

# The Epistle

A Newsletter for Families, Alumni and Friends of Harrisburg Christian School

Winter 2006

<http://www.hcs.nu>

## A City on a Hill

By Brian Sipe, Class of 2001

**"Consider that we shall be as a City upon a Hill, the eyes of all people are upon us."**

John Winthrop, Governor Massachusetts Bay Colony (1630)

The following are excerpts from the keynote address by Brian Sipe ('01) at the *Ambassadors of Excellence* Campaign Banquet 11/19/05:

*I believe not just in Christian Education, but in HCS' approach to Christian Education.*

**A Valuable Return on Investment:** *When I was 5 years old, my parents made what is in my mind one of the best decisions of their life. My parents believed that sacrificing a brand new car or dream vacation was worth the money spent to send my sister and I to HCS. [Today] I believe now every last penny spent was worth it. I say that because the investment made for a Christian Education at HCS is invaluable. The life lessons taught, the love and respect from faculty and staff, and the friendships made to last a lifetime can not have a price tag put on them.*

**An HCS Opportunity:** *The faculty genuinely care for their students and want them ALL to succeed in life. They love to teach in a school where truth isn't relative and they can train up children in the way they should go. These people make the difference in the education at HCS.*

**Unapologetically Christian:** *HCS continues to challenge teachers to stay up with the latest trends in teaching to make sure our students are getting a quality education. The school is continuing to produce successful students who go onto higher education and become our future business leaders, politicians and quality workers in the world. But what am I most proud of that HCS is still doing?! They are not afraid to say who and what they are: A school which will provide a Christian perspective on the total world view from which will come a balanced personality and a proper understanding and acceptance of a person's role in life at home, at work, at play and at worship--all grounded in the Christian concept of love.*

**Prepared for a Purpose:** *Not only did the material taught at HCS prepare me for college, but the foundation in the Bible that it was taught in was even more beneficial. There is a statistic out there that says almost 75% of students who are brought up in a Christian background will turn away from their beliefs after spending 4 years at a non-religious university. A school board was voted out a few weeks ago because they wanted to bring the theory of intelligent design into*

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## HCS OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, Feb. 5th 2:00 PM-4:00 PM

Tuesday, Feb. 7th 9:00 AM-11:00 AM

Thursday, Feb. 9th 9:00 AM-11:00 AM & 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

Campus Tours Classroom Visits

Seminar - The Value of a Christian Education \*\*

Seminar - How Can I Afford a Christian Education? \*\*

Panel Discussions \*\*

\*\* Panel Discussions and Seminars are offered on Sunday and Thursday Evening Open Houses only

## "2006 Spring to the Challenge" Auction

Saturday, March 18

6:00 PM—9:00 PM

Silent & Live Auction

Live Music

Heavy Hors d'oeuvre's

[www.hcs.nu](http://www.hcs.nu)

## 8th GRADE LEADERS IN TRAINING

This past Fall, HCS instituted an 8th Grade Leadership Retreat designed to introduce students to the principles and practices of Biblical leadership (Matt. 20:28). Students participated in outdoor activities which required them to move beyond that which they were comfortable doing by working together and encouraging one another. Students were challenged to consider the application of the Biblical model of leading by serving, the importance of setting a vision to accomplish a personal or group goal, the important skills necessary to work effectively together as a team, and the Biblical assurance they have that God has uniquely designed them to be leaders for ministry in His Kingdom.

After the retreat, one 8th grade girl commented, "I am committed to finding God's vision for my life and remaining committed to what God has planned for me." It is the vision and goal of HCS to graduate leaders that will change the world for Christ.



### 4th ANNUAL EVENING OF THE ARTS

Our MS/HS Art and Music students were given the chance to shine during the 4th Annual Evening of the Arts. The ceramic bowls table looked fantastic! Over 200 pieces were made by the MS/HS Art & Ceramic students. MS/HS music students performed throughout the evening while people enjoyed delicious soups, breads, and fantastic desserts. The event was concluded with a performance by the a cappella musical group, *Harmonies of Grace*.

### Sports Recognitions

The 2005 girl's varsity soccer program received the NSCAA/Adidas High School Team Academic Award. This was the eighth consecutive year that the ladies have been honored with the award. In order to qualify for the award, the team must have a collective GPA of 3.25 or better. The team was the only team in the Harrisburg area to be honored with this award and one of only 350 high school teams nationwide to receive the award. Congratulation ladies!



The Patriot-News Big 11 Soccer Team recognized Tim Kertland and Kent Ramirez honorable mentions and Jason Holmes freshman to watch. It also named Kristine Corsnitz honorable mention for the Field Hockey Big 11.

## AFE CAMPAIGN UPDATE

by Jody Fausnight

HCS has launched a two-year, \$850,000 campaign for financial vitality and financial aid. The *Ambassadors for Excellence* Campaign — spanning from July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2007 — has already garnered pledge commitments for over \$425,000 during the first several months of its silent, advance phase!

Additionally, all regular and one-time gifts received in response to the public phase of the campaign (since 11/19/05) are to be matched dollar for dollar, up to \$200,000 if given by March 1, 2007. We praise the Lord for the advance commitments to the campaign and for those who have already responded with \$30,865 in new gifts.

This campaign also incorporates giving for the Helping Hands Annual Fund, increasing tuition aid endowment funds, establishing an operating/facility maintenance endowment, providing some cash flow reserves and retiring short-term indebtedness for HCS. Learn more about the *AFE* Campaign at the HCS website (homepage at [www.hcs.nu](http://www.hcs.nu)). Questions may be directed to Tom Wieland, Headmaster, at 717-545-3728 (ext. 102) or Jody Fausnight, Campaign Director, at 717-545-7234.

## Service Projects at HCS

**A Bethesda Blessing.** The students of HCS partnered with Bethesda Mission in providing over 300 needy families with a food bag for Christmas. Bags included turkey, stuffing, corn, green beans, instant potatoes, sweet potatoes, fruit cocktail, cranberry sauce and gravy. HCS Students contributed nearly 350 cans of green beans and 325 boxes of stuffing. HCS and Bethesda Mission thanks the many school families who served to bless those in need this Christmas.

**Merry Christmas.** The 1st and 4th grade classes went to nearby nursing homes to share the Christmas story through song. It was fun visiting with the residents and ministering to them.

**HCS Student Visits Thailand.** Kristin Caynor, a 7th grader at HCS, visited Thailand with her father and others through ABWE in Nov., 2005. "Thailand was fun and sad at the same time. It was fun experiencing a new place. It was sad to think that most of the people I saw have never even heard the name of Jesus. I saw the devastation caused by the tsunami in Phuket. I



I went to a public school and shared about Christ. It was great to see the kids listen intently to the gospel presentation. I am glad that God has called my family to this country as ambassadors for Him."

## Homecoming 2006



We had an amazing Homecoming! The court was selected by their peers and teachers with criteria including academic, spiritual, leadership and community. The representatives from the Freshman Class were Jason Holmes, Nikki Latsha, Jon Kertland, Melissa Todoroff, Adam Parmer and Alexandra Golden. The Sophomore Class representatives were Daniel Brooker, Sarah Smith, Kent Ramirez, Jessica Shirk, Samuel Hanmer and Jordan Trout. The Junior Class representatives were Matthew Linstedt, Alison Racilla, Doug Linstedt, Olivia Madeira, James Hirt, and Victoria Spade. The Senior Class court was Tim Kertland, Amy Williams, John Perdigao, Katie Arvey, David Kent, and Hannah Kertland. At the reception following the Varsity Girls' and Boys' Basketball game victories, Tim Kertland and Hannah Kertland were announced as the Homecoming Court King and Queen of 2006.



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the science classroom. It is asked, "Where is God?" when students use violence in schools or don't have a clear cut direction for their lives. God never leaves us; unfortunately our public school system has left Him.

**A City on a Hill:** God is very much in the picture and has not been left behind at HCS. I am not afraid to say I am a Bible believing Christian because I was taught and I believe that the Word of God is real and living. My 13 years spent at Harrisburg Christian School planted the foundation for those beliefs and it is my prayer that I only build upon that foundation for the rest of my life. The Lord tells us to build our house upon a rock. I was glad to build my education upon a rock. I pray that rock, known as HCS, continues to teach young men and women life lessons in the truth of God to continue for a lifetime. President Ronald Reagan challenged America to be a city of light upon a hill for the entire world to see. That is the challenge for HCS. This school needs to continue to grow and increase the amount of light we are giving to a dark world. Our students are the future light of America and like President Reagan thought, I think HCS needs to be that city where the light comes from. **I believe wholeheartedly in the shining light of HCS** and it is my prayer that our light will never be extinguished. May God continue to bless HCS.

Brian Sipe is a 2001 graduate of HCS. Brian has his BS in Business Management and Marketing Communications from Elizabethtown College and currently serves as Admissions Counselor there.

### Upcoming Events at HCS

- January 16 NO SCHOOL
- January 20-24 Semester Exams for grades 6-12
- January 26 Pastors' Breakfast
- February 6 Association Mtg
- February 7 Re-Enrollment Begins
- February 16 Seminar 7PM "How to Pay For A Christian Education"
- February 20 NO SCHOOL
- February 21 Open Enrollment
- March 2-4 "My Fair Lady"
- March 18 Benefit Auction

### The Epistle

Published for the families, alumni, and friends of the Harrisburg Christian School. Thomas Wieland, Headmaster; Philip Puleo, Middle School/High School Principal; Evelyn Kalbfleisch, Elementary Principal; Joseph D. Fausnight, Jr., Development Associate; Carol Myers, Editor.

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Minds Sharpened Through Academic Challenge;  
Lives Aimed at God's Purpose."  
(Psalm 127)**