



# Holmesburg Christian Academy

## THE PAW PRINT

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Linda C. Lewis  
Head of School

Dear Family and Friends of H.C.A.

Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed,  
for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness. Lamentations 3:22-24

It is the dawning of another New Year. No doubt, many of you have a list of New Year resolutions. Perhaps you have even imagined life after you successfully implement your resolutions. When I lose 20 pounds, I'll look great and fit into in a size 10. When I stop smoking, I'll have more money and feel so much better. While these are worthy goals, I pray you consider **new beginnings** with the Lord and how He may be moving you into a new and deeper relationship with Him. As Christian parents and care givers, what new beginning is he asking you to consider. How can we also help our children develop new beginnings that will last them a lifetime?

I would like to share with you a few suggestions by Carolyn Knarr, MSW, LCSW. Knarr is the Director of Children's Therapeutic Services for the *Agape, Christian Counseling Services*. I encourage you to consider any or all of these opportunities for new beginnings with your family.

1. **Increase the amount of time you spend in casual conversation with your child.** According to Knarr, research shows that 85% of parent/child conversation is the parent telling children what to or not to do.
2. **Reduce yelling and arguing.** When Knarr asks children what they would like to change about their parents, the response is almost always, "they wish their parents would not yell so much. We need to model emotional regulation for our children."
3. **Help your children get more sleep.** The majority of children do not get enough sleep and teenagers need more sleep. A student who comes to school well rested will perform better academically and socially. Take technology away from children at least one hour before bedtime.

4. **Keep family time sacred.** Knarr reports that, "the more families eat together, the better the child's grades and health." I would encourage you to use this as a time for family devotions. Don't let the world whisk you and your children out the door every evening to meetings and sports. God created the family unit because it works and as Christian parents it must be a priority.
5. **Enjoy your kids over the holidays.** "Live in the moment, without having big expectations. Take hold of opportunities to connect with them." Enjoy one another.

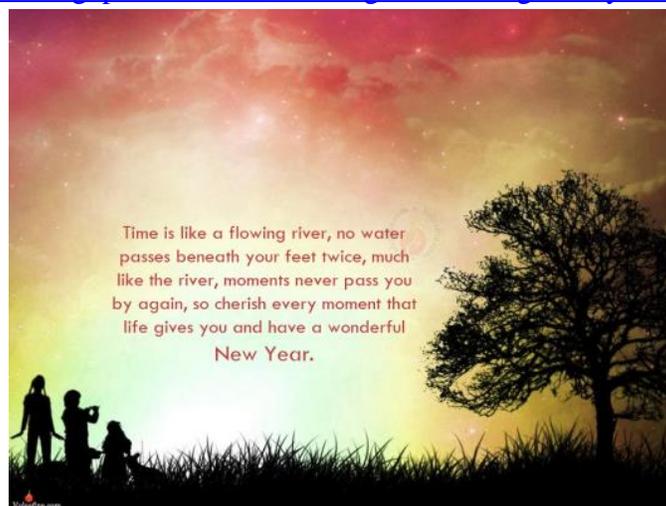
The above list is a few suggested opportunities for **new beginnings**, opposed to resolutions. You may have other ideas that you want to try, now is the time to begin. The problem with considering New Year resolutions is that they rarely last and when we fall short, we feel like a failure and give up totally. **New beginnings**, because of God's grace and mercy are **new** every morning. When we do go amiss and stray we can get up the next morning and know that the Lord's power is sufficient each day to carry us through the trials, troubles, failures and heartbreak of any given day. Each day is an opportunity for a fresh start, a **new beginning**.

On behalf of the entire H.C.A. staff I want to say thank you for the many Christmas gifts and cards. Your kindness is appreciated. We wish you and your family a healthy and happy New Year filled with the Jesus' love, peace, and new beginnings.

Happy New Year,

Linda C. Lewis  
Head of School

Knarr, C. (2015, December 21). New Year's Resolutions for Parents. *Agape Christian Counseling Services*. Retrieved from <http://www.agapechristiancounselingservices.org/new-years-resolutions-for-parents/>





## Prayer Requests and Praises

- Pray for traveling mercies for our school families over the Christmas holidays.
- Pray for difficult family relationships, which are often intensified over Christmas. May salvation come to unsaved family members.
- Praise God for the support and love of Christian brothers and sisters.
- Praise God for the wonderful opportunities we had to share the Gospel this season with the K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade program, PTF's Christmas Night and presentations by our Choir. God's Word does not return void. Halleluiah!
- Thank God for our School Family. We are truly blessed to have one another.
- Members of our school family who are dealing with medical concerns.
- Pray for the school families who have lost loved ones this past year.
- The School Board as they look ahead to the 2018-2019 school year.



## LOOKING AHEAD

February 1 – 15 – Automatic re-enrollment (reduced registration fees during this period)  
February 7 - Welcome Wednesdays Begin  
February 13 – Elementary School Science Fair 7:00PM (Snow Date 2/15/18)  
February 15 – Early Registration Ends  
February 16 – 19 – No School - Winter Break  
February 20 – Open Enrollment for New Families  
February 23– 11:30 AM Dismissal (HD PS – 8<sup>th</sup>) FD/SD Normal Schedule - Staff Development

## Student of the Month

### DECEMBER

**KINDERGARTEN- CARLOS FERNANDEZ**

**2<sup>ND</sup> GRADE – LOUIS RICHETTI**

**4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE – JAMES SANTOS**

**6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE – MICHAEL ROSS**

**1<sup>ST</sup> GRADE – BLASCYK ALLENN**

**3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE – ARYANA MCNAIR**

**5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE – ERIC BROWN**

**7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE – DESTINY GALLAGHER**

**8<sup>TH</sup> – CAILA THOMAS**



## Bus Safety

Your cooperation is needed to help ensure the safety of your child and all the children who ride the school bus. It is a privilege to ride the bus but with privileges come responsibility. Students are responsible for their conduct and those who do not follow the rules may be put off the bus for a period of time; if the problem continues the privilege may be permanently suspended.

## UNIFORM DRESS CODE

Now is a good time to review the dress code as it is in the Parent Student Handbook and on our website. They may wear a long sleeve uniform shirt or blouse. The only sweaters to be worn with uniforms are the uniform cardigan or vest. The gray Spirit-Wear sweatshirt and gray fleece may be worn during the winter dress period. Girls may wear uniform pants during the cold weather, except for chapel days. Review chapel dress for the complete dress requirements. Sneakers may not be worn with uniform pants. Winter dress for girls ends March 31<sup>st</sup>. In addition to dress, the handbook/website gives details for acceptable shoes, hairstyles, jewelry and casual day dress. Please review these guidelines with your students.



## AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHERS

If you have taken any pictures of school activities since January 2017, (class trips, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade and/or Middle School Camp Orchard Hill trip, Spirit Days, May Fair, etc.) which could be considered for the year-book, please submit the pictures by e-mail, or CD. Include your name and the activity in the body of the e-mail also. Attachments are preferred. Send the pictures to Candace Wismer at [cwismer@holmesburgchristian.org](mailto:cwismer@holmesburgchristian.org), as soon as possible, to be considered for the yearbook.



## PICTURE RETAKE DAY AND TEAM PICTURE DAY

Mark your calendar now. If your child was sick and did not have his or her picture taken or if you do not like the pictures, retake day is Thursday, January 4<sup>th</sup>. The complete picture booklet must be returned if you want your child's picture taken. Keep the class picture. Both team pictures and group pictures will also be taken this day.

## THE CHILDREN'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND OF PHILADELPHIA

The Children's Scholarship Fund of Philadelphia is currently accepting applications from low-income Philadelphia families interested in obtaining four-year scholarships to send their children to private elementary schools in September. Winners are selected by lottery. **Deadline for submission of applications is March 1, 2018.** Only the first 7,000 applications received will be entered into the lottery, therefore it is important to act promptly. Students who have received CSPF for four years must reapply and enter the lottery. Applications are available on their web site [www.csfphiladelphia.org](http://www.csfphiladelphia.org). They are also available in the school office. Families receiving this scholarship who have another eligible child must complete a sibling application. See Mrs. Kelly for details.

## OSTC SCHOLARSHIPS

Own a business or know someone who does? Look into the Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit Program. Businesses can donate scholarship money and receive a tax credit, in turn students residing in the boundaries of the lowest 15% of low-achieving schools can obtain scholarship money. The awards will enable these children to attend performing private schools. For more info go to the OSTC website at: [www.newpa.com/...opportunity-scholarship-tax-credit-program](http://www.newpa.com/...opportunity-scholarship-tax-credit-program). More information will be available in the school office.

## Accreditation Update

As we enter into 2018 we are just a few months away from our re-accreditation visit by the Middle States Association's visiting team. They will be with us from Sunday afternoon, March 18 through Wednesday afternoon March 21. This has been a long process; we spent much time taking a reflective look at every aspect of our Academy by completing the required self-study. As a result of the study, and surveys completed by stakeholders in the school community, the Internal Coordinators and the Planning Team have submitted two student performance objectives and one organizational objective to Middle States for a technical review. These objectives have been approved and we will now develop an action plan for each goal designed to bring the objectives to fruition. A special thank you to our parents, board members and teachers who took their to complete surveys. These results allowed us to wisely develop the objectives that will continue to grow and improve the Academy. We will continue to strive for excellence in all areas. Thank you also to Beth Daka for her many hours of work as the lead coordinator.



## KEEP YOUR CHILD'S MEDICAL INFORMATION CURRENT

If you have not contacted the nurse and your child has a chronic medical condition, such as asthma, please contact the school nurse in writing or by phone immediately. Any child with asthma that needs an inhaler, please provide it to the school. The nurse will contact you with the correct forms for the physician and parent to sign to allow the administration of medication in school. Students may be removed from school if the proper forms are not completed. Pennsylvania State Law requires that all children must have a complete checkup when entering school for the first time and again in middle school. If you have not returned the required paperwork, please do so promptly.



## CHAPEL OFFERING

Chapel, held every Wednesday, is a time for our school family to come together for worship. During worship, our students have the opportunity to give an offering. Offering is a form of worship in that we give back to the Lord what is rightfully His. This is not a time for you, as parents, to go into your wallets and give your children money to place into the offering plate. Instead, encourage your child to forgo a snack or give a portion of their allowance; help your children understand, during their formative years, the importance of honoring God with their tithes and offerings, no matter how small. God considers, the intent of the heart, not the amount of the offering. Help your child develop good stewardship now so they carry it into adulthood. Start the New Year off with a new practice that honors our Lord.



Our PTF Pizza Lunches for the month of January will be on January 10<sup>th</sup> (Chicken Fingers) and January 24<sup>th</sup> (Pizza).



**ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 19<sup>TH</sup> PTF WILL BE HAVING A “SUPERBOWL BLAST” DAY! YOU CAN DRESS IN YOUR FAVORITE FOOTBALL GEAR, THE COST FOR THIS DAY IS \$1.00.**