



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:

Now through Dec. 16th -

Collection for Belarusian orphans (online donations may be made [here](#))

Dec. 10th - HCA Singers perform at Holden Tree Lighting 2:45pm (1196 Main Street, Holden)

Dec. 15th - Christmas Program, 7pm (*K-8 students should report to their teachers in the sanctuary between 6:30-6:45pm; Preschoolers please report to your classroom!*)

Dec. 22nd - Class parties (see classroom pages for more info)

Dec. 23-Jan. 2 - No school, Christmas Break

Jan. 13th - No school, Term 3 Development Day

Jan. 16th - No school, MLK Jr. Day

Jan. 20th - Term 2 ends



PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Christmas can be a crazy time of year. Once Thanksgiving is over, I always think, "Buckle up, because here we go!" Christmas preparations bring my organization, planning, and scheduling skills to a whole new level. Life does not slow down to welcome in the Christmas season either. Christmas just smushes in and takes over!

Making room has been a recurring theme for me this advent season though. God has impressed on my heart the need to make room to truly prepare for the celebration of Jesus' coming. I have been struck by the thought that I am not really making room if I begrudgingly set aside just a few distracted moments to acknowledge that Jesus is the reason for the season.

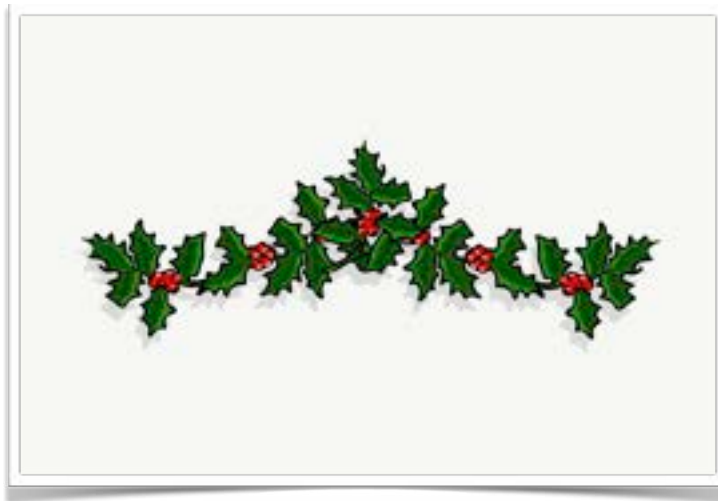
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Making room is, at the heart, an intentional act, an invitation, and a welcome.

At one of our recent staff devotions, Mrs. McGrail prepared a special devotional with very practical tips for finding rest in the Christmas rush. There were recommendations to celebrate and reflect each day during advent; deliberately plan 'No-Go days' (permission to stay home!); and plan three 'reset' days to set aside electronics, place phones on silent, and have some quiet time of rejoicing (2022). These ideas bring rest in the rush, but they are also intentionally *making room* to reflect, to celebrate, and to find joy in this Christmas season we are blessed with.

Whatever your preparations for Christmas look like, I pray that you are also able to quiet your hearts and make room to appreciate and celebrate the One who brought heaven down to us so that we can have a place in heaven.

Christmas peace, joy, and blessings to you and your family,
Nikki Cleveland, Principal



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

CHRISTMAS GIVING OPPORTUNITY!

From November 20-December 16th we are collecting donations to provide Belarusian orphans a New Years gift of chocolates. Our dear friend, Olga, and her family have worked tirelessly for years to make “the least of these” in Belarus feel the love of Jesus Christ. Olga’s family is now part of our HCA family, as 2 of her daughters are enrolled in our school this year. Here is our “Count Your Blessings Giving Guide” with some fun, optional ways to help your family decide how much to give. Flat rate donations are welcome too!

Every \$5 will buy 1 orphan a box of chocolates, which may be the only gift they receive this holiday season. Online donations may be made [here](#).

JOB OPPORTUNITY:

We are hiring a Night Custodian, to begin work Jan. 3rd. This position is 25 hours per week, and work can be done anytime between 6pm and 6am. General daily cleaning responsibilities include sweeping, mopping, vacuuming, trash removal, bathrooms, glass and dusting, etc.

-Cleaning experience preferred.

-Send inquiries to our Facilities Manager, Matt Brouillet
mbrouillet@holdenchapel.org



PLEASE TAKE NOTE....

Interested in learning more about the Parent Teacher Council? Click [HERE](#) to sign up for more info, or to join!

The next meeting will be Monday, Jan 9th at 3:15pm in the Holden Chapel Welcome Center (please bring books or quiet activities to occupy your children if you don't sign them up for ASP)

A small change for HCA logo t-shirts!

In an effort to keep the cost as low as possible on our PE uniform t-shirts, we are opting to have new orders printed with a small HCA logo on the left side of the chest, instead of the large logo that was centered on the shirt. Both styles are acceptable for PE uniforms. Also, white and grey t-shirts are no longer available.



From Mrs. M's Art Room:

Mrs. M always needs plastic or foam egg cartons to use as paint trays! Please send donations of clean, dry cartons in anytime throughout the year. Thank you!

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, consider joining the HCA **prayer chain** to support our school community when needs are expressed. **We are looking for people to pray!** If you are interested in being on this list please email Rebecca Burley at beckaburley@gmail.com. If anyone has a PRAYER REQUEST for our warriors to pray over, please fill out [this form](#).







Preschool News!

Upcoming Dates:

**Thursday,
December 15th-**
Christmas concert
(PK-Grade 8) please
report to the classroom
no later than 6:45pm

**Wednesday,
December 21st-**
Preschool Christmas
Celebration/Birthday
for Jesus (see
forthcoming email
with details!)

**Friday, December
23-January 2-**
Christmas Break
(No school)

December is upon us and Preschool is abuzz with excitement as we celebrate Jesus' birth each and every day! From nativity toys and figures so children can play out the Christmas story; to dressing up as the characters from that very first Christmas; to celebrating family traditions like decorating a Christmas tree, making gingerbread, or giving and opening gifts—we love to include it all in our classroom, and always bring it back to the greatest gift of all, Jesus.

We are still so thankful to be getting outside as often as the weather allows. Preschoolers are noticing the changes in the seasons, discovering where ice may have formed while they were sleeping, observing the bare trees and gray skies, and realizing they cannot dig in the ground anymore because it is now hard and frozen. To see God's creation and order through a child's eyes is truly a wonder and a gift.

Our month will continue to be busy as we get ready to sing our little hearts out in our Christmas concert, exchange a gift with a special classmate, and have a birthday party for Jesus! We are so grateful Jesus came as a baby on that still, peaceful night, to grow up and rescue us from ourselves, and show the world His never ending love and kindness. We pray this Christmas season that our Preschool families feel and recognize this love towards them and surrounding them.

Love, Mrs. McKean

P.S. We are looking for a room parent for Preschool. Please contact Mrs. Cleveland or Ms. Graham for more information or to volunteer for this role.

Team A News!

Kindergarten Update from Mrs. Coombs:

I have had the beautiful opportunity to see my Kindergarten students for 3 months now! They are a wonderful group and I enjoy watching them grow each day. They have become hard little workers.

Our Thanksgiving Reenactment was a huge success and the students had fun dressing as Wamponaogs and partaking in the big feast. A big thank you to all our parents that came to help! We love when parents are able to volunteer their time to make our Big Days so successful.

Kindergarten is continuing to work hard on their 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 (which can be found at Michaels). This is a great way to work their fine motor skills and coordination.

The students are currently learning about what it was like to live during Colonial times. They were shocked to find out that during supper time they weren't allowed to speak or even sit! We will continue to learn more about what it was like to live during the Colonial times and then move on in our study of history to learn about some "friends from the past."

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! We are excited to be continuing through this Christmas season together and we are looking forward to time with family and friends as we celebrate the reason we are all at HCA - Jesus.

Please be on the lookout for specific details about our classroom party and gift exchange.

Grade 1 Update from Mrs. Richardson:

It has been such a joy watching Grade One grow so much already this year! They are making connections socially, academically, and spiritually. In Bible, our focus has been on the life of Moses. We know all 10 commandments! As we have reached the Advent season, our focus in the Bible has shifted to the birth of Jesus.

First grade is SOARING in reading and writing! We have stretched our brains to being able to write 2 sentences on writing assignments instead of 1. In FUNdations, we will be starting unit 6 next week.

Doubles facts, adding 3 number addition equations, and learning all about number lines... OH MY! Last week, we took some time to create math fact flash cards in class so first graders could use them to practice their facts at home. Spending just 10 minutes a few nights a week will help your child continue to make those number connections. Looking forward in Math, our next step will be using number lines and 10 frames to subtract.



As Christmas approaches, Grade One will be having a class celebration on Thursday Dec 22, 2022. We will do a gift swap on this day. **Students will draw names to learn which classmate they will purchase a gift for. The gift should only be \$5.** If you are unable to provide a gift, please email me. Lastly, we will celebrate with some fun (but healthy) snacks during our celebration. I will provide the activities.

Lastly, we will have a Team A Christmas Celebration with our friends in Kindergarten and Grade 2 on Monday Dec 19, 2022. STAY TUNED for information about this... we will send out an email with more details soon. I pray you all stay healthy in this busy season and find joy in the time of Advent. Many blessings!

~Mrs. Richardson

Grade 2 Update from Mrs. McGrail:

Grade 2 families : Blessings to you all during this beautiful season of Advent ! The end of November into December is a time full of excitement and anticipation as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our precious Savior ~ Jesus ! ❤️

 Upcoming dates to mark on your family calendar  :

Thursday December 15, 2022 - HCA Christmas Show ! Your children have been busy strengthening their voices for this special evening. We look forward to seeing you all there ! ** Please have your children dress in their Holiday finest, or in their Sunday best (no jeans!) They should find me in the sanctuary between 6:30-6:45pm and we will sit together as a class.

Thursday December 22, 2022 - Last day before Christmas break ! Our class Christmas party will be held on this day (unless I receive an email from a family letting us know they will be on vacation, then the date of the party will be changed.) For our Christmas party, we would like to have a gift swap. Kids will draw names for the swap this week. If you are able to, please provide a gift with a cost maximum of \$5 for the swap. (If you are unable to provide a gift, please contact me directly.)

In the midst of the busyness of the season, we have continued working steadily this term and so far have learned in depth about the layers of the atmosphere, weather, and air; the 13 Colonies (as well as the lifestyle of children then compared to now); food in space; fluently adding within 100; and much more !

Later in Term 2 we will be learning the following





*In **MATH** we will hit Chapters 5 and 6 that include learning strategies of subtraction within 100 and fluently subtracting within 100.

*In **FUNdations** we will be in Units 7 and 8, focusing on open syllables as well as r controlled syllables.

*In **HISTORY** we will be studying the Revolution, Paul Revere, and presidents.

*In **Science** we will learn about the orbit of the sun, stars and constellations, as well as planets !

*In **Bible** we will be continuing to learn about how life was for Jesus growing up, and then we will head back to the Old Testament when we return from Christmas vacation.

  I pray you all remain healthy during this season of grand celebration so that you may enjoy fellowship with the ones you love. Merry Christmas ! ~ Mrs. McGrail  



Team B News!

Everyone is so excited about the Christmas season... singing, decorating, and learning some new fun things. Third and fourth grade started our studies on landforms, layers of the earth, rock & minerals in Science. As scientists, we explored the differences between igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks in our lab time. Then we went out to our own landform and collected various rock types to make a display.

In History, we have begun to learn about life as a colonist and have been bridging the gap between the Pilgrims and the American Revolution. Throughout the remainder of the term, we will be learning about the events leading up to the fight for independence and what the Patriots did with their newfound freedom.

In Bible, we are focusing on Advent and the double meaning of what it means to look forward to the coming of Jesus. We read prophecies of Jesus' coming, examine what they meant for the Jews before Jesus was born, and discuss what His birth means to us. We also will be discussing looking forward to Christ coming again. We focus on the JOY of the season and on taking time to center ourselves in the midst of the hustle and bustle of this very busy time of year.

Both 3rd & 4th graders PLEASE practice multiplication facts!!! It is so helpful for them to master these times tables as math builds. Practice one fact a week. In the car, in the grocery store, at the breakfast table, or before bed...don't count sheep, count the multiples! :) Maybe start this week with practicing the 6 times tables, next week the 7 times tables, and so on.

Our new math curriculum directions and word problems can be tricky. But, as the Angel sort of said in Luke 2, Fear not for behold I bring you good news of great joy that shall be for all parents. For unto you is given this day in the Big Ideas Math Curriculum, a math video which reteaches the concepts. Follow the star (aka the QR code on each page) to this great treasure! Peace be unto you and your families.

Team B Christmas Party Info:

Third and fourth grade will be celebrating Christmas together all day, on Thursday, December 22nd. Mrs. Velarde and Ms. Rennie will provide a chili and baked potato bar with all the fixings. We will send home the sign-up list for other munchies, by Friday, December 16th. Our Gift Swap will be for both 3rd and 4th grade. We are asking each child to bring in a wrapped gift between \$5 and \$10 in value which could be given to a boy or girl. Some examples of gifts boys and girls would enjoy are legos, colored pencil sets, puzzles, string bags, fidgets, fun water bottles, or animal stickers. Check out the Dollar Store or 5 Below for inspiration. We will be doing a new method of gift exchanging which will be explained to the students the day of the party (it's a surprise but it will be lots of fun!)

Third Grade Only- please bring in food labels for our FFL class. We are really enjoying our book groups as we discuss sequencing= beginning, middle, end, and the elements of a story= plot, setting, characters, conflict, and solution. I love listening to their discussions! Third grade did a fantastic job representing their historical figures for their November book report. Remember the importance of reading the Weekly Peek that is always in the front cover of their binders.

4th Grade Only- The students have all successfully completed their novels for NaNoWriMo and have begun the long journey of peer editing. I am so excited to see their creativity through this project! 4th Grade has been working hard on our 13 Colonies project and I am excited for their work to be on display starting next week. We will use these projects as a springboard for learning about the battles of the American Revolution as well as how the country grew years after its independence was claimed.



Middle School News!



Fall Garden Cleanup!



Leaves, leaves, and more leaves...

Fifth Grade Update from Ms. Legro

Joy is a word we hear a lot during the Christmas season. We sing “Joy to the World”... We read that the angels brought “good news of great joy”...

In November, I encouraged the middle schoolers to write down Bible verses about joy. We often equate joy with happiness, but we discovered verses where joy was intermingled with difficult things, such as James 1:2, which says, “When troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy.” How is it possible to “be joyful always” when things are hard, especially if this is God’s will for us in Christ Jesus (see 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18)?

During the month of December, the Fifth Graders will be talking about how we can have joy during this season and throughout the year by focusing on an acronym for JOY: Jesus, Others, You.

JESUS—The first and foremost thing we want to make sure we are doing is focusing on the One we are celebrating this season...Jesus!

OTHERS—The second thing we will do is discuss and implement different things we can do to put others before ourselves, remembering that whatever we do for the least of these, we are doing for Jesus.

YOU – The final focus of this acronym is ourselves, so to that end, we will spend time celebrating and having fun together by sharing a meal, playing games, and exchanging gifts on Thursday, December 22. Please check your email next week for more details.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace this Christmas and always!
Miss Legro



Sixth Grade Update from Mr. Shea:

Christmas is coming! Students are working through their excitement for the upcoming break. It's hard to believe that the holiday is right around the corner. As we get closer to the Christmas break, students are working on a research project in Language Arts. The paper is going to take the entire term to complete (we are taking it slow because this is a first time assignment for many students in Team C). Students are excited about their topics and looking forward to learning more about them.

We are beginning to practice keyboarding in Computer Science, and our Language Arts project will serve as excellent practice as students type up their final drafts! Please let me know if your student needs more time in class to complete this part of the project.

Our Classroom Christmas Party is coming up! Grade 6 has decided on giving small gifts to each other through stockings hung up in the classroom. Students should plan on giving a similar item to all 8 of his/her classmates. Please do not spend more than \$15 total for all 8 stocking stuffers! I will send a separate email talking about food items for the party later this week.

Hope all is going well! Merry Christmas and God bless!

In Christ,
Jeremiah Shea



Mr. Curtis' Corner:

Welcome back to another episode of Mr. Curtis' Corner, where your host, Mr. Curtis, tells you all about History, Bible, and 7th grade / Middle School happenings. The Middle School had a couple of community building opportunities right before the Thanksgiving holiday. Students had the opportunity to practice their patriotism and cheer on team USA as they kicked off their 2022 World Cup run.

Students and teachers alike were sucked into the high drama of sport as we experienced the thrill of going up by a goal and the crushing heartbreak of conceding the game tying goal. Overall, a lot of fun was had by all, and a big thank you to Mrs. Raley for providing allergy friendly popcorn as a snack! We also took part in an American pastime and had our annual Middle School Flag Football Game. This annual grudge match pits two teams of students from all grades against one another in a friendly game of you guessed it...flag football. The students who choose not to play in the game work together to create a half time show that encourages team and school spirit. This year's game came down to the wire with the winning team going ahead in the closing seconds with a successful two point conversion. It was an instant classic! We are blessed to be able to create our own traditions and build a deeper sense of community as a Middle School.

In Bible class, we continue our journey through Genesis and have been anchored in the life of Abraham and Sarah. Some of the themes we have focused on have included; calling from God, making mistakes, trusting God, our plan or God's plan, covenant and promises, and God ALWAYS keeps his promises. It has been encouraging for all of us to see how God is faithful and how he continues to guide us and bless us through the waiting. In History, our classroom has been transported to Colonial America, where we have been comparing and contrasting our lives to that our kids in Colonial times. Students have gained a greater appreciation for modern amenities and even being able to attend school. We learned that many of them would have to work on a farm or start an unpaid apprenticeship to a tradesman. We are quickly headed for higher taxes, and eventually a rebellion against the British Empire.... so stay tuned for future developments!

Now what you have all been waiting for....The 7th grade Christmas Party.

Our Christmas Party will take place on the afternoon of December 22nd. Please talk to your student about what food or snack they have volunteered to bring and if that is feasible for them bring. Please be aware we have several food allergies in our class (i.e. gluten, dairy, nuts and eggs). In the true sense of the Christmas season we have decided it is better to give than to receive so we have elected to join in with the other Middle School classes and do Christmas stockings this year. Students should bring in a stocking or Christmas bag and a 'stocking stuffer' or a small inexpensive gift item for each classmate i.e. 10 decks of cards or 10 pairs of socks. Let's refrain from bringing candy and food as we will already have plenty to eat at the party. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to email me.

Merry Christmas, Maranatha, and Happy New Year,

Mr. Curtis

Science Update from Mrs. Gordon:

Have you ever met a kid who is successfully running her own Etsy business? Or perhaps one who plays multiple instruments and creates art with beauty and passion? What about a kid who is as committed to her schoolwork and the well-being of the people around her as she is to her own social life? Finally, have you met a kid who is demonstrating tremendous growth in the ability to see the needs and pain in others even when those are not obvious? I have! These are some of the 8th grade students I am privileged to teach each day! They are a remarkable bunch, and I love learning with them.

Some December Homeroom Happenings:

- For devotions we are pausing each morning to rest and listen to God together as we reflect on a Christmas song. (A personal favorite: *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day*)
- We are planning a healthy Christmas celebration together which will take place on the 22nd (details will be coming soon to parent email inboxes).
- We will give gifts in the form of stocking stuffers which students will bring in on the 20th. Details went home in Communication Folders on the 8th.
- We continue working in the garden spreading wood chips, raking, and preparing the area for Winter as much as we are able before that becomes too challenging.

Health Class Reminder:

- All 7th and 8th grade students are keeping detailed logs about their sleep until Christmas vacation. Please help them with reminders over the weekend or any day they miss school!

Science Class Important Upcoming Dates:

- Grades 5/6 - Waves, Sound, and the Ear test on 12/20
- Grades 7/8 - Element Project due 12/21



8th grade pajama day!



Thanksgiving Re-enactment last month