

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HCS?

April 16 - Thursday

- Hot Lunch (Taco Salad)

April 22 - Wednesday

- Pitch-in Day (After Lunch)

April 24 - Friday

- Northern Teachers Convention
- No School

April 20 - Monday

- Growing Smiles Order Deadline

April 23 - Thursday

- Spirit Day - Formal Attire

May 7 - Thursday

- Capstone Presentations

HOT LUNCH TACO SALAD



The 2026 grad class will once again be preparing a delicious hot lunch for HCS students. This month's menu features taco salad, served with chocolate milk, a Rice Krispies square, and a fruit roll-up.

Just a reminder that hot lunch will be served at the regular lunch break. Students should still bring a snack for recess so they have something to eat earlier in the day.

Thank you for supporting the Grad class through this fundraiser.

HCS ATHLETICS

Calendar.

HOUSTON CHRISTIAN WILDCATS

Thursday
April

09

Girls Soccer Practice, HCS

2:15pm - 3:30pm

Mountain Bike Pedal

6:30pm - 8:00pm

Tuesday
April

14

Girls Soccer Practice, HCS

3:15pm - 4:30pm

Track & Field, SSS

5:30pm - 7:00pm

Thursday
April

16

Girls Soccer Practice, HCS

2:15pm - 3:30pm

Mountain Bike Pedal

6:30pm - 8:00pm

Friday
April

17

Track & Field, HSS

3:30pm - 5:00pm

Friday
April

24

Mountain Bike Race, Terrace

Details TBD

Fri/Sat
April

25

Girls Soccer Tournament, CHSS - Prince Rupert

NOTE: girls soccer, track & field and mountain biking practices will follow the schedule above on all Tuesdays and Thursdays for the remainder of the season!



SPRING FEST

MAY 28, 2026

This year's Spring Fest is supporting an exciting and significant new project for our school—the creation of a large outdoor classroom space for our students.

Plans are underway for an open-air structure that will provide a unique and inspiring environment for learning in all seasons.

This project is already being supported through funds from our 2022 Deep Roots campaign, the Jean Guenther Legacy Fund, a District of Houston grant, and a generous anonymous donation.

As we move forward, additional funds will help ensure the project is completed to a high standard, including any necessary finishing work and landscaping. We are thrilled to share this vision with our community and are grateful for your support in making it a reality.

How YOU can help!

Our Spring Fest will include a silent auction and we'd love your help in making it a success!

If you or someone you know would like to contribute, we are gratefully accepting donations of items or services. Some popular ideas include:

- Gift cards
- Gift baskets
- Homemade goods
- Services (photography, baking, lessons, etc.)
- Experiences (tickets, passes, or unique activities)

If you'd like to donate or have any questions, please contact Katie at

k.vandenbrink@houstonchristianschool.ca.

Donations can be dropped off at the school, and we kindly ask that they be submitted by **May 14th**.

Thank you so much for your support!
We couldn't do this without our amazing school community!

PRINCIPAL'S PULSE (WORDS FROM OUR HEAD)

He is Risen!

It is my prayer that everyone had a blessed Easter. I was especially grateful that it coincided with spring break this year, giving me the opportunity to have a longer break to celebrate and observe Easter with my wife and family.

This Easter was a time of family and celebration, yet it was also marked by loss, as my family and I gathered for a memorial service for our daughter-in-law's father. It was a very clear reminder that while Christ has conquered death, we are still living in a time when death can come far too soon. We live in the hope that there will come a day when there will be no more sorrow and no more tears. In our darkest moments, let us cling to that hope, with the knowledge that Christ is with us in every circumstance.

As we return to school after spring break and Easter, I'd like to address a few concerns I've heard involving some of our high school students. It seems that some students have taken to the idea that using nicotine pouches and vaping is a cool thing to do. I would encourage you, as parents, to have conversations with your children about the risks and health concerns associated with these habits. These are not healthy choices, and for underage students, they are simply unsafe. We don't want to be a school that is constantly trying to catch students doing these types of things, and we recognize that this likely involves a small number of individuals. However, we are concerned and we wanted to pass this on to you as parents.

Finally, as we consider the overall well-being of our students, I want to make one last request of parents to make sure that your children do not have access to electronic devices when they go to bed. There is a great deal of content online that does not align with the truth and values we seek to teach our children, and we want to support you in protecting them.

May God continue to give us the grace to work together to help each child grow in the gifts God has given them and to use those gifts to bless those around them.

Soli Deo Gloria

Ron Donkersloot



GROWING SMILES SPRING FUNDRAISER

Our Growing Smiles Spring Fundraiser is the perfect way to get a head start on your spring planting over Spring Break. As you plan your gardens, we encourage you to place your orders online using the link provided.

[Click Here to Order Online](#)

If you would prefer to mix and match your flowers within a flat, a printable order form can be found at the end of Branches. Please print and complete the form, then email it to office@houstonchristianschool.ca or drop it off at the school once classes resume after Spring Break.

Payments for paper orders can be made at the office by cash or cheque, or by e-transfer to kim.vanb@houstonchristianschool.ca. Please include “spring flowers” in the memo.

Thank you for supporting our school

GRAD CLASS FUNDRAISER FEATURING PREMIUM MEATS FROM CENTENNIAL FOOD SOLUTIONS



Our 2026 Grad class is excited to launch a fundraiser in partnership with Centennial Food Solutions, a Canadian company known for its quality meat products and strong service.

The fundraiser runs until April 23, with order pickup scheduled for May 6 from 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm, depending on delivery. Order forms were sent home with students, are available at the HCS office, or can be printed at home via this [LINK](#).

Completed forms must include your name and phone number and can be returned to the office before the end of the school day on April 23.

Payment can be made by cash or cheque at the office, or by e transfer to kim.vanb@houstonchristianschool.ca with Centennial Foods Fundraiser in the memo.

Customers will be contacted when orders are ready for pickup at HCS, and prompt pickup is required due to limited freezer space. Thank you for supporting the HCS Grad Class of 2026.

ATHLETICS UPDATE: GAMES, TOURNAMENTS, AND TEAM SPIRIT!



We are happy to be back on campus and hope everyone had a restful Spring Break! We are excited for the upcoming days and weekends filled with Spring Sports.

Please take note of the following announcements:

Golf: Unfortunately, we weren't able to put together a golf team for this season. Thank you to the parents and volunteers who took the time to look into what it could have looked like—we really appreciate the effort. We'll keep this on our radar for next year and revisit it then. In the meantime, we encourage our golfers to get out and enjoy the local course over the summer.

Athletics Fundraising: We're grateful to share that the Bulkley Valley Credit Union (BVCU) has generously supported our Senior Girls Soccer Team. We sincerely thank BVCU for their continued support of HCS as we grow our senior girls program—their support truly makes a difference for our athletes and our school community.

Building on this support, BVCU is also offering a BBQ fundraising opportunity to further support our athletics program, with a focus on girls' soccer. They will provide everything needed to host the BBQ (aside from a propane tank), and HCS will receive a cash donation for running the event.



The best days to host are Thursdays or Fridays. We are currently looking for 2–3 parents who are willing to take the lead in organizing this fundraiser. Students who participate will be excused from school for the duration of the BBQ. If you're interested in helping or would like more information, please reach out to Ms. Duzan by Monday, April 13.

Scholarship Opportunity: BC School Sports and its partners offer a number of scholarships that many of our graduating students may be eligible for. Please check the [LINK](#) for more information. Most application deadlines are May 1, 2026, so be sure to apply soon.

Track & Field Jerseys: We have been encouraged by the growing interest from our students in Track & Field. Over Spring Break, we realized we did not have enough jerseys to accommodate all student-athletes eager to participate. We would like to extend a sincere thank you to Chantelle and Sandy Harms/Aurora Towing LTD. for recognizing this need and generously funding and supplying the additional jerseys. Your support makes a meaningful difference in our ability to provide opportunities for our students, and we truly appreciate your contribution to our program!

Upcoming practices and key dates are listed on the athletics calendar on the first page of Branches.

~ The Athletics Team



Blooming Spring Fundraiser



Mixes, Duplicates and Substitutions

Duplicates and substitutions may occur. Availability is based on what is in the greenhouse.

Mixes may vary from plant to plant.



\$42

Mixes Vary

12" Premium Hanging Basket

Perfect for sunny spots, overflowing with beautiful blooms and trailing plants. You may receive a mix of lovely varieties, depending on greenhouse availability.



\$42

Mixes Vary

12" Outdoor Patio Planter

A blend of our top-performing plant collections, all designed to thrive in full sun and brighten your backyard. You may receive a mix of lovely varieties.



\$17

New Arrivals

8" Perennial Lavender

A famous, much-loved perennial with soft purple blooms and a calming fragrance. This easy-care lavender brings a sense of calm to your garden.



\$4.30

Colours Red, White, Pink

4" Zonal Geraniums

Easy-care bedding plants in red, white, or pink that bring lasting color to gardens and planters. One color only per flat.



\$4.30

Colours Purple, White, Pink

4" Easy Wave Petunias

Cascading blooms that look beautiful in gardens, planters, and hanging baskets. Available in purple, white, or pink. One color only per flat.



\$43

Indoor Foliage Trio

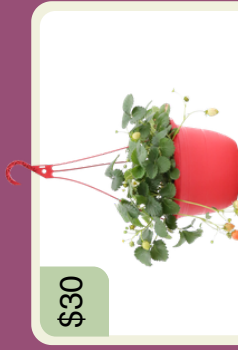
A handpicked trio featuring trailing Pothos, colorful Tradescantia, and classic Dieffenbachia to bring easy, feel-good greenery indoors.



\$30

10" Boston Fern Hanging Basket

Full, flowing fronds create a lush hanging look that adds classic greenery and fresh charm indoors or outdoors.



\$30

11" Strawberry Hanging Basket

A treat for kids & strawberry lovers, all season long! With charming blossoms in white or pink.



\$36

Assortment Varies

10-pack 4" Assorted Herbs

A flavorful assortment of kitchen favorites for everyday cooking. Varieties may include basil, thyme, chives, mint, oregano, parsley, and rosemary.



\$36

Assortment Varies

10-pack 4" Assorted Veggies

Enjoy the simple joy of homegrown veggies. Varieties may include tomatoes, cucumber, zucchini, peppers, kale, and lettuce.



\$19

1.8kg Fertilizer Shaker

An easy-to-use shaker that feeds flowers and veggies for steady growth. Crafted with organic granular kelp, this 10-15-19 blend is a game-changer for plants.



\$15

30L Premium Organic Potting Soil

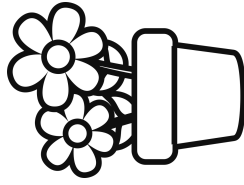
A rich potting soil blend made to support strong, healthy plant growth. Made with a blend of compost, kelp, fish meal, peat moss, glacial rock dust, & rice hull.



Online and paper orders differ slightly. Online: Marigolds, Petunias & Geraniums – flats of 10 only (one colour per flat) • Lavender – packs of 2 Paper (office) orders: • Marigolds, Petunias & Geraniums – available individually • Lavender – available individually

Growing Smiles Spring Plant Fundraiser

After receiving such positive feedback from our families last year, we are excited to offer this fundraiser again! Orders will be delivered to the school on **May 6th** — just in time for Mother’s Day!



Online ordering is also available:
<https://houstonchristian.growingsmilesfundraising.com>
 However, if you would like to order individual plants instead of flats, please complete a paper order form and returned to the office with payment by **April 20th**.
 Pay by cash, cheque or e-transfer:
 kim.vanb@houstonchristianschool.ca with “flowers” in memo.



Name:
Phone #:

Product	Cost	Quantity	TOTAL
12" Outdoor Patio Planter	\$42.00		
12" Premium Hnaging Basket	\$42.00		
10" Boston Fern Hanging Basket	\$30.00		
11" Strawberry Hanging Basket	\$30.00		
8" Bee Happy Perennial - Lavendaer *individual*	\$17.00		
4" Zonal Geraniums - RED * individual*	\$4.30		
4" Zonal Geraniums - WHITE * individual*	\$4.30		
4" Zonal Geraniums - PINK * individual*	\$4.30		
4" Easy Wave Petunias - PURPLE *individual*	\$4.30		
4" Easy Wave Petunias - WHITE *individual*	\$4.30		
4" Easy Wave Petunias - PINK *individual*	\$4.30		
4" Marigold *individual*	\$3.60		
4" Assorted Herbs * 10 Pack *	\$36.00		
4" Assorted Veggies * 10 Pack*	\$36.00		
Indoor Foliage Trio	\$43.00		
30L Premium Organic Potting Soil	\$15.00		
1.8kg Fertilizer Shaker	\$19.00		
Thank you for supporting HCS!			\$