

Branches

a school to home newsletter October 24, 2025

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HCS

Oct 27 - Monday

- Apple Pie Orders Due (Online Order Form Link)
- Elementary School supply payments are overdue

Oct 30 - Thursday

• Spirit Day - Harvest Fest/Western Dress Up Day

Nov 5 - Wednesday

• Apple Pie Day (Volunteer Sign Up Link)

Nov 7 - Friday

- Poinsettia Orders Due (Online Order Form Link)
- Grad Purdys Orders Due (Online Order Form Link)

Nov 10 - Monday

• Pro D Day- No School

APPLE PIE DAY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are still in need of volunteers to help make this year's Apple Pie a success.

Harvest
FEST

and
WESTERN DRESS UP!

OCTOBER 30TH
@ 12:45

Join us for hot chocolate, apple cider, treats & fun!

Apple Pie Day is our school's biggest fundraiser of the year; it's the one that brings in the most funds to support HCS. This event plays a key role in keeping tuition affordable for our families while helping us provide the extras that make learning engaging and meaningful for our students.

If you haven't signed up yet, we encourage you to consider how you can be part of making this important day a success. Whether you can give a few hours or the whole day, your help truly makes a difference. Remember, many hands make light work!

Click here to sign up and get involved!

CHRISTMAS GREENERY & POINSETTIA FUNDRAISER

CELEBRATE THE CHRISTMAS SEASON WITH VIBRANT POINSETTIAS AND FESTIVE HOLIDAY PLANTS — A PERFECT WAY TO ADD WARMTH AND COLOUR TO YOUR HOME OR BLESS SOMEONE SPECIAL WITH A THOUGHTFUL GIFT.



Bloom Buds - 2 plushies

Celebrate family this season with our adorable holiday duo – a Poinsettia Trio plushie and a festive Jingleberry Tree plushie. Perfect for sharing with friends or family, these soft, huggable buddles bring warmth, cheer, and love to any space. Main Materials: Polyester Velboa. Inner Filling: PP Cotton, Sand-Silica. Dimensions: Poinsettia Trio Plushie: 8.5° (H) \times 6° (W) \times 6° (B) Jingleberry Tree Plushie: 8.5° (H) \times 5° (W) \times 3.5° (B)

35.00 CAD



6.5" Poinsettia - Red

A Holiday Favourite! Brighten up any room this winter with a vibrant velvet red poinsettia. The poinsettia is perfect for your home, hotels, restaurants and banks over the holidays. Approx height: 14-16" & width: 12-16"

15.00 CAD



6.5" Poinsettia - White

A Holiday Favourite! Brighten up any room this winter with a vibrant ivory white poinsettia. The poinsettia is perfect for your home, hotels, restaurants and banks over the holidays. Approx height: 14-16* & width: 12-16*

15.00 CAD



Hanging Greenery Bough

Enchanted woodland grove! Heritage burlap bag stuffed with greenery & ilex berry sprigs. Lean it up against stairs, benches, or your home and hang from your door. Approx. height: 28-32* & width: 10-13*

35.00 CAD



Indoor Tropical Planter

Toasty fireside nook! 4 lush plant mixes snugly tucked into a charming holiday tin.. Planter container designs do vary and cannot be requested. Containers vary. Approx: 10-12* by 4-8'

35.00 CAD



Holiday Wreath

Cozy woodsy greeting! Crafted from fresh noble, cedar & juniper, wrapped in elegance and sure to give you and your guests a homey warm welcome. Approx. 24* diameter

35.00 CAD



Table Top Trio

Delightful gift bundle! A charming trio of gaultheria, mini cypress, & frosty fern. Complete with the pot covers and holiday decor. Each plant is in a 4" pot.

25.00 CAD



Outdoor Greenery Arrangement

Regal flora elegance! This festive planter is misted in woodland berries, frosty pinecones & a grand crimson bow. Standing at 2 feet tall this statement piece is sure to inspire the joyful spirit! Approx. height: 30-36* & width: 16-20*

45.00 CAD

ORDER DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 7

PICKUP DATE: NOVEMBER 27

Order forms are available at the HCS office, or you can place your order online using this LINK. Payments can be made by cash or cheque at the office, or by e-transfer to kim.vanb@houstonchristianschool.ca (please include "Christmas plants" in the memo).

PRINCIPAL'S PULSE (WORDS FROM OUR HEAD)

Thanks to everyone who came out for parent-teacher conferences and took a moment to say hello. It is appreciated!

We're in the midst of several exciting activities around the school! The Apple Pie Fundraiser is just around the corner, along with many other HCS spirit and fundraising events. I'm looking forward to being part of these moments and getting to know more of you, our wonderful parents and supporters of Houston Christian School.

These kinds of events are in many ways the lifeblood of our school. It is through these events that we build community and support each other. The same can be said for athletics. As our volleyball teams compete in tournaments over the next few weeks, let's find ways to cheer them on and show our school spirit. I regret that scheduling conflicts have kept me from attending many of their games, but my heart is with the teams!

I appreciate, too, the heartfelt efforts of everyone involved in organizing these events and supporting our school community!

May we continue to grow in grace and mercy together.

Blessings,

Ron Donkersloot





First Lego League Club HCS Wild Robots

Sign up forms are available at the HCS office.

HCS is launching the First Lego League Challenge Club for students ages 9–14. Join the HCS Wild Robots to design, build, and program LEGO robots while tackling the 2025–2026 FLL Challenge: Unearthed.

Students will develop STEM skills, teamwork, and creativity—all while having fun exploring problem-solving and innovation. Meetings are on Mondays from 3:30–5:00 pm starting November 3. The club year runs from November 2025 to May 2026, with a \$35 fee. Don't miss this hands-on opportunity to get creative and make new friends

ATHLETICS UPDATE:

GAMES, TOURNAMENTS, AND TEAM SPIRIT!

THE MASTER OF YOUR GAME

Our sports season is moving along at a rapid pace, and we're already in the phase of planning for our Zone Championship tournaments. Here are a few important host dates to mark on your calendar:

November 7–8 – Junior Girls host at HSS November 14–15 – Senior Girls host at ECRS

Earlier this week, our students and staff participated in the Northern Adapted Sports sessions. It was truly a gift to all of us, and our prayer is that we continue to embrace the importance of inclusive sports. A video of our day has been posted on the **@hcsathletics** Instagram page—check it out!

This weekend, two of our teams will be competing in play days:

October 25 – Grade 8 Girls at SSS October 25 – Junior Boys at ECRS

If you find yourself in Smithers on Saturday, please swing by to cheer on our teams!

Who is the Master of your game—as a player, as a coach, as a spectator, or as a game official? We pray that as we enter every gym, we are reminded that we represent HCS and, more importantly, our Master. Every moment is created by Him, and may we bring glory to God by walking in grace and truth in each athletic opportunity.

Take note of our new column—Coaches Corner! Our first two segments can be found below.

Have a blessed weekend!

In Christ - The Athletics Team

COACHES CORNER

CAROLINE THOMSON

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN COACHING? 4 YEARS

What division do you coach? Junior Girls Volleyball

WHY DO YOU COACH?

Because I love being involved in the school and I've always loved vollyeball ... win win!

THE BEST PART OF COACHING?

I love sharing the love of the game with these girls and seeing them grow.



WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE FOOD?

Spagetti, fish tacos, panang curry, peanut butter ... do I have to pick just one?

Who is your favourite athlete? Andrea Mitrovic

JAMIE MAYER

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN COACHING? 3 YEARS
What division do you coach? Junior Girls Volleyball

COACH?

I loved being part of a team in high school and wanted to be part of having team sports available to high school students.

THE BEST PART OF COACHING?

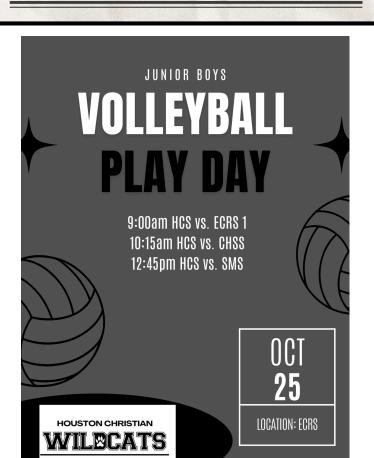
Watching athletes grow, seeing them take on new challenges while supporting each other.

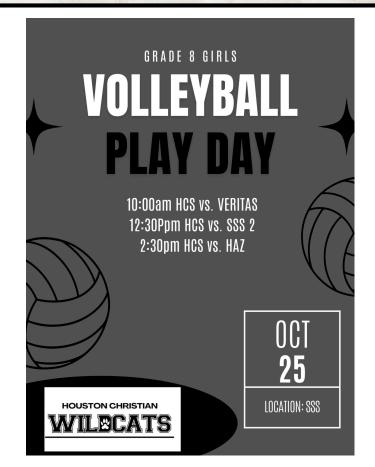


WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE FOOD?

Lasagna

Who is your favourite athlete? Kirk McLean













Northern Adapted Sports Association

VISITS HCS

The Northern Adapted **Sports** Association (NASA) is a volunteer-run, not-for-profit organization based in Prince George, BC, dedicated to providing inclusive and accessible sports opportunities for individuals of all abilities. Through programs like wheelchair basketball, para ice hockey, and sitting volleyball, NASA fosters community engagement and promotes physical activity for everyone, regardless of experience or disability.

We were thrilled to host NASA at our school, where students had the opportunity to experience wheelchair sports firsthand. From racing and playing basketball to engaging in tag and soccer, each activity was designed to foster empathy, teamwork, and a deeper understanding of adaptive sports. This hands-on experience was not only educational but also a blessing, as it allowed our students to connect with the challenges and triumphs of athletes who participate in these sports. We are grateful to NASA for bringing this enriching experience to our school and for their unwavering commitment to promoting inclusivity and active living in our community.









