



ORANGE CITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

SPOTLIGHT

Feb/Mar
2019

BE THOU OUR VISION

Orange City Christian School is a biblically-based community that partners with parents, educating hearts and minds to serve in Christ's Kingdom.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

April 11

7:00 pm - K-4 musical in OCCS gym

April 12

Grandparents' Day
9:30am - K-4 musical

April 15

Covenant Kids Preschool
Grandparents' Day

April 16

Solo Ensemble

April 18-22

Easter Break - No School

April 23

Classes resume

May 7

7:00 pm Strings' Night

May 9

7:00 pm Preschool Year End Program

May 16-17

11:30 dismissal-Tulip Festival

May 20

7:00 pm Hymn of the Month Program at First Ref. Church

May 24

12:00 noon dismissal

May 24

7:00 pm 8th grade graduation at First CRC

June 4

Pick up report cards from OCCS office

July 4-5

OCCS office closed for the holiday

July 22-August 2

School closed, No TRIP sales

CONSTRUCTION TO BEGIN! Building Project Update

Celebrate! We are ready to break ground!!

The Lord has continued to bless our plans for Phase 1 of our building project. Our bids came back much lower than estimated. Bouma & Co. won the bid. You will soon begin to see building activity happening. Total cost for the project is \$1.75 million. We are only \$300,000 away from completely funding it! Let's work together to get it accomplished.



Upcoming Fundraising Events

April 12 & 13 - Join us for two events for the Building Project

Stop in and shop at the **OCCS garage sale** on April 12 and 13.

Join us for the **Tiger Toss and Serenity Stage** on Saturday, April 13. To sign-up for the Tiger Toss, use the following website:
(<http://www.orangecitychristian.net/news-info/tigertoss.cfm>).

We also have an **online auction** going on through April 17. You can find the items at zomer.nextlot.com. Look for the auction labeled 'Orange City Christian School Online Only Building Project Charity Auction.'

Submission to Authorities

We continue to connect with our theme this year. For the month of March the theme was “The Foreman (Respect)”. The 3rd and 8th graders lead us through a wonderful chapel dealing with respect. Our verse for the month was: Romans 13:1 – “Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.”

Living in society and a community means living under authority. Sometimes we appreciate that authority and sometimes we do not. Sometimes it is comforting knowing there is someone or some entity overseeing our welfare and sometimes those same entities can seem oppressive and even ridiculous.

The same is true for our school. There are levels of authority within our school and also levels of authority outside and above our school. I am talking about the earthly authorities established by God that Romans talks about. The past couple months our school has been going through evaluations by a couple of those authority organizations.

We had our 3-year site visit for food service and our 5-year accreditation site visit. The food service site visit allows us to continue getting federal and state assistance for hot lunch and the accreditation site visit allows us to remain open as an accredited school in the State of Iowa.

I am happy to report that we passed both site visits!

We have a great team working here at OCCS. That really came through in the preparation work and the site visits themselves. Our kitchen staff does a fantastic job feeding our children and making delicious, nutritious food. Our entire school staff works very hard to provide an excellent, strong education for our students.

It was exciting to hear to positive comments from the accreditation team. They saw and experienced the positive, Christ-filled atmosphere at our school. We always knew that to be the case, but it was encouraging to hear that from an outside entity.

Being a part of OCCS is a joy that is seen and felt by our students, parents, staff, board, community, and evaluation authorities. Thank you for being a part of that atmosphere. Thank you for your support as we finish this school year strong.

Jason Alons, principal

History Day 2019

The seventh and eighth graders at Orange City Christian School have participated again this year in a nation wide project called National History Day. The target of this project is to give students opportunities at researching, compiling, analyzing, and presenting information about a specific topic of their own choosing. Each project also needed to relate to a theme which this year was: “Triumph and Tragedy in History”. Our classes began work in September and culminated their work the week of February 28 with presentations before a pair of judges. Students were also able to share their work with parents and friends on Monday night, March 11 after the band concert. Many thanks to our volunteer judges for their time and encouragement. Our judges this year were: Arlyn Schaap, Cody Haarskamp, Judy Hilbelink, and Kari Bousema, While all of the students worked very hard on their projects, the following 10 group projects were chosen to move on to the district competition sponsored by Northwest AEA at Northwestern College in Orange City on Tuesday, March 12. They are:

Exhibits(8)

“Trains to the Unknown” Mikayla Vollink and Reagan Noteboom

“The Great Zamperini” Brielle Reitsma and Aubrey Kuiper

“Train to the West” Landon Moreau and Gabe Schiebout

“The Doolittle Raid” Levi Rosenboom and Landon De Jong

“Triumph Through Faith” Aubrey De Groot and Ava Nykamp

“Chasing New Heights” Maddie Bosma and Rebecca Philipson

“Tragedy of a Nation” Adriana Van Maanen and Molly Zylstra

“Vital for Victory” Maggie Alons and Lizzy King

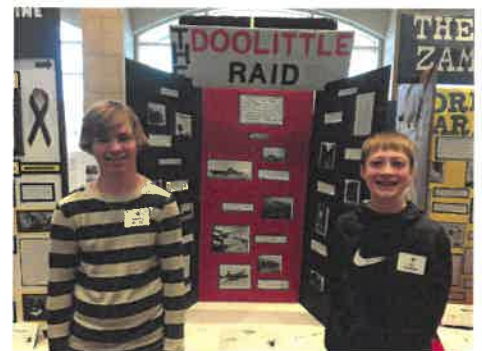
“Secret Rooms” Emilee Schrock and Elizabeth Westra

Performance

“Corrie Ten Boom” Ella Poppema, Carissa Reinders, and Olivia Hoogland

Randy Hilbelink

Middle School Teacher



Kindergarten Update

Kindergarten is a great place to be! We have learned so much this year! On March 11 we celebrated our 100th day of Kindergarten. This gave a great opportunity to review all the fun we have had so far. Some of our highlights this year included learning all our letters, recognizing and writing numbers past 30, learning about trees, reviewing many Bible stories, and memorizing a lot of verses to go with our stories.

While learning the letters, we took some time to have fun with them. We enjoyed decorating cupcakes on "B for Birthday" day, eating green eggs and ham on "E as in Egg" day, camping in the classroom on "C as in Camping" day and having a visit from the dentist on "T as in Tooth" day. As we celebrated learning all our letters, we reflected on the amazing blessings God has given us through the gift of the alphabet and learning to read. He opened the door to wonderful things for us to discover!

Our math has been a fun challenge for us this year. We have come a long way on reading and writing our numbers correctly! We have been learning about 2D and 3D shapes and enjoyed trying to create structures with marshmallows and toothpicks. God's order in the world is amazing when we consider all the shapes He created.

We began our Bible stories with Creation and worked through the Kings and Prophets, taking a break from the Old Testament to celebrate Christmas and learn more about Jesus' walk on earth with parables and miracles. One highlight from our Bible time was knocking down our pop bottle "Goliaths" and we look forward to making Easter tombs with our 5th grade friends.

Our science fun this year has included learning about trees and weather. We enjoyed focusing on the changing of the trees last fall and anticipate the new growth God promises us with new buds beginning to form. Soon we will get some critters in the mail and we will begin learning about more of the creation God has provided us.

It is hard to believe we are nearing the end of another school year, there is still a lot to learn and enjoy. We are excited to experience our first K-4 musical, Grandparent's Day and Hymn of the month program. On May 9 we will take a trip to the Dorothy Peacut Nature Center in the Loess Hills. We will enjoy a hike and exploring the Nature Center. It is a great conclusion to learning about some of the amazing creatures God has created.

Diane Krommendyk & Sheryl Slegers, Kindergarten teachers



Sports Update

As we enter our final sports season of the year at OCCS, we anxiously wait for warmer weather and our fields to dry out. Our Junior High students have started up their soccer and track practices. They've been going outside whenever they can but have been forced to the gym most of the time. This year we have 15 girls and 17 boys out for soccer. Our girls' team is coached by Jason Alons and our boys' team is coached by Ben Kuiper. We are excited to have both of them working with our teams this spring. Our track team will have a total of 32 boys and girls participating this year. They are again coached by Melanie Witt and Karlyn Brunst. Our track team will be participating in the Dordt College Indoor meet, Unity Christian Invite, Western Christian Invite, and the Dordt College Track meet this spring. We are looking forward to our spring sports season and watching our kids represent OCCS!

Travis De Jong, Athletic Director

TRIP News

Change to Scheels: Scheels gift cards are available for \$25 and \$100 at an 8% rebate. Scheels \$10 cards are still available at a 5% rebate. Scheels \$50 gift cards are no longer available.

New: TC Home Furnishings in Orange City is participating in our program with a 3% rebate. This is good on materials up to \$5,000 a year (not good for labor). You will pay the bill at school and a check will be sent to TC Home Furnishings on your behalf.

You can find information on the OCCS website about the TRIP program. Look for information on gift cards available, voucher businesses, hours, and TRIP Green & White cash.

Kim Vande Zande, TRIP Coordinator

Labels for Learning

A big thank you to everyone who has been collecting and turning in Boxtops, Pizza Ranch Wagons, Tyson and Loaves for Learning Labels this year. The Pizza Ranch Wagons contest was a big success! I can't believe how many Wagons were turned in, 5046 to be exact. I am thinking OCCS families and friends just ate pizza for the month of February. Mrs. Witt's 4th grade class was the winner of the pizza party with the most Wagons turned in, followed by Mrs. Harvey's 5th grade, and then Mrs. Krommendyk's kindergarten class. So far this year we have collected just over 7600 Pizza Ranch Wagons and over 4500 Boxtops. Be sure to bring in any other Wagons you have sitting around before the end of the school year as this is the last year of this program. Keep on snipping!

Amy Nonhof, Labels Committee

Monica update

The Monica Board met March 19 for our spring meeting. We went over how the past year has gone, Cookie Walk/Soup Supper/Pop can trailer and reviewed a few comments and emails from Tulip Festival committees with the upcoming Tulip Festival. We were very happy with how well the Soup Supper turned out despite the weather and how everyone in the school stepped up and helped in various ways and made it a success. We spent a large part of the meeting selecting new co- chairs for committees for the upcoming 2019-20 school year. A note was in the Spotlight and Home Bulletin asking individuals to volunteer for committees. We put those in the spots they volunteered for and then we went to a spreadsheet identifying individuals who haven't served on a committee ever or not been on a committee for two years or more. We do not ask each committee member to find their own replacements anymore. We hope this is a more inclusive process. If anyone has any questions about this, please contact a board member.

The Orange City Tulip Festival is just weeks away! The committees are working hard on the final details for this upcoming fundraiser. From making pigs and soup, to organizing the workers and supplies for the Tent and Straatmarket; it all takes time and effort to plan and organize. The Tulip Festival fundraiser takes many hands and hearts to be successful for OCCS and the community. For those of you that would like to help with the Tulip Festival fundraiser, and do not currently have kids at OCCS, we would love to have you come on board as an Associate. Associates can help by bringing pies, working a shift, or by baking and transporting pig-in-the-blankets to the tent during the Festival. Anyone that is a past graduate, grandparent, or friend of OCCS that would like to become involved as an Associate, please contact Lauri Poppema at cyclonesjtc@orangecitycomm.net or 712-441-7341. We appreciate your prayers and support for this upcoming fundraiser!

We are so thankful for all the committee members, associates, donors, volunteers that help with Monica. We praise God above all for all He provides and His mercies that are new everyday!

Lauri Poppema, Monica Board President

Board Report

- March Balance Sheet- \$536,580.77
- Excitement surrounding Project Engage continues. Since the bid came in lower than estimated, we will be breaking ground soon!
- We are thankful contracts have been signed and returned.
- Our food service department passed our 3 year site visit. Thank you to Katie, Pat, and the kitchen staff for all their work preparing for the visit.
- A design team has been formed and is working on a new OCCS Float for the Tulip Festival. They hope to have it ready to go for the upcoming Tulip Festival.
- The board has approved a part-time assistant principal position. Matt Van Schepen has been hired. He will also continue to be the technology director and teach some Science next year.
- The board has approved increased counseling hours so that there will be a counselor in the building every day next school year. We thank Crista Smidt and Michele Alons for making this possible.
- The CSI accreditation site visit took place March 19-21. Many positive observations and comments were made about OCCS. The site visit team unanimously gave us a "passing" recommendation. Thank you to students, parents, staff and all those who helped in this process. It was a very positive experience where we were affirmed and encouraged as a school and we can use what we learned to strive for excellence in achieving our school goals.

Thank you for your continued prayers for wisdom and discernment as decisions are made concerning OCCS.

*Respectfully submitted,
Heather Hofmeyer, board secretary*

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UNITS			
<u>Church Unit</u>	<u>Requested for 2018-19</u>	<u>Contribution 2018-19</u>	<u>Balance Remaining</u>
Calvary CRC	87,518.75	65,664.47	21,854.28
First CRC	69,345.00	38,548.76	30,796.24
Hospers CRC	5,025.00	5,025.00	0.00
Immanuel CRC	108,456.25	87,566.22	20,890.03
Living Water	45,225.00	17,777.64	27,447.36
Redeemer URC	58,625.00	30,008.00	28,617.00
Other Supporting Churches	5,025.00	4,355.00	670.00
Partner Society	78,895.00	53,935.66	24,959.34