



ORANGE CITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

# SPOTLIGHT

**JAN|FEB  
2012**

## BE THOU OUR VISION

*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.*

### From the Principal

The issue/topic of church membership for administrators, teachers, staff, and board members has been discussed for a number of years at Orange City Christian School. The bylaws require that to teach or lead at OCCS a person must be a member of a Reformed church. The founders of the school believed that this was the most effective way to ensure that the philosophy, mission, and foundational principles of the school would be maintained. Recently, the question has been asked, "Is this the most efficient and effective way to make sure that the school stays true to its Biblical and reformed heritage?" Or is there another way to secure the future of the school and faithfulness to its founding principles. During the spring of 2011 a survey was conducted asking the supporters of the school for their opinion about changing the church membership requirement at OCCS and then having an additional requirement that teachers and leaders sign a statement of faith or "form of subscription". The survey results showed that 60 percent of the school supporters were in favor of this type of a change. The board believed that this was enough of a level of support to take some next steps on this topic. In the fall of 2011 a committee was appointed to produce two documents. The first would be a specific description of the new church membership requirement and the second would be the statement of faith or form of subscription. The committee consisted of eleven members. Each of the six supporting churches provided a representative, the Partner Society provided a member, the board was represented, the faculty and the administration were also represented. This committee met a number of times during the

fall of 2011 and in January, 2012 submitted their two documents to the board. The board received and discussed these documents at the January, 2012 meeting and voted to submit the documents to the Society for a vote. The Society meeting has been scheduled for **Monday, February 20, 2012**. The board has also confirmed that eligible members are defined as current or former parents of the school and any one eighteen years or older who has made a financial contribution to the school. The board has also determined that in order for the by-law change to occur the vote must receive a three-fourths (75 %) majority of members present and approved absentee ballots.

There are a number of reasons why this possible change is being presented to the Society. The major reason that this change is being suggested is the opinion that simply requiring that a teacher and leader is a member of certain type of church does not guarantee that the person holds the same foundational principles as Orange City Christian School. Requiring that teachers and leaders at OCCS be "members in good standing of a Bible-believing, Christian church whose teachings are compatible with the Orange City Christian School Mission Statement, Foundation Statement, and Statement of Faith," and requiring that the person sign the statement of faith/form of subscription, that gives details of OCCS's Biblical and Reformed philosophy, will make certain that the foundational principles of OCCS will be maintained. A secondary reason this change is being considered is to reflect the changing church representation at OCCS. Over the last decade or so the number of churches represented at OCCS

has increased. Though these churches may not have the word Reformed in their name, people who attend these churches and send their children to OCCS or desire to teach at OCCS do share the school's Biblical worldview and philosophy of Christian education.

The Board encourages the members of the OCCS Society to attend this important meeting on February 20. Please note that enclosed in this addition of the Spotlight is a copy of the statement of faith/form of subscription that teachers and board members would be required to sign in order to teach or lead at OCCS. If you have questions about this proposal contact Gale Tien, Principal at Orange City Christian School.

### Monica

The year continues to move along very quickly and Monica Fundraisers continue. The Cookie Walk was held on December 3 and was again successful with \$7,054.21 raised. Our 90th Anniversary Monica Cookbook sales are off to a great start and have totaled \$10,600 to date.

The Monica Soup Supper will be held on Monday, February 27 in the OCCS gym. Watch for work schedules and food assignments in the Home Bulletin. Please plan to attend, enjoy some great food, and support Monica and OCCS!

We also want to thank all of the committee chairs and co-chairs for all of your hard work. We appreciate all you!



## Students Participate in NWIA Honors Orchestra Festival

On January 19, 2012, eight OCCS strings' students participated in the Northwest Iowa Middle School Honors Orchestra Festival.

Playing were: Hannah Jorgensen, Jayci Nibbelink, Josie De Jong, Josie Blankespoor, Jeshua Witt, Jordan Bos, Haley Smit and Janna Vanden Brink. These students were chosen by audition and rehearsed under the direction of Mr. Martin Clancey from Cedar Rapids and performed in an evening concert at the BJ Haan auditorium in conjunction with the high school honors orchestra.

## Fifth Grade Geology Study

### Psalm 18:46

"The LORD lives! Praise be to my Rock! Exalted be God my Savior!"

For the past few months the fifth grade has been immersed in the study of God's amazing world. We have learned about the rock cycle, types of rocks, erosion, mining, volcanoes, earthquakes, tsunamis, geysers, caves, oceans, avalanches, mountains, fossils, precious rocks, and more.

We have each researched and prepared a project on a geology topic, to present to those in our school and our families. It has been an exciting adventure that ended with a Geology Fair in the school gym.

We were a bit messy with some of our displays, but we learned a lot about the world around us. Most importantly, we learned more about our great God, who created all of this for His glory and for us to live in. We were amazed to see how intricately God has designed His creation to fit together and work in harmony.

We were also amazed at how powerful, and even destructive, parts of our world are when they collide or pressure builds up. Maybe that's how things work in our own lives too sometimes.

What an amazing world we have! What an amazing God we have!! **Psalm 24:1** "The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it."

## Santorum wins OCCS Student Mock Election

With presidential candidates swarming the state, Orange City Christian School took time to give their opinion on which candidate would be best suited to represent their views next November. Eighth grade students in Mr. Hilbelink's social studies class combined ten topics ranging from the economy to foreign policy to stem cell research with seven Republican and one Democratic candidate. They put their research together and built the "Wall of Decision" in the middle school hallway. Students from other classes were invited to analyze each candidate and their stands on important issues on the wall for two weeks leading up to the mock election.

On Tuesday, December 20, students voted through closed balloting to select the candidate that best reflected their views. After tabulation, Republican presidential candidate Rick Santorum received 41% of the vote to win the election. Others receiving votes were Newt Gingrich(21%), Rick Perry(19%) and Michele Bachman(16%). Students will continue to keep track of the political process in the upcoming weeks to see how the rest of Iowa relates to their choices in the Iowa caucuses.

## Sing, Sing, Sing....

On Tuesday afternoon, February 28, Opera Iowa will present the opera, "Sid the Serpent Who Wanted to Sing," to the students and friends of OCCS from 2:00-2:45 in the gym.

Opera Iowa is part of the Education Division of the Des Moines Metro Opera. They will also provide three workshops for grades 3-7 at OCCS early in the afternoon, with the opera concluding the activities.

Help from parents will be needed to set up for and tear down the opera. Four adults that are able to lift 50 lbs, will be needed from 12:15-1:45 to help set up scenery, and then from 2:55-3:30 to help reload scenery after the performance. If you would like to help, please inform the office.

Opera Iowa is sponsored, in part, by the Orange City Arts Council and the Iowa Arts Council. The public is also invited to an evening performance by Opera Iowa of "Magic Flute" starting at 7:00 p.m. at the Northwestern Theatre.

## Board Report

- December balance sheet reflects \$330,669 in assets. December income \$651,612.53, expenses \$589,582.80
- Mrs. Ribbens demonstrated for the board how Ipads can be used in the classroom and can be programmed through a projector. A technology committee is reviewing options on interactive technology with intention of implementation next year.
- Mr. Tien is coordinating with Unity Christian administration for the 2012-13 school calendar. The 2012-2013 start date is August 21, final day is May 24.
- Board members have been enjoying conducting teacher observations.
- Mr. Tien reported on recent principal and school activities
- The Church Membership Committee completed their work. The committee proposed to the board a By-Law change and a Faith Statement for staff/board members. This will need to be brought to the Society for approval. M-S-A. All this information will be provided soon via home bulletins, church/community bulletins, the website etc.
- NICSTO met their \$85,000 allotment. These funds will be distributed to families in the spring and the following fall.
- The staff and board enjoyed a time of fellowship and dinner Jan. 12 at Nederlanders.

### Expansion Summary:

Goal:	\$1,100,000.00
Total Gifts/Pledges:	\$1,075,689.93
Total Paid:	\$1,000,119.23
Total Unpaid:	\$75,579.70
Amount Below Goal:	\$24,301.07

**We praise God and thank all of our supporters!**

*Respectfully submitted Laura Malenke, board secretary*

## 5th Grade Orchestra Students



## Sam Bomgaars 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 16 to determine the students who would participate in the final round. The students in the final round who represented their classes were: 4W Sophie Swart, 4DG Megan Bylsma, 5N Dillan De Jong, 5VG Delenn Huffman, 6th Janna Vanden Brink, 7K George Hubbard, 7VR Maxwell Wolgen, 8H Hannah Jorgensen, 8M Sam Bomgaars and our wild card winner was 8th grader Lexi Van Surksum. Each of these students were congratulated and given a free personal pan pizza from the Pizza Ranch during the championship round on Thursday, January 12.

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

**Memorial**  
Ann Meyer  
Gordon Hilbelink  
Gerrit Meyer

## Second Grade News

It seems hard to believe that we are already at the midpoint of another school year!

The second graders have had an eventful first semester! In addition to improving our reading skills and building onto our math skills, we are also expanding our abilities to serve God through Bible, writing, spelling, penmanship, science, and social studies.

In November, we presented plays, Bible verses, poems, and songs to our parents and grandparents relating to the first Thanksgiving celebration in our country. In addition to this highlight of our school year, we also enjoy a special unit each month: rain forests, Native Americans, Mexico, and penguins so far. In "Rain Forest" we praised God through the variety of plants and animals we studied. In our Native American unit, we were amazed at how God used the events in Squanto's life to save the lives of the Pilgrims. We became more acquainted with our southern neighbors in our Mexico unit, and now are learning much about the 17 different kinds of penguins.

Each month we are enjoying learning more about Heroes of the Faith, our school's theme for this year. We see how God used ordinary people in extraordinary ways. We know that God also has a plan for each of our lives.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UNITS

<b>Church Unit</b>	<b>Requested for 2011-12</b>	<b>Contribution 2011-12</b>	<b>Balance Remaining</b>
Calvary CRC	\$72,900.00	\$31,503.24	\$41,396.76
First CRC	36,450.00	10,521.50	25,928.50
Hospers CRC	6,750.00	3,417.60	3,332.40
Immanuel CRC	68,391.00	44,585.49	23,805.51
Living Water	40,959.00	16,572.76	24,386.24
Redeemer URC	27,000.00	27,000.00	0.00
Other Supporting Churches	10,800.00	4,387.50	6,412.50
Partner Society	36,400.00	17,455.86	18,944.14

## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

FEB 20	President's Day - no school
FEB 20	7pm OCCS Society meeting, OCCS gym
MAR 13	Jr. High Choir Festival at Western Christian
MAR 16	End of third quarter, 12:15 dismissal, teacher in-service
MAR 22	Unity Band Festival, concert at 7pm at Unity
MAR 27	2pm dismissal, 5-9pm P/T conferences
MAR 29	2pm dismissal, 5-9pm P/T conferences
APR 6-9	Easter Break, no school
APR 10-13	Christian Education Week
APR 12	7pm, K-4 musical in the OCCS gym
APR 13	10pm K-4 musical in OCCS gym, Grandparents' Day
APR 24	4-8pm Solo/Ensemble at Sioux Center Christian School
MAY 8	7pm Strings Night at OCCS gym
MAY 10	Last day of preschool
MAY 17 & 18	11:30 dismissal, Tulip Festival
MAY 23	7pm Hymn of the Month program at First Reformed Church
MAY 25	7pm Graduation at First Christian Reformed Church

## January Theme

The theme for Orange City Christian School for this year is "Heroes of Faith". Each month our classrooms are focused on one particular Biblical person that displayed godly character. The hero for January was Elijah who was a prophet of God and a man of action. His contest on Mt. Carmel with the prophets of Baal and constant battles with Ahab show him to be a man of faith and prayer. God used him to deliver His message and stand up for God even when it was unpopular.

Our verse for the month is "Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, O LORD, is the kingdom: you are exalted as head over all." I Chronicles 29:11. Our song for the month of February is "O Worship the King."

## February Theme

For hundreds of years, the Jewish people have recited the Shema each morning and every evening. It is from Deuteronomy 6, and is a strong declaration of faith, and a command to love only God, to love Him with all of your heart and soul, and the command to love your neighbor. It is so important, that it is one of the first passages that each Jewish child memorizes and then says twice daily all of their lives! At OCCS in February our focus will be a central concept of loving God with all we have and are, and loving others. Does your child see you trying to do this? Will your child see how vital this is?

Our verse for this month is Deuteronomy 13:3b-4 "The LORD your God is testing you to find out whether you love him with all your heart and with all your soul. It is the LORD your God you must follow, and Him you must revere. Keep His commands and obey Him; serve Him and hold fast to Him."

Our Bible hero for February is David, whose love for God and others was easily seen in his life, and whose songs/poems constantly spoke of his trust and love for God. Our hymn is "My Jesus I Love Thee".