



From the Headmaster

In my first public address to the Haven community, I shared my vision that Haven would become recognized as a learning community continuously "striving for perfection but settling for excellence" in all that we do. In my previous newsletter, I expressed the following: "Our hope is that when you think of Haven, the word "excellence" is what comes to mind" and that "...if asked what type of school your child attends that you could respond with integrity, "My child attends an excellent school - Haven Christian Academy.""

In reflecting upon the recent conclusion to our first quarter, I began to consider how Haven has reflected excellence so far this year. The HCA Swim Team, led by Coach Linda Howard, earned its highest ranking in the history of the school placing 4th in a field of 10 that included large public and private schools at the FHSAA District Meet. This 4th place finish is a monumental achievement considering the fact that our team has zero divers and few male swimmers. The other schools are able to put swimmers and divers in every event which gives our competitors access to more scoring potential than HCA. In spite of these major obstacles, our team finished 4th. Our girls 400m Relay Team took first place. Additionally, five HCA swimmers (Rachel Leonard, Hannah Howard, Rebekah Howard, Laurel Moore and Jordan McGee) qualified for the Regional Meet in Orlando on Saturday, November 7th. Surely, this is a manifestation of athletic excellence.



Rebekah Howard dominates at Polk County Meet

Upon further reflection, I considered the HCA Football team (currently 9-2) as they recently defeated Elffers Christian Academy 32-12 at the Lions' Den in a recent state quarterfinal match-up. Our football Lions are currently preparing for a showdown with Zephyrhills Christian Academy in the state semifinal game in Zephyrhills on Friday night, November 6th. Congratulations to Coach Schick and these HCA Lions who have represented Christ and HCA with excellence this season. Go Lions!



Luke Alcala scrambles Tebow-style for a big gain

Further reflection led me to think of our many excellent parent-partners that have said "yes" to our call to a quality partnership. I think of Renee Penka who initiated and coached the new HCA cheerleading squad or Rachel Rogers who does bulletin boards and teaches elementary art as a grandparent volunteer. I think of Tammy Moore who runs the Booster Club like a highly talented corporate CEO. I think of Daffney Deas and Jamie Katros who volunteer capably and tirelessly leading and serving on our PTF.



Daffney Deas serves faithfully in the kitchen and as PTF President

I think of Dan Carr who coaches basketball and

impacts young men for Christ or Coach Scott Penka who has been such a positive contributor to our successful football program. I think of the Jensen family who started aggressively and sacrificially serving even before their child's first day. I think of Doug and Mae Davis who serve on our Boosters Club, fix our broken computers and are creating our new school website. I think of Alan Jenkins, Rachel Harris, Linda Howard, Eric Welborn, Lisa Rowell and the list goes on. Surely, these parents have reflected the love of Christ with excellence by sacrificially giving their time and talents to make Haven a great place for all children. May God bless Haven and may the Haven community continue to reflect the excellence of the Savior in all that we do to the glory of God and to the blessing of His kids. Is there excellence at Haven? To borrow a line from Sarah Palin, "You betcha!"

Upcoming Partnership Events

Fall Festival is this Saturday, November 7, from 11:00AM-3:00PM. The Fall Festival is one of Haven's largest fundraisers of the year. Daffney Deas and your PTF have joined forces with the HCA faculty and staff to organize what promises to be a magnificent event. Come and join us for a great time of fun, food, and fellowship to include 20 game booths, hay rides, inflatables ("the moonwalk", etc.), and much more. Additionally, our auction will include many exciting opportunities for you to purchase early Christmas gifts such as the following items: spa baskets, gift certificates to Home Depot and many other local businesses and restaurants, baskets, sports memorabilia, Cuisinart small appliances, a pressure washer and many other exciting items. You may still purchase advanced game tickets at the discount price by purchasing from the school office prior to Saturday. Game tickets will also be sold at the gate. Bring your family and have a wonderful time as you support your child's Haven.

Grandparents' Day will be held on November 20th from 9:30AM-12:00AM. On that day, our HCA Grandparents will be treated to student

presentations/performances followed by a Thanksgiving luncheon and photographs with grandchildren. Thus far, there has been a wonderful response to our invitations (65 grandparents have responded so far). It's not too late to RSVP. Please let us know if we missed any grandparents.

HCA Basketball Season begins on November 10 as the Boys' and Girls' teams take on Faith Academy. Season tickets and family discount packages are available for purchase at the school office. Booster Club shirts and magnets are also available for purchase. All HCA home games will be played at New Life Baptist Church, 559 Auburndale Road, in Auburndale.

Haven Technology

We are very excited to share a few new capabilities that will be available very soon or have recently become available. Within the next few weeks, you will be able to do online shopping at our new online store. At "Haven-Mart", you will be able to purchase all of your favorite Haven items from cups to caps to shirts. In January, you will be able to make online payments through the new HCA website. We are extremely excited about our new website which is currently under construction. We hope to announce a launch date within the next few weeks. Also, you will now find HCA on www.TBO.com. We hope this will improve our online exposure.

Sharing the Haven

As I have listened to the Haven staff and parents over the past few months, one emerging theme has been the notion that Haven is not well known in the community. This fact is in spite of the consistency of the high quality of the HCA educational experience that has served many in the Polk County community over the past four decades. With that in mind, we are strategically and aggressively attempting to address this problem. A part of the solution involves you. You can assist us in improving our community-wide recognition by doing the following things on the school's behalf. We encourage you to purchase HCA magnets/memorabilia through the Boosters Club and place our HCA

Booster magnets on your vehicles. Another way you can demonstrate your support is by placing a Haven bumper sticker on your car. The bumper stickers may be found on the literature display table in the school foyer. I also encourage you to pick up some tri-fold brochures and/or the tri-fold-business-card-sized-marketing-tracts. The business-card marketing-tracts were designed for you to be able to keep them unobtrusively in a wallet or purse for distribution as you have the opportunity and inclination. Another way that you can assist us is by inviting friends to our public events (sporting events, school plays, fall festival, "Trunk or Treat", etc.). If you believe in what we are doing for your child, please share that fact with other like-minded parents. At this point in the history of the school, your willingness to share the school with others increases the school's overall capabilities and strength.

Other Upcoming Events

Friday, November 6 – Away Football game – State Semifinal game versus Zephyrhills Christian Academy – 7:30

Saturday, November 7 – Fall Festival 11:00AM-3:00PM @ HCA

Tuesday, November 10 – Away Basketball games - @ Faith

Thursday, November 12 – First Home Basketball games versus Land O Lakes Academy.

Friday, November 20 - Grandparents' Day 9:30AM-12:00.

November 23-28 – HCA closed for Thanksgiving