



PARENT NOTE – November 4, 2024

“Creation Caretakers”

Genesis 2:15

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK:

Did you know that less than 30% of families have dinner together consistently? I know for my family, this can be a challenge. In a world that gets filled with meetings, extra shifts, travel teams, and other commitments, the benefits of family time and Christian community oftentimes gets overlooked for societal pressures and cultural norms.

One of the benefits of being a part of a Christian school community is getting the opportunity to live life alongside other Christian families. While this may seem obvious, I believe we miss opportunities to learn from each other and see our families grow in Him together. As HCS seeks to support the families we are entrusted to serve, I would like to recommend two great opportunities to invest - and in turn be invested in:

1. **Invite a family you do not know well over to your home for dinner.** While this may be countercultural, this practice is something my family has made a part of our monthly rhythm. This has proved to be rewarding, as we get to know new families, see relationships form, and build Christian community! Give it a try... I am sure God will use your hospitality to positively impact your family and others.
2. **Attend a Saturday Serve alongside other HCS families.** Once a month, families come together to serve our community. This past weekend, groups spread throughout Highland to clean-up leaves for residents, pray for them, and bring cheer to those in need. What an excellent way to teach our children service and join together in Christian community.

Lastly, I am thrilled to share that 100+ individuals have been participating in HCS' *Anxious Generation* book study. On **Monday, November 11 at 6pm, we will be hosting Dan Seaborn.** Dan is a highly sought after speaker, as he speaks across the country about building Godly families and marriages. He has spoken at Promise Keepers, to sports teams, churches across the country, on over 350 radio stations. We would love to welcome you to join us for this special portion of our book study. You will be sure to leave inspired.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:

Highland Christian School has been entrusted with unprecedented growth in recent years. This growth has created unique challenges in the form of congested traffic in our drop off line and parking lots. In response to these challenges, a committee of parents, staff, and Administration was created to brainstorm ways to address this issue with a focus on student safety. The committee identified key strategies to increase traffic flow and ensure the physical well-being of students coming to school. These strategies include painting a crosswalk in the parking lot to direct those on foot, adding clear signage near the Jr. High doors to indicate when it is safe to unload students, and reassigning staff to high traffic areas. All of these safety measures should be in place starting in November.

Additionally, we are asking for the assistance from parents with these safety related issues:

1. Please avoid parking along the sidewalk near the garage, on the south east driveway that exits out to Lincoln Street. Parking is permitted on the grass side of the driveway, if needed.
2. Avoid stopping, unloading, or parking in the fire lane along the SEC playground during K-8 drop off as this increases traffic congestion during peak times.
3. Parents should pull up as far as possible before unloading students at the front of school. Stopping at the Jr. High door is not permitted. Wait until you have fully merged into one single line before unloading students.
4. Parents are encouraged to exit the south parking lot via Lincoln Street. Those in the north lot should exit right onto Ridge Road.
5. Do not block traffic on Ridge Road when entering the driveway. If your vehicle cannot fully make it into the driveway, without sticking out onto Ridge Road, please circle the block or park in the lot.

6. Staff is available to assist your child out of the car at the front of school. If the parent or guardian needs to exit the vehicle in order to assist the student getting out of the car, we encourage you to park your vehicle and escort your child to the front of school.

Thank you for your assistance as we continue to make HCS a safe place for all students, parents, and staff!

SCHOOL NEWS:

- **A rake was left behind after the Saturday Serve from the group that raked along Martha St.** If it is yours, it is by the library. You may come and get it anytime.
- **Important Reminders this week:**
 - There is no late start this Wednesday, Nov. 6
 - School will dismiss this Thursday, Nov. 7 at 1:45 p.m. and aftercare will be available
 - There is no school on Friday, Nov. 8
- **Parent/Teacher Conferences are this Wednesday and Thursday, Nov. 6 & 7.** If you cannot make the time that you scheduled for your child's conference, please contact your child's teacher. If you haven't signed up for conferences, your child's teacher will be contacting you. The online sign-up has been closed - you will no longer be able to sign up your child yourself. Students in grades 3-8 should attend the conference with their parents. There will be notecards by all the classrooms for you to write a little note to your child. If you would like to touch base with any of the specials teachers, they will be available each evening and would love to meet with you!
- **Everyone is invited to our Veteran's Day assembly on Monday, November 11, beginning at 8:30 in the gym.** If you would like to attend, please enter via the gym doors (door F).
- **The Thanksgiving season gives us the opportunity to show our thankfulness to God by sharing with others in need.** For Thanksgiving this year, we will be collecting food and toiletries for Roseland Christian Ministries in Roseland, IL. These gifts will be presented at our Thanksgiving chapel on Wed., Nov. 27. All donations will be collected in the students' classrooms. We will begin collecting items on Monday, Nov. 11.

<u>Items needed:</u>		
box of stuffing	can of corn	toothpaste
cranberry sauce	canned sweet potatoes	soap
2 boxes of mac and cheese	box of mashed potatoes	deodorant
can of gravy	cake or brownie mix	shampoo
can of green beans		tissues
- **Artisan Fair: Saturday, November 23 from 9 am – 2 pm.** Come join us in the Highland Christian School gym for a unique shopping opportunity. The atmosphere will be Christmas and the items will be uniquely handmade gifts and delectable treats. There is delicious food and drinks available in the concession stand and a place to enjoy your food and chat. You will not want to miss out on this opportunity to buy one of a kind gifts for all the special people in your life.

ATHLETIC NEWS:

November 4: Boys Basketball Games

- **6th grade vs Crown Point Christian (HOME) 4:00 p.m.**
- **7th grade vs Crown Point Christian (HOME) 5:00 p.m.**
- **8th grade vs Crown Point Christian (HOME) 6:00 p.m.**

COUNSELOR CONNECTION:

One of the many things school counselors utilize with students, families, and teachers is Active Listening skills. These skills include looking at the person speaking, noticing body language, reflecting what a person is saying and how they act,

asking clarifying questions, and most importantly, avoiding judgment. It helps people feel seen and heard, and *fosters a sense of understanding, trust, and partnership.*

This week at student/parent/teacher conferences we encourage each of you to use an active listening skill during these important meetings.

- *Encourage your child to use eye contact when listening to parents/teachers talking.*
- *As a parent, reflect back what the student or teacher said to show understanding.*
- *As a teacher, ask clarifying questions to better understand the parent or student.*

Student/Parent/Teacher conferences are an important time to build relationships and communication skills. Building those skills is one of the BEST ways a school serves students, families, HCS goals, and God's ultimate goal: working together as the body of Christ. (Romans 12:15)

FAITH CORNER:

God tells us that faith is formed in everyday life as the Holy Spirit transforms and shapes the way we see and interact with God, His people, and His world.

Our faith is shaped when we remember what God is doing and we give thanks for all of the blessings God sends into our lives.

As a family, use the word THANKS to remember and give thanks for God's blessings.

After dinner or before bed, allow everyone to share something beginning with each letter of THANKS for which they are thankful.

End by thanking God for these blessings.

PTO NEWS:

Please save the date for our Bingo family fun night for 3-5th grade! This event will take place on November 15th from 6-8pm in the school gym. Families and siblings of 3-5th grade are invited, but only the 3-5th grade students will be able to win the prizes. More information will be coming home soon!_

There are still opportunities to volunteer for various PTO events this year! Please use this [LINK](#) to sign up. Thank you for your continued support for HCS PTO!

SECURITY NEWS:

Our school has adopted the "I Love U Guys" Foundation's Standard Response Protocol (SRP).

The Standard Response Protocol (SRP) is based on an all-hazards approach as opposed to individual scenarios. SRP utilizes clean, common language and five specific actions that can be performed during an incident: Hold, Secure, Lockdown, Evacuate, and Shelter.

Today we will highlight the second SRP action: SECURE. This action is used to safeguard students and staff within the building. SECURE would be utilized for hazards outside the building, such as criminal activity in the neighborhood near school, a dangerous animal on school grounds, etc.

SECURE: "Get inside. Lock outside doors."

- Students will be brought into the building & all outside access points will remain closed and locked.
- Teachers and staff will continue with regular classroom activities. Indoor recess will be conducted until the "all clear" is announced.

For more information regarding Standard Response Protocol, please see [I Love U Guys Foundation](#).

TRIP NEWS:

Week of Thanksgiving - No TRIP orders will be due that week. The last physical gift card order before Christmas is Dec. 12th! Order your gift cards early.

These retailers are offering smaller denomination gift cards for the holiday season:

\$5 – Barnes & Noble, Cold Stone Creamery, Panera, Starbucks, Taco Bell

\$10 – Amazon, Applebee's, CVS Pharmacy, Darden Restaurants, Dick's Sporting Goods, Disney, Gap Brands, Home Depot, Jewel, T.J. Maxx, Walmart

TRIP orders for physical gift cards are due (online and paper order forms) this week, Thurs., Nov. 7th by 10 a.m. TRIP will be accepting physical gift card orders on Nov. 14, 21, Dec. 5 and 12. Online ordering is available 24/7. Contact Ann Lynch at trip@highlandchristian.org for more information.

Team B (Jamie Paul, Olivia Ridder, Karen Christoffels, Jessica Johnson) will be putting the TRIP orders together on Tuesday Nov. 4th. Orders will be ready for pick up in the school office on Tuesday by 2:45 p.m.

TRIP Teams for Stuffing Orders: Team C – Nov. 12; Team D – Nov. 19; Team A – Nov. 26; Team B – Dec. 10

COMMUNITY NEWS:

- **Illiana Christian is once again hosting a Softball Camp for girls in 5th-8th grade.**
 - Saturday, November 23 12:30-3:30pm
 - Saturday, November 30 at 10:00am-1:00pm
 - Saturday, December 14 at 12:30-3:00pm

For more information and/or to sign up, please click the following [LINK](#).