



HIGHLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

PARENT NOTE – February 3, 2025
“Creation Caretakers”
Genesis 2:15

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK:

Dear Parents,

As we step into the month of February, I want to take a moment to express my gratitude for your continued partnership and support in the spiritual and academic growth of your children. It is a privilege to work alongside such dedicated families as we strive together to nurture each child in Christ's love.

Encouragement for the Month Ahead

This month, we are reminded of the importance of walking in faith and love. I'd like to share a scripture from Philippians 4:6-7 that reminds us of the peace we can find in trusting God:

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

As we continue to nurture your children, let's encourage them to trust God with their worries and celebrate His peace, knowing He is always near.

Limiting Cell Phone Use at Home

As we continue to navigate the digital age, I would like to take this opportunity to reemphasize the importance of limiting screen time - specifically cell phones and gaming. At school, we are considering what measures can be taken to ensure technological tools are used in an appropriate way. Studies continue to show that excessive screen time can negatively impact sleep, focus, and overall well-being. At school, we regularly see how cell phones, social media, and group texts are detrimental to the well being of students. As stated in the past, we would recommend students at HCS do not have access to these tools.

Tuition and Contracts for 2025-2026 School Year

Looking ahead, we will be sending out information about tuition and contracts for the 2025-2026 school year later this month. Please be on the lookout for further communication.

A Heartfelt Thank You

Lastly, I want to express my sincere gratitude to each of you for the trust and support you show us every day. Your involvement in your child's education is truly invaluable, and your prayers and encouragement make our school a place where children grow not just in knowledge, but in faith and character. Together, we are building a strong foundation for their future in Christ.

Thank you for being such a positive partner in this journey.

Dr. Kyle Weener

SCHOOL NEWS:

- **REMINDER: This Wednesday, February 5 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. Buses will run about 1.5 hours later than a regular school day.
- **Everyone is invited to the all-school chapel this Friday at 8:30 a.m. led by our 2nd grade students.**
- **The all-school skating party is THIS Friday, Feb. 7 from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. at Lynwood Sports Center, 2030 Glenwood-Dyer Road, Lynwood, IL.** Admission is \$3.00 and skates are available for \$3.00. Parents and siblings are invited to join the HCS students for a fun-filled evening!

NEW this year: Due to long lines at the event, we will be pre-selling ADMISSION tickets in the school office. We will **only accept cash and checks** and **tickets are NON-REFUNDABLE** (lost, stolen, unable to attend, etc). Again, the **pre-sale tickets are for ADMISSION only**. If you need to rent skates, you will need to purchase those tickets at the ticket counter at Lynwood Sports Center. Admission tickets can be purchased at the ticket counter as well, we just want to provide another option to help with the wait times to get into the facility. **If you have any questions, please reach out to the school office.**

- **FEEDBACK NEEDED:** As a learning community, we deliberately seek feedback from our stakeholders to celebrate great work and understand opportunities for future improvements. Each year, we ask for feedback on a number of teachers. For the 24-25 school year, we are seeking feedback for the primary department (Kindergarten - 2nd grade). [Thank you for taking the time to complete this short survey.](#) This survey can be taken multiple times for different staff members through Friday, February 28.
- **February Saturday Serve - Our Saturday Serve in February will focus on encouraging our seniors by making cards.** Come as a family and gather in the gym at HCS to create and write messages to senior citizens. Caring, encouraging messages in a hand-made card can really make a difference. This is a significant way to share God's love with people in our community. This Saturday Serve is open to all ages and creative ability. Templates to create cards will be provided. There also will be printed cards to color. Thank you for your work in bringing God's Kingdom on earth. Questions? Contact Vicki Huizenga vhuzenga@highlandchristian.org

Sign-up Link: [February Saturday Serve Sign-up](#)

Date: Saturday, February 22

Time: 9 - 11 am

Place: Highland Christian School gym 3040 Ridge Road Highland, IN

- **Book Fair: We will have the Scholastic Book Fair February 25 - 28.** This is an excellent opportunity to buy some reading material to beat those winter blues!!! The Book Fair will also be open from 8 am to 4pm each day. Parents are encouraged to shop with their child before and after school. It will continue to be in the gym Foyer. Please mark your calendars. This will also be our annual Book Week. Stay tuned to your parent notes to receive detailed information regarding this fun week!

ATHLETIC NEWS:

Girls Basketball Reschedule Update:

The 6th, 7th, and 8th grade girls basketball game at Calvary Academy has been rescheduled for Tuesday, February 18th. The 6th grade girls will tip off at 4:00 pm.

February 4: Girls Basketball

- **6th grade @ Calvin Christian (AWAY) 4:00 p.m.**
- **7th grade @ Calvin Christian (AWAY) 5:00 p.m.**
- **8th grade @ Calvin Christian (AWAY) 6:00 p.m.**

February 6: Girls Basketball

- **8th grade vs. Lansing Christian (HOME) 4:00 p.m.**

HCS will continue to have a concession stand at all home games! We typically serve hot food, snacks, candy, and various drinks. Stop by and support the Athletic Department! **We are in need of volunteers for the concession stand.** If you are

interested or would like more information, please contact Kristy Tebben at ktebben@highlandchristian.org.

Coaches Needed- We are in need of a few coaches for our upcoming spring seasons.

7th Grade Boys Volleyball Coach - Tryouts start on February 25th and the season ends on March 22nd.

Assistant Track Coach - The dates of the meets are below.

- Mon, Apr 14 - Chicago Christian
- Wed, Apr 23 - Chicago Christian
- Thurs, Apr 24 - Illiana Christian
- Mon, Apr 28 - Chicago Christian
- Mon, May 5 - Chicago Christian - League Meet

Please reach out to Mr. Hillegonds if you are interested in any of these positions or have any questions.

FAITH CORNER:

A new year is a great time to reflect on how we can grow in faith, serve others, and deepen our walk with Jesus. Just like any new habit we try to build into our lives, developing Faith Practices take time and repetition to become godly habits.

Faith Practices are repeated actions that help us:

- grow in our love for God and our neighbor,
- listen to the Holy Spirit, and
- become more like Jesus.

This week we will look for a second time at the Faith Practice of **Gratitude**. **Gratitude** is our response of thankfulness for God's goodness, love, provision, and grace. **Gratitude** is the working of the Holy Spirit that makes us wholeheartedly ready to live for Jesus.

How to practice **Gratitude** this week:

1. **Start prayers with thank-you rather than requests.** **Gratitude** reminds us that everything we are and have is a gift from God.
2. **Walk your neighborhood** and try to think of a new thing or person to be grateful for every time you turn a corner.
3. **If you're not in the habit of saying mealtime prayers, this is a great time to start!** Giving thanks for our food reminds us to stop at least three times a day and remember God's goodness.
4. **Live Gratitude.** Look for ways to be generous with your time, talents, and resources. Show appreciation to others.
5. **Finish the day with Gratitude.** Use bedtime prayers to list things that happened during the day that you're grateful for, and thank God for those things.

PTO NEWS:

PARENTS—we would love your help! PTO would like to provide the teachers and staff with a Hot Chocolate Bar ☐ on February 12-14. If you are willing to bring in an item, please sign-up using the following [LINK](#).

TRIP NEWS:

No TRIP orders for physical gift cards will be due this week. TRIP will be accepting physical gift card orders on **Feb. 13, 20, 27, Mar. 6, 13 and 20**. Online ordering is available 24/7. Contact Ann Lynch at trip@highlandchristian.org for more information.

Did you know TRIP buys gift cards from these local restaurants/retailers: Aurelio's Pizza, Beggars Pizza, Chick-fil-A, Culver's, Edwardo's Pizza, Hohman's Hallmark (Munster), Miner-Dunn Rest., Teibel's Rest., Strack & Van Til's Grocery and Walt's Food Centers. They are available to purchase on the weekly TRIP orders (online or paper order form) or as a cash and carry option if you contact Ann Lynch at trip@highlandchristian.org.

Team C (Jamie Vander Meyden, Annie Bouquet, Janell Eriks, Alexis Johnson, Kim Laning) will be putting the TRIP orders together on Tues., Feb. 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 D – Feb. 18; Team A – Feb. 25; Team B – Mar. 4; Team C – Mar. 11

COMMUNITY NEWS:

- Brandon Rukes, Senior Pastor at Griffith First Christian Church, is excited to announce the upcoming performance of **Jason Gray** at GFCC on February 15th! Jason Gray has brought listeners to Shine.FM and K-Love with songs like, “[Remind Me Who I Am](#),” “[Sparrows](#),” and “[Good to Be Alive](#).” Jason is calling this Better Together: The Live Recording Tour. We are hoping to sell all of our seats for this event, because all profits will go towards our 2025 Mission Trip with our Next Gen Youth Group. Our High School students will be traveling this summer with TEAMeffort Missions to repair homes and living spaces for those in great need in Tennessee. This will be a great concert that will support a great need! Get your tickets by going to gfcc.net/concert. Tickets range from \$25 with an option of a VIP Meet and Greet Ticket for \$50. Any questions, please email Jaime Garcia at jaime@gfcc.net.
- **Preview Illiana: LAST OPEN HOUSE OF THE YEAR is MARCH 13!** Preview Illiana is an opportunity for prospective students and their families to experience Illiana. Meet with faculty and administration, tour our campus, and have all your questions answered. You’ll be able to hear from our Head of School and Principal, meet teachers and students, attend informative sessions about Illiana’s curriculum and learning opportunities in music, art, STEM, and core subjects, learn how Illiana builds college- and career-readiness, and experience Illiana’s mission to develop a passion for God, people, and the world. [REGISTER FOR PREVIEW HERE](#)
Questions can be directed to our Director of Admissions, Jenna Dutton, at jdutton@illianachristian.org