

Rooted and Reaching

HCS Highlights



Houston Christian School



Grade 11/12 Outdoor Education

HCS WILDCATS

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ALUMNI CORNER



pages 4 & 5



GRADE 7/8 MARKET DAY

ADST in BC schools teaches practical skills like entrepreneurship through projects like Market Day, where students develop and sell products, learning budgeting and responsibility along the way.



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MEET OUR GRADUATES

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GRANDFOLKS DAY PHOTOS

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Houston Christian School 2023/2024

**Like a tree planted
by streams
of water,
which
yields its fruit in
season.**

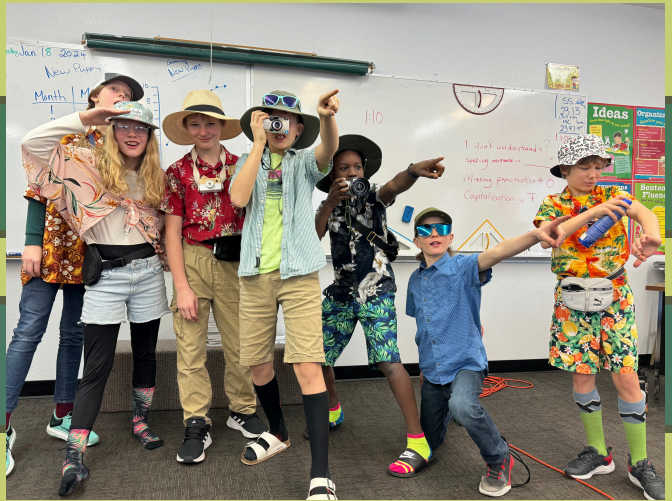
Psalm 1:3

The image of the fruit-bearing tree in Psalm 1 shapes our vision. We aim to inspire our students to “thrill to God’s Word” and to “chew on Scripture day and night.” We claim our identity as “trees replanted in Eden, bearing fresh fruit every month, never dropping a leaf, always in blossom.” God “charts the road we take” as a school deeply rooted in Him, and He charts the paths of our students as they venture beyond the HCS campus into the world around them.
(The Message)



SPIRIT DAYS

Spirit days at HCS bring a burst of excitement and a sense of community, as students and staff come together for themed activities, fun dress-ups, and lots of laughter. These special days shake up the routine, making school more lively and enjoyable for everyone involved.



Ashley Milne

An interview with an HCS Alumnus

Talk about your life journey after graduating from HCS.

In 2002, I said goodbye to my people. Many of them had travelled alongside me throughout my education, and they were family (in fact, many were family). I took a seven-month journey across Canada with the government volunteer program “Katimavik.” There were 11 others in my group from all walks of life. Unlike my peers, they had different worldviews. At times, this proved challenging—how do you love and respect without completely losing yourself?

We volunteered in various job settings, took French lessons, handled budgets, cooked and cleaned, and were exposed to the many cultures of Canada. This was a fulfilling experience as I gained an appreciation for diversity, confidence in my abilities, and grew in my independence (not to overlook that I met the love of my life—those who know me know I don’t usually talk like this, but he really is a blessing).

I have yet to decide on what I’d like to be when I “grow up,” but along the way, I completed the Early Childhood Education program, got married, and learned to love cooking, gardening, and, dare I say, laundry. I now have four children and am celebrating sharing over half my life with my husband, Kevin.

I am very fortunate, as my main role right now is to be a stay-at-home mom. During the school year, I run an Early Years program weekly in our small town school that encourages and fosters relationships (children/parents and guardians/faculty). I enjoy this because I get to engage with my community but still have time to be active with my own family.

My church life and family have grown in the last few years. I appreciate that my children are experiencing some of the familiarities and connections that believers share (sometimes, these can be lacking in small, rural communities).

How does your faith impact how you see your role in your work?

In all things, in my work as a mom, at the school, and in my community, what shines brightest when I think of these roles is that He made me who I am and what I am, and He chose me! God knows my heart, and He provided all these positions for me—handpicked and passed on. Also, a little grace goes a long way!

Every time I’ve taken the reins and planned my life to a “T,” I’m most positive that God has given His head a shake and, with a smirk, murmured, “Oh, Ashley! That’s not what I have in store for you right now.” My faith allows me to rest easy and know that even when I don’t understand, there is a plan already in place.

“My faith allows me to rest easy and know that even when I don’t understand, there is a plan already in place.”



How has the education you received from HCS helped you in your life?

Along the way, I have had many challenges that should have sidelined me. I think that HCS assisted in instilling a faith that was strong enough to rely on the facts: He is GREATER and BIGGER. He knows all things and has a purpose for anything and everything (come what may). Trust in Him, lean on Him, and He will make a way!

What about HCS has stayed with you?

Growing up, I always thought that all schools were like HCS. I took for granted that the majority of our teachers genuinely cared for our well-being and success. We were taught empathy and selflessness, grace and love – service projects with Mr. Ewald established such things.



The most prominent memories often include Thursday morning devotions. Unity in Christ gathered in worship.

What advice would you give current HCS students to make the most of their experiences here?

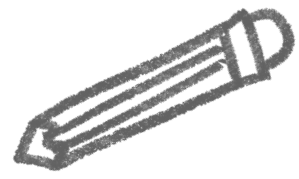
If I could leave you with one encouragement, it would be to focus on building up your armour! Put it all on. You were blessed with the gift of a firm foundation, and you really have a great opportunity to strengthen and protect yourselves before you head out.

It's easy to forget a piece when you're doing life. One day, you might look around and realize, "I was there, right beside Jesus, and now I have fallen 18 steps behind. How did I get here?"

Don't worry. You may think that you're 18 steps behind, but He's actually still right beside you -- just reach out with your hand!

UP YOUR ALLY

By Asha Peters



Artist: Asha Peters

HOUSTON CHRISTIAN WILDCATS

»» BASKETBALL

The Junior Boys' Basketball Team performed well and emerged victorious, securing the Northwest Basketball Zones Championship gold medal. Our Junior Girls' and Senior Boys' teams displayed skill and determination throughout the season. Despite not winning gold, they played with unwavering commitment and enjoyed every moment on the court.



»» TRACK AND FIELD

This season, the track and field team has welcomed two new coaches, Chantelle Harms and Jamie Mayer, who, along with Brent Opdendries, have been busy preparing their athletes for the upcoming season. The team is gearing up for another fantastic season. Last year, they did an excellent job representing HCS, and they're all set to do it again. It's an exciting year for track and field, with the BC Summer Games on the agenda. The team hopes to send a number of athletes born in 2009-2010 to represent HCS and the Zone 7 track team in Maple Ridge from July 18-21. This is a great opportunity for anyone interested in athletics to showcase their skills and talents. Two years ago, HCS sent one athlete to the BC Summer Games, and it was a wonderful experience. This year, HCS aims to send multiple athletes.



If you know someone who's interested in joining the exciting world of Track and Field, please reach out to Brent Opdendries at 250-845-4701.

THANK YOU
TO ALL OUR
VOLUNTEER
COACHES!



OUR COMMUNITY

»»» ACCESSIBILITY AT HCS

Recent data shows that one in five of the world's people have diverse needs. For this reason, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms included persons with disabilities in the new Employment Equity Act. From this initiative, the Accessible Canada Act was established, with the overarching goal of realizing a barrier-free Canada by 2040. The BC Ministry of Education and our own Society of Christian Schools in British Columbia have collaborated to appropriately fulfill this mandate in schools.

At HCS, we believe that all members of our community have the right to be treated with dignity, given an opportunity to participate, and provided with access to learning and meaningful engagement with the community.

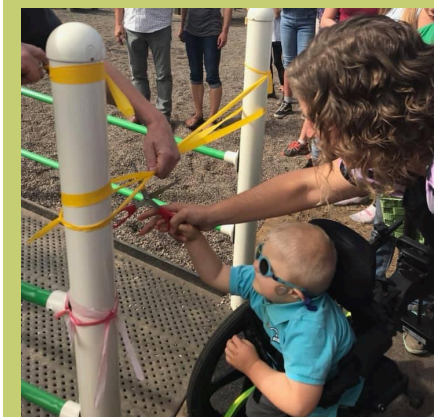


To facilitate the process of becoming an accessible school, an Accessibility Committee was established and has been hard at work. The committee has developed a school feedback survey to understand the issues, challenges, and priorities of stakeholders within our school community. They have identified and prioritized short and long term goals.

Some good work has already happened. Ramps have been installed at key entrances,

an accessible washroom was added, and our playground was designed to include accessible features. Among other things, we will further enhance accessibility with additional outdoor pathways to foster participation beyond the school walls.

The committee is in the process of finalizing a detailed action plan to enhance equity of access to programming and our facilities. This action plan will be posted on our website by the end of summer 2024. Through the actions in this accessibility plan, we commit to continuous improvements in developing an environment that supports all students, staff, and the larger school community.



MARKET DAY FUN

ADST... You might be wondering, what is that? Or perhaps if you have school-aged children, you've heard them talking about this already! ADST is an acronym for Applied Design, Skills, and Technology and is a course required of students in Grades K-9 in BC. The beauty of ADST lies in its ability to empower students, allowing them to learn new skills, practice, and develop strategies to improve along the way. The course description says the "curriculum builds on students' natural curiosity, inventiveness, and desire to create and work in practical ways." It's a platform that nurtures their potential and encourages them to build life skills in enjoyable ways.



Teachers sometimes find it challenging to engage students in real-life, meaningful activities. A group of teachers in the Fraser Valley came up with the idea of Market Day to address this challenge. They organized a market to sell Christmas gifts and treats, and it turned out to be a huge success. I was inspired by their idea and decided to implement a similar activity for my middle school students in Houston.

The first step is choosing a good idea, which can be challenging for many students. Some have many ideas and need to narrow down their options. Once the idea is chosen, students move on to the research phase, where they figure out how to bring their idea to life, determine feasibility, and consider any necessary changes.

Next up is researching supply costs and coming up with a total amount needed as a 'loan' from the school. Yes, we give the kids money! That part was a bit nerve-racking at first... what if they lose it? However, the level of responsibility demonstrated thus far has greatly exceeded all expectations.

One of the most exciting days in the Market Day process is called "Dragon's Den." During this event, students will create a presentation outlining their chosen product, new business name and logo, associated costs, and requested loan amount. We invite local business people to participate as the "dragons," Their advice comes from an entrepreneurial mindset and is incredibly valuable to the students.

Working with the provided advice, students continue developing their products, creating prototypes, making adjustments, ordering supplies, managing budgets, checking receipts, and developing other skills necessary for an average business owner. While this provides an opportunity for parents to participate in the project, I am impressed with the level of independence the students have shown.

This all leads up to the big day, Market Day! On Market Day, students welcome the other grades, family, and friends to view and purchase the items they've worked so hard on. After months of work, some sell out in less than an hour.

It's a beautiful sight to see. It is a true celebration of learning and hard work for the students to display their wares and have people enjoy them.

So that's the basics of ADST and how it unfolds with Market Day! It is a fantastic learning opportunity for students that brings the community together. My students and I want to take a moment to thank everyone for their generous support over the last two years. We look forward to continuing the Market Day tradition, and we hope to see you next year!

~ Megan Meints

The market is
OPEN



2024 Graduates

Congratulations to the HCS grads of 2024! 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.



Jenna

"My hobbies and interests are reading, spending time with my family, outdoor activities, and listening to music." I am passionate about bringing awareness to invisible conditions and I enjoy learning American Sign Language."
 "The thing I enjoyed most in school was learning."
 "After Graduation, I plan to do online learning at TRU to get my teaching or occupational therapy degree."
 Congratulations, Jenna!



Jonan

"My hobbies and interests are Star Wars movies, listening to heavy metal music, watching online videos, and basketball."
 "I didn't really enjoy school."
 "After graduation, I would like to get married. I currently work at Kal Tire but hope to join the military one day."
 Congratulations, Jonan!



Luke

"I enjoy hanging out in our school community, whether it be in academic classes or playing sports at lunch. In my free time, I enjoy getting out and exploring God's creation and listening to music."
 "I think I enjoyed school a little too much. Classes like Pre-calculus and Outdoor Ed were great, but I really enjoyed hanging out with everyone. Sometimes, it was hard to leave at the end of the day. Sorry, Mr. D!"
 "As of right now, I am heading off to UNBC in the fall for a Bachelor of Chemistry. However, I don't plan on keeping that as my major. I am still trying to figure out God's plan for my life!"
 Congratulations, Luke!



Isabel

"My hobbies and interests are baking, going for bike rides, and swimming."
 "There was a lot about school I enjoyed. I liked learning how to bake, playing volleyball in PE, reading buddies, and helping with book bins."
 "One of my favourite school memories was a spontaneous road trip to Smithers to get school supplies."
 After graduation, I plan to work part-time, helping my mom clean at Canfor. I also am hoping to volunteer at the Nature Centre."
 Congratulations, Isabel!



Chandler

"I enjoy working on my computer and playing video games."
 "I didn't really enjoy school; however, if I had to pick my favourite course, it would be Outdoor Education."
 "I really have no idea what I am going to do after graduation; I suppose I will continue working at Tim Hortons until I figure it all out."
 Congratulations, Chandler!



Danny

"My hobbies and interests are cars, gaming, computers, and drawing."

"I had a good time in school, I guess. The last couple of years were difficult, but it was generally pretty cool."

"I am not sure what I plan to do after graduation. I have a couple of ideas, but I'm not sure. I trust God will guide me in the right direction."

Congratulations, Danny!



Oliver

"My hobbies are snowboarding, hiking, video games, photography, and filmmaking."

"I enjoyed the social part of school but didn't enjoy being in class. If I had to pick a favourite subject, it would be science."

"After graduating, I hope to make money and return to Alberta. At this point, I have no clue what my future brings."

Congratulations, Oliver!



Abigail

"My hobbies are reading, drawing, and watching movies."

"I enjoyed learning; my favourite topic was science."

"After graduating, I plan to attend UNBC and major in biology, leading to a career in medicine."

Congratulations, Abigail!



Morgan

"My hobbies and interests are the outdoors and anything to do with horses."

"I enjoyed many of my classes, but not all aspects of school."

"After graduation, I plan on taking some courses in the medical field and hopefully become a paramedic."

Congratulations, Morgan!



Cole

"My hobbies and interests are watching F1 racing and building things."

"I enjoyed school."

"My plans after graduation are to get my 4th class power ticket at CNC."

Congratulations, Cole!



Haley

"My hobbies and interests are photography, reading, fishing, and volleyball."

"When it comes to school, I enjoyed the people, not the learning."

"After graduation, I plan on having a gap year; then I might go to a post-secondary school."

Congratulations, Haley!



Bailey

"My hobbies and interests are coin collecting, bugs and animals, having all sorts of pets, spending time in the outdoors mushroom picking and rock collecting, reading, gardening, skiing, fishing, and travelling."

"I enjoyed school sometimes; it depended on what classes I had that year and who was teaching them"

"My plans after graduation are to get a job and stick around Houston for a bit, saving money for university. In ten years, I see myself married, with a house of my own and a stable job."

Congratulations, Bailey!







"Rooted and Reaching" is Houston Christian School's bi-annual newsletter, issued each Spring and Fall.

The newsletter serves as a platform to showcase uplifting highlights that capture the essence of our Christian school community. It celebrates the achievements of our students, showcases the dedication of our staff

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