



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.

Devoted to Prayer

We are quickly drawing close to the end of the first quarter of this school year. The beginning of the school year is always so full of excitement. There are new things all around: teachers, classmates, support staff, classrooms, schedules, etc. It is the reason August is so fun in education.

This year our theme is "Devoted to Prayer" and the theme verse is Romans 12:12, "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." These are excellent words to remember at the start of a new school year. It is a good summary to the beginning of a school year.

Each school year begins for so many with hope for a great new year. The opportunity to start anew with a new grade, new class, and new schedule is exciting. All the new possibilities are laid out before you. This passage reminds us to take joy in that.

We also know that working with people, children, money, etc. you quickly learn things don't always go as you expect. Sometimes it may even seem like affliction; although, most of the time, it is the result of misunderstandings or miscommunication or simply sinful humans working together. This passage reminds us we need patience. Patience and grace go a long way in building community and we all need to receive it as often as we need to give it.

Through it all we need prayer support. That is one of the beauties of OCCS. We cover all we do in prayer. We have so many prayer warriors in our community that continually hold our school and the people in it up in prayer. Please continue to pray for our school.

So many wonderful things are happening at OCCS this year. Thank you for partnering with us as we educate hearts and minds for Christ's kingdom.

Jason Alons
Principal

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

October 19	Honor Band Auditions
October 25	End of first quarter, 12:00 dismissal
October 29	Middle School Orchestra Festival, Unity
October 30	8:30 am - chapel led by 2nd & 7th grades
November 2	Honor Choir Festival, Storm Lake
November 9	Honor Band Festival, Storm Lake
November 12	12:30pm dismissal, 4:30-9:00 p.m. - P/T Conferences
November 14	4:30-9:00 p.m. - P/T Conferences
November 15	No School
November 19	NISO Children's Concert - 5th grade attends
November 22	Iowa Jr. Honors String Orchestra, Ames
November 27	8:30 am - chapel led by 1st and 6th grades
November 27	12:00 dismissal
November 28 & 29	Thanksgiving Break, No School
December 6 & 7	Monica Cookie Walk at Iowa State Bank
December 18	8:30am - chapel led by support staff
December 20	12:00 p.m. dismissal
Dec. 23-Jan. 1	Christmas Break

Convocation Service

The 2019-2020 school year began Friday, August 23 with a convocation service at First CRC. Many excited (and perhaps nervous) students and OCCS supporters filled the sanctuary to overflowing. Eighth graders, Carson Noteboom and Reagan Noteboom, opened the service with a beautiful strings prelude. The eighth grade girls sang this year's theme song, Before the Throne of God Above, and Jacob Breen, Emily Oordt, Amber Vande Zande, and several pastors introduced the theme, Devoted to Prayer, in a skit. After the audience sang, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus," the OCCS staff burst on the scene in rather unusual attire (aprons for cooks, team jerseys for middle school staff, etc.). Mr. Alons introduced the staff members as they came down the aisle, and after the staff sang, Mr. Alons asked the Lord to bless the students, staff, and constituency of OCCS in the year ahead. Finally, he sent off each class to begin the first day of the 2019-2020 year!

Kim Philipsen
STEPS teacher

Theme Kickoff

If you were driving by Vets Park during the early afternoon hours of Wednesday, September 11 you may have wondered... What is going on with all those kids? Well, wonder no longer as it was Orange City Christian School's annual theme kickoff activity. Over 330 students and 40+ staff members enjoyed some time exploring this year's theme, *Devoted to Prayer*.

With grade level partners, the students rotated among five stations that were led by area pastors. Each station concentrated on different aspects of prayer including: praising, repenting, asking, yielding, giving over everything, and rejoicing. Students also participated in some type of activity that corresponded with the station's focus. Students enjoyed participating in such things as playing red light green light, having a snack, blowing bubbles, writing prayer requests, creating popsicle crosses, and tracing their hands to help them remember five people to pray for. The culminating activity for our kickoff included a time of praise and worship back at the gym.

Thank you to Pastor Tim Breen, Pastor Si Cochran, Pastor John Klompfen, Kristin Brower, Ben Vos, and Pastor Clevey Ragsdale for encouraging us to become devoted to prayer this school year. It is our heartfelt prayer that we will have a good school year and that we will be able to glorify and praise God in all that we do while being "more watchful and thankful" (Colossians 4:2).

Crista Smidt
School counselor

Kindergarten Update

It is a new year again, and we are privileged to have a great new bunch of kindergarten students! There are 29 of us this year. It is also very exciting on our end of the building as we are impacted by the new construction going on each day. It is often pretty noisy and interesting outside with the roaring machines, workers voices, drilling sounds, and clanging of tools. We often see workers and some of the construction that is going on. We can't wait to find out what is beyond that south door where it is happening! This year kindergarten will win the "most distance travelled in school award", as every day we get plenty of exercise trekking from our rooms, down the music room hallway and all the way down the center hallway (and back again!) for recess three times each day often carrying our boots. Every day brings us a little closer to Christmas when our first grade friends will join us on our wing. One of our favorite songs is "Kids Under Construction". We are under construction too! We are learning how to build each other up by our words and actions. Every day we are building on our reading skills, Bible knowledge, handwriting, memory, and math skills. Did we mention that we have iPads too? We love building up our bodies in P.E. with Mr. De Jong, and our music skills with Mrs. Wielenga. We build up our enthusiasm for worship at the end of the day with K-3 singing time and our social skills at center time. The most exciting way that we are being built, with the partnership of our parents and our church families, is in learning to know Jesus, memorize His Word, in discovering how to listen to the Holy Spirit and talk with Him. We learn the prayer theme verses and hymns each month, and practice praying for one another, for those we love, and those we know who need special prayers. Thank you for supporting and encouraging us as we learn to fit together as the building of God. "In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit." Ephesians 2:22

Mrs. Slegers & Mrs. Krommendyk
Kindergarten teachers

Box Tops Update

As many of you may know, Box Tops for Education has changed. They have gone from clipping to scanning your receipt on your phone! There are still a few items out there on the store shelves that can still be clipped, so keep bringing those in. It is a hard change to get used to, but it is still a very easy way to earn for our school: just use the Box Tops mobile app to scan your store receipt within 14 days. It automatically finds participating products and instantly adds Box Tops to your school's earnings online. You can go to boxtops4education.com for more information and to download the app. If you already have downloaded and used the app, thank you! Once you have the app on your phone you can be more aware of the promotions that go on with different products and stores which can at times triple our earnings! One great thing about going digital is now family members from far away can easily help us in this way. So please help us make this change and keep the earnings coming!

Chantelle De Rooy
Labels Coordinator



Fun Night 2019

Sunshine and warm temperatures are what greeted this year's participants for Fun Night 2019! Orange City Christian had its traditional Fun Night on Saturday, September 21 led by the middle school students and their parents. Back again were the beautifully decorated and delicious looking baked goods for the cake walk. Face painting was a busy place with a large number of butterflies, stars, and animals gracing the faces of many young people. Caleb De Jong was there with his ponies, Lilly and DJ, giving rides to many of the younger children and their parents. Food was also a highlight with Pizza Ranch pizza, hot dogs, nachos and many other traditional favorites.



Fun Night raises funds for activities in sports, music and academic areas for middle school students. It has been a fun way to build community within the OCCS family. OCCS middle schoolers sold butter braids and Koated Kernels in the weeks leading up to Fun Night. A total of over \$11,000 was raised from both of these activities. A special thanks to Mrs. Driesen for organizing this activity. Many thanks to parents, students and teachers for turning out and keeping the "fun" in Fun Night!

*Randy Hilbelink
Middle School teacher*



Support OCCS through AmazonSmile

Consider supporting OCCS through AmazonSmile. We have earned \$1,653.77 on purchases made through AmazonSmile. Our organization is listed as Orange City Society for Christian Instruction. You can use your existing sign-on to Amazon and you can use gift cards purchased through TRIP.

Recently Amazon announced that you can access AmazonSmile through the Amazon Shopping app on an Android device. You can do this through Settings in the app.

Thank you for supporting OCCS in this way!

MEMORIALS

Marla Koning Mulder
Paula Ribbens

Monica News

The new year is off to a busy start! We want to thank everyone who attended the Monica dessert social. We had a great turn out and were able to spend some time out in the beautiful weather as we enjoyed holding our social outdoors this year. Thank you to all of the new families and mentor families who were able to join us.

Thanks to all who are finished on the board: Kyndara Woudstra and Amy Van Roekel. The board members for the 19-20 school year are Erin Emmelkamp- president, Anita Nykamp- vice president, Steph Lefever- treasurer, Janna Van Donge- Co-Treasurer, Larissa Van Dyk- Co-Treasurer, Miranda King- secretary, At large- Erin Driesen, Kristi Reinders, Matt Schiebout, Rebecca Huizenga and Lauri Poppema.

The board met on September 16. At this meeting we assigned board liaisons to each committee. The purpose of the board liaison is to give each committee a "go to" person when questions arise. Our hope is that this will make communication with the board smoother and eliminate confusion of who committee chairs should talk to. Monica chairs and co-chairs, the board member assigned to your committee will be in contact with you.

Another item of business was discussing how best to transition from 2 year terms to 3 year terms. The board will meet again on October 30 to work on this transition.

If you have any questions feel free to contact any board member or myself. We look forward to working beside each of you as we serve the OCCS community.

*Erin Emmelkamp
Monica President*

Sports Report

We are about a month into our fall sports season at OCCS. This fall we have students participating in volleyball, Jr. Knights football and Jr. Knights cross country. We also had about 20 students participate in the one mile fun run at Unity this fall. OCCS had a very good showing at this event. We saw many students take home medals because of placing in the top 5 or because they were able to predict their time accurately.

Our volleyball numbers are higher than they have ever been this year. We have 11 eighth graders and 22 seventh graders playing this year. Our coaches this year are Lindsey Van Schepen for 8th grade and Jenn Mills and Jenny Vogel for 7th grade. We look forward to watching the girls compete this year. They have started off the season playing pretty well and look forward to them continuing their success. Thank you to our coaches this fall for the time and dedication they are putting in!

*Travis De Jong
Athletic Director*

Board Report

- September balance sheet - \$611,059.91
- Rebranding and new paint have enhanced the look throughout OCCS! The new colors and decals look great!
- Fundraisers - THANK YOU!
 1. Kick-Off Project Engage Fall Fundraiser - Thank you to all those who supported our kick-off fundraiser on August 23. We raised approximately \$10,700.
 2. The Garage Sale and Fun Night were a success. Thank you to all who contributed and participated in so many different ways! We raised about \$13,500 between the two events.
 3. Silage Piles: Work has started. Be watching for dates and sign ups. We look forward to building community as we work together to support OCCS.
- Project Engage fundraising information and update:

Cash	\$ 1,029,745.20
Pledges	\$ 514,537.78
Total current donations:	<u>\$ 1,544,282.98</u>
Left to raise:	\$ 210,316.03
- Phase I construction continues to progress. The remodeled music room is in use; the new music room will be ready in November; the new south (1st grade) classrooms will be in use and the 3rd grade classroom will relocate to the main floor after Christmas break.
- The annual Society Meeting was held on Monday, September 16.
 1. 80 members were in attendance; 6 absentee ballots were accepted.
 2. Retiring board members were Jon Pontier (Redeemer URC), Jennifer Mulder (At Large) and Jesse Hofmeyer (Immanuel CRC). We sincerely appreciate the years of service each of them has given to serving on the OCCS school board.
 3. New board members elected were Luke Perry (Immanuel CRC), Melanie Van Grouw (At Large) and Brady Goslinga (Redeemer URC).
 4. Recognized for years of service at OCCS were: 5 years - Mary Beth Breen, Jason Alons, Travis DeJong and 30 years - Melanie Witt, Sue Siemonsma. Thank you for your commitment to our school and serving it faithfully for so many years!
 5. Enrollment for 2019-20 – 36 in two preschool programs; 296 in K-8 (increase of 12 from last year)
 6. Election of Board Officers and Committee Assignments:
 - President – Ethan Huizenga
 - Vice President – Bert Reinders
 - Treasurer – Marlin Vollink
 - Secretary – Heather Hofmeyer
 - Vicar – Melanie Van Grouw
 - Committee Assignments:
 - Education – Heather Hofmeyer, Luke Perry
 - Finance – Melanie Van Grouw, Bert Reinders, Marlin Vollink
 - Building - Ryan Visser, Brady Goslinga
 - SHARE – Ethan Huizenga, Jamey Schiebout

Respectfully Submitted, Heather Hofmeyer, board secretary

TRIP News

School year TRIP hours are Monday, Thursday, & Friday from 8:00 am - 12:30 pm and Tuesday & Wednesday from 8:00 am - 3:30 pm. Stop in any time during these hours to pick up gift cards.

Through the Shop with Scrip website, you can now pay for orders with a credit card. There is a 2.6% fee per order.

Shop with Scrip is having an event called Bonus Fest from October 19 through October 25. Every day they will offer bonuses for different retailers. Keep an eye on the website for details.

*Kim Vande Zande
TRIP Coordinator*

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UNITS			
<u>Church Unit</u>	<u>Requested for 2019-20</u>	<u>Contribution 2019-20</u>	<u>Balance Remaining</u>
Calvary CRC	94,500.00	16,864.56	\$77,635.44
First CRC	77,000.00	12,601.16	64,398.84
Hospers CRC	10,500.00	0.00	10,500.00
Immanuel CRC	103,250.00	10,268.35	92,981.65
Living Water	47,250.00	116.78	47,133.22
Redeemer URC	52,500.00	0.00	52,500.00
Other Supporting Churches	10,500.00	1,909.09	8,590.91
Partner Society	94,500.00	31,853.54	62,646.46