

The Epistle

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

Winter/Spring 2004

<http://www.hcs.nu>

A World(view) of Difference

By Philip G. Puleo, Middle/High School Principal

In a rapidly declining culture, a solid Christian Worldview will make "a world of difference" in the lives of our Christian young people. It was once believed that one could insulate and protect oneself from the worldliness that exists in our culture. However, as demonstrated by the Super Bowl half-time fiasco of Justin Timberlake and Janet Jackson, Christians are now beginning to realize that one does not

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even need to leave the confines of his or her own home to be confronted with today's secular and paganistic culture. One needs only to turn on the evening news to see that even marriage is no longer a sacred institution but something to be distorted to satisfy whatever evil desires one can imagine. It is safe to say that the "War of Worldviews" has begun in earnest.

What is a "worldview"? As defined by Dr. Bill Brown, President of Cedarville College, a worldview is "a set of assumptions that make up one's personal outlook on the nature of the world and how one is to live

in it." A worldview has two critical components -- *what one believes* and *how one behaves*.

What then is a Christian Worldview?

A Christian worldview rests on the truth that a living, personal God — separate from and transcendent over His creation — has revealed Himself and His truth through His creation (the universe) and His Word (the Bible). Dr. Brown writes, "God has shown man how to make sense of his world and his life. God explains *why* He made the world and where He is leading it. In Scripture He unveils the cause of suffering, the remedy for evil, and the ultimate end of all things."

Modern Decline of a Christian Worldview.

Unfortunately even a solid Christian worldview appears to be in decline as we enter 21st century Christendom. George Barna, a Christian pollster, notes that 95% of self-proclaimed "Christian" young people do not believe in absolutes. That translates to a decline in the belief in the authority of Scripture and to an increase in a relative moral paradigm. Before we are too hard on our

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Elementary "Unique Month" Sparks Imagination

The month of January was a "Unique" one for the elementary students of HCS. The students and faculty participated in special activities such as: Wear a Christmas Present Day, Puzzle Day, School Spirit Day, Fancy Foot Day, Read a Book Day, and Popcorn Day. It was amazing to see how creative and enthusiastic the students (and faculty!) were, especially on Multicolor Clash Day — what a sight to behold! They did so well it truly hurt to look at them. It made the long month of January fly by. For

the week of January 12, the elementary students were challenged to go "Cold Turkey" and not play video games or watch TV for the entire week. The children were instead to try things they normally did not do — help cook a meal, learn a new game or craft, read more, enjoy family activities, etc. Approximately 2/3 of our elementary students accepted and successfully completed the "Cold Turkey Challenge"! Miss Kalbfleisch is hoping the children continue to build on those family times together.

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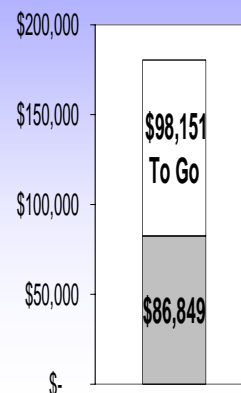
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young people, Barna goes on to say that his studies show that only 51% of “evangelical ministers” hold to a Christian worldview, and that only 5% of the families in the congregations of those ministers have a Christian worldview. In short, many Christians have exchanged the Truth for the opportunity to justify the sinful desires of their hearts (Romans 1) and for the incompatible merger of a Christian worldview with secularism. In doing so, Christians have abdicated the worldview that has the power to transform both a human life and a secular culture.

Harrisburg Christian School has dedicated itself to arming Christian young people with a Christian worldview. This was never more evident than when HCS students Philip

Luetchford, '05, Hannah Kertland, '06, Tim Kertland, '06, John Perdigao, '06, and David Kent, '06, were introduced during their competition against a large regional public high school in WGAL's *Brainbuster*, a televised academic quiz show. Two of the introductions stood in stark contrast to each other as it relates to worldviews. Rich Rosen, the host of the show, noted that Hannah Kertland had acted in several Passion Plays and asked Hannah what a Passion Play was. Hannah responded by saying, "A Passion Play is a drama about the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ." Her Christian worldview could not have been more clear and more certain. On the other hand, a young man from the other school was asked why he wore two watches. He

responded, "*Just to make sure.* In today's modern world *you can never be certain anymore.* They're my friends." This young man also articulated a worldview. Unlike Hannah's, however, his worldview was full of doubt, uncertainty, and eccentricity.

Philip Luetchford was asked about his medical missionary trips. Philip responded, "I have been on two medical missionary trips to the Dominican Republic and one to Ecuador. We had the opportunity to help people not only with their physical needs but with their spiritual needs as well." Philip demonstrated that his worldview leads him to show the mercy and the love of Christ to other people. After Philip had articulated his Christian worldview, another boy from other competing school was

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Winter Sports Wrap-Up

A busy winter athletic season has come to an end with one team qualifying for the District III playoffs and another team finishing 2nd in the CCAC Tournament.

Varsity Boys Basketball: The Varsity Boys Basketball Team enjoyed a successful season (11-9 overall, 7-3 in the CCAC). The team finished 4th in the CCAC and was seeded 8th in the District III Playoffs before losing to Living Word Academy. The Junior Varsity Team finished its season with a record of 4 - 6.

Varsity Girls Basketball: Despite losing 8 players from last year's team, the Varsity Girls Basketball Team made great strides toward building for the future (6-13 overall, 3-7 in the CCAC). The Lady Knights took first place in the Conestoga Classic.

MS Boys Basketball: The MS Boys Team was an exciting team to watch this season. The Knights finished 7-5 in the Conference (8-5 overall) and finished 4th place in the CCAC Middle School Tournament.

MS Girls Basketball: The MS Girls Team played hard the entire season compiling an impressive 9-1 record in the CCAC and 10-1 record overall. The Lady Knights finished 2nd in the CCAC Middle School Tournament.



Oliver Warbucks (David Kent, '06), Grace Farrell (Hannah Kertland, '06), and Annie (Aubrey Juris, '11) take a stroll in NYC during a recent Harrisburg Christian School production of Music Theatre International's *Annie*.

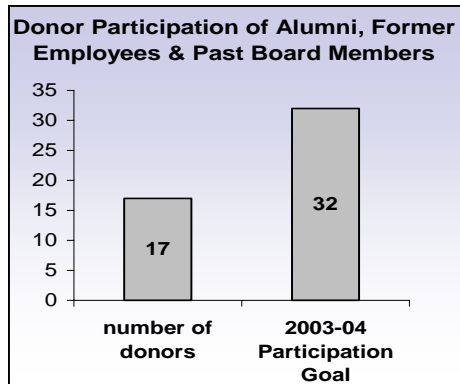
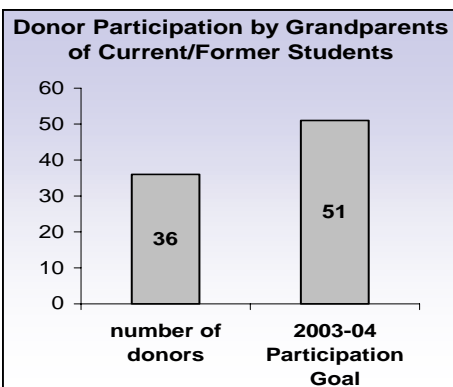
Annie Production Resounding Success At HCS

On March 4, 5, and 6, over 1,200 guests were entertained by the HCS Drama Department's theatrical production of *Annie*. With an amazing cast, a spectacular set, and a live orchestra, the HCS Drama Department once again demonstrated that *vision, faith, prayer, commitment, teamwork, and an unyielding drive*

for excellence can produce a product worthy of our Lord Jesus Christ. The audience was encouraged to reflect upon their own "Rags to Riches" story of spiritual adoption as described in Ephesians 1:4 & 5. The Drama Department is lead by Mrs. Judith Killian, Music Director, and Mrs. Cristen Puleo, Drama Director.

Annual Fund Growing, Phon-a-thon to Help Meet Goals for Challenge

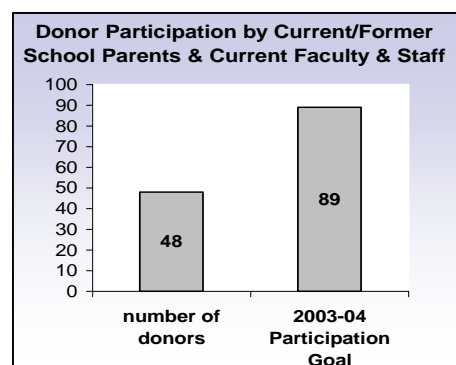
As of February 18, 2004, HCS had received \$16,519.14 in gifts eligible for matching in this year's \$25,000 challenge (pending our achievement of the increased participation goals charted), during this school year. The \$25,000 Golden Opportunity Annual Fund Challenge allows matching of any gifts from those who did not give to the Annual Fund last school year, or matching of any increased gift amount from persons or businesses who did give last year. HCS now needs approximately \$8,500 in new or increased gifts eligible for matching to meet the challenge issued. Through press time for the *Epistle*, HCS had received \$86,848.50 toward its annual fund goal of



\$185,000 this year.

Because the matching gift requirements will only be met fully when HCS attains the charted participation goals, HCS volunteers will be involved in conducting HCS's first Phon-a-thon in eight years beginning March 30 to help raise the additional matching dollars and participation levels needed from HCS friends to meet our challenge goal. Persons who have donated by March 15, 2004 will be removed from Phon-a-thon solicitation lists. It is worth noting that 100% of the HCS Board and Administration is committed to the Annual Fund through a personal gift. "The Golden Opportunity Challenge gives those who have been

touched by HCS, in the current year or in years past, the chance to express their gratitude by assisting the current recipients of an HCS education with a generous gift of support," says Headmaster Thomas Wieland. "We are grateful to the many families, alumni, and friends who have already given to assist meeting the ambitious challenge goal." Will you pray with the HCS leadership that the 2004 Phon-a-thon will facilitate the additional responses to achieve the Annual Fund Challenge goals this spring?



Addition of Pre-Kindergarten Offers Parents Quality in Single Pre-K to Grade 12 Location

Harrisburg Christian School is delighted to extend its long and rich tradition of promoting Christ-like character and academic excellence by offering morning Kindergarten and a first-ever Pre-Kindergarten program for 4-year olds beginning in the 2004-05 school year.

This program affords Christian families seeking classroom learning experiences for their 4-year olds the opportunity to seek preparation in a safe, nurturing Christian environment that offers the consistency of a Pre-K through grade 12 program in the convenience of a single school location. "A quality

program and the convenience of one location for a family's older and younger children is important to current and prospective HCS families," says Evelyn Kalbfleisch, Elementary Principal. The Pre-K program will be offered as a Monday, Wednesday, Friday option from 12:45—3:15 p.m. while the morning, daily kindergarten addition from 8:15-11:30 a.m. will allow parents the choice between five half days or 5 full days of kindergarten. Questions may be directed to Thomas Wieland, Headmaster, or Evelyn Kalbfleisch at 717-545-3728 or by email to ekalbfleisch@hcs.nu.

Auction Promises Families Valuable Choices and Fun

Volunteers and staff are preparing for the annual Auction at Harrisburg Christian School on March 27th from 3:00 p.m. to about 6 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center. Tasty desserts and hot as well as cold beverages will be available for purchase at the event.

A growing list of exciting items for sale may be reviewed at our website news section (www.hcs.nu). Included are multiple getaway accommodations packages to local and national destinations, comforters and hand-crafted items, a tooth whitening treatment (valued at \$600), more than 20 exciting gift baskets, and gift certificates for local attractions and restaurants.

Please join us for a day filled with fun, fellowship, and buying to benefit HCS!

asked about his political career at school. He answered, "I was class president. There were some posters this year that were *deemed* inappropriate for school. They asked me to leave the presidency." Once again, a worldview was espoused that stated that there could be no "rightness" or "wrongness" about the appropriateness of these posters. It was simply what someone, that public high school's administration, *deemed* inappropriate. The contrasts between the HCS students and those of the

opposing team could not have been more pronounced.

HCS is committed to ensuring that every student graduates with a Christian worldview and the apologetic skills to defend his or her faith. Please join us in this journey to prepare young people to defend their faith in an increasingly secular, paganistic culture. The war of worldviews continues. Don't back down! Don't shrink in the face of secular opposition. Join Harrisburg Christian

School as we join the Savior of the World in preparing the hearts and minds of our young people to live a life worthy of Christ and to defend Him in a "crooked and depraved generation." Philippians 2:14 reads, "Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a *crooked and depraved generation*, in which you **shine like stars in the universe.**"

"Evening of the Arts" Showcases Superior Arts Programs at HCS

On December 15, the Fine Arts Department provided a fabulous evening for approximately 65 art patrons during the annual Evening of The Arts.



Featured student artist pieces above are: a ceramic goblet by Ben McKenzie, '05; clay hand by Stephanie Todoroff, '06; mixed media by Beau MacGinnes, '07; and a mixed media mask by Will Stites, '07.

Each patron received one of over 200 bowls handcrafted by a MS/HS student. Throughout the night, numerous soloists, hand bell, and vocal choirs treated the patrons with their musical abilities. Gourmet soups, breads, and desserts warmed everyone's soul while they enjoyed fellowship with friends and family. Donations of student artwork as well as several local professional artists' work were auctioned off to guests. The Evening of the Arts was a special night and raised approximately \$2,000.00 for the purchase of much needed choir risers. Next year's proceeds will go toward refurbishment of the hand bells and photography darkroom equipment.

Upcoming Events at HCS

March 27	HCS Auction
March 30	Phon-a-thon Begins
May 4	Elementary Music Program
May 11	HCS Association Meeting
May 14	Golf Marathon
May 21	Kindergarten Graduation
June 4	Senior Baccalaureate
June 5	Senior Commencement

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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., Editor.

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