



# Branches

*a school to home newsletter*

May 1, 2026

## MAY MEMORY WORK:

And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

*Colossians 3 : 14-16*

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HCS?

### May 6 - Wednesday

- Centennial Foods Order Arrives
- Growing Smiles Order Arrives

### May 7 - Thursday

- Capstone Presentations (7 - 8:30 pm)

### May 14 - Thursday

- Grand Folks Day

### May 15 - Friday

- Pro-D Day - No School

### May 18 - Monday

- Victoria Day - No School

## CAPSTONE PRESENTATIONS - MAY 7

As part of their graduation requirements, Grade 11/12 students complete a Capstone Project that allows them to demonstrate their learning through an area of personal interest. Students are encouraged to choose topics they are passionate about and may wish to pursue after graduation.

The Capstone provides an opportunity for students to reflect on their learning and showcase the growth, effort, and experience they have gained during their time at HCS.

We warmly invite all members of our community to come and support our Grade 11 and 12 students as they present their work. This is a great opportunity to encourage them, celebrate their accomplishments, and see the wide range of learning happening in our school.

The event will take place in the HCS gymnasium, where tables will be set up for guests to explore at their own pace. There are no formal presentations, so feel free to come and go anytime between 7:00-8:30 pm.



# VOLUNTEERS MAKE IT HAPPEN!

A big thank you to the group of ladies who spent the morning caring for the gardens at the front of our school. It's wonderful to see this space receiving some well-deserved attention, and we're excited to watch it become a welcoming and well-kept entrance once again.

If you have skills or time you'd like to share, we'd love to have you involved—please reach out to the school office. Our community is stronger when we work together, so please take a moment to consider the volunteer opportunities listed below.

## CALL FOR SOUP MAKERS AND HELPING HANDS

Grand Folks Day is just around the corner (May 14), and we're looking for 15 pots of soup to help make the day special. If you're able to contribute a pot of soup, please use the link below to sign up.



We're also looking for a few helping hands to assist with serving food during the event and with clean-up afterward. If you're available to help, please reach out to Katie at [kvandenbrink@houstonchristianschool.ca](mailto:kvandenbrink@houstonchristianschool.ca).

All volunteers are warmly invited to stay and enjoy lunch with us that day.



## GRAND FOLKS DAY VIDEO

Each year, one of the highlights of Grand Folks Day is a video featuring our students answering questions about their grandparents. Creating this video involves spending time interviewing students and compiling the clips into one presentation for the assembly.

We are looking for one or two volunteers to help with this project. Without volunteers, we won't be able to include the video this year. If you're able to assist, please reach out to Patty at the HCS office.

**“GRANDPARENTS MAKE THE WORLD A LITTLE SOFTER, A LITTLE KINDER, AND A LITTLE WARMER.”**

# PRINCIPAL'S PULSE (WORDS FROM OUR HEAD)

This week, Cheri and I are at the SCSBC Leadership Conference. This used to be called the principals' conference back in my early days as a principal at Vancouver Christian School. In those years, it was a small group, but it has grown over time as our schools have taken on more administrative responsibilities and our services have expanded. However, the main focus of these conferences has remained the same. We come together to learn from each other, to encourage one another, and to be strengthened in our faith and practice as Christian school administrators.

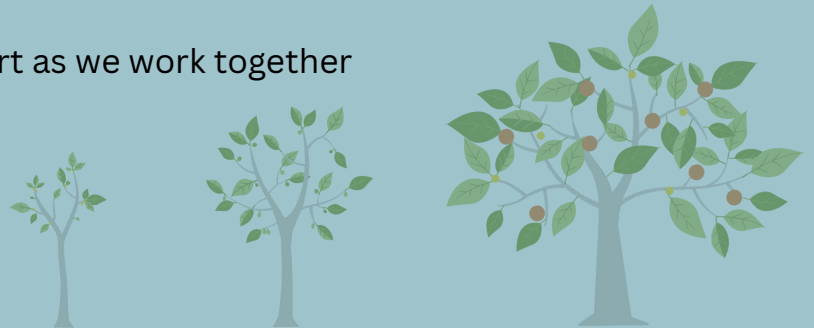
The world of school administration has become increasingly complex, and we find ourselves in need of the support of \*SCSBC and FISA. Both of these organizations play a crucial role in advocating for us with the government and providing expert support and advice when we need it.

I am thankful to be a principal of a Christian school here in BC. We have invaluable resources and tools at our disposal. I am also glad that Cheri has already been able to make connections with other principals who will be a support to her in the future.

We continue to seek your prayers and support as we work together to finish this year strong!

Soli Deo Gloria

Ron Donkersloot



The Society of Christian Schools in British Columbia (SCSBC) is an organization that connects and supports Christian schools across BC.

It's a not-for-profit group made up of Christian school communities that share a biblical vision for education. At its heart, SCSBC exists to do together what no one school could do on its own. Bringing schools into a network where they can work together, share ideas and resources, and support each other.

In practical terms, that support shows up in many ways. SCSBC helps with things like governance, policy development, and professional learning for staff. It also helps schools navigate provincial requirements connected to funding and accountability.

For us at HCS, that means we're not figuring everything out on our own. SCSBC supports our staff and leadership, while also helping us stay grounded in our mission and identity as a Christian school. In simple terms, SCSBC works behind the scenes to support our school, serving as one of the key building blocks of HCS.

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



What a treat these beautiful sunny days have been! For our spring sports teams that rely on good weather, it's been especially lovely to enjoy practices and competitions outdoors.

Last weekend was a great success across our programs. Our mountain bike team competed in Terrace with great results—Braeden G placed first in his division, and Marshall H earned a strong third-place finish.



Our senior girls' soccer team also had an excellent showing, finishing the weekend undefeated after a beautiful sunny day in Prince Rupert.

Looking ahead, we have an exciting weekend of competition. Our Track & Field team will be in Prince Rupert, competing in a wide variety of events—we look forward to following their progress. Our senior girls' soccer team takes to the field in Telkwa tomorrow morning with a 10:00 AM kickoff. Meanwhile, our mountain bikers have the weekend off as they prepare for their next race on May 10 in Smithers.



It is truly a gift and a privilege for our students to have access to these opportunities. We are grateful to everyone who contributes their time and energy to make these experiences possible. As always, may we keep perspective at the forefront as we step onto every field, course, and track.

Don't forget to follow us on social media for team updates!

GO  
**WILDCATS**





**WE  
LOVE THESE  
SUNNY DAYS!**

