



ORANGE CITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

SPOTLIGHT

**JUL|AUG
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

During the 2010-2011 school year and again this current year you may notice that we are having a number of early dismissals that allow the teachers to attend in-service meetings at Dordt College. I would like to take the opportunity to share with you the exciting and important topics that are being studied and learned during these in-services.

The teachers gather at Dordt College with the teachers from seven other area Christian schools to be led by Dordt College Education Department members and representatives of our Area Education Agency to focus on various examples of Effective Instruction.

During the 2010-2011 school year the teachers focused on Formative Assessment, Teaching for Learner Differences, Student Self-Assessment, and Student Peer-Assessment.

Formative Assessment is a process used by teachers and students as part of instruction that provides feedback to

adjust ongoing teaching and learning to improve students' achievement. Formative Assessment is exciting and effective for a number of reasons one of which is the level of interaction between teachers and learners. A second blessing of Formative Assessment is the level of responsibility and ownership that is given to students in the learning process.

Teaching for Learner Differences is somewhat self-explanatory. This involves differentiating in a process where the learner's unique characteristics are matched with various components of the curriculum. A descriptive phrase in this process is tiering. The concept of equity is inherent to the idea of tiering where students' differences are recognized.

Student Self-Assessment and Student Peer-Assessment are assessment techniques where, again, students take some ownership and responsibility in the learning process. The teacher or instructor is always providing

leadership and proper authority but students are equipped in understanding the degree to which they or their peers have mastered a concept or idea.

Those are brief descriptions of the in-service topics that were studied last year and then applied. This year we continue to explore and learn more Effective Instruction strategies. Our initial time together in August set a tone for the need for instruction to be rigorous and to be relevant. The importance of "Conceptbased Learning" was discussed and will continue to be explored.

We are thankful to Dordt College for providing these in-service meetings. The meetings are a rich time of learning as well as a time of collegiality with other area schools. These meetings and the topics being studied are also valuable as we try to teach the precious children and young people of OCCS in the best ways possible.

Board Report

The OCCS Society met on Monday, September 19 to receive information regarding the 2011-2012 school year. At the meeting new board members were elected to serve three year terms. Scott Haan was elected to represent Calvary Christian Reformed Church. Darin Dykstra was elected to represent the Partner Society. Ross Bouma was elected to an "At Large" position on the board. We praise God for the board members who have used their gifts to serve Him and OCCS for the past three years: Randy Jeltema, Dave VanDenBrink and John Wagenaar. In a board meeting following the Society meeting, the board met for its September meeting. At the meeting officers were elected and committees were appointed. Dan Niezen will be the President. Ross Bouma will serve as Vice-President, Laura Malenke as Secretary, Gary VandeVegte as the Treasurer, and

Jeff Van Bommel as Vicar. The committee assignments are as follows: Building Committee - Ward Van Peurseem, Kurt Zevenbergen, Scott Haan. Education - Ross Bouma, Darin Dykstra, Laura Malenke. Finance - Gary VandeVegte, Dan Neizen, Jeff Van Bommel

We are so thankful to have committed and accomplished teachers. Staff members who were recognized for 25 years of service were: Marla Koning, Paula Ribbens and Kim Starkenburg.

Principal and financial reports were also given. Balance sheet reflects \$313,446 in assets. Total income/expenses - \$45,574 through 8-31-11

**Respectfully submitted
Laura Malenke, secretary**

Dedication Service

The OCCS Dedication Service took place on Tuesday, August 23, at the First Christian Reformed Church. Students, parents, grandparents and friends were present. The service revolved around the school theme of “Heroes of the Faith”. We enjoyed a flute and piano prelude by Jolie Haan and Mrs. Huizenga. Dave Van Den Brink, board president, began the service with a welcome and opening prayer. There was a brief interruption in the service when Jared Poppema entered in a Superman costume. Mrs. Van Den Brink explained the heroes we plan to talk about this year are heroes of the Faith from the Bible. These heroes give great examples of faith in God and show us how to be true heroes. We sang “How Firm a Foundation” as a whole group.

The 5th grade girls introduced the game show, “Who’s your Hero?” by singing the song “Heroes of the Faith”. Mr. Hilbelink (Monte Hallbelink) was the host of the Game Show. The contestants were Teresa Van Sloten, Paxton De Haan, and Ward Van Peurseem. Through the show we learned a little about the nine different heroes we will be looking at this year at OCCS.

We ended the service with the OCCS teachers and staff singing “Let it be Said of Us”. Mr. Tien closed in prayer and the students were introduced to and dismissed with their teachers to begin a new year of school.



Cover Design Contest

OCCS again asked the fourth through eighth grade students to submit a design for our new 2011-12 Parent Directory. The students used our theme of “Heroes of Faith” in their designs. Congratulations to our front cover design winner, eighth grader, Joeli Haan! Congratulations also to eighth grader, Jayci Nibbelink whose design will be displayed on the back cover of the directory!

To all those students in grades 4th-8th who took time to use their artistic talents to enter a design in the contest, we say thank you! The directory should be out by the end of September.

Kindergarten



The kindergarten classes are enjoying and using the handiwork of Clarence Dorhout. Clarence used his carpentry skills and ingenuity to make two special mailboxes for the new kindergarten rooms. The specially crafted mailboxes have pull out drawers to give easy access to the folders and other “mail” that the kindergarteners take home. Thank you, Mr. Dorhout for your gifts to OCCS!



The kindergarten classes have also enjoyed having Ron Rynders teach us about bees. We have learned many interesting facts like how bees produce honey and harvesting honey. Thank you Mr. Rynders for helping us learn about this part of God’s creation.

Faith in Action - September Theme

“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.” Hebrews 11:1

Top ten things to do for fun!

1. Build a huge ship in the middle of the desert.
2. Live in tents in the middle of a foreign country and not know where you are going.
3. Have a baby when you and your spouse are nearly 100 years old.
4. Put your son on an alter to be sacrificed.
5. “Hide” your 3 month old son in a wicker basket and then float him down the river in it.
6. Give up all the riches of Egypt to wander around in the desert for 40 years with a bunch of complaining people.
7. Walk around in a lion’s den with a bunch of hungry lions.
8. March around city walls for seven days when there is a battle to be fought.
9. Go fight a 10 foot giant with just a sling shot and some stones.
10. Walk around in a furnace full of fire.

Not your idea of fun? Mine neither! The daring men and women who lived to tell of these things were not even commended for what they did. Hebrews 11 tells us that they were commended instead for their faith. They were all strangers on this earth, longing for a better home. They did not even receive the things promised to them while they were still living on this earth.

Noah, Abraham, Moses and his parents, Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, David, the Israelite army, and many others, make the list of Biblical heroes of “Faith”. They all believed in an invisible God who was able to do things that defied rational human experiences. And, this is the best part, God delivered them, all of them, from their imminent danger because of their faith in Him.

Hebrews 12:1-3 goes on to say, “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”

Jesus is the true hero! True faith in Him is the only thing that will allow any of us to join Him, and the biblical heroes of faith, in Heaven someday. Then the “real fun” will begin. Don’t lose heart, my friend, fix your eyes on Jesus!

Actions of Faith - October Theme

In October our focus will be on Abraham’s actions of faith. Our memory verse from Hebrews 11:8 states “By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.” We will be studying how Abraham lived obediently before God even though he did not always understand or receive the fulfillment of all God’s promises to him. The Hymn of the Month for the month of October, “You are Our God, We are Your People,” is a beautiful song about God’s faithfulness to his covenant people. Please watch the home bulletin for the date of the October chapel being planned by the 3rd and 8th graders.

Monica

The new school year has begun and is off to a great start. We want to thank the school supply committee for their work prior to and at registration. School supplies can continue to be purchased through out the school year.

The Monica Dessert Social was held on September 8. We welcomed the new families & enjoyed delicious desserts. We want to thank the retiring Board Members: Karla Kroese, Carma Louwerse, Shirley Beltman, Denise Driessen, and Brenda Walhof.

The new Board Members are: President: Wendy Eason, Vice President: Julia Kroeze, Secretary: Heather Hofmeyer, Treasurer: Melanie Van Grouw, At Large Members: Nelva Huitink, Jill Jacobsma, Barb Postma, Sharon Rosenboom, and Cathie Tien

Look for the new updated Monica work groups that will be coming out soon.

The 90th Anniversary Cookbooks are being proofed and should be available at the Cookie Walk. They will make great Christmas gifts!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UNITS

Church Unit	Requested for 2011-12	Contribution 2011-12	Balance Remaining
Calvary CRC	\$72,900.00	\$13,656.68	\$59,243.32
First CRC	36,450.0	3,043.56	33,406.44
Hospers CRC	6,750.00	0.00	6,750.00
Immanuel CRC	68,391.00	8,244.81	60,146.19
Living Water	40,959.00	6,522.52	34,436.48
Redeemer URC	27,000.00	25,650.00	1,350.00
Other Supporting Churches	10,800.00	3,037.50	7,762.50
Partner Society	36,400.00	8,748.48	27,651.52

Fall Sports at OCCS – Meet our volleyball coaches and teams!



Hi, my name is Patty Timmermans, and I am coaching the 7th grade girls volleyball team this year. I have coached volleyball at many different levels, and I enjoy teaching the girls the basic skills of volleyball, as well as the reasons behind why we do the things we do. We have already seen great improvements in personal skills, as well as team play this season. Our theme word for the season is GROW. The G stands for giving God the glory. The R stands for respecting others. The O stands for offering encouragement. The W stands for working hard. I have appreciated the excellent efforts of the girls in all of these areas.

Some of the goals for the team this season include keeping serving errors to a minimum, being aggressive on the court, moving our feet to the ball, and calling out for the ball early. As the girls work on these different areas, we will continue to see success both as a team and individually.



Hi! My name is Erica De Weerd (Vander Stoep). I am married to Nate and we have a son named Kaden. I graduated from OCCS about 10 years ago. I have been around volleyball for many years as I played in grade school, high school, and in college. I enjoy playing, watching and coaching this game I have always loved.

I really enjoy working with young girls to help them improve their basic skills in the game so they can each personally improve and also improve as a team. Our goals this year are to continue to improve in our serving, passing and the amount of attacks we can have in a game. We also are working on our goal of teamwork and working as a team to build each other up on and off the court.



Ways We Have Seen God at Work in First Grade

- He helped us use our creativity in making class books like Blue Bug, Clifford, and Ten Black Dots.
- He let us have Clifford Day and celebrate Mr. Van Maanen's birthday on the same day.
- He gave several of our classmates birthdays.
- He gave us our sixth grade partners who we could make puppets with and read with.
- He kept us safe and warm when we went to the Harvest Festival in Sioux Center and gave us food for our sack lunches.
- He has helped us learn the short sounds of vowels and read a lot of new words.
- He has helped us remember our words for our spelling tests.
- He gave us Mrs. King and Mr. Van Maanen to help in our room.
- He created an amazing solar system that we learned about.
- He has kept us safe and healthy.

We are so thankful to Him for our first grade class!



Third Grade News

Greetings from the Third Grade classrooms of Mrs. Boer and Mrs. Van Den Brink! We are off to a busy start in the 2011 - 2012 school year. The students have been enjoying the theme for the year on Heroes of the Faith. It is good to learn how we too can become a "Hero" of faith each day. Here is a quick look at all the amazing things we have been studying already this year:

- We have already studied our hero for September, Noah. This was also one of the studies in our Bible as well, with stories from the first chapters of Genesis.
- In science we have gained a great appreciation for our five senses and the details that God has included in each sensory organ.
- For Social Studies we have been studying the Native Americans of the Plains, especially the Sioux tribe. This helps us to understand life on the plains before the arrival of white people and compare their community before we get into the study of communities.
- In math the students are learning what place value through the ten thousands is. Learning how to write, say, order, and compare these numbers can be tricky!
- The stories from our reading books have had the theme of money. When is money important and when does it affect our lives? This is a question the students have been working through with the use of many stories. We have learned about being good stewards of our money, the way God would want us to be.
- Along with all these units we still find time to do spelling, penmanship, P.E., music, art, library, a farm tour, and don't forget RECESS!

We pray for a continued blessing from God in all our studies throughout this school year!

OCCS Remembers

OCCS students, staff, and parents gathered on September 9 in the school gym to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the tragic events of 9/11. Teachers had introduced the events surrounding the terrorists attack in their classrooms during the week. For the assembly, the third and fourth grade students opened with a patriotic song and Joeli Haan read a poem reminding students of the emotions that many Americans felt on that day. Students sang several patriotic songs that reminded participants of God's watchful care over those he loves. Also on hand were members of the Orange City Police and Fire Department. Schuyler Malenke and Paxton De Haan read poems honoring the heroism of our local emergency personnel. Police Chief Dan De Vries and fireman Dan Roghair accepted cards signed by the entire school as symbols of our appreciation. The cards were designed by middle schoolers Max Wolgen and Hannah Jorgensen.



Congratulations

Three teachers from Orange City Christian School were recognized for their 25 years of service to the school during the September 19 OCCS Society meeting. Honored were first and second grade teacher, Mrs. Marla Koning, preschool teacher, Mrs. Kim Starkenburg, and technology coordinated and gifted and talented teacher, Mrs. Paula Ribbens. Each teacher received a gold watch as a token of appreciation.

Jr. Knights providing opportunities for OCCS students

The Junior Knights Sports Association was formed approximately four years ago to augment athletic opportunities not currently offered by the area Christian grade schools. The Junior Knights Board has seven members representing Orange City, Sioux Center, Ireton and Sheldon. The sports we currently offer are: baseball, softball, football, and boys and girls basketball. The Junior Knights organization is funded through donations and registration fees for the various sports. These funds are used to hire coaches, buy equipment and pay officials/umpires. We have been very thankful for the tremendous support given by the parents and also the area schools. We work very closely with the coaches at Unity, who have been a great help to us. As we manage our current activities and develop new ones, we are guided by three main themes: 1) school activities always take priority over Junior Knight activities; 2) we want to be inclusive rather than exclusive; 3) we want to respond to and be directed by the participant-parents.

The baseball and softball teams are members of a NW Iowa group of schools and play about 10-12 regular games and 1-2 tournaments per season in both the 7th and 8th grade levels. This past summer we had 21 boys and 19 girls as members of our

teams. Jeff Schouten was our Head Baseball Coach and Kaitlyn Lockhorst and Shirley Kaemingk coached the softball teams. The football team has 39 boys this season, playing in 7th and 8th grades. With the help of OCCS, the Junior Knights became members (for football) of the Iowa Junior High School Athletic Association, which has allowed us to play other area schools. We have six coaches for the football teams with Stan Altemeier as our Head Football Coach. We play a five game schedule against teams such as: South O'Brien, Hinton, West Sioux, Akron-Westfield, and MMC. Last year was our first year for Junior Knight Basketball. We had over 40 girls and over 50 boys in grades 5-8 play in various local tournaments. They were coached by parents. Schedules, rosters, board members and other information can be found on our website at:

www.juniorknights.net

The Junior Knights is a parent-directed organization and is always looking for volunteers. If you are interested in being a coach, board member, or a parent coordinator, please contact a current coach or board member. Thanks again to all who have given their time and talents to make an impact on the lives of our middle school kids through athletics.

New Faculty and Staff

Jeremy Mills is a new teacher in the Middle School. His assignment this year is Language Arts and Bible. He is also an 8th grade homeroom teacher. Jeremy is from Fulton, Illinois and is 2007 graduate of Dordt College. He taught at Ireton Christian School prior to coming to OCCS. Jeremy is married to Jennifer, who is also a teacher, and they have a one year old son named Gavin.

Brent Van Maanen is our new physical education teacher. In addition to PE, Brent is working with a number of students as a para-professional in the resource department. Brent is from Doon, Iowa and is a 2006 graduate of Dordt College. Prior to coming to OCCS, Brent taught at Coral Springs Christian Academy in Coral Springs, Florida. Brent is married to Raelle, who is a pharmacist at Hyvee in Sioux Center.

Angela VanderStoep is working as a part-time cook. Angela and her husband Kevin have four children, three of whom are here at OCCS, Katelyn, Mitchell, and Kirsten. Angela is originally from Hull, Iowa.

Two staff members began working at OCCS "mid-year" last year and we do want to acknowledge them.

Jeness Wolgen began serving as the head cook in January of 2011. Jenness and her husband Andrew have five children, three of whom are here at OCCS, Maxwell, Maggie, and Maddalie. Jenness is originally from Orange City, Iowa.

Wendy Eason also began working as a part-time cook midway through the year last year. Wendy and her husband Lyle have four children, David, is at OCCS. Wendy is originally from Oskaloosa, Iowa.

We thank God for these people and the service they provide to OCCS.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

OCT 12	Strings Festival for grades 6-8 orchestra students, (Sioux City)
OCT 15	Honor Band Auditions (Storm Lake)
OCT	Interscholastic Speech (Rock Valley)
OCT 28	Noon dismissal - teacher in-service, end of first quarter
OCT 1	Honor Choir Festival (Storm Lake)
OCT 5	Honor Band Festival (Storm Lake)
NOV 8	2:00 p.m. dismissal, 5:00-9:00 p.m. P/T Conferences
NOV 10	2:00 p.m. dismissal, 5:00-9:00 p.m. P/T Conferences
NOV 11	No School
NOV 18	Iowa Jr. Honors Strings Orchestra (Ames) for qualifying students
NOV 23	2:00 p.m. dismissal
NOV 24-25	Thanksgiving Break
DEC 3	Monica Cookie Walk
DEC 21	2:00 p.m. dismissal
DEC 22 - JAN 2	Christmas Break
JAN 3	Classes Resume

Memorial
Jennie De Haan
Henry Mellema