

*by Danielle Kunkel, Librarian***Book Fair Success**

A big thank you goes out to all the parents and students who made our book fair another great success! We are excited to report that our sales totaled \$8000.00! That's \$1000.00 more than last year, and our library will be reaping the benefits and receiving a portion of the sales. With this, we will replace some of our older bookshelves with new ones and fill them with new books and materials. All this could not have happened without our wonderful volunteer parents. On that note we would like to say thank you to Nancy Lethcoe, Robin Oglesby, Stacey Massell, Sandy Blake, Nancie Blumenthal, Sandy McCrillis, Lisa Smith, and Carrie Knight. You are awesome!!!

SCHOOL PRAYER WALK**Monday, November 12, 2007 8:45 -10:30 A.M.**

At Hillcrest, we recognize that God alone is the one who blesses the plans of His people and brings success. We would like to take the morning of Monday, November 12, to seek the Lord for Hillcrest and to ask His blessing on our school. We will walk around the school in small groups, each with a leader, praying for the classrooms, students, teachers, families, events, and testimony of Hillcrest. Please join us for this great opportunity to join with other Hillcrest families and friends in prayer for our school.

Cookie Dough Delivery

Cookie dough from the 8th grade fundraiser will be delivered and ready for pick up on Wed., Nov. 14th in P-6 or in your student's classroom between 3:00-3:30 P.M. This dough will come frozen, so it must be picked up and delivered to your customers immediately. We cannot thank you enough for supporting the 8th grade class and their US Historic Study Tour. Enjoy your holiday baking!!

*continued from page 1***Measuring Achievement cont.**

good comprehension, as both of these skills will impact successful learning at every level. Grades can tell a teacher and parent whether a child has trouble with test anxiety, or with knowing what or how to study. It is one of the ways to find out whether a child is making the appropriate academic progress; it should not merely be an end in itself. If a child has improved in either his acquisition of knowledge or in his ability to learn, then that child has succeeded regardless of the letter grade that has been assigned. Elementary students have the additional benefit of starting new each quarter as grades are not cumulative as they are for secondary students.

As we all prepare for conferences, we should place our focus on devising ways for our students (and children) to maintain the excellent and to improve in the areas where they know they can do better. It is the perfect opportunity for school and family to partner together for the academic growth of our HCS students. ■

SAINTS SPORTS

The girls' varsity volleyball team had an awesome finish to their season. They finished the season on Friday, Nov. 3rd honoring their four seniors, Kristin Bing, Bellanitta Guerra, Elyse Menger, and Megan Ameche. We had a great crowd on hand to witness a tough match. Our ladies battled and fought well, but ended up losing to First Lutheran High School in four games... 17-25, 25-15, 25-9, 25-23. Kyli Keslar and Brittany Badger each had seven kills. Hannah Rhodes had six kills. Kristin Bing added 10 assists. The Saints ended the season with 6 wins and 9 losses.

Thank you for a wonderful season, ladies. You worked hard and never gave up. We look forward to next year as we continue to grow and improve!!!! Champions for Christ!!!!

P.F.A. NEWS**PARENT FACULTY FELLOWSHIP****HCS BOOSTER CLUB**

The Hillcrest Booster Club is a group of parents and faculty who work together to raise money for our school sports programs. Much hard work and energy go into giving Hillcrest students the best opportunities to develop their athletic skills, learn the dynamics of team play, and enjoy the benefits of healthy exercise. One way you can show support for Hillcrest sports teams is by purchasing the new Hillcrest sports blanket. The blankets are available now and make great holiday gifts; please check out the sample in the front office. Proceeds benefit HCS sports teams.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Activities Director Mark Kempf is seeking volunteers to help plan and organize our **Homecoming Events** and **Prom**. If you are interested in being a part of the Homecoming or Prom committees, please contact Mark at mkempf@hillcrestcs.org. If you need **volunteer hours**, please contact PFA at hcsdfa@hillcrestcs.org. We have many small tasks that **you can do from home** to earn volunteer hours such as making telephone calls.

CALENDAR ITEMS**NOVEMBER 2007**

- Thurs. 08** Secondary Conferences
A-H 6 P.M.; I-Z 7 P.M.
- Fri. 09** Elementary & Preschool Conference
NO SCHOOL NO CHILDCARE
7TH-12TH IN SESSION (9 A.M.)
- 19-20** ACSI Convention
NO SCHOOL NO CHILDCARE
- 21-23** Thanksgiving Holiday
NO SCHOOL NO CHILDCARE
- Tues. 27** Partnering With Parents 2 P.M.
- Thurs. 29** New Family Information Night
7 P.M.

DECEMBER 2007

- Sat. 01** HCS Saturday Work Day 8AM- NOON
- Wed. 05** HCS Spelling Bee
- Thurs. 06** Preschool Christmas Program
6:30 P.M.
- Tues. 11** Elementary Christmas Program
7 P.M.
- Wed. 19** Last day before Christmas Break
- 20-06** Christmas Break

ONLINE CALENDAR: WWW.HILLCRESTCS.ORG*by Kathy Horan, Principal***Measuring 1st Quarter Achievement**

It seems hard to believe that we are already one-quarter of the way through the school year. Last Friday marked the end of the first quarter, and parent-teacher conferences are scheduled for tonight (secondary) and tomorrow (elementary). Report card grades allow us to both review what has been done and to look forward to what must still be or can be achieved.

Undoubtedly, grades mean the most for students in high school who plan to go to a four year university. Class rank and strong grade point averages in challenging academic classes determine eligibility and success in the college admissions process. Remember that only semester grades appear on your transcripts, so if you are not satisfied with your first quarter grade, take the time to make an appointment with your teacher(s) to find out how you can improve. Seniors should remember that many of the universities will want to see your seventh semester grades before making an admission decision, so now is not the time to let senioritis get the best of you. Juniors, remember that not only is this year's schedule one of the most rigorous, it is also the last year that colleges will see if you decide to apply for early action or early decision. Sophomores and freshmen should take their progress grades seriously as colleges will look at all of your high school grades. Don't be one of those students who decide to think about college at the start of your senior year; if you have not been diligent throughout high school, it just might be too late.

While grades are one indication of what a student has learned, grades alone may not be the most important. Sometimes, falling short of a goal will teach students the most valuable lesson. During the middle school years, students should be learning how to be independent learners, how to plan for long term assignments, how to manage curricular, co-curricular, and extra curricular activities, and how to advocate for themselves. Students who can master these skills during middle school will have an advantage in high school when earning the right grades can mean the difference between settling for a university and going to the university of one's choice.

At the elementary level, academic skills rather than grades should be the focus. Grades should be one of the indicators that signal whether a child has grasped math fundamentals or whether he is reading fluently and with

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A PRINCIPAL WORD: FOCUS ON ELEMENTARY

Kathy Horan, Principal

The Written Word

The new school-wide writing program is off to a successful start in the third grade. Students are learning to brainstorm ideas using diagrams and schematics. They then learn how to build paragraphs using concrete details and commentaries using color codes. As I walk by or into classrooms, I hear both teachers and students talking about purple, brown, and yellow sentences as they work on writing well developed multi paragraph essays. At the elementary level, the children are learning the various ways to structure an essay as you will see in the samples below:

Polar Bears by Caoilinn McDonough

What is white and soft that lives in the snow? It is a polar Bear. The Polar Bear is large. It is white and soft. Polar Bears have sharp teeth to help them hunt for food.

You can find Polar bears in the Artic. Polar Bears sleep in ice caves. Polar Bears eat seals and fish. They are good at hunting. Polar Bears are predators but are also prey to people.

Polar Bears are very cute and soft. Polar Bears are cool to learn about. I like Polar Bears.

Frog by Hailey Crane

What animal has a long tongue and lives in a pond and eats flies? An icky bug eater frog. A tree frog has pads on their feet so that the tree frog can climb. The pads of a tree frog are sticky. Tree frogs have red eyes. Their homes are in low lands, rainforest, river banks. You can find frogs in the wetlans, which are in the swamps, marshes, and bogs. The tree frog eats crickets, flies, moths, small grass hoppers, and frogs.

The Leopard frog eats insects, small invertebrates, mice, and frogs.

I like frogs because they are cute, friendly and cool. They can hop high and it is cool how they stick to things. (Essays typed with original spelling and punctuation)

4th Grade Writers Reflect on Mission Trip

The fourth grade classes visited the Santa Barbara Mission on Monday, October 29. The field trip gave Mrs. Dimas and Mrs. Hawkins an opportunity to tie together their history lessons about the Chumash Indians, their study of the California missions, and the novel that they have been reading, *The Island of the Blue Dolphin*. After their return to school, the students were asked to reflect on what they had learned on their field trip.

Jacob Walker wrote:

I liked the Santa Barbara Mission because of all the artifacts. I liked seeing them because of the unique stories behind each of the objects. Some of my favorite artifacts are the baskets, the mountain lion print, the neat sculptures, and the kitchen.

I also liked the cemetery because Karana from *The Island of the Blue Dolphin* was buried under one of the bell towers. There were also around 400 Chumash Indians buried there. I really liked the sun dial and the giant fig tree in the cemetery.

The church was magnificent. It was like the churches in Italy. (I went to Italy for two months.) It was a Catholic church. It was symmetrical.

Hannah Ross added:

Their church was very beautiful. One of the pictures was Jesus on the cross. Our docent told us that other schools asked who the guy on the cross was.

Praise God that at HCS, our teachers can teach not only history and literature, but we can also share the gospel and teach our students to have a relationship with our Lord, Jesus Christ. HCS students know who He is and why He died on that cross.

by Mrs. Thompson and Mrs. MacLaury, Kindergarten Teachers
Kindergarten Hoe Down Article

Yee Haw! The annual Kindergarten Hoe Down took place on Thursday, October 25, on the Kindergarten yard. One of our parents, Mrs. Hume, began the day by reading farm books to the little cow folk. Then, mining pans and pouches were distributed to the young miners as they passed through the doors on their way to the hills of gold (the sandbox). Luckily everyone struck gold, and each miner found his fair share. Since mining is such hard work, we gathered our loot and came inside for some good ol' fashioned cowboy dirt (pudding, crumbled cookies, and gummi worms) washed down with some cow juice (milk). After satisfying our cowboy appetites, we ventured out into the Wild West town to enjoy various activities. The buckaroos had fun apple bobbing, quilting, and making sand art. After these events, we all joined together in Sheriff Thompson's room for our special feature: *Fievel Goes West*. Meanwhile, busy parents prepared a chuck wagon lunch complete with bacon and beans, pigs in a blanket, cornbread, carrots, sarsaparilla, and of course, cookies. The grand finale came all too quickly. Parents gathered around as Mrs. Essick, our wonderful music teacher, set up for a special treat. Two cowboy songs were sung and enjoyed by all. Mrs. Essick commented that this group of cowboys and cowgirls are among the best group of Hoe Down singers she has ever heard. With full bellies and tired eyes, we realized it was time for the buckaroos to rest. We bunked down in Sheriff MacLaury's room with dreams of someday rediscovering the Wild West.



Math Matters In Elementary

In the quest to continually improve the academic program, the elementary teachers have uniformly scheduled one hour of math instruction every day. While this has been the standard in the upper elementary, the addition of an extra 15-20 minutes in the primary grades will allow them time to have some fun. Mrs. Gonzales and Miss Wright will use their extra time to

do some cross-over math. They plan to teach the Abeka curriculum in their own classrooms three days a week. Then on the other two, they will divide the classes into two groups, the turtles, and the teddy bears. Both groups will be challenged to learn to think mathematically, to develop their ability to use logical reasoning, and to learn problem solving strategies. This program will begin with the new quarter, and we are looking forward to sharing their progress with you in a future newsletter.

All in favor of Elementary Student Government say "Aye!"

Elementary Student Government is a great way for elementary students to learn responsibility while taking on more of a leadership role in their school. The purpose of Student Government is to encourage student and staff participation in school activities that promote school spirit, provide student input into the improvement of their school, offer opportunities to discuss and plan school activities such as fundraisers and spirit days, and to introduce elementary school students to the workings of student government through parliamentary procedure. Students in fourth, fifth, and sixth grades will have the opportunity to campaign for the offices of President (sixth grade position), Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Chaplin, and Personal Relations by presenting a 2 minute speech to the 3rd-6th grade student body. Students will then vote for the candidates that they believe will serve HCS to the best of their abilities. Once a week, the officers and classroom representatives will meet during lunch to discuss and plan upcoming events. Students who are interested in becoming a HCS Student Government participant must attend the lunch meeting in Mrs. Brown's room on Friday, November 16th to get an information packet.

by Mrs. Cole, Third Grade Teacher

Third Grade Field Trip

On Wednesday, October 31, our third graders took a field trip to the Leonis Adobe Museum which was once the home of a Calabasas rancher, Miguel Leonis. At the museum,



the students got a taste of what life was like on a California ranch in the late 1800s and gained a better understanding of their reading of *Little House on the Prairie* by Laura Ingalls Wilder.

As they explored the ranch, they experienced the beauty and history of the museum grounds which included living-history demonstrations and hands on activities.

They not only learned about the chores on a ranch, but they also had the opportunity to make butter, feed animals, make tortillas, pump water, make rag dolls (girls), make brands (boys), and rope cattle. The field trip was a great success and will be an awesome memory of their third grade year.

by Miss Brennan, First Grade Teacher

First Grade Pumpkin patch

The highlight of the fall season for Miss Brennan's and Mrs. Ochoa's first grade classes was the field trip to the McGrath pumpkin patch in Ventura. Although there was some concern about the air quality in Ventura, the day was filled with pumpkin picking, hayrides, a lesson in harvesting pumpkins to coincide with their science unit, AND fresh air! The children took the opportunity to recite their memory verse, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore to send out workers into His harvest field." Matthew 9:37-38.

The educational trip to the pumpkin patch was followed by lunch at Marina Park where the students and their families enjoyed a day by the beach. After being cooped up inside all week at school, we were so thankful for the chance to be out in the fresh, clean air and to feel the ocean breeze on our faces!

THIS WEEK
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