



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Spiritual G.P.A. cont.

collected sayings; they are given by one Shepherd. My son, beware of anything beyond these. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh. The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.
Ecclesiastes 12: 11-14 ESV (emphasis added)

Be aware of anything beyond the words of the Lord. In the end, fear God and keep His commandments. Do we respond to God with obedience? Do we respond to God with reverence, fear, thankfulness, love, and everything we have in us? Jesus, when asked what the greatest commandment in the Law was, replied, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets." This passage may be found in Matthew 22, Mark 10, and Luke 10, but the words harken back to the commands given in the book of Deuteronomy when God gave the Law to Moses. Particularly convicting though, are the passages in which Christ discusses the natural results of our response to God in obedience. Jesus says in John 14:15, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." The passage goes on to talk about our love for Christ, through obedience, resulting in the Father's love for us.

Scripture does not stop at our response to the Lord. It also speaks of our response to each other. Part two of our spiritual G.P.A., how do we respond to our peers? No person is greater than another. It is clear from Scripture that we are created and loved equally. We are even commanded to love others as we love ourselves. Do we respond to one another with love? It is much easier to say we believe the words of Scripture than it is to show our agreement with them in action. So many other sources of counsel say to look out for ourselves, to repay evil with evil, and to make sure we are given our due respect. Are we willing to be counter-cultural and follow the Lord's counsel first and foremost?

The third component of our spiritual G.P.A. is our response to authority. Do we respect those in authority? Do we submit joyfully to them in love and preference, or do we think ourselves better than they and resist their direction? We are also commanded to submit ourselves to the authority placed over us by God. "Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment." (Romans 13:1-2) This passage speaks to the authority and governance of rulers as does 1 Peter 2:2-4, but Scripture says so much more about our submission to one another.

When it comes down to it, submission and humility are heart issues that take time to develop. The Spirit working in us allows us to grow in

the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Through that process of growth and change, we are allowed to embark on these endeavors. If you want a good jumpstart, I have thirty-two passages referenced so far in a Word document. Shoot me an e-mail, and I'll send it to you.

How we measure the maturity of students' faith is an easy question for adults to sit back and ponder, but I challenge you to take this assessment personally. How does your spiritual G.P.A. look? Are you below average? Are you passing? Is that good enough? The standard is holiness and young eyes are watching us to see where they set their sights. ■



by Meghan Brennan, first grade teacher

1st Grade Visits the L.A. Zoo

As a highly anticipated field trip since last September, both first grade classes finally went to the Los Angeles zoo last Friday. The car ride there was challenging, but once they arrived the fun began. The first animals that the students saw were the magnificent flamingos, and from there each group ventured out to explore the wonders of the animal kingdom. As the day continued, they saw so many of God's fantastic creations. In Gen 1:24, God said "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals, each according to its kind." Truly God's living creatures captivated everyone.

