

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:

Dec. 13 - All K-8 Students should dress nicely for concert recordings (*see below for details)

Dec. 16 - Christmas Program via Zoom, 7pm

Dec. 17 - Christmas Shoppe

Dec. 22-31 - Christmas Vacation (No School)

Jan. 11 - Lifetouch Photo Retakes

Jan. 11 - Garden Team Meeting, 7pm Zoom

Jan. 14 - Term 3 Development Day (No School)

Jan. 17 - MLK Jr. Day (No School)

**All K-8 students should dress in their "Christmas finery" on Monday, Dec. 13th. All classes will be recording for the Christmas program. NO jeans, athletic wear, or t-shirts. Thank you for your cooperation.*



PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear HCA friends and family,

You may remember that in September we were looking for interested individuals to serve on a revived Parent Teacher Council. At that point we had just a few parents who were interested in serving on a leadership team. Since then, the Parent Teacher Council has grown to include 21 participants. The group that has formed is proving to be a terrific group of parents and teachers who are great communicators and have a heart for service. The mission of this council is for parents, teachers, and administration to enrich the program and culture of Holden Christian Academy through prayer, communication, and positive initiatives.

Group members include:

Hillary Allebach, Deborah & Wil Bullock, Kristine Benjamin, Rebecca Burley, Sade & Paul Foose, Cammie Gilchrist, Alison Graham, Anna Harvey, Kristen Heenan, Rachel Johnson, Crystal LeClair, Katie Lugo, Andrea Marchand, Natacha Pierre-Louis, Frances Queen, Katie Raley, Crystal Raymond, Bridget Velarde, and Katie Watts. Several members of the PTC have volunteered to serve as Room Parents.

Principal's Book of Excellence Award Recipients:

Alex - for helping his After School teachers push in all the chairs without being asked

Landen - for cleaning up someone else's mess in After School

Remi - for volunteering to pass out wipes everyday after snack & lunch

Hannah - for being a great example by showing kindness and gentleness to her classmates

Ryker - for overcoming his fear of crowds and performing in Ping

Mrs. M - for coming up with a gorgeous Art activity that was integrated so well into the curriculum, and for offering such a great challenge that the students felt really proud of

Emma - for being a servant-worker and helping with the Test and Stay program every morning before school, being willing to help others with a cheerful attitude

Mrs. Heenan - for being selfless and flexible, by allowing us to use her as a classroom sub last week

Room parents are interested in helping with communication and organization, especially with respect to field trips, special events, and big days. They will also be a point of contact for new families who may have questions about how things are done here at HCA. For example, some may have questions about what the Christmas Shoppe is like or how to prepare their student for an upcoming 'big day.' We are still happy to answer questions through the office, but if a parent feels more comfortable speaking with another parent, room parents would like to be that resource! Room parents will be initiating contact with you very soon with more information. Our hope is that you will find them to be a valuable resource and you will feel free to reach out to them with questions.

The PTC has come up with several other initiatives to enrich our school.

- Prayer support through a family prayer calendar or other idea
- Coordination of encouragement for families, weary teachers, struggling students.
- HCA community building events
- Service opportunities for students in school or in the local community
- Coordinate family field trips
- Coordinate special events that support student learning or parent support
- Community outreach - pastor appreciation
- Welcoming committee/admissions liaison for new families
- Teacher Appreciation
- Coordinate upcoming seasonal events like the Christmas Shoppe and opportunities for giving.

The PTC meets each month. If you would like to join, please let me know! Our next meeting will be this Tuesday, December 14th at 7pm via Zoom. If you cannot join the group but there is a particular initiative that you are passionate about, please let us know so we can include you for that.

We are hoping to use the HCA app to communicate upcoming events - keep an eye on the Parent Teacher Council tab and the school calendar option!

I am excited about the impact that this group of representatives will have on our school. We are here to honor God and foster unity through prayer, service, and communication.

*Blessings,
Mrs. Nikki Cleveland, Principal*

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



HCA CHRISTMAS SHOPPE 2021

"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" 2 Corinthians 9:15

Donation Collection ~ Monday, Dec. 13th to Thursday, Dec. 16th

Donations will be collected at drop off and dismissal:

- Kids - gently used toys, art supplies, games w/all the pieces...
- Men - sports, fishing, tools, ties...
- Women - accessories, jewelry (in boxes if possible), scarves, purses...
- All - CDs, DVDs, home decor, bath and toiletry items, garden items, pet items, kitchen items, books (devotionals, cookbooks, decorating, handyman, children's books...)

What Students Bring ~ Friday, Dec. 17

Please have your student(s) bring the following items on the day of the Shoppe:

- **Shopping list** with names of family members / friends
- Large **shopping bag** to store their purchases
- Christmas **gift bags and tissue paper** only. Please do **not** bring wrapping paper.
- **Gift tags** filled out with names on their shopping list
- A Ziploc **bag with quarters** for purchases (Item prices: 25¢, 50¢, 75¢, \$1 and 4 raffle tickets for \$1)

Christmas Shoppe Helpers ~ Dec. 16 and Dec. 17

Thank you to those who have volunteered to set up the Christmas Shoppe on Thursday, Dec. 16th and those who can help run the shoppe on Friday, Dec. 17th. If you would like to help, there is still a need for helpers to assist with browsing and shopping times on Friday & clean up after closing.

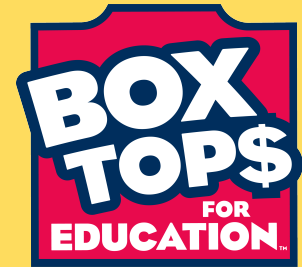
Please use the [Sign-up Genius link](#) to sign up to help!



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 HCA!



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. Interested candidates should be prepared to submit a resume by December 20, with a cover letter and both a personal & professional reference.

Thank you!



FUNDRAISING AT HCA: AN UPDATE ON THE ANNUAL APPEAL

Thank you to those who have donated to our biggest fundraiser of the year. The Annual Fund mailing was sent out last month, and so far we have raised \$5,435 for HCA. This represents just 36.23% of our \$15,000 budget for this fundraiser. So far we have had 32 donations from family, friends, and grandparents of current students, staff, and School Committee members. Donations range from \$25-\$1000; 10 gifts were from first-time donors; one new family joined us as a Legacy Partner and will see their name printed on a leaf to adorn the Legacy Tree in our school entrance.

If you are reading this and have not yet had the opportunity to donate, please visit yet, please visit <https://www.holdenchristianacademy.org/annual-fund> to read the Appeal letter and consider making a donation.

Thank you to all who love and support us in prayer and with giving.

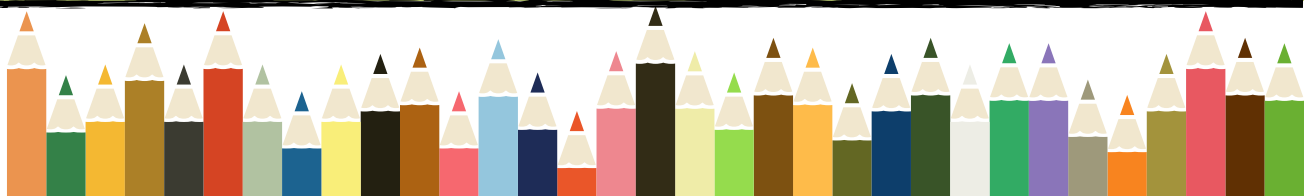
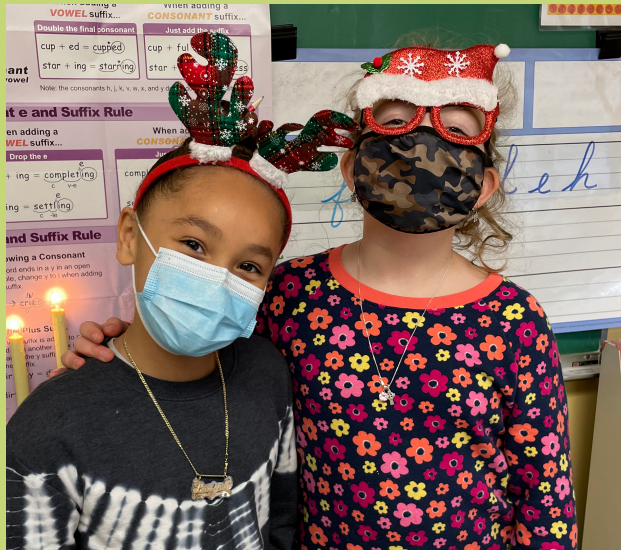
FROM THE ART ROOM:

Square 1 Art Update:

Thank you to those who have ordered Square 1 Art. Orders should be arriving to HCA soon. Together we raised \$601.26 so far. Future orders will still benefit HCA.

Mrs. M is looking for.....scrap paper!

If you have any 8.5x11" paper that has at least 1 side clear of any writing and lines, Mrs. M would love to add it to her pile of scrap paper. Students who finish their art projects ahead of their class often need a space to doodle. Thank you for keeping this in mind.





Preschool News!

Important Things to know for PK:

Thursday, December 16th--Preschool Christmas Celebration and Gift Exchange in class

Thursday, December 16th—Virtual Christmas Concert, 7pm via Zoom

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 kmckean@holdenchristianaacademy.org and let her know you'd love to supervise students during their time in the Nature Explore Playspace.

As the days turn colder, our youngest learners have been celebrating how Jesus came as a baby because God loves us! Through Christmas songs and carols; daily play with the Nativity characters; acting out that very first Christmas story; and exchanging gifts (real and pretend!) ...the HCA Preschool is sharing the Christmas spirit! The children love sitting by the cozy "fire" (see above!); playing family together; decorating the class Christmas tree or life-size gingerbread house; and our learning games where we explore counting, matching and sorting shapes and gingerbread men!

You can often hear students humming 'Happy Birthday to Jesus' or 'Away in a Manger' while they go about their day. The joy of our preschool children can be seen in their sweet smiles and merry laughter!



Christmast crafts!



Bundled up for outdoor playtime!

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:

Kindergarten has been working hard in Term 2. I have had the wonderful opportunity to see my Kindergarten students for 3 months now! That is such a miracle and praise for this year. I greatly appreciate all of the partnership you've put towards the success of this year, both academically and helping us remain in-person.

We have been learning about the season of Advent and even created our own Advent Wreaths for our Bible unit. Hearing the stories from the past helps make us excited for what is to come! During our study of Israel, we learned about Hanukkah. We played some Dreidel and made some homemade applesauce for our latkes. As we continue our study of Israel, we will be tasting some traditional foods from that country and looking at some of the traditional clothing.

We are getting so close to Christmas, we can barely stand it!

Kindergarten will be celebrating the birth of Jesus, Tuesday, December 21. Tuesday after lunch, we will be listening to Christmas Carols and building gingerbread houses, and having a holly jolly ol' time. Parents please be on the lookout for a separate email with all the details for our Christmas party and gift exchange.

Grade 1 Update from Mrs. Richardson:

Time sure flies when you are having fun and learning a lot! We are busy with our unit on Israel and learning so much about other cultures this year. We are learning about foods eaten in Israel, and specifically about challah bread. Challah bread is commonly eaten during Hanukkah. Our class made challah bread and sampled it as well. Along with learning about the celebrations in Israel, we are reading about Advent and following the events in the Bible leading up to the birth of our Savior. Grade 1 is also learning how to tell time and we are now experts!

We will be having our class Christmas celebration on Tuesday, December 21 from 9-11:30. During this time, we will pass out gifts, eat yummy food, and have some Christmas themed activities. Next week, an email and handout will be sent home saying who should bring what item. Instead of a few families donating multiple items, each family will be given one item to bring in for the party. We will have an ugly Christmas sweater party (it is so fun to see how creative the kids get). For gifts, students may bring in a dollar store item or small goodie bag for each student (12 students total).



Grade 2 Update from Mrs. McGrail:

Grade 2 ! Shalom. It's incredible to think we are already in week four of Term 2. Our group is thoroughly enjoying learning about Israel. In Food for Life, one of our weeklong lessons was learning about fitness in Israel, and we discovered many similarities that we have in our own country such as "Pick Up" (Israel's version of Basketball,) surfing, yoga, running, and even skateboarding! We also learned of new ways of Israeli fitness such as MatKot (combination form of Ping Pong and Paddleball on the beach.) In Math, our brains continue to work hard as we've learned expanded notations, place values, and so much more. Science is busy as we learn about the different biomes; Social Studies goes in depth about the Holy land; and FUNdations continues to strengthen our reading along with a new face we all love to see: Pete the Cat !



Gr. 2 & Their Desert Biome Projects

Christmas Celebration: Tuesday 12/21/21

We are in the heart of the Christmas season. On Tuesday, December 21 we will have our class Christmas party in the afternoon. Due to the circumstances, it will not be a Team A event- each class will have their own celebration. If students would like to bless their fellow classmates with a Christmas gift, I ask that individual small gift bags (similar to birthday celebration goody bags) that the kids could hand out to each classmate would be suitable. Please know this is not obligatory, it's only if you'd like for your child to give their classmates a simple inexpensive gift. If any parent would like to send in a food item or beverage for the Christmas party, please email me so that we could discuss food options due to the severe allergies in our class.



Team B News!

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 Ms. Rennie's Desk:

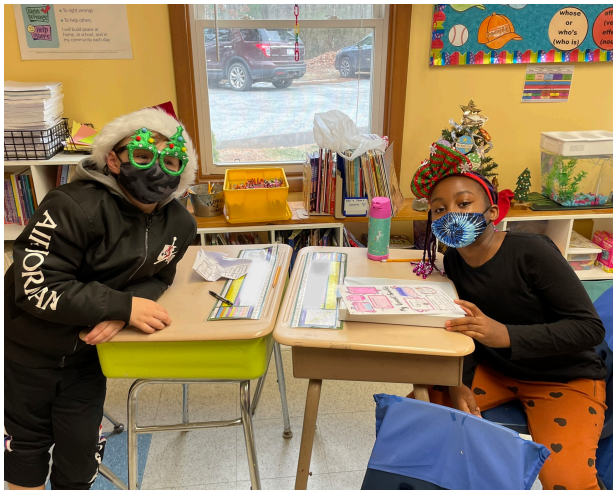
I am so proud of how 3rd grade is mastering multiplication facts! We have been learning so many fun facts about Israel and its biomes. Did you know that there have been 250 million olive trees planted at over time?

We have celebrated two weeks of Advent, as we Prepare and Believe in the coming of our Savior this Christmas season.

On the afternoon of Tuesday, December 21st we will have our Christmas pajama party and exchange gifts (\$5 limit) with a name we choose from a bowl today.

The next two Weekly Peeks will have all the details.

Continued gratitude for your unconditional love & support!!



From Mrs. Velarde's Desk:

Hello families of 4th grade! We are in the midst of the Advent season and we have been learning about what it would have been like to live around the time Jesus was growing up. We are exploring the Holy Land and learning about the desert biome. In Bible, we have been looking at the biblical basis of well-known Christmas hymns. So far, we have looked at Come Thou Long Expected Jesus and Hark the Herald. Speaking of Christmas, our class party will be on Tuesday Dec 21, 2021. We will have a PJ day, sing Christmas carols, watch a movie and have wonderful fellowship together. We will be doing a Secret Angel gift swap (\$5 gifts). Students will pick names at the end of this week. More information will come in an email next week so be on the lookout for that!



Decorating for Christmas!



Middle School News!

Symbols of Mathematics, Cultures, and the Season December Update from Miss Legro

Whether it's mastering how to multiply with decimals in fifth grade or using unit analysis to convert rates in eighth grade, our Middle Schoolers have had the opportunity to apply the skills they have been learning in Math during our Flashback Fridays. We have converted Indian Rupees, Japanese Yen, Thai Baht and "new" Israeli Shekels to U.S. Dollars to compare the cost of living in each of the countries we have been studying.

Our fifth graders continue to amaze me with their desire to learn. During the past month, we have learned so much about Israel – their clothing, their holidays, their customs and traditions. We made tzitzit tassels that are worn on the corner of garments which remind people to obey God's commands. We celebrated Hanukkah and learned how to sing the [Hanukkah Blessing](#) in Hebrew as we lit the candles of the menorah each day. We even designed a lap blanket with some symbols of Israel. We are looking forward to learning about the significance of the Passover Seder.

For Christmas, our class would like to do a gift exchange. We are still working out the details and we will be discussing ways we can bless each other without monetary gifts, but I wanted parents to know there is a \$10 spending limit on the gift exchange.



Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech Haolam
Blessed are you God, our God, ruler of the universe!

Sixth Grade Update from Mr. Shea:

We are almost at the halfway mark for Term 2! As we head deeper into the Christmas season, students are working on a variety of different projects. Grade 6 is creating their own news broadcast about different things going on in Israel. All my students are excited for the upcoming break and the celebrations that we have planned as well! When we return from the Christmas break, we will be shifting topics to learn about some of the other countries in the Middle East.

Some things to be aware of as we go through the next couple of weeks:

On Friday, December 17, 2021 we will be running our Christmas Shoppe. This is an opportunity for students to shop for loved ones. The majority of items will be priced under a dollar.

Homeroom Christmas Parties are scheduled for Tuesday, December 21, 2021. We will be using the afternoon to celebrate Christmas together as a class. Please be on the lookout for an email containing the specific details about the party.

IMPORTANT NEED for the MIDDLE SCHOOL:

The Middle School teachers need help! Due to teaching schedules, the Middle School team has been unable to meet as a team during the school day to discuss important details pertaining to middle school. **We are asking for help with Recess Monitoring on Wednesdays from 12:30-1:00pm** so we can have a consistent and much-needed meeting each week. If this is something you can do, please sign up [here](#).

Attention Students!

The middle school students **must come to school prepared to go outside everyday** in almost any weather. We will continue to take advantage of active learning opportunities in Food For Life, Outdoor Education, and sometimes Science.

Seventh/Eighth Grade from Mrs. Gordon:

Here are some recent highlights in the 7/8 homeroom:

- bonding through trust-falls off the picnic table
- writing notes to ourselves loaded with God's truth in connection to a specific area of unbelief in our lives
- starting our fire unit in Outdoor Education with student excitement
- marveling at lichen under the microscope
- wrapping up a five week project working towards a healthy habit
- laughing our way through a Hanukkah celebration/gift exchange in connection with our Israel studies

It hasn't all been fun and games, and I think each one of us is feeling some pandemic/disappointment exhaustion at this point. What a timely invitation we have in Advent to reflect on Christ's first coming while eagerly awaiting His second and the making new of all things (ourselves included)!

I am looking forward to celebrating Christmas as a homeroom in the afternoon on Tuesday, December 21st. Each student can bring 12 very small stocking-stuffer gifts to give one to each classmate. I will send out details in an email soon and will be looking for some help with food. Thank you for your involvement, prayers, and support!

Words from Mr. Hayward:

Among all the gods of the ancient world (and there were far too many to number), only One took an active, intervening role in human history. Among all the cultures of the ancient world, only one people documented those actions of that God. We know that record as the Bible. In Term 2 we will chronicle - in a time line format - the history of the people of Israel, i.e. the history of God's intervention in our world. Students will learn (and hopefully absorb) the 12 major "chapters" of Israel's story, culminating in the fulfillment of God's promise to bring forth - from that people - the Savior of the whole world (John 4.22). We will finish out the term with a "P.S" of Israel's (once again) returning, in the 20th century, to their original ancestral land.

