HCA, committed to

*Inspire* and challenge our students toward spiritual maturity

*Achieve* academic excellence

*Impact* the world for Christ

Banquet theme—

Teaching Truth: **UNAPOLOGETIC**

See pages 8–9
A Word in Season

Everything I know about God I learned at the kitchen table.

It was my grandmother’s table and it seated her four grandsons whom she helped raise. Even though we left what looked like the aftermath of a tornado wherever we went, Grandma Annie was more than up to the task of raising us – and much of her upbringing happened around her kitchen table.

Homework time was followed by daily Bible readings, often from the Old Testament. I learned of God’s love for His people and His heartache when they failed. God’s Word became a bottomless source of rich life lessons that echoed with the loving voice of my heavenly Father.

I learned to pray aloud in a personal way, just like she did. I remember her stopping in the middle of a conversation to pray for someone who needed prayer and then continue the discussion, as if it were the most natural thing in the world. Reading God’s Word and praying were part of my natural dialogue with the God who loved me just as I was, but who loved me too much to let me stay that way. At Grandma’s kitchen table I learned to call out to “My Father, who art in heaven.”

Perhaps the greatest gift she gave me was the understanding that I cannot divide the secular from the sacred. She lived life, all of life, in God’s presence. By example and instruction, she taught me that there is no corner where I can live without His presence and no place where I can suspend the moral laws which govern His creation. Grandma reminded me that “Without holiness, no one will see God” (Hebrews 12:14 NIV). As my entire life was lived in His presence, I needed to give my entire life to honoring and serving Him.

Our role as Christian educators, a distinctive of HCA, is to bring this truth to bear on our students. They may be away from church, home or their parents, but we cannot allow them to think that there is a time when they can be away from God. As a loving father who wants the best for each of His children, God is ever present and expects His children to act, speak, live and choose in a manner that pleases Him.

I also learned from others, most notably my father who modeled God’s love; but in my grandmother I found my spiritual mentor, much as Timothy found in the Apostle Paul. Paul later challenged his spiritual son to be that mentor for others when he wrote, “You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others” (2 Timothy 2:2 NLT).

As we consistently demonstrate and teach Godly values, we give our young people the opportunity to train themselves spiritually when they take our teaching to

Word continued on page 10.
HCA Welcomes New Tech Initiative

Desktop. Laptop. Tablet. Now it’s Chromebook, a different breed of laptop that is web-based, storing most of its documents and apps in the cloud. And—Chromebooks have come to HCA. We purchased a cart of thirty Chromebooks for classroom instructional use, thanks to a grant acquired from the Robert and Catherine Murray Charitable Trust. Due to the popularity of usage, another classroom cart of Chromebooks has been ordered.

Ken Burres, head of our technology department, is training a team of middle and high school teachers in the use of Chromebooks for classroom instruction. The pilot program instructed its eight participants in Chromebook usage as well as instructional strategies using the new technology which they are now applying in their middle and high school classrooms. The participants meet regularly to exchange ideas and continue learning. The next step is to expand the program, acquiring more Chromebooks, training more teachers, and equipping more students.

GATES Captivates Students

A levitating magnet and superconductor experiment, performed by Mr. Gunawan, demonstrates the amazing property of a superconductor. When cooled with liquid nitrogen, a magnet levitates above it.

Fascinated, Yaelin Hough, Joelle Lee, Natalie Hanna and Briellie Schuessler watch a magnet spin above the superconductor.

GATES, Going Above The Educational Standard, is a pull out program for qualifying students in grades three through five. Under the leadership of Mrs. Kim Burres, students come together once a week to explore topics not usually covered in their regular curriculum. This year they studied energy, mock trials and algebra; forensic science is next.

These pictures were taken during a guest visit from HCA parent Oki Gunawan, PhD, Research Staff Member at IBM TJ Watson Research Center.

Liquid nitrogen mixes with hot water to produce do-it-yourself clouds. The experiment is interactive and irresistible, teaching students about states of matter and their transformation.
High School Happenings

Guest honors Black History

Pastor Mark Rolling, invited to speak at HCA in honor of Black History Month, addresses students in the middle and high school chapels. Pastor Rolling is Pastor of Discipleship at Hawthorne Gospel Church and has a daughter at HCA.

Hands that care

Students in the Encouragement Club make prayer blankets for those who could use a dose of compassion. Each tie on the blanket represents a prayer for the recipient. The students meet twice a month with Ms. Garrison, sponsor of the high school’s newest club. Their motto is Encouraged to Encourage, reflective of 1 Thessalonians 5:13.

Blast: a sudden strong current of air

By the end of mid-terms, our high school students are ready for a breath of fresh air. Make that a blast of fresh air. Traditionally a Winter Blast comes in the form of their winter banquet, but this year students tried the other end of the spectrum—they traded their fancy dinner apparel for gym clothes and spent a night at the gym. Spa 23 in Pompton Plains opened exclusively for them, offering handball, wallyball, Zumba classes, soccer, cardio equipment, an obstacle course, fitness coach and more. It looks like the needed Winter Blast may be alternating each year between fine dining and fine toning.

Letting off steam with a little friendly competition.

Page 4 │ The Chimes
A Waterloo Village Adventure

Inscribe a message in clay, grind flour with a pestle, create a pinch pot, weigh goods on a balance scale — Lenape Indian skills of yesteryear were practiced by HCA’s fourth grade students when their studies brought them out of the textbook and onto the reservation. A 45 minute ride to Waterloo Village allowed them to experience the Lenape way of life. Guides in the seventeenth century Indian Village exhibit explained the Lenape culture—building and living in wigwams, cooking in outdoor kitchens over open fires, swaddling babies in papooses, and supplying their needs from nature.

1) A guide explains how food was prepared and cooked in a Lenape kitchen. 2) The fourth grade tribe poses at the village entrance. 3) Kieran Chung, Victoria Seidler and Ryan Hahn create clay pinch pots. 4) The pots are decorated by using a stick to etch a design. Tessa Lee and Anna Rypkema watch Laura Restrepo embellish her pot. 5) Noah Dzuzelewski and Andrew How pound corn with a mortar and pestle. 6) A guide teaches Julie Awad and Tessa Lee how to start a fire.
Read Across America is a nationwide reading celebration that occurs annually on Dr. Seuss’s birthday (aka Theodor Geisel). This year would have been his 112th birthday and the lower school celebrated by hosting its yearly Cat in the Hat Café. Students came in costume, shared snacks in the café, played Seuss games, and—oh, yes—they read. They read *The Cat in the Hat*, *Green Eggs and Ham*, *Horton Hears a Who*, *What Pet Should I Get?*, and many others of the sixty or more books Dr. Seuss wrote.

Calling all Cat in the Hat fans! Do you know these Seuss characters?

Answers: The Grinch (Zach Burres), Thing 1 (Brian Manasse), the crow from Horton Hears a Who (Timothy Said), Thing 2 (Soleille Manasse), the Lorax (Ava Higby), Thing 1 (Jillian Wesseldyke), and Cat in the Hat (Rachel Bustamante). To the right is Dr. Seuss himself (Eli Higby).

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**Reading + Art + Imagination = One Bookmark Contest**

Students in grades two through five were up for the challenge when Mrs. Davis, their lower school librarian, asked them to create bookmarks, basing the design on a favorite book or Bible verse. The winning bookmarks were copied, laminated and shared with peers. The originals are displayed on the library’s Wall of Fame.

The contest winners are, standing, William Yi (5), Anna Ramasamy (4), Anna Rypkema (4), Yaelin Hough (4), Ashleigh Maura (3); seated are Sarah Cook (4), Abigail Lee (2), Harve Pierre (2), Eli Higby (3), and Ethan Cha (2).
Student News

Bible Contest

Students’ knowledge of the history of Jacob and Esau and the life of Joseph was tested in a Bible contest for area Christian schools. The Northern New Jersey Christian School Association held the annual contest at Hackensack Christian School on February 23. Students were tested on Genesis 25-50, as well as general Bible trivia, and competed in a sword drill.

HCA’s lower school students’ scores propelled them to qualify for extended competition—a game of Bible Jeopardy.

Three students won ribbons: Conor Smith, second place for grade three; Sydney Chung, third place for grade three; and Tessa Lee, third place for grade four. All of HCA’s qualifying contestants are pictured at right.

How well do you know your geography?

Question: National Geographic Explorer Shivani Bhalla works with warriors in the local Samburu community to protect lions south of Lake Turkana in which African country? Philip Duncan’s correct answer—Kenya—put the eighth grader in first place in the National Geographic Bee for the third year in a row. For the second year, Philip qualified to compete on the state level and will test at Rowan University in April.

HCA’s competitors were chosen on the basis of grade level elimination rounds of quizzing. One student in each class, grades four through eight, succeeded to the top and competed in the National Geographic Bee in December.

Bee participants (listed with grade) were Victoria Seidler (4), Lucas Spinelli (4), Johanna Foudy (5), Julian Hough (5), Jessica Rodriguez (6), Ty Higby (6), Andrew Egedy (7), Erik Andersen (7), Philip Duncan (8) and Caleb Dalgetty (8).

Two artists win honors in Passaic County competition

Ava Lamitola’s drawing of Dey Mansion (where Washington once stayed) and Anna Rypkema’s poster that honored soldiers from Passaic County, earned the girls Honorable Mention in the Passaic County Poster Contest for fourth grade students.

The contest winners were recognized during a reception at the Passaic County Police Academy and also by Richard Goldberg, Mayor of Hawthorne, at the Borough Hall.
HCA’s Annual Banquet seems to grow in size and anticipation each year. Friends of HCA arrived at the Rockleigh Country Club ready to enjoy an evening of God-glorying testimony, silent auction fun, and fine cuisine.

Anna Srigiri was honored with the Alumni of the Year Award for her work with InterVarsity and continued support of HCA when she responded to God’s call and entered full-time ministry with InterVarsity. Recently she spoke with HCA’s student leadership.

The keynote speaker was high school teacher Dan Frederiks. In keeping with the banquet theme—Teaching Truth: UNAPOLOGETIC—Mr. Frederiks shared with the audience as he does with his students, unapologetically.

Following, were two testimonies by students John Maura and Willie Mora, whose lives were drastically changed when they committed their lives fully to Jesus Christ. Their challenge was to live unapologetically.
1) Suzanne Sanger, Banquet Chairperson, and Ingrid Nawyn put finishing touches on the silent auction. 2) Guests enjoy buffet hors d’oeuvres before dinner. 3) Keynote speaker Dan Frederiks with his wife, DarLynne. 4) Bids ran high for prized selections at the silent auction. 5) Banquet sponsors Dave and Shannon Maura and Kim Kayal. 6) The evening always provides time to connect with acquaintances old and new.

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Anna Srigiri was honored with the Alumni of the Year Award for her work and entered full-time ministry with HCA’s student leadership (see page 12).

Teacher Dan Frederiks. In keeping with UNAPOLOGETIC—Mr. Frederiks with his students, unapologetically.

Students John Maura and Willie Mora, when they committed them fully to Jesus apologetically.

1) and Ingrid Nawyn put finishing touches on the hors d’oeuvres before dinner. 3) Keynote speaker Bids ran high for prized selections at the silent auction. 6) The evening maintains old and new. Upper School Principal meet Mrs. Yoo.
Middle School Moments

The serious & the silly

Student Ambassadors smile when they welcome guests and chat with visiting students, but behind the smiles and chatter is leadership training. After students are selected through an application process, they attend training sessions led by Victoria Grant, Director of Admissions (above), and Tammy Butler, Director of Advancement. The training not only equips them to be hospitable ambassadors, but builds confidence for future opportunities.

Inhibitions flee during Spirit Week when students dress the part on Tacky Tourist Day. These sixth graders are ready to vacation in Africa, Disney or anywhere in between.

Grandma Annie is no longer with us. The morning I was to graduate with my master's degree, she "graduated" to her eternal reward. She left me with a responsibility to pass on the spiritual values she taught me.

In a sense, God has put each of our students at a great kitchen table that is Hawthorne Christian Academy, where we as Christian educators partner with families to bring our young people to spiritual maturity.

Let our lives and our loves be constant reminders of a loving God who wants all of us, all the time.

See you at the kitchen table!

Blessings,

Dave Seidman
HCA’s Servants of the King performed at Carnegie Hall as part of the National Youth Choir. This prestigious, invitation-only opportunity was a result of their Gold Medal sweep at the Heritage Festival in San Diego last spring. The Servants performed at Carnegie Hall twice before, in 2013 with the National Youth Choir and in 2014 with the National Sacred Honor Choir.

**HCA’s Fine Arts Department announces two upcoming events**

**Dessert Theatre**

April 15 & 16
7:30 p.m.
In the Pavilion

The evening includes entertaining musical theatre, creative staging, and scrumptious desserts.

*Event tickets will be available through the office.*

**Gallery Walk**

May 19
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Youth Ministries Building

Stroll through the middle/high school art exhibit to strains of music provided by HCA musicians, as student waiters serve hors d’oeuvres.

Clockwise from above is a landscape by Luke Pelaschier, an illustrated Bible verse by Maria Klimik, and a self-portrait by Tim Grant.
Alumni love coming back to give of their time and energy, sharing wisdom gained and lessons learned. Several have returned during this school year. Pictured clockwise from top left are Steven Wolfe ('98), director of Solid Foundation Skatepark, presenting at chapel; Anna Srigiri ('10), on staff with InterVarsity, encouraging HCA’s Student Ambassadors; Amos Gibello ('98), accountant pursuing ministry opportunities, challenging high school students; Tim Dedrick ('03), youth director at Cornerstone Christian Church (fresh off a Shave or Not to Shave challenge for missions), speaking at middle school chapel; and Matt Andersen ('95), Program Director for Star of Hope, collecting children’s Christmas gifts donated by our students.

Do you have something to share? Don’t be a stranger! Contact Tammy Butler at tbutler@hca.org and tell us your story.

## Alumni News

### Anthony Perales ('95)
Anthony recently moved to Lawrenceville, Georgia, as a Special Agent (Supervisory Fraud & Internal Investigator) for the Department of Homeland Security in Atlanta. As if that isn’t enough on his plate, Anthony is also a sergeant with the DeKalb County Sheriff’s Department in Decatur.

### Wedding
Marissa Ianuzzi ('12) became Mrs. John Ronetto on August 1, 2015.

### Births
- **Jake Minnema ('04)** and his wife, May, announce the birth of twins, Caleb Wade and Ellie Carol, born November 25, 2015. Jake is Pastor of Student Ministries at Hawthorne Gospel Church and lives with his family in Haskell.
- **Alyssa (Rittinger) Nye ('09)** and her husband, fourth grade teacher Tim Nye, announce the birth of their first child, Jonah Christopher Nye, born November 14, 2015. The Nyes live in Prospect Park.

*Like us on Facebook*

Send alumni news to bhigby@hca.org.

## Christmas Connection

Before we eat, we play. Those up for the challenge, met prior to the Alumni Christmas Gathering for a basketball workout, others sat in the stands to cheer before a casual evening of noshing and catching up.

The players in the alumni game were Caleb Hart, Dan Aust, Peter Struz, Charis Goulding, Jake Hart, Kevin Standford, Gabby Lauda, Mike Eelman, HCA sophomore Justin Augustin, CJ Goulding, Josh Acosta and Dave Seidman, Head of School.
Advancement Updates

One of the favorite aspects of my position as the Director of Advancement is to work with HCA's parent volunteers. Some of those volunteers are parents of current students and others are parents of alumni who continue to serve HCA. I appreciate the way each of us provides a piece of the puzzle. No one person can create a beautiful picture alone, but as we work together in community our gifts and talents fit together like puzzle pieces. Together we complete God's design for HCA and create a stunning picture.

This was recently demonstrated during the planning and implementation of this year’s banquet, beginning with the theme. Several committee members brought pieces to the table and they fit together to read Teaching Truth: [UN]Apologetic. From there, many more pieces fit together - programming, decorations, auction elements, and support in every area.

This is a small example of the amazing way the HCA Family works to bring glory to God through individual pieces of time, gifts, support and encouragement. The value in each piece is found in its unique place in forming the whole picture. Thank you for bringing your piece of the puzzle to HCA. You are an important part that reflects God’s design for HCA.

"Christ distributes courage through community; he dissipates doubts through fellowship. He never deposits all knowledge in one person but distributes pieces of the jigsaw puzzle to many." –Max Lucado

In Memoriam

Katerina Bianca Diaz ('02) went home to be with her Lord on Saturday, December 5, 2015. Although "Kat" battled lingering health problems while a student at HCA and at Florida Atlantic University, she was a testimony to God’s grace and radiated His joy. Katerina was 21 years old. She is survived by her mother, Linda Diaz, and a host of friends.

Katerina’s mother is establishing a memorial scholarship in her daughter’s name. Donations for tuition aid can be made to the Katerina Bianca Diaz Memorial Fund.

Upcoming Events

Dessert Theatre
April 15 & 16, 7:30 p.m.

Lower School
Spring Concert
May 12, 6:50 p.m.

M/H School
Spring Concert
May 17, 7:30 p.m.

Middle School
Graduation
June 9, 2016, 7:00 p.m.

High School
Graduation
June 10, 2016, 7:00 p.m.

Gallery Walk
May 19, 7-9:00 p.m.

How can you support HCA’s mission?

Tuition income covers about ninety percent of our budget. Ten percent (approximately $250,000) is met through fund-raisers and contributions. If you would like to support the ongoing ministry of Hawthorne Christian Academy please send your gift to Hawthorne Christian Academy at 2000 Route 208, Hawthorne, NJ 07506. Thank you for taking part in the ministry of HCA.
Basketball News

Varsity Girls
The twelve Lady Defenders delivered a strong season with an optimistic future. Two new coaches heightened the level of excitement and intensity this year—head coach Natalie Russamano and assistant coach Jessica Awad (’12), a former Defender. Two seniors, Evelyn Park and Genesis Bayron (new to HCA this year), and sophomore Hailey Oquendo-Escobar won honors (listed on next page). With only two Defenders graduating, we expect to maintain momentum next year with ten members returning.

MS Boys
The junior Defenders finished the season with an excellent record of 14-2. The team was led by a strong eighth grade class but Coach Matt Andersen (’95) was excited with the development of the sixth and seventh graders on his team.

MS Girls
The junior Lady Defenders finished the season with five wins, an excellent accomplishment considering the strength of their schedule. Their coach, Aaron Van Dyk (’96) has witnessed growing improvement in his four years as coach and was selected by the PCCA to receive the 2016 Honor Award.

HCA Athletic Department hosts National Signing Day

Rene White signs to play Division I soccer at NJIT (New Jersey Institute of Technology). An exceptional soccer player during his HCA high school career, Rene was named North Jersey Player of the Year in his senior year and received All-State honors. Rene’s family is pictured with him.

Will Woodfin signs to play soccer at Wheaton College in Illinois. Will was a standout soccer player all four years at HCA and earned All State first team honors. Will is pictured with his family.

HCA's Bowlers

The Defender Bowling Team. Returning varsity player Joshua Butler broke 200 four times this season and Kirk Schmidt, new to the varsity team, exceeded 200 six times. The Defenders concluded their eighth season at the Passaic County Tournament, bowling a total of 1950 for the three games. Pictured standing are, Daniel Bocanegra, Joshua Butler, Coach Samantha Boonstra, Tim Jackson and Kirk Schmidt; kneeling are Beatrice Rejouis, Grace DeBoer, Rachel Van Lenten and Madeline Campbell; Rachel Rubio is absent.
Defenders Score

The 2015-2016 season provided special moments and unique challenges for the boys' varsity basketball program. When three starters missed an extended part of the season due to injuries, the team pulled together in the face of adversity. Younger players earned valuable experience and improved their game through increased time on the court.

There were several season highlights, one of which was winning the Eastern Christian Christmas Ball Tournament. The Defenders also earned a home game in the County Tournament and qualified for their 5th consecutive NJSIAA State Tournament.

Honors went to senior Clarence Fitchett, team co-captain, who won All-League 1st Team and honorable mention All-County; sophomore David Falcon, All-League 2nd team and honorable mention All-County; and senior Jon Williams, team co-captain, honorable mention All-League.

Sports Awards

Varsity Boys Basketball

Clarence Fitchett (12) – 1st Team All League, Honorable Mention All County
David Falcon (10) – 2nd Team All League, Honorable Mention All County
Jon Williams (12) – Honorable Mention All League

Varsity Girls Basketball

Genesis Bayron (12) – 2nd Team All League, Honorable Mention All County
Evelyn Park (12) – Honorable Mention All County
Hailey Escobar (10) – Honorable Mention All League

Varsity Boys/Girls Bowling

Josh Butler (11) – 2nd Team All League, Honorable Mention All County
Kirk Schmidt (10) – 2nd Team All League, Honorable Mention All County
Beatrice Rejouis (11) – Honorable Mention All League, Honorable Mention All County
Grace DeBoer (11) – Honorable Mention All County
Students Respond to the Call

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Prayer in a Christian school is expected. Lower school students voluntarily coming to school early to pray together is noteworthy. When students approached Mrs. Pfeiffer, their Lower School Principal, and asked how and when they could meet to pray for the needs of the lower school, a plan was formed—Thursday mornings before the start of school. Would this work? Would the students come? Oh, yes! Every Thursday morning twenty-five to thirty students from grades four and five get to school by 7:45 to pray together, the boys with Coach Standford in the art room (above) and the girls with Mrs. Pfeiffer in the library. The young prayer warriors share requests, pray aloud, and take turns leading a devotional. They are experiencing the power of community and setting an example for us all.

Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." Luke 18:16