

# Rooted and Reaching

HCS Highlights



## Houston Christian School



### HCS WILDCATS

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### A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A STUDENT AT HCS

Take a peek at the fun that happens inside the doors at HCS!



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### APPLE PIE DAY!

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Each month, new pieces of Jean Guenther's paintings will be showcased at the school. You're invited to come and appreciate these beautiful works of art or even make a purchase!





# HOUSTON CHRISTIAN WILDCATS

## »» VOLLEYBALL

- Jr. Girls won Gold at the Northwest Volleyball Zone Championship.
- Jr. Boys won Bronze at the Northwest Volleyball Zone Championship.
- Sr. Girls won Silver at the Northwest Volleyball Zone Championship.
- Sr. Boys won Gold at the Northwest Volleyball Zone Championship. They also competed in the 2023 'A' Boys Volleyball Provincial Championship, where they placed 11th and were honored with the 'Most Sportsmanlike' award.

THANK YOU TO ALL  
OUR VOLUNTEER  
COACHES!

## »» BASKETBALL

The basketball season is soon to kick off! The Junior Girls, and the Grade 8, Junior, and Senior Boys teams are gearing up for an exciting season. Stay tuned for updates on our athletes' performances and game schedules.

## »» CROSS COUNTRY RUN

On October 12th, our students ages 7-12 participated in the annual cross country run at the Riverside Park in Smithers where 10 elementary schools competed.

- the 9- and 10-year-old boys' team earned 1st place in the 1.5 km run.
- the 7-and 8-year-old girls' team tied for 2nd in the 1 km run.
- the 11- and 12-year-old boys' team tied for 2nd in the 2 km run.
- We additionally celebrate individual student achievement. Roselyn Spletzer placed 4th, Braedon Groot placed 3rd, Quinn Jaarsma placed 2nd and David Onuora placed 2nd in the individual runs.
- Overall, our school placed 3rd!

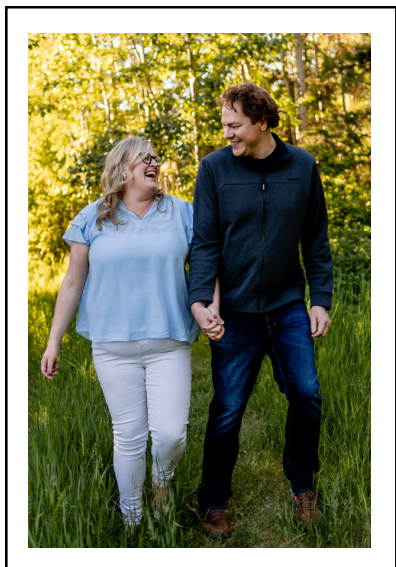
Congratulations to our young HCS athletes!



# Cody Meints

An interview with an HCS Alumnus

*Talk about your life journey after graduating from HCS.*



**Cody is married to HCS's middle school teacher Megan!**

I'm going to start back just a little before graduating from HCS. During my grade 12 year I completed three days of volunteer work experience at the Equity Mine. At the end of this short period, I asked Mike Aziz if they were looking for any summer students and he let me know they had an Environmental Technician and did not need to hire summer students at that time. Then, after graduating from HCS, I attended UNBC where I started to work on my chemistry degree. After my first year, I started to look for a summer job and my mom suggested I phone Mike to see if he had anything available. I told her what Mike had told me the summer prior and she said: "What's the worst that will happen? He might say 'no.'" Well, God's providence showed through. There happened to be an opening at the mine that summer and I was able to fill in temporarily. I then went back to school for my second year and during the semester I was offered a "full time" job -"full time" being eight months of the year until I was able to finish my degree. I eventually finished my Bachelor of Science degree majoring in Chemistry in 2015, six years after graduating from high school. A few short years later, in 2018, I was promoted to the Site Supervisor role with a host of new responsibilities.

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

My education from HCS is what pushed me into my choice of degree and is ultimately where my career path has led. I always enjoyed math and science through all the years of elementary and high school. Chemistry 11 and 12 sparked a bit more of a special interest as they were an amazing combination of the two. Adding to this was that in Chemistry 12, Mr. Ewald would take the class for tours to the mine every year. This tour showed a good

overview of the site and the fact that a chemistry degree could land you a job in that field. And last but not least was the volunteer work experience we were required to complete that I chose to do at the mine; this sold me on that type of work even more.





*How does your faith impact how you see your role within your profession?*

My faith is a huge part of my daily life and how I conduct myself. Sometimes it can be tough to differentiate yourself as a steward of God's creation from someone who values environmental protection because it's the "hip" thing to do. I have, however, been blessed to be given a job where I literally get to be a steward of God's creation by treating water to continue to preserve and maintain the environment around the site.

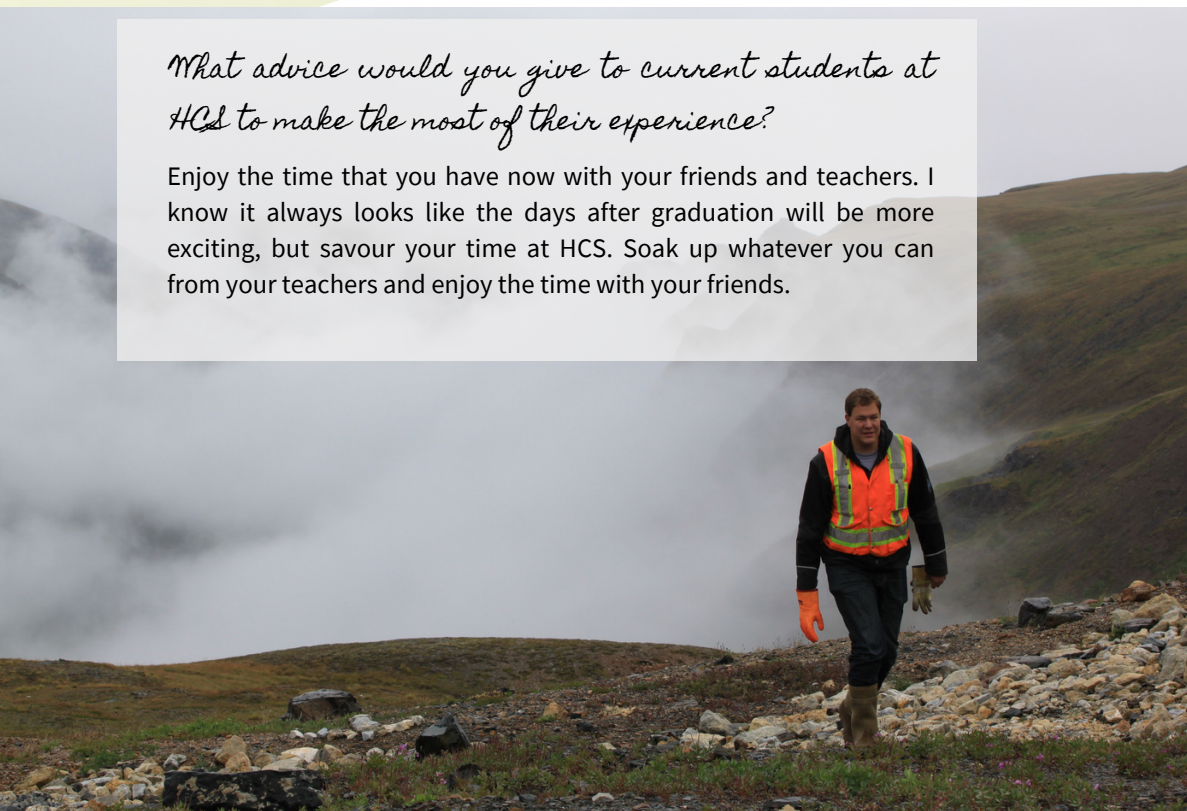
*What about HCS has stayed with you?*

There are many things from my days at HCS that have stayed with me. Many Christian values reinforced by the HCS staff continue to be important to me today. I will always remember the staff and their countless stories and all the fun that was had on field trips and sports events. The teaching has helped to shape me to be the person I have become today.



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

Enjoy the time that you have now with your friends and teachers. I know it always looks like the days after graduation will be more exciting, but savour your time at HCS. Soak up whatever you can from your teachers and enjoy the time with your friends.



# Apple Pie Days 1996-2023

In the fall of 1996, a tradition began at Houston Christian School – Apple Pie Days. What started as a humble gathering of enthusiastic bakers and volunteers has grown into a beloved annual event that continues to bring our students, parents, grandparents, and even great-grandparents together.

On October 10, 1996, the smell of cinnamon and baked apples filled the air, and the sounds of laughter and teamwork echoed through the halls as 131 delicious pies were made. The \$514.81 raised from the first Apple Pie Day may have seemed modest at the time, but it laid the foundation for a cherished tradition that has supported classroom resources, extracurricular activities, and special educational projects for over 25 years.

This year, the Apple Pie Fundraiser looked a lot different than those previous. We traded in our cozy kitchen and three days of Apple Pie making for a grand assembly line in the gymnasium, where, in 4 and a half hours, a record-breaking 1029 pies were made!

Through the years, the methods and recipes may have been tweaked to perfection, but one thing remains the same – the success of Apple Pie Day is not just measured in pies made or funds raised, but in the joy and togetherness it creates in our school community.

We are thankful to God for the many volunteers whose time and efforts have made over 25 years of Apple Pie Days a success.



APPLE PIE  
DAY 2023  
RAISED A GRAND  
TOTAL OF  
\$11,713.29 THAT  
WILL SUPPORT  
EDUCATION AT  
HCS!







**\$1144 OF GROCERY EXPENSES WERE COVERED THROUGH DONATIONS!**



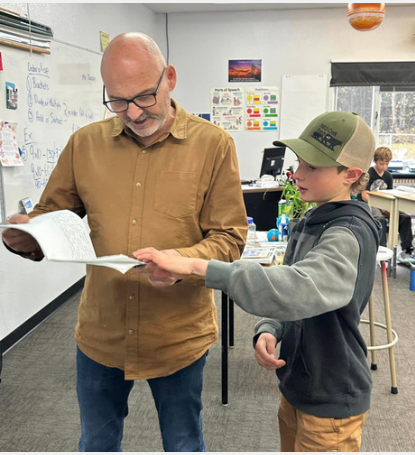




A day in the  
life of an HCS  
student.









Pictured left to right are:

**Caroline Thomson** - Long Range Planning Committee

**Travis Metcalf** - Chairperson

**Collin Peters** - I.T. Committee

**Kevin Alles** - Education Committee

**Brenan Mayer** - Secretary

**Daryn Kobes** - Treasurer

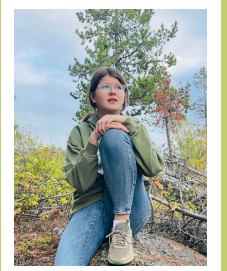
**Tim Dykstra** - Building Maintenance / Vice Chair

**WE ARE THANKFUL TO  
GOD FOR THESE MEN  
AND WOMEN WHO  
SERVE HCS.  
PLEASE REMEMBER  
OUR BOARD MEMBERS  
IN YOUR PRAYERS!**



## COMIC CORNER

Artist: Asha Peters  
grade 9







*Our 2023  
Deep Roots Campaign  
goal  
is to raise \$25,000  
towards  
Enriching Educational  
Support.*

## WAYS TO DONATE

### E-TRANSFER

deeproots@houstonchristianschool.ca  
Please include your email address and  
'Deep Roots' as the password.

### IN PERSON

We are happy to accept cash or  
cheque written out to Houston  
Christian School at the office.

### ON OUR WEBSITE

Visit [houstonchristianschool.ca](http://houstonchristianschool.ca)  
and click on the DONATE tab at  
the top of the page.

### BY MAIL

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