



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.

Principal Report

Thank you to everyone who attended our tuition change information/discussion nights. The board and I received some valuable feedback as we continue to discuss any changes to tuition. A recording of the last evening and a copy of the presentation has been included in emails from the office.

I would like to share with you an item which would definitely impact any tuition discussion. This comes as a possibility from the Iowa Legislature. It is called an Education Savings Accounts (ESA). It would work for education similarly to how HSAs work for health insurance. There is growing support in the Iowa Governor's office and in the legislature regarding the creation of ESA legislation for Iowa families.

An Education Savings Account is a state created program where state tax dollars are placed annually into a parent account to spend on costs related to the education of their child. This could include private school tuition. The Iowa Association of Christian Schools website is a good place to read about the concept of an ESA.

The Governor just released her version of the bill on January 31. If the concept went from a bill to a law, it could have a significant impact on our school. Families currently in our school could have some assistance with the cost of tuition. Families not in our school may be able to more easily choose Christian education for their children.

In addition to benefits, ESAs also raises legitimate questions for us to discuss. Here is my opinion on answers to three common questions I have heard:

1. If an ESA program was launched, would it cause us to have to compromise our biblical standards as a Christian school? I believe the answer is no, because an ESA gives the funding directly to parents and not to private schools. The freedom and choice belong to the parent which would not increase authority from the state. I believe there would be no change to our school's mission and governance.
2. If ESA's begin, can they be removed? The answer is yes, but it is highly unlikely. Historically, government programs that are launched are seldom removed, especially when they benefit so many people. ESA's would be supported by bi-partisan legislative officials to help parents and kids have more options to choose the school of their choice.
3. If removed, would OCCS be in worse shape? I don't believe so. We can never know the future, but we know who holds the future. The potential benefit to our current families as well as the opportunity to get other families to experience Christian education is worth the risk (which I believe is small).

As this and other legislation moves forward, you will receive action alerts to let your legislators know to support bills like this. Please be ready to help out. Thank you for your support to OCCS and Christian Education.

Blessings - Jason Alons, Principal

Honor Orchestra Festival

The 22nd Annual Northwest Iowa Honor Orchestra Festival was held on January 27, 2022 at Christ Chapel. It was an exciting day of rehearsals with guest conductor, Dr. Luis Visquez from the University of South Dakota, lunch at the NW cafeteria, a pizza supper and a wonderful concert at Christ Chapel. Students from OCCS that auditioned and were accepted into the orchestra were Kallie Zwart, Haley Schuller, Drew Noteboom, Kaylee Dykstra, Joslyn Vis, Celeste Van Kley, Kate Van Grouw, Amber Vande Zande, Emma De Rooy, and Emily Oordt. Congratulations to these students!



Third Grade

Third graders have been learning about immigration and how many of their ancestors got to America. To better help students experience and understand what this was like, they got to go through an "Ellis Island Simulation." The students created passports that were passed and signed by Mrs. Wielenga in the "Interview Room." The students had to pretend like they were from a different country and were going to immigrate to America to look for a better life that involved religious freedom and better jobs. Additionally, they went through other stations such as the following:

1. The Baggage Room: Mr. Alons checked their bags.
2. The Medical Room: Mrs. Breems checked their throat, took their temperature, checked their skin, and checked their eyes.
3. The Deportation/Detainee Room: This was where the students had to go for medical or legal reasons. If they did not pass either of these for any reason, they would either be sent back to their own country or kept in quarantine.

Obviously, this does not compare to what the actual immigrants went through, but the 3rd graders got a little taste of what it was like. Through teaching this unit, we hope students gain an appreciation for the people that were willing to go through such a difficult journey in order for them to be living in America today!

Josie Vander Stoep, 3rd grade teacher



Sports Update

Our Junior High students wrapped up our basketball season this past weekend. Our teams experienced both the highs and lows of the season. Through it all they worked hard and improved through out the year.

Our girls team turned into a combination of 7th and 8th graders this year. We had 12 seventh graders and 1 eighth grader to make up our two teams. Both teams were able to have successful seasons. Our 7th grade team finished with a 4-0 record while our 8th grade team finished with a 10-3 record as well as a 2nd place finish at the Coaches Club Christian Schools Tournament. Our girls teams were coached by Sherri Bootsma and this was her first year coaching for us at OCCS.

Our 7th grade boys finished their season with a 10-0 record. Our team consisted of 14 boys this year so our coaches had their work cut out for them. Towards the end of the year, the boys made a goal to finish with an undefeated season. They were pretty excited when they accomplished it. Our coaches were Dryce Van Sloten and Logan Schoonhoven.

Our 8th grade boys finished with a 6-6 record and a 4th place finish in the Coaches Club Christian Schools Tournament. We had 8 eighth graders participate this year. At times we were scrambling to make a team due to sicknesses or vacations but the boys continued to work hard. Our coach this year was Blake Anderson.

I would like to thank these coaches for the giving of their time to work with our kids. We appreciate your commitment and dedication to helping our kids improve their basketball skills and knowledge.

Now our students will wait for warmer temperatures so they can begin track and soccer!

Travis De Jong, Athletic Director

Preschool Update

Usually when we come back to school after Christmas break the preschoolers are involved with snow related activities. Since there was a lack of snow and even some very mild temperatures, we spent the month of January reading Dr. Seuss books and doing learning activities centered around those books. Since he wrote over 60 books we had plenty of activities that kept us busy: counting Truffula Trees, patterning the cat's hat, letter learning based on his ABC book, writing our own class book about what we would rather eat than green eggs and ham, creating a new hat for the cat, and working on making a fox and socks with our 4th grade friends. And we learned a lot about rhyming! Our favorite day was Wacky Wednesday when we wore wacky clothes and had some wacky things to find in our classroom. We think God gave Dr. Seuss a wonderful imagination and we see that God has also blessed us with that gift.

In Bible we see how God used regular people to do his work...Noah, Moses, David, Jonah... God had a plan for all of them and used them to carry out that plan. Even though we are 4 (well, 4 1/2) and 5 we know God has a plan for each of us and He will carry out that plan. We know that we don't have to wait for that plan to begin, we carry out His plan when we demonstrate kindness and love to our classmates, friends, and family.

Kim Starkenburg, preschool teacher



K-5 Musical

After waiting patiently for their turn to be the "stars of the show" for over 7 months, thanks to Covid, the 5th graders performed the musical, "A December to Remember" which took place on December 17 and 18. The K-4 students accompanied them on a 3 hour shopping excursion on the boat, the "SS Mango" after setting sail on a luxurious cruise ship for a festive holiday cruise! The passengers were caught in an unexpected storm and washed ashore on a deserted island, only to run into Johnny Coconut, who was marooned years before. The story of the birth of Jesus, the story of lost people, unable to save themselves, being rescued by the long-awaited Savior, was retold as this Christmas adventure took place. Thank you to the 5th Grade students, and their K-4 cohorts for two wonderful performances! Special thanks to parents for providing snacks and drinks for rehearsals, Clevering's for an after party pizza party, 8th grade helpers at the shows and to Mr. Kroese for his help with backdrops! It truly was "A December to Remember"!

Dixie Wielenga, music teacher



Spirit Week

Every year OCCS holds its annual Spirit Week between the girls' and the boys' basketball tournaments. This year Spirit Week was held January 31-February 4. The 8th grade girls kicked off the week by decorating the middle school hallways to show school spirit. The middle school Tiger Council selected the following special days: Monday-Sports Day, Tuesday-Twin Day, Wednesday-Class Choice Day, Thursday-Fake Injury Day, and Friday-School Spirit Day. For the first time ever, lower grades were also invited to participate in some of the days to build school-wide spirit. Winners were chosen by the teachers for each day and received a candy prize.



Ray "Bubba" Sorenson - Artist in Schools Assembly

Orange City Christian School hosted Iowa mural artist Ray "Bubba" Sorensen for an assembly on Thursday, January 6. Sorensen is the creator of the Freedom Rock paintings as seen in 99 counties in Iowa, the 99th rock only painted this past September. His project goal was to paint a memorial rock in each county in Iowa. He shared the inspiration and process for this project with the students and veterans from our community who joined us. He shared how he fell in love with art as a child and later went on to study art and design at Iowa State, but not before his first Freedom Rock was complete. Ray's greatest inspiration for thanking our country's veterans came after watching "Saving Private Ryan" in college. That movie led him to paint the first Freedom Rock along Highway 25 near Menlo, Iowa. He hasn't looked back since! Some of the 5th-8th grade students had their previously written questions answered, one of which asked if his family thought he was crazy when he said, "I think I would like to paint a thank you to our veterans on a large rock." Ray's good sense of humor and connections to personal veteran stories, including members of his own family, made the assembly fun and interesting. Ray is known for "thanking our Veterans, one painting at a time."

The students and staff thanked our veteran guests with a standing ovation. Some of these spent time afterward sharing personal stories with Ray. Hopefully, Ray encouraged our students to take the time to thank others, including those who are serving or have served our country. As the program wrapped up, most OCCS students stood when asked if they loved to sketch, draw, design, or color. That art enthusiasm impressed Ray and is encouraged by Mrs. Siemonsma. Ray said his dream job would have been to be an art teacher at any level. He may not be in the classroom, but his art, focused mainly on veterans, teaches people why history is essential never to forget. For more information, visit Ray's website: <https://www.thefreedomrock.com>.

Submitted by Melanie Witt

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

February 15 & 17	P/T Conferences
February 16	1:20pm - Chapel led by PS & 4th grades 4:00-5:30pm - Covenant Kids Open House
February 18	No School
February 21	Presidents' Day - No School
February 24	5:30pm - Covenant Kids Preschool registration (OCCS library) 7:00pm - Jr. High Choir Festival (7th & 8th grades) at Unity Christian High School
March 17	5:30pm - Kindergarten Parent meeting for incoming students for 2022-23 school year
March 18	End of third quarter, 12:00 noon dismissal
March 30	Chapel led by 3rd & 8th grades
April 14-18	Easter Break
April 21	Kindergarten Open House for students in 2022-23
April 26	Solo/Ensemble event at Sioux Center Christian School
April 28	Covenant Kids Preschool Grandparent Day 7:00pm - K-4 musical at OCCS
April 29	9:30am - K-4 musical at OCCS K-8 Grandparent Day 12:00 noon dismissal

MEMORIALS

Harvey Obbink

Tiger PAWS

Hello! I am writing this the day after our February 1, Soup Supper and I am filled with thankfulness! Though the walk into school was chilly, we are thankful for good weather, an amazing turnout, beautiful fellowship, and a supportive community that gives generously.

We were able to serve over 675 people of all ages and are thrilled to share that we received just over \$10,000 in donations at the Soup Supper. God is Good and is at work in the hearts of our supporters!

After a year off due to COVID, seeing the gym full of supporters busy catching up with those they were sitting by, or meeting someone for the first time was such a blessing to witness. I was able to sit at the welcome table for part of the evening and was able to witness the energy, smiles, and thankfulness both come and go. We served people from the community that have not been in our building before and we served those that made soup and served at the Soup Supper years ago. God has used this event for years to bring His people together and we are thankful to continue this opportunity to create a stronger community among us.

A big thank you goes out to our Soup Supper Committee that has been working tirelessly on all the details that goes into a successful evening like this. They were open to trying some new things this year with two distinct serving lines and an online sign up for the parents, which further gives parents a voice in their service.

Our next big event is the Tulip Festival! Planning has started for all of the different committees. We are thankful for their time, dedication, and sacrifice in planning for their part of the Tulip Festival Tent and Straatmarket Booth so we have successful years, which has a direct impact on how we serve and give to OCCS. Our faithful hearts are a reflection of God's work, it is beautiful to see Him in and among us.

Kristin Mellema, Tiger PAWS Board President

Board Report

- January balance sheet: \$336,532.08
- The board approved to end the school year at noon on Thursday, May 26, to coincide with graduation.
- The Phase 23 committee met with possible architects to discuss hiring one for the next building project.
- After several excellent interviews, we welcome Autumn Den Boer (7th/8th Language Arts) and Kortney Wolfswinkel (Middle School Math) as new teachers for the upcoming 2022-2023 school year.
- The board has extended an administrator contract to Mr. Alons for the 2022-2023 school year. We are thankful for his leadership at OCCS.
- Please pray for the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health of our students and staff.
- Preschool Open House is Wednesday, February 16, from 4:00-5:30 p.m. in the preschool room. Preschool registration is Thursday, February 24, at 5:30 p.m. in the school library.

Faithfully submitted, Jen Elgersma

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UNITS

<u>Church Unit</u>	<u>Requested for 2020-21</u>	<u>Contribution for 2020-21</u>	<u>Balance Remaining</u>
Calvary CRC	\$98,000.00	\$66,232.63	\$31,767.37
First CRC	76,000.00	48,815.14	27,184.86
Hospers CRC	16,000.00	11,145.68	4,854.32
Immanuel CRC	100,000.00	50,297.74	49,702.26
Living Water	70,000.00	21,111.73	48,888.27
Redeemer URC	46,000.00	46,000.00	0.00
Other Supporting Churches	12,000.00	0.00	0.00
Partner Society	174,000.00	125,236.77	48,763.23