

THIS WEEK

@ HILLCREST CHRISTIAN ...



DECEMBER 03, 2009

CALENDAR ITEMS DECEMBER 2009

Sat. **05** Candy Cane Café 9-11 A.M.

Thurs. **10** Preschool Christmas Program 6:30 P.M.

Fri. **11** Pancake Breakfast

Wed. **16** Elementary Christmas Program 7 P.M.

18-03 Christmas Vacation
NO SCHOOL NO CHILD CARE

JANUARY 2009

Mon. **04** School Resumes

Fri. **08** National Geographic Geography Bee
Grades 4-8

Sat. **09** HCS Work Day 8 A.M. - NOON

Fri. **15** ACSI Spelling Bee

Mon. **18** Martin Luther King Holiday
NO SCHOOL NO CHILD CARE

Fri. **22** K-12 Teacher In-Service
Half Day Schedule



ONLINE CALENDAR: WWW.HILLCRESTCS.ORG



By Cathe Jackson, Preschool Director

The Desire to Give

As I prayed last week for God to speak to my heart so that I could write His newsletter article, I found myself feeling weary about Christmas and the hardships that some families may experience this season. There are so many things going on in our world that are attacking many families financially. It can seem overwhelming, and one could easily lose hope.

I honestly did not know what Black Friday was until I was asked to work at my retail job at 6 AM the day after Thanksgiving. For my family, this is usually a day for putting up the tree and Christmas decorations. I had no idea how much working on Black Friday would open my eyes. As I drove down LA Ave in Moorpark past Target and Kohl's, I was amazed to see cars circling the parking lot for places to park. I was even more shocked to drive into the Simi Valley Mall parking lot to see all the people with shopping bags already in hand. My first thought was how all these people could get up this early to shop when they probably hit the snooze button five times before getting up to go to work!

Rather than focusing on the gifts our children want, let's focus their attention on ways to demonstrate the Spirit of giving to those who are in need. "He who has a generous eye will be blessed, for he gives of his bread to the poor." Proverbs 22:9. If we can instill in our children the desire to give, think about how much more their lives will be blessed!

As I was working, I met people who had not even slept the night before in order to get great deals. I heard that Walmart had increased security this year, so that no one would get killed in a stampede. I was surprised at how many people were shopping in my store. As I was cleaning up the piles of clothes that someone had left behind, I thought to myself, "What happened to the meaning of Christmas?" It completely validated my reasoning as a parent to teach my children that it is better to give than to receive.

God gave His only Son for us because of His love for us and not because He was forced. Giving is so much more rewarding when it is placed upon your heart by God. I think about the story of the "rich young ruler" in Matthew who asked Jesus what good thing He could do in order to have eternal life. Jesus' response was that no one was good except God, and then He recited all the commandments that the young ruler should keep. The rich ruler stated that he had kept all these commandments since he was a young boy and then asked what he lacked. "Jesus said to him, 'If you want to be perfect, go sell what you

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

2 Timothy 3:17

SHORT SUBJECTS

Do you have a heart for the school, its mission, and its direction?

If so, have you ever thought about serving on the HCS Board of Directors? The Advisory Committee and the Board of Directors are considering applications for prospective new members. If you are interested, applications are available in the front office.

Preschool Christmas Program

Come and join the preschoolers as they celebrate Jesus' birth with us on Thursday, Dec. 10th at 6:30 PM. The preschoolers will be singing Christmas songs and will have a book and cookie exchange. You do not want to miss the cutest night of the year!

by Hannah Covany, Middle School Leadership

HCS Candy Grams

Hillcrest middle school leadership is doing its annual sale of Candy Grams for Christmas! This gives you an opportunity to send your friends a candy cane with a note attached and also a chance to spread Christmas joy. They will be available for purchase at the blue benches near the portables on Tuesday, December 1 through Wednesday, December 9, during lunchtimes. Each Candy Gram costs 50 cents. Middle school leadership will deliver on Tuesday, December 15. Merry Christmas!

by Melissa Dundas, board president

Did Someone Say BINGO?

On Friday, December 18, the Hillcrest PFA in conjunction with the HCS School Board, will host the annual Staff Christmas Brunch for all teachers and staff. This event is always fun, exciting, and HIGHLY anticipated. Besides the amazing omelet bar (thank you Rick Stabile) the highlight of this event is always Christmas Bingo!

Because of the generous contributions of our HCS families, fabulous gifts are always up for grabs. As this is a non-budgeted event, it cannot be a success without the support of our families.

Would you please consider dropping off a gift for our teachers or making a financial contribution for those who will be shopping for the event? Please contact Melissa Dundas at melissadundas@gmail.com, (805) 390-3144 for suggested gift ideas or if you are able to participate in any way.

by Coach Carpenter

Middle School Girls' Volleyball Season Wrap-Up

The middle school girls' volleyball team finished strong at their final match against Ventura Missionary B Team. We lost the first game (17-25), won the second game (25-22), and barely lost the last game (10-15). In the first game Kiana Shane served two aces, Jacqueline Lane was our awesome setter, and Breanna Jackson hit one kill and had one block. During the second game, Breanna Jackson had a dig, a kill, three aces, and served 5 points in a row; Idee Medrano served seven points in a row and had two aces; Lauren Mueller had one good hit, and Katie Hill blocked four balls in one rally!!! Katie Hill served five points in a row, and Idee Medrano tipped one ball for a point and served an ace.

Before the season, started I asked the players to write a paragraph about why they wanted to play volleyball. Here are some of the responses:

"I've never played volleyball, don't know the rules, or how to do anything, I'm a complete beginner. Volleyball seems like an interesting sport and seems like fun."

"...it looks good on my resumé in college... I will challenge myself to keep my grades up... it would be fun to come to school in jeans sometimes also"

"...it's a cool sport, and everyone supports you, and your teammates are very encouraging ... that's why I want to play!"

"...I joined volleyball, so I could be more athletic. Also, so I could get faster and stronger..."

All these goals were met, and additionally we were able to talk about how God can be glorified in the game of volleyball and in our lives as athletes. I pray that the students continue to live their lives "For His Glory!!!!"



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Desire to Give cont.

own and give it to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come and follow me.” Matthew 19:21. The rich young ruler walked away sorrowful because he did not want to give up his great possessions. “Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.’” Matthew 19:23. As I chuckled to myself at Jesus’ analogy, I thought of how blessed we are to know who Jesus is. The more we get to know Him, the easier it is to give. The Kingdom of Heaven is ours. What more do we NEED?

God has impressed upon my heart that as Christian families, we all need to be God’s light this Christmas season. Rather than focusing on the numerous gifts our children want, let’s focus their attention on ways to demonstrate the Spirit of giving to those who are in need. “He who has a generous eye will be blessed, for he gives of his bread to the poor.” Proverbs 22:9. If we can instill in our children the desire to give, think about how much more their lives will be blessed!



HCS Wins ACSI Exemplary Program Award

At the recent Anaheim Convention of the Southern California Association of Christian Schools International, HCS received an Exemplary Program award for its Family Groups chapel program. Only two schools from the Southern California region of ACSI received this award, the other school being Foothill Christian of Glendora.

Teacher and program director, Ben Waggoner, and Head of School, Stephen Allen received the award at the opening general assembly. Southern California regional director, Dr. Jerry Haddock, presented the award and commented on the program to the three thousand attendees.

HCS’s chapel program, called “Family Groups” gives students an opportunity several times each year to join in groups that are mixed with multiple grade levels from kindergarten through grade twelve. The groups meet periodically after a chapel presentation to discuss various spiritual topics. Throughout the school year, the groups also plan a year-end service project that reaches out to assist those in our local community at rest homes and food banks as well as to send care packages to troops and orphans around the world. Benefits of the program include serving others and building relationships between younger and older students.

P.F.A. NEWS

PARENT FACULTY FELLOWSHIP



CANDY CANE LANE IS THIS SATURDAY!

Thanks to your support, the event is sold out. The silent auction for a gorgeous, fully decorated, 9 foot tall flocked Christmas tree from Zender’s has begun. Step into the school auditorium to take a peek and place a bid. This tree retails for \$850.00 (without decorations). IMAGINE! In addition to the silent auction for the Christmas tree, the centerpieces from the event will also be silent auction items on the day of the event. Each centerpiece will showcase Christmas art, and each class will have its own centerpiece. Two additional RAFFLE items have also been donated: Mr. Allen’s famous dessert which will certainly cause a stir, and a marvelous advent calendar. Come by the auditorium, take a look, and place a bid! We look forward to fellowshiping with you.

SCRIP for Your Holiday Shopping

SCRIP is on sale in the lobby and at the back gate on Wednesday, December 9th and Thursday, December 10th at 8A.M. Let us save you the hassle of running around getting gift cards!

Volunteers Needed for the Staff Christmas Brunch

The Hospitality Committee is looking for volunteers to help with the Staff Christmas Brunch on Friday, December 18th. Please contact DonnaRae Caccavo at donnarae_inc@yahoo.com if you can help with set-up, decorating, baking and/or clean-up.

Keep Those box Tops Coming

An early tally of the classrooms shows that Mrs. Hawisher’s and Ms. Brennan’s classes are in the lead for a pizza party and free dress day. The contest goes right into 2010, so keep the box tops coming.



by Mrs. Donna Essick, elementary music teacher

Tis the Season

It's that time of the year to celebrate the birth of Jesus. What a great way to celebrate by attending the Christmas programs at Hillcrest! The kindergarten students perform during the elementary chapel on December 10 at 9:00 and 9:45. They sing "Glory to God in the Highest" with natural praise and will tell the story of the birth of Jesus. London Gamble playing Mary will ask the important question, "Will people believe that Jesus is the Son of God?" The message proclaimed throughout the program tells that God kept His promise to send His Son, Jesus, to save the world.

Another opportunity to celebrate the birth of Jesus will come on December 16th at 7 PM as the fourth, fifth, and sixth graders perform the musical, "Camel Lot". Have you ever shopped for a camel? Can you imagine what transportation would have been like in Bethlehem? If you lived in Bethlehem and some stranger came to town giving birth in a stable, would you close your business or cancel school in order to find out what all the fuss is about? Just how busy are you? Too busy to celebrate the birth of Jesus? The musical, "Camel Lot" reminds us that the best place in the world to be is at the feet of Jesus all year long.

The students are busy learning the melodies, memorizing words, and practicing choreography. Ben Hernandez is brainstorming ideas for the set design. Jennifer Groll will lead the choreography for the musical. It takes many to make a musical successful.

by Mrs. Dimas, teacher and sponsor

Elementary Student Council

This week begins the 2009-2010 Elementary Student Council process with campaigning beginning on Tuesday and ending on Thursday with speeches at 1:30 P.M. The voting will follow the speeches on Thursday. There was a record 38 students who were interested at the first informational meeting which shows that the students are excited at the prospect of leading and serving. Please pray for the kids that are stepping out in this way... there are only 6 positions in student council so this can be a lesson for all of them on doing their best and allowing God to lead them... whether they get the position they are working for or not.

Student Council is a vibrant part of student life in elementary and allows the participants to practice their leadership skills and challenges them to serve others in whatever capacity is needed. This is a student run organization, so much of what happens this year depends on them. Please pray for us this year as we embark on this endeavor together.

Mrs. Davis's fifth grade class thinks this is perhaps the best musical they've ever done. Leigha Kunkel states, "I love the characters. They have so much personality." The whole class agrees the choreography is fun and thinks it will be a blast to perform "Camel Lot". Jake Marlow expressed, "this is a great chance to come together and express our emotions concerning the birth of Jesus." "This is going to be no silent night. Have we got a musical for you! ", says Connor Otto. ■

by Mrs. Julie Thurman, librarian

Barnes & Noble Book Fair Success

Thank you to all who participated in the HCS Book Fair event at Barnes & Noble on November 17th.

The night was bursting with teacher story reading, music from our HCS Honor Choir, and lots of books, books, books! Followed by dinner down the way at Tacone, the result was a wonderful evening for everyone which benefited our HCS library in a huge way. We are still awaiting the final net amount, but sales at Barnes & Noble exceeded \$3,400, and we anticipate several hundred dollars more will be added to the total from a very busy Tacone Restaurant. Special thanks from Mrs. Thurman goes to the teachers who read, to Mrs. Essick and the HCS Honor Choir for their wonderful performance, and to the volunteers who helped sell scrip and monitor the sign-in table



by Penny Hawkins, 4th grade teacher

4th Grade Trip to Children's Hunger Fund

Every year, 4th grade celebrates Thanksgiving in a very special way – we serve at Children's Hunger Fund in Pacoima. Because we are so richly blessed by God, we feel that it is important to give to others. Here is a summary of our day – through the eyes of 4th grader Jordyn Regier.

"My class and I went to Children's Hunger Fund. I had so much fun. I got to do all the jobs – scoop the beans, weigh the beans, seal the bag of beans, and then put the bags in the box. When we watched the video of people in Lima receiving the food boxes, I couldn't help smiling. I felt like I helped them a lot. The people who got the food were so joyful, even though they had so little. I realized we need to be joyful, too. We have so much more than them and still they are so happy. I am glad I got to go the C.H.F".