



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.

Glory to God

It is always surprising to me how quickly school years go. We are well into our 4th quarter and, even though the weather doesn't feel like it, several weeks into spring. We are enjoying another great year at OCCS. I am once again humbled by the dedication of our staff and the partnership with our parents. The theme of the year, Cultivating Community, along with remembering the pillars of the Reformation enhanced the experience this year.

This month we look at Soli Deo Gloria or Glory to God Alone. While all the Solas work together so well to live out the Christian faith, this last one is the pinnacle of it all. Everything must come together to bring glory to our God. He is completely worthy of it. That is one phrase and sentiment that I have said often, but my simple concrete thinking brain struggles with the abstractness of "Glory to God". I want to know: What does that look like? Are there specific ways that phrase can come alive in my life and at OCCS?

This being a winter Olympic's year, an analogy from there is very fitting. Today our athletes compete for their country. In ancient times, athletes would compete for the honor and glory of their god or Emperor, which often was considered a god on earth. The success they had was a reflection on the power and authority of their god. You competed to your best because your success meant glory for your god. Paul uses this analogy in I Corinthians 9:24: "Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize."

How does OCCS bring glory to our God? Abraham Kuyper is known for saying: "There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry, Mine!" So bringing glory to our God is in everything. I want to share three concrete ideas on how we can bring glory to God as an OCCS community.

1 – Everything we do must be done to our best. Like the analogy above, our collective success brings glory to our God if that is why we are doing it. We must always keep in mind it is God working through us. God's idea of what success looks like may be different from ours. As Solomon says in Psalm 127: "Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain."

2 – We build a community of respect and love. Maya Angelou is quoted as saying: "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." The Holy Spirit through Paul teaches us in I Corinthians 2:14-16: "But thanks be to God, who always leads us as captives in Christ's triumphal procession and uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of him everywhere. For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To the one we are an aroma that brings death; to the other, an aroma that brings life."

3 – We handle good and bad events with integrity, grace, and love. Good events are easy, but bad, hurtful, uncomfortable events will happen. We are still a building full of sinners saved by grace. How the school as well as parents handle those hard events is seen by our community. Even mistakes and offenses can be opportunities to show grace and love. The Matthew 18 principle is so powerful when used: "If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.'"

I am sure you could come up with other concrete examples of how our school can be a place where glory is given to God. Our God has been faithful to our school through the years and He will continue to provide what we need, not for our glory but for His.

I leave you with a verse I have taped to my computer screen, Jude 1:24-25: "Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time, now and forever. Amen."

Jason Alons, Principal

Third Grade Learning

T is for Taste. In science we learned about our senses. We made models for each of them.

H is for Historical figures. We studied historical figures like Thomas Edison and Alexander Graham Bell.

I is for Irish jig. In music we are learning songs for the musical and the third grade girls are learning a jig.

R is for Resources. We studied natural resources. There are non-renewable and renewable resources.

D is for Daily Devotions. We have a devotional each day. One of the lessons is "Treat others as you would want to be treated".

G is for Genesis stories. We were able to read stories about Adam, Eve, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Jacob, and Joseph from our own Bibles!

R is for Rainbow lorikeet. We studied the country of Australia and completed animal reports.

A is for Art. We made clay sculptures in art.

D is for Division. Dividend, divisor, and quotient are division words.

E is for Egypt. We are studying mummies, pyramids, warfare, the Nile River, daily life, clothing, and hieroglyphics!

Acrostic written by third grade students

Tulip Festival

The Orange City Tulip Festival is just weeks away and 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. Just like previous years we will be serving all of the Dutch favorites! 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 Amy Van Roekel at 712-441-5883 or avanroek@hopehaven.org. We appreciate your prayers and support for this upcoming fundraiser!

Fourth Grade Classroom

Spring is always a busy time in fourth grade, and this year is no exception! In science we have begun studying all of the body systems and discussing how God has created us so intricately. We began looking at cells and have moved on to the circulatory system. We even made our own model of blood. Not only are we journeying through the human body, but we have also been traveling throughout the United States this year. We have studied all of the regions of our great country and are finishing up in the West region. The students have also been working hard on their state research in anticipation of our States' presentations on April 27. Lastly, we have been working hard to learn all of our parts and songs for the K-4 musical coming up in just a few short weeks. We hope you will join us on April 12 or 13 to learn about cultures from all around the world. Whew, we've learned a lot in all of our adventures this year! We are looking forward to finishing this last quarter and maybe taking some "real" trips around this amazing world over summer break!

Mrs. Noteboom and the 4th grade class

Boxtops Update

The month of February saw a forest of snowman growing in the school hallway. We made a lot of snow balls for our Boxtops snowman competition in February as every week more and more Boxtops were brought in. Mrs. Witt's 5th grade class collected the most Boxtops and had the tallest snowman but was followed not too far behind by Mrs. Krommendyk's kindergarten class. A big thank you too all the students for their diligent clipping of Boxtops. Altogether we submitted 7,903 Boxtops to Boxtops 4 Learning which turns into \$790.30 for our school! We also counted up the Pizza Ranch Wagons that have been brought in and apparently we all like our pizza as we counted 3,779 wagons and at 25 cents each that will be \$944.75! Thank you to everyone who helped with this easy fundraiser; keep clipping those Boxtops, Pizza Ranch Wagons and Country/Village Hearth Loaves 4 Learning Labels.

Sports Update

As we enter our final sports season of the year at OCCS, we anxiously wait for warmer weather and the snow to melt. 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 on occasion. The kids are still excited to be out practicing again. This year we have 16 girls and 15 boys out for soccer. Our girls' team is coached by Jason Alons and our boys' team is coached by Justin Schrock. We are excited to have both of them working with our teams this spring. Our track team will have a total of 31 boys and girls participating this year. They are again coached by Melanie Witt and Karlyn Brunst. Our track team will be participating in the 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

MEMORIALS

Rena Van Dyke
Lester B. Mars
Marjorie A. Beltman
William Groeneweg

Fifth Grade Update

Fractions (adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing) and decimals (multiplying and dividing) consumed much of the third quarter in math.

In our Daniel study, we discussed the daily tests that we face, how the book of Daniel points us to Jesus, and how God shows his greatness through Daniel's life.

Faith was the theme of our January chapel, led by fifth and kindergarten. We wrote similes and metaphors to show how faith is like many things. Did you know faith is like the 'Trust Game'?

Topics in social studies included: the Articles of Confederation, the western expansion of the U.S., the Constitutional Convention compromises, the Civil War, and the Civil Rights laws.

How does King Xerxes (Ahasuerus) compare to our King, the Lord Jesus? This was a central question we asked in our study of the book of Esther.

Google Classroom and Google Drive are key locations for the fifth graders to create, explore, share, and collaborate. Assignments given allow us to grow in and use our typing skills.

Researching for our 'Adopt an Element' project was cool. We now know what a periodic table is and why words like H₂O and CO₂ are such a big deal, not just something creative to say.

A lot of chemistry was taught. From matter, solutions, mixtures, and atoms, to elements, compounds, molecules, acids, and bases. Many hands-on experiments, like slime, occurred.

Discussions took place while reading, *Snow Treasure* and *Abel's Island*, two classic novels with good life lessons. We also read & earned between 20 to 110 AR points per person last quarter.

Everyone was thankful when we finished diagramming prepositions, subjects, and verbs, and moved on to poetry, where we can use our creative writing skills.

The OCCS fifth graders and teachers are giving thanks for the knowledge that was learned in the last few months and are looking forward to ending the year on a strong academic note!

Melanie Witt, 5th grade teacher

IRA owners over age 70.5

The tax laws have changed recently which can increase your taxable income. And fewer tax payers will find it beneficial to itemize.

There is a way to lower your taxable income and help the school out. An IRA owner can have all or a portion of their required withdrawal amount made payable directly to a charity (OCCS). If they utilize that option, that amount would not be reportable to them as income. Lowering your taxable income will reduce your tax liability and the withdrawal given to our school will benefit our students and families. Talk to your tax preparer about this option.

Science Fair

For the past few months, the 6th-8th grade students at Orange City Christian School have been working in groups on science fair projects. On March 8 and 9, they presented their projects to judges, who scored their projects and gave feedback on their presentations. On Tuesday, March 13, all the projects were on display in the OCCS gym for the Science Spectacular event, where parents, grandparents, and community members had the opportunity to see the projects, hear the presentations, participate in science activities, and vote for the Peoples' Choice Award. This project's goal is to provide students to dig into a specific portion of God's Creation, opening their eyes to the wonders of our Creator.

This year's Judges' Award winners were:

6th- "Eye for an Eye" by Carson Noteboom, Brielle Reitsma, & Carissa Reinders

6th- "Colored Smile" by Kyan Emmelkamp, Haley Hofland, & Mikayla Vollink

7th- "Radish Races" by Ava Nykamp & Adriana Van Maanen

7th- "Browsing Bucks" by Gabe Schiebout & Jacob Van Donge

8th- "Memory Madness" by Raeligh Raines & Brooke Jacobsma

8th- "To Eat or Not To Eat" by Mylia Wagenaar & Jenna Bouma

This year's Teacher Award winners were:

6th- "Stain Remover" by Jesse Huisman & Jaxson Poppema

6th- "Nerf Science" by David Winn & Simon Mellema

7th- "Egg Drop" by Maggie Alons & Katelyn Huizenga

7th- "Mug Madness" by Brody Oolman & Logan Huizenga

8th- "Behind the Stains" by Maddie Wolgen & Becca Dykstra

8th- "Science of Sound" by David Eason & Landon Hofmeyer

This year's Peoples' Choice Award winners were:

6th- "Nerf Science" by David Winn & Simon Mellema

7th- "Browsing Bucks" by Gabe Schiebout & Jacob Van Donge

8th- "Memory Madness" by Raeligh Raines & Brooke Jacobsma

Matt Van Schepen, Middle School Teacher



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

April 12	7:00pm - K-4 musical in OCCS gym
April 13	Grandparents' Day, 10:00 am - K-4 musical
April 18	Unity Track Meet
April 24	Solo Ensemble
April 30 & May 1	5:00pm - finish, Monica Pig-in-the-Blanket work nights, gym
May 2	Western Track Meet
May 4-5	OCCS Tiger Marching Band to Pella Tulip Festival
May 8	7:00pm Strings' Night
May 10	7:00pm Preschool Year End Program
May 16	Dordt Track Meet for grades 5-8
May 17-18	11:30 dismissal on May 17, no school May 18-Tulip Festival
May 21	7:00pm Hymn of the Month Program at First Ref. Church
May 25	12:00 noon dismissal
May 25	7:00pm 8th grade graduation at First CRC
June 5	Pick up report cards from OCCS office
July 4-6	OCCS office closed for the holiday
July 16-27	School closed, no TRIP sales

Middle School Concentrated Studies

The week of March 12-19 was an exciting week in the middle school at Orange City Christian School. Students had the opportunity to break from routine and spend a week in "Concentrated Studies" learning about the country of South Africa. Students in grades 5-8 were put in mixed groups and learned about history, geography, culture, language, traditions, and much more. Concentrated Studies is a much-anticipated annual event at OCCS giving students an opportunity to experience another part of God's beautiful world.

*Karlyn Brunst
Middle School Teacher*

Board Report – April 2018

March balance sheet - \$632,476.90

The ad hoc "Project Engage" committee has met with the architect to fine-tune details. Committee members and staff met to discuss plans. Important feedback was given and great ideas were suggested. A plan for society vote is scheduled to be presented before the end of the school year. Committee members are Ethan Huizenga, Jon Pontier, Marlin Vollink, Lyle Eason and Jason Alons.

The board is thankful that all contracts have been signed and returned.

Board motions approved:

- Reduce computer class to 1 class per week for 7th-8th grades, and increase literature to 4 classes per week
- 8th grade class trip as proposed; 1:5 chaperone ratio and overnight stay in a church (no hotel accommodations).
- Academic calendar for 2018-2019
- Raise fairshare to \$1675 and partner society to \$1300 for 2018-2019
- 2% raise for teachers and staff

The school board and finance committee continue discussions about the CSI pension plan. The pension plan will hard freeze in August 2019. The board asks for your prayers as we strive to do what's best for OCCS, its' staff and constituency.

OCCS will go through the CSI accreditation process in the 2018-2019 school year. Be in prayer for that process to go well for all involved.

*Respectfully submitted,
Anita Nykamp, board secretary*

Tiger Toss Tournament

On Friday, March 2, we hosted the third annual Tiger Toss Tournament and Serenity Stage. This fundraiser has grown in popularity each year it has been held, both in number of participants and also in the number of those coming to watch and take in the festivities. This year, fifty-eight teams competed in the bean bag tournaments. There was an early (6:00 p.m.) tournament which included a Tiger Cub division (one member 12 years old or younger), as well as a late (8:30 p.m.) tournament. Our Serenity Stage was as popular as it has ever been with 10 groups performing over the course of the night while audience members relaxed by sipping on coffee and hot chocolate. The Prayer Room was lined with prayer requests by students and attendees, and participants who stopped by could take a moment to lift up the praises and concerns. The food for the evening was a smoked pulled pork meal with sides for a freewill donation. In the end, the fundraiser brought in over \$18,000 which was designated to student desks as well as current and future building needs of the school. We would like to thank our twenty-five sponsors for helping us make the night a success as well as the committee who spent hours planning, organizing, and running the event.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UNITS

<u>Church Unit</u>	<u>Requested for 2017-18</u>	<u>Contribution 2017-18</u>	<u>Balance Remaining</u>
Calvary CRC	81,600.00	63,859.06	17,740.94
First CRC	62,400.00	39,363.76	23,036.24
Hospers CRC	3,600.00	3,200.00	400.00
Immanuel CRC	107,200.00	85,504.89	21,695.11
Living Water	48,000.00	27,024.58	20,975.42
Redeemer URC	48,000.00	27,752.00	20,248.00
Other Supporting Churches	3,200.00	3,200.00	0.00
Partner Society	61,200.00	45,565.00	15,635.00