



HIGHLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

PARENT NOTE – February 2, 2026

“Scripture Follower”

II Timothy 3:16-17

FROM THE DESK OF DR. WEENER:

Highland Christian School Parents,

I am grateful for the strong partnership we share as we work together to educate, disciple, and shepherd your children - all for God's glory. I wanted to take a moment to share a few initiatives happening this month.

Olympics Activities

This month, our students are participating in Olympics-related activities. Spearheaded by Kristin Freel, the opening ceremonies will be held this Friday (2/6). Over the past week, each class has selected a country of their choice and grade-levels are already excited to attend and compete in some 'Olympic Games' on Friday in the gym.

Tech-Free Focus

Students and staff are being encouraged—both during the school day and at home—to participate in activities that intentionally limit technology use and emphasize meaningful, face-to-face interaction. We are inviting students to engage more in conversation, cooperative play, time outdoors, reading, and creative activities. These experiences help strengthen interpersonal relationships, build social and emotional skills, and foster focus, resilience, and joy. In the coming week, you will see 'BINGO boards' coming home where students, alongside their teachers, can earn points for their homeroom. At school, we continue to assess a number of professional resources and consider how technology should or shouldn't be used at HCS. Thank you for partnering with us as we encourage habits that support healthy connection and balanced living.

Partnering with Local Churches

Last week, Jodi Lineburg and I met with several local pastors. Some of the topics brought up were family margin, service, healthy rhythms, and thoughtful technology use. We firmly believe that when schools, families, and churches align around shared values, children thrive. In the coming months and years ahead, we are excited to partner together on these topics.

Quick Facts: Why Family Time, Margin, and Reduced Screen Time Matter

- Children who regularly eat meals with their families are 30–35% less likely to engage in risky behaviors and tend to perform better academically.
- Strong family connection is associated with lower levels of anxiety and depression in children and adolescents.
- Overscheduled children experience higher stress and emotional fatigue, while children with margin in their schedules demonstrate greater creativity and emotional regulation.
- Excessive screen time has been linked to reduced sleep quality, attention challenges, and lower academic performance.

Thank you for entrusting your children to Highland Christian School. It is a privilege to partner with you—and with our local churches—as we seek to honor Christ in all that we do.

With gratitude,

Dr. Kyle Weener
Head of School - Highland Christian School

SCHOOL NEWS:

- **Late Start:** This Wednesday, February 4, 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.

- **FUSION: Fusion is THIS FRIDAY!** Please watch this special [MESSAGE](#) from John O’Leary and join us for an evening of hope, healing, and heart. John’s storytelling is known to stir tears, laughter, and resolve — a powerful reminder that our pain can become purpose. Get your [TICKETS](#) NOW as seats are limited and are selling quickly! Let’s gather, listen, and be changed together!



When: February 6, 2025 7:00 pm

Where: Faith Church Dyer, 100 West 81st Ave, Dyer, Indiana.

Who: John O’Leary — bestselling author, inspirational speaker, and survivor whose story reminds us that even the darkest moments can spark life.

- **Girls on the Run: Registration is NOW OPEN and SPACE IS LIMITED!** Girls on the Run is for girls in grades 3-5 and the season is March 2- May 16 (5K on May 16), with practices on Mondays and Thursdays. Register at www.gotrofnwi.org. Any questions please contact Amber Powell [219-838-0358x150](tel:219-838-0358x150). apowell@highlandchristian.org

- **6th grade Fun Night:** We had a great time at the 6th grade Fun Night. We ate Chick-Fil-A, ran crazy relays, scored prizes in BINGO, and met 6th graders from the area Christian schools in mixer games. Thank you to the volunteers from HCS who made this a successful and fun night: Ms. Bultema, Mr. Earnshaw, Mrs. Haan, Mrs. Hadley, Mrs. Harvey, Ms. Julian, Mr. & Mrs. Ritzema, Mrs. Verkaik, and Mrs. VanderMeyden.
Save the date: 7th graders keep Friday, February 27 open for fun and fellowship at CPCS. More information will come soon.



- **HCS Winter Olympics:** The HCS Winter Olympics will begin on Friday, February 6, with our opening ceremonies! Stay tuned for more information on our screen free challenge. A parent letter will be sent home on Friday explaining how students can earn points. All participation will be optional.
- **All-School Skating Party:** We’re excited to invite all HCS students and their families to our **All-School Skating Party** on **Thursday, February 12**, from **6:00–9:00 p.m.** at **Lynwood Sports Center** (2030 Glenwood-Dyer Rd., Lynwood). **Both admission tickets and skate rental tickets will be pre-sold in the school office beginning Monday, February 9** to help reduce wait times. Cash or checks only! **All tickets are non-refundable.** Tickets can also be purchased at the door of the event. You are allowed to bring your own skates.
 - **Admission:** \$3.00 per person
 - **Skate Rental:** \$3.00 per person
- **HCS Listening Groups:** Our 6th-8th grade listening sessions will be held on Thursday, February 12 from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM and Friday, February 27 from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM. These sessions are open to families of 6th- 8th grade students. Space is limited to 12 parents in each session. If both sessions fill up, we will provide additional opportunities. We are looking forward to hearing your valued and important feedback! To sign up, please complete the following [Sign-Up Genius Form](#)
- **February Saturday Serve: Our Saturday Serve in February will focus on sharing God’s love through fleece blankets.** Come as a family and gather in the gym at HCS to create fleece blankets for various organizations:

Phil's Friends, Something to Hold, PASS, etc. We will be cutting and tying fleece to create blankets. This is a significant way to share God's love with people in our community.

Date: Saturday, February 21

Time: 9:00 - 11:00 am

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

RSVP: [February Saturday Serve signup](#)

This Saturday Serve is open to all ages. Cutting the fleece strips will require good scissors (If you have a pair that cuts fabric well, please bring them.) and excellent cutting skills (This will not be the task for preschool - primary students.) Tying the fleece strips would be an excellent parent-child activity. We will also be making cards for Phil's Friends (an organization that supports people with a cancer diagnosis). Templates will be provided. These encouraging cards are sent to cancer patients monthly. **Thank you for your work in bringing God's Kingdom on earth.** Questions? Contact Vicki Huizenga vhuizenga@highlandchristian.org

- **Book Week:** February 23-27 is the Annual Book Week at HCS. Make plans for a lot of reading time and the Scholastic Book Fair. More information will follow, but we would love some volunteers to work morning (8-noon) or afternoon (11:45 - 4) shifts for the book fair. These shifts are for Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday of Book Week. Anyone interested please contact Judy Zandstra at librarian@highlandchristian.org
- **Musical Theater:** Parents, we are so excited to be in rehearsals for Mary Poppins - can't wait to show you our talents on April 30th and May 1st! We will encounter prop needs as the play progresses. At this point we are looking for two coat racks, wooden, very simple. Please contact Judy Zandstra, in the library, if you have one available for us to use. Thanks so much!
- **Hot Lunch Menu-** [February Lunch Menu](#)
- **Employment Opportunities:** To view all of our current openings, please visit our [website](#).

ATHLETIC NEWS:

February 3: Girls Basketball

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

Please note: The 7th and 8th grade games on Tuesday at Chicago Christian Tinley Park are flipped. 8th grade will play after 6th grade at 5:00pm. 7th grade will be the final game at 6:00pm.

February 5: Girls Basketball

- **7th grade vs. Forest Ridge (HOME) 4:00 p.m.**

FAITH CORNER:

This week let's dive into ways that our families can make space for God in our everyday lives. By spending time with God's Word thinking about **How we are Loving our Neighbors** we will build strong faith practices within our family.

Questions: Who is someone you love?
How do you show someone that you love them?
How can you be a loving neighbor to someone who lives far away?

Bible passage: Read **I Corinthians 13:4-7 & 13** The passage below is from the NLT.

**Love is patient and kind.
Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude.
It does not demand its own way.
It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged.
It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out.
Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.
Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love.**



Questions: After reading **I Corinthians 13:4-7 & 13** - Talk about how you can cultivate these characteristics of **LOVE**.

Who do you need to have more patience with or kindness toward?

Create a list of loving words to say to one another.

Name a person who showed you kindness today. Tell what he or she did.

Prayer:

God, we are so thankful for all the people who love us and make our lives better.

Today we are especially thankful for. . . (*invite everyone to name someone*).

We also want to pray for people who are sick, or in trouble, or who need to know that you love them.

Today we pray for ... (*invite everyone to name someone*).

Thank you for hearing our prayers, God.

Amen.

Activities:

Help someone at home with their work or chores.

Talk with someone on the playground who seems sad or lonely.

When you go to the store, buy some extra food. Deliver the food to a food bank or to a family who needs something extra.

Choose a country. Learn about it online and spend time praying for the people in that country.

T.R.I.P NEWS:

- **Interested in saving money on tuition but not sure how T.R.I.P. works?** We can help you understand and make the most out of this great program! Request an information packet or set up a meeting today with Sherry Hiatt at trip@highlandchristian.org (ext. 199).
- **T.R.I.P. Schedule:** Our next order for physical gift cards is due on Wednesday, Feb. 4 at 3:30pm. This order will be available for pick up on Tuesday, Feb. 10 after 2:45pm. Cash and Carry is available by request. Please email all Cash and Carry requests to trip@highlandchristian.org.
- **Upcoming T.R.I.P. Order Dates:** Feb. 11, Feb. 18, Feb. 25, Feb. 25
- **T.R.I.P. Volunteer Schedule:** Feb. 3-Team C, Feb. 10-Team D, Feb. 17-Team A, Feb. 24-Team B

COMMUNITY NEWS:

- **Attention future Illiana families:** Please watch for upcoming communication from Illiana Christian High School regarding placement testing for all incoming freshmen, scheduled for the evening of March 24, 2026. Be sure to mark your calendars as the testing is mandatory.

- **Youth Acting Classes at Towle Theater:** Towle Theater is now offering 6-week Youth Acting Classes for both kids (ages 8–12) and teens (ages 13–18). These classes are designed to build confidence, creativity, communication skills, and teamwork through theater games, improvisation, and scene work — all in a fun, supportive environment. Each session also ends with a casual in-class showcase for family and friends. Click [HERE](#) for more information.
- **Looking for a summer camp to send the kiddos to?** Camp Manitoqua might be the place. Check out their [flyer](#) for more information!