



harrellsca.com

"We are excited to continue the legacy of Joseph and Betty Newkirk in our 53rd school year."

- Andy Wells
Head of School

53rd ANNIVERSARY
1970-2023



NEWSLETTER

A Lower School Newsletter
from Harrells Christian Academy

September | 2022

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION THROUGH CHRISTIAN MOTIVATION

An Enduring Legacy of Love, Faith and Service

We have had a great start to our 53rd year at Harrells Christian Academy. This marks the first school year without one of our most-beloved founders and "Peppermint Lady," Mrs. Betty Newkirk. You may have seen her name along the wall of the "Joseph and Betty Newkirk Auditorium," or noticed her portrait flanking the stage with her late husband's. The couple started Harrells Christian Academy in 1970, and Mrs. Newkirk continued to greet people at our front desk until a few short years ago.

Each year, Mrs. Newkirk would call our front office to wish us a "Happy First Day of School." We missed that call this year as Mrs. Betty Newkirk passed away on June 27, 2022. But in this new school year, we will continue to work towards the mission and vision she and her husband, "Joe," had for our school. Our mission statement reads, "With faith, family, and a focus on the future, Harrells Christian Academy strives to build Christian character, develop minds, and achieve academic success." We know this is what they envisioned when they started this special school.

At HCA, we strive to continuously improve. We want our students to grow academically, evolve in their faith, build lasting meaningful relationships, and prepare to be productive and responsible citizens.

As parents and teachers, we focus a great deal on standardized test scores, math problems, and that all-important research paper. But, when our day is done, what will people remember us for? At Mrs. Newkirk's celebration of life service, held in her namesake auditorium, her family remembered her through stories shared by people whose lives she impacted.

Friends and family mentioned how dedicated she was; the headmaster would (unsuccessfully) try to arrive before her to work in the dark hours of morning. Did you know at one time she worked for the FBI? I am sure that is where she picked up her punctuality.

Mrs. Newkirk was remembered for her care and love for her family, her colleagues, and the lives of thousands of students she touched in her 52 years with HCA. Many children's tears and tummy-aches were cured with a hug and peppermint from her jar at the front



desk, and she never stopped calling to check on her family at HCA. This is what people recall about her time here on earth, not her academic or professional success.

So, as we go about our busy school days making new memories for this 53rd school year, and get back into the hustle and bustle of extracurriculars and homework, remember the care and love Mrs. Newkirk put into her job each day at HCA. Our first priority as a faculty and staff is to show that same love and care to your students each and every day.

If you ever need to share anything that will help your child learn and grow, please reach out to us. As always, we are here to answer any questions or concerns.



Good Grief! What a Majestic Reef!

Lower school students created a beautiful composition of the Great Barrier Reef for this collaborative mural project. They learned to use simple materials: paper, crayons and paint sticks to make a one of a kind under the sea artwork. Not only did students learn interesting facts about the Great Barrier Reef for a science connection, but they also explored important art concepts such as space, overlap, color, and texture.

Kindergarten and first grade's contributions to the mural were fish. Second grade drew and colored sea horses. Third grade created crabs for the ocean floor and Fourth grade designed unique sea turtles. Fifth grade painted the ocean and coral to complete the mural project.

Sabrina Armstrong, LS Art Teacher/STREAM Lab (K-2)



HCA Welcomes New LS Faculty

Ashlynn Haney, 4th & 5th Grades



Aaron Owens, 1st Grade



Joy Thornton, 2nd Grade



Erika Tyndall, 4th & 5th Grades



Madison Warren, 3rd Grade



Your HCA Family
welcomes you!
We also pray
your 1st year is
blessed!

For Your Fridge SEPTEMBER

5	Monday	Labor Day - No School		
6	Tuesday	PTO meeting	8:15 AM	Cafeteria
7	Wednesday	Charleston Wrapping Paper Sale ends at Midnight!		
12-23	Mon-Fri	Lower School Parent Conference weeks		
26	Monday	Senior and Fall Make Up Pictures		Foundation Center lobby
28	Wednesday	See You at the Pole	10:00 AM	Murphy-Johnson Field



Join us for good old-fashioned
FAMILY FUN @
HCA'S
Bazaar
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3rd
3:00 pm - 7:30 pm

GAMES • FOOD • AUCTION • MUSIC

Save the Date!