

# PATHWAYS

"SHOW ME YOUR WAYS, LORD, TEACH ME YOUR PATHS." PSALM 25:4

HCA's vision is to inspire students to love learning and live lives worthy of the calling of Christ.

## UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

**Jan. 24** - Read-A-Thon info packets distributed (K-8 students; see page 6)

**Jan. 28** - Term 2 ends, grades close

**Jan. 31** - Term 3 begins

**Feb. 1 -28** - Read-A-Thon!

**Feb. 9** - Term 2 Report Cards issued (via email)

**Feb. 21-25** - February vacation (no school)

**March 11** - Middle School Term 3 Progress Reports issued (via email)

**March 18** - Term 4 Development Day

**April 1** \*save the date\* - Africa Day (parent volunteers needed!)



## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

It is always at this point in the year that I begin to feel we have turned a corner. We are approaching the midpoint of the school year, and although the days are still cold, the amount of light is lengthening. After a surge in Covid in our community and school, I can say that it seems we are turning a corner on that front as well. In all respects, we look forward to spring!

As you know, there were changes made in the Covid protocols from the CDC just prior to our return to school from Christmas break. Although the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education followed suit, we decided to maintain our current protocols for the first two weeks after break. Having done that, our Covid protocol team used this week to wrestle with the guidance once again. Safety is always a priority, but we also recognize the need to have reasonable expectations of families and we strive to balance the two. We plan to communicate the updated guidance in a schoolwide email on Monday, but we have already begun implementing the new protocols in applicable situations. As situations arise, we have the opportunity to work through the guidance and answer our own questions before sharing the updates with you. Please join me in praying for wisdom for our school on this front.

As we strive to keep up with the evolution of the pandemic, the real stuff of school continues! We are nearing the end of Term 2 and we are closing out our focus on Israel and the Middle Eastern part of the world. Next, we travel to Africa! This exciting continent is so diverse and different from our own - which is what makes it so fun to study! Although we enjoy comparing and contrasting cultures with our own, we are also keeping in mind that which brings us together as God's children. We have common needs as people for love, community, food, and shelter. We all struggle with some of the same difficulties as well-we are sinners in need of the Father's grace. In Term 3, students will be studying some of these common cross-cultural themes of the Bible that impact us regardless of where we live - themes of covenant, worship, idolatry, and redemption. It's a comfort to know that we have common ground with people everywhere.

I thought it may be helpful to know that although we may have 'Covid on the brain' as adults, the learning continues for our students. The time and effort that is afforded toward Covid guidelines and maintaining an in-person learning environment is well worth it for the students to be here every day--experiencing, discussing, working together and getting the most out of their education. Thank you for your part in all of this as partners in their education!

~Mrs. Cleveland



Our youngest students having "snow" much fun together outside!

**Honoring God through  
Creative learning and strong  
Academics in a caring, fun-filled school!**

## Principal's Book of Excellence Award Recipients:

**Ruthann** - for her compassion and generosity to her friends

**RJ** - for being a hard worker

**Hunter** - for being willing to help classmates with classwork

**Saidah** - for her heartfelt and compassionate prayers for her peers

**Luke, Kaitlin and Andrew** - for putting up the cones at recess even before being asked

**Elijah** - for sharing your amazing artwork with us

**Emma, Jocelyn, Abby, Alexi, Arden, Grace, Kayley, Lily, Kira, William, James, and Wesley** - for leading the younger children with selfless love, patience, and care during the Christmas Shoppe last month

**Savannah** - for coming to the aid of a friend who fell at recess & getting the help he needed

**Aiden** - for often asking if he can be of help around the classroom

## 10 days left for priority re-enrollment!

January is the month to secure your student's spot in an HCA classroom for the 2022-23 school year before we open up to new applicants! If you plan to re-enroll your child(ren), please go to your Family Portal to update and submit your child's enrollment packet for the '22-23 year. A \$300 Family Tuition Deposit will be invoiced through FACTS, and credited to your first tuition payment in June. In February, we will open up spots to siblings and children who were on the wait-list for classes this year. In March, we will open up spots to new applicants. We still expect distancing and space to be a factor in our admissions decisions, which is why re-enrolling provides security to current families. Reserve your child's seat in an HCA classroom today!

## 2021 Giving Statements!

Giving Statements for 2021 are being mailed the week of January 24, 2022. If you have any questions, please email Accounting/HR Manager Judy Bleau at [jbleau@holdenchristianacademy.org](mailto:jbleau@holdenchristianacademy.org) or call 508-829-4441, ex. 230.

## Yearbook Pre-Orders!

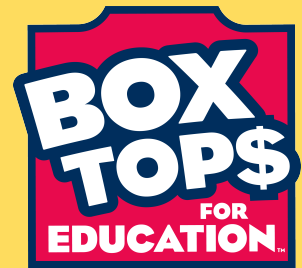
It's not too soon to let us know you want to reserve a copy of your 2021-22 yearbook. Please fill out this form to indicate how many yearbooks you would like to pre-order. Payment will not be invoiced until May 1st, but having people pre-order will help us get an accurate assessment of how many to order!



# PLEASE TAKE NOTE...



**YOU CAN SUPPORT HCA WITH THE CLICK OF A BUTTON! PLEASE DOWNLOAD THE BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION APP AND SCAN RECEIPTS FOR POINTS. THANK YOU - EVERY SCAN BENEFITS**



## Calling all prayer warriors!

Prayer is a powerful tool that can be exercised anywhere and on behalf of anyone. The Lord tells us to "bear one another's burdens" (Gal. 6:2) and to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thess. 5:17). With that in mind, HCA is **forming a school prayer chain** to support our school community when needs are expressed. **We are looking for people to pray!** You would be on an email list of individuals committed to pray for requests from families at HCA. If you are interested in being on this list please email Rebecca Burley at [becka2911@gmil.com](mailto:becka2911@gmil.com). We also hope to organize some in-person times of prayer for those who may be interested.

## JOB OPENING AT HOLDEN CHAPEL:

Holden Chapel is looking for a part-time church secretary. Do you know someone who may be a good fit? They are looking for a capable candidate, on a part-time basis. For a detailed job description, email Dan Marinone at [dmarinone@holdenchapel.org](mailto:dmarinone@holdenchapel.org). Interested candidates should be prepared to submit a resume by January 31st, with a cover letter and both a personal & professional reference.

Thank you!



## Curriculum Connection!

Have you heard? Roger Williams Zoo offers 1/2 price admission in the winter, which may provide an affordable family field trip with connections to our curriculum! Visit <https://rwpzoo.org/> for more information. Perhaps your family can find animals that are native to Africa, which is our focus of study during Term 3! This may also be a great opportunity to invite another HCA family and enjoy the Zoo together.

### *FROM THE ART ROOM:*

- ◆ Grades K-2 created a cityscape of the city of Jerusalem to integrate with our study of Israel.
- ◆ Grades 3-6 have been working on a tessellation using the 6 pointed Star of David.
- ◆ Grades 7-8 are working on a graphic image based on the 6 pointed star, and learned how to make a perfect star using a compass.
- ◆ Middle School: For upcoming projects in term 3- Grades 5-8 will be making African Wrap Dolls. **Please start saving junk to help your students create the coolest dolls.**



Dear HCA Parents,

The Read-A-thon will soon be upon us! What is a Read-A-thon you ask? Each February the HCA staff and students are asked to drop everything and read and raise money along the way. Why have a Readathon? There are so many positive reasons:

- Students & Staff **put down their screens** & spend a whole month **focused on reading**.
- **Money is raised!!!** We use this \$ to enhance our school & keep our tuition affordable.
- **Student Reading Levels** get a boost every year during/after the Read-A-thon.
- Many students discover or rediscover a **love for reading!** :)
- The Read-A-thon is **great for all ages - being read to by parents or others, or listening to audiobooks count**. So even our youngest students can participate. (The Read-A-thon is optional for Kindergarten because they participated in the Trike-a-thon but it is highly encouraged).
- Kids enjoy **fun incentives** along the way, with top prizes awarded to both the top reader & top earner in each grade.
- While other schools and organizations sell candles, calendars, cookies, etc... We host the Read-A-thon to **enhance students' education** while raising money for our school.

**Packets with all the details will be handed out in chapel to students on Monday, January 24, 2022. The packets will contain: a letter to families with login info, a sponsor sheet, a list of dates to remember, a sample fundraising email letter to use, and a Read-a-thon FAQ's sheet.**

It is easy to get started. Your child will be given a username and password (see letter in packet), and you will track and validate their minutes of reading on **Reading-Rewards.com**. You may even want to download the **Reading Rewards app** for easy logging and validating. If you have any questions feel free to contact us.

Happy Reading and Raising \$ for HCA!

Beth Lundergan

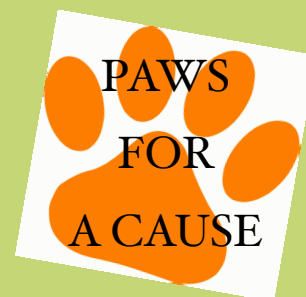
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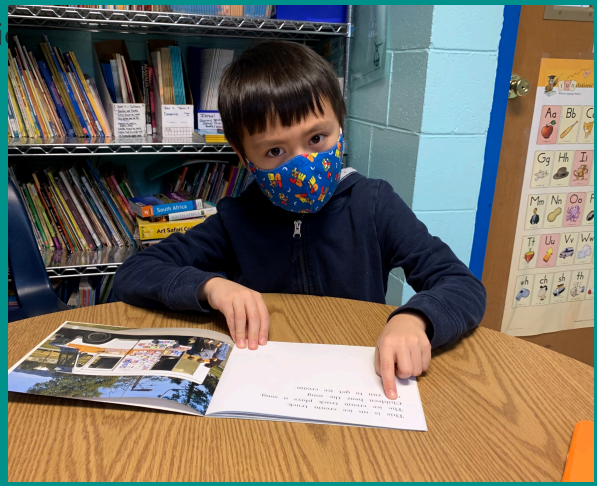
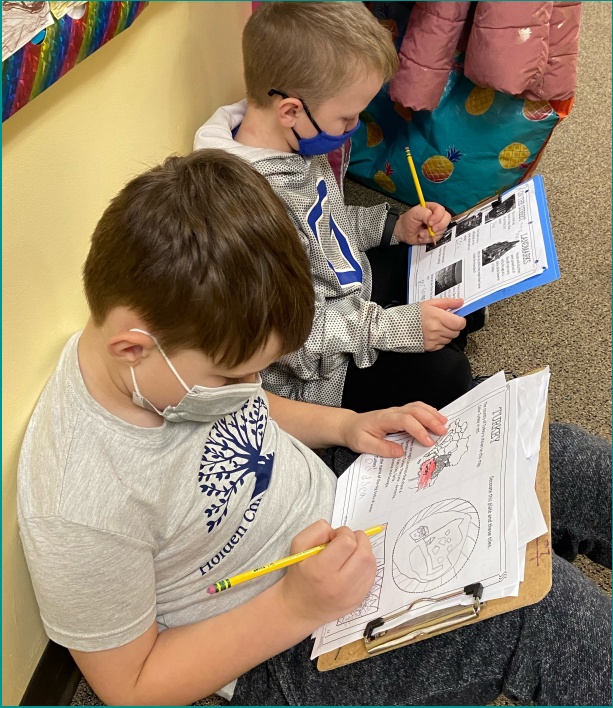
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# Preschool News!

## Important Things to know for PK:

### Month of February:

Read-to-Me Challenge  
(More information will be emailed to parents)

### Report Cards:

February 9

### Valentine's Day Party:

Tuesday, February 15

### February Vacation—NO SCHOOL: February 21-25

**Month of March:** Trip Around the World—Cultures Unit (If any parent would like to share about their culture, or make a video to share on Google Classroom, please contact Mrs. McKean)

## How you can help:

We are always so happy when a parent comes to play! If you are interested in helping our Preschool staff monitor outdoor play time, please [email Mrs. McKean](mailto:Mrs.McKean).

Winter in Preschool is still full of fun, even if we are indoors more often! December culminated with the sweetest gift exchange. Each Preschooler was thrilled to buy a gift for an assigned friend, and they patiently sat in their pairs, waiting to give the gift they brought. The children beamed as they gave their classmate a carefully thought out gift, and squeals of delight and echoes of "thank you!" floated through the air. The spirit of giving, and remembering the very best gift of Jesus were an evident part of our classroom.

January brings with it chilly days outdoors, but warm hearts inside. God made the winter, and the children have loved hiding in "caves" and learning to trust how God will take care of them, just like He does for winter animals that hibernate! Our favorite song is about God taking care of us—ask any Preschooler to sing it for you!

Winter changes like snow and ice, the survival of woodland animals, and ice skating on our imaginary pond are the fun we share this January at HCA! Preschoolers practice dressing and fine motor skills with winter clothes while they get ready for a 'skate' on the pond, and develop social skills while they twirl and slide with their friends. They practice letters, numbers and counting with snowmen and snowflakes! Storytelling was recently a hit, as they acted out Goldilocks and the 3 Bears. Science is explored through water and ice experiments, and we can always bring the snow inside if it's too cold to go out!



# Team A News!

## Help Needed & Announcements:

We are always in need of recess monitor helpers on a daily basis. **Recess for Team A is 11:30am-12:00pm** Monday through Friday. You may sign up to be on the recess monitor schedule [HERE](#).

### Kindergarten Update from Mrs. Coombs:

Hello Kindergarten families!

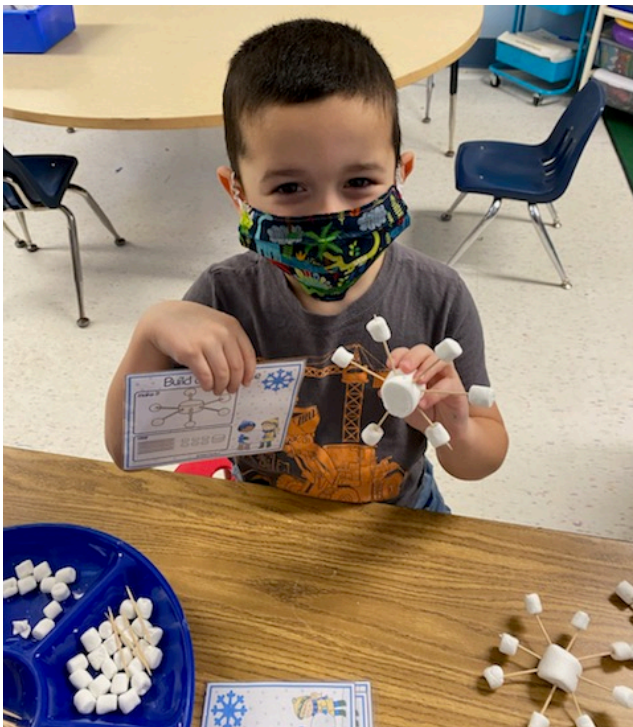
Kindergarten is continuing to work hard on our handwriting and letters. If you would like your child to try some different and fun ways of practicing their letter writing at home, try having them write in shaving cream and/or craft sand (can be found at Michaels). This is a great way to work their fine motor skills and coordination.

Kindergarten students have been practicing their Math skills while building and creating snowflakes with marshmallows and toothpicks. The snowflakes are each beautiful and unique and are on display in the classroom.

We also recently took a look into cause-and-effect in our

reading. The class really enjoyed the book, Sneezy the Snowman, and then had fun making some snowmen on their own. Make sure to ask your child, "what would happen to their snowman if he got too close to something that was hot?"

We continue to go through our Beginners Bible, reading the stories and often acting them out for a better understanding. The class really enjoyed acting out the story of Joshua and the Battle of Jericho and before that, going on a "spy" mission to visit 4th grade after reading about the 12 Spies. This class continues to grow and enjoy the creative lessons that they have been part of. I look forward to more exciting adventures and things to come in Term 3!



If only all snowflakes were made of marshmallow :-)



### **Grade 1 Update from Mrs. Richardson:**

Greetings First Grade families! Time sure flies by when you are learning a lot. Term 2 really went by fast. With our term wrapping up next Friday, Grade 1 is getting ready to create our very own desert biome. The class has received the general expectations, but how they create their biome is up to them! This project will be enjoyed by the students and I look forward to seeing what creative ideas the students come up with. In math, we have been learning all about place value. First graders have for sure mastered stacked addition using place value blocks. Our next topic is stacked subtraction using place value blocks. We will be wrapping our chapter up with a test before the term ends.

Bible has been such a joy in our class! Recently, we learned all about David and Goliath. Our class discussed the giants we face in our lives and how God can help us overcome any “giants” we face everyday. We continue to grow our knowledge about culture. Our next stop in Term 3 is the continent of Africa, specifically Kenya. First grade is almost ready to take flight from Israel to Kenya!

### **Grade 2 Update from Mrs. McGrail:**

*Shalom families. It's incredible to think we are wrapping up Term Two so quickly! Our group has thoroughly enjoyed learning about Israel and the culture of this magnificent Holy Land. Social Studies continues to go in depth about the Holy Land learning about the celebrations and traditions held in Israel.*

*In Bible, we have continued in the Old Testament with key characters such as Moses.*

*In Science, we have explored the wonders of the desert biome <- Did you know Saguaro (suh-wah-ro) cactus grows to be upwards of 50 feet in height ?!*

*Food for Life has been full of wonderful samples of the foods of Israel, discussing the importance of staying active in the winter months, and our bodies.*

*In Math, our brains continue to work hard in Unit 5 as we're learning all about multiplication. And lastly, in FUNdations we are already in Unit 8! We said farewell to Pete the Cat as we moved on in our reading journey.*



# Team B News!

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

\*Make sure you read the Weekly Peek, please! It is in the front cover of your child's binder. If for any reason your child is absent, please help them keep up with the math. Thank you so much!!!

\*Due to the uncertainty of sudden absences, please log your child onto their Google Classroom. The log in, to your child's gmail account is your child's first initial and last name and then [holdenchristianacademy.org](http://holdenchristianacademy.org), (for example: [drennie@holdenchristianacademy.org](mailto:drennie@holdenchristianacademy.org)), and their password is there user name, TWICE. For example: [drenniedrennie](mailto:drenniedrennie) (no spaces).

Blessings of health and blessings to you and your family.

~Ms. Rennie

## From Ms. Rennie's Desk:

Well, it certainly has been an interesting few weeks with many absences in our class (including my own!). Thank you for your flexibility and understanding. I have been reflecting on the truth that the joy of the Lord is my strength!!

Third grade has been and will continue to dig deeper and deeper into multiplication and division. Thank you for helping them master their multiplication facts. Your time and assistance is really such a gift to them as math builds.

We continue our studies of the desert biome from Israel to now Turkey. I participated in a two week missions trip to Istanbul, Turkey quite a few years ago, and because of that, I love sharing my experience with them and working with them to learn more about this culture.



Term 2 ends next week, and then we will "travel" to Africa-specifically, Cameroon and the grassland biome. Thank you again, for your generosity of Christmas gifts. If you didn't open up the American Greeting card I sent you – just want you to know how grateful I am for your generosity and your awesome children!!



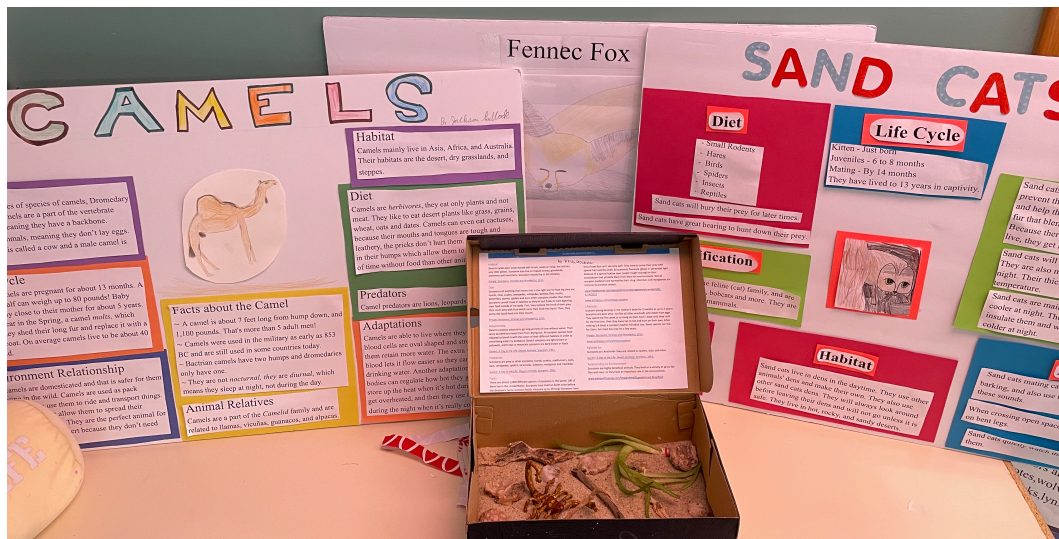
### Help Needed:

We are always in need of recess monitor helpers on a daily basis. **Recess for Team B is 11:30-12:00pm** Monday through Friday. This is a role for HCA parents to fill. Please make sure you've submitted your CORI check forms (found on our website) as well as a copy of your license before you volunteer. You may sign up to be on the recess monitor schedule HERE.

### From Mrs. Velarde's Desk:

Greetings from the warm, sunny, very dry, flip-flop-weather Holy Land. Oh wait. We just had a snow storm. Just kidding... no flip-flops here! With everything we have been learning about the Holy Land it just seemed like we were actually there! We are rapidly finishing up Term 2 and I am very excited to begin Term 3! But before we get there, the students will present their first big research project of the year on desert animals. They all worked so hard on these projects and it shows! I am very proud of the work they put into them and they should be proud too.

There are so many things to look forward to for our study of Africa, but I think it is shaping up to be a very fun term. Thank you for your continued support of both me and your students. We have been blessed with a wonderful first half of the year and I cannot wait to see what is in store for the second half.



# Middle School News!

## Building on a Strong Foundation: January Update from Miss Legro

When building a home, you need to start with a strong foundation. You don't want any holes in the foundation or there will be problems as you build layer upon layer on that foundation. I am always telling my students that the same is true in math. Here are a couple recent examples of how we are building a strong math foundation:

- This month, our eighth graders built on the foundation that we have been laying since their Pre-Algebra days when we moved from solving multi-step equations to solving multi-step inequalities. If we had started with multi-step inequalities, they would have complained that it didn't make sense or it was too hard. But because they put in the work building the foundation, this layer was easy. As one student remarked, "Oh, I know how to do this."
- In seventh grade, I am trying to lay that same foundation by teaching the students how to do problems step-by-step when they want to do it "in their head". I have explained to them that it may be easier to do it "in their head" now, but I know that the problems will become increasingly difficult to do "in their head". One of the students asked, "Can I do it my way until it gets harder?" to which I said, "No." I want them to practice doing the problems step-by-step while it is easy, so they will "know how to do this" when it gets harder.

If your student would like a little extra help building a strong math foundation, Middle School math help is available on Thursdays from 3:00-3:30. Please use [this Sign Up Genius](#) to RSVP.

## Sixth Grade Update from Mr. Shea:

We are wrapping up our term on the Middle East studying some of the key differences between their worldviews and our own. Students have been reading excerpts from *The Arabian Nights* (*The 1001 Nights*), talking about how different worldviews lead to different interpretations of a single story like "Aladdin" or "Alibaba and the Forty Thieves."

We are wrapping up the term with a writing project, adding a new story to the *Arabian Nights* using "Character Study" as our main style of writing. As students work on this project please encourage them to develop their characters and imagine how they would react to the situations in their story. Character studies are often written around a cast of characters rather than planned out according to a story's plot.

As we move into Term 3 and shift our focus to Africa, we will be taking a deep focus on the differences in how cultures treat guests and visitors. We are also hoping to take a "mini" field trip or two in order to explore different aspects of African (Nigerian, for Grade 6) culture.

As we transition into Term 3, please feel free to jump on any opportunities you have to reinforce learning from Terms 1 and 2. If you have any questions or ideas about how to help expose our students to African culture and relate it to God's ultimate design seen in Revelation 7, please let me know.

### Seventh/Eighth Grade from Mrs. Gordon:

Does life feel pretty up and down for you lately? It sure does in the 7/8 Homeroom. Let me give you just two of many examples:

**High:** Last month, we had so much fun celebrating Christ's first coming with games, gifts, and laughter galore!

**Low:** We bid a beloved classmate farewell as his family moved out of state, and we miss his smiling face and enthusiastic presence daily.

**High:** Our aeroponics tower garden is thriving, and we're actively learning how to care for that.

**Low:** This COVID spike has made it challenging to delve into our studies with the cohesiveness and depth we typically enjoy.

Term 2 comes to an end next week (Fri 1/28), so it is a good time to check your students' planners and initiate conversations about any work they may need to make up or complete. In Health, they are all resting during a self-planned 24-hour Sabbath between 1/13 and 1/24 and then reflecting on the experience.

**Final note:** Please encourage your children to come to school prepared to comfortably spend time outside throughout these Winter months. That is one way we can all contribute to our physical, mental, and spiritual health during this dark and cold time of the year.

### Words from Mr. Hayward:

We continue working our way through the history of Israel (which is to say, the Old Testament). We close Term 2 with David and Solomon (circa 1000 BC). In Term 3, we will continue for another 600 years through Israel's and then Judah's destruction (722 and 586 BC, respectively), concluding by April (somehow by the grace of God, that is) with the Jewish return to Jerusalem in 520 BC. This upcoming Term 3 time frame includes the era of the writing prophets (Isaiah - Malachi) and the wisdom literature (Job - Song). No problem! We'll keep you posted on our progress along the way. Again, I encourage parents / grandparents / guardians / older sibs to participate with the kids as they work through their Bible reading assignments. If they'll let you, of course. Remind them that Mr. Hayward loves to have you helping them with their homework. God be with you in these winter months!

