Communication is the Key

In an effort to keep our Heritage Christian Academy Family aware of all the great things happening at HCA, we send out an e-newsletter at the beginning of each month. This month our talented students begin to be writers, reporters, editors, interviewers, and photographers for "Heritage Highlights". This and all previous HCA newsletters can be viewed at our school website www.HCACHristian.org.

We hope to have a "Heritage Highlights" video news broadcast available in the near future. In the meantime, enjoy reading and seeing photographs of the important events happening in classes and throughout Heritage Christian Academy. Go Eagles!

Seniors Alexandria Pruitt, Abby Vigneulle and Anna Vigneulle were honored on September 28, 2017 at their last home game as Lady eagles. Each girl has lettered in volleyball four years and are each leaders to the team.
ARMADILLO - AN INTERVIEW WITH
SETH JOLLEY, SENIOR

"John Lewis and I were sitting on rocks, waiting on chaperones who were late. I heard a rustle, I thought it was a little kid playing in the bushes. Out of nowhere, John Lewis felt a brush on his leg. He thought it was me. When he looked down it was, however, an armadillo. He jumped up, spooked as a rabbit. Then I jumped up spooked as a gazelle. We squealed like little rabbits, pointing as the armadillo retreated into the bushes. It was never to be seen again, until it came out to feast on the Nesbitt. As we were walking out of Animal Kingdom that night, we pointed at John Lewis telling him, 'You have leprosy.' The most ironic thing was, he was sick two days later."

"ENGLISH PROMPT" - Submitted by Mrs. Nesbitt - Written by Tanner Blackwell

The whole reason behind “Rockin Roller Coaster” is that the band Aerosmith is late to a concert. We hop into this limo-type car and zoom from 0-57 in about 2.3 seconds (trying to get to our concert). Rockin Roller Coaster is an enclosed launched steel roller coaster at Disney’s Hollywood Studios. The ride opened on July 29, 1999 with a special party and Aerosmith as the guests of honor. Winners rode to Disney’s Hollywood Studios in limousines and were treated to a buffet and bar. After a special performance by Denny Dent, winners got a chance to ride the roller coaster with one of the Aerosmith band members.
YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Members include Juniors - Abby Vandiver, Jackson Hart and Seniors - Noah McCulloch, John Lewis Barber, John Atkins, and Alexandria Pruitt.
The Greater Alabama Council Youth Leadership Development Program was initiated in 2008. Its purpose is to provide a leadership program for deserving high school juniors and seniors from area high schools. The students selected for this program are identified and recommended by their high school principals, counselors and teachers. "They are students, who by their behavior and character earned the respect of their educators and are supported by them." Selected students must commit to the program by attending at least six out of the first eight meetings.

BOOK FAIR AND GRANDPARENT'S DAY EVENTS

The week of September 18 - 22 Heritage Christian Academy had a book fair. Some of the students in the Lower School were asked their thoughts:
Danny Seewald said, "First we got a list and then went upstairs to the book fair and saw the books we wanted to get. After school, we went home and if our parents put a check on a book that means we could get it. My friend Peter loves to read. He got a book about Legos. There were books about sharks, Legos, and I Survived books. I Survived books are about real events. For example, I survived the Titanic.
Dawson Harrison said, "It was fun. I got six books. One was Crystallize. It teaches you how to make crystals. I also got a lock kind of book. It is just a journal with a lock on it. My favorite thing was my Top Secret pen. It doesn't show anything but it has a flashlight that can show you what you wrote."
Ashunti Willsford said, "The book fair was pretty good. I mostly got toys but I got one book. The one book was called Owl Diaries Chapter 6. It was about a girl who lost her pet Baxter. I got a diamond pen, and I got a mystery pen. You can write on a piece of paper and it will be blank. But when you shine a light on it, you can see the writing. Another toy I got was the Mega Pointer. It's like a pointer but it is like double the size of a ruler. I can use it to point at stuff."
On Friday September 22nd K4-3rd Grade hosted a Special Morning full of refreshments and songs for Grand Parents and Grand Friends. Thank you, Mrs. Erwin for preparing the music, Mrs. Nichols for the flowers and PTF for the refreshments!
An Update from Board President Bill Vandiver

Our HCA School Board has communicated with our families on a number of occasions about ongoing talks with the owners and representatives of the Southeastern Bible College property on Valleydale Road in Hoover. There was a recent article in the local news that Southeastern is merging with Piedmont International University. This is not a surprise. We have known that this was occurring. Our communication/negotiation is ongoing and shifted from Southeastern’s local representative to Piedmont’s representative a couple of weeks ago. We want our HCA Family to know that the School Board is continuing to pursue our future home. You will continue to get updates as new information about progress is available. Please continue to pray for wisdom as we seek God’s will.

- FIELD TRIPS -
Mrs. Killian’s K5 took a trip to the Fire Station and Mrs. Crabtree’s 3rd grade went to the Birmingham Children’s Theater.

The kindergartners at HCA have been learning about community helpers. They were able to visit the Bluff Park Fire Station on September 19th for some hands-on learning about the very special community helpers called firefighters!

The students took a tour of the station to see where the firefighters eat, sleep, and even workout. Their favorite thing to see was the fire pole the firefighters slide down in an emergency! The kindergartners were able to get inside of a fire engine and an emergency medical vehicle. One of the firefighters even put on all of his equipment and uniform and explained the use of each piece of equipment to the class.

We are so thankful for these important community helpers!

~ Mrs. Killian

On Tuesday, 9/26 the third grade went to see The Jungle Book. As they watched, the students were asked to classify the animals from the play into groups such as mammals, reptiles, and birds. We had a wonderful time watching the play and learning more about animals! ~ Mrs. Crabtree
As the Heritage Eagles soar into their volleyball season, they are flying high as they face prey such as Sumiton Christian and Jefferson Christian Academy. Kristin Connor, a talented player on the varsity team, was interviewed about the season so far, and what they are to face in the team’s future. When asked about how she felt as the season rolled in, she described the team as feeling prepared, working well alongside each other, and seeing vast improvement from years past. She mentioned that as they practice repetition in their skills, they are making extensive amounts of progress forward as a team. When questioned about how the first two home games went, she responded by saying, “I think we played well as a team on both games, and the second game we really worked well together and came out with a win”. She included that the team did have nerves about playing the first two home games, but went on to say, “We communicate well and our team has really great chemistry so we know how each one of us will react in a game”. She described that this type of teamwork and friendship the team has allows them to be confident as a whole rather than as individuals. Her response to what she thinks the outcome of the rest of the season will be was hopeful and that as long as they keeping making progress and working as a team, they will have a successful season. She also took time to talk about Coach Kirk and the strong bond and friendship she has developed with the girls. Kristin believes a key in her coaching comes from the fact that she takes the time to learn about who the girls are, and is able to serve as a “mentor” and even as a “friend” to the girls. She ended by saying that Coach Kirk truly cares about how the girls are on as well as off the court.

Written by Anya McDaniel and Danielle Howell

Junior High Volleyball participated this past weekend at the BAPS tournament at Altamont Saturday, September 30th. JH and Varsity Volleyball played Sumiton on Tuesday, October, 3rd. Varsity and JH will play 10/5 at Jefferson Christian Academy. Thursday 10/5 is the JH final game of the season. Varsity plays: 10/10 at Westminster; 10/12 at Fairfield; 10/14 tournament at Southeastern; 10/16 at Tarrant; 10/17 at Indian Springs. Thea tournament starts 10/23. Youth Volleyball has their first match on Saturday, October 14th and play 10/21 and 10/28.

BASKETBALL

Registration is underway for Youth basketball grades 1 through 6. Middle school games are 10/17 at Cornerstone; 10/19 at Highlands; 10/24 home versus Westminster; 10/26 at Altamont; 10/31 at Westminster

Cross Country

CROSS COUNTRY
Team: Hannah Vandiver, Nick Kuhn, Payton Brewer, and Sophie Jones
Coaches: Rebecca Franklin and Glen Ross
Heritage Christian Academy cross country athletes were back in action on Saturday September 16.

Freshman Hannah Vandiver and Junior Payton Brewer competed in the Spain Park Cross Country Classic. Teams from Class 1A through Class 7A in Alabama and Georgia competed on one of the most challenging courses in Alabama. Against a field that included 9 teams ranked in the Top 5 of their respective classification, Hannah finished 59th overall with a time of 22:59 while Payton ran a time of 33:28.

Junior Sophie Jones competed in the Monkey C Monkey Run 5K to benefit Smile a Mile where she finished in 2nd place overall for females.

Payton Brewer returned to action Saturday September 30 at the Oak Mountain Invitational at Heardmont Park. Payton ran a season best time for the 5000 meters. Coach Glen Ross
Cross Country is at Tuscaloosa 10/12; and Hoover 10/19

The final Youth Cross Country meet was held at Jefferson Christian Saturday, September 30th! Youth Cross Country had a GREAT SEASON!

SWIM TEAM

HCA swimmers had a meet at the Hoover YMCA on Saturday, September 30th. They will have another meet this Saturday, October 7th.

For more information on Athletics see the Coach’s Corner Newsletter: https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1/# search/coach’s+corner/15ece9d00 fb34049?projector=1
Coach Adam Russell (above left with Coach Derrik Boland)
Interview by: Sophie Jones

Where are you from? Birmingham, Alabama

What college did you attend? Wallace State to begin with, then University of West Alabama where I was red shirted and then transferred to Auburn University in Montgomery.

How long have you played baseball? I have played baseball since I was 3 or 4 years old. It was always the game I gravitated towards; it doesn’t involve running!

What made you want to come to Heritage? Coach Boland and I have known each other for four months. He was the type of friend you meet and feel like you’ve known each other forever. We played in a men’s league baseball team at Spain Park and when he got the job at Huntington College, he asked if I would want an interview here, and I said yes!

What are your goals for the upcoming year? Above all, to represent Christ and have baseball players that are model citizens in and off the field. And of course, play hard and win state championship. Might as well get it out of the way.

What is your favorite bible verse? Joshua 1:9 and Isaiah 40:31 have always been my favorites. 1 Timothy 4:10-12 is a great one for all students. My dad sent it to me yesterday, my first day on the job here.

What is something you think the students should know about you? I am always quiet to begin with, and I take some time to get out of my shell. Also, I have 2 younger siblings, Keaton and Evan.

How would your friends describe you? Dependable, goofy, clumsy, passion for baseball and young people, passion about developing relationships, helpful, and most often the first friend people call

-When Coach Kristi was asked about Coach Russell, she said he wants to learn, and he does this job because he has an obvious passion for it.

What was your last job? My last job was working at fedex as a courier part time in the morning and in the afternoon I coached baseball. From 2012 to 2014 I coached at Vestavia and from 2015 to 2016 I coached Briarwood.

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**CHEERLEADING**

Sponsor: Rebecca Franklin

Cheer began practice on September 5, 2017. The girls started learning cheers and chants to prepare for this upcoming basketball season. Their goal for this year is to encourage the students to have school spirit and to help create a cheerful environment at school. The cheerleaders made volleyballs for the player’s lockers on senior night. They also sponsored a school wide spirit wear day on Thursday, September 28 to encourage the students to go to the volleyball game honoring the senior girl

**UPPER SCHOOL CHAPEL**

Every other week a speaker comes in to share a message to grades 7-12. Last week Hayden Walker from Mountain Brook Baptist Church came to share about resisting temptation, using text from Matthew. On the weeks when no one comes to speak, students participate in IMPACT Groups. The groups are divided up by grade and are led by 10th-12th grade students on Chapel Committee.
STORIES OF INTEREST

Submitted by Mrs. Mindy Barber

On August 4, we went camping one last time before school started. When we checked in, I was asked if we were there for the archery shoot. I said that I didn’t know anything about it; we were there just to camp one last time before school started.

The next morning Elizabeth was playing with other children in the campsite next to us. Their parents said if she was interested in archery, they knew someone who could give me a good deal on a long bow. I asked Elizabeth if she was interested and she said, yes. Families were participating together and I liked that about the sport.

By the end of the weekend, she was turning heads with how well she was doing after just picking up a bow. I was told that Westwood Baptist Church in Alabaster had an archery class starting August 16.

I signed Elizabeth up for the class and she had three classes before the next shoot on September 9-10; she came in third place for youths ages 8-11.

She is now planning to participate in a shoot in February and will also see her new friends.

By Ena Littleton, mother of fifth grader, Elizabeth Littleton

MORE ABOUT HCA CHAPEL

HCA is an openly Christian school, and we pride ourselves in it. Every Wednesday, students gather in the Upper Room for chapel and worship. Chapel brings us closer to Christ and closer in community with each other. The messages, activities and songs change weekly. Upper school chapel opens with worship, led by small, interchanging groups of 7th-12th grade students. The main point of the message is different each week, but sometimes, the speaker also changes. So far, we’ve had three guest speakers, each with their own personalized message. Immanuel Marsh, the Chair of the Christian Studies Department, and Dean of Spiritual Life, oversees matters regarding chapel. He also has led many of the upper and lower school chapel.

Discussion groups take place every other week. Students are divided into groups, each led by a high school student. The groups are separated by age and gender, all having multiple grades. Chapel is an important part of attending a Christian school, and is happily looked upon by most of its congregation. When asked about the importance of chapel, Lani Carre, a 7th grader had this to say, “...It (chapel) teaches students how to become examples of Christ.” Keiston Caldwell, who is also a 7th grader, was asked the same question. This was his response, “(Because of chapel) You can answer questions easier about religion later in life.” These and many other of its attendees have personal opinions about chapel and why it’s important. Mr. Immanuel Marsh referenced Acts 2 when asked about chapel. He provided some insight on why he thinks it is important to have time set aside for chapel every week. “We study together, and we worship together. That’s the philosophy behind chapel... We’ve had speakers from different backgrounds, genders, ages... It exposes students to different denominations and ideas.” We are fortunate to be able to have chapel, and it should be treasured among students, parents and teachers alike.

By Abigail Linderman
Support HCA at Spirit Night
Eat at Chick-fil-a in the
Galleria Mall on Tuesday
Evening, October 17th
& Come to the Eagle Carnival
on Friday, October 20th!

Heritage Christian Academy Parent Teacher Fellowship (PTF) is planning a fabulous and fun day for our entire HCA Family on Friday, October 20th from 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm. The Eagle Carnival will take place on that date, so be sure to mark your calendar and plan to come. Upper School may be planning a special treat for everyone to enjoy too!

We hope to see everyone there!

There is also a Chick-fil-a Spirit Night at the Galleria Mall location. "Eat Mor Chikin" on Tuesday, October 17th! there will be more information coming home soon about the specifics of both upcoming events.