



ORANGE CITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

SPOTLIGHT

**NOV|DEC
2011**

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

"Wow !!! I can't believe we are already past Thanksgiving and Christmas is only a few weeks away." The previous statement has been made often in recent days . . . including by myself. I can still remember clearly the first day of school and the opening worship service. I can remember those very warm days and weeks in August and September. Now here we are with 2011 almost completed. As this calendar year comes to a close and as we reflect on the first half of the school year, there is so much to be thankful for at Orange City Christian School. Starting the year and making full use of the new addition for our pre-school and Kindergarten classes has been wonderful. Identifying and addressing the needs of a number of students for whom learning is difficult has been encouraging. Implementing new technology items for students and teachers has enhanced learning

and increased efficiency. Daily, weekly, and monthly times of worship and praise are a blessing to students, faculty, and staff. These and many other items are cause for thanks to God. There have been challenges as well. The beginning of the year has not been without issues that are difficult. This is the case in any school and during any school year. We are thankful that even in these situations, we can work together with families and rely on God to address this situation. Let me give a recent example. Computers, the internet, and using these to communicate have become a large part of our culture. Often the communication is positive and used in efficient and appropriate ways. At times it isn't. In response to a number of situations at our school and other schools, a gathering was organized on November 15 called "Parenting and Social Media." That evening parents were invited to Unity Christian High

School to hear about and discuss ways that parents can be more involved and assist their children regarding the blessings and dangers of the technological world that we live in. Parents heard from a panel of folks who are professionally involved in this topic. Following these presentations, pertinent questions were asked and honest discussion took place. When the meeting concluded, it was a blessing to see parents continue the discussion in informal small groups. The people who organized the meeting, sense that future meetings to address related topics would be a blessing and valuable. Our prayer is that the initial meeting and ones that follow will be pleasing to God and assist in the training and nurture of the precious children and young people . . . and be a blessing and encouragement to the parents . . . of Orange City Christian School.

November Theme

Our hero of faith for the month of November is Ruth. In the book of Ruth we read how she trusted God and followed her mother-in-law, Naomi, back to the land of Judah. While living in Judah, she needed to trust God for all of her needs. God provided for her by allowing her to gather the leftovers from fields that had been harvested. She also was provided for when Boaz took her to be his wife. Ruth trusted God, amidst many challenges but God rewarded her for her faith and supplied all she needed. Our verse for the month comes from I Timothy 6:17 **"Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment."**

December Theme

For the month of December, our school-wide theme is "Praying in Faith." We have chosen both Hannah and Mary as our Bible heroes of the faith, who truly exemplify a life of faithful dependence on the Lord.

The Bible verses we will be memorizing are found in Philippians 4:6-7:

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." What a blessed promise and reassurance to carry with us the rest of our lives!

We will also be memorizing the words to the hymn, "My Faith Looks Up to Thee." This hymn was written about 180 years ago, and continues to speak to our total dependence on God to supply all our needs.

Here is what fourth graders are learning ...

Written by Fourth Graders of Mrs. DeGroot and Mrs. Witt

Reading Little House in the Big Woods taught us that they had to work hard to make everything they had.

Eating delicious foods was a big hit at our Little House in the Big Woods Celebration. (Pancake men. YUM!)

Always trying to do our best in spelling is encouraged by our teachers. (Does that look right?)

Doing Type to Learn III in Keyboarding is teaching us to learn the keyboarding letters and numbers.

In the story, Because of Winn-Dixie, we learned that you shouldn't judge people on their looks or their actions.

Now we are better writers than we were in Kindergarten. Today we use punctuation and complete sentences.

God desires us to work hard at everything, even at our tough language skills. (Interrogative what?)

.....
Math facts are important for us to practice and learn and memorize. (Do you know your facts?)

At the computer lab we need to be quick to pass our Math Facts In A Flash tests. (Should speed count?)

Tables and graphs were tough to learn, but are needed to solve difficult questions with a lot of information.

Having math homework is helpful to our understanding, but it can be a struggle at times. (UGH!)

.....
Beginnings are told about in Genesis: the world, life, sin, God's promises.

It is the Lord God you are serving. Colossians 3:24

Being a judge for the Israelites came with responsibilities.

Live joyfully and pray about everything. Be generous. Philippians 4:4-7

Each of us is a special Child of God.

Science is learning about God's word and how we must be good stewards of His gifts to us.

Cloth, cardboard, paper, glass, styrofoam, and metals types of packages.

Inform, protect, group, and beautify are what packages do for products.

Experiments with plants taught us about what plants need to grow.

Nutrition Facts on a package will help us know about what we are eating.

Caring for the pond community and the organisms is what God wants us to do.

Every living thing is an organism.

.....
Sharing responsibilities is what unites the people of the United States.

Oil is a natural resource that we must try to conserve.

Coming from a country to live in another country is hard because of all the different customs.

Imigrants are people who came from all over the world to live in the United States looking for a better life.

A bill needs to be approved by Congress before it can become a law.

Legislative Branch of the government makes the laws for the country.

Supreme Court is part of the Judicial Branch, and it has 9 justices.

There are many various landforms and natural resources in the United States.

Understanding our government helps us to become better citizens.

Distance from the Equator will affect the climate of a place.

Interior Plains are located in the central part of the United States.

Erosion is the wearing away of the Earth's surface with wind and water.

Service jobs outnumber manufacturing jobs in the United States.

Fun Night

The annual Orange City Christian School Fun Night was held on Saturday, October 1. The seventh and eighth grade parents along with their children did a great job in preparing and running the various games that filled the gym, halls, and classrooms. Fun Night also became a success through the hard work of the parents and students who were willing to be in charge of the kitchen work and butter braid sales.

We experienced a great turnout for Fun Night, and through this support were able to raise \$4,455 for our middle school fund. This aides in various expenses for the seventh and eighth grade classes, and allows them to avoid selling fund raiser items.

Thank you all for your work and support during Fun Night. What a great night of fun and fellowship it turned out to be!





Patriotic Program

On November 3, 2011, the Unity Christian High School gym was filled with excitement, anticipation, and red, white and blue! The OCCS K-8 students, teachers, staff and a few special guests presented "Faith, Freedom and the Flag...A Patriotic Celebration" to family, friends and members of the community.

The orchestra and band led off the program with several patriotic medley's. A toe-tapping "Stars and Stripes Forever" was played on two pianos by six pianists, Maria Byker, Kate Noteboom, Joanne Niezen, Anita Nykamp, Shanelle Raines and Becky Scholten. The K-2 students filled the air with bells on "The Battle Hymn of the Republic", and many 5th-8th students gave a mini lesson on America's history.

The 125 K-4th students waving flags made way for a VERY tall Uncle Sam, Dan Kuiken, who was a crowd pleaser on his paint stilts! A color guard consisting of Bill Foreman, Pete Pals, Cheryl Tracy and Dan Tracy presented the flag for "The Star Spangled Banner", and

veterans were honored by standing during their anthems while the 6th-8th students sang a moving, "Tribute to the Armed Services."

Chad Reitsma, along with the K-8th students, sang a beautiful "God Bless the USA", and 'Betsy Ross,' Rylie Vander Zwaag, handed out flags to the audience while the 3rd graders 'yankee-doodled' and the 5th and 6th graders 'kazooed.'

The memorization of all 50 states was presented once in '50 States in Rhyme' and then again in double time! The 4th grade class 'engineered' a little choreography to "I've Been Workin' On the Railroad", and the audience joined in singing several numbers.

Cowboy hats and a cowboy sway appeared for "Home on the Range", and a very realistic President Lincoln, courtesy of Stan De Haan, made many students' (and some adults') eyes open wide!

The OCCS teachers and staff sang a beautiful rendition of "In God We Trust", and the students sang out on "Hero of the Faith", a definite student favorite. "God Bless America", accompanied by Schuyler Malenke on drum set, ended the evening and set off a balloon drop of

20 4th Grade Beginning Orchestra Students!



Thanksgiving & Christmas Chapels

Rev. Aldon Kuiper was our speaker at our Thanksgiving Chapel on Wednesday, November 3. The second and seventh graders participated by singing some songs and playing the bells. Pam Plasier from Mission Haiti was also there to show some pictures from Haiti and gave us an update on the progress being made.

At our Thanksgiving chapel, students brought goods for the Orange City Food Pantry. Boxed and canned food items, personal hygiene items, and paper products were brought in. In response to God's bountiful gifts to us, we opened our hearts and gave to others in need!

Our Christmas offering items will be donated to Mission Haiti. At this point, we are not exactly sure what is needed. Watch the Home Bulletin for more details.

Basketball

The 2011-2012 basketball season has officially started for 7th and 8th grade girls and boys. This year we have 45 students participating in basketball. Our teams will spend much of the month of November preparing for games in December and January. Each year our eighth grade teams also participate in a tournament at the end of the season. If you would like to catch any of our games please visit our OCCS web page and click on "Sports" for more information.

Returning to coach our boys teams this year are Coach Randy Jacobsma and Coach Craig De Haan.

In seventh grade Coach Jacobsma is focusing on expecting adversity/playing (praying) courageously. Their devotions and readings this year will focus on how we should expect challenges and adversity in basketball and how we should respond by playing courageously. They will apply these principals to life also by expecting adversity and praying courageously. Their team goals are to: 1) display excellent sportsmanship; 2) work hard; 3) have fun. If we accomplish these things, we will have a successful season.

Coach De Haan's goals for the eighth grade team this year include:

1. Talent and skill is God given and "He" not "I" deserves the glory.
2. Each athlete understands what it means to be a good teammate.
3. A common saying in athletics is, "Practice makes perfect". This is false - "Perfect practice makes perfect!" Learning to do all things right (even the little things).
4. Basketball, like life, brings excitement and adversity - how do we as Christians respond in both areas.
5. Ultimately, that each athlete becomes better in his skill and knowledge of this wonderful sport called basketball.

Coaching for the first time at OCCS are our girls' coaches Matt Bos and Kaitlyn Lockhorst. They have both taken time to introduce themselves and develop their goals for this year:

Coach Lockhorst: (Eighth Girls)

I have lived in Ireton my whole life and attended Ireton Christian School and Unity before now going to Dordt. I am senior at Dordt College majoring in Exercise Science with a minor in Psychology. My hope is to become a Physical Therapy Assistant or Athletic Trainer. I will be playing in my fourth and final season on the Dordt softball team this Spring. I coached Jr. Knights and Orange City Recreational Softball this past summer and loved every minute of working with the kids! I can't wait to get to know the eighth grade girls and to see them grow together both on and off the court. We are going to really focus on encouraging each other as a team and individually in everything they do (and of course they'll learn a little basketball too!)

Goals: The first day we read 1 Peter 4:7-11 and out of that we got loving each other deeply, using our gifts to serve not only God but each other, when we speak we are speaking words of God so that he can be praised always! Also in Colossians 3:23- Working for God and not ourselves. But our main goal is to have fun and to encourage each other in everything said and done.

Coach Bos: (Seventh Girls)

I have been the sports information director at Northwestern College for the last eight years. Prior to that, my family and I lived in Bradenton, FL where I was the athletic director and boys basketball coach at Bradenton Christian School. My wife, Teri, is a nursing major at Northwestern and we have two kids at OCCS; Jordan (seventh grade) and Devin (fourth grade). I enjoy spending time with my family, from playing sports in the backyard to going on vacation together. We also enjoy watching and cheering for the Red Raiders and Chicago Bears!

Goals:

1. Work hard and improve every day
2. Pay attention to detail and do the little things
3. Enjoy your teammates and always encourage!
4. Learn to enjoy the game of basketball.



Orchestra Festival

The 6th-8th Orchestra students spent a day away on October 12, 2011. They traveled by bus to the Central Baptist Church in Sioux City. The Northwest Iowa Middle School Orchestra Festival was held at this beautiful venue. The students were directed by Mrs. Mel De Wit on three pieces, "Boots and Saddle", "Knight's Quest", and "Jupiter" and were joined by the orchestras from Sioux Center Christian and Maurice-Orange City. A second group of students from Le Mars, Storm Lake and the Sioux City schools performed three different selections at the 3:30 pm concert.

After a workout of practice in the morning, a lunch at Pizza Hut was really appreciated! The beautiful weather made the short breaks from practice enjoyable and even led to an impromptu game of touch football. The concert showcased the hard work of the students and the blessing of talents that God has given them.



Honor Band

The 44th annual Northwest Iowa Junior High Honor Band Festival took place on Saturday, November 5, 2011, in Storm Lake. Approximately 370 seventh and eighth grade musicians from 42 Northwest Iowa schools auditioned on October 15 for places in one of two equal bands. These two bands rehearsed during the day of November 5 and then presented a concert that evening at the Storm Lake High School Gymnasium. Students who were selected from OCCS to participate in the festival were: Joeli Haan on flute, Logan Schiebout on trumpet, Charlie Hubbard on trombone and Schuyler Malenke on percussion. Congratulations to each of these students for working very hard at developing their musical gifts and doing a great job of representing OCCS at Honor Band this year!



Honor Choir

The 35th annual Junior High Choral Festival was held on Tuesday, November 1, 2011, at the Le Mars High School. Approximately 45 schools in Northwest Iowa participated in this festival. Students from OCCS that participated in the festival include: Samantha Bomgaars, Emily Turek, Paige Wassenaar, Jayci Nibbelink, David Tien, Joshua Turek, Paxton De Haan and Charlie Hubbard. Congratulations to these students for doing a great job of representing our school at this festival!

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

DEC 21	8:30 am Christmas chapel
DEC 21	2 pm dismissal
DEC 22 - JAN 2	Christmas Break
JAN 3	Classes Resume
JAN 13	End of second quarter
JAN 16	12 pm dismissal, teacher in-service
JAN 16 - 20	ITBS
JAN 20	12:15 dismissal, teacher in-service
FEB 20	President's Day - no school
MAR 13	Jr. High Choir Festival at Western Christian
MAR 16	End of third quarter, 12:15 dismissal, teacher in-service
MAR 27	2 pm dismissal, 5-9pm P/T conferences
MAR 29	2 pm dismissal, 5-9pm P/T conferences

What's Up in Seventh Grade?

As the holiday season rolls around, the seventh graders at OCCS are working hard to complete assignments and projects. We are enjoying our new portable lab and have been given more tasks to complete electronically. We have created keynotes, documents, and group projects via the computer, and have researched many topics and practiced math facts and quizzes on-line. We are realizing that being students at this exciting time in history requires many new skills and offers various opportunities for learning.

For the past few weeks, we have had a student teacher in math and science class. Mr. Jonathan Schouten from Northwestern College is working on his student teaching requirements and will complete his work on December 7. We have enjoyed having Mr. Schouten in our classroom and learning along with him, and we wish Mr. Schouten all the best as he pursues a career in education.



Congratulations to two Orange City Christian School students who were accepted into the Iowa Junior Honors Orchestra. Jeshua Witt, cello, and Jordan Bos, viola attended the festival in Ames on November 18. After a day of rehearsal, a 4:30 p.m. concert was given at Fisher Theater.

Chapel

Early in the month of October the third and eighth grade students were involved with a chapel where we focused on the two heroes of the faith that we had been studying, Noah and Abraham. To begin our chapel the eighth grade orchestra started with a prelude while Jeshua Witt played a cello solo for the postlude. The third grade students participated by singing a fun song called "Aardvarks on the Ark". After this the third grade joined the eighth grade in singing a song called "Another Hallelujah". The audience also participated by singing our two hymns for the months of September and October: "I Know Not Why God's Wondrous Grace" and "You Are Our God; We Are Your People".

We then welcomed a special speaker, Barb Newman. She is a dynamic speaker who works as a church and school consultant with the Christian Learning Center in Grand Rapids, MI. She is also a special educator at Zeeland Christian School. During her time at chapel she emphasized that all students are God's children no matter what their needs and abilities may be and that we as a Christian community need to accept and include everyone into our circles at church and school. She used wonderful visuals to show the students that we should not sort each other out as "good" or "junk" and how we grow in strength when we are woven together as the family of God.

NICSTO Donations!

If you are considering a donation to the NICSTO scholarship this year, you may want to start thinking about doing that soon. In the past we have reached our goal before the end of the year. If you have questions or need a form, please contact the school office (737-2274).

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UNITS

Church Unit	Requested for 2011-12	Contribution 2011-12	Balance Remaining
Calvary CRC	\$72,900.00	\$24,870.97	\$48,029.03
First CRC	36,450.00	3,275.81	33,174.19
Hospers CRC	6,750.00	1,600.00	5,150.00
Immanuel CRC	68,391.00	23,244.81	45,146.19
Living Water	40,959.00	13,52.52	27,436.48
Redeemer URC	27,000.00	27,000.00	0.00
Other Supporting Churches	10,800.00	3,712.50	7,087.50
Partner Society	36,400.00	11,495.88	24,904.12

Memorial
Bernie Reinders
Amy Van Engen
Wilmina Kramer