

# THIS WEEK

@ HILLCREST CHRISTIAN ...



DECEMBER 17, 2009

## CALENDAR ITEMS DECEMBER 2009

**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

Mon. **25** Admissions Open House 7 P.M.

Wed. **27** HCS Science Fair 6th-8th grades

Thurs. **28** End of 1st Semester

Fri. **29** Semester Break  
NO SCHOOL NO CHILD CARE



ONLINE CALENDAR: [WWW.HILLCRESTCS.ORG](http://WWW.HILLCRESTCS.ORG)



by Stephen Allen, Head of School

### Making Christmas Last...

When December hits, I look forward to how we break out the wonderful Christmas music at church, in stores, and in our homes. Some of these songs are so pleasing to hear and full of worship that it is a shame we don't enjoy them all year. Christmas is a

time of year when in general, people seem to embrace the season, and are kinder, happier, and perhaps more hopeful. We wish we could extend this spirit beyond December 25th.

### Here are five ways that you could try to make it last longer.

1. Keep shouting "One more time!" after everyone sings "The 12 Days of Christmas".
2. Open your presents with your toes.
3. Say "This reminds me of a story..." after you open up each gift.
4. Don't let everyone leave until the last speck of fruit cake has been eaten.
5. The next day, fake amnesia and tell everyone they have to do it all over again.

**Seriously, how do we extend the season?** Remember that baby Jesus grew up to be the perfect sacrifice, allowing us to have eternal life and access to the Father, through faith in Him. If our present financial situation forces us to focus on the main thing – Jesus – then consider the economy as a way that our Lord has gotten our attention. Many families this year are greatly downsizing the idea of gifts and are instead looking for ways to build relationships through the year. Remember that your child might remember a particular toy or game or clothing item, but your child will definitely remember precious time spent on a hike or some other special time with dad and/ or mom, perhaps performing some act of service such as delivering food or serving mealtime at a homeless shelter or rescue mission. As a gift, Jesus, did not bring delight for a short while only to become broken, worn out, or out of fashion to be tossed aside. His gift extended into the Easter season and continues today – only for the asking.

### If you look for Me at Christmas

(From the Vicky Howard Collection)

You won't need a special star – I'm  
No longer just in Bethlehem,  
I'm right there where you are  
You may not be aware of Me  
Amid the celebrations –

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

2 Timothy 3:17

## P.F.A. NEWS

### PARENT FACULTY FELLOWSHIP

#### GOT RECEIPTS?

Don't forget to log your Christmas shopping receipts from the Oaks Mall at Guest Services or you can bring them to school and we will log them for you. Happy shopping!

#### ANNUAL STAFF CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

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

#### ICE SKATING AND DINNER 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.

**NEXT PFA MEETING** will be held on Thursday, January 7th at 1:30 P.M.

#### 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!



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by Mrs. Logan, 8th US History Teacher

### 8th Grade Experience Life in the Colonies

Envision yourself in the early 1700s crossing the stormy Atlantic Ocean to start a new life in the wilderness of the thirteen English colonies!! Mrs. Logan's 8th grade United States History class went through two activities, a Colonial Brochure and a Colonial Journal, trying to understand and experience life in the colonies.

In the first problem-solving group work activity, each group of 8th grade students created a brochure for a particular colony in the southern, middle, or New England regions. They then attempted to attract 'visitors' to their colony. Each group included reasons for settlement, climate, religion, and government in their colonial brochure. The editor, graphic designer, writer, and chamber of commerce representative worked together to design an attractive and informative brochure. Once the chamber of commerce representative displayed and explained the groups brochure to the other 'colonists', the colonists then had the opportunity to 'move' to the colony that they believed had the best quality of life.



Alexa Hermosillo explained her experience this way. "In my colonial brochure project, I did the colony of Connecticut with my other partners, Hannah Covany, Daniel Fanto, and John Groh. I learned that our founder was Thomas Hooker and that Connecticut wasn't spelled like it is today; it was spelled Quinnetiquitt. Also, I learned that the colony was very good in trade and did very well in farming, too. They ate corn, pumpkins, and squash, but mostly corn!"

by Les Enloe, secondary math teacher

### Math in the Secondary Classroom

"When will I ever need this?"

Students ask this all the time in the math classroom. To some extent, it's a valid question; we want to know "how this will apply to real life?" As students grow up and have to calculate a family budget or balance a checkbook, they realize that math plays into more areas of their lives than they'd expected. Building fundamental math skills plays a foundational role for our students, but how can teachers make learning these fundamentals more interesting? Several Hillcrest teachers recently had the opportunity to learn more about this by participating in seminars by Marcy Cook and ACSI.

The Marcy Cook seminars teach various approaches and strategies that can help make the math classroom more than just tolerable, but interesting and fun. What?! Math "fun"? Using Tangrams, number tiles, and mini-centers, students can see numbers in settings other than the cold, black-and-white textbook presentations. Tangrams (geometric forms that can be configured in various ways) give students the opportunity to see geometry in a hands-on, tangible way. Number tiles combine the kinetics of Tangrams with intellectual, computational skills. Using number

Shane O'Brien shares his experience. "One of the most fun and memorable experiences of 8th grade U.S. History class so far, has been the first Colonial Day. The 8th grade students dressed up as colonial men and women and presented a brochure to influence others to come to their colony. Some colonies bribed the students with food, while others influenced us with their assuring speeches. We asked questions and wrote down information before 'going' to the colony of our choice. The colony that had the most colonists come, bribed us with food and had an amazing speech to go with it!! Our first Colonial Day was a true success, and I can't wait for another one!"



The student's second activity, the Colonial Journal, will be on display in P-6 in the spring at the Hillcrest Open House. Be sure to come out to P-6 and view these amazing pieces of creativity and knowledge of colonial life!!



tiles, students learn to do the problems in their head. All of the students in the class have their own number tiles, and, given a series of computational questions, they have to come up with the answer first. Mini-centers break students away from their desks to work math problems, oftentimes with other students, with a variety of different approaches. These can consist of word problems or can be computational, but they are usually more involving.

At the ACSI convention, a seminar was offered entitled, "Writing in the Math Classroom". Most of the time, writing skills are not associated with number-work, but this seminar shows teachers how to incorporate other thinking skills into the math classroom that will reinforce mathematical skills. By taking the math problem and writing it out, students learn to identify answers to several questions: 'What's the real problem?' 'How did you solve the problem?' 'What does the problem mean?' and 'What skills did you use to solve the problem?' These questions cause students not only to work the problem, but, by enunciating the reasoning behind it, learning is reinforced.

Math skills – when will I need them? All the time, and by using some of these teaching strategies, students are enjoying learning them more, too.

### **Candy Cane Café Report**

The PFA is happy to announce that 189 tickets were sold for the Candy Cane Café this year. This sold-out event was a success for many reasons! To begin, our committee created an atmosphere of anticipation throughout the months of November and December to build excitement and promote ticket sales. Secondly, our boutique was stocked full of wonderfully handcrafted items. The children had so much fun taking their turns in the boutique, and the smaller children were eager to let the 6th grade girls be their shopping assistants. All of the gifts were gone by the end of the day. Finally, our committee continues to hear from families thankful for the casual atmosphere of fellowship and Christmas cheer.

This event would not have been possible had it not been for the many families who volunteered their time, talents, and resources for baking, wrapping gifts, decorating, running errands, and working behind the scenes. The HCS students also contributed with the Christmas art on display and by sharing their musical talent. A special thanks goes to Janice George for successfully bidding on the Christmas tree. Congratulations to raffle winners Monica Bjork for Mr. Allen's dessert and Ken Thatcher for the advent calendar.

As many families were not able to attend because of limited seating, the PFA is already considering ways to expand the Candy Cane Café next year. See you there!

The PFA would like to thank the following people for their substantial contributions to the Candy Cane Café:

- |                              |                    |                                |
|------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| Mrs. Baltau                  | Carrie Knight      | Laura Spach                    |
| Tim. Brennan & Western Bagel | Brandy Lazar       | Pastor Rick Stabile            |
| Christa Boling               | Meghan Lee         | Anna Steele                    |
| Mrs. Rosa Brown              | Nancy Lethcoe      | Leslie Thornton                |
| Lisa Bucaro                  | Brenda Liebowitz   | Mrs. West                      |
| Mr. and Mrs. Carlstrom       | Diane MacLaury     | Debra Zacharia                 |
| Marti Cisi                   | Stacy Massell      | Mrs. Zimmerman                 |
| Belinda Carter               | Gail. Matheson     | Kimberly Zgorzelski            |
| Joy Danison                  | Chris Matus        |                                |
| Mrs. Essick                  | Mrs. Metcalfe      | Hillcrest High School Students |
| Sharon Hasegawa              | Jesse Meza         | Hillcrest 6th Grade Girls      |
| Lyndsi Fri                   | Nanci Scully       | Hillcrest Café                 |
| Janice George                | Bethany Shakelford |                                |
| Mrs. Hawisher                | Mrs. Tamara Smith  |                                |



By Cathe Jackson & Deb Baltau

## The Preschoolers Know how to Zumba

Every Friday morning, one of our preschool parents, Heather Gostage, comes to teach the preschoolers how to Zumba. This is an intense dance exercise program that not only looks fun but also helps the children with coordination, following directions, and stretching. As you know, when your body feels better, you are getting more oxygen to your brain which helps you think more clearly. Doing Zumba increases the children's gross motor skills, which is very important for their development. We are thankful to Heather for bringing this great exercise program to our preschool department.



## Preschool Christmas Program

The Christmas program was a big hit! What a joyful and fantastic night! The two year olds started the program ringing bells while they sang in their lamb hats. The preschool three year olds shone like stars in their angel costumes while singing *Away in a Manger* and *Silent Night*. Pre-K was up next singing *The First Noel* and *The Little Drummer Boy* in their townsmen outfits with their homemade drums. All the preschoolers came together on stage for the final songs. They stole the show when they put on their sunglasses and rapped *We Wish You a Merry Christmas* ending the song with "Word" for God's Word. Four year old Kiernan Martin ended the program by reciting John 3:16 and inviting the audience to invite Christ into their lives. The children received a book and a candy cane at the end of their performance. They did such an amazing job.

A big thank you goes out to James Kosako who played the piano for the preschool performance. Another thank you goes out to Mr. Allen for giving the invitation after the performance. Thank you to all the parents who worked behind the scenes to make this program the best yet!



Photo from the Candy Cane Café  
courtesy of photographer, Debbie Baltau

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## Making Christmas Last cont.

You'll have to look beyond the stores  
And all the decorations.  
But if you take a moment from your  
List of things to do  
And listen to your heart, you'll find  
I'm waiting there for you.  
You're the one I want to be with,  
You're the reason that I came,  
And you'll find Me in the stillness  
As I'm whispering your name.

Love, Jesus

Have a blessed Christmas. Enjoy your break.  
We will look forward to what is in store for all of  
us in 2010.



Photo from the Kindergarten Christmas Program  
courtesy of photographer, Debbie Baltau