FALL 2019

schoolbell 2.0

HIGHLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Solution Tree 2019 MODEL PLC SCHOOL

How to Be:

....Becoming who He wants us to BE

from the cover

"Autumn in Cubist style"
4th and 5th grade students explored Cubism, an early 20th century avant-garde art movement in Mrs. Evers' art class this fall.

HCS MISSION STATEMENT

In order to honor God,
we nurture and guide students
to see the Father's creation
to sense order in a world saved by Christ
to serve God through the leading
of the Holy Spirit

CONTACT US
3040 Ridge Road
Highland, Indiana 46322
219-838-0356
www.highlandchristian.org

PRINCIPAL .....Kyle Weener
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY .....Jody Moes
DIRECTOR OF RECRUITMENT AND DEVELOPMENT.....Jodi Lineburg
SCHOOL BELL EDITOR .....René Fennema
SCHOOL BELL LAYOUT.....Christina Woo
PRINTING.....Lithographic Communications

2019-20 Boards of Directors

SCHOOL BOARD
Jim Bandstra
Joshua Blocker
Keith Boender
Henry Groot
Nancy Scheeringa
Tim Spoelman
John Stammis
April Vander Meyden
Gladys Van Til
Gerritt Wieringa

FOUNDATION BOARD
Terry Krooswyk
Mike Natelborg
Dave Neibert
George Oostema
Josh Scheeringa
Nancy Scheeringa
Dave Sherwood
Tim Spoelman
John Surowiec
John Vander Pol
Kyle Van Prooyen
Deanne Van Rosendale
Chris Yonkman

Unstoppable

By Mr. Kyle Weener, Principal

Twelve months ago, my wife, son, and I sat outside in rural Michigan and prayed about the Lord's nudging to explore a school we had never heard of before, in a town we had never visited, and a community we had never met. This school was Highland Christian. After living in Michigan for most of our lives, we felt the Lord's prompting to explore, dream big, and take a step of faith.

Like any potential transition, it is easy to dwell on the life you will be leaving: a wonderful school, church family, relatives, and a community we so dearly loved. How could God ever provide a place that could match what we have now?

In one of our final visits to Highland Christian, I asked to speak with a number of the students. My desire was to hear from these students about what makes HCS a fantastic place to be a part of. In one of these conversations, a student clearly articulated that this school was a small picture of heaven - a melting pot of God's children who strive to seek, serve, and worship together in all that we do. What a beautiful picture - a community that is thriving, with individual members collectively working together for the work of broadcasting God's goodness throughout Northwest Indiana. It is not one member that is forging the way, but a community on an unstoppable mission to change our region for Christ.

This October, Pastor Sam Hamstra from CLC in Hammond, shared a story about an animal that could jump 10 feet tall, but was kept in a 3 foot tall cage. The reason this animal would not jump out of its cage was because it could not see where it would land. In this message, Pastor Sam challenged our pastors and school to not limit ourselves to small prayers, the ones we could safely expect or make sense of, but to instead pray the kind of prayers our unstoppable God is ready and wanting to answer in our lives.

As I take a look at Highland Christian, I observe a community that consistently charges beyond the status quo and obtains levels of excellence few have reached. This has been seen through a number of academic achievements, such as being named Model PLC, focusing instruction on the unique needs of each child, and meeting the needs of our community through service, ministry, and sacrifice.

Life does not always look the way you think it will. One year ago, my wife and I had no idea that God would bring us to Northwest Indiana, but God's goodness is unstoppable, and it is ever present at Highland Christian. From the entire Weener family, we are elated to join the good work that is happening at Highland Christian, in our local churches, and in your families!

Preschool is a great time to learn about the world around us!

By Mrs. Karen vanBelle

We are always looking for ways to make our learning more fun and to add hands-on experiences to our days. We had some help with that during the month of October!

Learning about the world around us means learning about the people and places that we see every day. We learned about the places in our community by looking at pictures of the buildings in the Town of Highland. We also learned about the people that are there to help us — our community helpers!

We had 2 nurses come to visit. Nurse De Boer came to talk to us about her work as a nurse. She showed us how injuries get bandaged and talked about how nurses and doctors help us to get well. We each got to try on (and keep!) paper face masks that help us keep our germs to ourselves! Nurse Lang came to talk to Mrs. van Belle's class about her work with children who need a nurse to help them at home. She helped us understand that God made everyone different, and some people need more help than other people do. She also brought us a special treat! **Thank you, Nurse De Boer and Nurse Lang!**

Officer De Boer was also able to visit us. He is a police officer for the City of Hammond. He talked to us about how the police officers keep us safe. We learned about what things we should ask the police for help with, and how they are always ready to take away the bad guys or just help someone who is lost. He showed us many of the tools he uses as a police officer. This time, we had a gift for him — a poster we made with our handprints for his police station! **Thank you, Officer De Boer!**

Fireman Dave Neibert came, too! He brought along his firefighter gear, and we talked about fire safety. We learned that we shouldn't hide from firefighters if they come to help us, and we also learned that sleeping with our bedroom doors closed can help keep us safer from fires! He also put all his gear on and told us what each piece was for. We had made another poster with our handprints for the firefighters, so we sent that along with Fireman Dave. **Thanks, Fireman Dave!**

Thank you to all our community helpers who serve God by serving others!

We appreciate you!

Kindergarten

By Mrs. Judy Zandstra

No matter what age we are, each one of us has a memory or two of our first experience in school. Kindergarten is a time in which we explore, learn, build academic and life skills, play, make friends, laugh, and sometimes cry. We enter as wiggly little preschoolers and emerge as confident, independent thinkers. Let's take a trip through one of our average days in kindergarten here at HCS.

The bell rings and the kids trickle in from cars or buses. Most have a smile for me and even a hug. This is one of my favorite times of the day. They share their thoughts freely, giving me a strong clue on what kind of day they will have! In the next 15 minutes we unpack our backpacks. This is more than just hanging it on a hook in a locker. Leveled Reading needs to go in the bin, 'Homework Howie' joins his friends on the milk chair, and there are activities on the rug to explore. It seems a bit noisy, but so much interaction is taking place!

When the second bell rings we find our chair and wait for morning announcements. Hot lunch is tallied, and we spend the next 5 minutes 'showing' the hot lunch count on the board. Tally marks, 5 and 10 frames, numbers, words, and number sentences are a few of the ways we show that number.

Devotions are an important part of our morning routine. We hear a special message from God's word from our little devotional. Right now we are writing things that we are thankful for on our paper hands and putting them on our turkey in the hallway. His tail is full of our thankfulness!

Pledges follow, the weather bear gets dressed for the day, and we head to the calendar for the math meeting. This meeting is rich with building calendar skills, number sense, and thinking skills. Our math curriculum (Everyday Math) is awesome! We are learning to 'talk' math. It is not enough to know the answer. We have to explain why that is the answer.

Leveled Reading starts right after recess. We are all in a group that is working at our own level. This allows for differentiated instruction that will help us grow into strong, independent readers. Next we work on our handwriting. It is quite an accomplishment when we can finally stay on the line and write neatly!!

When we come in from lunch recess, we gather on the rug to catch up on Emily (and her 100 days of school) and of course, read a book! Our 'WOW' box contains some review activities such as flashcards and/or special glasses for a letter hunt! Sometimes we will do 'ticket out the door' to check on our learning!

Once we have settled down and relaxed, we meet the next letter person. We are always anxious to discover the special feature and hidden letter. Often the letter person will be hiding! We can sing right along with all of the songs. We now are learning to put sounds together to make words… we are pretty excited about this. Some of us don't even realize that we can read yet!! Sometimes we do a paper to practice what we learn; other times we will have an activity. (Mrs. Zandstra is always checking on whether we understand or not!)

We squeeze in Social Studies or Science before recess. It is quick, but still helps us to understand people and the world around us.

The end of the day is one of our favorite times. We dive into the Bible and hear all about how God loves us and takes care of His people. We learned about creation, met Noah, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; we followed Joseph into Egypt and escaped with Moses! We are now entering into the Promised Land and are ready to hear more of how God was and always is faithful to those who love and follow Him. We have many special Bible verses already tucked away in our hearts. We are learning to shine the light of our Jesus to those around us!

Each day is new and exciting here in kindergarten. We make lots of mistakes and experience lots of successes. Each new accomplishment is a milestone to us. We are developing life skills and building foundations that will last a lifetime. Our bodies, our minds, our hearts, and our souls are being prepared for what lies ahead in the next grade and in God's kingdom!

Empathy Matters

By Mrs. Jeana Otte

Everyone has a life story to tell. God created each of us unique. Some people have unique needs. They may need a wheelchair, walker or crutches to help them with movement. They may need tools to help them breathe, eat, or communicate - like a trach, g-tube or i-pad talker. They may have been born with invisible differences that affect how they learn, behave, and how they process information.

The kindergarteners and first graders are meeting other children with special stories to tell. When they meet someone new, they are curious, particularly if the person is different from what they are. We are encouraging them to ask questions in a respectful way without hurting feelings. Then we do fun activities together. The students are learning empathy, along with inclusion, kindness and compassion. We are sparking new friendships and realizing we are more alike than different!

See You at the Pole

By Mrs. Vicki Huizenga

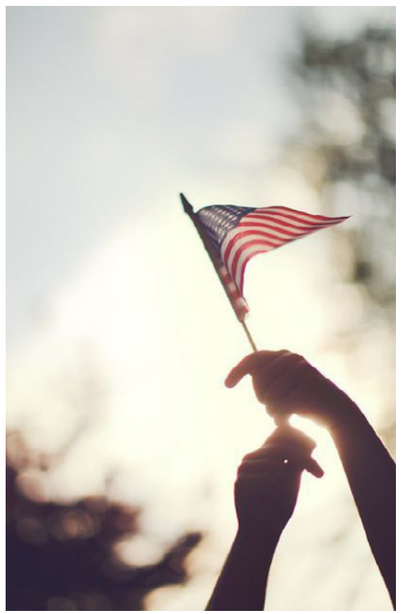
The 2019 theme verse for See You at the Pole was II Chronicles 7:14:

"If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land."

In II Chronicles 7, we find the story of King Solomon, David's son, who was dedicating the temple to God. Suddenly, fire flashed down from heaven, burned up the sacrifices, and the presence, power, and glory of the LORD filled the room. The people responded by falling on their faces in worship. One night following this great event, God appeared and spoke to Solomon. Of the eleven verses that quote the LORD, verse 14 offers a powerful promise and reminder to Christians. God offers His faithful response to our repentance and our prayers: He will hear from heaven and He will forgive our sins. As Christians, we must confess our sins and pray for our communities, our nation, and our world. We also need to pray for our churches, our schools, our families, and ourselves that we may be used by God to accomplish His purposes.

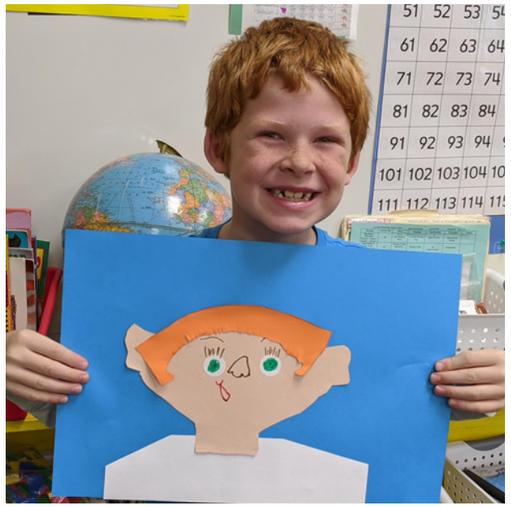
Together, a community of parents, students, and staff members stood around the flagpole in front of Highland Christian and prayed for our world (especially Christians who are persecuted), our nation and government (especially that Christian leaders seek God), the communities around HCS (the leaders, the police, the fire fighters), churches (especially those represented at HCS), HCS (teachers, administration & staff), and the families/students of HCS (especially remembering those who are dealing with difficulties).

We ended the morning asking God to use each of us individually and all of us collectively during that day, in this year, and throughout our lives to His honor and glory.



Art in Second Grade

By Mrs. Joy Verkaik



In the fall, second graders were invited to partner with South Shore Arts to participate in an art and literacy workshop. The workshop was funded by the "Highland has Art" grant. The grant was given to South Shore Arts in order to partner with 2nd grade classrooms in the Town of Highland to encourage friendship and diversity. In class we read and discussed a book entitled, The Skin you Live In. It was written by Chicago based author Michael Tyler and illustrated by David Lee Csicko who is from Hammond, IN. The book inspired a wonderful discussion on how we are each unique and special just the way we are. Miss Dawn, an artist from South Shore Arts, came to class and guided the students as they made special self-portraits. Miss Dawn emphasized the themes found in the book that we are all created differently. The students had a great time creating themselves.

Disney THE LION KING JR ©Disney

Save the Date

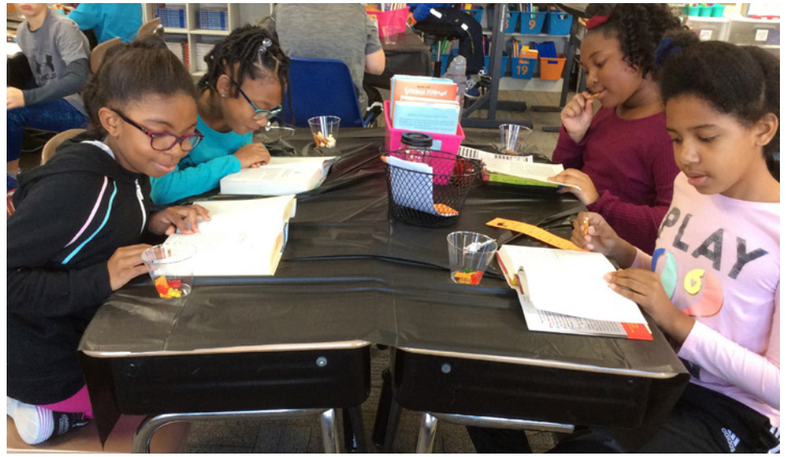
"The Lion King Jr."
presented by
the HCS Music Department
March 19th and 20th

For a truly Royal Experience,
come for the Dinner Theater presentation
on Friday March 20th.

Book Café

By Mrs. Sara Jabaay

"Welcome to The Book Cafe," Mrs. "Libro" greeted the 4th grade students as they came in. "Take a seat at one of our genre tables." 4JA was transformed into The Book Cafe where students sampled treats and different book genres from their classroom library. "Guests" moved from table to table reading the back of books and sampling the first few pages. They then wrote down their lists of must read books to use for later. Reviews: "I loved the book tasting. I found out about books I didn't even know were real." "It was surprising to like different genres." "Can we do this every day?"



High Altitude Rocket Launch

By Mrs. Mandy Aardsma

Science standards came to life on November 20th when our 4th graders experienced a real life science demonstration at Illiana Christian High School! The ICHS Senior Engineering Class launched a High Altitude Balloon and invited elementary schools to participate. Elementary students were invited to make pictures to decorate the box carrying the equipment and Max Van Laten's picture was chosen. We had a great time watching the rocket soar to 100,000 ft. into the stratosphere. Once we returned to school we were able to track the rocket (and ICHS chase vehicle) until it landed in a corn field just south of Fort Wayne, Indiana.

On November 4, eighth graders, along with Mrs. Scheeringa and Mrs. Groen, embarked on a field trip to Camp Manitoqua in Frankfort, Illinois. Eighth graders participated in some very challenging group activities and engaged in a high rope adventure. Students were separated into four groups and along with the help of camp counselors, tried group activities meant to make sure they made plans and helped their classmates through these activities. Usually, when an individual didn't quite make it through the challenges, the whole group had to start over--thus, the groups quickly figured out how to help each other be successful.

8th Grade Camp Manitoqua Trip

By Mrs. Joyce Groen

The high ropes were a whole new challenge for everyone. Students had to listen to directions from counselors as there were specific rules to be followed in order to continue on the ropes. Students climbed a rope stairway or were pulled up to a platform in order to begin their experience. Several students did not like the heights, while others found themselves challenged in a new way. Students always find new ways to be challenged at this field trip. We always find that it is a rewarding experience.

God is...

Junior high students were asked to respond to who "God is" in their lives.

Enjoy these words that celebrate our God:

powerful
awesome
without sin
wondrous
faithful
on my side
perfect
indescribable
righteous
caring
everlasting
wise
immeasurable
forgiving
our Savior
just
ever-present
holy
good
3 in 1
gracious
Father
never changing
comforter
merciful
all-knowing
deliverer
the BEST

CHALLENGER SPACE CENTER

By Mrs. Sara Timmer

The 6th grade class had an opportunity to complete a space mission to Mars at the Challenger Space Center located at the Purdue NW campus. The students were divided into teams - Mission Control and Space Station - and were each given a specific set of tasks to complete. They all worked together to make the mission a success using the knowledge they had previously acquired about Mars, the Red Planet, during science classes.

Caleb Mock's response to the activity was, "At the Challenger, everyone would have a job, and be a part of the mission. I enjoyed it because no matter the job, you had to do something for the team." Being able to partner with Purdue Northwest was beneficial because students were able to use facts studied in class in a real world situation, increasing the understanding of the issues of working in space.

Who Killed Edgar Allen Poe?

By Mrs. Sara Jabaay

We won't tell you who did it, but the 8th graders were engaged in a literary mystery to discover who (fictionally) killed Edgar Allen Poe. The suspects were characters from his short stories and poems the students read. Students were given roles to act out during the week. Rounds of questioning, police reports, primary sources, and taking notes in their Detective Notebooks helped students uncover clues and form accusations.

The theme for Grandparents' Day 2019 was Light It Up, based on our theme verse for the year, Matthew 5:15-16. At Highland Christian School, our vision is for students to be academically equipped, biblically grounded, and spiritually nurtured to impact their world for Christ. In order to reach that vision, students need to understand the world they live in and how they can shine their light for God.

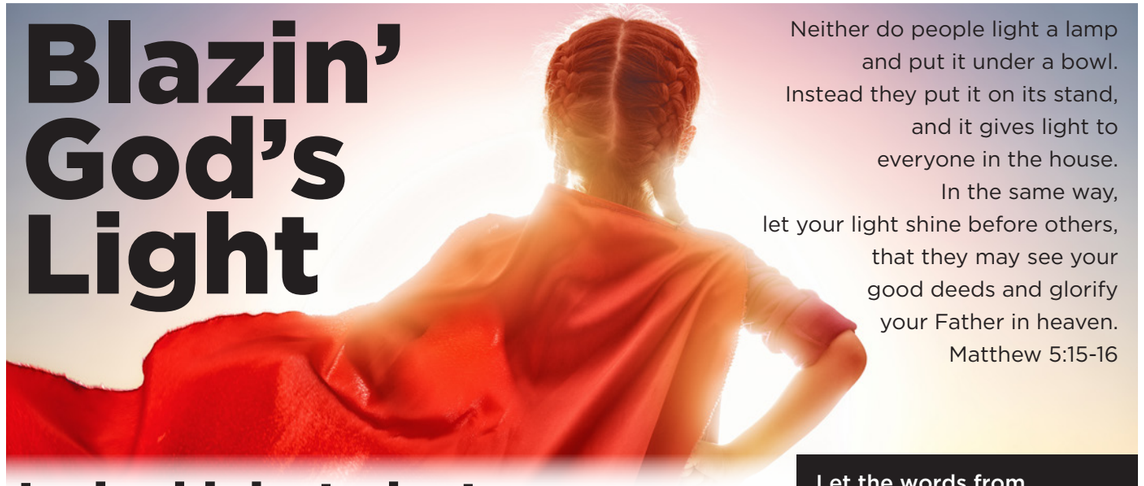
October 11 started off with gray skies and lots of rain. Grandparents were glad to be inside enjoying the dry, warm school filled with their grandchildren.

Grandparents' Day

By Mrs. Laurel Reynhout

The day began with lunch served by the 8th graders. The grandparents love being served by some of our students. After lunch, the grandparents had an hour to visit their grandchildren in the classrooms. They were able to see the classrooms, special projects the students had done, meet teachers, and experience the school. Many grandparents had more than 1 student to visit and kept busy going from room to room!

After the classroom visits, the grandparents gathered in the gym again. They were led in devotions by Pastor Jim Hollendoner from Munster Church. His devotion was based on the school theme this year, Blazin' God's Light. The students then presented a program, Light It Up, led by music teacher Mr. Mark Rinkenberger. The children presented songs and ideas of how to blaze our lights for God. The morning ended with junior high students sharing Bible Journal entries they had written. They shared about the school's theme verse, Matthew 5:15-16 and how Highland Christian School has impacted their lives. The students always enjoy sharing their school with grandparents and the grandparents had a great time visiting as well!



Junior high students were challenged to think and read about the theme verse:

What does it mean to shine your light?
How can you, a middle schooler, shine your light?
Does your light even make a difference in a dark world?

Let the words from several junior high students challenge you as you wrestle with these questions.

May the wisdom of our youth inspire us to let our light shine for the praise of our Father in heaven.

My mom always tells me, "Put a smile on your face; it will change someone else's life." She means that if someone is having a bad day, you can change their day with your smile. You can make them feel special. I feel like a phony when I do that because even if I do fix one person's bad day, I can't change the whole world. This verse reminds me that my smile might not make a BIG difference in the world, but it can make a HUGE difference in one person's life. - Simone Smith

Even though we live in a dark world, we don't have to be dark. We are the light that needs to shine. We also need to encourage and help others shine their light. In the song, This Little Light of Mine, there is a phrase that says: Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine. No matter where we go, we should always go praising God and with the purpose of letting God's light shine. - Ellis Gorham

When I think of shining God's light and making a difference, I think of my neighbor working in her garden. Whenever I see her working, I ask if I may go over to help. I walk across the street. Most of the time I don't really help; I talk. I never saw this as making a big difference in her life, but I enjoy it. Now I think that even though I may not help her dig in the dirt or weed the garden, I can tell she enjoys my company while she works. I think I have made a difference in her life whenever I go over there to "help". - Lydia O'Riley

You may think your light is small, but someone is always watching you. You might do something nice and cause a ripple effect of kindness. What you did might not be big, but it might be what someone else needed. Your blazing light might inspire someone else to follow. - Ethan Clark

When we let our light shine, we show God to others and they see how almighty a hero He is. When they see God they can also see their way out of the dark. People can find their way to God through the light spread by people who believe. - Jaida Vaca

When we show kindness, a little light, we are giving much more to someone else. That little light could make a big difference in someone's life. It gives people a reason to live; it shines hope to motivate people to keep moving forward. You never know what other people go home to or what is happening in their lives. To me this seems like a simple task, to shine your light, but sometimes it is not easy. We need to continue to let our light shine before others so that they may see our good deeds and praise our Father in heaven. - Gwen Foreman

A Soccer Team

By Coach Mike Matiscik

One person does not make a team. A soccer team fields eleven players and it takes all eleven to win. We had a winning season as our team went 10-5 (including the playoffs). We lost in the semifinals to the eventual league champion.

We really worked together as a team. Because we only carried 13 players at a time on the A team, everyone was able to play a minimum of 40 minutes per game. With this amount of playing time, each player had several standout plays which made me proud.

The team consisted of a very talented group of 8th graders: Thomas Brinker, Daniel Carrillo, Christian Fointno, Micah Jones, Chase Poortinga, Andy Spoelman,and Jaida Vaca. The other team members were 6th & 7th graders that showed our future teams have potential: Kayla Mills, Adam Molenaar, Nick Neibert, Jaden Poortinga, Cavin Porter, and Maddie Terpstra. We also appreciated the play of Camron Williams, who came up from the B team after Maddie Terpstra was injured in practice.

As of this writing, it appears this is my last year coaching at HCS. In seven years we have won the league title twice, finished second twice, and in the last six years, we always won ten or more games. But most importantly, we always prayed and reviewed Biblical truth before every practice. I am thankful that at HCS, spending time going over the gospel is important. May God bless these kids as they continue to grow into the fine young men and women God intended them to be.

B Soccer Team

By Coach Mike Matiscik

The B team was a group of soccer players who gave their best effort each day. Each game was hard fought and we ended the season with a 4-9-1 record. During the year, we had some great highlights in the regular season but especially in our tournament. In our first two tournament games, at the Crown Point Invitational, we had the lead only to lose or tie the game in the end.

I appreciate the fact that they put forth an effort to answer my quizzing on the gospel before each practice. I had some of the best insights ever from this team regarding their knowledge of the Bible. In my mindset, that definitely made them winners.

Players on the team were (including some A players who helped out at times):

8th graders: Noah Schultz, Calvin Pierce, Camron Williams, Jack Van Laten

7th graders: Ethan Clark, Isabelle Kenney, Sebastian Martinez, Adam Molenaar, Jaden Poortinga, Armaan Sen, Ethan Parodi, Ailani Torres

6th graders: Jaydon Colar, Dane Scheeringa, Nick Neibert, Avery Van Laten, Caleb Mock, David Antunez

8th Grade Girls Volleyball

By Coach Leianne Otto

The season started out strong for the 8th grade team. Their first game was a win, which was a great sign of their potential; and we were able to get a win against a really good team, which was very exciting.

This team had only five 8th graders this year, which meant we needed to bring up some 7th graders to complete the team. The 8th graders stepped up into leadership roles, not only with their other teammates, but also pouring into the girls on the 7th grade team.

Throughout the season each girl made significant improvements. Because they each made improvements in their skills, that allowed the team to improve overall and try new things.

The highlight for me was the Illiana Tournament. It was probably the best I've seen the girls play. They fought hard against good teams and finished the tournament ahead of our seed placement.

Congratulations to the 8th graders, who will be graduating this year!

7th Grade Girls Volleyball

By Coach Leianne Otto

It was such a joy to work with the 7th grade volleyball team this year. This was the first year that all of the girls played competitive volleyball, so there was a lot to learn. They not only learned the basics of the game, but also how to play as a team.

One of the highlights of our season was their first win. The girls fought hard and played very well. They erupted in such joy and excitement when they won the game! Another highlight for me was having a coach from another team compliment the Highland girls after the game. She was impressed with how much the team grew since the first time we played them.

While we didn't have a winning season in terms of wins and losses, this team is incredibly special. They made such significant improvements in their skills throughout the season, but beyond that, they are such a good group of girls. They had great attitudes – always wanting to learn and get better. And they were such encouragers. Those are the characteristics that can't be measured by wins or losses.

Cross Country

By Coach Rick Vander Woude

Our cross country season began with Illiana Invitational at Heritage Protestant Reformed Christian School on a beautiful, sunny Monday, September 16. Solid, encouraging teamwork was highlighted by the top ten finish of Daniel DeYoung, who turned in an impressive 9:05 time. This run was followed by the St. Thomas More 3K Invitational at White Oak Park in Munster, which was characterized by some solid improvement. Both teams experienced good runs at the Crown Point Christian Invitational, followed by their final challenge at the second Illiana Invitational, again at Heritage school. Daniel DeYoung again distinguished himself with a top ten finish. The season as a whole was characterized by some great team bonding and encouragement, which is so often the case with cross country.

Participating in this year's girls team were Nora Filler, Atoriah Flowers, Jadyn Spraggins, Kendall Van Prooyen, and Amelia Yonkman. The boys team consisted of Daniel De Young and Jack McDonald.

Wish List

Sonshine Enrichment Center
2 Light Table Pattern Blocks $25
Magnetic Maze Board $25
Do-A-Dot Rainbow Marker Set. $45
STEM Classroom Pack $125
Soft Body Diversity Doll Set $85

1st Grade – Mrs. De Young
Mothers' Day Project. $25
Classroom Enrichment $60
United Art & Education Gift Card for classroom . . . $25-$60

1st Grade – Mrs. Otte
Photos for 1st grade journals. $75
12 sets of dominoes for math games $120
Games for rainy day recess $50

2nd Grade – Mrs. Reynhout
Plus Plus building activities for indoor recess:
- Plus Plus 240 piece Basic Mix Tube $14.99
- Plus Plus 240 piece Neon Mix Tube $14.99
- Plus Plus 70 piece Narwhal Tube $6.99
- Plus Plus 70 piece Super Hero Tube $6.99
- Plus Plus 70 piece Dragon Tube $6.99
- Shipping cost $5

2nd Grade – Mrs. Verkaik
Magnet Build Magnet Tile. $40.99
Educational Insights Even Steven's Odd! (card game). . . $17.82
Proof – The fast paced game of Mental Math $17.99
Monilon 160 pcs. Magnet Building Sticks Kids Toys . . . $33
Creative Kids Flakes 1400 piece $25
Check the Fridge Game. $14.50
Word Problem Task Cards $14.99

3rd Grade – Mrs. Van Kley
X-ACTO electric pencil sharpener $33.88
Teachers Pay Teachers gift card – any amount
Amazon gift card for prize box items. $25

4th Grade – Mrs. Jabaay
2 packs of 12 ornaments for parent craft. $39.88
Paint for ornaments $19.17
GFS gift card for IMPACT Day supplies $300

5th Grade – Mrs. De Young
36 copies of the novel *Fever 1793*
by Laurie Halse Anderson. $262

Jr. High Bible – Mrs. Huizenga
Bookcase $265
Money to offset the cost of admission ($18.00) to the
Field Museum for 6th grade Bible and History $500
Bronze Bow class set (25). $200
The Tent class set (25). $200

Jr. High Geography – Mrs. Groen
Bookcase $265

Jr. High English – Mrs. Scheeringa
Chasing Vermeer books to replace old books . . . . . any amount $7 each

Jr. High Science – Mrs. Timmer
6 100-mL Beakers $22.20
6 250-mL Beakers $21.30
6 400-mL Beakers $23.70
4 50-mL Cylinders. $34.40
6 500-mL Cylinders $100.32

Discovery Center – Mrs. Achterhof
Cards-WR-Fish for Endings. $13
Don't Be Greedy card game $13
Basic Phonics Concept Charts $20

Spanish – Miss Van Milligan
26 Dry-Erase Lap Boards with pens and erasers $40

Library
Sandusky Lee Sloped-Shelf Booktruck. $225

Student Support Specialist – Mrs. Hoekstra
Calm Classroom Items:
- Calm Classroom Academy $72.50
- Preschool-K $32.50
- Elementary and Middle School. $32.50

Counters allows teachers to take data of the amount of time a behavior occurs by clicking a button . . . . . .$12.85 each
Timers with dry erase board attached (2-3) . . . .$16.46 each
Sensory items such as slime, wiki sticks,
scratch and dry activities. . . . . .any amount

Building & Grounds
2 Forza Freestanding Soccer Goals. . . . . .$1,800 each
6 Wireless Microphones . . . . . $800 each

Technology
Educational Apps for Ipads . . . . . any amount $1,000
Lab and all Windows computers update . . any amount $25,000
2 Windows computers for
Discovery Room learning programs. . . . . .$1,500 total

Over & Beyond

Enrichment Facilitator. . . . . .stipend $8,000-$10,000
This new hire would partner with high needs students; providing targeted remediation and support at the Junior High level.

Scholarship . . . . . any amount
HCS has programs in place to provide for low-income families and families in crisis. There is a gap however for families in the middle who have significant need but do not meet the current criteria.

Promotional Brochure Design & Printing . . . . . .$5,000-$10,000

Targeted Instruction

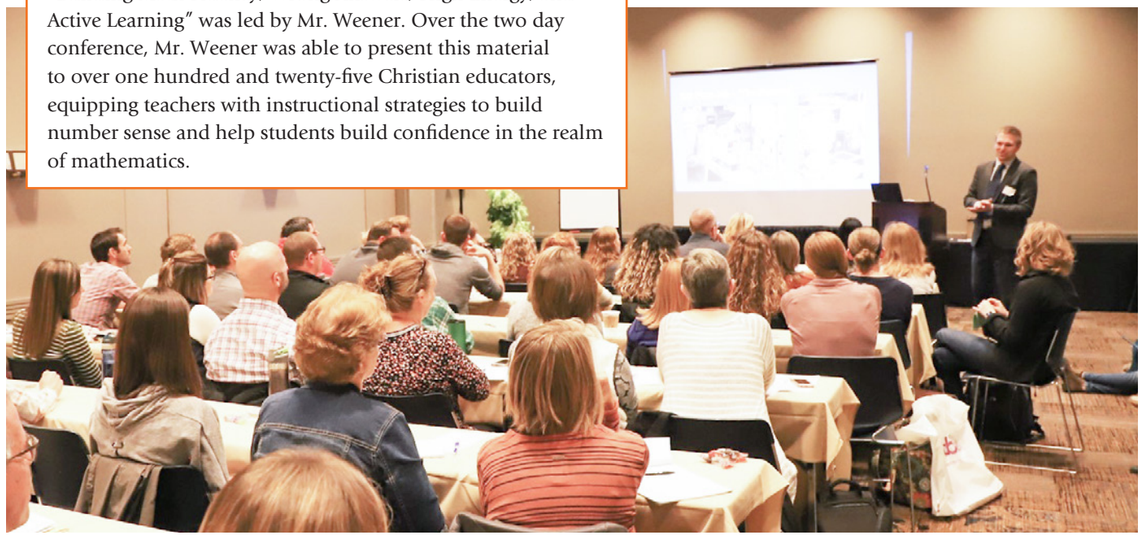
By Mrs. Cheryl Flory

At Highland Christian, we live by the four questions of Rick DuFour. One of these questions states: "How will we respond when some students do not learn?" In response to this question, a need was identified to help struggling students achieve at high levels. This additional support helped a number of third graders pass the IREAD test in order to advance to 4th grade reading. Soon after, other grade levels were added to specifically address various academic needs. What started as an experiment, resulted in so much proven success, that additional small groups were implemented throughout the school. Targeted instruction and the improvement in test scores were, according to former principal, Mr. Payne, a "key to the school receiving an "A" rating from the State of Indiana."

CEA Presentation

By Mr. Kyle Weener

On October 23-24, the teaching staff of Highland Christian had the opportunity to attend the annual Christian Educators Association conference in South Bend, IN. The teachers were able to focus on bringing Reformed theology into the classroom, implementing best practice, and learning new instructional strategies. One of these sessions, entitled, "Building Math Fluency, Wrong Answers, High Energy, and Active Learning" was led by Mr. Weener. Over the two day conference, Mr. Weener was able to present this material to over one hundred and twenty-five Christian educators, equipping teachers with instructional strategies to build number sense and help students build confidence in the realm of mathematics.



FEA Security Assessment

By Mr. Kyle Weener

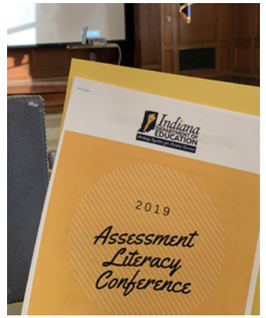
In the past decade, the need for school security has become pivotal as educators reflect on changes in society and catastrophes that too often take place in schools, at major social events, and in places of worship. In order to provide the utmost security to our students, families and staff members, Highland Christian elicited the support of a private security team to conduct an audit of the facility. This audit conducted an evaluation of our locks, doors, facilities, emergency plans, and materials necessary in our response to emergencies. Throughout this evaluation, Highland Christian received very positive feedback in regards to the current policies and procedures that are in place.

As we move forward, our School Board and administrative team will continue to work to align ourselves with state and federal policies. As a school, we have participated in county meetings with resource officers and state officials to continue to promote and provide the safest environment possible for our school community.

In order to meet the mission of Highland Christian, the school must continue to be a safe place for all members of our constituency. The entire mission of Highland Christian begins with the safety of our students.

Upcoming Events

December 20 . . . . . 1:45 Dismissal
December 21 - January 5 . . . . . Christmas Vacation
January 6. . . . . School Resumes
January 9. . . . . .etc Sort Night 3rd grade 6:00-8:00 p.m.
January 13. . . . . Kindergarten & SEC Open House 6:30-8:00 p.m.
January 17. . . . . End of 2nd Quarter
January 17. . . . . PTO Game Night
January 20. . . . . Martin Luther King Day-No School
January 21 . . . . etc Sort Night 2nd grade 6:00-8:00 p.m.
TBA . . . . . ISSMA - Instrumental
TBA . . . . . ISSMA - Vocal, Piano
February 5. . . . . Late Start 10:00 a.m.
February 11 . . . . etc Sort Night 1st grade 6:00-8:00 p.m.
February 13. . . . . .Skating Party 6:30-9:30 p.m.
February 14. . . . . In-Service, No School
February 17. . . . . Presidents' Day, No School
February 20. etc Sort Night Kindergarten 6:30-8:00 p.m.
February 21 . . . . . .Preview HCS 1:30-3:00 p.m.
March 2 - 6 . . . . . D.E.A.R. Week and Book Fair
March 3. . . . . .PTO HCS Dinner Event
March 4. . . . . Late Start 10:00 a.m.
March 10. . . . . Illiana Jr. High Choir Festival
March 11 . . . . . Kindergarten Screening
March 13. . . . . .Science Fair
March 13. . . . . .Preview HCS 1:30-3:00 p.m.
March 19,20 . . . . . Junior High Musical
March 24. . . . . .SEC Dad's Night
March 26. . . . .etc Sort Night All Parents 6:00-8:00 p.m.
March 27. . . . . End of 3rd Quarter
March 30 - April 5 . . . . . Spring Vacation, No School
April 6 . . . . . School Resumes
April 8 . . . . . Late Start 10:00 a.m.
April 10 . . . . . Good Friday, No School
April 13. . . . . Easter Monday, No School
April 15. . . . . PTO Restaurant Night
April 18. . . . . Live Auction
April 21 . . . . . Young Authors' Festival
April 23 . . . . . K-5 Spring Program 7:00 p.m.
April 24. . . . . .PTO Movie Night
April 24. . . . . .HCS Preview Day 1:30-3:00 p.m.
May 4 . . . . . .HCS Society Meeting – 7:30 p.m.
May 8 . . . . . .No School for SEC
May 8 . . . . . .HCS Preview Day 1:30-3:00 p.m.
May 4-8. . . . . .Teacher Appreciation Week
May . . . . . .Teacher Appreciation Luncheon
May 15 . . . . . PTO Donuts for Dudes
May 18,19. . . . . .SEC Last Days
May 20 . . . . . .SEC Graduation for Kindergarten-Bound Students
May 21. . . . . Grand Finale Art/Music 7:00 p.m.
May 21. . . . . SEC Picnic
May 22 . . . . . .IMPACT Day
May 25 . . . . . .Memorial Day, No School
June 3 . . . . . PTO Picnic
June 3 . . . . . Last Day 1:45 Dismissal
June 3 . . . . . 8th Grade Graduation 7:00 p.m.



HCS HONORED AS AN EXEMPLAR SCHOOL

Highland Christian School has become an exemplar school. Our Director of Assessment and Fourth grade teacher, Mrs. Mandy Aardsma was invited to present at the **2nd Annual Assessment Literacy Conference** hosted by the Indiana Department of Education on November 14 and 15. In her breakout session entitled, *"Let's Grow! Using State Standards, Assessment Data, and Technology to Strengthen Classroom-School-Home Connections"*, she detailed Highland Christian School's transition to Standards-based instruction and grading, faculty instructional practices that directly impacted our student achievement growth, and how our journey to becoming a Model PLC school impacted what matters most, the students!

> "This was an incredible opportunity to influence administrators and superintendents from across Indiana in Indianapolis and then at Ball State. As the only non-public school presenter chosen, and the only faculty member of a Model PLC school, it was an honor to share our story. I am proud of our kids and their achievements. I am so proud of the way we support our students and their learning. The way the faculty uses their unique gifting to impact our students is inspiring. Great work team!"

While there's no end to the hard work of learning, Highland Christian School's teachers are effectively using the tools and training they've received and have optimized the learning experience of our students.

etc...Thrift Store

By Mrs. Beth Mills

We have had some exciting new events over the last few months here at etc...thrift store. In September, we hosted a Ladies Night Out event with different vendors from the community. It was a beautiful evening with six vendors and many new faces at etc. Guests could shop with Mary Kay, Debbie's Homemade Happiness, Young Living Essential Oils, Norwex and two different craft vendors.

In October, we premiered a Christmas Open House and Fashion Show. We were closed during the day for the Christmas transformation but opened up to the public later in the evening. Customers were greeted with Christmas carols, a variety of snacks and Christmas decor spread throughout the store. The store was packed with guests wanting an early start to their holiday decorating and shopping. A short while later, a fashion show began with different volunteers walking the runway with amazing outfits, all found at etc. Silent auction items were available to bid on and giveaways were passed out throughout the night.

It was great to see new faces from the community at both of the events. **Be sure to follow our Facebook page for any upcoming events!**

GREAT THANKS, *etc*...

It's all about "<u>e</u>ducating <u>t</u>he <u>c</u>hildren" at etc...Thrift Store and we are incredibly grateful for the family and friends who are involved in this project. Over the years, they have contributed ***$1.3 million dollars*** to the HCS Foundation and touched countless lives as they blaze God's light in our community. Funds raised through etc... are invested in the HCS Foundation and used to reduce tuition for each K-8 student.

While the snowbirds are away this winter, we invite you to jump in and help out. This is a great opportunity to participate in the community at HCS and directly impact families at Highland Christian School. You're Part of the Pack, Be part of the Action at etc...!

For more information, visit www.etcresale.org

The Starting Point: Why Belief Matters

A recent edition of Educational Leadership got me thinking about the unique power of Christian education. While addressing effective instructional coaching, author Elena Aguilar states "We can't separate a teacher's instructional practices, ability to build relationships with kids, or ability to design lessons from what he or she believes because every action people take emerges from belief."

As I read this, the Holy Spirit brought to mind Proverbs 23:7 "For as he thinks within himself, so is he." **Belief shapes both thought and action. For this reason, Christian education remains an essential resource in our local communities.** The service we provide for students and families in northwest Indiana today is foundational. How students are equipped and nurtured during the early years of their education greatly impacts the future person they will become. Our job today is to create purposeful learning progressions in academics and invest in biblically grounded opportunities for faith formation so that students are equipped to think biblically, respond creatively and be skillful in the application of their knowledge. In so doing, we honor God and create the potential for greater, global impact as they take their place in the community and engage with culture for God's glory.

As we journey through this season of Advent – focused on the gift and good news of God Himself who is both our start and end point, we thank YOU for doing good here at Highland Christian School. The steady, earnest, energetic investment of time, thought and financial resources by God's people will be multiplied by God himself, in and through the lives of the students we teach.

One Million Dollars, $25 At a Time

THE HCS FOUNDATION

Many ask, "When is enough, enough?" when it comes to a Foundation like ours.

Thirty-five years ago, Highland Christian School received a gift of stock. The stock was sold, the cash received and soon after a vision was born. It was a simple vision: ***Set this gift apart, invest it and use it to provide for Highland Christian School. Use it to help reduce tuition costs for parents.***

Over the years, this fund has grown. Unlike the popular conception that Foundations are only for the wealthy, our Foundation has been largely built $25 at a time by people like you who recognize the importance of schools like ours. Schools that recognize the sovereignty of God and His redemptive love serve an important role in preserving truth and culture. God's truth, given through natural and special revelation, namely His Word, must be the starting point of all knowledge: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight." (Proverbs 9:10) All other knowledge springs forth from here.

While plans are born in the mind of man, God ordains our steps. **Today, the goal remains the same: the HCS Foundation serves Highland Christian School with the primary goal of reducing tuition costs.** We praise God that this fund, now valued at $3 million (which is equivalent to one year's operating budget) has **already saved parents $3 million dollars in tuition!** To God be the Glory! We appreciate the many gifts that have been invested through the Foundation and the great work being done at etc…a thrift store. We look forward to God's continued blessing as we plan to provide well for generations yet to come. For more information on the HCS Foundation, visit www.highlandchristian.org/hcs-foundation/

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Highland Christian School is a community supported Christian School. While parents pay tuition for services rendered, charitable gifts are given to sustain and grow our school. Thank you to EACH & EVERY ONE who has participated in our Fall fundraising efforts.

PROJECT PTO Chocolate Sale
PURPOSE Funds community building activities
TARGET $12K
RAISED $15,255K

PROJECT Apple Slices
PURPOSE Grandparents' Day
TARGET $2K
RAISED $2,887

PROJECT School Improvement Appeal *ongoing!*
PURPOSE Technology upgrades, school security and athletic uniforms
TARGET $45K
RAISED $22,205

WHAT'S TO COME THIS WINTER

PROJECT Auction Appeal (Dec/Jan)
Event will take place April 18, 2020
PURPOSE Proceeds offset expenses FY 2020-2021
TARGET Merchandise & Cash Sponsors

PROJECT: HCS Foundation Appeal (February)
PURPOSE Provide for the long term viability of HCS & reduce tuition costs
TARGET $25K

COMMUNITY Partnerships

By Jodi Lineburg, Development Director

African Impalas can jump 10 feet high and cover thirty feet in distance but can be kept enclosed by a three-foot tall fence. Why? While this magnificent creature has great jumping capacity, it refuses to jump if it can't see where it will land. How often are our prayers bounded by our finite vision? Let's pray instead with faith in the greatness and power of God.

HCS PASTOR APPRECIATION

Faith Commensurate with the Greatness of God

Not every school can make this claim but we can. While our stories are rich with depth and diversity, our community is built on Christ. We come together, rooted in faith and committed to Christ as we raise up the children He has entrusted to us. *We come together to provide a consistent presentation of knowledge and truth based on the Gospel of Jesus Christ.*

This is the unity and community we celebrated when we gathered for our Pastor Appreciation Chapel this Fall. We enjoyed fellowship with 57 church leaders as well as the family and friends who joined us on this special day to commend the work God is doing in our students' lives. Hospitality and love were shown through members of our PTO. Pastor Sam Hamstra, Christian Life Center (Hammond) shared a wonderful word of encouragement for the multidenominational church leaders in attendance [see inset]. Pastor Tim Huizenga, Faith Church (Highland) provided a vivid illustration of the impact we have on our kids when home, church and family are working together in concert with the Holy Spirit. We are grateful for the relationships we share as we equip students to "Blaze God's Light."

SUPPORT HCS

- Auction
- Church Offerings
- Estate Gifts
- etc...Thrift Store
- Family Legacy Funds
- Foundation Fund
- Fundraising Events
- Gifts of Stock
- Hope Fund
- Legacy Prayer Plaza
- PTO
- School Improvement Fund
- SGO Scholarship Fund
- Tribute Gifts
- Tuition Assistance Fund
- Wish List Fund

HIGHLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
3040 Ridge Road, Highland, Indiana 46322
219-838-0356
www.highlandchristian.org

#GOALS

Christian education is a dynamic, collaborative process. It requires vision, a growth mindset and constant awareness of two timelines. One timeline is measurable, temporal, the NOW. It's a timeline that measures the progression of concepts, content and behavioral attributes our students need for success at the next level of education; for success in college and career.

But, the ultimate goal and timeline we work towards is eternal, spiritual, 30 billion years from now. Our kids need to know God now while there is time to develop a personal, saving relationship with Him so that when it no longer matters what they accomplished on this earth, they can enjoy God forever in *eternity*. **We are grateful that you partner with us; allocating some of your personal wealth and the resources God has given you for these purposes. Your gifts equip us to maximize student outcomes.**

- **Together, we are making a difference DAILY through standards-based learning.** Standards create clarity and consistency in and across classrooms. They equip students to engage and evaluate their own process.
- **Together, we are making a difference DAILY in the lives of students as we support learners.** This year we have increased targeted instruction at multiple grade levels and allocated additional personnel resources to support student learning needs.
- **Together, we are making a difference DAILY through Christian community.** As we work to develop positive classroom culture and deepen spiritual roots through biblical understanding, we are grateful to God for the gift of the Holy Spirit and the opportunity to model Christ-like character.

Thank you for IMPACTING our students for Christ!

"Train up a child in the way he should go
and when he is old, he will not depart from it.
- Proverbs 22:6