

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HCS

September 13 - Saturday

- Grad fundraiser BBQ at SMP (11:00 - 3:00)

September 29 - Monday

- Orange Shirt Day

September 30 - Tuesday

- National Day of Truth and Reconciliation - No School

Oct 13 - Monday

- Thanksgiving Day - No School

EXCITING UPDATES FOR HCS ATHLETICS

With September comes the excitement of a new sports season, and Houston Christian School looks forward to all that God has in store for our athletics program this year.

For the 2025/2026 school year, HCS will be operating with an Athletics Coordination Team, a role shared by Brandon Vandenbrink and Emily

Duzan, who will work together to serve and support our student athletes.

To foster open communication, a new dedicated email address has been created:



athletics@houstonchristianschool.ca.

Families are encouraged to direct all questions, concerns, and inquiries related to athletics to this address.

Athletics plays an important role in our students' school experience. As the season begins, our prayer is that we keep perspective and purpose—always giving glory to God.

DEEP ROOTS SUPPORTS KEY UPGRADES



A huge thank you to our incredible school community for your generosity! Your donations to the Deep Roots Campaign in December 2024 made a significant impact, allowing us to

install new security cameras around the exterior of the school this summer and upgrade the PA system through Tower Communications. Because of you, we've made our school a safer place for everyone. We're so grateful for your support in helping our students and staff thrive!

PRINCIPAL'S PULSE (WORDS FROM OUR HEAD)



Hello HCS Families,

It has been a busy week. We are well on our way in the new school year. It has been a delight to begin the journey of getting to know the students and you as parents. Please forgive me if I don't remember names as well as I should!

In this week's Branches, you will find several forms that we are asking both parents and students to sign. Some of these forms are new, but the policies behind them are not new. We are simply making some of our expectations a bit clearer for everyone.

One of these forms is regarding the use of technology and cell phones at the school. As I indicated in my letter to you all in August, we are asking students not to have cell phones out at school for any reason. The intent is to build community among the school and if we have cell phones out during lunch and recess, we are simply shutting ourselves out from each other. I have been impressed by how well everyone is doing with this! My thanks to you as parents for supporting this.

The second form relates to our Student Code of Conduct. While there is nothing new in this document—the content is drawn from pages 4–6 of our Parent/Student Handbook—we ask that families review it as a reminder of the standards and values we strive to uphold together at school.

I would also like to clarify that I will be here for three weeks of each month, but I will return home to be with my family for one week of each month. My wife is unable to make these trips with me due to her commitments down in the Lower Mainland. However, she plans to come with me for part of my next stay in Houston.

During my absences, three staff members are delegated to handle any situations that may arise. Jacky Hielema-King will address issues at the Elementary School level, Trish Shane will handle issues related to the High School, and Cheri Kobes will oversee matters relating to our Inclusive Education Program. I will be available during my absence to address any situations that may require my involvement.

I have now been here for three weeks and thus it is time to head home for a week. I will be heading home today and will be back at school on Tuesday, September 23.

My schedule of the times that I will be here will be published in the school directory.

Once again, it is a privilege to be a part of the Houston Christian School Story!

Blessings,

Ron Donkersloot



PLEASE REVIEW: IMPORTANT SCHOOL FORMS

As we prepare for the start of the school year, we ask all families to take a few minutes to review and complete the forms linked below. These forms help make sure that students are set up for a safe, supported, and successful year. They ensure that we have the necessary permissions and agreements in place. They also serve as a helpful reminder of key school policies and expectations.

All families are asked to complete each form, except the School Bus Registration Form, which only needs to be submitted by families enrolling or re-enrolling a student for bus service.

Forms can be completed electronically and emailed back to the school. Typing your name in the signature section will serve as your official signature. If you prefer, paper copies will also be sent home with students and can be returned to the school through your child.

If you have any questions about the forms, please contact the school office.

FORMS:

(Click Links Below)

[Low Risk Field Trip - Permission Form](#)

[HCS Student Code of Conduct](#)

[Acceptable Use of Devices Form](#)

[HCS BUS STUDENT INFORMATION](#)

Parents, please return the completed forms by Friday, September 26th

HARVEST DAY FUN AT THE BISHOP GARDEN!

The Grade 3/4 class visited the Bishop Family Garden to help with the harvest. While there, they learned all about the garden as a miniature ecosystem—a place where living components like plants and insects interact with non-living elements such as soil, water, sunlight, and air. They discovered how these parts work together and depend on each other for survival. The students not only had the chance to explore and learn more about God's perfectly designed world, but also got to pick and munch on fresh veggies—making the whole experience even more fun (and tasty!).

