



Houston
Christian
School

JANUARY MEMORY WORK

“Then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.”

—
PHILIPPIANS 2:2



**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

Branches

a school to home newsletter

January 9, 2025

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HCS?

January 12 - Monday

- West Coast Seeds Fundraiser Begins

January 13 - Tuesday

- Grade 5/6 Skating at the Arena
 - 12:45 pm - 1:45 pm

January 15 - Thursday

- Grade 11/12 Skating at the Arena
 - 12:45 pm - 1:45 pm

January 20 - Tuesday

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

January 22 - Thursday

- High School Exams

January 23 - Friday

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

January 26 - Monday

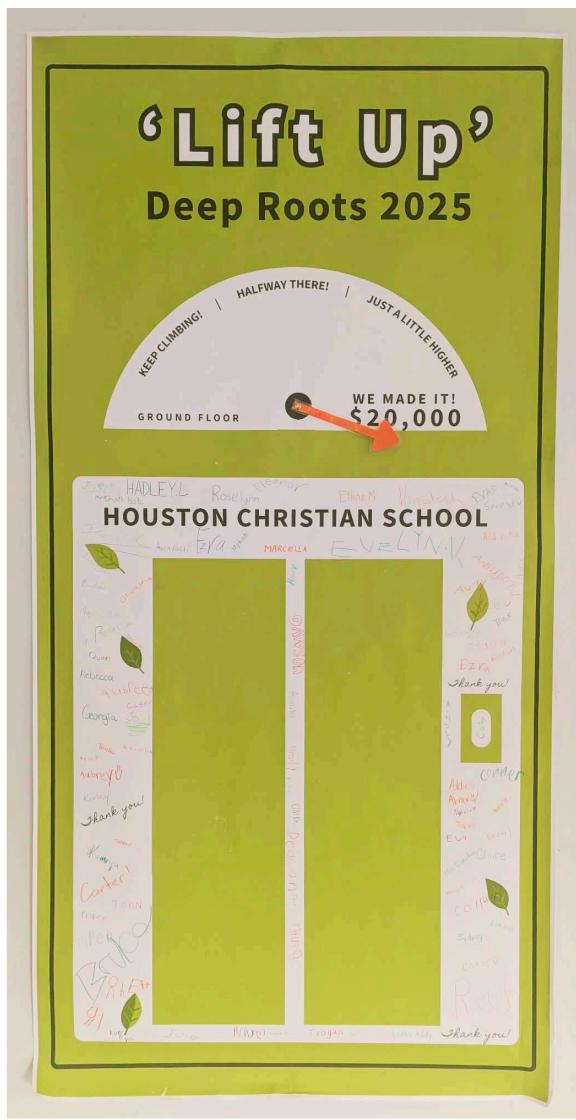
- Semester Turn Around Day
 - No School for High School Only

January 30 - Friday

- Semester 1 Report Cards Go Home
 - High School Only

February 2 - Monday

- Order Deadline for West Coast Seeds



DEEP ROOTS UPDATE:

Thank You, HCS Community!

Thanks to your generosity, we have met and exceeded our \$20,000 fundraising goal for our 10th Annual Deep Roots “Lift Up” Campaign!

We are grateful to everyone who made Houston Christian School part of their giving and helped move our mission forward.

More exciting details to come – stay tuned!

PRINCIPAL'S PULSE (WORDS FROM OUR HEAD)

Welcome to 2026!! It is a new year and a time to once again renew our commitment to each other.

We have all come through a difficult fall. Some of our staff have lost parents, and our school community has also experienced the loss of a parent of our students, as well as the loss of a student. These are difficult things to go through as a community. We grieve together, and God calls us to support each other as we work through these losses.

It is with sadness that we share that Jacky Hielema-King's father has been placed in palliative care. She will be travelling to be with him during this time and will be away from school. Please pray for her and Richard as she spends this time with her family and her father. Pray also for us as a school as we work to put supports in place while she is away.

Even in the midst of this, God calls us to face forward and move ahead. In that spirit, I would like to share a few verses from 2 Corinthians 5:14–20 that will help frame the suggestions I would like to make as we move ahead.

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FOR CHRIST'S LOVE COMPELS US, BECAUSE WE ARE CONVINCED THAT ONE DIED FOR ALL, AND THEREFORE ALL DIED. AND HE DIED FOR ALL, THAT THOSE WHO LIVE SHOULD NO LONGER LIVE FOR THEMSELVES BUT FOR HIM WHO DIED FOR THEM AND WAS RAISED AGAIN. SO FROM NOW ON, WE REGARD NO ONE FROM A WORLDLY POINT OF VIEW. THOUGH WE ONCE REGARDED CHRIST IN THIS WAY, WE DO SO NO LONGER. THEREFORE, IF ANYONE IS IN CHRIST, THE NEW CREATION HAS COME: THE OLD HAS GONE, THE NEW IS HERE! ALL THIS IS FROM GOD, WHO RECONCILED US TO HIMSELF THROUGH CHRIST AND GAVE US THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION: THAT GOD WAS RECONCILING THE WORLD TO HIMSELF IN CHRIST, NOT COUNTING PEOPLE'S SINS AGAINST THEM. AND HE HAS COMMITTED TO US THE MESSAGE OF RECONCILIATION.

2 CORINTHIANS 5: 14-19

A paraphrased translation of Scripture, The Message, draws attention to key ideas by the way it phrases some of these verses, and this wording is particularly meaningful to me (I have highlighted the parts that especially resonated with me in relation to what I am trying to communicate).

BECAUSE OF THIS DECISION, WE DON'T EVALUATE PEOPLE BY WHAT THEY HAVE OR HOW THEY LOOK. WE LOOKED AT THE MESSIAH THAT WAY ONCE AND GOT IT ALL WRONG, AS YOU KNOW. WE CERTAINLY DON'T LOOK AT HIM THAT WAY ANYMORE. NOW WE LOOK INSIDE, AND WHAT WE SEE IS THAT ANYONE UNITED WITH THE MESSIAH GETS A FRESH START, IS CREATED NEW. THE OLD LIFE IS GONE; A NEW LIFE EMERGES! LOOK AT IT! ALL THIS COMES FROM THE GOD WHO SETTLED THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN US AND HIM, AND THEN CALLED US TO SETTLE OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH EACH OTHER. GOD PUT THE WORLD SQUARE WITH HIMSELF THROUGH THE MESSIAH, GIVING THE WORLD A FRESH START BY OFFERING FORGIVENESS OF SINS. GOD HAS GIVEN US THE TASK OF TELLING EVERYONE WHAT HE IS DOING. WE'RE CHRIST'S REPRESENTATIVES. GOD USES US TO PERSUADE MEN AND WOMEN TO DROP THEIR DIFFERENCES AND ENTER INTO GOD'S WORK OF MAKING THINGS RIGHT BETWEEN THEM. WE'RE SPEAKING FOR CHRIST HIMSELF NOW: BECOME FRIENDS WITH GOD; HE'S ALREADY A FRIEND WITH YOU.

2 CORINTHIANS 5: 16 - 20

I have so enjoyed these past five months with you. It has been a joy to be a part of this community. However, I have noticed over time that we face some challenges in dealing with differences of opinion or ideas. I have seen brokenness in how we deal with hurts and frustrations. Instead of going to the source of our frustrations, we sometimes begin to talk amongst ourselves or avoid dealing with issues out of fear that it might create a problem or cause someone to become angry. This is something we need to change. We must have the courage to be honest with each other. We must always deal with each other in love and compassion and be willing to challenge behaviours that are not consistent with what Christ calls of us.

I want to challenge us to do better as we enter into 2026. As 2 Corinthians tells us, we are Christ's representatives here on earth. We must make things right between us. If we are unable to do this, we cannot truly be the body of Christ as He calls us to be. We are meant to live together as one in Christ.

If any of you have questions about this and would like to talk with me further, I am open to that conversation.

Blessings!

Ron Donkersloot



ATHLETICS UPDATE: GAMES, TOURNAMENTS, AND TEAM SPIRIT!



Did you know that, on average, a high school basketball player will run 3.5–4 kilometres during a 40-minute game?

A coach will invest well over 100 hours of volunteer time during a regular basketball season.

And a parent? They'll make countless trips back and forth to gyms and spend more hours than they can count in the stands, cheering on their child.

When we stop to think about the behind-the-scenes investment and the team approach required to sustain a successful season, it's a powerful reminder that our Athletics Program thrives because of involvement from every angle.

Regardless of the role each of us plays, our prayer is that we represent Houston Christian School—and Christ—in a positive and honouring way.

As our teams head in different directions this weekend, here's where everyone will be competing:

Senior Boys – HCS Invitational at HSS

Senior Girls – Kermode Classic in Terrace

Junior Boys – Mountain Invitational at SSS

To our players who will be logging a lot of kilometres over the next 24 hours: don't forget to refuel! A banana with peanut butter, pasta with protein, and of course plenty of hydration (insert a plug for Biosteel here 😊).

We pray for safe travels for all our parents, players, and coaches. May this weekend of competition be filled with joy, teamwork, and sportsmanship.

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.

**CLICK HERE FOR
HCS
- ATHLETICS -
UPDATES**

SHARING OUR ONGOING PRINCIPAL SEARCH

The Houston Christian School Board would like to share that the search for a principal is ongoing. The Board remains committed to finding the right person to serve in this role on a permanent basis and continues the search with care and prayer.

The Board welcomes the support of the HCS community in sharing this opportunity within their wider networks and communities.

The Board also asks that the community continue to keep this search in prayer and join in thanking God for His faithful provision and care for Houston Christian School over the years, as He has consistently guided and sustained the school through every season.

The principal job posting is available on the school's website at the link below.

[\[View Principal Job Posting\]](#)

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.

EXAM WEEK AT HCS

Letters were sent home with high school students today outlining details for the upcoming end-of-semester exams.

Thursday, January 22

8:35–11:30

Math 9 Exam (Room 22)

Numeracy 10 Exam (Room 8)

12:00–2:00

Economics 12 Exam (Room 8)

All exams are scheduled to be written on Thursday, with Friday designated as an exam marking and report card writing day for high school teachers.

These exams, along with the adjusted schedules and exam days, **apply only to high school students**. Elementary and middle school students will continue to attend classes as usual.

GRAD HOT LUNCH PROGRAM

Hot lunch sign-up forms were due this Friday, and we are grateful for the strong response from students participating in the monthly hot lunch program in support of the Grad class. If you missed handing in your form, there is still time to join. Access and print an order form using this [LINK](#). Please bring the completed form to the office on Monday morning so your child can be added to the program.

HEAT, CHANGE, AND A WHOLE LOT OF CHOCOLATE

The Grade 1/2 and Grade 11/12 classes teamed up to learn about how heat causes physical and chemical changes. By adding a little heat to marshmallows and chocolate, students got to see — and enjoy — an ooey-gooey transformation that made science come alive in the most fun and delicious way.



SCIENCE HAS NEVER TASTED THIS GOOD