



Branches

a school to home newsletter

May 15, 2026

BOARD MEMBER NOMINATIONS

The HCS School Board is requesting suggestions for nominations for two openings on the Board.

Serving the HCS community and the Lord in this way is an incredible blessing. If you know someone who would be a good fit for this position, please let a member of the Board know, or contact us by email at board@houstonchristianschool.ca

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HCS?

May 18 - Monday

- Victoria Day - No School

May 21 - Thursday

- Hot Lunch - Baked Macaroni and Cheese

May 28 - Thursday

- Spring Fest @ 4:00 pm

June 2 - Tuesday

- Spring Annual General Meeting @ 7 pm

June 18 - Thursday

- End of Year Elementary Picnic



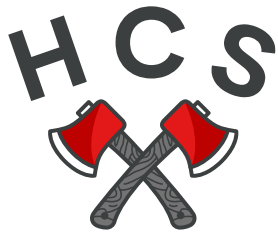
SPRING FEST AUCTION DONATIONS NEEDED

Spring Fest is coming up quickly, and we are still collecting donations for the event auction! At this point, donations have been limited, so any contribution from families or local businesses would be greatly appreciated. Every item donated to the auction will help raise funds for our outdoor classroom project and support this exciting addition to our school.

To help us with final planning and preparations, we kindly ask that donations be submitted as soon as possible. Thank you for supporting our school community and helping make Spring Fest a success!

If you would like to donate or have any questions, please reach out to Katie Vandenbrink at kvandenbrink@houstonchristianschool.ca.





SPRING FEST
THURSDAY, MAY 28
4:00 - 8:00

Don't forget to swing by the office and volunteer!



- DINNER**
- SILENT AUCTION**
- LOGGER SPORTS**
- RACES**
- GAMES**
- FACE PAINTING**
- + MORE!**

ABC ELEMENTARY COUNTDOWN

Excitement is building in the Elementary Wing as students begin the annual ABC Countdown to Summer! This fun end-of-year tradition follows the alphabet from A to Z, with each day featuring a themed activity, special event, or surprise connected to that letter.

The countdown is a great way for students to celebrate the school year together and look forward to summer break. To help everyone follow along with the fun, students received a copy of the calendar to bring home this week, and another copy can also be found at the end of Branches.

HELPING OUR SCHOOL BLOOM ONE FLOWER AT A TIME!

Thank you to everyone who supported our Spring Flowers Fundraiser.



It was so nice to see our community helping the school while getting their yards and gardens ready for spring. Every order made a difference, and we truly appreciate everyone who took part.



Funds raised through the fundraiser will help support outdoor improvements and maintenance.

PRINCIPAL'S PULSE (WORDS FROM OUR HEAD)

We just had our Grand Folks Day celebration, and it was a marvellous event. A hearty thank you goes to Katie VandenBrink, as well as the staff and parents who all worked together to make it such a special day. It is clear that Houston Christian School loves their grandparents!

Be sure to take a look further down in Branches for some wonderful photos from the day.

As we move toward the end of the school year, we begin to notice certain habits starting to slip, and we would appreciate your support in helping your children finish the year strong.

This tends to happen every year, especially with older students, though not exclusively. Some of the things we begin to notice include:

- Arriving late to school
- Returning late from lunch and spares
- Skipping classes or school days
- Poor choices during breaks and spares off campus by Grade 11 and 12 students who have the privilege of leaving school grounds
- Wearing clothing on warm days that is not appropriate for school (for both boys and girls)
- School work not being completed
- Cell phones not being kept in lockers

We, as a school, do not wish to become a place that is constantly trying to find “rule breakers,” and we ask for your support in helping students stay focused, responsible, and respectful during these final weeks of school. We try to avoid calling home about every issue; however, if we do, please understand that it is because we simply want every student to find success here at Houston Christian.

The end of the school year is always a busy and exciting time for students, and a little extra encouragement and support during these final weeks can go a long way.

It is a long weekend coming up, so hopefully that gives everyone a chance to let off some steam and come back to school next Tuesday ready to go!

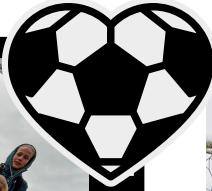
God go with all of you this weekend, wherever you may be!

Soli Deo Gloria

Ron Donkersloot



ATHLETICS UPDATE: GAMES, TOURNAMENTS, AND TEAM SPIRIT!



Last weekend was a great one for HCS Girls Soccer! Congratulations to our team for bringing home silver at the Northwest Zones Tournament in Kitimat! Despite the rainy weather, the girls played their hearts out and represented HCS incredibly well. From determined game faces on the field to smiles and laughter on the sidelines, the team showed great sportsmanship, teamwork, and school spirit throughout the tournament. We are so proud of the effort, attitude, and heart the girls brought all weekend long!



GO
WILDCATS

GRADE 7/8 SOCIAL STUDIES REFLECTIONS ON ONE LIFE: COURAGE, KINDNESS, AND THE VALUES THAT SHAPE US

Recently, our Social Studies class watched the film 'One Life'. One Life tells the true story of Sir Nicholas Winton, who helped rescue 669 mostly Jewish children from Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia before World War II. The film highlights courage, compassion, and the importance of helping others even when it is difficult or dangerous.

As part of a reflection assignment, students were invited to share their thoughts and reactions to the film. Below are a few anonymous responses that Mrs. Heleima-King and Ms. Duzan felt beautifully captured the empathy, insight, and thoughtfulness of our students, and we wanted to share them with our community.

The following student responses were written in answer to this reflection question:

Babi, Nicky's mother, said that she admires her country's commitment to decency, kindness and respect for others. What values or principles are most important to you, and why is that? What do you imagine the world would be like if more people were committed to those values that you mentioned?

"The values and principles that I have are similar to those in Babi's country. My values are to do my best and work my hardest, and to honour and show my love for God in doing so. I value kindness and love and do my best to follow them. I value these things because I love God and want to do the best I can and to honour and love Him. I imagine the world would be stronger and not so broken, and things would get done faster and better to God's glory. I saw this because there are mean and cruel people, and it can cause people's lives to fall apart, and if we worked hard, we could eliminate the bad garbage and dirtiness in the world."

"The values and principles that are more important to me are kindness, respect and love. They are important because words are powerful. The Lord created the world with just words, and that is just how powerful words are. If you treat them with respect, they will respect you. If you love them, they will also love you. I imagine the world because everyone is respectful, loving and kind."

"Following the Bible is a value that is important, because it is what I believe. These are my guidelines, and the world would be amazing if everyone believed in God and loved their neighbour, and it would be incredible. Because I know it would be amazing."

"The things that are more important to me are kindness, respect and honesty because when someone isn't kind to you, they aren't a good friend. And when people don't treat you with respect, they won't be kind, and they could try to control you, and you just cannot trust them."

"The values and principles that are important to me are loving God with all your heart and loving those whom you dislike. Another value I have is respecting God's work and creativity, so that means not polluting the earth and not hurting things on the earth. Staying kind and knowing every single life is important. I think the world would be more modest and kind if it had those values. There still would be sin because no one is perfect, but I think more people would be compassionate."



Love



Wisdom



Faith



Support



Kindness

Happy Grand Folks Day



Family



Laughter



Warmth



Guidance



Joy



Blessing



Stories



Patience



Caring

HCS Elementary

ABC COUNTDOWN

TO SUMMER 2026



The school year is coming to an end. There are only **26 days** of school left! Each school day will have a different activity depending on the letter of the day. Let's celebrate and thank the Lord for every day!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			May 13	May 14	May 15	May 16
			A	B Ascension Day	Pro D Day No school	
May 17	May 18	May 19	May 20	May 21	May 22	May 23
	Victoria Day No school	C	D	E	F	
May 24	May 25	May 26	May 27	May 28	May 29	May 30
Pentecost	G	H	I	J	K	
May 31	June 1	June 2	June 3	June 4	June 5	June 6
	L	M	N	O	P	
June 7	June 8	June 09	June 10	June 11	June 12	June 13
	Q	R	S	T	U	
June 14	June 15	June 16	June 17	June 18	June 19	Summer Break!
	V	W	X	Y	Z	

- A** ABC COUNTDOWN LAUNCH
- B** "BRING YOUR GRANDPARENTS" DAY
- C** COLD PLUNGE DAY
- D** DODGE BALL DAY
- E** EXQUISITE MEAL DAY (MAC AND CHEESE)
- F** FREE HUGS AND COMPLIMENTS DAY
- G** GIGGLE DAY Bring your best joke.
- H** HOKEY POKEY HAT DANCE DAY
- I** INTERNATIONAL DAY
- J** JUMP INTO Spring Fest!
- K** KARAOKE DAY
- L** LOLLIPOP DAY
- M** MINECRAFT AND MARIO DAY

- N** NICKNAME DAY
- O** OBSTACLE COURSE DAY
- P** PAPER AIRPLANE DAY
- Q** QUIET DAY! Wear your PJs.
- R** "RIDE YOUR BIKE" DAY
- S** SLUSHIE DAY We will make frozen drinks.
- T** "TAKE CARE OF THE SCHOOL" DAY
- U** UNUSUAL DAY
- V** VOLLEYBALL DAY
- W** WOOHOO! We celebrate summer birthdays.
- X** X-TRA RECESS AND X-TREME CLEANUP
- Y** YIPPEE! IT'S YEAR END ROCK NEST PICNIC!
- Z** ZIP UP your backpack and ZOOM OFF at 11:50!