**For we are His Workmanship, created in Christ Jesus**

**For good works, which God prepared beforehand,**

**that we should walk in them.**

**Ephesians 2:10 (ESV)**

**Start of the Year Newsletter (September)**

**FROM THE PRINCIPAL**

Welcome Back!

I find it difficult to accept that fall and back to school is here! This summer has been busy, and God is at work. I am so thankful to declare HLCA fully staffed for the 2023-2024 school year, fully staffed and full of students! We are experiencing growth and I am grateful for the many new families in our school community. It seems fitting that our hearts would be full of thanksgiving as our theme last school year was gratitude; God is always at work, doing something exciting. Praise the Lord!

It is my pleasure to introduce our teaching staff for the upcoming school year. Ms. Dyck, who has faithfully served in our school, has graciously agreed to teach our Kindergarten (ECS) class; Mrs. Gerbrandt is returning to teach grades 1 and 2. Mrs. Krahn, who covered for Mrs. Bartlett last year, will be teaching grades 3 and 4. We are welcoming Ms. Tew as our Math and Sciences teacher for grades 5-9, while I will continue to teach the grades 5-9s in various subjects. I will also be teaching a couple of High School courses, building capacity for high school. Serving as Educational Assistants in our classrooms are Mrs. Derkson, Ms. Ford, and Ms. Dyck (on non-ECS days). Mrs. Kidder will continue to clean the school, assisted by Joy Lapka. Mrs. Sewepagaham and Mrs. Brock will continue to serve in the office, answering questions and keeping operations running smoothly. I continue to serve as principal, while I will be in the classroom full-time again this year, I am always happy to meet with a parent. I strive to be available for quick chats at the end of each day.

Identity is a “hot topic” in our culture; we are bombarded with new terms, pronouns, and ways to identify people; all these labels are missing the mark. Things are changing so quickly it’s dizzying. As believers it is vital that we ground ourselves in truth and keep our focus on our Creator. Our identity as Christians is found in the person of Jesus Christ and the “immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness towards us.” It is through Christ’s work and Christ’s righteousness that we receive our new identity. We are His workmanship and have been created for His purpose. This year’s scriptural theme is “Identity in Christ” and our theme verse is Ephesians 4:10. This year we will focus on what God has accomplished for us as His children, His masterpieces. Each month’s passage focuses on different aspects of our identity in Christ. Our identity as Christian, or Christ-follower, is the only label that matters; it’s the only identity that fits and fulfills us.

“But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

Blessings,

Ms. Jeffrey

**ECS**

Welcome to Kindergarten!

My educational background is in Early Learning and Childcare and as a result, I believe young children learn best through engaging, real life experiences. To an observer, this may simply look like children at play. Play is a natural and developmentally appropriate way for children to learn as it offers them a tangible way to interact and experiment with real world concepts. I pray that together we will have a rich school experience where we can grow physically, academically, socially and spiritually.

-Miss Dyck

**GRADES 1-2**

I’ve been teaching on and off at HLCA since 2004, and this will be my 10th year. I’m a wife, and a mom of 4. I will be teaching mainly Grades 1/2, but also will be teaching Grade K-6 music. I look forward to interacting with you and your children this year and am looking forward to how God will be working here at HLCA. Please feel free to get in touch with me via text or email.

-Connie Gerbrandt

**GRADES 3-4**

Hello everyone and welcome to a bran-new school year! My name is Mrs. Krahn, and I will be teaching grades 3/4 this year along with grades 5/6 PE. I am very excited to be here! Thank you for trusting me to teach, lead and guide your child! God Bless!

-Mrs. Krahn

**GRADES 5-6**

Welcome back to school! I am Ms. Jeffrey the Language Arts and Social Studies teacher for grades 5-9. I will also be teaching Jr High Bible and 7-9 Physical Education. I will be teaching the High School students in our building Physical Education, Bible, and General Music 10.

I grew up in Calgary in a strong Christian home where my mother homeschooled all of her children. I migrated north from Calgary in 2015 and haven’t looked back. I have been teaching and serving at HLCA for eight years; I have been principal for four of those eight years. I have been greatly blessed here.

-Ms. Jeffrey

**GRADES 7-9**

I am excited to be at HLCA!  I look forward to meeting all the students here and seeing each one grow spiritually and academically over this next year.  I love coffee, cats, and chocolate!

-Ms. Tew

**IMPORTANT DATES**

**Aug 31**: **Meet the Teacher Night**

Starting at 5:30pm at HLCA – weather permitting, we will be outside. Please bring your own lawn chairs. Family last names from A-K bring a salad, L-Z bring a dessert. Please bring enough for at least 10 people.

The time slots for each teacher will be 15 minutes as follows:

Ms. Dyck (ECS) – 7:00-7:15pm

Mrs. Gerbrandt (Gr1-2) – 7:00-7:15pm

Mrs. Krahn (Gr 3-4) – 7:15-7:30pm

Ms. Jeffrey (Gr 5-6) – 7:30-7:45pm

Ms. Tew (Gr 7-9) – 7:45-8:00

High School Meeting – 8:00

**Sept 4: Labour Day** – No School

**Sep. 5: First Day of School** for ECS

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. HLCA Handbook
2. Student Permission Forms *(return ASAP)*
3. Collection of Personal Information Form - PIPA *(One per family, return ASAP)*
4. Monthly Calendar
5. Yearly Calendar
6. Memory Verses for the year
7. Parent/Staff Phone List
8. Volunteer opportunity list

**GENERAL INFORMATION:**

**ALLERGIES/MEDICAL**

There are no peanut or nut allergies this year. There are some gluten free students as well as dairy sensitive. Please check with your teacher before bringing in class snacks so we can accommodate this. Please let us know if there are other allergies that we should be aware of.

**HOT LUNCHES**

We need volunteers to make the hot lunch program available. We aim to have hot lunch every Thursday. Please contact the office if you are willing to do this. Or if you know someone who would enjoy this please have them contact the office. Thank you for your help.

**WATER**

There will be a water cooler in the hallway available for students to fill up their water bottles. There is a water fountain as well.

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

Our website is [www.hlcacademy.ca](http://www.hlcacademy.ca). We have a Facebook page as an additional source of information for parents, supporters and alumni. If you wish to have something posted, (information, encouragement, praise/prayer) please contact the school. Questions, comments, and concerns need to come to the school by way of phone, text, email or in person. Questions related to your child's class are best communicated by phone, text, email, or a note in your child's agenda.

**FUNDRAISING EVENTS**

**FUNDSCRIP**

The High Level Christian Academy is enrolled in a fundraising program called **FundScrip**. This is a program where supporters use *gift cards* to pay for things that they are going to buy anyway, such as grocery, gas, restaurant, and household item expenses. By simply changing your method of payment for everyday spending, the school will receive a percentage of the sales. We encourage families to take advantage of this fundraising opportunity to help HLCA raise funds for operation. The cards are available at the office and are payable by cash, debit, credit, and e-transfer. Please call the office if you have any questions.

**HIGH LEVEL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SOCIETY (HLCES)**

**UPDATE FROM THE BOARD:**

We encourage all parents to become members of the society. Being a member of the society helps to keep you engaged in school and board activities and entitles you to vote at school meetings. There are applications and society by-laws available at the school office.

**BO****ARD OF DIRECTORS**

Chair - Shawn Wiebe

Secretary/Vice Chair – Ray Lapka

Treasurer –

Member – Josh Clark (Maintenance)

Member – Jerry Krahn (Fundraising)

Member – Suzanne Wolfe