

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:

Nov. 12 - 8th Grade Leadership Conference

Nov. 16 - Lifetouch Picture Day

Nov. 17 - Parent Teacher Conferences (1/2 day)

Nov. 24-27 - Thanksgiving Break (no school)

Nov. 29-Dec. 3 - Scholastic Book Fair

Dec. 16 - Christmas Program, 7pm

Dec. 17 - Christmas Shoppe

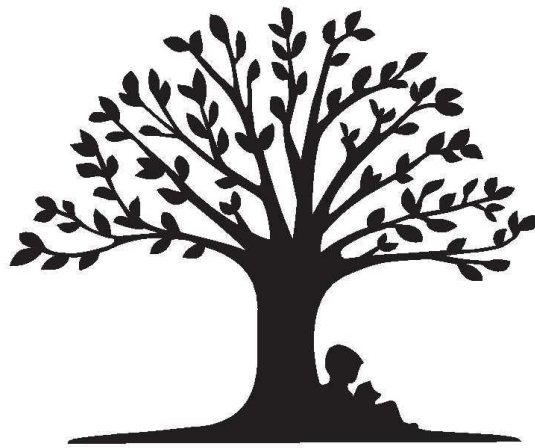
Principal's Book of Excellence Award Recipients:

Aiden - being a servant-worker and holding the door for his whole class and pushing in chairs that were left out

Alexis - being compassionate and unselfish, and going the extra mile to consider other's feelings before herself

Stacey - being full of joy and wisdom, showing great knowledge of Bible stories and being eager to share the Gospel

Landen - making tremendous efforts to be organized and orderly



PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Parents,

I hope that you have had a chance to enjoy the beautiful autumn weather we have had so far. As the weather cools and we are indoors more, this is typically the time of year that we see illnesses increase. In addition to masks and cleaning, we have recently added two additional layers of protection against illnesses that I would like to share with you.

First, we have recently purchased *air purifiers for every classroom*, including the office, library, kitchen and bubbler room, with funds available from the state to reimburse Covid expenses. The air purifiers are well rated and are appropriate for the size of each room. As the weather becomes colder and children are outside less, the air purifiers will provide a complete exchange of air at regular intervals.

Second, I am pleased to announce that, in an effort to reduce absences naturally occurring from COVID-19 protocols, *HCA will begin offering the COVID-19 testing program funded by the state of Massachusetts*. This program is not intended to replace our [current Covid Protocols](#), but to help families who have school-related illness or exposure.

Principal's Book of Excellence Recipients:

Kaitlin - for being a servant-worker, never missing an opportunity to help the teacher and her classmates

Remi - for helping a friend at recess who got hurt, and staying with her the whole recess to make sure she was okay

Everett - for being a servant-worker and helping sweep up someone else's mess

Nathan - for always staying organized and helping his neighbors to stay organized too

Noah - for being a kind friend and sharing his home toys with all his classmates

Lily - growing in courage to speak in front of the class

James - having a caring attitude as he remembers his classmates in prayer

Hannah - for being a servant-worker, helping a classmate after a rainy recess get back into sneakers two days in a row

Sandra - being a servant-worker and asking the teacher often if there is anything she can help with

Josh - demonstrating a hopeful and honest spirit during a time of impending loss and change

Abby - being a true peace builder in all interactions with classmates and others in the school

The testing program involves three components.

1. **Symptomatic testing** for students who show symptoms of COVID-19 at school.
2. **COVID safety checks, or pooled testing**, to prevent the spread of the virus undetected among students who are not showing symptoms. We will only use this option after 4 specified school breaks: after Thanksgiving break, after Christmas break, after February break, and after April break.
3. **Test and Stay** for students who have been exposed to a positive case of COVID-19 while in school, but are not showing symptoms.

Each of these is a quick, non-invasive nasal swab that is collected under the supervision of a school nurse. HCA has been assigned a team of nurses who are on-call as needed. Unlike COVID-19 tests of the past, these are not uncomfortable and they are easy for students to do themselves.

Students only participate with permission from a parent or guardian. It is important to us that you are fully informed regarding the process and that we can answer any questions that you might have in advance of asking you to sign the consent form. Below we describe each of the three parts of the testing program, how they are conducted, and what they are used for.

Symptomatic testing is used when a student develops symptoms of COVID-19 during the school day. Students should not come to school if they are feeling sick while at home. This is a PCR test, and we will typically receive the results of this test within 24 hours. The student will need to await results at home, but they will be able to test before they leave school.(continued on page 3)

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

Routine COVID safety checks, or pooled testing, minimize disruption to learning by helping us catch potential spread of the virus before it starts. Samples are collected at school after designated school breaks (see above). Each student will provide two samples, one for pooled testing and one individual test. The first samples will be tested in groups of 5-10. Once the samples get to the lab, all the samples in the pooled group are tested for COVID-19 together. In almost all cases, it will take less than 24 hours to receive safety check results. Students can continue to come to school while awaiting safety check results. If a safety check test is positive, the lab will automatically process the second swab for each individual sample of that cluster to determine which student(s) in the group produced the positive test. Positive students and their close contacts will be notified.

Test and Stay allows students who have had close contact with a person who tested positive for COVID-19 while at school* to stay in school if he/she is not showing symptoms. Instead of needing to quarantine and miss school, asymptomatic students will take a daily rapid test upon arrival to school. If a student develops symptoms while at home, he/she should stay home and seek a PCR test from a healthcare provider. Students who remain asymptomatic will participate in Test and Stay for at least five school days, or until the quarantine period for a close contact has ended.

*This program is not for close contacts who are exposed to Covid-19 outside of school. If your child is exposed outside of school, they must follow the quarantine and testing protocols currently in place.

If a student tests positive for COVID-19, they must isolate at home for the CDC-recommended ten days since symptoms appeared or ten days since the positive test before returning to school. The student must also be without a fever for 24 hours.

To participate in the program, you must sign [this digital consent form](#) on behalf of your student. There is no charge for participating. To learn more about the COVID-19 testing program, please visit <https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/testing/default.html>. If you have additional questions regarding the program, please feel free to contact me at ncleveland@holdenchristianacademy.org. Participation in the testing program is, of course, not required. I do hope that you will find the additional conveniences it provides helpful to your family. We will continue to pray for health, safety, and enjoyment of the wonderful seasons God has blessed us with.

Have a wonderful weekend!
By His Grace,

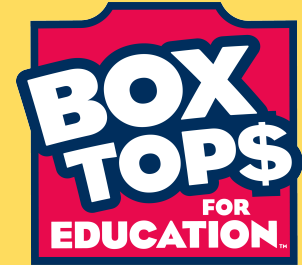
Nikki Cleveland, Principal



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!



Nature Scavenger Hunt Results

Kudos to the many families who participated in the Nature Scavenger Hunt! Mrs. Gordon set up a beautiful display in the hall to celebrate the project and she assures me that there are many more to enjoy as well as video projects. I've seen some very exciting projects in the lower grades as well and I can't wait to take the time to fully check them out.

It is my prayer that God would use this project in the lives of your students to open doors to His glorious creation! Being a life-long nature lover myself, it was my 9th grade teacher, Mr. Sands (picture the Professor in *Back to the Future!*), who challenged us all to name what we observed in nature. Learning the names of plants and animals leads to deeper appreciation and desire to learn more.

As Image Bearers, many of us have the need to experience and appreciate nature more than others do. It is as strong a desire/need for us as music or sports are for others. Thank you, parents for taking the time and effort to participate in this project, especially if nature is not your personal passion. You have created memories with your entire family and made me and Mr. Sands very happy!

Love, Mrs. Hayward



OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING!

As the holiday season approaches, there are several opportunities for giving that we will participate in as a school. Please join us for as many as you are able! We have listed them here so you know what is coming.

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes due Monday in Chapel!

Operation Christmas Child is an arm of the Samaritan's Purse ministry, which delivers Christmas gifts in shoeboxes to children all over the world. To learn more about what to pack, check out [this link](#). Families who would like to participate are encouraged to fill a shoebox and students should bring them to chapel on Monday, Nov. 15th. Watch for a flier that will be sent home!

Dec. 1-17 - "Dollar Drive for Belarus"

As in years past, in December we will collect donations to buy boxes of chocolate for orphans in Belarus. Every \$5 will purchase a box of chocolate, which may be the only Christmas gift these orphans receive. More information will come in the next issue of Pathways.

FROM THE ART ROOM:

Square 1 Art order packets will be going home soon and a 10% discount will be activated with the promo code "HOLDEN 10" at check out.

This promo code will be attached to the order forms.

Please be aware that all packets may not go home at the same time.

Also, the Art Room has an ongoing need for clean 20 ounce ketchup bottles and foam egg cartons for paint storage and use.

All good things must come to an end...or must they?

Since the garden was constructed in 2010, hundreds of students, staff, family members and community friends have visited, worked in it, enjoyed the harvest, and eaten its produce. The end result has been a deeper appreciation for God's interconnected creation, deeper links to our integrated curriculum, as well as the joy of participating in the process of food production from seed to table! We've all enjoyed the beauty of the flowers as well as the creatures who share the garden with us!

Unfortunately, the raised-bed wooden boxes have seen better days. This gives us the opportunity to think creatively, and use the more advanced garden knowledge we've gained over the years. **We are now planning a complete garden revamp.** Our goal is by June 1, 2022 the HCA garden will be revamped and replanted, making clear use of the principles of permaculture,* as well as the input and expertise gleaned from staff, students, families and experts.

The staff and students have already spent hours researching, discussing, visiting other permaculture gardens and even drawing up some of their ideas. We are still in the very initial stages of design and are ready to form a Garden Team who will provide the oversight and leadership necessary to take on this exciting project. We already have several committed staff members who share this passion, and we are looking for parents who do as well. Below, please find some ways to get involved. We need Garden Team members as well as Demo Teams to completely disassemble the wooden boxes and dispose of the wood!

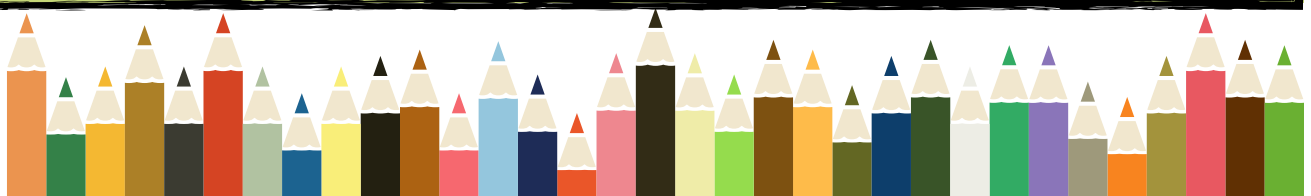
God bless you all. I look forward to working with you all on this very exciting project!
Susan Hayward

HOW TO GET INVOLVED IN THE GARDEN REVAMP PROJECT:

Join our **Garden Team Meeting**
on November 30, at 3:00 by clicking [HERE](#).

Join our **Garden Deconstruction**
on Sunday, November 28 1:00-3:00pm
by clicking [HERE](#).

P.S. Please let us know if you'd like to participate but these times don't work for you.

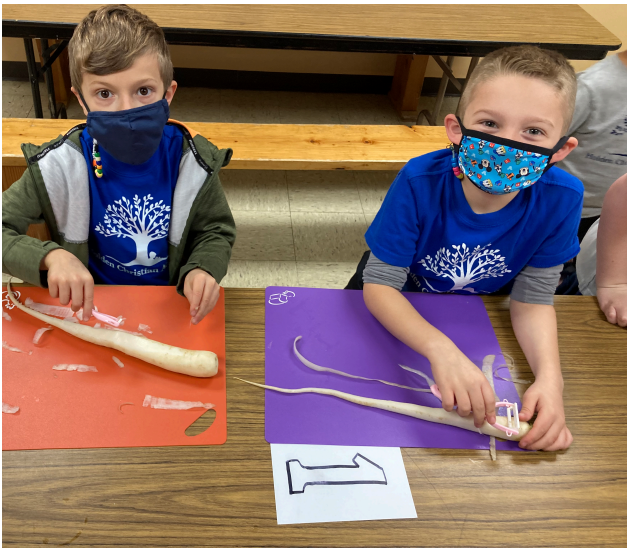




Healthy cooking in the HCA kitchen



Team D cleaning up the nature trails



Peeling the parsnips for a healthy stir-fry



Gardening is a bit muddy after rain



Place Value Battleship for Grade 3



Where there is a garden there are worms

Preschool News!

Important Things to know for PK:

Wednesday, November 17th--½ day for Parent Teacher Conferences (see Sign Up Genius if you still need to schedule a conference)

Thursday, November 18th--Preschool Thanksgiving "Meal," to be shared together in class

Wednesday November 24th-Friday November 26th--Thanksgiving Break/No School

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

As the seasons begin to change, there are many notable changes in our Preschool Classroom as well. Preschoolers have grown accustomed to our daily routine; are becoming more independent in their self-help skills; are regularly eager to learn new songs and stories about their big God who loves them; and bring joy and excitement to each day together.

October was filled with Preschoolers learning about the changing seasons and our unchanging God. Our trees may be turning beautiful colors and losing their leaves, but our God remains the same throughout each season. Preschoolers explored their senses of touch and smell by "making" their own apple pies; spent time on our nature trail collecting leaves and identifying their colors; listened for sounds of the forest (like birds and chipmunks); and observed God's beautiful creation through the changing colors and the clouds of the sky.

Preschoolers practiced their social skills and sharing through daily play in our classroom Pumpkin Patch, took turns weighing pumpkins and comparing their size, color and appearance, and observed how different pumpkins roll and race down the hill in our Nature Explore area! Many preschoolers enjoyed time in the garden, harvesting our sage and learning how to wash, spread and dry out the herbs for a Thanksgiving surprise! As a class, we are reminding each other each

day that God is good and we have so much to be thankful for!



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:

Bravo Kindergarten!!! You all did a fantastic job in Ping, and it was great to see all of you participating in our China Golden Day. A huge thank you to all those who came out and supported Team A's, China Golden Day. Thank you parents and grandparents who volunteered to help set-up, chaperone, and assist wherever needed.

Your students learned so many things during Term 1, from learning how to write the numbers 1-10 in Chinese, to trying some of the favorite foods from China, and comparing their favorite things to those of the children in China. We went outside and explored our own Deciduous Forest and discussed the many different animals and plants that make up our forest. We did some pumpkin investigation, learning about the parts of the pumpkin and the life cycle of the pumpkin. We even took the seeds from the pumpkin we explored and roasted them, the consensus...delicious!

We have been exploring patterns and looking for patterns in nature and our daily lives. We are learning how the Bible is just one big book, a story. As with any story, we started from the beginning, and we will follow the characters (God's Chosen People) through their journey as they show us again and again that God always keeps his promises. We are currently reading about Abraham and the promises God made to him. Goodbye China, hello Israel!

Grade 1 Update from Mrs. Richardson:

Term 1 flew by! We wrapped up our term learning about China by inviting Chef Kate to come in and teach us how to make our own stir fry! This week, we are starting to learn about and explore Israel. First graders will be able to identify what continent Israel is on, and where it is located on the map. We will dive deeper into learning about Israel's culture and the traditions, foods, and landmarks.

Our reading and writing continues to take flight! In math, we now know all about fact families and will continue to practice mastering our math facts (both addition and subtraction). Upcoming activities and holidays we will be discussing are Thanksgiving, and the true reason for the Christmas season.



Grade 2 Update from Mrs. McGrail:

Shalom! Second grade has bid farewell to our China unit, and our class has arrived in the holy land of Israel ! In our Bible studies, we will be learning about where Jesus lived, enjoying an Advent study, and continue to work through the Old Testament. We are keeping our momentum going with Foundations, and are currently in Unit 5 which focuses on two syllable words, compounds, procedures, and multisyllabic words. In Math, our unit 3 has been busy learning about quadrilateral shapes, inches, feet, and yards. In Science, we will explore the desert biomes in our world- focusing especially on the Negev desert in Israel, the Sahara in Africa, and Death Valley in California. We will be learning all about Israel's culture in Social Studies. Food for Life will be full of flavor as we'll be learning about foods of Israel as well as making our very own yogurt and dehydrated fruits to enjoy!

We have holidays and vacations during this next quarter so there will be plenty of fun activities to enjoy, starting with Veteran's Day this week. We can't wait for families to hear all about what we're learning ! (PS: On Friday we had a very special visitor come to our class! The newest member of the McGrail family: our Bernedoodle puppy, Asgard, came to meet everyone. :)



Grade 2 visiting with Mrs. McGrail's newest "baby"



Asgard McGrail



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 grateful for the growth and progression I am seeing in my AWESOME 3rd graders! We are knee-deep in multiplication. Please practice multiplication facts - even 5 minutes in the car each day. Repetition is the key to memorization. We have Math Application Day on Fridays, incorporating all the skills we have been working on. Recently we played Place Value Battleship and Multiplication Madness. So much fun!

We built three different weather stations this week so we can monitor and observe our weather patterns as the seasons change. A weather vane, barometer, an anemometer, and a measuring cup for a rain gage. Even though we are beginning our new study of Israeli biomes (desert, woodlands, and shrubs), we will continue to learn about the changes of our own deciduous/coniferous forest. Thank you for the beautiful Nature Scavenger Hunt projects. We all truly enjoyed your findings!



This term is a whirlwind of fun with Thanksgiving and Christmas. Our studies of Israel remind us of the life of Jesus, and prepares us to celebrate his culture and the gift of life he gave to us. After Christmas we will continue in our studies of our Middle East by learning about the country of Turkey. I visited this beautiful country on a missions trip and I am grateful to share my experience and time in Istanbul.

Here is a picture of our very own 3rd grader who participated in the 6K RaceWire for the Worcester FireFighters, last month! I love seeing our FFL program being lived out! Nice job!!

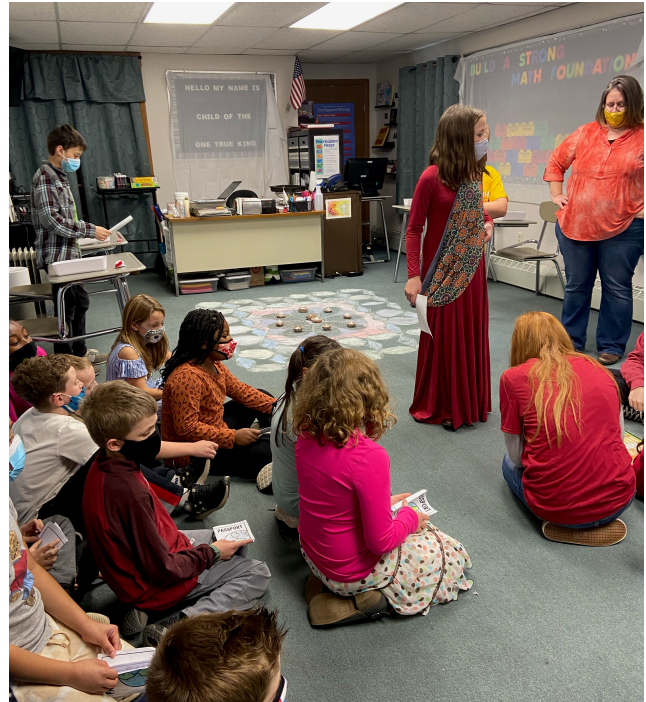


From Mrs. Velarde's Desk:

We finished Term 1 with a bang and hit the ground running in Term 2! We began the last week of Term 1 with NaNoWriMo and the students are all off to a great start! I love to see their creativity in their plots, and their personalities come out in their characters. As we begin Term 2, we will be continuing our studies of God's promises throughout the Bible (and when they are fulfilled). I am so excited that we will be studying Israel leading up to Christmas. We will be focusing on the fact that the stories we read in the Bible are real places. We will see what it was like when Jesus was alive and how things have changed (or not) in the present. After Christmas, we will switch gears slightly to learn about the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the culture there. My cousin lived there for 5 years so she will (hopefully) be zooming with us to share some of her experiences learning about their culture and the ways it differs from ours. As you have probably heard from your students, we are already playing Christmas music in the classroom (to me it's never too early). I always look forward to preparing for the observance of our Savior's birth and it is such a joy to be able to do that with such a wonderful group of students this year. They are such a blessing with their thoughtful comments and insights as we discuss biblical passages and wrestle with questions about God and our faith. I love to see them grow as they study the Truth and learn more about the Word that God has given to us. Onward and upward, 4th grade!



Grade 4 is having a good year shofar :-)



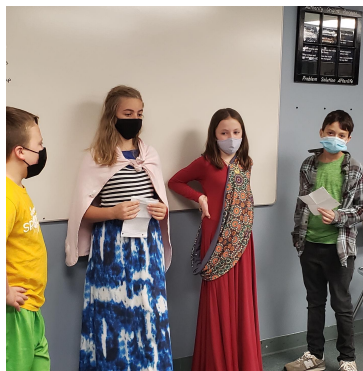
Team B enjoying Asia Day with the Middle School



Middle School News!

Fifth Grade from Ms. Legro: Festival of Lights & a Lesson Learned the Hard Way

The Learning Retention Pyramid suggests that the key to learning mastery is the ability to take information that has been learned and teach others accurately. Our fifth grade students are eager learners. As their teacher, it has been so fun to see them take the information they learned about



Indian culture and teach others during our Mini Asia Day. They did an amazing job transforming our classroom by whitewashing walls, creating rangoli art, and making an Indian sweet called Khoya Burfi to celebrate Diwali, the Hindu Festival of Lights.

During the month of November, we will turn our attention to Israel. We will learn about Jewish culture and celebrate Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights. From balancing greens (nitrogen-rich sources) and browns (carbon-rich sources) to what we can and cannot compost and why, we have been getting our hands dirty learning about composting as part of our Food For Life program. We have also learned the hard way that we need to transfer the food scraps in our collection bucket to the compost bin before the fruit flies gather in our classroom to join us for snack time.

Sixth Grade Update from Mr. Shea:

As we begin Term 2 we are starting to study the Middle East. In Team C we will be starting with Israel, and focusing on it until after Christmas. We will be diving into Israel's culture and taking a deep look at the traditions that Jesus lived by during His ministry on Earth. I am looking forward to wrapping up Term 1 with all of you during our conferences (please remember to sign up if you haven't already!). If you need an alternative time please feel free to contact me through the main office to schedule a time to meet. Finally, picture day is on November 16th! You should have received a packet with photo options from your child, if not please let me know and I will get another one sent out to you.

As we start the second term, I pray that everyone has a wonderful beginning to the fall, and that as we get into the holiday season we are able to see God's love and work through all of our interactions, lessons, and activities!

Seventh/Eighth Grade from Mrs. Gordon:

Students presented pictures, specimens, and shared highlights from their nature scavenger hunts which gave all of us an opportunity to wonder at the remarkable variety within the Mixed Forest Biome of New England. Creatures big and small bring smiles to our faces and many questions to our minds. We spotted bears, earthworms, coyotes, toads, barn swallows, bumblebees, snapping turtles, hedgehogs, herons, and so much more. My prayer is that these kids are realizing more that we are not simply visitors of nature, but God made us part of the ecosystem and our well-being is interdependent.

A sweet gift in my homeroom this year has been watching my students (7th and 8th grade) grow between last year and this year and even since the beginning of this year. Every day I am watching, and sometimes guiding, as they grapple with understanding their memory verses, making sense of the world around them, and walking in a way that honors others and glorifies God.

Representing the culture of Thailand in our homeroom during mini Asia day was such fun as we hosted a table tennis tournament and shared about Thai values. Students were asked to treat everyone with respect and gentleness, not rush anyone or anything, put the public (group) interest before one's own, and believe there is always a reason to smile. It was a simple and beautiful success. We are looking forward to learning more about the Israeli and Palestinian ways of life in Term 2. If you want to contribute to our learning in any way, please reach out with ideas!

Words from Mr. Hayward:

Hello parents, grandparents, guardians, and students:

May you experience all the blessing, encouragement, and hope the Lord has already prepared for you and yours this Holiday Season. During Term 2 we continue our survey through all of Scripture by introducing the principle genres of the Bible. There are a lot of them - law, poetry, wisdom, narrative, prophecy, parable, riddle. Each literary form needs to be approached somewhat differently, just as no one "hears" a legal statute in quite the same way as one hears a favorite Christmas carol. The particular genre making up the largest portion of the Bible is narrative, or story, or as I always insist on saying (and your kids are probably tired of hearing it), history. HCA as a whole focuses on Israel plus one other Middle Eastern country during Term 2 (remember it's our "Cultures" year); Mr. Hayward's Bible class will trace Israel's long history as recorded in Scripture - the primary source (in addition to extensive archeological contributions) of her ancient story. Feel free to email me with any questions as we move along.

Be Prepared!

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.



Grade 7/8 represented Thai culture during Asia Day

