

Parent/Teacher Connection

A newsletter just for Highland Heights Church of Christ parents and teachers of children from Cradle Roll through 5th grade.

Vol. 2, Issue 1

December 2009/January 2010

Winter: a great time to...

Curl up with a good book. But not just any book; why not make it THE "Good Book"? There's no better choice than the world's all-time best-seller. Make family Bible reading an important part of your routine in 2010; you and your children will be blessed. Here are some Bible versions to consider for children, along with the reading/age level for each:

- ❖ Beginner's Bible (ages 2-6)
- ❖ NIV (ages 6-10)
- ❖ ESV (ages 6-12)
- ❖ ICB (ages 8-12)
- ❖ NKJV (ages 12+)



Readability is only one factor in choosing a version. Some Bibles are closer to the original text than others; study Bibles may contain helpful background...or false doctrine. What's the best version to choose? Having multiple versions will increase your knowledge, so pick a version (or two) that you and your child can read and learn from together.

Bible Bowl News

The HH Bible Bowl group took 2nd place in the November competition at [MTCS](#) - way to go, team! The text for this year is the book of Genesis. Looking ahead, April is the last test of the year. We will be the host congregation and provide food that evening. Watch for an announcement and support our team by bringing drinks and cookies to send with our Bible Bowl team. If you have any questions about Bible bowl, please see [Amanda Carden](#).

Have some indoor fun!

The best family games are both fun and



educational. **Teachers**, you can have Bible games on hand for children who arrive early to your class. **Parents**, Bible games are great for family game night as well as a fun activity during fellowship events with friends. Here are some top picks:

- [Bibleman](#) (basic, ages 3-6; advanced for 7+)
- [Bible Charades](#) (ages 3-6)
- [Bible Trivia](#) (ages 7+)
- [Bible Memory Matching Game](#) (ages 3-6)

Check out the selection at [Truelight Christian Store](#) or [ChristianBookstore.com](#) as well as other local retailers for age-appropriate games.



New Year, New Resolutions?

If you're consider making any New Year's resolutions, it's hard to come up with a better resolution than Deuteronomy 11:18-19:

"You shall therefore lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul ... You shall teach them to your children, talking of them when you are sitting in your house, and when you are walking by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise."

Parent/Teacher Connection

Vol. 2, Issue 1

December 2009/January 2010

Page 2

Teacher Talk: The Classroom Layout

As Bible class teachers, we usually inherit our classroom layout from the previous teacher. We share the space with the Wednesday or Sunday teacher. That may severely limit our ability to transform our classroom space...or does it?

Does your classroom layout work with (or fight against) your teaching style? Straight rows of chairs are good for lecture-style classes. But is that effective with your students? A large table (or several tables pushed together) can foster communication



among students - but can you maintain control when you're seated at their level?

Arranging tables in a U-

shape lets the teacher control conversation among the students, and cut off a talkative student by standing in front of him/her and re-directing the class back on topic. Small tables for 2-4 students can create peer-to-peer help by pairing together advanced and slower learners. Preschool classrooms can benefit from a separate story and/or play area to act out the lesson.

Maintaining discipline can be difficult midway through the quarter. Try changing your room's layout; it can break the routines and separate your "talkers" Here's a link to more reading: LearnNC.org/lp/pages/742

Spotlight on Bible Hour

The Bible Hour program is a Highland Heights tradition going back nearly two decades.



Led by [Jeff Carden](#), along with [Justin and Sherry Britton](#), this Sunday night program is designed for children ages 4 to 8. The high energy schedule includes children's songs, prayer, teaching the children the books of the Bible, and learning Bible stories as they are acted out by a cast of puppets featuring Nate and Marlee Cornwell and Taylor Jackson. This year, the stories have reinforced the monthly themes presented during adult worship.

As children are able to successfully recite all the books of the Bible, they are officially recognized as part of the **66 Club** in a brief presentation ceremony held after Sunday morning services 2 to 3 times a year. Parents of new 66 Club members are encouraged to invite family and friends on the presentation day.

From September through April, Bible Hour starts promptly at 6 p.m. each Sunday in a classroom next to the small fellowship hall. Near the end of the hour, the Lord's Supper is served in the wing across the fellowship hall, and the children are dismissed after that is concluded. Parents should pick up their children promptly after services.

Did you know? The Young Families have a [special area](#) on the HH website. You can also have group messages sent out by phone, cellphone text or email. Ask Nedra for help!

Parent/Teacher Connection

Vol. 2, Issue 1

December 2009/January 2010

Page 3



December

January



Bible Hour - 6 p.m., Sunday evenings, next to small fellowship hall for ages 4-8.

Bible Bowl practice - 6 p.m. Sunday evenings in the education building for 3rd grade - high school.

12/2

1. Missions with Mommy meeting at 10 a.m. for Bible songs and working on ornaments for shut-ins, followed by lunch at McDonalds.
2. Winter quarter begins for Wednesday night classes.

12/6

1. Winter quarter begins for Sunday morning classes.
2. Smyrna Christmas parade @ 2p.m.

12/7 Bible bowl competition, MTCS at 7 p.m.

12/10 M'boro Christmas parade @ 2:30 p.m.

12/12 3rd -5th graders meeting in small fellowship hall @ 9:30 a.m. for service project.

12/16 Missions with Mommy meeting at 10 a.m. and "adopting" grandparents at Northside Nursing Home.

12/25 The day the world pauses to honor our Lord and Savior, and show His love by giving gifts and showing kindness to others. Let's share the good news of worshipping Him every day!

12/30 Missions with Mommy meeting at 10 a.m. for a 2010 planning meeting. Bring a finger food and your ideas!

12/27 Education Committee meets at 4:30

January is national soup month. What a great excuse to invite another family over for a warm bowl of soup and Christian fellowship!

"Only the pure in heart can make a good soup."
(Beethoven)

1/1 A new year begins! Remember to eat some blackeyed peas and collard greens for luck.

1/3 Devo for 3rd - 5th graders in educ. building after p.m. services: "Is the Bible God's word?"

1/10 Lunch and "job" fair after morning services - an opportunity to sign up for one (or many) areas of work and service. *Which of your talents will you put into God's service in 2010?*

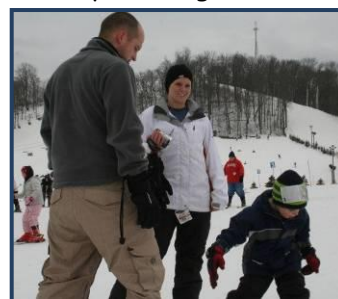
1/11 Bible bowl competition, MTCS at 7 p.m.

1/13 Missions with Mommy meeting at 10 a.m.

1/24 Education Committee meets at 4:30 p.m.

1/27 Missions with Mommy meeting at 10 a.m.

1/29-31 Annual ski trip to [Perfect North Slopes](#) in Lawrenceburg, Indiana. Caravan or sign up and ride the bus - choose from



skiing, boarding & tubing! The trip includes Sat. dinner and Sunday worship before we head home.

Do you know of **February** and/or **March** events?

Let [Jeanetta](#) or [Terry](#) know by Wed., Jan. 20.

Parent/Teacher Connection

Vol. 2, Issue 1

December 2009/January 2010

Page 4

From Joshua's Desk

Nothing is more important than passing God's word on to present and future generations. Since this literally is the most important thing in the world, we must periodically evaluate our methods to see if we can do better, and press on with every effort to affect the salvation and maturity of as many souls as possible to God's glory.



With that in mind, we have exciting plans for the future of our education program. Lord willing, early in 2010 we will have a meeting for everyone interested in learning about the plans our elders, deacons, ministers, teachers, and committee members are working on. Pray for our efforts and plan to pitch in and do your part so God will help us achieve even greater success!

There's no sense in re-inventing the wheel, so we'll keep doing many things we're doing well already. We'll make changes as needed. One such decision is to change the timing of the annual promotion day. In 2010, promotion day and the beginning of the new education year at Highland will move up one quarter, so mark your calendars for **Wednesday June 2!**

The new promotion will allow the 6th graders to join the summer activities with their peers in the youth group ([2HYM](#) includes 6th-12th grades.) Promotion night will include an ice cream social and an open house for our classrooms. -- [JLP](#)

Apologetics Defined

n. (used with a sing. verb)

1. The branch of theology that is concerned with defending or proving the truth of Christian doctrines.
2. Formal argumentation in defense of something, such as a position or system.

During the past few months, the 3rd-5th graders have begun exploring apologetics and learning solid reasons why they can believe in God and Christ. Some may ask, is this really necessary at this age? It is. Biblical principles and truths that adult believers may take for granted are now under attack. Our children must be ready to defend their faith against an onslaught of media and cultural messages that promote humanism and atheism.

Satan has been shrewd in his tactics. Consider the "values" and "character" lessons taught in public schools. The concept sounds good, right? Unfortunately, these lessons often ignore any moral or scriptural basis for being "good citizens." Instead, children are taught they should be honest or do the right thing because it will make the other person feel better—not because God tells us to be honest or to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. Subtle, but effective in eroding faith in impressionable young minds.

Future newsletters will explore some key apologetic topics for families to discuss. If you have a child in the 3rd - 5th grades, mark your calendar for the 2010 devos for this age group. It's a time of fellowship for kids (and parents!) and for strengthening faith.

Did you receive this via email? If not, let us know and we'll add you to the distribution list.

It's faster, you can click on the links, and it wastes less paper.

