



Houston  
Christian  
School

# Branches

*a school to home newsletter*

January 23, 2025



## WEST COAST SEEDS



The HCS West Coast Seeds fundraiser is now halfway through. While seed sales are a bit lower than we had hoped, there is still lots of time to participate. This fundraiser is a great opportunity to support our school while also purchasing high-quality seeds for your summer garden.

Forty percent of every seed packet sold goes directly to HCS.

We chose to run this fundraiser early so that seeds will arrive in plenty of time to start seedlings and prepare for spring planting once the warmer weather arrives. These seeds have excellent reviews, and when we have run this fundraiser in the past, our community has been very pleased with both the company and the product.

If you are interested in ordering, please click this [LINK](#) and submit your order before the deadline of February 2.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HCS?

### January 26 - Monday

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

### January 27 - Tuesday

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

### January 29 - Thursday

- Kindergarten & Grade 1/2 Skating at the Arena @ 12:45

### 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)

What a glorious experience it was to go to the Irrigation Lake on Wednesday. Thanks to all the parents who drove and to Patty for organizing all the rides. It was great to be able to have fun as a group out there. The weather was perfect, and being out in God's creation was marvellous.

For students in Grades K-8, this marks the midpoint of the school year. For students in Grades 9-12, this is the end of Term One, with Term Two beginning next week. As a result, high school students will begin new classes, while elementary and middle school students will continue in their current classes.

May this start into the second half of this school year be filled with a renewed commitment to keep our eyes focused on having a successful year.

Blessings,

Ron Donkersloot



## HCS STAFF UPDATE:

Houston Christian School is excited to welcome Amy Jaarsma to our staff.



As a parent in our school community, Amy is already a familiar and valued part of HCS, and we are grateful to see her role expand as she joins us as the Grades 9-12 PE teacher.

Thank you, Amy, for stepping into this role and serving our school community.

# ATHLETICS UPDATE: GAMES, TOURNAMENTS, AND TEAM SPIRIT!



We have an exciting update to share with our school community!

This fall, our Athletics Team applied for a grant through Dungate Community Futures, and we are grateful to share that funding was approved and awarded to our Athletics Department.

The funds have already been allocated to the following:

- Two Code of Spectators banners, purchased through BC School Sports. These banners are now mandatory for all member schools.
- New shorts for our Senior Girls Basketball team, ensuring they match their tops (which were also purchased through a Dungate Community Futures grant during the 2024 season).



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We had also hoped to add signage to our bus; however, after purchasing the above items, we did not have sufficient funds remaining to complete that project.

We give thanks to God for these gifts. Our athletics program continues to thrive because of the generosity of volunteers, donors, and community partners who support our students so faithfully.

As we get excited for the weekend, here's where our teams will be heading:



**Senior Boys – Cedars Christian Invitational Tournament (Prince George)**  
**Senior Girls – Hosting at Houston Christian School**  
**Grade 8 Boys – Play Day at Hazelton Secondary School**

All Schedules and team updates can be found on the HCS Athletics Facebook page.

Please note: Our Senior Boys team will know their Saturday game schedule *after* their Friday evening game. Live stream link:

<https://www.youtube.com/@CedarsAthletics>.

Have a great weekend, everyone!

– The Athletics Team



# OUTDOOR EDUCATION - SNOW SHELTERS

Students learned winter survival skills by building shelters that could protect them from the wind and cold. Some focused on building shelters that could trap heat, and others built spacious shelters that could accommodate many people whose collective body heat could help keep them warm in a survival situation.





# AN UNFORGETTABLE AFTERNOON ON THE ICE

## ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL SKATING AT IRRIGATION LAKE

