



Branches

a school to home newsletter

May 8, 2026

NEW CHANGEROOM POLICY STARTS ON MONDAY

Over the course of this school year, we have been working with students to improve the cleanliness and organization of our changerooms. Unfortunately, clothing, shoes, and other belongings are often left covering the floors and benches, making it very difficult for our custodial staff to properly clean the space at the end of the day.

Starting Monday, students will be expected to remove their personal belongings from the changerooms at the end of each school day. Students who are staying for after-school sports practices may keep their belongings in the change rooms during practice, but all items must be taken home once practices have ended. Our hope is that this routine will quickly become second nature for students by the end of the school year.

We would appreciate parents partnering with us by speaking with their children about this new expectation and helping us establish good habits and routines within our school community.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HCS?

May 14 - Thursday

- Grand Folks Day

May 15 - Friday

- Pro-D Day - No School

May 18 - Monday

- Victoria Day - No School

May 28 - Thursday

- Spring Fest

ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE MEMBERS WANTED

HCS is looking for a few members of our community to join our Accessibility Committee. This committee helps identify, prevent, and remove barriers to accessibility and inclusion for students, staff, and visitors within our school community.

Committee members will have the opportunity to share ideas, provide feedback, and help shape our school's accessibility plan as we continue working toward creating a welcoming and accessible environment for everyone.

If this is an area you are passionate about and you would like to be involved, please contact Cheri Kobes, our Inclusive Education Coordinator, at c.kobes@houstonchristianschool.ca.

CALL FOR SOUP MAKERS AND HELPING HANDS

We are still looking for additional volunteers for our upcoming Grand Folks Day. At this time, we need at least 15 pots of soup for the event, and so far only seven people have signed up. If you are able to contribute a pot of soup, please consider signing up using the link below.



We are also still in need of volunteers to help serve food during the event and assist with clean-up afterward. These roles are an important part of making Grand Folks Day run smoothly, and at this point we have not yet had anyone volunteer to help in these areas. We would greatly appreciate you considering whether you may be able to support in one of these ways.

To help make clean-up more manageable, we have decided to use paper plates, bowls, and cups this year.

If you are willing to volunteer, please contact Katie at kvandenbrink@houstonchristianschool.ca.

As a thank you, all volunteers are warmly invited to stay and enjoy lunch with us that day.



4-H@Home: Your Exciting New Way to Experience 4-H!



4-H BC, in conjunction with BC Dairy, is excited to offer 4-H@Home—a fun, hands-on way for youth to experience 4-H through online projects. Open to BC youth aged 9–17, participants can join from anywhere in the province, whether or not there's a local 4-H club nearby. Current members and newcomers alike are welcome!

DISCOVER DAIRY PROJECT

STARTS May 20th FOR 6 WEEKS 4 PM-5 PM PST

The Discover Dairy project will take participants on a journey through the complete dairy cycle. Participants will have the unique opportunity to meet real dairy farmers, learn about essential cow care practices, understand how milk travels from farm to fridge, and even dive into the basics of cheese tasting and more!

Who can register?

The Discover Dairy project is perfect for youth aged 9 – 15 who are curious about farm life in BC, and how our food makes its way from the farm to our tables. No prior knowledge of the dairy industry is required—just a passion for learning and exploration!

How much to join?

Because of BC Dairy we are able to offer this opportunity for free! THANK YOU BC DAIRY!!

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

PRINCIPAL'S PULSE (WORDS FROM OUR HEAD)

Many of us had the privilege of attending the Capstone event at the school last night. What a marvellous evening it was! To behold the gifts and talents of these amazing students was truly special. The work and effort each student put into their projects was impressive. It was also wonderful to see where some of their passions lie.

From cake decorating and truck overhauls to building a clothing brand website, cosmetics, bedroom redesigns, graphic novels, figure skating, and even crocheting a weather rug for an entire year, just to name a few, the range of projects was remarkable.



I want to congratulate each student on the work they put into their projects. You brought your talents, creativity, and joy into each one. Well done!!

I think I will need to come back up in two years to see what our grade 9's and 10's do for their capstone projects. They have certainly seen some wonderful examples this year to inspire them.

As we reflect on the gifts, passions, and dedication shown by our students, and the many parents and families who encourage and support them along the way, I am reminded that this weekend is Mother's Day.

It is my prayer that mothers will be honoured and blessed this Sunday, but even more so that they would feel blessed and appreciated each and every day. May the work that they do in bringing up their children in the ways of the lord bring forth fruit and multiply.

Soli Deo Gloria

Ron Donkersloot



ATHLETICS UPDATE: GAMES, TOURNAMENTS, AND TEAM SPIRIT!



Dedication (from the Webster dictionary): an adjective describing someone or something that is devoted to a cause, ideal, or purpose, or set apart for a specific use.

As we enter May, it is a great opportunity to reflect on the year in sports – celebrating what went well and recognizing areas where we, as an Athletic Department, can continue to improve.

One thing that continues to stand out is the incredible amount of dedication it takes from our student-athletes to make school sports possible. When you commit to a team, you take on significant responsibility: multiple practices each week, Friday and Saturday tournaments, academic expectations, and more.

In addition, many of our student-athletes are heavily involved within the greater Houston community through church events, 4-H responsibilities, work commitments, community sports, and other activities.

We applaud our students and their families for their dedication and recognize all of their hard work throughout each sports season.



A few exciting updates:

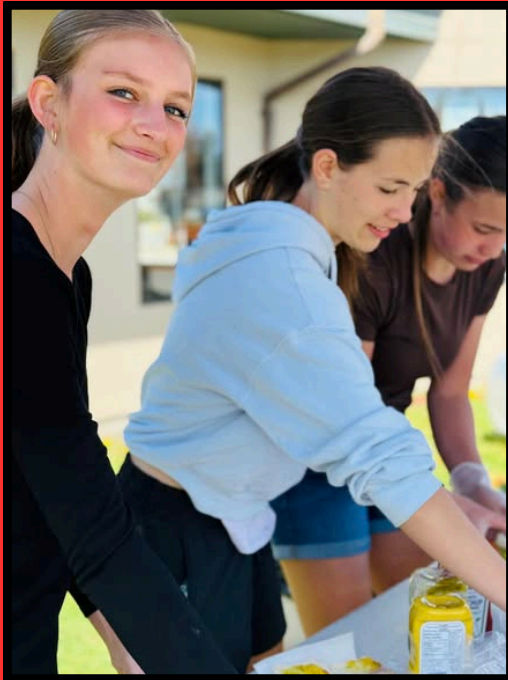
- Last weekend, our Track & Field team competed at a meet in Prince Rupert and brought home FOURTEEN first-place finishes – WOW!
- Today, our Senior Girls Soccer team heads to Kitimat for their zone final tournament. They enter the tournament undefeated, so it is sure to be an exciting few days for them!
- Tomorrow, our Track & Field team will attend a meet at SSS.
- Our Mountain Bike team continues to train and meet for weekly rides as they prepare for Provincials in Quesnel on May 21-22.

As teams and families continue through busy spring season, we appreciate the ongoing support shown to our athletes, coaches, and programs. We continue to ask for perspective, balance, and God's protection throughout the remainder of the season.

Have a blessed weekend everyone.

~ The Athletics Team





THIS PAST THURSDAY, OUR GIRLS' SOCCER TEAM HELD A BBQ AT BULKLEY VALLEY CREDIT UNION.

THANKS TO OUR COMMUNITY'S SUPPORT, WE RAISED \$1700.00!



A HUGE THANK YOU TO THE BVCU FOR SUPPORTING THE EVENT AND TO CHAD AND LESLEY WIENS AT PLEASANT VALLEY MECHANICAL FOR THEIR GENEROUS DONATION OF ALL THE BURGERS.

COACHES CORNER

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN COACHING?
8 YEARS

What division do you coach? Senior girls soccer

WHY DO YOU COACH?

I love sports and encouraging players, teaching them and learning along with them through ups and downs.

THE BEST PART OF COACHING?

Building lasting relationship, seeing young athletes grow to enjoy the game, learning lessons and being loud.



WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE FOOD?
Tacos

Who is your favourite athlete? Trevor Linden

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN COACHING?
FIRST YEAR FOR MTB!

What division do you coach? Co-ed Mountain Biking

WHY DO YOU COACH?

It's fun to see students be challenged and progress.

THE BEST PART OF COACHING?

Time outdoors together.



WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE FOOD?
Steak

Who is your favourite athlete? My kids!

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN COACHING?
FIRST YEAR AT HCS!

What division do you coach? Senior girls soccer

WHY DO YOU COACH?

I enjoy sharing my love of the game with players. It is rewarding to see others enjoy the game and work well with their teammates.

THE BEST PART OF COACHING?

Seeing the players develop individually and as a team.



WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE FOOD?
Tacos
(the good kind with corn tortillas)

Who is your favourite athlete? Thomas Muller

CAPSTONE PRESENTATIONS

We would like to extend a huge thank you to our volunteer judges for this year's Capstone Project: Kenny Thomson, Mark Groot, Megan Meints, Ruth Davis, Mike Aziz, and Rebecca Tait.



Light Duty Vehicle Mechanic

"I enjoyed working on my truck and spending money fixing it up."



Song Writer

"Having the opportunity to record my song and see it come to life was incredible. A giant thank you to my mentor Christ Spletzer."



Vehicle Restoration

"Working on my capstone taught me patience and perseverance."



Light Duty Vehicle Mechanic

"Learning how to work on my truck will benefit me for my whole life. It was great."



Horse Training

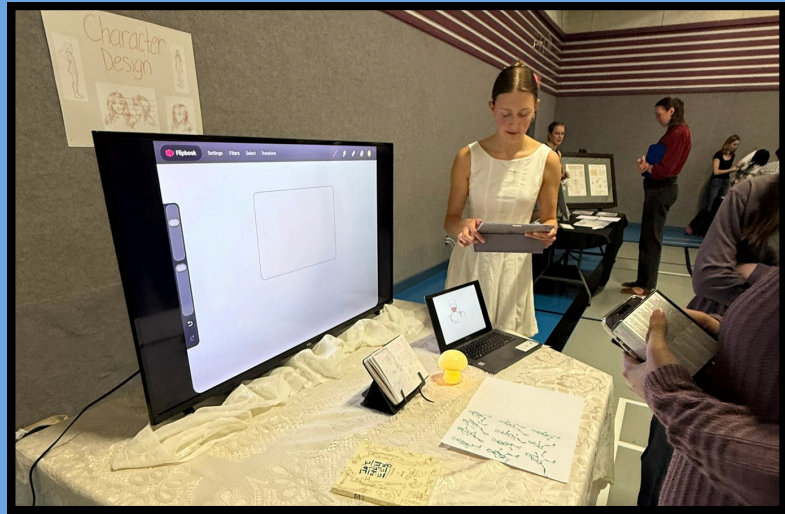


Crocheting a Weather Blanket



Creative Writing and Illustration Project

"I learned so much more about the writing process, drawing, and what it will be like to work as a full-time graphic novelist under pressure."



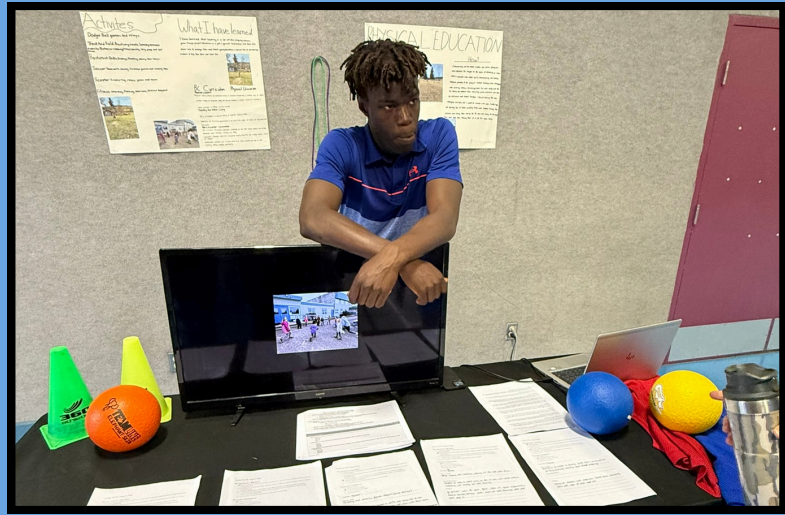
2D Animation Project

"Doing this project made me know for sure that this is something I'd love to do post-secondary. My mentor, Josh Seinen, was a big help through my process."



Geometric Wood Art Project

"I had fun creating my geometric sign and shelves for my room and being able to share it with the community."



Elementary PE Teacher

"Mrs. Debbie and her class are a blessing. Teaching them PE was fun."



Homemade Natural Skincare Project

"It was a great project that opened my mind to what I would want to do in the future. Thank you, Jessica. You were an amazing mentor, and I learned so much."



Specialized Snowmobile Trailer Design

"Hopefully, with a trailer like this, my dad and I can finally get on the mountain early in the day."



Figure Skating Development Project
Athlete Reflection and Showcase



Elementary Teacher
Elementary Learning Support Project

“It was enjoyable, and a lot easier than you think.”



Alphabet Learning Colouring Book Project
“I am very happy with my final project, and am glad all the work is over.”



Light Duty Vehicle Mechanic
“I am so thankful for the work experience I gained at Minute Muffler, and I am so thankful for Aaron and Tyson for all they taught me.”



Swim Instruction and Leadership Project
“My capstone helped me grow so much as an instructor, and it was incredibly rewarding to help my students meet and exceed their swim and fitness goals.”



Campfire Set Design and Welding Project
“I enjoyed learning new skills, and I hope to use them more in the future.”





Photography and Digital Media Project

"I really enjoyed creating my capstone and learning the process and technology of photography."



The Art and Science of Wedding Cakes

"I loved learning the science behind the craft while expressing creativity."



Interior Design and Renovation Project

"I really enjoyed learning all the skills that came with my room renovation as well as the interior designing part."



Teacher Planner Design Project

"I really enjoyed designing and incorporating bible verses into my teacher planner."



Computer Game Development Project

"Turns out creating video games is a lot harder than playing them, but even though it was hard, I had fun trying to make one for my capstone."



Fishing Apparel E-commerce Website

"I went from zero tech experience to being able to run a fully functional e-commerce website that reached across all of Canada."

