



PARENT NOTE – December 9, 2024

“Creation Caretakers”

Genesis 2:15

SCHOOL NEWS:

- **Christmas Concert: This Thursday, Dec. 12 at 6:30 p.m., the Beginning Band and Junior High Bands and Choirs will present their annual Christmas Concert.** Please come and share this special evening with us, as we rejoice in the birth of our Savior!
- **December’s Saturday Serve** will focus on filling Blessing Boxes throughout our neighborhoods.
 - **Date:** Saturday, December 14
 - **Time:** 9 - 11 am
 - **Place:** VanTil's Supermarket 2635 169th St, Hammond
 - **Sign-Up Link:** [December Saturday Serve Sign Up](#)

Come as a family and gather at VanTil's Supermarket in Hammond to shop for groceries. We have assembled a list of foods and toiletries for the boxes. After shopping, we will send your family with groceries to fill Blessing Boxes throughout our neighborhoods. We have identified and have directions to the Blessing Boxes. If you are unable to help on this day with the project, we are accepting donations to purchase groceries to fill the Blessing Boxes. Place your gift in an envelope with the label **Blessing Boxes** and send them to the office. Your gifts will greatly help make this project a success. Thank you for your work in bringing God’s Kingdom on earth. Questions? Contact Vicki Huizenga vhuizena@highlandchristian.org

- **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 - vhuizena@highlandchristian.org

- **Update on 2025 Philadelphia Trip and Snack Day:** Snack Day is going so well! We want to thank all grades for participating in our weekly fundraiser for the trip. Currently, grades K-3 order snacks from our list and then 8th grade Student Life members put the orders together for students. Grades 4-8 participate during their lunch hour. Snacks continue to be \$1.50 for all bagged snacks, Gatorade, Lemonade, and soda, while the candy offered is \$2.00. We have raised over \$4000 over the past 12 months which will benefit each trip participant. We are always thankful for donations to our snack day. Any donations can be dropped off in the office!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT--We are having a donut day on Wednesday, December 18th during lunch for all grades. We will have 4 varieties of frosted donuts available for \$2.00. There will not be a regular snack day on that day. Depending how that goes, we might consider having donut sales a few more times this year.

ATHLETIC NEWS:

Girls basketball tryouts 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 **PEACE**. BUT we are also reminded that we live in a world that is often at war and needs God's **PEACE**.

The angels declared "peace on earth" at the birth of Jesus. Jesus offers us **PEACE** with ourselves and **PEACE** with others. We can know and experience **PEACE** today because of Jesus.

Read: John 14:26-27 (NIRV)

*But the Father will send the Friend in my name to help you. The Friend is the Holy Spirit. He will teach you all things. He will remind you of everything I have said to you.
I leave my peace with you. I give my peace to you. I do not give it to you as the world does. Do not let your hearts be troubled. And do not be afraid.*

God's **PEACE** is rooted in the promise of His presence, God is with us. Because of God's **PEACE**, we can bring **HOPE** to our hearts and to the world.

Here are some questions to discuss around your table:

- What does it mean to be a peacemaker?
- Can you think of a time when someone acted as a peacemaker at home or in school?
- How can you listen to someone who is upset and try to understand their feelings?
- What can you say or do if you see two people arguing?

Here are some things you can do to bring peace:

- Pray for people around our world who live where there is war.
- Give money for the **Christmas Gift** at school. It will help families around the world who struggle with having enough food.
- Listen to and love others.

Prayer: This week as we think about PEACE, may we be reminded that the Prince of Peace is near, calling us to be His hands and feet in a broken world. Let us carry His light into the darkness and proclaim with our lives: *Peace on earth, goodwill to all.*

PTO NEWS:

Are you Christmas shopping and need ideas for your child's teacher? Check out the "Teacher's Favorite Things List" located on OnCampus under the PTO tab.

TRIP NEWS:

THIS IS THE LAST WEEK TO order physical gift cards through TRIP before Christmas!

TRIP orders for physical gift cards are due (online and paper order forms) this week, Thurs., Dec. 12th by 10 a.m. 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

Online Ordering: There are extra online bonus rebates being offered through the RaiseRight.com app! Check out the retailers offering more bonuses. Are you signed up for online ordering? Contact Ann Lynch at trip@highlandchristian.org for more information.

Team B (Jamie Paul, Karen Christoffels, Jessica Johnson, Olivia Ridder) will be putting the TRIP orders together on Tuesday Dec. 10th. 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 – Dec. 17; Team D – Jan. 14; Team A – Jan. 21; Team B – Jan. 28

COMMUNITY NEWS:

- 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>