



Houston
Christian
School

EATS MODULES (EXPLORE AND TRY SOMETHING)

On February 11 and February 18, students in Grades 7–10 will participate in EATS Modules from 12:30–3:00 pm.



Organized by the Education Committee

 Task Force, these sessions give students the opportunity to explore new interests and develop practical, hands-on skills in a supportive learning environment. We have offered similar modules in the past, and they have always been very well received by students.

This year's modules include baking, cooking, the Heartsaver course, snowshoeing/ice fishing, basic car maintenance, and volleyball refereeing.



We're excited, to offer these modules and watch students get involved, learn, and enjoy the experience

Branches

a school to home newsletter

January 16, 2025

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HCS?

January 20 - Tuesday

- Grade 7/8 Skating at the Arena
 - 12:45 pm - 1:45 pm

January 21 - Wednesday

- HCS Prayer Group @ 8:30 am

January 22 - Thursday

- High School Exams
 - Math 9 Exam @ 8:35 am
 - Numeracy 10 Exam @ 8:35 am
 - Economics 12 Exam @ 12:00 pm

January 23 - Friday

- High School Report Card Writing Day
 - No School for High School Only

January 26 - Monday

- Semester Turn Around Day
 - No School for High School Only

January 30 - Friday

- Semester 1 Report Cards Go Home
 - High School Only

February 2 - Monday

- Order Deadline for West Coast Seeds

February 5 - Thursday

- Spirit Day - Career Day
- Jump Rope for Heart Kick-off

PRINCIPAL'S PULSE (WORDS FROM OUR HEAD)

Last week I spoke about the importance of continuing the work of being reconciled with one another. As we seek to live as the true body of Christ, it's important that we approach our differences and grievances with grace and a willingness to pursue reconciliation together.

My wife and I read the Today Devotional together each morning, and this morning's reading reminded me that we are moving toward becoming what God has called us to be. We won't get there instantly. The Today Devotional put it this way:

“Of course, walking in newness doesn’t always feel instant. Often it means taking one small step of faith at a time. But every step forward in obedience is a declaration that you belong to the risen Christ and that your life is a living testimony to his transforming power.

You are not who you used to be. And, by God’s grace, you’re becoming more of the person he has called you to be.”

May we all be commit ourselves to being more of the person God has called us to be on a daily basis!

Blessings!

Ron Donkersloot



If you would like to read the full devotion, please click on this [LINK](#) to be redirected to the Devotional Today website.

**JUST AS CHRIST WAS RAISED FROM THE DEAD
THROUGH THE GLORY OF THE FATHER, WE TOO MAY
LIVE A NEW LIFE.**

ROMANS 6:4



School Board Update

Highlights and Information

Dear School Community,

We are excited to share an update regarding the Deep Roots Fundraiser and the platform lift project. As shared in the most recent Branches edition, we are incredibly thankful to have exceeded our original fundraising goal of \$20,000 through the *Lift Up* campaign. In addition to these funds, we were deeply blessed by a generous anonymous donation that completed the remaining funding needed for the project. With the total budgeted cost of the platform lift at \$120,000, we are thrilled to announce that the lift has now been officially ordered and is currently being manufactured.

With funding secured and plans moving forward smoothly, we anticipate beginning construction at the school in the next month. Our goal is to have everything prepared and ready for the lift installation during Spring Break. Following the installation, there will be some additional drywalling and finishing work required to fully complete the project. Some of the construction will take place during school hours. We want to reassure families that student safety is always our top priority, and all work areas will be carefully managed to ensure students remain safe throughout the process.

We have seen God's hand at work in how smoothly and quickly this project has come together, clearly reflecting His provision and faithfulness. We are grateful that this work will significantly improve accessibility at our school and better support all members of our community.

We look forward to sharing more updates as the project progresses.

With gratitude,

The HCS Board

Daryn Kobes, Collin Peters
Kevin Alles, Brenan Mayer
Sean Delege, Sarah Sutton &
Kari Vanderwoerd



Image of a platform lift similar to the one being installed at our school.

ATHLETICS UPDATE: GAMES, TOURNAMENTS, AND TEAM SPIRIT!



Our basketball season has ramped up quickly, and our teams are heading in many different directions!

Over the past 10 days, there have been several changes and adjustments to sports schedules, which have impacted when students leave classes. We would like to thank our staff for their flexibility, understanding, and grace during this busy stretch. From the coaches and athletics team, we are very grateful.

As an Athletics Team, alongside the school administration, we have also identified some gaps in how information is being communicated. We are committed to improving this and have already implemented a new internal system to help keep everyone better informed moving forward.

A friendly reminder that when student-athletes miss class(es) due to athletics, it is the student's responsibility to connect with their teachers and ensure any missed schoolwork is completed. For students not involved in athletics, the school day continues as normal, and attendance in classes is expected.

Congratulations to our teams!

- Junior Boys – **1st place** at the Mountain Invitational
- Senior Boys – **Bronze finish**
- Senior Girls – **Bronze finish**

With these strong performances behind them, our teams are heading into another busy and exciting weekend of competition.

Upcoming Weekend Tournaments:

- **Senior Boys:** Mountain Invitational at SSS
- **Senior Girls:** Nechako Invitational at NVSS (Vanderhoof)
- **Junior Boys:** Coastal Clash at CHSS (Prince Rupert) – *livestream available*

All tournaments follow a bracket format, meaning Saturday game times are dependent on the outcome of Friday's game. Updates will be shared on our social media platforms.

Have a blessed weekend, everyone!

The Athletics Team

Note: Be sure to check the HCS Athletics Facebook page for schedules and updates, including a possible live stream of the Senior Girls event.





Lunch Is Served

Grad Hot Lunch Fundraiser

The Grads had fun prepping and serving hot lunch to our students! Our first run was a big success, with lots of happy smiles as students enjoyed delicious hot dogs and veggies served up by the Grad crew. A huge thank-you to everyone who signed up and supported the Grads through this fundraiser!



HCS Prayer Group

Please join us in prayer!

WEDNESDAY,
JANUARY 21ST @ 8:30 AM



Please join us in the staff room right after morning drop-off as we pray for our students, staff, and the HCS community.

Childcare for younger children will be available in the kindergarten room.



**HCS is
FUNDRAISING
with
West Coast Seeds**

40% of funds earned
from every packet sold
will go to HCS!

All seeds are untreated
and non-GMO.

A wide range of
vegetables, herbs,
and flowers.



January 12th - February 2nd

All seeds can be ordered on the
fundraising site:
fundraising.westcoastseeds.com

THIS POSTING WILL CLOSE ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 23.

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Employment Opportunity: Financial Administrative Assistant

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