

THIS WEEK

@ HILLCREST CHRISTIAN ...



DECEMBER 10, 2009

CALENDAR ITEMS DECEMBER 2009

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



By Don Meyers, Director of Finance and Operations

In These Tough Economic Times...

No one needs to be informed of the nation's economic plight. While a few are aware of the direct impact the economy has had on some of our families, most are not fully aware of the financial situation of the school. Bluntly, we are challenged. Enrollment is down 10%.

In faith we stepped out and did not increase our tuition rates. In faith we did intentionally increase our funding and support of Financial Aid and other discounts to families who are struggling. Over \$257,000 in assistance was granted – over 10% of our total gross tuitions and fees. In faith, we have not terminated teacher positions. It was all about trust in One who is worthy of trust.

We not only believe we can get through this period without any major disruptions, we trust that our God will provide our needs. So it is on the basic ministry needs that we are focused.

What does Hillcrest Christian School need?

We need every family's help to:

Pray. We need every family to talk to the Owner of it all, face to face, without ceasing – that He will be glorified in this school. He loves to give. He wants to give. That is who He is. Consider His greatest gift, His own Son!

Give gifts that God places on your heart. Much of the extras and even some needs we are accustomed to funding in our annual budget will now only happen by donations or fund raising. Every ministry I know is asking for help. If God leads you in another direction, please listen. God wants our obedience – it's the way we tell Him "I love You." When God's people obey, He blesses all His people.

Volunteer ideas and be their champions. 82% of the schools expenses are straight teacher / staff payroll and mandated payroll related expenses. Our buildings have mortgages with bankers and leases with finance companies – they are gratefully only 4% of our expenses. That leaves 14% for everything else. We have reduced or cut that "everything else," everywhere we can – everything that isn't truly a need. We plan to reduce even more. Some employees have voluntarily taken pay cuts, won't seek reimbursements, or won't ask for pay for added work - they are standing behind their idea to cut employee pay. We have had plumbers, roofers, contractors, and electricians donate their gifts and time, so we can avoid costly repairs. We need ideas with champions – people who will be willing pro actively work with

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ONLINE CALENDAR: WWW.HILLCRESTCS.ORG

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

2 Timothy 3:17

SHORT SUBJECTS

Manna Dress Day

Manna Dress Day is coming on Thursday, December 17. With Christmas approaching, this is a wonderful way to bless others in need for the glory of God and to demonstrate how much He has blessed our lives. Students are to bring in at least one food item in exchange for the privilege of having a special dress day. Students may wear a red, green, or Christmas themed shirt with jeans. Please, no inappropriate wording or graphics on shirts, and jeans must be in good condition. Girls may also wear Christmas dresses or skirts but must be within dress code guidelines. A list of items in high demand at the food bank will be sent home, although any non-perishable item will be greatly appreciated. Please watch for expiration dates as Manna cannot distribute expired items

The Local Community Reaches Out to HCS

Three local outdoor malls – The Lakes, Westlake Promenade, and Calabasas Commons are reaching out to help local schools from November 19 through December 24. Shop and eat at any of the stores and restaurants in these malls, and save your receipts. Then beginning on December 14, a concierge will be on site at these malls to take your receipts. Remember to let them know you are supporting HCS. If you have receipts and don't want to go back after the 14th, drop them off at the school office and we will get school credit for you. In addition to 5% of all sales going back to the school, Hillcrest will have the chance to win up to \$10,000 being given away as well. Use scrip and the school earns twice, so shop, eat, and save those receipts!.



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

by Sylvia Hawisher, Event Coordinator

HCS Spelling Bee Results

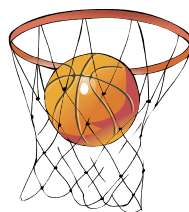
On Wednesday, December 2, the 2nd through 8th grade students had an opportunity to participate in the HCS Spelling Bee. Each class had a spelling bee to determine their top five spellers. On Wednesday, those spellers competed with each other in front of both classes. The competition was tough, and the last two spellers often spelled several different words before a winner was declared. The winners will now prepare to compete in the ACSI District Spelling Bee on January 15, 2009, at Cornerstone Christian in Camarillo.

“The ability to communicate with one another and with God is part of His plan for our lives. The written form of our language requires accurate spelling. Thus, spelling becomes an important part of the communication process. It is the written form that allows the transfer of information over space and time. This is unique to humans and is a clear reflection of the nature of God.” - ACSI Christian Philosophy of Spelling

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers, Mrs. Wilderom, Mr. and Mrs. Caldwell, and all the teachers who helped make the HCS Spelling Bee run smoothly.

Our Winners

Gr. 2 Winners	Jack Oglesby	Amanda Moran
Gr. 2 Runners-up	Allison Campbell	Rylee Hill
Gr. 3 Winners	Ryan Smith	Samuel Hwang
Gr. 3 Runner-up	Kylie Cummins	Sophia Buskirk
Gr. 4 Winners	Megan Ehman	Jenna Matus
Gr. 4 Runners-up	Hannah George	Chris Alballat
Gr. 5 Winners	Deanna Bitterly	Erin Philen
Gr. 5 Runners-up	Carlie Magallanes	Will Andrews
Gr. 6 Winners	Chloe Zgorzelski	Joe Shimamoto
Gr. 6 Runners-up	Mackenzie Jacques	Weston Quiroz
Gr. 7 Winner	Lucas Viera	
Gr. 8 Winner	Hannah Williams	



By Coach Dominguez

Boys' Varsity Basketball

Our young men had a good showing at the Santa Clarita Christian tournament held last weekend with a 1-2 record and a finalist trophy.

Logan Baltau was the leading scorer; Gio Hernandez was the leading rebounder, and Jeongmoon Lee led the Saints in assists for the tournament. The remaining team members are Tim Lee, Erik Bogeberg, Matthew Lee, Don Chen, Kade Thurman, Austin Ochoa, and Jefferson Blumenthal. These student-athletes played with great enthusiasm and sportsmanship throughout the tournament and represented HCS wonderfully. Come support these fine young men at our upcoming home game on Thursday 12/17 at 4:30 P.M. All home games are played at First Christian Church of Newbury Park; the address is 801 Knollwood Drive.



By: Meghan Brennan, first grade teacher

Learning Math with Kim Sutton

Teachers from the kindergarten and first grade teaching teams had the opportunity to experience two wonderful math conferences given by Kim Sutton. Kim has an excitement and enthusiasm when it comes to teaching math which is contagious to all who attend. Her attitude was so infectious that we could hardly believe it when the class was over at 3:00. Following these seminars at the ACSI Convention, several teachers including me were blessed by her again.

Kim introduced the importance of a number line. She stated that the number line is fundamental for young students because if they do not know math basics, it will be increasingly difficult when they are introduced to more difficult math concepts. My class really enjoys the math games Kim introduced. Although the students think that they are just playing a game, they are actually drilling necessary math facts. She also introduced several math CDs which reinforce the skill being taught. When one of these CDs comes on, my students' eyes light up. They request certain songs and sing along. Again, the CDs are reinforcing certain skills, but the students see it as having fun in class.

Attending these seminars gave the teachers new techniques to implement in the classroom. Kim Sutton demonstrated many different activities that will be beneficial to our students' learning. These tools and techniques not only make learning fun but also improve the student's mastery of the skill being taught. The other teachers that attended have also implemented many of her techniques with much success. We all feel blessed to have been given the opportunity to attend due to a generous donation to the math department. Kim Sutton you are the best!!

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.

P.F.A. NEWS

PARENT FACULTY FELLOWSHIP

YOU'VE GOTTA SHOP, DON'T YOU?

Why not help our children's classrooms by buying SCRIP? We have SCRIP for many of the items on your Christmas List, and we are now selling gift card enclosures for \$1. Stop by Sharon Geller's office, and find out how your shopping dollars can bless our school.

ANNUAL STAFF CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

The Hospitality Committee has enough helpers for the Staff's Christmas Brunch on Friday, December 18th, but they could still use a few more food and gift donations for the event. For further information, please contact DonnaRae Caccavo at donnarae_inc@yahoo.com or 805-373-1407. Thank you for blessing our faculty.

ICE SKATING AND DINNER EVENT COMING!

We are looking forward to the 5th Annual Hillcrest Skate at the Lakes and California Pizza Kitchen Event coming in January. Date and time to be announced soon. Both CPK and the rink will be donating a percentage back to Hillcrest, so what a fun way to spend an evening with family and friends, and support your school.

JOIN US AT THE PFA MEETING

Our next PFA meeting will be held on Thursday, January 7th at 1:30pm. Come see what the New Year has in store for our school!

USED UNIFORMS DONATIONS

If you have any uniforms that no longer fit, please consider donating them to the Booster Club. Donations can be left in the volunteer office. Hillcrest sports thanks you!



U.S. History Simulation: "Meet The Press"

Students in Mrs. Krause's U.S. History class assumed the roles of early 1900s progressive thinkers and participated in a "Meet the Press" simulation.

Andrew Carnegie and Rockefeller debated issues of capitalism and social programs with muckrakers such as Ida Tarbell. Amendment reforms such as prohibition and women's suffrage were also hotly discussed.

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In These Tough Economic Times cont.

the administration in creatively finding ways to cut costs and/or to raise income.

Be Faithful. As stewards of His ministry, we need positive cash flow, not debt. When our families meet all their obligations to the school and pay on time we can meet our obligations.

In these tough economic times...God's people can shine. ■



by Ben Waggoner, secondary teacher

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

...the power of a simple gift...

Operation Christmas Child is an outreach of Samaritan's Purse, an evangelical organization that collects donated gift boxes for children the world over. It is estimated that this year they will collect and disperse over 8 million brightly-decorated shoe boxes filled with dolls, toy cars, pencils, candy, and the message of hope that comes from the

Gospel of Jesus Christ. That message goes to so many children in over 100 countries. Samaritan's Purse president, Franklin Graham, reminds us that "the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these". (Matthew 19:14b, NIV)

This year, Hillcrest Christian School demonstrated wonderful support with students donating more than 200 gift-filled shoe boxes to help touch the hearts of millions of other children internationally. Organizing the collection of gift box donations, Mrs. Gonzales encouraged and led many of the students in how to put together Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes.

After the boxes were gathered, high school students, many of whom had donated gifts, donated their time as well, to help inspect the shoe boxes and pack them in larger boxes for shipping from the Orange County processing center to destinations such as the Philippines, Ecuador, Mongolia, and Ethiopia. Working in a warehouse, the students worked enthusiastically, and when their shift was completed, they still wanted to stay, seeing that as God uses you to bless others, you too will be blessed.



Breakfast at HCS Tomorrow Friday, December 11th

If mornings are hectic at your house, or if you would like to have a hearty breakfast without having to cook or clean up, plan to have breakfast at Hillcrest tomorrow, Friday, December 11. The senior class will be serving a hot pancake breakfast with sausage, bacon, orange juice, and coffee in the auditorium from 7:00 – 8:30 A.M. Dads, this is a great opportunity for a father/son or father/daughter date, or how about giving mom the morning off by bringing all your kids for breakfast!

Senior year is fun and exciting but also expensive. This fund raiser will help with the costs incurred for the many senior activities that take place. Come out and support these students and enjoy a time of fun and fellowship having breakfast together.

