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"I truly enjoyed seeing their projects come to life and just one of the many reasons I'm so glad to be working with these precious students at Harrells Christian Academy."
-Mrs. Patricia Sessoms

52nd ANNIVERSARY
1970-2022



NEWSLETTER

A Lower School Newsletter
from Harrells Christian Academy

April | 2022

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION THROUGH CHRISTIAN MOTIVATION



A Walk Through Time

The third graders at HCA have been busy traveling back in time, learning more about some of their favorite historical figures.

During the 3rd grading period, students spent time researching and working through the writing process in order to write reports focused on specific, historical figures. One student traveled as far back in time as the 1500's and explored the life of Pocahontas, while others spent time researching the lives of those who have had a more recent impact on the lives of others. Students also worked to complete a full presentation including a short speech, timeline, photos and fun facts about their historical figure. On March 11, 2022, in the HCA Foundation Center, students presented A Walk Through Time: A Living Wax Museum.

Some famous athletes spotted that day included Babe Ruth, Michael Jordan and Bethany Hamilton. Florence Nightingale and Clara Barton made an appearance, and shared a little about their work in the medical field in the 1800's.

Jane Goodall and her favorite gorilla, Koko were present and professional bull rider Lane Frost shared the story of his final ride. America's favorite Golden Girl, Betty White, and Back to the Future star, Michael J. Fox also made an appearance. 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, the third graders are preparing to begin a novel study of *Because of Winn-Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo. They will also be reading and writing poetry. The students will be studying geometry in their final math unit. During science time, students will be learning all about plants and the stages of the plant life cycle. In social studies, students will learn about economics and work towards building their financial literacy.



ERB

A New Series of Assessments to Measure Student Performance

For Your Fridge APRIL

5	Tues	PTO Meeting	8:15 AM	Cafeteria
7	Thurs	HCA Day		
8	Fri	Miss HCA	7:00 PM	Newkirk Auditorium
14	Thur	Easter Chapel	8:15 AM	Foundation Center
15-18	Fri-Mon	Easter Break		
22	Fri	Crusader Classic	9:00 AM	River Landing, Wallace, NC
27	Wed	4th Grade Trip		NC Aquarium, Fort Fisher
27-28	Wed-Thur	5th Grade Trip		Williamsburg, VA

HCA will administer a new achievement test this spring. We have chosen a series of academic tests created by the Educational Records Bureau-or ERB. Students will take a series of short (30-45 min each) multiple choice tests over a period of a few days. This year's testing will be May 2-5 for all 3rd-8th graders.

Who is ERB? ERB is not the name of the test itself. It is the name of a nonprofit educational organization (Educational Records Bureau) that oversees the development, administration, and scoring of tests for more than 1,600 independent and public schools.

The multiple choice CTP 5 by ERB is a battery of tests 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 (definition: testing with a direct consequence attached to the result). 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 kids will, too! Just make sure they get a good breakfast and dress in layers! We will help them "do their best on their test!"

HCA DAY

Thurs, April 7th
BBQ Plates & \$1 raffle tickets!

Mark your calendar to come out and support HCA Athletics, eat dinner and purchase a \$1 raffle ticket with a chance to win 10% of the proceeds.