

@ THIS WEEK

HILLCREST CHRISTIAN... NOVEMBER 06, 2008



CALENDAR ITEMS NOVEMBER 2008

- Thurs. 06** Secondary Conferences
PFA Meeting 1:30-3:00 P.M.
- Fri. 07** Preschool/Elementary Conferences
NO SCHOOL Preschool - 6th
Secondary Starts 9 A.M.
- Mon. 10** Fall Worship Concert/ Ice Cream Social
7 P.M.
- Tues. 11** Manna Dress Day
- Wed. 12** ACSI/HCS Classroom Geography Bee
3rd-8th grade 9:30 A.M.
- Thurs. 13** Elementary Awards Chapel.
- 17-21** Barnes and Noble Book Fair
- 24-28** Thanksgiving Break
NO SCHOOL NO CHILDCARE

DECEMBER 2008

- Tues. 02** Booster Meeting 1:30-3:00 P.M.
- Thurs. 04** PFA Meeting 1:30-3:00 P.M.
New Family Information Night
- Fri. 05** ACSI Grade Level Geography Bee
3rd-8th grades 9:30 A.M.
- Sat. 06** Saturday Work Day 8 A.M. -Noon

ONLINE CALENDAR: WWW.HILLCRESTCS.ORG



by Mr. Stephen Allen, Head of School

Same Game or Blame Game?

It is report card time. Parents, students, and teachers anxiously await parent conferences. During the conference or shortly afterward, students – even very young ones – ascertain if the adults (parents and teachers) are playing the Same Game or the Blame

Game. Whichever game is played out has serious, life-long ramifications. When played, the child and everyone lose in the Blame Game. The child's chances of winning (maturing and becoming responsible) increases in the Same Game.

The Blame Game occurs when parents are disappointed in the student's grades and look for someone else to blame for the grade, such as the teacher. This scenario leads to a breakdown in communication, and the student loses when the focus is off him or her – now deprived of the chance to learn the situational natural lessons. The student learns that he does not have to be responsible – that ultimately his parent will bail him out.

The best scenario has all players on one team with the common purpose of student learning – not grades. Remember that grades are only one, temporary method of keeping score. Attitudes toward learning and authority last much longer than the impact of a grade.

What are characteristics of the Blame Game?

- Beginning to solve problems with wrong attitudes
- Looking for excuses, not truthful answers
- Adjusting reality to get the answer I want
- Making others more uncomfortable than you
- Educating the child to become irresponsible

Playing the Blame Game, parents neglect the long view of child rearing, and sacrifice the child's best interest.

Here are the sad, real choices parents make in the Blame Game. I will sacrifice the chance to develop my child into a responsible learner in order to see my child receive a better grade. I will assume that a product of life (a grade) is more important than the process of life (a proper relationship between the student and teacher and developing a strong work ethic). I will sacrifice the eventual celebration of my child learning life's natural lessons in order to immediately celebrate a desired grade.

Why is this game played out? Some of the reasons include excessive pride and an over-emphasis on grades in today's society. Grade inflation can be a result. I often find that the teacher from whom it is not easy to earn an "A" has greater respect from students and parents at a later date. Teachers who

continued on page 4

By Cathe Jackson, Preschool Director

Preschool International Day

International Day was a huge success! The children put on their passports, hopped on their imaginary airplane with their teachers as the pilots, and visited each classroom decorated to look like one of five countries – India, Egypt, Mexico, South Korea, and South Africa. The children had their passports stamped as they went to each country; tour guides were in each country to tell the children valuable information. They learned about what kinds of food they eat, what clothes they wear, what their homes look like, and of course where they go to school. As the children got ready to board their airplane and travel to the next country, they received a souvenir that they put in their trusty travel bags.

After the children visited the five countries, they all got together to watch each class perform a dance or song. The paparazzi were snapping pictures left and right! I think it would be fair to say that the parents were as amazed as I was as we watched each country perform. Mrs. Baltau's Egyptians sang "Pharaoh, Pharaoh," Mrs. Smith's Mexicans did the Mexican Hat Dance, Mrs. Sweet's Indians played the rhythm sticks, Mrs. Tran's South Koreans sang two songs in Korean, and Miss. Nicole's South African's did the Gum Boot dance. It was awesome!

Following all the cheering, we said a prayer, and sat down to eat the yummy foods from the different countries. We had a great time! This entire event would not have been possible without the efforts of our wonderful parents! Thank you to all who participated. Please know that we appreciate you!



A PRINCIPAL WORD

A Trip Around the World International Day at Hillcrest

Although the entire student body grades K-12 participated in Friday's International Day events, the primary participants were the elementary students, teachers, and parents who prepared the food, created the information boards, planned the presentations, and designed the set. New this year was the landing of the first Hillcrest Airlines Jet designed and manufactured by George Beahan, sixth grader Amber Hills' grandfather. Once again, Mrs. Martha Gross and Mrs. Tammy Williams provided the leadership for the day's activities.

While morning classes were in session, the parents began to arrive to set up the information and food stations. Then, at 11:30 the primary students were dismissed to either first sample the foods or to take the maiden voyage of Hillcrest Air to visit and learn about the countries represented this year. Once again, secondary students were assigned to assist the kindergarten and first grade students through the food and travel lines. By noon, the upper elementary students were also sampling foods and getting their passports stamped.



The presentations by the various classes were the highlight of the day as students, staff, parents, and grandparents gathered in the auditorium to view the multicultural performances. Mrs. Brown's second graders performed a traditional Indian dance and shared the facts that they had learned while studying about India. Mrs. Thompson's kindergarten students followed this by presenting a royal ball by members of the current British royal family. Both Mrs. Ochoa and Miss Brennan joined their first graders on stage to teach us about the Ancient Greek culture and perform the "Zorba" dance. Mrs. MacLaury's kindergarten studied Italy and presented both a video showing the students making their own pizzas as well as cardboard cutouts of a Venetian gondola, the Leaning Tower of Pisa, and a Ferrari. Both fourth grades had collaborated with Mr. Yui at the God Cares School in Uganda to

do a "live feed" interview to give the HCS community a better understanding of why we support them with our weekly offerings. An added bonus for the fourth graders was a classroom visit during the week of a real Ugandan princess.



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HILLCREST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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The second graders in Mrs. Gonzales's second grade took us to the Middle East and performed a dance that would be seen at a Syrian wedding. Joining them with a factual tour of Egypt complete with an appearance by Queen Cleopatra and King Tutankhamen were Mrs. Madden's third graders. Mrs. Hawisher's class decided to broaden our knowledge and shared what they had learned about the Czech Republic. The fifth grades combined to present "Lord of the Dance" and the sixth graders continued their tour of the Pacific Islands with a traditional Tahitian dance. Added to the class presentations were new secondary entries by Senora Navarro's Spanish class who presented the Birds of Peru and an informational video by Mr. Kosako on behalf of the Korean international students. Mrs. Gross together with the cheerleaders and students who represented the Messianic faith presented an Israeli folk dance and Melissa Gilroy, daughter of elementary Spanish instructor Mrs. Katherine



Thank You ... Over and Out

Thanks to all parents who contributed to our recent International Day. The support, the creativity, and the effort were amazing! Thank you Martha Gross for your leadership and to all who partnered with her, parents, teachers, and students. It was a super day celebrating our world and its various cultures.

Mr. Allen,
Captain of Hillcrest Air



Gilroy performed a traditional dance from Peru.

While the world saw Friday as a day to celebrate a very secular holiday, the Hillcrest community celebrated the world and people that God has created. It was a day to celebrate our talents and gifts for cooking, singing, dancing, and serving. Thank you to all of the parents, the event chairperson Mrs. Gross and her chief assistant, Mrs. Williams; we could not have done it without you. Thank you also to Mrs. Essick, Mrs. West, Mrs. Matheson, Mr. Jesse, and Mr. Erlito for working alongside the committee and parent volunteers and to Tyler Hartwig for cheerfully helping the parents with the AV equipment during the rehearsals, AND a special thank you to Mrs. Freeman who planned her art curriculum to foster an integration of art and culture to produce the student art displays from each country which decorated the walls of the auditorium. Perhaps those pieces will be featured in our online art museum, Artsonia. Well done HCS community! ■

by Jennifer Bitterly, 7th grade leadership team member

Middle School Leadership Conference

Excitedly, I stood with fifteen other middle-schoolers, Mrs. Logan, and the parents that graciously offered to drive us to Lake Avenue Church in Pasadena wondering what lessons the day would bring. The purpose of this conference was to teach middle school students important leadership skills.

During the general sessions, Bill Paige talked about his favorite character in the Bible, Peter. He told us how strong-willed and hardhearted Peter was, and how he became one of Jesus' closest disciples. We had to repeat the main points of his talk to the person next to us. My favorite was "Neighbor, if Peter can get to heaven, then you've got a chance too." He told us the story of Peter's denial, and that God won't let us forget

our mistakes, but He won't let us forget His forgiveness either.

Afterward, we each went to a workshop. A variety of choices were provided, and each taught us a valuable lesson about leading. One session taught about maintaining spiritual vitality throughout the year; another taught about sharing your testimony with others. A third choice was banner making; planning an event was another. Of all of the events, the team-building games were my favorite because they were challenging and required communication, logic, and strategy.

At the end of the day, we went to a concerns and strategies meeting where our group talked earnestly about our concerns for the school and ways to help before sharing them with the other groups. We shared some great ideas and came up with some great strategies. Overall I think that our leadership team will have one busy year ahead of us. ■



continued from page 1

Blame Game or Same Game cont.

know what is best for students determine to be ultimately respected rather than immediately liked.

The focused team of parent, student, and teacher will work together to develop the Same Game scenario for student learning and particularly for developing the habits students need for life success. No party in the scenario is always right in everything that takes place in the learning processes. There are times when disagreement will occur. However, St. Thomas Aquinas said it well, "We love them both, those whose opinions we share and those whose opinions we reject. For both have labored in the search for truth and both have helped in the finding of it." It takes humility, honesty, and listening by all to develop a positive team among all parties – fertile ground for growing positive, contributing citizens.

What are characteristics of the Same Game?

Solving problems together

Accepting what others share

Making a plan that shows determination to work together

Educating children to face their own responsibility

A cord of three strands is not quickly torn apart. – Proverbs 4:12b (NASB)

(If this article looks familiar to you, yes, I did, as requested, reprint this article that first appeared in 2005-2006.) ■

Committing it all to the Lord

On Thursday, Dr. Terry Schroeder, father to Leanna (grade 8) and Sheridan (grade 1) shared about his Olympic experiences and lessons in both the elementary and secondary chapels. Students heard about the Olympic dreams that began when Dr. Schroeder was only eight years old. He counseled them to seek the Lord and commit their dreams to Him, then develop a plan, never say "can't", work hard, always build in quiet time with the Lord, work as a team, and expect success. Using his own life as an illustration, Dr. Schroeder explained how his dream to be an Olympian survived the U.S. boycott of the Moscow games and came true in both the '84 and '88 games.



Central to his success not only as an athlete but as a coach was remembering to commit everything to God and remembering to do all things for His glory. After that it is about hard work. Dr. Schroeder used the illustration of boiling water. At 211 degrees, water is extremely hot, but it takes that additional one degree to bring it to the boiling point. Students should remember that success comes from hard work and paying attention to every detail. The reward for his Olympic team was a silver medal which we were able to see. While it looked magnificent on television, it was nothing compared to the experience of seeing it in person. Thank you Dr. Schroeder for making the time to speak to the HCS students and staff.

by Joann Gonzales, second grade teacher

Elementary Outreach-Samaritan's Purse

Thursday morning in chapel, Mrs. Gonzales' 2nd grade class introduced this season's outreach, Operation Christmas Child to all elementary classes. Each elementary student received a shoe-box with information on how to "fill" it. All shoe-boxes must be returned to their classes on Monday, November 17th. They will then be delivered to a local church who ships these gifts of love to orphan children in desperate circumstances around the world. Along with the joy of giving, the ultimate goal is to share the message of God's greatest gift-His Son, Jesus Christ. Many families around the world have come to know Jesus through this unique ministry.

We encourage you as parents to get your children involved in filling their boxes. This will be the only present that many of these orphans will receive. In this way, your children will learn how to "share with God's people who are in need". Romans 12:13

Mock Election Results

The Hillcrest mock election results have been tallied. Whether it was a perfect 100% to a low of 66.67%, Republican John McCain was the overwhelming winner in every grade, K-12. These results were quite different from the statewide winner, Democrat Barack Obama who received 72% of the student vote. At the national level, Obama's margin of victory was a little lower at 60% of the vote. Hillcrest students agreed with the state and national majority that the economy was the issue of greatest concern. Thank you once again to the senior government classes for organizing the "debate" and informing the student body about the candidates' positions on the issues.

Coaches Needed

The Hillcrest Basketball program has a need for coaches at all levels (girls and boys). If you have an interest in serving and a knowledge of the game, please contact Coach Dominguez at tdominguez@hillcrestcs or 497-7501 ext. 251.