



HCLC Insight

From the desk of Jan Gleeson, Executive Director

May 2008

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Upcoming Events:

Graduation

Monday, June 2nd

Last Day of School

(Grades 7 -11)

Friday, June 6th

Last Day of School

(Grades PreK-6)

Wednesday, June 11th

First Day of School

(Grades Pre-K-12)

Monday, July 28th

The Week of July 14th

Look for your "Beginning of the Year" documents online and in our summer mailer.

Another HCLC Year Comes to a Close

Again this year, HCLC has been blessed with exceptional students, responsive parents, and dedicated teachers. We all feel so strongly about the education of our children, with each group - students, parents, and teachers - contributing a unique perspective. Collectively, we have formed a community with values that bond us together. And while we

can't be all things to all people, we certainly try.

Hopefully, you realize that HCLC is a complete package. It is not a smorgasbord from which to choose. It is a philosophy, a structure, and a series of values that fit together to create a whole unified school of which we are extremely proud. Every single piece upholds the next.

Thank you for supporting all the pieces this year. That is what continues to make HCLC the miracle it is today.

Enjoy your summer with your children. We sure have throughout this year. They are the reason we have chosen this profession and the reason why we look forward to greeting them again in July.

"Make the Difference" Dessert

I would like to personally thank those of you who so generously contributed to Soaring Eagles Society this year. You know that we are passionate about our dreams for your children, and we want to give them everything that education has to offer. And yet, we can't afford to do so as explained in previous School Roundtable discussions and publications. We feel education is one of the few areas in life where "entitlement" is appropriate. You have entitled your children by contributing to SES and participating in our "Make the Difference" Dessert.

As of this date, we have

raised \$97,743 from 102 HCLC families. We will continue to track our progress throughout the next couple months.

Please share with friends, family members, and other HCLC families what we are trying to accomplish at this school and why you have chosen to have your children educated here.

You read in our brochure our priorities for SES funds. On the top of the list was maintaining our current offerings and increasing our electives so our students have a well-rounded educational opportunity at HCLC. Next, we want to increase our technology. It

is a shame that students now-a-days have more sophisticated technology at home than they do at their schools. These will be the two goals we hope to achieve through SES. The extent to which we will accomplish these goals will be determined by the fundraising progress we continue to make. On the fundraising survey many of you filled out, you indicated support in the areas of electives and technology as well.

Thanks again for your generosity. We are proud to have you here constantly supporting your kids and the school that is trying hard to entitle them.

Dress Code Approved

On May 13th, the HCLC School Board approved the School Improvement Team's dress code recommendations for the next four years. After eight months of analyzing data, the S.I.T. team reached consensus through compromise on the following three items highlighted in the student, staff, and parent survey:

Students will not have a school uniform

Students can choose to untuck collarless shirts during the school day

Student will not wear logos on shirts

THE PROCESS

In reaching these decisions on behalf of the school, the team considered many concerns expressed on the surveys, School Forums, e-mails, and other meetings: self-esteem, keeping up with the fashions/styles, enforcement and consistency, finding shirts, and maintaining HCLC's high standard, to name a few. One of the tools used in these discussions as opinions and input differed was to refer to the dress code rationale for guidance in achieving a final recommendation.

DRESS CODE RATIONALE

Every student has intrinsic worth based upon who he or she is and not what he or she wears. HCLC wants to create an environment in which each student can develop those innate qualities, focus on learning, and contribute in a positive way to the community.

HCLC also believes that cultural pressures related to clothing choice can distract students and undermine that positive environment. The adopted dress code encourages self-discipline, safety, and modesty and will still allow students to be creative in exercising choice.

Did the concerns reflect the intent of the rationale? Although not an easy conclusion to reach, according to the S.I.T. Team, the self-esteem issues did support the intent of the rationale. There was not consensus that a dress code should keep up with the styles nor that shirts without logos are impossible to find.

After lengthy discussions during meetings, some teacher representatives felt as though the dress code enforcement issue really revolved around tucking in shirts more than whether a student was wearing a logo. According to them, enforcement of the logo rule did not disrupt the learning process nor diminish the teacher/student relationship as much as the "tucking in" issue did. Others felt as though by approving that collarless shirts could be worn out, we were encouraging a sloppier look.

A KEY THEME

A key theme in the dress code discussions was the desire to make a decision that proved the team listened to the stakeholders. This was a difficult, although admirable goal. "Difficult" because it is virtually impossible to make

decisions that 1,400 people will be happy with. There is a difference between "listening" to over 1,400 people and "doing" what each of the 1,400 stakeholders want you to do. "Admirable" because we all try to achieve that goal in our decision-making.

The survey, offered to all HCLC stakeholders, represented one piece of the data used to analyze the future dress code. Although not everyone chose to fill out the dress code survey, of those 43% of our parents, 78% of our staff, and 92% of our students who did, the survey participants supported not tucking in shirts without collars, supported allowing shirts with logos, and did not support school uniforms. The S.I.T. Team was able to reach consensus on two of the three, feeling that allowing collarless shirts to be worn out would provide more clothing options for all students/parents PreK-12.

We appreciate the hard work and effort that resulted in these decisions and we encourage everyone ... parents, students, and staff, to support the School Improvement Team, School Board and School Leadership's decisions. We are committed to enforcing the dress code fairly and focus our attentions on academics next year. Please help us by supporting our efforts at home. You can find the dress code survey results in the school offices if you are interested. Thank you all for your involvement.

Congratulations

Class of 2007-08
\$2,395,368
in Scholarships

Ethan Thai
Finalist in the
Doodle 4 Google
Competition

Anne Ellenberger
Finalist for AIA
Cox Every Day Hero

Kylie Brill
Regional Champion in
Shot Put

Intermediate School
Winners of
The Battle of the Books
Competition

Amber Richardson
Choral Leadership
Award

Kai Decker
Choral Musicianship
Award

Emi Smith
Band Musicianship
Award