



Branches

a school to home newsletter

December 12, 2025

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HCS

All December

- 10th Annual Deep Roots Campaign

Dec 17 - Wednesday

- Christmas Celebration @ 7 pm

Dec 19 - Friday

- Downhill Skiing - High School
- Half Day for Elementary/Middle School Students

Dec 16 - Tuesday

- Grade 9/ 10 Skating at the Arena @ 12:45 pm

Dec 18 - Thursday

- Spirit Day - Tacky Christmas Sweater

Dec 26 - Friday

- Alumni Volleyball Tournament

LIFTUP

10TH ANNUAL DEEP ROOTS CAMPAIGN

Thank you so much to everyone who has already contributed to our 10th Deep Roots Fundraiser. We're happy to share that we've now raised \$12,500

toward our \$20,000 goal to install a lift in the high school wing. Your generosity is helping us move closer to making our school more accessible for every student, staff member, and visitor.



As we head into the Christmas season, here are a couple of helpful reminders for anyone still planning to donate:

- If you are giving by cash or cheque, please drop your donation off at the HCS office next week, before we close on December 19. This allows us to deposit it before December 31 so it can be included on your 2025 donation receipt.
- E-transfers can still be sent anytime during the Christmas break to deeproots@houstonchristianschool.ca.

Thank you again for your kindness and support. Together, we're truly "lifting up" HCS and making a lasting impact on our school community.

PRINCIPAL'S PULSE (WORDS FROM OUR HEAD)

I Well, this has been quite the week! I don't think any of us realized just how much the flu would impact things. I am truly grateful for everyone's patience and understanding as we wrestled with how best to keep school running. The number of students and staff who have been sick this week has been far above normal. At one point, we had 48 students absent. The reset on Monday was needed, but even then, it was still a challenge to make everything work. My sincere thanks to all the staff who pitched in and helped us get through the week.

Next week is our final week before the Christmas break. I am praying that most of us will have recovered from the cold and flu by then. Our Christmas program is next Wednesday at 7:00 p.m., and I look forward to seeing you there.

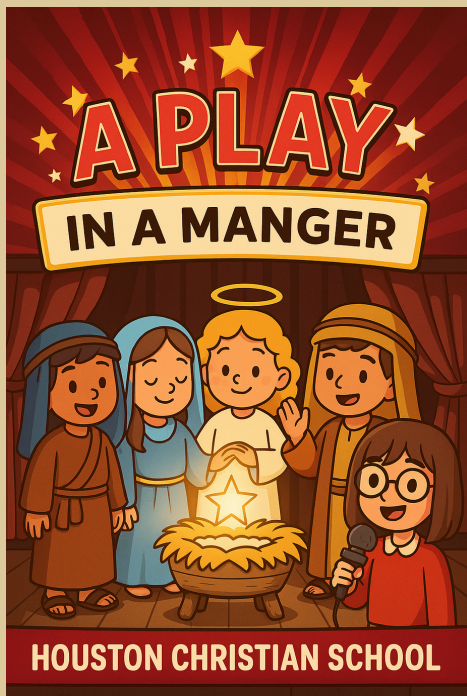
As we prepare for the coming Christmas season, it is my prayer that the joy of the Christmas story would pervade all of our celebrations. May the simplicity of a baby born in a manger shape how we live and move through this season.

As John says so eloquently in John 1:14

*The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighbourhood.
We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father,
like Son, Generous inside and out, true from start to finish.*

Merry Christmas

Ron Donkersloot



HCS ELEMENTARY PRESENTS: A PLAY IN A MANGER December 17 at 7:00 pm

Join us next week for our annual Elementary Christmas Program, A Play in a Manger. Our students have been working faithfully over the past few months as they memorize their lines, learn their songs, and prepare a performance that shares the joy and wonder of Christ's birth.

We warmly welcome the entire HCS community to come and enjoy this celebration of Christmas and the birth of our Saviour. Expect a night full of charm and surprises as our students bring to life a story that reminds us that even when big plans fall apart, the wonder of Jesus' birth shines brighter than anything we could stage.



HCS ALUMNI VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

TEAM REQUIREMENTS:
2 guys + 2 girls
+ 2 HCS Alumni
need to be on the court.

~all players must be HCS
students, staff, alumni or
spouse of alumni

~grade 9+

Please send your team name and roster to
bradenvanderwoerd@gmail.com



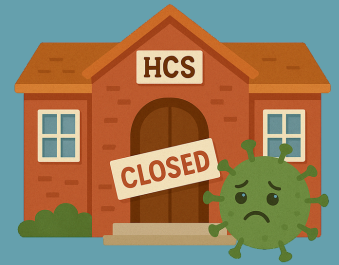
Please note that the last day of school before Christmas Break, December 19, will be a half day for Elementary and Middle School students.

High School students will be participating in the downhill ski day, and there will be no regular High School classes.

Enjoy the early start to Christmas Break!

CHRISTMAS BREAK
DECEMBER 20TH - JANUARY 4TH

OUR APPRECIATION TO PARENTS AS WE NAVIGATE A TOUGH FLU SEASON



Houston Christian School has been hit hard by flu season over the past few weeks, with many students and staff experiencing significant illness. We want to thank all our parents for their patience and understanding as we have managed staff shortages and worked to keep classrooms covered. We are especially grateful for your flexibility on Monday when the school needed to close due to the number of staff who were unwell.

As families continue to navigate this flu wave at home, we wanted to share what we have been noticing most often in students and staff. Along with the usual fever, sore throat, cough, and overall exhaustion, many people have also been dealing with nausea or stomach upset, achy joints or muscle pain, and tiredness that hangs on a little longer than expected. Fever typically settles within a few days, but the overall illness can last five to seven days, and a cough or lingering fatigue may continue for up to two weeks or more.

If your child is showing the early symptoms, especially fever or significant tiredness, keeping them home for those first days is a big help in limiting spread and giving them time to recover. Once the fever is gone and they are feeling well enough to participate, they can usually return even if a mild cough or fatigue persists.

As we move toward Christmas break, we continue to pray for renewed health and strength for our students, staff, and families. Thank you again for your continued support during this challenging stretch.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS



**The Valley
Candles**

Hand poured | Wood wick | Soy Wax



**DOUBLE A
VENTURES**



HEARTSTRINGS
Home Décor & Gifts

**Matt & Sarah
Sutton**



We extend our sincere appreciation to everyone who contributed toward the Senior Girls Volleyball Team's trip to Castlegar for the 2025 'A' Girls Volleyball Provincials. Your generosity helped make this opportunity possible, and we are grateful for your support.

Our athletes represented the school with determination and composure, finishing the tournament with a 6 and 1 record and earning the bronze medal. This strong result, especially for a team that entered unranked, reflects both their hard work and the encouragement they received from our community.

Thank you for supporting our students and for contributing to an experience that meant so much to this team. Your generosity is deeply appreciated by Houston Christian School and our Wildcats.

AURORA
Towing & Heavy Wrecking Ltd.

WILSON BROS.
Enterprises



**Bulkley Valley
CREDIT UNION**



WEST POINT
RAIL & TIMBER CO.



Nadina TRUCK SERVICE LTD.



**PHARMASAVE
HOUSTON**



**ALL-WEST
GLASS**
HOUSTON



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Employment Opportunity: Financial Administrative Assistant

Job Type: Part-Time

We are seeking a detail-oriented and reliable Financial Administration Assistant to support our financial administrative operations. The ideal candidate will maintain accurate financial records, assist with budget preparation and provide general administrative support to ensure smooth daily operations. The Position is approximately 25 hours per week.

Key Responsibilities:

- Record accounts payable and receivable processes
- Reconcile invoices, petty cash, deposits and bank statements
- Implement tuition collection, record payment, reconcile and prepare annual tax receipts
- Prepare and process expense reports and reimbursements
- Support budget tracking and financial reporting to the School board bi-monthly
- Maintain organized financial and supporting administrative records (digitally and paper)
- Prepare bi-weekly payroll and time sheet verification,
- Administrate payroll benefits, pension plans and T4 reporting
- Monitor insurance plans (Building and vehicles)
- Arrange and attend Finance Committee meetings
- Other duties as assigned

Qualifications:

- Degree or certificate in Accounting, Finance or Business Administration strongly preferred
- 1-3 years of administrative or financial support, office experience
- Must be proficient in Microsoft Office (especially Excel) and SAGE (Simply Accounting) Software
- Strong attention to detail and organizational skills
- Excellent communication and problem-solving skills
- Ability to handle confidential information with integrity
- Be an active, engaged member of a church that shares Houston Christian School's commitment to Christ's lordship.

What HCS offers:

- Wage will depend on experience, with an annual increase per hour
 - Compensation Range: \$25.54 – \$30.43 per hour (Hourly rate is from the SCSBC grid)
- Benefit and pension plan (after probation period)
- Supportive and collaborative Christian working environment

How to apply:

Please submit your resume and a brief cover letter outlining your experience to Ron Donkersloot (Principal) at r.donkersloot@houstonchristianschool.ca

Employment Opportunity: High School Teacher

Job Type: Part-Time

Based on our anticipated needs for the remainder of the 2025 school year, we are searching for a Part-Time High School Teacher (Subjects TBD). Applicants should hold, or be eligible for, a BC Teaching Certificate. The Position is approximately 15 – 20 hours per week.

Key Responsibilities:

- Exhibit spiritual maturity and Christlike character in daily teaching and relationships.
- Integrate a biblical worldview into high school instruction across multiple subject areas.
- Teach a range of courses, with specific assignments determined by school needs and teacher strengths.
- Build strong, positive relationships with students and contribute to a supportive classroom environment.
- Collaborate effectively with colleagues and communicate clearly with families.
- Use sound instructional practices and assessments to support student learning.
- Participate actively in school life through supervision duties, extracurricular involvement, and other responsibilities that support the overall student experience.
- Approach challenges with grace and professionalism.
- Demonstrate a commitment to ongoing professional and spiritual growth.

Qualifications:

- Be an active, engaged member of a church that shares Houston Christian School's commitment to Christ's lordship and the centrality of God's Word.
- Holds a valid BC teaching certificate.
- Strong academic background and training in secondary education, with the versatility to teach multiple high school subjects.
- Effective communication and interpersonal skills, with a collaborative approach to working with staff and families.

What HCS offers:

- Compensation Range: \$16,123 – \$26,197
 - The rate range is from the SCSBC grid and based on a 30% FTE
- Benefit and pension plan (after probation period)
- Supportive and collaborative Christian working environment

How to apply:

Interested applicants are invited to submit a cover letter, résumé, statement of faith, and three professional references to the HCS Principal. Please email applications to Ron Donkersloot at r.donkersloot@houstonchristianschool.ca