

Rooted and Reaching

HCS Highlights



Houston
Christian
School



HCS WILDCATS

page 2

JEAN GUENTHER'S LEGACY

and a look at how we celebrated HCS's 60th anniversary with a Western Night.



pages 1, 6 & 7

MEET OUR GRADUATES

pages 8 & 9

ALUMNI CORNER

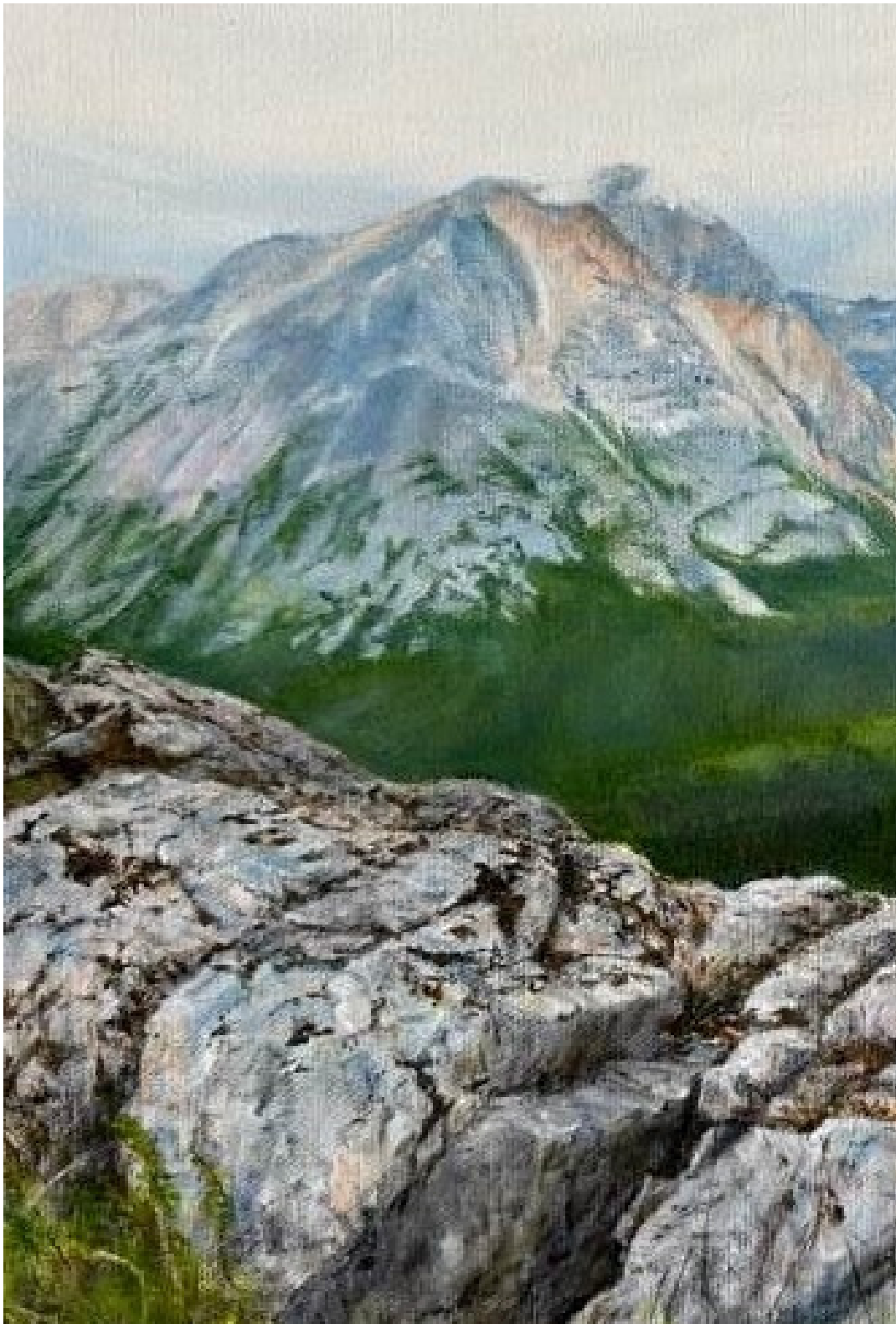


page 4



GRANDFOLKS DAY PHOTOS

pages 10 & 11



JEAN GUENTHER



Jean was a master Beauty-Creator who found immense joy in creating works of art, both musical and visual, to honour her Lord. She never sold her work for personal gain, but occasionally commissioned pieces for people, with a suggested monetary donation to HCS, for the hours involved in creating these labours of love.

It was Jean's plan for many years that, upon her passing, her paintings would be sold and/or auctioned off and all the profits would be for the ongoing work of educating, engaging, and equipping students at Houston Christian School.

After the auction and sale of her paintings at our Western Night, the "Jean Guenther Legacy Fund" is currently at \$11,000.

Her art will continue to make appearances in auctions for years to come. As well, we have a few of her paintings for sale and on display in the school office.



HOUSTON CHRISTIAN WILDCATS

2022/2023 SEASON

▶▶▶ VOLLEYBALL

- Grade 8 Girls won Bronze at the Northwest Volleyball Zone Championship.
- Jr. Girls won Silver at the Northwest Volleyball Zone Championship.
- Jr. Boys won Gold at the Northwest Volleyball Zone Championship.
- Two of our grade 12 boys, Cameron and Aaron, joined the BVCS Senior Boys Volleyball Team, and helped bring their team a gold at the Northwest Volleyball Zone Championship.
- In December, our elementary students participated in a Volleyball playday at Houston Secondary.
- BVCF donated funds to purchase new volleyball jerseys for the junior and senior teams!
- The Christmas Alumni Volleyball Tournament was a great success with 8 teams, lots of fun and good, competitive volleyball. "Luke and Co." were the champions and have their team name on the new plaque at the school. The money raised from the entry fees of this tournament was put to good use to purchase new volleyball nets for the school!



BASKETBALL

- Jr. Girls won bronze at the Northwest Basketball Zone Championship.
- Jr. Boys won silver at the Northwest Basketball Zone Championship.
- In March, our elementary students participated in a Basketball playday at Walnut Park.

▶▶▶ TRACK AND FIELD

This year we had the privilege and blessing of having Brent Opdendries introduce a Track and Field Dryland Training Program for Grade 7-12 athletes. This program was offered to those who were passionate about developing skills, stamina, vertical, technique, and determination. Part way through the season, the elementary track athletes and Mr. Brandon joined. Over the course of the program, our 25 athletes worked hard, and had fun. There was blood, a lot of sweat, blisters, sore joints, achy muscles, and tears of joy and sadness. We are so thankful for what God has enabled us to accomplish this year. We made an impact, we turned heads, we brought home some hardware, and we did it all in His name.



THANK YOU
TO ALL OUR
VOLUNTEER
COACHES!





Our webstore,
offering many colors
and styles of clothing
will re-open again in
September.

HOW 'BOUT YOU?



Dr. Matt Dykstra

An interview with an HCS Alumnus

Talk about your life journey after graduating from HCS.

After graduating from HCS in 2004, I worked for a year in Smithers to save money for university. I attended TWU from 2005 to 2009, met the wonderful woman who was to become my wife in 2009, and married her in 2012. I attended medical school from 2009 to 2014. My wife and I have been blessed with 6 beautiful children. After working in a few towns in BC and Alberta from 2014 to 2018, we settled in Smithers in late 2018.



How did the education you received from HCS impact this journey?

My education from HCS was a very major part of my professional journey. The wonderful teachers at HCS were instrumental in my upbringing, and through them I developed a passion for science from a Christian worldview. I felt well prepared for university at TWU and was very successful academically throughout my 8 years there.

How does your faith impact how you see your role as a doctor?

My identity is in Christ. Before being a doctor, or a husband, or a father – I am a Christian. Medicine is an increasingly progressive profession and navigating its dark waters as a Christian is difficult. The Lord has really blessed me with peace, reminding me that all things are under His control, and my calling is merely to be faithful to him.

"My identity is in Christ. Before being a doctor, or a husband, or a father, I am a Christian."

What about HCS has stayed with you?

I appreciated the class sizes, and that in general, all the students were friends with everybody. I appreciated the opportunity to play sports during my time in HCS. I fondly remember Thursday morning singing and how just being together with fellow Christians singing praise

to our LORD is always a good use of time. I also appreciate that the teachers, during my time at HCS, really truly cared about my life, my faith, and my success. I still feel this today when I cross paths with my former teachers.

What advice would you give to current students at HCS to make the most of their experience?

See that the LORD has put the task of school in front of you today and that even if you don't particularly enjoy school, or enjoy a certain subject, the LORD calls you to do your very best.



OUR COMMUNITY

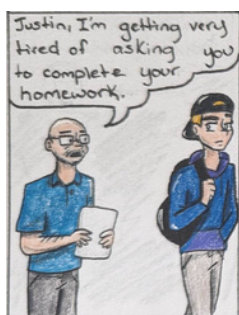
»» STUDENT VOLUNTEERS

In today's fast-paced and me-centered world, it is refreshing to witness the acts of service demonstrated by our HCS high school students. These young people are so willing to pause what they are doing to lend a helping hand, whether it is to stack chairs, set up tables, shovel a snowy driveway, open the door for someone coming in the school, play with the little ones in the gym while their moms make apple pies, create décor for the Christmas play, or give up a Saturday night to serve food and do dishes at the Western Night.

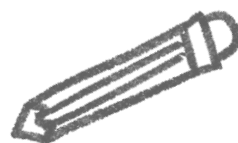
Not only are they helping their school with their service, but they are setting a wonderful example of what a

servant heart looks like in action to the younger students who watch these "big kids" give of their time with energy, smiles, and great attitudes.

We pray that, as our high school students embrace these opportunities to volunteer, they will be blessed by the gift of community and develop a lifelong desire to serve God in self-sacrificial ways, wherever God may place them in future years. We are ever so grateful for the presence of our high school volunteers and so deeply appreciate the way they have embraced their role as servant workers in God's kingdom.



Artist: Asha Peters is an HCS student in grade 8 who dreams of one day writing Christian graphic novels. We look forward to more works of art in the future and seeing where God will take this talented student!





Western Night

We were blessed to have so many from our extended HCS community join us as we celebrated the school's 60th anniversary at our Western Night this May. It was an evening focused on community building, filled with great food and entertaining company, along with a lot of laughs and a few "Yee-haws." From the sales of tickets, candy bags, cookie plates and pies, the school made a profit of nearly \$5000!

(This does not include the sales from Jean's paintings.)





2023 graduates

Congratulations to the HCS grads of 2023!

The Lord willing, they will all go on to achieve great things.

We interviewed each graduate, asking them about themselves or their experiences being a student at HCS, and here are some of their answers along with future plans.



Ari-Marie

"HCS has provided me a Christian education that included God in all aspects of my life. HCS teachers taught me not only theory but how to live a God-filled life as God shone through their lives. I will be forever grateful."

Advice to HCS students:

"Be confident in who you are and always remember God has a plan for you."

In 10 years Ari sees herself either nursing or firefighting with a family.

Congratulations Ari!



Aaron

"Socials was my favorite subject because I liked to learn about new countries and cultures. The HCS community has always helped when other people were down and has equipped me to help others and to be kind and humble."

Advice to HCS students:

"Focus on school."

After graduation Aaron has plans to save up money and then to attend university.

Congratulations Aaron!



Robert

"My favorite subject was Calculus because I like to work with numbers. HCS has equipped me for my future by teaching me about God. The community of HCS was friendly and accepting so that I felt like I could be myself."

After graduation Robert has plans to be an accountant.

Congratulations Robert!



Thomas

"I don't have a favorite subject because all the subjects equally interest me. HCS has equipped me by giving me the education I'll need to succeed in life. HCS made me feel included and accepted."

Advice to HCS students:

"Listen to your parents and try your hardest."

Congratulations Thomas!



Melody

"I like to play rugby and volleyball. I enjoy going horseback riding and I am learning how to crochet."

After graduation Melody plans on traveling and then pursuing a career in nursing, either at CNC or U of A.

Congratulations Melody!



Evangelene

"My favorite subject was Outdoor Ed. I learned so much about God's creation and how to survive if I get lost or stuck in the bush. HCS taught me to be more confident in my faith and with God. I have learned that everything I do should be to the glory of God."

Advice to HCS students:

"To all the younger students, I hope God is present in your life and make sure you plug in the laptops."

In 10 years, Evangelene sees herself having a successful job as an RCMP officer and a family while having a stronger faith in God.

Congratulations Evangelene!



Cameron

"My favorite subjects were Biology and Chemistry. HCS has equipped me to bloom in places where God wants me to shine."

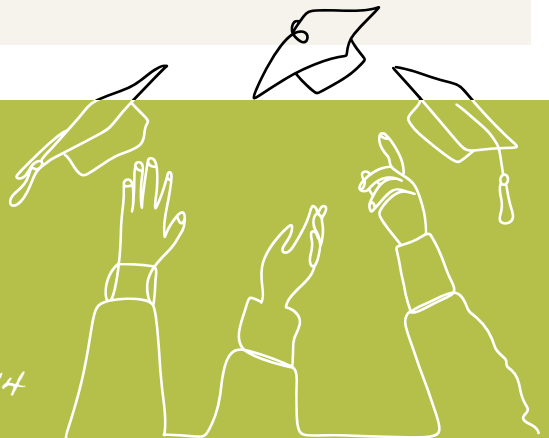
Cameron is an athlete, artist, short story writer, poet and adventurer.

In 10 years Cameron sees himself as a wise and free man pursuing his plans and dreams.

Congratulations Cameron!

"Wait for the LORD,
be strong and take heart
and wait for the LORD."

- Psalm 27:14





2023
*Grand Folks
Day*



YOU ARE NOT THE AUTHOR OF YOUR STORY

DEVOTION BY PAUL TRIPP - DESIRING GOD

Re-worded and presented at HCS Grandfolks Day
by Cheri Kobes

You're probably like me — you like a good story. Whether it's a TV drama, a box office hit movie, or a best-selling novel, we tend to line up for a compelling story.

Maybe you're sitting in a restaurant or around a campfire, and your friends begin to tell stories. Each one seems better than the one before. It begins to feel a bit like a contest. It seems as if people are trying to "outstory" one another, so you begin to thumb through your mental catalog of personal stories to see if you are carrying one that may just win the day.

The honest reality is that most of our stories won't end up in history books. The chances of your life accomplishments being preserved in a biography are slim to none. Discouraging? It shouldn't be. Rather, if you are God's child, you have been invited into a much bigger story — the grand redemptive story — which is now your biography.

Most great stories are great because, through the characters, relationships, situations, and locations, they march you to an incredible ending. When someone is talking to you about a great movie they just saw or a great book they just read, they will often say, "You will just not believe the ending!" The grand redemptive story, on the other hand, is the best story

precisely because it has no ending. The main character of God's story (which is your story if you're His child) comes to earth and defeats sin and death, and because He does, He offers us the one thing that no other character in any other story can offer us — real life now and eternal life to come.

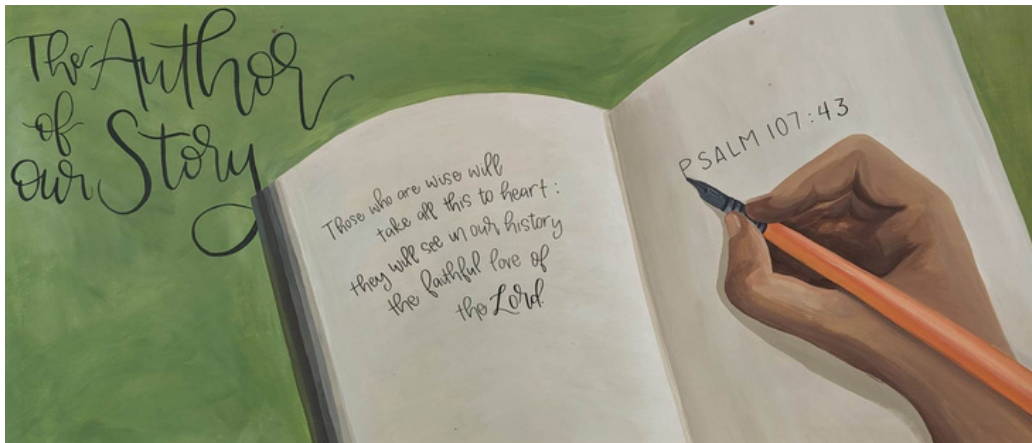
Remind yourself again today that you have a story, but it is not an autobiography. There is an author of your story, but the author is not you. You have been welcomed into an epic drama, but you will never be the hero. You have been given a kingdom, but you will never be its monarch.

The price of your admission into this story was the suffering and death of Jesus Christ. But He conquered death so that by grace He could establish His story in your life. Today He reigns on your behalf and will

continue to do so until the last enemy of your soul and of His kingdom has

been defeated. Then He will summon you into the final chapter — a chapter that never ends — where peace and righteousness will reign forever and ever. This is the story of your faith and your life. The story of this redemptive, eternal plan is now your biography. Why would you ever want an autobiography when you could have the story God himself has written?

"Your life story is a biography of wisdom and grace written by Another."





"Rooted and Reaching" is our new bi-annual school newsletter. This publication is anticipated to arrive each Spring and Fall.

"Rooted and Reaching" will serve as a platform to showcase uplifting highlights that capture the essence of our Christian school community. It will celebrate the achievements of our students, showcase the dedication

of our staff and volunteers, and reinforce our school's commitment to providing a Christ-centered education. With each publication, we hope to strengthen the bond among students, staff, parents, grandparents, and alumni, fostering a sense of gratitude, school spirit and unity within the extended school community.

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter either by mail or email, please let the school office know or send an email to k.vandenbrink@houstonchristianschool.ca



Scan Me

to view and download more
Grand Folks Day photos!

Thank you Kelly Jaarsma for
blessing our community with your
talent and beautiful photos!



*Educate, Engage, Equip...
to the Glory of God*