



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.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

April 22	Covenant Kids Preschool Grandparents'
April 22	7:00pm - K-4 musical, OCCS gym
April 23	Grandparents' Day 9:00am - K-5 musical, OCCS gym
April 24	4:00-8:00pm Tiger Toss outside OCCS
April 29	Open House - watch for more details later
April 30	NW Iowa Middle School Honors Orchestra concert at LeMars High School, 5:00pm
May 5	7:00pm Preschool Year End Program
May 6	Last day of preschool
May 13	11:30 dismissal - Tulip Festival, OCCS Tiger marching band
May 14	No School - Tulip Festival, OCCS Tiger marching band
May 20	7:00pm Hymn of the Month Program at First Reformed Church
May 24	7:00pm Strings' Night
May 28	12:00 noon dismissal
May 28	7:00pm 8th grade graduation at First CRC
June 8	Pick up report cards from OCCS office
July 5	OCCS office closed for observation of the 4th of July holiday
July 19-30	School closed, no TRIP sales

Purpose

It is beginning to feel like spring! Spring sports are underway and I look forward to watching lots of soccer games this year. These last two months of school go by very quickly. With the weather getting nicer and so many activities to do, it gets hard to see the purpose in school. Students and adults often need encouragement to stay focused.

I hope you and your family had a blessed Easter. It was a beautiful weekend to celebrate such a beautiful message. Christ came, lived, died, and rose for a purpose. Hallelujah, He has risen indeed!

This past month we studied Esther. I love the verse we used that really sums up the purpose of Esther. Esther 4:14: "For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"

God gave Esther her purpose. That message is implied all through the book, even though Esther is the only book in the Bible that never directly mentions God one time. When Esther accepted and embraced her God given purpose, she was able to be used to forward God's purpose and she and God's people were blessed through it.

God gives us purpose also. It is exciting to see young people grow and learn that and learn their purpose fits within God's greater purpose. I love a quote from Brian Basham from "World Watch News". He signs off every day with "no matter the news, the purpose of the Lord will stand." That is the message from Esther. It is our purpose to find how we fit into God's greater purpose. When we embrace our purpose, we get brought into God's purpose and we along with His people are blessed.

As we finish this school year, please continue to lift OCCS up in your prayers. Pray that we embrace the purpose God has given us: "OCCS is a biblically-based community, partnering with parents to educate hearts and minds for service in Christ's kingdom." Thank you so much for your support. Blessings to you and your families.

Jason Alons, principal

MEMORIALS

**Alfred Woudstra
Syne Wynia**

Frozen Jr. - 7th and 8th grade musical

On March 25, the 7th and 8th graders of OCCS performed Frozen Jr.! The King (Dustin Vande Voort), Queen (Kendra Breems), and their two daughters Young Elsa (Makenna Huizenga) and Young Anna (Autumn Bousema) are loved by all but the family has a secret. Their oldest daughter has powers of ice and snow that are being kept hidden from everyone. When an accident occurs and Elsa strikes her little sister with her powers, the King and Queen don't want to take any more chances and go looking for answers about their daughter's beautiful but dangerous abilities. Sadly, the King and Queen don't return from sea and years later when Elsa (Morgan DeGroot) comes of age to take the crown, her powers go out of control and she runs away in fear. Anna (Madison Hoogland) chases after her sister with the help of Kristoff the ice harvester (Tyler Poppema) and his trusty reindeer Sven (Jacen Huizenga) and they meet new friends along the way such as Olaf (Sabrina Timmermans) the snowman and Oaken (Jaelye Woudstra) and the Oaken family! Together they discover that true love can thaw a frozen heart and finally Elsa can bring back summer!

Performing on a big stage with curtains and costumes and makeup was a great experience for all the students. The audience was interactive and it made the acting experience fun for all of those onstage! We are so blessed by the God given talents of each 7th and 8th grader and by the chance to perform in such a nice facility! Thank you Mrs. Huizenga for putting so much time into giving us this opportunity!

Kendra Breems, 8th grade student



Middle School Concentrated Studies

The week of February 16-19, the middle school students had the opportunity to participate in Concentrated Studies. Each year, teachers choose and plan activities for a country of study. Students spend the week in teams of 5th-8th graders, moving from teacher to teacher to learn about the country's culture, history, language, religion, and so much more. This year, the country Mexico was chosen. Students learned about Quinceañeras, Mexican Weddings, Mexican animals, and holidays like Day of the Dead. They created piñatas, learned some Spanish language, and learned about Mexican clothing. They listened to Mariachi music and played soccer. The week was finished by watching the movie *COCO* which was about the holiday Day of the Dead and having a Mexican food taste test. Thank you to the parents who both provided food for our taste test or helped serve at our taste test. The whole school participated with the middle school in having a "build your own" burrito for lunch. Special thanks to the kitchen staff for the extra work put into creating our Mexican lunch. During the week, students were also challenged to pray for the people of Mexico. With everything going on in our world let us pray for God's name to be known, for the peoples of the earth to turn to Him, and for the Gospel message to bring life and hope and peace to the people of Mexico and every nation.

Rachelle Oordt, Middle School Teacher

Math Bees

'Tis the season...for math bees. During the month of March, OCCS students from sixth through eighth grade participated in three math bees. Northwestern College hosted the math bees for seventh and eighth graders. The eighth grade team of Jacen Huizenga, Riley Mulder, Caden Oolman, and Isaiah Van Maanen took second place; individually, Riley placed fourth while Jacen and Isaiah placed in the top 20. Congratulations, eighth graders! Competing for seventh grade were Lily Bonnema, Josh Campbell, Emma De Rooy, James Foreman, and Kallie Zwart. All the students enjoyed the mathematics challenges (five individual tests over various mathematical topics and a team test) as well as the time away from school.

The sixth grade math bee, hosted by Northwest Area Education Agency, was held virtually. The sixth grade team of Jericho Breen, Kaylee Dykstra, Drew Noteboom, Emily Oordt, and Ben Philipsen took their tests in the basement of OCCS on March 19 and then anxiously waited for the results to arrive. On March 31, an exciting box full of trophies and medals arrived for the team (which took second place) and our four competing individuals. Kaylee Dykstra earned second place, Drew Noteboom earned third, and Emily Oordt and Ben Philipsen scored in the top 20 individuals. Congratulations to the sixth graders for their hard work!

Kim Philipsen, STEPS teacher



History Day 2021

The seventh and eighth graders at Orange City Christian School participated again this year in a nation wide project called National History Day. The target of this project is to give students opportunities at researching, compiling, analyzing, and presenting information about a specific topic of their own choosing. Each project also needed to relate to a theme which this year was: Communication in History: The Key to Understanding. Our classes began work in September and culminated their work on Friday, February 26 with presentations before a pair of judges. Students were also able to share their work with parents and friends on Thursday night, March 9 after the band concert. Many thanks to our volunteer judges for their time and encouragement. Our judges this year were: Arlyn Schaap, Cody Harskamp, Judy Hilbelink, Jon Holwerda, Bob De Haan, Rebecca Korselman, Laura Heitritter, and Kari Bousema. While all of the students worked very hard on their projects, the following 10 group exhibits were chosen as the top 10 projects this year.

7th grade

Unsinkable: Emma De Rooy & Katie Young
13 Seconds, 67 Shots: Weston Huisman & Tyler Poppema
Talking in a New Language: Kate Van Grouw & Ariel King

8th grade

Auschwitz-Jayden Hofmeyer & Abby Klompjen
Amelia Earhart-Morgan De Groot & Ruby Zylstra
Midway Point-Autumn Bousema & Eden Moreau
Miracles from Helen- Kendra Breems & Amalia Visser
Hidden, Not Forgotten-Kyra Van Schouwen & Abby Van Roekel
Beyond the Ghetto Wall-Chloe Nonhof & Brynn Vanden Brink
Unbreakable Code-Kortney Hofmeyer & Amaya Vande Vegte

Randy Hilbelink, Social Studies teacher



Second grade News

The 2nd graders have been busy traveling around the world learning about different continents and countries. We have even used boarding passes and gotten our passports stamped as we move from continent to continent. Most recently we traveled around Europe and were able to learn some interesting facts about the Netherlands, England, Italy, and France. We also have had some special guests come in and share experiences they had visiting and living in some of these places. It has been fun to learn about God's great big world and all the children around it that He created and loves.

Jennifer Noteboom, 2nd grade teacher



Sports Update

After missing soccer and track last spring due to Covid, our Junior High students are excited to be playing this year. This spring the weather has cooperated and we have been able to get outside for practices. That isn't always the case so we are very thankful for that.

This year our boys soccer team will be coached by Dillan De Jong who is a former OCCS and Unity graduate and currently a student at Dordt University. Our boys' team will have 17 boys participating.

This year our girls' soccer team will be coached by Micah Byl. Micah is a recent Unity graduate and is also a student at Dordt University and is a member the soccer team there. Our girls' team will have 22 girls participating this spring.

Our track coaches will once again be Melanie Witt and Karlyn Brunst. Our track team will consist of 18 girls and 15 boys. They will be participating in 4 meets this year: Unity Christian, Western Christian, Sioux Center Christian's Trailblazer Invite and Northwestern College.

We look forward to watching our students compete this spring. We hope the weather cooperates for them and they are able to get their games and meets in.

Travis De Jong, Athletic Director



Mark your calendars on Saturday, April 24 for the 6th annual OCCS Tiger Toss. We are changing things up this year with a later date, moving it outside (weather permitting), and including bingo instead of Serenity Stage. There's still a great pulled pork supper, bean bag tournaments and childcare throughout the evening. The early tournament starts at 4:00 pm, supper at 5:00 and we will wrap things up with the late tournament at 6:00. Grab your friends and family and come out to celebrate Phase 1 of Project Engage! There's a registration fee for bean bag teams and freewill donations will be asked to cover the evening expenses. Register teams of two online at OrangeCityChristian.net by April 21. Check out the school website for more details!

Staff Wish List 2020-21

Supporters of OCCS, it takes a lot of resources to make a school run smoothly. Budgets are tight and we work hard to ensure that school dollars go as far as possible. Most supplies used in the classroom and around school are budgeted. However there are resources and items teachers would like to purchase but they do not fit into this category. The teachers and staff members have created a "wish list".

If you would like to give toward any of these wish list items, you may send it to the office. The school will take care of ordering the wish list item. Thank you for helping out in this way!

Name	Grade/Department	Item	Quantity	Amount
Jen Wielenga	Library	Book wishlist		varies
Harvey	Middle School	Energy Ball Chair	1	\$103.12
M. Noteboom	2nd Grade	globe	1	\$34.99
List	Title I	Reading prizes	1	\$16.99
Krommendyk	Kindergarten	Book Bins	5	\$25.00
Krommendyk	Kindergarten	Storage bins	3	\$25.00
Krommendyk	Kindergarten	Paint brushes	2	\$15.00
Krommendyk	Kindergarten	class markers	1 or 2	\$35.00
M. Noteboom	2nd Grade	Charlotte's Web Books	35	\$9.99

Board Report- April 2019

March Balance Sheet: \$405,488.61

We are thankful contracts have been signed and returned.

Morgan Van Hulzen has been hired to fill the math position in the middle school. She comes to us from Sioux Falls Christian. We are excited for her to join the OCCS community next school year.

A committee is being formed to evaluate Phase II and Phase III of Project Engage to evaluate the best next steps. We are thankful for a growing school and we ask for prayers and guidance as we look to meet our growing needs.

The Strategic Planning Committee continues to meet to evaluate and update the financial model that best fits OCCS. Watch for details to be shared in the upcoming months.

Thank you for your continued prayers for wisdom and discernment as decisions are made concerning OCCS.

*Respectfully submitted,
Heather Hofmeyer, board secretary*

Tiger PAWS Update

The Tiger PAWS board met on March 22. During that meeting, we received reports from board liaisons for current active Tiger PAWS committees.

- The Take-n-Bake Pizza fundraiser raised over \$4,000. Thank you to that committee for adjusting and working hard to make that "fill-in" fundraiser successful. Thank you to all who purchased pizzas and continue to support Tiger PAWS!
- We discussed the "Fun Food Days - Bless Our OCCS Staff!" event and feedback received from faculty and staff. It was very well received, and we hope to do it again next year.
- All Tulip Festival committees have started to meet and make plans for our Tulip Festival food, tent and Straatmarket.
- The board discussed committee needs for the upcoming 2021-2022 year. Board liaisons have been contacting families for the open spots.

We are looking forward to the fun and busy time of Tulip Festival. Thank you for your continued prayers and support of Tiger PAWS!

Anita Nykamp, Tiger PAWS Board President

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UNITS			
Church Unit	Requested for 2020-21	Contribution for 2019-20	Balance Remaining
Calvary CRC	\$93,600.00	\$88,388.88	\$5,211.12
First CRC	77,400.00	66,069.17	11,330.83
Hospers CRC	12,600.00	8,400.00	4,200.00
Immanuel CRC	104,400.00	74,532.46	29,867.54
Living Water	64,800.00	34,496.13	30,303.87
Redeemer URC	48,600.00	48,600.00	0.00
Other Supporting Churches	3,600.00	3,600.00	0.00
Partner Society	106,650.00	92,954.53	13,695.47