



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HCS?

April 22 - Wednesday

- HCS Prayer Group @ 8:30 am
- 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
- Centennial Foods Deadline

May 6 - Wednesday

- Centennial Foods Order Arrives
- Growing Smiles Order Arrives

May 7 - Thursday

- Capstone Presentations (7 - 8:30 pm)

EXCITING NEWS: MEET OUR NEW PRINCIPAL!

School Board Update

The HCS School Board is pleased to announce that Mrs. Cheri Kobes has been hired as Principal, starting August 1, 2026. We are so thankful for Cheri's heart for our school and her deep-rooted connection to our community. We have full confidence in the leadership and vision she brings to the role.

A note about the hiring process: To ensure complete transparency and integrity, Board Chair Daryn Kobes recused himself from all principal search discussions as soon as Cheri Kobes' application was received. Daryn has now resigned his position as Chair, and Kari Vanderwoerd will be providing board leadership and oversight as Vice Chair for the remainder of the school year.

We are excited for this new chapter and look forward to welcoming Mrs. Kobes into her new role!



PRINCIPAL'S PULSE (WORDS FROM OUR HEAD)

Elsewhere in Branches, you will have already seen the announcement that Cheri Kobes has been selected as the principal of Houston Christian School for the next school year.

I am delighted with this news and want to congratulate both Cheri and Houston Christian School on this appointment. It is encouraging to see someone from within the Houston community step into this role and be willing to serve the school in this way. God has blessed Cheri with many gifts that will be a blessing to HCS in the years ahead.

It has been a pleasure getting to know you, and it brings me great joy to know that at the end of this school year, I will be able to hand the reins over to someone who is committed to serving the Lord in all that she does as principal of Houston Christian School.

Although I will not be principal next year, I do hope to continue supporting Cheri as she steps into this role. I expect to be back from time to time to offer support and help where needed. Now that I have come to know and love Houston Christian School, it will be hard to get completely rid of me!

I will close with a passage from one of my favourite sections of Scripture as a blessing for both Cheri and Houston Christian School.

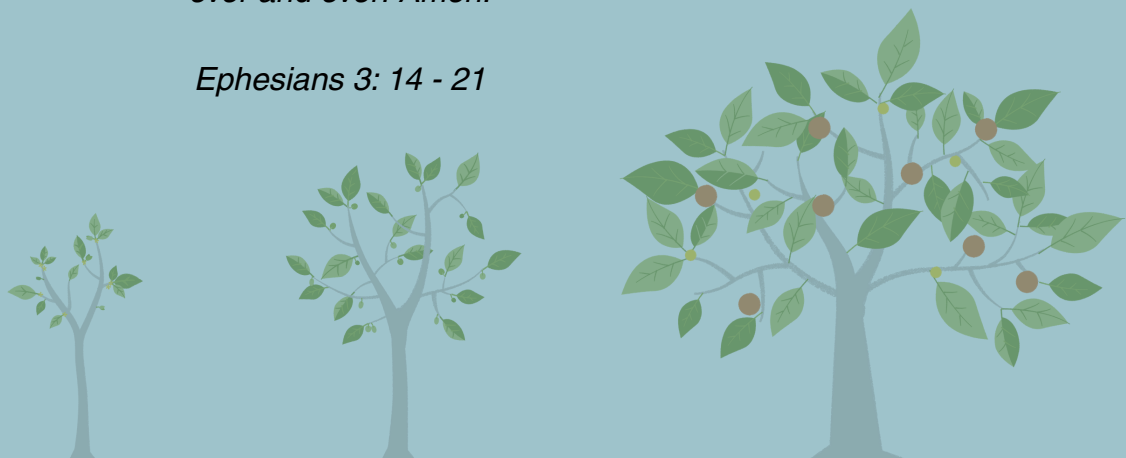
For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Ephesians 3: 14 - 21

Soli Deo Gloria

Ron Donkersloot



SMART GIVING - EFFECTIVE CHARITABLE GIVING STRATEGIES FOR CHRISTIANS

Monday, April 27 | 7:00 PM | Bulkley Valley Christian School | Free to attend (RSVP required)

Houston Christian School is pleased to co-host a “Smart Giving” seminar with Bulkley Valley Christian School. The event will be held at BVCS, and members of our community are warmly invited to attend.

Bill Murray from Christian Stewardship Services will be presenting. As a Certified Financial Planner and experienced speaker, Bill will share practical insights on how to approach financial stewardship from a Christian perspective—particularly for those who are nearing or in retirement.

The seminar will cover topics such as charitable giving strategies, donor-advised funds, gifts of appreciated securities, and estate planning. It’s designed to help individuals think through how to support the causes they care about while also planning wisely for their families.

There is no cost to attend, and no products or services will be sold. The evening is intended to be informative and encouraging, helping attendees better understand their options and work alongside their existing financial advisors.

To reserve your spot, please visit: www.bvcs.ca/smart-giving

HCS Prayer Group

Please join us in prayer!

**WEDNESDAY,
APRIL 22ND @ 8:30 AM**

We will meet in the staff room, right after school drop-off to pray over our students, staff and HCS community.

Childcare available in the Kindergarten room.



REPORT AN ACCESSIBILITY ACCOMPLISHMENT OR BARRIER

At Houston Christian School, we are committed to fostering an environment that supports everyone in our community. Accessibility is top priority, and your feedback plays a crucial role in helping us identify and address any barriers to participation in school activities, programs, and events.

Whether you’re completing the survey for the first time or returning to share new thoughts, we encourage you to take a few moments to provide your input. The survey can be completed anonymously, allowing you to express your thoughts openly and confidently.

You can find the survey highlighted in orange on the main page of the HCS website or access it directly by clicking [[here](#)].

Thank you for helping us make HCS a welcoming and supportive place for all.

Apple Pies Still Available!

Sweeten your spring with a delicious apple pie.

\$15 each or 2 for \$25

SPRING FEST

MAY 28



This year's Spring Fest is supporting the completion of a new outdoor classroom space for our students. Previous fundraising has helped get things started, and funds raised will help finish the project to a high standard.

Our Spring Fest will also include a silent auction, and **we are accepting donations of items or services such as gift cards, baskets, homemade goods, services, or experiences.**

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 should be submitted by May 14th.

GROWING SMILES ORDERS DUE APRIL 22

The Growing Smiles order deadline is coming up soon!

Click the link below to place your order online and support HCS. If you'd like to mix and match flowers within a flat, you can find a printable order form at the end of Branches.

LINK

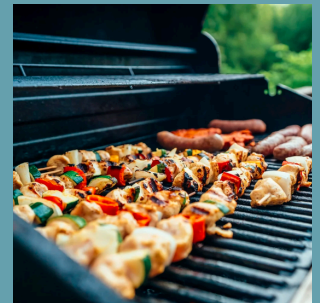
Payment for paper orders can be made at the office by cash or cheque, or by e-transfer to kim.vanb@houstonchristianschool.ca. Please include "spring flowers" in the memo.



GRAD CLASS FUNDRAISER

Centennial

FOOD SOLUTIONS



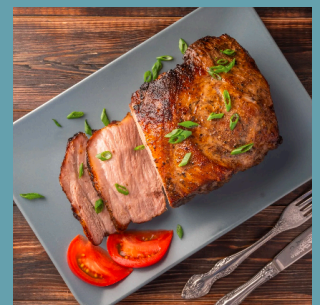
The Centennial Foods fundraiser is underway.

Centennial Food Solutions works with a group of well-known brands that focus on quality Canadian meat and seafood. Spring Creek Angus and Sterling Silver Beef are known for consistent, well-raised beef with good flavour and reliable cuts. Island Pride offers Canadian pork that is straightforward and dependable, while C2C Premium Seafood rounds things out with responsibly sourced seafood.

It's simply good, quality product. Meat and seafood that cook well and taste the way they should.

Take advantage of this opportunity to stock your freezer while also supporting our 2026 graduates.

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 are available at the HCS office or can be printed at home using the link below.





**JUST ANOTHER DAY
AT HCS!**



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.



Mixes Vary

\$42

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.



Mixes Vary

\$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.



Colours Red, White, Pink

\$4.30

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.



Colours Purple, White, Pink

\$4.30

4" Easy Wave Petunias

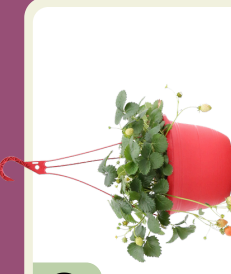
Cascading blooms that look beautiful in gardens, planters, and hanging baskets. Available in purple, white, or pink. One color only per flat.



\$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.



\$43

Indoor Foliage Trio

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



\$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

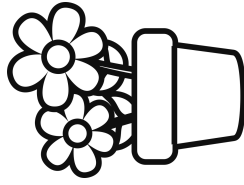
A rich potting soil blend made to support strong, healthy plant growth. Made with a blend of compost, kelp, fish meal, peat moss, glacial rock dust, & rice hull.

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		
<i>Thank you for supporting HCS!</i>			\$