



# The Husky Herald



“PROVIDING, PRESENTING, AND PUBLISHING NEWS FOR THE CHRISTIAN LEADERS OF TOMORROW”

December  
2024

12/18-20 Fall Semester Final  
Examinations

12/20 Christmas Service

12/23-1/10 Christmas Break  
(NO SCHOOL)

## CHRISTMAS SERVICE

By: MATTHEW CUEVA on December 15, 2024



Photographs by Daisy Dong (12)

## In This Issue

Christmas Service

Principal's Column

Opinion Article

Christmas Recipe

Boy's Basketball Victory

Pepperdine Field Trip

This December, New Covenant Academy will host its annual Christmas service, a cherished tradition dedicated to celebrating the Christmas season and the birth of Christ. As the semester draws to a close, this service offers students, families, and alumni a meaningful opportunity to gather and rejoice in the spirit of the holiday season. Traditionally held on the final day of the first semester, it serves as a heartwarming send-off before the year ends.

The service is filled with delightful performances from both elementary and middle school students. These include singing classic Christmas carols and acting in festive, Christmas-themed plays that bring the holiday spirit to life. Additionally, the school's talented praise team leads the assembly in worship songs, inviting everyone to stand together in unison, lifting their voices to honor God. These moments of collective praise not only foster a deeper connection to God and His Word but also strengthen the personal faith of both the performers and the audience.

A highlight of the service is the inspiring message delivered by Pastor Ted, one of New Covenant Academy esteemed leaders. His reflections remind the community of the true meaning of Christmas and its significance in our lives. Through his words, Pastor Ted encourages everyone to celebrate this sacred season with gratitude, love, and togetherness, emphasizing the importance of sharing these moments with those we hold dear.

The Christmas service at New Covenant Academy is more than a festive event; it is a time to unite as a community, bringing joy and glory to God. By celebrating this meaningful holiday together, the school fosters a sense of shared purpose and strengthens the bonds that connect its members. This cherished tradition continues to enrich the lives of all who participate, leaving lasting memories of faith, love, and joy.

# PRINCIPAL'S COLUMN

By: DR. SONG on December 18, 2024

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)

Many people, including believers, have practical questions about Christmas. For example, "What was Christ's exact date of birth?" No one knows for sure, and it may not have been December. Sheep were likely grazing on hills during the spring when the temperature was high enough for shepherds to set up camp at night. How, then, did December 25 become the date for Christmas? Some church leaders in the early 3rd century decided to celebrate Christmas on the 25th of December, the same day when pagans worshipped their deities. So, December 25th was "adopted" by church fathers to make the point that (1) Jesus is Lord, and (2) pagans were celebrating the wrong god.

How about, "Where was Jesus born?" No one has the precise position or coordinates. The Bible tells us that the birth took place in Bethlehem—but that's like saying, "Bob was born in Los Angeles." That is, we only know of the general proximity, not the exact location. It's not like they had street names or addresses back then.

Were there three wise men who came to worship Jesus? After all, the famous hymn says, "We three kings of Orient," and three gifts were mentioned in the Bible. Yet, we can't assume that there were only three kings, wise men, or magi.

# OPINION ARTICLE

By: JOAN HUH on December 17, 2024

The opinions expressed in this article are solely my own and do not reflect the views, beliefs, or policies of New Covenant Academy or its administration.

When I walked into school Tuesday morning, I found my article "The Pomodoro Method" taped to the halls. Somehow, our janitor found and posted my piece from the Korea Daily. Even as I submitted my article to the newspaper, I thought, "Nobody reads student articles anyway." Yet, I was startled to find out that I had a reader. My friends shared my astonishment, noting that their parents

Could it have been three? Sure! But it could have been four or five or more, and the Christmas message is unaffected by the precise number of magi.

I wish I had time to talk about Santa Claus and St. Nick, but I will leave that up to the parents.

(According to some, I've already "ruined" the childhood innocence of many children.)



As the team celebrated their hard-earned success, they also remained grounded, acknowledging areas that required improvement. In particular, they identified challenges in maintaining possession during transitions, as their opponents frequently managed to intercept passes. Recognizing this weakness, the team viewed it not as a setback but as an opportunity to grow and refine their skills. Their determination to address these shortcomings fueled their resolve to train even harder and sharpen their strategies for future matches.

This game exemplified the NCA boys' basketball team's resilience, grit, and ability to balance celebration with self-reflection. Their unwavering drive to persevere, coupled with their willingness to learn and improve, highlights qualities of recognition and determination that will undoubtedly pave the way for continued success in their basketball journey.

who read the Korea Daily every day, never read the student articles.

From this conversation, it occurred to me that the subscribers of the Korea Daily are generally older; my friends, on the other hand, receive information mostly through social network platforms like Instagram or TikTok rather than the newspaper. Ultimately, both groups tend to overlook each other's writing. The disparity between the age groups seemed to correlate with the lack of understanding and acceptance between the different generations.

This realization led me to question the meaning of diversity. Perhaps, while society today seems to grow in diversity, it allows a greater division within it. I may be satisfied by the readily available diverse set of content tailored to my views and background, but I can easily dismiss any news that does not align with my views, strengthening biases rather than broadening my perspective.

## CHRISTMAS RECIPE

By: JOAN HUH on December 17, 2024

The holiday season is the perfect time to enjoy easy, delicious treats that bring everyone together. If you're looking for a simple recipe with minimal ingredients, these sugar cookies are perfect for decorating and sharing with loved ones.

### Ingredients:

- 2½ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup unsalted butter, softened
- ¾ cup granulated sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- ¼ teaspoon salt

### Tips for Easy Sugar Cookies:

- For a fun twist, add a few drops of food coloring to the dough before rolling it out.
- Store cookies in an airtight container for up to a week.



Photograph from Once Upon A Chef

As a consequence of a lack of shared space, there is a missed opportunity to understand different perspectives. As I aspire to become a minority journalist, I believe it necessary not only to bring diverse experiences and voices to the forefront but also to create a space, a unified platform, that encourages active engagement across different social groups.



Photograph from Allrecipes

### Instructions:

1. **Mix the dough:** In a large bowl, cream together the softened butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Mix in the vanilla extract. Gradually add the flour and salt, stirring until a dough forms.
2. **Roll and cut:** Preheat your oven to 350°F (175°C) and line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Roll out the dough on a lightly floured surface to about ¼-inch thickness. Use cookie cutters to create your favorite festive shapes.
3. **Bake:** Place the cookies on the prepared baking sheet and bake for 10-12 minutes or until the edges are lightly golden. Let the cookies cool on the sheet for 5 minutes before transferring them to a wire rack to cool completely.
4. **Decorate (optional):** Once cooled, you can decorate the cookies with store-bought icing or sprinkles for added festive flair.



# BOY'S BASKETBALL VICTORY

By: KATIE KIM on December 10, 2024

On Thursday night, December 12, the NCA boys' basketball team demonstrated their exceptional skills and teamwork against their formidable opponents from Waverly. Despite the intensity of the match and the fierce determination required to secure victory, NCA emerged triumphant with an impressive final score of 52-36. The game, which tipped off at 6:30 PM at the Pasadena Boys and Girls Club, was a testament to the team's dedication and competitive spirit as they fought tirelessly to bring home the win.

One of the standout moments of the evening was the stellar performance by Anderson, who dominated the court with an outstanding contribution of twenty-three points and seven assists, solidifying his role as the star player of the night. Clarence also played a pivotal role, adding fourteen crucial points to the scoreboard, while Armani made his presence felt with ten points and six formidable blocks that fortified the team's defense. These individual contributions, combined with

the collective effort of the entire squad, were instrumental in securing the victory.

As the team celebrated their hard-earned success, they also remained grounded, acknowledging areas that required improvement. In particular, they identified challenges in maintaining possession during transitions, as their opponents frequently managed to intercept passes. Recognizing this weakness, the team viewed it not as a setback but as an opportunity to grow and refine their skills. Their determination to address these shortcomings fueled their resolve to train even harder and sharpen their strategies for future matches.

This game exemplified the NCA boys' basketball team's resilience, grit, and ability to balance celebration with self-reflection. Their unwavering drive to persevere, coupled with their willingness to learn and improve, highlights qualities of recognition and determination that will undoubtedly pave the way for continued success in their basketball journey.

# PEPPERDINE FIELD TRIP

By: JOAN HUH on December 17, 2024

As the morning sun broke over Los Angeles, students from the Upper Campus, grades 8 through 12, embarked on an inspiring journey to Pepperdine University. The visit was more than just a field trip; it was an opportunity for NCA students to step into a world where academic excellence and faith converge in a stunning seaside setting.

The day began with a scenic drive to the university's Malibu campus, known for its breathtaking views of the Pacific Ocean. For many students, the visual splendor set the tone for a day of exploration and growth. "Walking onto the campus was like stepping into a dream," said Kenny Kim, a senior. "It felt like a place where faith and learning truly come together."

The visit kicked off with a campus tour led by enthusiastic Pepperdine student ambassadors. From the state-of-the-art libraries to the vibrant student life center, NCA students glimpse the resources and opportunities that make Pepperdine a distinguished Christian university. The ambassadors highlighted Pepperdine's commitment to integrating faith into every aspect of the student experience—a core value that resonated deeply



Photograph by Charlie Lowry

with NCA students.

Afterward, students participated in a Q&A session with Pepperdine admissions counselors. They received invaluable advice about the application process, scholarships, and the unique advantages of attending a faith-based institution. For NCA's upperclassmen, this was an especially impactful moment



Photograph by Charlie Lowry

as they prepare to navigate their own college admissions journeys.

“This trip was eye-opening,” said Venera Barsukova, a senior. “It made me realize that college is not just about academics—it’s also about growing in faith and character.”

For New Covenant Academy, the visit to Pepperdine was more than just a chance to see a prestigious university. It was a reminder of the possibilities that lie ahead for students who strive for excellence while keeping Christ at the center of their lives. The experience left students inspired, hopeful, and motivated to dream big for their futures.

## NCA UNIFORM POLICY

All students must adhere to the dress code policy described in the NCA fall packet and the Official Dress Code Policy Document. Dress code policy will be monitored by both Student Council and Honor Council.

- Monday through Thursday students are required to wear the school uniform as described in the school guidelines.
- All students are required to wear a tie and purchase a blazer.
- Nose rings and other piercings are not allowed for both boys and girls, with the exception of girls’ earrings.
- Natural hair colors only- boys’ hair must not cover their eyes or touch their shirt collars.

Reminder that consequences to violating the dress code may result in revoked free dress on Fridays. This consequence applies to both middle and high school students.

We have an Art & Writing column where we proudly display the talents of the students at NCA! If you would like to have your own artwork, poem, or writing piece displayed in next month’s edition of The Husky Herald, please email your submissions to [hylee@students.e-nca.org](mailto:hylee@students.e-nca.org) along with your name and grade! Submissions can also be anonymous if that happens to be your preference. We look forward to seeing your amazing creations soon!

Ministry Brands  
AMPLIFY™

Go to <https://giving.myamplify.io/app/giving/ncahuskies> and make a donation!

The Husky Herald is published due to the hard work of NCA’s Journalism Club each month! The students who worked on this month’s issue are Joan Huh, Venera Barsukova, Daisy Dong, Katie Kim, Matthew Cueva, Chloe Zheng, Emily Perez, and Hyemi Lee. Additional thanks to Dr. Jason Song and Charlie Lowry for helping make this month’s issue possible.

MERRY  
Christmas