



PARENT NOTE – December 16, 2024

“Creation Caretakers”

Genesis 2:15

SCHOOL NEWS:

- **REMINDER: This Wednesday, December 18 is a late start day.** Drop-off begins at 9:40 a.m. and classes begin at 10:00 a.m. Before care is available.
- **REMINDER: School will dismiss this Friday, Dec. 20 at 1:45 p.m. for the Christmas holiday and resume on Jan. 6. Please note: There will be aftercare on Dec. 20.** We pray that our HCS families have a wonderful Christmas and a blessed New Year!
- **IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: Parents who are volunteering for classroom Christmas parties or to serve Jr. High lunch on Friday, Dec 20 should [pre-register here](#).** If you're dropping off treats or gifts, please label the items with your students grade & teacher's name. Extra staff will be at the front doors on Friday to assist delivering items to the classrooms.
- **Everyone is invited to our Christmas Chapel this Friday, Dec. 20 at 8:30 a.m.**
- **Thank you to all who came out to shop and fill Blessing Boxes on Saturday.** God's love was on display to our neighbors. Advance notice for our next Saturday Serve - January 25 - ETC thrift store.
- **Christmas Gift 2024:** Dear Creation Caretakers, We have an opportunity to help people around the world care for God's creation by purchasing:
 - **garden tools** - helping people improve the soil & grow food year round
 - **seeds** - helping to provide the recommended minerals & vitamins
 - **greenhouses** - shading plants from heat & protecting plants from bugs
 - **trees** - providing fruit, shade, & reforestation
 - **beehives** - encouraging pollination
 - **latrines** - eliminating the spread of disease; providing safe sanitation

How to share the message of God's love:

- Follow the directions on this page to create & decorate an envelope.
- Put money (cash or checks-payable to World Renew) in the envelope & seal.
- Place your envelope in the mailbox by the Christmas tree.
- Pray for the people around the world who care for God's creation.

Students received a template of an envelope with this information printed on the page. If you would like to participate in sending a message of God's love to people around the world, follow the directions on the paper and return the envelope to school. Questions - contact Vicki Huizenga - vhuizenga@highlandchristian.org

- **🎄 Christmas Dress-up Days on Dec 18-20 🎄**
 - Wednesday, December 18- Wear all your Red and/or Green (no hair dye per handbook)
 - Thursday, December 19 - Christmas Pajamas (slippers are ok, but gym shoes are required for recess)
 - Friday, December 20 - Christmas Accessories
- **This Wednesday is donut day at school! ☺** We will not be having a regular snack table day. Donuts will sell for \$2.50 per donut and we will have 4 different kinds, Chocolate, Vanilla, Strawberry and Glazed Donuts.

All students, K-8 will be passing by the donut table between 11:30 and 12:20 on Wednesday. Thank you for your support of our 8th grade trip in May!

- **Lost & Found: Stop in and check out the lost & found rack in the gym foyer.** All items left after Friday will be given to etc...Thrift Store.

ATHLETIC NEWS:

8th grade Boys' Basketball Tournament Schedule (All games will be played at Chicago Christian)

Monday, December 16:

HCS vs Tinley Park, 4:00PM

Calvary vs. Lansing, 5:00PM

Oak Lawn vs. Calvin, 6:00PM

Tuesday, December 17:

Crown Point vs. Oak Lawn/Calvin winner, 4:00PM

Calvary/Lansing winner vs. Highland/TP winner, 5:00PM

Thursday, December 19:

Championship Game at 5:30PM

GIRLS BASKETBALL TRY-OUTS: Try-outs will take place on Tuesday, January 7th and Wednesday, January 8th. Times are TBD at this point. Girls basketball will have three teams and is available to 6th, 7th, and 8th grade girls. Players can tryout without having an active physical, but cannot practice or play in games until one is turned in. Physical forms can be picked up in the office. You can turn physicals into the office or into Mr. Hillegonds.

We are still looking for a 6th grade girl coach for this upcoming basketball season. If you or anyone you know is interested, please reach out to Mr. Hillegonds.

COUNSELOR CONNECTION:

It's the most wonderful time of the year! Or are you feeling the 'holiday blues'? The holiday blues are temporary feelings of anxiety and depression around the holidays. Extra stress, busy schedules, lots of sugar, and less sunlight can make us feel lonely, sad, tired, and blue. Visit this site to get useful tips and tools to help you and your child mitigate these feelings, and be preventative of long term anxiety or depression. [Tips for Managing the Holiday Blues | NAMI](#). If you, your child, or someone you know needs help call 1-800-950-NAMI; or text "HelpLine" to 62640; or call 988 in a crisis. You're not alone!

FAITH CORNER:

At this time of the year we recognize that our hearts were created to be filled with **JOY**.

BUT we are also reminded that we live in a world that looks for ways to be **HAPPY** but misses out on **JOY**.

Happiness is an emotion that is tied so closely to our circumstances. If things are going well for us, we are happy. If people are kind to us, we are happy. If we are healthy, we are happy. **JOY** can not be deterred by circumstances. **JOY** comes from God. It comes through Jesus' arrival on earth as a baby in a manger. It is the Good News of the gift of salvation.

Read Luke 2: 8-20

8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.

9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. **10** But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. **11** Today in the

town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. **12** This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

14 “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. **17** When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, **18** and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. **19** But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. **20** The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Watch this video around your table to remind you of the pauses we need to take so we hear the message of great JOY.

[The Christmas Scale | Igniter Media](#)

Prayer:

Father, You give us a reason to have JOY in the gift of Jesus. You came to earth to live with us. You died on the cross for us. You overcame death and rose from the dead for us. You forgive our sins and give us eternal life. Flood our hearts with JOY during this season as we reflect on the Good News of Jesus. Amen.,

PTO NEWS:

Getting some last minute Christmas shopping done and need some gift ideas? Check out our Teachers Favorite Things list located under the PTO tab on OnCampus.

TRIP NEWS:

No TRIP orders due this week. TRIP will be accepting physical gift card orders on Jan. 9, 16, 23 and 30. Online ordering is available 24/7. Contact Ann Lynch at trip@highlandchristian.org for more information

Team C (Jamie Vander Meyden, Annie Bouquet, Janell Eriks, Alexis Johnson) will be putting the TRIP orders together on Tuesday Dec. 17th. Orders will be ready for pick up in the school office on Tuesday by 2:45 p.m.

TRIP Teams for Stuffing Orders: Team D – Jan. 14; Team A – Jan. 21; Team B – Jan. 28; Team C – Feb. 4

Have a Merry Christmas. Blessings to you and your family.

COMMUNITY NEWS:

- Highland Baseball will have conditioning open to all Highland Middle School, Highland Christian and all 6th, 7th and 8th grade aged boys starting January 6th from 7:15-9:15 pm. Wear baseball pants, hat and bring your glove and bat. These will run every Monday and Wednesday starting on 1/6 and will continue until our tryouts at the end of March. They will take place in the Main HS Gym.
Any questions? Please reach out to Sam Michel sam@wjob1230.com
- Mission Bible Church in Highland is searching for a Pastor of Student Ministries. If you’re interested, please contact the church office (219-924-6240) or check out the following website for a position description and information on how to apply: <https://www.missionchurchnwi.com/content.cfm?id=9024>