

THIS WEEK

@ HILLCREST CHRISTIAN... **DECEMBER 04, 2008**



CALENDAR ITEMS DECEMBER 2008

- 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
- Wed 10** HCS Spelling Bee
- Thurs. 11** Kindergarten Chapel
Preschool Christmas Program
6:30 P.M. - 7 P.M.
- Tues. 16** 1st-3rd Christmas Program
6:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.
- Thurs. 18** Red & Green Manna Dress Day
- 19-04** Christmas Break

JANUARY 2009

- Mon. 05** School Resumes
- Tues. 06** Booster Meeting 1:30-3 P.M.
- Thurs. 08** PFA Meeting 1:30-3 P.M.
- Fri. 09** Spirit Day
- Sat. 10** High School Winter Dance
- 12-16** Winter Spirit Week

ONLINE CALENDAR: WWW.HILLCRESTCS.ORG



by Stephen Allen, Head of School

December Thoughts – Up for a Change of Activity? Try the TV Turnoff

It does not take much to capture the Christmas spirit. You can go to the mall, put on Christmas music, or just walk through the front lobby at HCS.

As we face the month of December, we all know that it will be here and behind us before we know it. How will the tried and true traditions of this season continue for you? What will you do to try to make it something different, something better, and something to be remembered?

Over the Thanksgiving break, my family did something we have never done over that brief but extended vacation. All four of us planned it and then in the end due to an unexpected conflict only three of us could participate. We took the time to decorate a house

"What can your family do to make this Christmas season something different, something better, something to be remembered?."

for Christmas because home owner is unable to do this due to a physical handicap. We enjoyed the experience and hope to continue this new tradition. It did mean that our own Christmas decorating is not done, but we all agreed that that is OK. I point this out to you to encourage you to be proactive with your family in discussing what you would like to do to focus on the true meanings of Christmas, and not all of the media and marketing hype. For some this year, there may not be financial resources to bless others, yet our generosity to give in service to others can potentially have an equal if not greater impact.

Here is another idea I would like to encourage you to try this season. Consider taking a five day period (six or seven, if you are up for it) and turn off the television. I could go into great detail giving you documented information on how detrimental television can be; however, I am aware that I have a very intelligent audience who probably already gets it. Try next week, December 8 – 12. Before doing this, discuss with your family why you are doing this and what you will do with the time instead. Make sure to include some time spent together in activities that encourages laughter, interaction, and conversation. This is also a great opportunity to model reading for pleasure. As you go through the week, talk about how it feels and how the absence of television is affecting your family. At the end of the week, have a discussion and share what you each observed. I am very aware that this may be more painful for adults than children – so remember that getting the kids to bed

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SHORT SUBJECTS

Christmas Card Special!!

The Hillcrest Print Store is offering a very special price on Christmas cards. You can purchase 50 personalized, photo Christmas cards (with envelopes) for just \$37.50. You won't find a deal like this anywhere and Hillcrest receives a percentage of every order. Check it out at www.HillcrestPrintStore.com.

by Leanna Schroeder, Middle School Leadership

Guess What Time It Is??

It's Christmas time!! Here at Hillcrest, Christmas means CANDY GRAMS! Candy grams are a way to show your fellow classmates and teachers how much you appreciate them. This year you can find these peppermint candy canes on sale for 50 cents during both elementary lunches from December 1st through 10th. MS leadership will deliver the candy grams on Tuesday, December 16th. The proceeds go to the middle school leadership who uses the money to plan MS activities. Please participate in Candy Grams, support your school, and spread the Christmas cheer.

Help Us Bless Our Teachers

Each year at the Staff Christmas Brunch all of our faculty and staff play a spirited game of BINGO for prizes. In the past, the board of directors and a few anonymous contributors have given to make this event possible. On behalf of the board, we are inviting any family who would like to participate to contribute gift items or cash that we can use to purchase gifts. Contact Melissa Dundas to help: hcsboard@hillcrestcs.org.

A PRINCIPAL WORD: FOCUS



by Julie Dimas, fourth grade teacher

4th Graders Reach Out to the Children's Hunger Fund

Mrs. Hawkins's and Mrs. Dimas's fourth grade classes took a trip down to Children's Hunger Fund in Pacoima to pack food boxes for their Thanksgiving activity. It was awesome to watch how hard the students and parents worked to help families in need both locally and abroad. The boxes the students packed on Wednesday of last week were going to be picked up by local pastors the next day to be distributed to people in the community. We ended up packaging 714 food boxes using a real assembly line. The students really gave it their all and were touched by the experience of helping others in need. Here's what a few of them had to say about it:

"I had a great time working at Children's Hunger Fund. I left there thinking about the people who will receive hope. There are going to be about 2,856 people who get three things: food, the gospel, and hope.... God gave us each a part. It might be little to us, but it is big to them." -Deanna Bitterly

"My job was pushing and lifting the boxes. Together with Adam, we lifted 14,280 lbs. After that, my arms hurt. It felt good to help people." -Connor Otto

"It made me think about a lot of people who have worse homes than we do. It was such an honor for me to help send food boxes all the way to Guatemala." -Carlie Magallanes.

"Picture yourself living in a dump or in a very small house and you don't think you even will have dinner that night. Then, what would happen if some stranger came in and gave you a box of food and shared the gospel?" -Caoilinn McDonough



STEPHEN ALLEN, HEAD OF SCHOOL

384 ERBES ROAD, THOUSAND OAKS, CA 91362

TELEPHONE (805) 497-7501 EXT. 204

FACSIMILE (805) 494-9355

WEB SITE www.hillcrestcs.org

SUBMIT ARTICLES TO: lmalcolm@hillcrestcs.org

ELEMENTARY

by Libby Madden, third grade teacher

3rd Grade Experiences the "Little House" World



The third grade visited the Leonis Adobe in Calabasas on November 18th. The students had a great time learning about a working ranch and all the hard work that had to be done in those days. As a culmination of their Little House unit, they experienced what it was like to get water from a well, rope cattle, make butter and tortillas, cook, and live without indoor plumbing. The girls made dolls while the boys made branding symbols. As cowboys and prairie girls, the students had a YEEHAW of a time!



A Musical Update from Mrs. Essick

The kindergarten Christmas performance is December 11. There will be two elementary chapels in order to accommodate enough seating for our parents and guests. Chapel will begin at 8:45 for grades 1-3 and 9:20 for grades 4-6. The kindergarten parents and guests are asked to attend only one of the performances.

The 1st-3rd grade Christmas musical, The Christmas County Spelling Bee is December 16, at 6:30 P.M. Students will combine singing, choreography, and drama to present the different names and titles given to Jesus in Scripture. Students will sing about our Savior, our Mighty God, Prince of Peace, Ever-

lasting Father, Wonderful Counselor, and Emmanuel. Come join us as we try to gain a deeper understanding of the gift of Jesus.



Fifty-three 1st-3rd grade Hillcrest students serenaded shoppers with Christmas carols in the newly-opened outdoor corridor in the Oaks Mall on Monday afternoon

P.F.A. NEWS PARENT FACULTY FELLOWSHIP

We need Your Help with the Annual Teacher Christmas Brunch

Will you volunteer to help with the Annual Teacher Christmas Brunch? Nancie Blumenthal is looking for volunteers to help set up and decorate on Thursday, December 18, from 6-9 P.M.. On Friday, December 19, from 8 A.M. until 1 P.M., volunteers are needed to help host, cook, or clean up. Help make this year's brunch a special event for our faculty! Email Nancie at nancieb@mindspring.com if you can help.

Christmas Wreath/Garland and Tree Fundraiser

PFA's silent auction of beautiful Christmas trees, wreaths, and garland runs from Monday, December 1 until 3 P.M. on Wednesday, December 10. When you purchase an item, 50% of the profits go to the group that sponsored the tree, wreath or garland. Trees are being made by classrooms, the senior class, the Booster Club, the Music department and many more, so plan to stop by the front lobby and take a look!

Don't forget

Saturday, December 6 is our School Work Day from 8 A.M. until noon. Come on out and enjoy working with other Hillcrest families as we beautify and improve our campus!

You've Gotta Shop, Don't You?

Why not help our school by using SCRIP? We have SCRIP for many of your favorite stores. Stop by Sharon Geller's office and find out how your shopping dollars can bless our school.





by Diego Bueller

Growing In Christ

As Christians, we are to be growing in Christ. Just as plants and animals grow in size, we are to grow in faith, in purity, and love. *“Finally, brothers, 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.”* Paul says that in Philippians 4:8. We are also to be alert. Ephesians 5:14 says, *“For it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said: ‘Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.’”* There are many scriptures in the Bible that talk about light. 2 Samuel 22:29 says, *“You are my lamp, O LORD; the LORD turns my darkness into light.”* 2 Corinthians 4:6 says, *“For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.”* In John 3:20-21

by Caroline Kim

Senior Spotlight: Diane Mooshoolzadeh

This week we are honoring a special senior, Diane Mooshoolzadeh, who is the daughter of Walter and Millette Mooshoolzadeh. She is an only child; however, her grandmother usually lives with her during fall and winter. She has been at Hillcrest for four years. Diane has many precious memories of her years at Hillcrest. Her favorite memories were the trips to Europe and China. In addition to being an excellent academic student, Diane has been very involved in student life at HCS. She loves participating in the worship band which she has been a part of for two years. She has also enjoyed playing volleyball for the last three years.



Senior Pancake Breakfast a Big Success

The senior class served a pancake breakfast complete with all the trimmings to many of our Hillcrest families on the last day of school before the holiday break. They had no idea so many of you would come out and show your support. They want to especially thank you for your patience as this was a first, and they learned much about assembly line cooking which they will pass on to the underclassmen for future years. The class made approximately \$1000 toward senior activities. Watch for this to become an annual event.

Jesus says, *“Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.”* God is light. He shines on us and judges us by the Word of God. The Word also is light, because the Bible says, *“Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.”* Think of it this way: the world is a dark room. The devil has laid some traps such as snake pits, nets, tar, and holes. He’s trying to stop you from getting to the door on the other side of the room to get out. If we don’t have a flashlight or lamp of some sort, we don’t know where the traps are. The Word of God is our light source that shines on all of the evil. Since the Holy Spirit speaks only the Word of God, He can guide us into the truth, which is the light that distinguishes right from wrong. That Word is also essential when growing stronger in Christ. If we read the Word, we gain wisdom and understanding from the Holy Spirit to be able to see what we don’t see in the natural.

Diane’s desire is to go to UCLA next year, and she has already been accepted to UCSB. She is looking forward to living in a dorm, sleeping in, and having more freedom. She plans to major in architecture or possibly in the field of science. Diane’s favorite Bible verse is Philippians 4:6-8 *“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”*



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December Thoughts cont.

early and watching it is not fair. Also, the same attitude would preclude us from using this time to be on the computer. Dads, if this plan upsets you because you are missing your favorite game, don’t forget you can always record it. Personally, I am going beyond this and will not attempt to record any shows I usually watch. In the end, I hope the experiment will help you to reflect on your viewing habits to see if they need changing.

“I will set before my eyes no vile thing. The deeds of faithless men I hate; they will not cling to me.” Psalm 101:3 ■