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"It was exciting to watch our students grow through the process and display such confidence when presenting on the day of the Wax Museum."

- Mrs. Rebecca Retherford  
3rd Grade Teacher

53rd ANNIVERSARY  
1970-2023



# NEWSLETTER

A Lower School Newsletter  
from Harrells Christian Academy

April | 2023

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION THROUGH CHRISTIAN MOTIVATION

## A WALK THROUGH TIME

The third graders at HCA have been busy traveling through time and learning more about some interesting historical figures.

During the 3rd grading period, students spent time researching and working through the writing process in order to write informational reports focused on specific historical figures. One student traveled as far back in time as the 1700s and explored the life of Sacagewea and her work with Lewis and Clark, while others spent time researching the lives of those who continue to impact others today, like Dolly Parton.

Students also worked to complete a full presentation including a short speech, timeline, photos and fun facts about their historical figure. On March 3, 2023, in the HCA Foundation Center, students presented *A Walk Through Time: A Living Wax Museum*. Some famous athletes spotted that day included Babe Ruth, Mary Lou Retton, and Mia Hamm. Judith Love Cohen, Neil Armstrong, and Sally Ride made an appearance

and shared a little about their work with NASA. Amelia Earhart, Charles Lindbergh, and Orville Wright took some time to share their love of flying. The King of Rock 'n' Roll, Elvis Presley, and the Queen of Soul, Aretha Franklin, also provided a little entertainment.

While this project required a large amount of time, our students persevered and tackled the task. The Wax Museum was a huge success! Through this project, students made connections with those from the past and found inspiration for the future.

As we move into the final grading period of the year, third graders are working through a novel study of *Because of Winn-Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo. They will also be reading and writing poetry and working through their geometry unit in math. In science, students will explore seeds and plants and during social studies they will learn about economics and work towards building financial literacy.



# HCA Day

## April 13, 2023

### 3:30 PM

#### \*Game Schedules:

Varsity Softball game - 4:30 pm  
 Varsity Girls Soccer game - 4:00 pm  
 Varsity Baseball - 4:00 pm  
 Middle School Baseball - 4:00 pm

#### \*\$100 Raffle Tickets

\$5,000 CASH GRAND PRIZE or HCA tuition credit of equal value!

\*Food Trucks, Face Painting, FFA Plant sale, Bake Sale, Spirit Shop & Painting  
 Start @ 3:30

\*Raffle tickets can be purchased online at the link below or  
 by scanning the QR code below.  
<https://one.bidpal.net/hcaday2023/welcome>



## APRIL

3	MONDAY	3RD GRADE FIELD TRIP	8:15 AM	Wilmington, NC
4	TUESDAY	PTO MEETING	8:15 AM	Cafeteria
6	THURSDAY	SCHOOL WIDE - EASTER CHAPEL	8:15 AM	Newkirk Auditorium
7-10	FRIDAY- MONDAY	EASTER BREAK		
13	THURSDAY	1ST GRADE FIELD TRIP	8:00 AM	Raleigh, NC
13	THURSDAY	HCA DAY	4:00 PM	Campus Wide
20	THURSDAY	4TH/5TH GRADE FIELD TRIP	8:00 AM	Raleigh, NC
27	THURSDAY	LS JAMMIN' FOR JESUS/TERRIFIC KIDS	9:45 AM	Newkirk Auditorium

# ERB

## HCA Continues Assessments to Measure Student Performance

Most parents of Harrells Christian Academy children in **grades 3-8** have seen the notation in the school calendar announcing **standardized testing, May 2-4.**

We have given one particular achievement test, the ACT Aspire, each May for the past 6-7 years to gauge how our students are learning in different subject areas. Last year was our first experience with the **comprehensive testing by the Educational Records Bureau (ERB).** This is an achievement test that, unlike the Inview (which measures their IQ/ability level), measures their mastery of content knowledge at their grade level as compared nationally to their peers.

**Who is ERB and what are these tests?** ERB is not the name of the test itself. The tests are called "comprehensives" but most schools choose to use the name of the nonprofit educational organization (Educational Records Bureau) which oversees the development, administration, and scoring of tests for more than 1,600 independent and public schools.

**The multiple choice test by ERB is a battery of short tests (30-45 minutes each) given in the morning over three days and is designed to provide information about a student's performance in several key areas (depending on the grade level): reading, listening, vocabulary, math, science, and writing.**

For many parents and students, these tests evoke a twinge of nervousness and raise questions around how standardized tests will impact our students' lives. We're conditioned through the current news cycle and our own experiences with standardized tests to worry about how these tests will be used and, depending on our scores, how the rest of our lives might be impacted. With those concerns lurking in our minds, no wonder we may find ourselves panicking!

The good news is that, while standardized tests do play a role in our world, much of our concern, particularly around ERBs, is an overreaction. One of the benefits of a school like Harrells Christian Academy is that our children are protected from much of the high-stakes testing (testing with a direct consequence attached to the result-like EOG's/EOC's). We are truly able to use these tests as they were designed—to inform our teaching practice and your child(ren)'s learning.

So, relax-and your children will, too! Just make sure they get a good night's rest, eat a healthy breakfast and dress in layers! We will help them "do their best on their test!"