



# THE LION'S ROAR

*Parent Involvement Team - Celebrating Our Students*

"To know Christ and make Him known through Christian education."  
Fall/Winter 2009

## FROM THE HEADMASTER'S DESK

By: Henry Ward

Greetings HGBCS, Family and Friends!

I am reading a book titled "The Blessing" by John Trent and Gary Smalley. The theme is focused on parents giving the gift of unconditional love and acceptance to their children. The family blessing includes meaningful touch, the spoken word, attaching high value and appreciation, positive and realistic expectations for the future, and an active commitment to be role models (God's way) for our children to model. Our children need Godly heroes (parents) so they can survive this devastating culture. Our culture tells us that we have to talk a certain way, dress a certain way, listen to certain

music, watch certain movies and be a certain personality to be accepted by this society. All of this is Satan's lie.

Parents please take a quick inventory in your home. Is Jesus Christ the priority in word and deed? Can your children trust you for their walk with the Lord? Do your children appreciate the Bible through you? Do you send or take your children to Church on a regular basis? I hear from some of our students that these things are not a priority in their family. There are too many children in America who do not have a heavenly blessing from their parents. No wonder we have so many problems with children across these United States. For those of you who are heavenly blessings to your

children, thank you and keep on – don't give up – the dividends are eternal. Amen!! Deut. 6:5-9

At HGBCS it is our passion to teach the students that God has a specific plan for all our students. We implement His truths throughout the curriculum. We teach them the absolute truth in Christ Jesus. Let's join efforts in helping our children know that Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life by our example.

So with what is been stated, I sincerely wish all of you a wonderful Jesus Christ centered Christmas. I love you in the Lord!!

All for His Glory!

Henry G. Ward Jr.  
Head of School HGBCS  
Matthew 6:33

### Individual Highlights:

Guidance News	2
High School	
Student Council	2
Interact Club	2
Elementary News	3
Middle School News	3
HGBCS Athletics	4
Student Athletes	4
Chorus News	5
Drama News	5

## HOLIDAY TOY SLAM

Our athletic department is leading HGBCS in a toy drive campaign called "Toy Slam". These toys will be delivered by our coaches and athletes to hundreds of children throughout Charlotte who are not expecting anything for Christmas due to the poverty in which they live.

This will help bring a smile to the faces of children and families, as well as extend the love of Jesus Christ through this great mission effort. This is the Joy of CHRISTmas!!

Please contact the Athletic office at (704)531-3502 for

further information.





## PSAT

Our 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> graders took the PSAT/NMSQT in mid-October. Score reports will be coming soon and then mailed out to parents with a letter interpreting the scores. Please anticipate receiving the score reports either the first or second week in

## GUIDANCE NEWS

The Senior Class of HGBCS has done a fantastic job filing college and scholarship applications in a timely manner this fall. To date, all but two of our forty-eight seniors have applied to at least one four-year college. This class is averaging three college applications per student. Many of our senior applicants are hearing of their acceptances already. Praise the Lord!

For the first time in HGBCS's school history, two members of our senior class have received *National Merit*

*Scholarship Semifinalist* honors. Congratulations go out to **Samantha Hodges** and to **Deborah Thurman** for their outstanding achievement! These young ladies are now competing for *National Merit Scholarships*. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue in this very rigorous scholarship competition.

We also have several seniors vying for college merit scholarships. **Deborah** is our school's nominee for *The Jefferson Scholarship* at the

University of Virginia. **Tyler Dunn** and **Shelby Hudspeth** are our school's nominees for *The Morehead-Cain Scholarship* at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. **Shelby** is also a candidate for *The Belk Scholarship* at Davidson College. **Tyler** and **Samantha** are our school's nominees for *The Park Scholarship* at North Carolina State University. Please keep these outstanding students in your prayers as they continue in these very prestigious competitions.

## HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL

The high school Student Council has had an exciting and busy first semester. Council members began the year with a special lunch for all new students to Hickory Grove. They then began planning for Homecoming week. During this week, the student council had class competitions in several areas including best dress, number of participants for the special dress days, class spirit door competition, and a "Change War" to begin raising money for the Dominican Republic mission

trip. The Student Council and administration treated the winning class with a special breakfast the Monday following Homecoming. At the end of October, several members of the Student Council went to the ACSI leadership conference in Black Mountain, North Carolina. Here they learned what it meant to be a Christian leader. This semester, the high school Student Council also set a goal to raise \$1,000.00 for missions by the time the high school had

their December chapel. The Change War gave the student council a good start in their efforts and with additional fund raising efforts, such as selling pizza for lunch and special dress down days was able to surpass their goal with \$1076.00 to be used in our school's mission efforts in the Dominican Republic. The Student Council works hard to not only serve the students of Hickory Grove Christian School, but to represent Christ and to serve Him.

## INTERACT CLUB NEWS

*The Interact Club* has been actively involved in several school, church, and community activities. At present, the club has over fifty students in membership. "Service above self" is the motto of the club, and the leadership

team continues to seek projects and opportunities that will serve the best interests of our various publics. In January 2010, the club will begin its mentor/tutoring program with our elementary students. In addition, the

club will sponsor its annual *Loaves & Fishes* food drive that will culminate in a school-wide competition. More details will follow in emails or newsletters about both of these projects.

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

As a school, we have been very busy this fall! We began the 10 commandment campaign and participated in 'Elementary Night' at the varsity volleyball and soccer games. Homecoming week was filled with fun as the students enjoyed dressing up each day & displaying their school spirit AND we attended the 1<sup>st</sup> pep rally of the year on Homecoming Day, October 9<sup>th</sup>.

In addition, we had a great month of chapel times with Mr. Ward speaking at our 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade chapel and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders presenting a wonderful program for us at the TK-2<sup>nd</sup> grade chapel. TK-2<sup>nd</sup> displayed characters from God's Word as they participated in "Bible Character Day", Friday, Oct 30. Fall parties were also a hit on the 30th!

We've had fun field trips. The 3<sup>rd</sup> graders traveled to Winston-Salem, NC for the Dixie Classic

Fair where they spent the day seeing the animals, touring the Pioneer Village, watching a great magic show about recycling, and seeing all kinds of agricultural exhibits. The 5<sup>th</sup> graders enjoyed a day at YMCA Camp Thunderbird, Lake Wylie, SC. They were very excited to be able to seine for fish and watch a fish dissection, participate in a soil study, and learn more about Native Americans through face painting, and a tribal and artifact study. One of the favorite activities of the day was canoeing on the lake.

We have also managed to participate in a few mission projects along the way. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade (and others) collected Soccer Balls for Kenya. They were a huge hit and the children were able to send more than 50 soccer balls to children in villages in Kenya. Operation

Gratitude is a repeat from last year's mission of writing **letters to our soldiers** who so bravely serve our country. Our school goal was 400 letters, which we collected at the Veterans' Day Chapel. Christmas Gift Bag Campaign is in support of the Charlotte Rescue Mission – Men's Rebound Ministry, Christmas gift bags (empty and 10.5"x13") were collected, through November 19<sup>th</sup>.

We also introduced the All-Pro Dad/Mom breakfast. It was a well-attended event by more than 300 parents and students! Each family was given a card with the word "FAITH" written on it, then some questions were asked about 'faith in God' and each family discussed among themselves. Families were asked to take the card home and finish the discussion - hopefully opening & encouraging such dialogue at home.



The Elementary School hosted Metro School for a day of fun and games.

---

**\*\* The next All Pro Dad/Mom day will be Wednesday, January 20.**

## MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

It sure has been an exciting and busy few weeks of fall in the middle school! Many of the eighth grade students traveled to Washington, D.C. the last week of October. We had a great time together learning about our country's history! Those who did not go to DC were able to make an impact here in Charlotte helping out with Operation Christmas Child. I am so proud of our middle school students. No matter where we are, they always let their light shine for Jesus!

One thing we focus on in middle school is trying to think of others before ourselves. The students have been doing a great job with this through our mission projects. Many soldiers will be blessed over the

holidays with packages sent by our very own HGBCS students. Currently, we are in the middle of another opportunity called Breaking and Entering to help those who will get nothing for Christmas. We are asking each student to bring in a can of food or a new toy for a family who is in dire need. This is a partnership that we have done the past 2 years now with Ace and TJ from 95.1. They go to a home that has virtually nothing, sometimes not even furniture or any food at all. I hope that you will encourage your child to contribute in some way.

Most importantly, we have had several salvations in our middle school student body this month. TO GOD BE THE GLORY! HE is doing great things in our

school and I want to encourage you to keep your eyes on Him, continually pray for our teachers and students and let's see what He has in store for us in 2010!

Finally, I want to thank each of you for your cards, prayers and support as I have been recovering from my surgery. It was much unexpected, but I am ready to come back to school! I have missed the students very much. God truly used this experience to remind me that he is in control of all things. I am so thankful that I serve a very BIG GOD!!!!!!

I pray that you and your family have a CHRIST filled Christmas!

Serving alongside you,  
Pam Tyree

HGBCS ATHLETIC NEWS

---

*“The Christianship Award goes to the team member who displays strong Christian character in and out of the competition arena.”*

Hickory Grove Athletics fielded 12 teams in 5 different sports this fall. The overall record for the fall teams combined was 48-29-2. This is our best fall ever! Three of the four varsity teams participated in the state playoffs. Varsity Soccer finished the year 14-6-1, and second in the Metrolina Athletic Conference. Varsity football finished 6-5 and lost in the quarter finals of the state playoffs. Three players from this year’s team (Josh Lewis, Tyler Dunn, and Nathan Roberts) will represent our school in the Oasis Shrine Bowl over the Thanksgiving Holiday. Varsity Volleyball finished 18-6, won the MAC Conference Tournament, and lost in the state semi finals. Cross Country has a very young team. They qualified for the state meet and both teams finished in the top 15.

Junior Varsity and Middle School teams focus on

fundamental skills and strategies that will pay dividends in the upcoming years. These teams help build a solid foundation that is vital to success at the varsity level.

The Athletic Department recognizes two award winners from each team. The Lions PRIDE award goes to the team member who best exemplifies all that is expected and needed to be successful at their sport. The Christianship Award goes to the team member who displays strong Christian character in and out of the competition arena. This year’s fall award winners exemplify the best of the intent of our awards. The winners are listed below:

*MS Football:*  
*Lions PRIDE- Dylan Schoolcraft;*  
*Christianship- Clint Moser*

*MS Soccer:*  
*Lions PRIDE- Alex Pardue;*  
*Christianship- Nicholas Beverage*

*MS Volleyball:*  
*Lions PRIDE-Keri Solaris;*  
*Christianship-Kendall Aiken*

*JV Cheer:*  
*Lions PRIDE- Hannah Doby;*  
*Christianship-Nicola Sink*

*JV Volleyball:*  
*Lions PRIDE-Jessie Macaluso;*  
*Christianship-MaryHannah Newsom*

*JV Football:*  
*Individual Certificates Given*

*Varsity Soccer:*  
*Lions PRIDE- Sina Safaie;*  
*Christianship- Jeffrey Perrin*

*Varsity Cross Country:*  
*Lions PRIDE- Jeffrey Tanner;*  
*Christianship-Jared Stewart*

*Varsity Cheer:*  
*Lions PRIDE- Devin Gant;*  
*Christianship- Shelby Hudspeth*

*Varsity Football:*  
*Individual Certificates Given*

STUDENT ATHLETES

Our Varsity teams placed 11 athletes on the Metrolina Athletic Conference (MAC) All-Conference Teams. Four varsity athletes were selected to the North Carolina Independent Schools Athletic Association (NCISAA) All-State Teams. These student-athletes are listed below. Congratulations on these great accomplishments!

**MAC All Conference**

*Will Cavanaugh (Soccer)*  
*Josh Lewis (Football)*

*Sina Safaie (Soccer)*  
*Teddy Walker (Football)*  
*Kevin Scott (Soccer)*  
*Austin Turner (Football)*  
*DrewMorgan (Football)*  
*Meredith Peacock (Volleyball)*  
*Anne Newsom (Volleyball)*  
*Tyler Dunn (Football)*  
*Josh Davidson (Football)*

**NCISAA All State**

*Tyler Dunn (Football)*  
*Nathan Roberts (Football)*  
*Josh Lewis (Football)*  
*Anne Newsom (Volleyball)*

We are proud of all the hard work and dedication that our student-athletes give to for Hickory Grove Athletics. Their efforts are matched only by the dedication and commitment of our great coaching staff! The Hickory Grove Coaching Staff loves its players, loves the Lord, and is committed to building strong character and strong programs. Our goal is to use athletics to teach life lessons and to be a positive influence in the lives of our athletes.

---

*“Our goal is to use athletics to teach life lessons and to be a positive influence in the lives of our athletes.”*

*Grant Coffey*  
*HGBCS Athletic Director*

## CHORUS NEWS

The high school choir has been very busy first semester under the direction of Mrs. Verna Clark. The year began with the singing of the National Anthem on September 11, 2009 to over three million listeners on WBT 1110 AM Radio Station in honor and memory of those who sacrificed on 9/11. Choral students have also sung the National Anthem for home games and provided music for the monthly chapels. On Tuesday, November 10, 2009, they traveled to Asheville, NC where they performed four times for a total of two hours of singing

in the Winter Garden of the Biltmore House. In keeping with the era of the Biltmore Estates, their musical repertoire consisted of 32 selections written before 1895. Later that week they performed on Friday, November 13, 2009 at the Southern Christmas Show. On Sunday evening, November 29, 2009 they sang seven selections for the "Hanging of the Green" service at HGBC. The Choir is looking forward to reaching out into the community on Thursday, December 10, 2009 when they sing for the Open House at Wilora Lake Lodge

Retirement Center.

Meanwhile, Middle School Chorus students have also been getting into the Christmas spirit. They hosted a MS Idol/Variety Show on Friday, December 4, 2009 and presented a trophy to eighth grader Heather Clark. The Variety Show included musical groups, a number by the MS Dance Team, pantomime, and comedy. The MS Chorus will also reach out into the community when they sing for the Veteran's Administration Charlotte Outpatient Clinic on Friday, December 11, 2009.

## DRAMA NEWS

Forty-one high school music and drama students combined their efforts in a beautiful, one hour Christmas program presented on Thursday, December 3, 2009. The Choir presented two musical packages, while Drama students combined their creative writing skills with their theatrical skills and presented three Christmas sketches. One original sketch centered on needy families. Drama students collected money, purchased gifts, and packed and delivered boxes to Operation

Christmas Child.

The high school Drama students have also been active this semester. Besides providing monthly chapel skits, they presented two one-act plays: "After Hours" and "Red vs. the Wolf" for their Fall Production on October 15-16, 2009. Then "Red vs. the Wolf" was offered to the elementary students as an in-house field trip. The cast was able to go into the classrooms in costume and visit with the students beforehand, and director Verna Clark was able to share valuable principles

and lessons after the performances for kindergarten, first, and third grades. Drama students are excited about the upcoming ceremony and Christmas celebration on Tuesday, December 15, 2009 at 12:15 p.m. in Room 1014. Fifteen students will be inducted into the International Thespian Society, totaling 65 since the Drama Dept. chartered a troupe in 2004. Afterwards, students will perform original Christmas skits, followed by a Christmas party at the Olive Garden.