

THIS WEEK

@ HILLCREST CHRISTIAN . . .



APRIL 30, 2009

CALENDAR ITEMS MAY 2009

- Fri. **01** ASB Convention
- Tues. **05** Teacher Appreciation Day
- Tue. **05** Booster Meeting 1:30-3:00 P.M.
- Thurs. **07** PFA Meeting 1:30-3:00 P.M.
College Planning Seminar 7 P.M.
- Sat. **09** Junior Senior Prom 6:30-11:30 P.M.
- Fri. **15** HCS Spaghetti Dinner 5:00-7:00 P.M.
OPEN HOUSE 6-8 P.M.
NO SCHOOL NO CHILDCARE
- 21-31** Italy Trip
- Mon. **25** Memorial Day
NO SCHOOL NO CHILDCARE
- Fri. **29** God's Promise Day

JUNE 2009

- Tues. **02** Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon
Booster Meeting 1:30-3:00 P.M.
- Wed. **03** Senior Finals
- Thurs. **04** PFA Meeting 1:30-3:00 P.M.
Grad Night at Disneyland
- Sat. **06** Senior Graduation

ONLINE CALENDAR: WWW.HILLCRESTCS.ORG



by Cathe Jackson, preschool director

At Your Service

During a staff meeting a couple of months ago, one of my teachers brought up the idea of having the preschoolers visit a retirement home. She commented that we teach our children to model Christ's actions by helping and sharing with others, but we should also allow the children to experience what it is like to bring joy to others. The preschool could actually have a community service day.

HCS is big on community service hours, especially when you get to secondary. My daughter needed to complete two more community service hours for this semester, and I needed to complete three community service hours as part of a college course requirement. As I looked through the list of community service organizations that my professor gave me, I remembered the organization, Malibu SOS, operated by a Hillcrest parent. I asked her how we could help, and she explained that they meet on Thursdays in Malibu at an elementary school at 7:00 PM. She also explained that this organization helps people in transition in any area of life. She told me to ask the volunteer at the front desk.

I was a little nervous on my way up to Malibu with my daughter because I did not really know what to expect. We made it to the school, but there was no front desk. There were just tables with table cloths and a kitchen. I approached a young man passing out tents and sleeping bags in the kitchen area. I let him know that we were there to help in any capacity. He told us to hang out until the food got there and to make ourselves comfortable. We sat down at a table and waited for the food to arrive not sure who was homeless and who was not.

Another young man approached us with a friendly greeting and sat down. I explained right away that we were there to help, so that he did not think we were the ones in 'transition'. I asked him about Malibu SOS and what we should expect as far as helping out. He explained that everyone eats, worships, and then has Bible study. He also pointed to the people in the room and told me their names and a little bit of history about each one. The people in the room ranged from Pepperdine College students to people that had no homes. It was a very diverse group that hung out and talked with each other as friends.

Just as the young man had explained, we ate together, worshiped together, and had Bible study together. Afterward, we prayed in small groups, and I felt privileged to have been a part of it. God completely opened the eyes of my heart to see people of very different lifestyles worshipping our God together. It

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

SHORT SUBJECTS

Golden Spoon This Week

Don't forget that today, April 30, and tomorrow, May 1, HCS is sponsoring a fund raiser at all local Golden Spoon eateries to benefit the varsity cheer squad. Bring a coupon included in this newsletter or pick one up in the front office, and Hillcrest will receive 20% of your purchase. Everyone loves frozen yogurt so come out and support our awesome girls. If you forget your coupon, please mention Hillcrest, and the school will still receive credit.

No May Saturday Workday

Please make a note that there is no workday this Saturday, May 2. Workdays will resume in the fall. We would like to thank all the volunteers who came throughout the year to help beautify our facility. A special thanks goes to Brenda Liebowitz, alumni parent, who faithfully provides lunch for the workday volunteers each month.

Volunteer Hours Update

As we near the end of the school year, we have begun to tally the volunteer service hours for our Hillcrest families. The source for our calculations is the "Volunteer Logs", which are kept in the front office of the school. If you have fulfilled your requirement but have failed to record your hours, please make sure to log them prior to May 22, 2009. Any family who has logged less than twenty hours will be billed at the rate of \$20.00 per hour. If you are short and are looking for opportunities, contact the school office for ways to fulfil this obligation..



CA K.I.D. contest. It was a close contest. Third place went to Adam Brabec. Jonathan Naylor came in second. Congratulations to this year's CA K.I.D winner – Alyson O'Neal. There is a plaque in Mrs. Dimas' classroom where Alyson's name will be added to the past two year's champions.

Excerpts from the essay by Nicholas Ratekin

U.S. Historic Study Tour Essay

This year's U.S. Historic Study Tour was an absolute blast. Our class got to see many historic sites that were pertinent to our 8th grade history lessons. Three of my favorite sites were Gettysburg, Williamsburg, and Jamestown.

The Gettysburg Battlefield was one of the most tragic and eye opening historic sites on our tour. The Union and Confederate armies started fighting and sent for large reinforcements. After two days of battling, the South decided to attack the middle of the Union defense. The attack failed, so the South was forced to retreat. As our class drove by this battlefield, we saw the open fields where thousands of men were slaughtered in an attempt to attach the middle of the Union's defense.

On our tour we stopped at Williamsburg in Virginia. Williamsburg was the first major city of our early beginnings. We got to see many colonial jobs such as blacksmiths, coopers, and furniture makers. The true hard work, difficulty, and time consuming traits of these tasks was shown to our class. In this town, we also toured the House of Burgesses where the first English controlled government of this colony was set up. We got to see the way colonial homes, businesses, and government buildings looked in those days.

Another place we visited was Jamestown. Jamestown was the first permanent colonial settlement in America. We learned that the very first thing these men did was establish a church on the land where they had landed and prayed to God with praise for their arrival to America. However, this colony endured many hardships including harsh winters, Indian attacks, and mosquitoes. When the colonists were heading back down the river for home, three new supply ships came from England to aid them, and the colonists went back to Jamestown. This site made us realize what God can do for us if we just trust and believe in Him.

This trip gave me the wonderful opportunity to experience "His Story" outside of a text book and in real life. Going on this trip taught me not only about history, but also about spiritual and behavioral applications for life.



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By Ben Waggoner, Senior Advisor

Costa Rica Senior Trip 2009

Last September, the seniors of 2009 voted on Costa Rica as the destination for their senior trip. I don't think any of them are regretting that choice as we look back on the incredible week spent in a beautiful country. The trip started off with a red-eye flight to Panama and a quick one hour flight to San Jose, Costa Rica on Saturday morning. We had an easy first day to get settled in our hotel rooms and into our new country. Sunday morning came quickly as we boarded our bus at 6:00 A.M. to head out to the river to raft the rapids with our guides. This rafting trip turned out to be the adventurous highlight of the entire week! Ask one of the seniors, and you may hear stories of cliff jumping, falling overboard, and swimming through the lush rain forest.

Day three was our service day. We served at the Abraham Project in a poverty stricken area of San Jose. This project was started about 16 years ago and is a testimony of what God does through someone's act of faith. Many buildings have been constructed to house the school, the nursery, the foster homes, and the church that meets there. The construction of these buildings has only been possible by the countless hours spent cleaning the wood given to the project. Our students removed nails and staples from recycled wood with hammers, crow bars, and other hand tools. In the afternoon, we played with the smiling children which brought much joy to our hearts. It was a day that changed our perspective in many ways.

Days four through six were filled with many different activities that helped us to observe the creative power and beauty of our amazing Creator! We hiked through the rainforest to a waterfall where we swam in the cool water, we swam in warm pools heated by a volcano, we zip lined through the canopy of the rainforest and swung like Tarzan on a vine, and we took a catamaran boat to an island where we swam in WARM Pacific waters. On this last excursion, we saw a crocodile, a toucan, a sea turtle, monkeys, a javelina (wild pig), flying fish, and beautifully colored crabs. The sun setting over the Pacific as we returned from the Island was the perfect ending to the senior trip. God has truly blessed us with His grace on this trip in a multitude of ways.



Mrs. Nelson's Book Fair Is Coming

Tuesday, May 12th

through

Friday, May 15th

BOOK FAIR HOURS

Tuesday, May 12th

8:00-11:00 A.M., & 2:00-4:00 P.M.

Wednesday, May 13th

8:00-11:00 A. M. & 2:00-4:00 P.M.

Thursday, May 14th

8:00-11:00 A.M. & 2:00-4:00 P.M.

Friday (Open House!), May 15th

5:00-8:00 P.M.

IT'S TIME FOR BRITANNICA ONLINE!

We are raising funds to support our new Britannica Online School Edition Encyclopedia service which we will be offering next year throughout the HCS campus and even to your student(s) at home! Three levels of content for elementary, middle school, and high school, plus the Britannica Learning Zone for PreK-2 will hopefully enhance the learning experience for both staff and students.



by Suzanne Clock, alumni parent

Public or Private??

I know this is the time of year that many 8th grade parents are making the decision to either keep their child at Hillcrest for high school or choose a much larger environment of a public school. As a parent who has had two very well-rounded students here at Hillcrest during middle school, I would like to share my perspective.

Our oldest daughter wanted to attend a public school because she felt it would offer her more opportunities. The truth is, because she was taking college prep classes, she ended up taking most of the same classes as her sister who stayed at Hillcrest (with a few exceptions). English was her strong subject, and her high school English teachers couldn't understand why she was in college prep classes instead of A.P. English. In a nutshell, she fell between the cracks in that aspect.

Our younger daughter who stayed and graduated from Hillcrest was able to serve in student government and participate in the National Honors Society. Both girls were good students, well-liked by friends and teachers, and achieved good grades, but Hillcrest allowed the individual to shine and develop, not only academically, but spiritually.

by Coach Hawkins

Middle School Girls' Soccer

This past week, the girls' improved their league play record to 3-0. On Tuesday, the Saints beat Conejo Adventist 4-1. Scoring was comprised of MacKenna Kelleher's hat trick (three goals) and a goal added by Brittany Wilderom. The girls were back in play on Friday to defeat Ventura Missionary's B team with another 4-1 victory. It is awesome to see that every girl on the team plays a key role. They all play hard, play together, and have a great time at every game.

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At Your Service cont.

was an amazing experience. I now felt that I was one in 'transition' because my heart had deeply been touched. A man in my prayer group was just so thankful for his wife, even though they carried their homes on their backs. Another gentleman in our group had a home but wanted prayers for a wife. I thanked God for bringing me to Malibu SOS and for changing my heart. I can't wait to go back to hang out with my new friends. If you would like more information, check out the website at www.malibusos.com.

At HCS, we GET to do community service hours not just to help others but to experience God in a different way. I encourage you to pray and seek God's counsel about volunteering to help somewhere. Wouldn't it be amazing if we all volunteered, not because we need to complete service hours, but because we want to?

"Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need."-Romans 12-13a (NIV)

As for preschool, we all agreed with idea that even little ones can serve others. Our preschool community service day is on the calendar for next year. ■



by Alex Buller

Senior Spotlight: Daniel Shim

This week's senior spotlight is about Daniel Shim. Daniel joined the Hillcrest family three years ago as a foreign exchange student from

Korea. Daniel is one of five members of his family including his mother and father, younger brother Seung-Hwan and a dog named Sugar. Daniel's favorite Hillcrest memory is the senior retreat. He plans on attending Penn State University and is looking forward to the new experience and new friends. He is planning to major in biology.

Daniel's favorite verse is 1 Corinthians 10:13 which reads "Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God". Daniel is an excellent student whose high school achievements include being admitted into NHS (National Honors Society) and ASB.

Don't Wait - Prepare for College Now

A Seminar for Parents of All Ages

As many of us know all too well, the cost of a college education is rapidly increasing, and the time to pay that bill is rapidly approaching. To address this concern, Hillcrest will be hosting an educational 45 minute seminar on Thursday May 7th in the auditorium to help parents develop saving strategies to pay for their children's college educations. The seminar will be conducted by one of our own Hillcrest alums, Kyle Jansen, a licensed financial services representative. The seminar will also touch on the importance of applying for federal aid, local scholarships, and other forms of aid.

The cost of college tuition can be daunting, so the sooner you start saving the better. It's never too early or too late to start!