



Orange City Christian School

SPOTLIGHT

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2011

Orange City Christian School provides academically sound, Scripturally-directed instruction to assist Christian parents in teaching their children to know God and His world, to develop godly character as Christ's image bearers, and to acquire knowledge, skills, and values to fulfill their calling as His servants.

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Principal's Thoughts

Even though the month of January is quickly coming to a close, there still is a sense of newness regarding the year 2011. Hopefully, the reflections that took place at the end of 2010 and the resolutions that were made to start 2011 are still fresh in our minds. At a school such as OCCS, the new calendar year does not usually result in any major changes. Classes aren't rearranged. Teaching assignments aren't changed. Duties and responsibilities aren't greatly adjusted. Many, if not most, things at a school stay the same when the calendar is changed from December to January.

That is not the case at OCCS this year. The beginning of 2011 will result in a major change . . . a major addition. The "Building on the Promises" Early Childhood addition has been completed and the classes are making and completing plans to occupy this wonderful new addition.

We are thankful to God for the faithful participation of so many from the OCCS "family" and the larger Orange City community. This includes countless people who live in the local area who have given of their resources to assist in the project. It has also been a tremendous blessing to have people from far away be part of this addition. There have also been many types of "gifts" given to help complete the project. Many have given sacrificially of their financial resources toward the project. Many have given their time (countless hours for a number of people) as part of fundraising and planning for the work. Many have given of their talents and skills to assist in the actual building of the addition. Many, many people have been in prayer for the project.

This project (which formally began with the OCCS Society meeting on December 15, 2008) reminds me of the passage in I Corinthians 12:12-31 where Paul beautifully draws similarities between the human body and the many roles within the faith community. Paul describes the various parts of the body and how each is necessary to have a whole body. He relates this to the church or the community of believers. Within the church there are many talents and many abilities. All are important and necessary to do the monumental tasks of the church.

The "Building on the Promises" project similarly was blessed with many participants and many roles and responsibilities. As we put closure on the building phase of the project and begin to enjoy this blessing from God, we thank God for all the people who took part in providing OCCS with this wonderful addition to our school.

January Theme

Our theme for this month is "Give us this day our daily bread". God always provides for us in so many ways - not only our daily bread but all of our daily needs. He gives us our homes, food, and friends. He takes care of us by supplying medical personnel, grocery store workers, and people who plow the snowy roads. As a school we are remembering that all these daily needs are taken care of by our great Heavenly Father. It is because of Him that we can go through each day without worrying about our needs. We also are aware that although our daily physical needs are important, our spiritual needs are even more important. God also gives us our daily bread through Christ who is our bread of life. The verse that we are focusing on this month is from Psalm 145:15-16: "The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time. You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing." How wonderful it is that God has chosen to bless us abundantly in so many ways!

February Theme

As we think of February, thoughts of hearts, candy, and love may come to mind. There is no greater love than the amazing love of God that allows our sins to be forgiven. This is the theme we will be exploring with the students in our classrooms during February. We will be looking, not only at the assurance of God's forgiveness, but also at our need for forgiveness. As we continue to study The Lord's Prayer together, we are going to focus on the phrase, "Forgive us our debts." The Bible verse for the month that we will be learning is from Psalm 32: 1 & 2, "Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the LORD does not count against him and in whose spirit is no deceit." The first line of the Psalter Hymnal song that we will also be learning reads, "How blest are they whose trespass has freely been forgiven." May we truly realize what a precious gift we receive each day, as our sins are forgiven through the blood of Jesus Christ, if we choose to confess our sins and ask for this amazing forgiveness from our great heavenly Father.

Monica Soup Supper

February 7, 20115:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Board Report

November/December

- Balance sheet reflects \$261,216 in assets. This does not include any cash from the Campaign.
- December income \$120,221, expenses \$124,834
- We give thanks for the almost-completed building expansion - end of January completion is still on target
- Building Expansion loan balance as of December is at \$146,500, pledges paid \$608,339, unpaid pledges \$303,964
- Mr. Tien reported on recent principal and school activities
- Nicki Kuiper gave us an update on the work being done with Iowa Core Curriculum
- Mr. Tien is coordinating with Unity Christian High administration for the 2011-12 school calendar
- Mr. Tien and Board members have been conducting teacher observations
- Plans are being made with members of the kitchen for the transition of Shelly Wassenaar leaving. Numerous inquiries have been made regarding the position.

Respectfully submitted
Laura Malenke, board secretary

Covenant Kids Preschool

We find it difficult to believe that our preschool year is already more than half over! It has been a great school year of getting to know new friends, learning what school behavior is like, and working on the “academics” of preschool – letter and number recognition, rhyming and opposites, beginning sounds, colors, shapes, patterns, sorting...the list goes on and on. Preschool days are busy and if you visit our room you will see that.

One of our favorite times of the day is Bible. We are now working on a unit of Jesus’ miracles. All of these Bible stories show His power and His love. We are so thankful to see His power and His love in our own lives.

We love visits and activities with our 4th grade friends and we thank them for the help they have given us with various projects. We look forward to meeting with them for other activities yet this school year.

A highlight for the preschoolers was participating with the kindergarten class in the OCCS Christmas program... what a wonderful way to celebrate the birth of our Savior. And preschoolers are great at memorizing songs!

Geoffrey Scholten Wins OCCS 2011 Geography Bee

Each year, National Geographic sponsors a geography awareness program aimed at increasing young peoples’ knowledge and understanding of the world around them. Orange City Christian School believes this awareness program blends in well with our mission to know God, His world and our role in redeeming this world for him.

Classroom bees were held on Friday, December 17 to determine the students who would participate in the final round. The students in the final round who represented their classes were: Jackson Lourens, Daniel Scholten, Sam Walhof, George Hubbard, Joel Postma, Jenna Meines, Darienne Driessen, Kayla Cooper, Geoffrey Scholten, and Haley Noteboom. Each of these students were congratulated and given a free personal pan pizza from the Pizza Ranch during the championship round on Thursday, January 13.

The two students who made it to the finals of the championship round were Sam Walhof and Geoffrey Scholten. During the final round of questioning, Geoffrey answered the most questions correctly and was crowned our new Geography Bee Champion. Geoffrey received a trophy and also the opportunity to take a qualifying exam which will be sent to state headquarters.



Below are listed five questions from the final competition. How would you have done? (*Answers appear elsewhere in this issue.*)

1. What group of islands in the Atlantic Ocean make up an autonomous community of Spain?
2. Hausa, Tiv, and Edo are ethnic groups that live in a country that borders the Gulf of Guinea and Lake Chad. Name this country.
3. Manu National Park protects rainforest wildlife, including more than 850 species of birds, and is partially located in the department of Cusco in what country?
4. Africa’s highest peak is a part of a national park in Tanzania. Name this mountain.
5. The city of Manaus is a busy inland port in the state of Amazonas in what country?

We have been watching the construction of the new addition to the school building and we are excited at the idea of moving in!

We are so thankful to God for His blessings to us this year. We have had a healthy year so far, we have made good friends and demonstrated kindness to them, and we have learned to bring God our praise and our requests.

One of our favorite songs speaks on what we hope to continue to do all our lives.

“My friends may you grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior. My friends may you grow in grace and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ. To God be the glory now and forever, now and forever Amen, to God be the glory now and forever, now and forever Amen.”

Memorials
Della Jelgerhuis

Second Grade News

What is a day like in second grade? Full of learning about God and His world! Each day we begin with singing time in Mrs. Koning's room. Some favorites we choose often are "You are My All in All", "Encourage One Another", Mrs. Wielenga's "Tiger Traits" song, and "Armor of God".

Next, comes reading time. Read to Self and Read with a Partner are new components of our language arts curriculum this year. We have learned how to choose a "good fit" book for ourselves, which is a book that is interesting, understandable, and fits our purpose for reading that day. We have learned that to be good stewards of our reading time, we need to choose our place to read quickly and develop the stamina to read on our own for as long as

possible. At a given time, you will be able to find our class engrossed in reading for 20 minutes!

This year we are also focusing on less familiar portions of the Old Testament. We have learned in detail about prophets, kings, and the times of the Exile and Return. Our study of Daniel fits very well with our OCCS theme of prayer this year.

Oh yes! This is the year of renaming in math. Many of you may know this as carrying and borrowing. We have also practiced many strategies for problem solving.

Second graders have a variety of interesting homework. Each week we learn a math strategy as we do our homework page and gain a greater vocabulary as we



look up, draw and present our Word-A-Days. We hide God's word in our heart as we learn our weekly Bible verses, and become excellent spellers with our spelling words. In fact, by the time you read this, we will have learned over 250 words!

God is blessing us with a great year and we are happy to share some of it with you.

The Top Ten "Happening" Things in Fourth Grade/ Mrs. De Groot

It's the end of the 2nd Quarter and we reflected back on some of the main events of the year so far.

1. OCCS Geography Bee! Sam Walhof participated as the representative of our class and came in as runner-up to Geoffrey Scholten!! Great thinking Sam!
2. Pioneer Day was celebrated following the studying of *Little House in the Big Woods*. We enjoyed getting to dress up for this, the square-skipping, quilting, churning butter, and other activities. We also followed up with a class trip to the Harvest Festival in Sioux Center.
3. Science Field Trip to Mill Creek State Park to learn more about the Pond Community.
4. Christmas Concert! We enjoyed singing and playing in the Orchestra, as we celebrated with OCCS family and friends.
5. Science Field Trip to NW Iowa Landfill, after studying about packages and how we can care for the resources from God by reducing, recycling, and reusing.
6. Preschool Friends! We love taking time to do activities and crafts with them and read them books.
7. Accelerated Reader Program starts in 4th grade, and we are excited about reading and earning points for Gummy Worms!
8. Dollar Parties! We are able to celebrate our good behavior with some special time for games and snacks.
9. Christmas Caroling! We sang at Iowa State Bank and the Pioneer Home.
10. 4th Grade Orchestra! An opportunity for us to learn more about our gifts in music!

Top Ten Things Happening In Mrs. Witt's Fourth Grade:

- #10 Planting Mustard Seeds was a unique learning experience. For many of us, this was our first attempt at trying to keep something alive and healthy, besides ourselves.
- #9 AC Reader has been a fun, challenging adventure for many of us. It is teaching us to read more often and to be more careful to retain what we are reading.
- #8 Christmas Caroling at the Iowa State Bank and at the Pioneer Home was a lot of fun. Mrs. Wielenga gave us 'Santa' hats and encouraged us to sing like pros.
- #7 Intramurals is a new opportunity for us. We are appreciating our time with the fifth graders, and we are learning how to be fair and how to show good sportsmanship in every sport we play.
- #6 Our Terrarium was a busy home to several toads, frogs, and even a hermit crab. It taught us a lot about how creatures respond to their environment and how we must learn to do the same. It also kept us busy searching for and collecting insects.
- #5 The Best Christmas Pageant Ever isn't a drama, but rather an awesome book about accepting others into the faith who have never heard about our Heavenly Father. In this book an unruly family of six children show up in a church and everyone learns some valuable lessons about being the hands and feet of Christ.
- #4 Going to Lake Paullina for our Pond Field Trip was an awesome, educational experience. The Naturalist showed us many unique plants, animals, and insects. Our eyes were opened to God's intricate creation and the joy His work brings.
- #3 Garbage, garbage everywhere! That's what we saw at the NW Iowa Solid Waste Agency and Recycling Center. Our tour guide answered all of our questions and more. We had a lot to tell our parents about being better recyclers and about not wasting the many natural resources God has given to us.

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Top Ten–Continued

- #2 Having Preschool Partners is a blessing from the Lord. We love spending time with our partners working on crafts, projects, reading, playing, and more. We even sang and played bells together for the November OCCS chapel. We love our partners!
- #1 Studying the novel, Little House in the Big Woods, and ending our unit of study with a Pioneer Day Celebration was a special treat. You should have seen us in our Pioneer clothing as we square-danced, churned butter, cloved apples, quilted, and ate a Pioneer man’s breakfast feast. This memory will stay with us for a lifetime!

Answers:

1. Canary Islands
2. Nigeria
3. Peru
4. Mt. Kilimanjaro
5. Brazil

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UNITS

Church Unit	Requested for 2010-11	Contribution 2010-11	Balance Remaining
Calvary CRC	\$69,493.00	\$35,791.19	\$33,701.81
First CRC	34,775.00	12,858.41	21,916.59
Hospers CRC	6,500.00	3,500.00	3,000.00
Immanuel CRC	66,300.00	28,525.98	37,774.02
Living Water	36,725.00	9,126.14	27,598.86
Redeemer URC	20,800.00	20,800.00	0.00
Partner Society	33,800.00	23,123.87	10,676.13

Henry & Hattie Kleinhesselink Tuition Grant!

Henry & Hattie Kleinhesselink supported and promoted Christian education at Orange City Christian School for many years. Their five children attended OCCS in the 1940s and 1950s and later their grandchildren and great grandchildren. Hattie graduated from the school in 1931.

The Henry/Hattie Kleinhesselink Tuition Grant is funded by Peter and Helen Pals in honor of of Helen’s parents.

The distribution of the Kleinhesselink Tuition Grant will go to one or more families whose need is verified by the school administration and the Finance Committee of the Board. They will make the selection decisions. Priority consideration will be given to those who are members of the Partner Society.

The Kleinhesselink fund will be located in the Orange City Christian School Foundation and the interest earned in the prior year will be the amount for distribution.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

February 7	5:00-7:30 p.m. Monica Soup Supper
February 21	No School - President’s Day
February 25	Kindergarten Roundup
March 11	12:15 dismissal
March 18	Noon dismissal
March 24	Unity Strings Festival
March 29	2:00 p.m. Dismissal, 5:00-9:00 p.m. Parent/Teacher Conferences
March 31	2:00 p.m. Dismissal, 5:00-9:00 p.m. Parent/Teacher Conferences
April 7	1:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m. Jr. High Musical at MOC-FV auditorium
April 11-15	Christian Education Week
April 14	7:00 p.m. K-4 Musical at OCCS gym
April 15	Grandparents’ Day, 10:00 a.m. K-4 Musical
April 21-25	Easter Break
May 5	7:00 p.m. Preschool program
May 6	Last Day of Preschool
May 6 & 7	OCCS Marching Band to Pella Tulip Festival
May 11	7:00 Strings Night
May 12	7:00 p.m. Kindergarten Program
May 19 & 20	11:30 dismissal for Tulip Festival
May 25	7:00 p.m. Hymn of the Month program
May 27	7:00 p.m. Eighth Grade Graduation