



HIGHLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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

FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK:

HCS Parents,

After a week of Book Fair fun (a special thank you to our librarian, Mrs. Zandstra!), we are excited to enter into March. Starting this week, our 2nd and 3rd grade students will be participating in IREAD state testing - where they will be assessed on various skills they have been building upon since kindergarten. A good night’s sleep, getting to school early (8:05-8:10 is great), and a nutritious breakfast are always a great way to start a test like this. For parents with a child taking this test, you may be nervous about your child’s results - with thoughts going through your mind like:

- *Will my child go too fast and try to be the first one done?*
- *Have I done enough as a parent to support their learning?*
- *What happens if...*

The good news is that **Philippians 4:6** tells us, **“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God”**. Additionally, educational research points out that when parents are nervous, it can significantly impact their children by making them more likely to feel anxious themselves. Children often pick up on and mimic their parents' emotional cues, effectively "catching" their parents' nervousness and interpreting situations as more worrisome than they might be. In short, we should turn this over to God!

In addition to the start of IREAD, I would like to thank all of our constituents and parents that came to Faith Church Dyer on Thursday, February 28 to learn about a possible opportunity to expand accessibility for Christian families in North Lake County. Later this week, all parents and constituents will receive an email with a link to last week’s presentation, FAQ sheet, and other materials. We appreciate your engagement, questions, and feedback. It is very important that information is shared and thoroughly reviewed, so our constituents can be informed about this possibility.

Dr. Kyle Weener

SCHOOL NEWS:

- **Re-enrollment is now open! Contracts for the 2025-2026 school year have been issued in OnCampus and are due by March 21, 2025.** Current families have priority enrollment through this date, after which we will begin to enroll new students.
- **REMINDER: This Wednesday, March 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.
- **Informational Meeting: HCS parents and community members are invited to learn more about the budget and planning process on Tuesday, March 4 at 6:00pm** in the HCS gym. We hope to see you there!
- **Everyone is invited to the all-school chapel this Friday at 8:30 a.m. led by our Kindergarten students.**

- **Thank you to everyone who participated in the BookFair and Book Week!** All the excitement about books and reading was so fun! The support that you gave to the library through the BookFair is amazing and so appreciated! To continue the fun, the school was given the large stand up DogMan through Scholastic and is having a drawing for one student to bring it home in March. Every time a student reads a book they can fill out an entry slip (the slips are near the Dog Man) and can put the slip in the blue Dog Man bucket. Friday March 14, Mr. Weener will draw the name of the student that gets to take home the DogMan!!!
- **Thanks to all the students who have turned in their white envelopes for the Lake County Public Library Read-a-Thon.** Such a wonderful bunch of great readers!! If you forgot to turn it in, you still can anytime this week!! Thanks so much for supporting reading in our school and in Lake County.
- **We're HIRING!!** Please check our [website](#) for more details on our open positions.
- **The Art Department is collecting newspapers and magazines.** Please send any donations to the office. Thank you!
- **Sprint to the finish! Keep shopping at all Strack & Van Til Food Markets or Van Til's in Hammond, save your receipts & send them to school with your student** to help us earn free classroom equipment, courtesy of Strack & Van Til Apples for Students Program. All receipts dated between September 1, 2024 and March 31, 2025 are eligible. Last year, your receipts earned blessings for all the specials classrooms. Thank you for your faithful support!

ATHLETIC NEWS:

March 4: Boys Volleyball

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

March 6: Boys Volleyball

- 8th grade @ Calvary (AWAY) 4:00 p.m.

Coach Needed: 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. Hillemonds if you are interested in this position 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 let's look at the Faith Practice of **Hospitality**. The biblical notion of **Hospitality** focuses on how we live as God's people in relationship with others. **Hospitality** is the act of making space for guests, visitors, or strangers, and extending to them the privileges of family.

Resources:

Check out this page [Hospitality: Helpful Resources | Faith Practices Project | Christian Reformed Church](#) for context on biblical Hospitality. It includes books, articles, videos, and podcasts that will help you explore the concept of biblical **Hospitality**.

Practice with kids:

- smiling at someone when you walk
- holding open a door for someone
- saying “Good morning or afternoon” when meeting someone at the park
- giving up a swing so someone else can play
- standing patiently in line by the slide
- meeting a family from school you don’t know well at a park or playground
- saying “Thank You” to the cashier at a store
- allowing someone to go ahead of you in line at the checkout

Encouraging ourselves and our kids to expand their comfort zones is important; so is working within the context of our Goddesigned personalities.

PTO NEWS:

Our K-2nd grade fun night is this Friday! We are so excited to play games and have some fun with Operation Getdown DJ! This event will take place in the HCS gym from 6:30-8pm. We look forward to seeing you there!

TRIP NEWS:

- Three more TRIP order dates before Spring break to order physical gift cards. Plan ahead to pay for hotels, airfare, food, gas, etc. with gift cards. Have fun and save money on tuition at the same time! For additional information or questions, contact Ann Lynch at trip@highlandchristian.org.
- TRIP orders: Orders (paper and online) are due Thurs., March 6th by 10 a.m. TRIP will be accepting physical gift card orders on Mar. 13, 20, and April 10. Online ordering is available 24/7.
- TRIP Teams for Stuffing Orders: Team B – March 4; Team C – Mar. 11; Team D- March 18; Team A-March 25

COMMUNITY NEWS:

- **VIKING ACADEMY: REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!** Don’t miss out on an opportunity to send your kids to one of the best day camps in Northwest Indiana! Viking Academy is offered through Illiana Christian High School and has over 24 options of different day-camps for elementary, middle-school and some high school aged students. Join us from July 7-25, for high quality classes and camps. We are excited to bring a long list of integrative and enjoyable classes to the local community. Click <https://www.illianachristian.org/life-ichs/viking-academy/> to read more about the camps we offer and register your child today. If you have any questions please contact: vikingacademy@illianachristian.org
- **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
- **Looking for some weeknight fun? Kids Zone at Cornerstone Church has it!** This weekly free club for kids, 3 years-5th grade, meets each Wednesday from 6:30-7:45pm. Filled with great music, active games, snacks and hands-on learning, Kids Zone is designed to help your kids learn how to be more like Jesus. For more information, please reach out to Heather Franklin at heather.franklin@fbclansing.org