

## **Branches**

a school to home newsletter October 10, 2025







## APPLE PIE DAY NOVEMBER 5, 2025

It's almost that sweet time of year again — Apple Pie Making Day is coming up on November 5th, and we'd love your help to make it another delicious success.

Grab your apron, roll up your sleeves, and join us for a fun day of hard work for a great cause. We're looking for apple peelers and pie makers — no experience required, just enthusiasm and a willingness to help out HCS.

Sign up to help here: LINK

If you're unable to join us as a volunteer but still feel called to support HCS through this meaningful fundraiser, we're once again running our Grocery Donations Board. You can contribute toward the cost of ingredients like sugar, flour, margarine, and pie boxes. Donations can be made in person at the office or by e-transfer to groceries@houstonchristianschool.ca (please include "Pie Day donation" in the memo).

Please note that donations of \$25 or more are eligible for a tax receipt.

And don't forget to order your pies! Order forms are available at the end of this Branches, at the HCS Office, and at Countrywide. You can also order online using this link: LINK

Orders are due by October 27th at the school or at Countrywide Printing & Stationery.

Payments can be made in person by cash or cheque, or by e-transfer to groceries@houstonchristianschool.ca (please include "pies" in the memo).

Let's make this year's Apple Pie Day the best and most delicious one yet!

#### WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HCS

Oct 13 - Monday

• Thanksgiving Day - No School

Oct 16 - Thursday

- Spirit Day Anything but a Backpack
- Grad Cookie & Cupcake Bake Sale @ 12:00

Oct 23 - Thursday

• Parent/Teacher Conferences @ 2:30

Oct 24 - Friday

• Parent/Teacher Conferences - No School

Oct 30 - Thursday

• Spirit Day - Harvest Fest/Western Dress Up Day

## ANYTHING BUT A BACKPACK DAY!



LEAVE YOUR BACKPACK AT HOME AND BRING YOUR SCHOOL ESSENTIALS IN THE MOST UNCONVENTIONAL CREATIVE AND FUN WAY POSSIBLE!

## PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES - OCTOBER 23 & 24

Parent/Teacher Conferences are quickly approaching! Once again, we'll be using SignUpGenius to schedule meeting times. Please click the link below to select a time that works best for you:

#### [LINK]

Our teachers are looking forward to meeting with you and taking the opportunity to review your child's progress so far this school year. Conferences are a valuable time to discuss what's been going well, address any challenges, and share plans for the months ahead in your child's learning journey.

To help everything run more smoothly, we've increased each conference time from 10 minutes to 15 minutes this year. We kindly ask that you be mindful of the parents scheduled after you and keep your meeting within the allotted time. If you believe you'll need a longer conversation, please book two back-to-back time slots with that teacher so they can stay on schedule.

Please also keep in mind that some students have multiple teachers for different subjects. When booking, ensure you've signed up with all the teachers you wish to meet. If you're unsure which teachers to schedule with, don't hesitate to contact the HCS office — we'll be happy to assist.

Thank you for taking the time to sign up and for partnering with us in making your child's education a success.

Note: Due to a prior commitment, Cheri Kobes will only be available on Thursday.

## GRADE COOKIE AND CUPCAKE BAKE SALE

**SWEET TREATS FOR A SWEET CAUSE!** 

The Class of 2026 is hosting a Bake Sale next Thursday, October 16th! During the lunch break, students can purchase cookies or cupcakes to help support this year's graduates.

#### **Elementary Students:**

Each class will be taking part in a donation drive to support the grads. Students who participate will receive either one cupcake or two cookies. A \$3 donation is suggested, but any amount is appreciated—extra donations help cover treats for students who may not be able to contribute.

#### Middle School & High School Students:

Cupcakes and cookies will be available for purchase in the Foyer at lunch, priced between \$1 and \$3.

#### Parents, you're invited too!

Feel free to stop by the school at lunch and grab a treat for yourself while supporting the grads.

Every cookie and cupcake sold helps fund the Grad Trip, Ceremony, and After Grad Celebration.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR GRADS AND BEING PART OF THEIR SPECIAL YEAR.

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SUPPLY PAYMENT** 

We appreciate your patience as we finalized the cost of school supplies for our elementary students this year. Due to the continued rise in the cost of goods across Canada, the total for school supplies will be \$50 per student for the year.

We understand that this represents an increase from previous years and want to assure you that HCS continues to work closely with Countrywide Printing to keep these costs as affordable as possible for our families.

Payments can be made through the HCS office by cash or cheque, or by e-transfer to kim.vanb@houstonchristianschool.ca. Please include "school supplies" in the memo line.



## PRINCIPAL'S PULSE (WORDS FROM OUR HEAD)

Clearly, this has been a challenging week for all of us here at Houston Christian School. Whenever we lose someone from the community, it is painful. We know that there are members of our community who are grieving and suffering. Indeed, as it says in 1 Corinthians 12:26, "If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it."

So we find ourselves in a time of suffering for some members of our community. May we be in prayer and looking for ways to support and encourage our members who suffer.

And yet in the midst of this, we are also looking forward to celebrating Thanksgiving. We do so because we know that no matter what circumstances we face we know that God goes with us. May this Thanksgiving season be filled with a thankful spirit because of what the Lord has done for us and because we know He is with us always.

The children God has given us are a gift. May we cherish and love each of them!

In light of the loss that we have experienced, I have included a link to some resources that were provided to us through SCSBC (Society of Christian Schools in BC). I hope these materials will be helpful to many of you.

Blessings,

Ron Donkersloot







The Grade 11/12 class finally made it to Silver King Basin after their spring trip was unexpectedly cancelled due to a medical emergency. Students had a wonderful time enjoying the beauty of God's creation together. Thank you to Mr. Ewald for leading the hike and to all the parents who helped make this memorable experience possible.



## ATHLETICS UPDATE:

### GAMES, TOURNAMENTS, AND TEAM SPIRIT

We're already halfway through our volleyball season — time flies!

It has been a joy to see our students come together not only to represent our school but, more importantly, to represent Christ.

We recognize that for our coaches, the season requires a significant investment of time, energy, and dedication. As an Athletics Team, we would like to acknowledge and thank the following coaches for their commitment.

> Sr. Boys - Brandon V. & Evan V. Sr. Girls - Ed K. & Laura S. Jr. Boys - Brandon V. & Evan V. Jr. Girls - Caroline T. & Jamie M. Grade 8 Boys - Laura S. & Crystal P. Grade 8 Girls - Amy J. & Shanine S.

This week, our Sr. Boys are sitting in 8th in the province (Single A). We're looking forward to seeing how the rest of the season unfolds for our senior teams — the competition in our Northwest Zone is strong!

This past Wednesday, our Grade 8 Boys volleyball team travelled to ECRS for their first playday of the season.

This weekend is a busy one for our HCS Wildcat teams, with three playdays taking place:



- The Athletics Team

Sr. Boys playday at Bulkley Valley Christian Sr. Girls playday at Ebenezer Christian Jr. Girls playday at Hazelton Secondary

A quick reminder that our Athletics Program has a private Facebook group titled 'Houston Christian School Athletics'. We also have a public Instagram account, @hcsathletics. We encourage you to follow us and stay connected with all the latest game schedules, photos, videos, and highlights!

As we approach the Thanksgiving weekend, we give thanks to God for each one of you who supports our Athletics program coaches, parents, referees, fans, grandparents... the list goes on. We are truly blessed!

Have a joyful and restful Thanksgiving weekend!



## **HCS Joins Socktober with a Mini Sock Drive!**

This October, Houston Christian School is excited to take part in the Socktober campaign, a community effort led by the Houston & District Chamber of Commerce to collect <u>new</u> socks for people in need.

Socks are one of the most requested items at shelters and support programs, yet they're often overlooked. A simple pair of new socks can bring warmth, comfort, and dignity to someone experiencing homelessness or facing difficult times.

HCS is kicking off our own mini sock drive! <u>From now until October 24</u>, students, families, and staff can drop off new socks of all sizes — for kids, women, and men — at the HCS office. After the collection, the school will deliver all donations to the Chamber to support the wider community campaign.

## LET'S SHOW OUR SCHOOL SPIRIT AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN HOUSTON — ONE PAIR OF SOCKS AT A TIME!

## **GRADE 5/6 CELEBRATES TEAMWORK WITH A CLASS REWARD!**







This year, the Grade 5/6 class is focusing on becoming better team players, and they've been practicing this daily through a positive behaviour program inspired by Mario Kart. The program features a rainbow road chart, where each of the five classroom pods represents a character racing toward the finish line. Students earn points in the form of popsicle sticks for demonstrating good behaviour, teamwork, and flexibility in

thinking. When a character reaches the finish line, students in that pod earn a small reward, and when all characters complete a lap, the whole class earns a big reward.

On Wednesday, three pods reached the finish line and made a generous choice: they shared their points with the other pods, allowing the entire class to complete their first lap together! To celebrate this achievement, the class enjoyed a Mario Party between recess and lunch, with a special thanks to Thomas Metcalf for lending his Nintendo equipment and helping set up the games.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GRADE 5/6 CLASS FOR SHOWING TEAMWORK, KINDNESS, AND SPORTSMANSHIP





# APPLE PIE DAY NOVEMBER 5, 2025



APPLE PIE ORDER FORM

Name:		GET YOUR
Contact # :		ORDERS IN SOON
# of Pies:	@ \$15.00 each =	\$
FOR \$	5.00 PER ORDER WE W	/ILL DELIVER YOUR PIES! elivery only *
	<b>Delivery or</b> (please c	•
If delivery pleas	e provide address:	
	TOTAL	\$
CA	please circle m	SFER CHEQUE  ethod of payment eaid for in advance *

You can e-transfer the funds to <a href="mailto:groceries@houstonchristianschool.ca">groceries@houstonchristianschool.ca</a> (remember to put your name and the word "pies" in the memo)

OR you can pay by cheque made payable to "HCS" and attach to this order form.

Order forms & payment are due at the school or Countrywide Printing & Stationery by: Oct. 27th, 2025

PIES WILL BE MADE AND MUST BE PICKED-UP OR DELIVERED NOVEMBER 5TH.

You will be called when your pies are ready.

If picking up your pies, we ask that you do so as soon as possible — to ensure freshness.

NOTE: THESE PIES FREEZE VERY WELL FOR A LONG PERIOD OF TIME