



## 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.

### Gentleness and Love

It is beginning to feel like spring! Spring sports are underway and I look forward to watching lots of soccer games this year. The weather gets warmer and the landscape comes back to life. Spring is a wonderful season in Iowa. These last two months of school go by very quickly.

At school there are so many great things happening and lots of busyness and activities. While these are things that we look forward to and enjoy, they can also bring extra stress. Combine that with coming off a long winter and an even longer school year, people's fuses can be short and not as much gentleness and love is always shown. It is a good time for our themes of March and April to be Gentleness and Love.

Our verses for March and April are: "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger." Proverbs 15:1 and "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:34-35.

These verses compliment each other so well. We show the world that we are Christ's disciples by how we love each other. One way we show this love is by the words we choose to use, especially in the busy and stressful seasons of life. God, our loving Father, handles us gently, he calls us to do the same with each other. As we study these verses with our students and children it provides an excellent opportunity for honest self-reflection.

During this busy time, gentleness and love go a long way, even as we bring up concerns. Those around us will appreciate the gentle answer and the loving attitude. Just as you will appreciate it when the situation is reversed. I look forward to a wonderful spring and finishing out the school year strong. Thank you for your support for Orange City Christian School.

Shalom,

Jason Alons, Principal

## Grandparents' Day

**Friday, April 29, 2022**

**9:30 K-4 Musical: Happily Forever After**  
**10:30 Middle School Musical Performances**  
**10:45 Mr. Alons Greets our Guests**  
**10:55 Classroom Open House**  
**12:00 Dismissal**  
**(no lunch served)**



### K-4 Musical

Knights! Castles! Princesses! Dragons! Join Princess Pride, Sir Brags-a-lot, and their curious band on an amazing trek to a faraway land. The OCCS K-4th Graders will present the musical, "Happily Forever After" on April 28 at 7:00 pm and on April 29 at 9:30 am in the OCCS gym. Join in as they encounter troubles and temptations on their way to a "Shining Kingdom". Does the dragon hopelessly block their way or is "Happily Forever After" actually not a fairytale? The kingdom's coffers will need to be replenished so a free will offering will be taken.

## A Year in the Life of a Fourth Grader

Fourth grade is a year full of excitement, exploration, and new experiences! One of the reasons fourth grade is so exciting is because we are the oldest of the elementary school. This brings lots of privileges. Some of these privileges are having a personal Chromebook instead of an iPad, being a big partner with the preschoolers, and being the stars in the K-4 musical in the spring.

We have a lot of new learning experiences in fourth grade. We get to read *Little House in the Big Woods* with high school students from Unity and have a celebration where we dress up as pioneers and experience what life might have been like. We get to explore things like how the government works, Iowa history, life in a pond, and the solar system. We stretch our faith by learning about the Old Testament and reflecting on what God wants us to learn from each story by answering the questions *What? So What? and Now What?* One other exciting thing about fourth grade is getting a chance to bless others with the many service projects we do. Each week, we sort the OCCS pop can trailer before bringing it to the redemption center. We also get to spend time with the residents at Landsmeer playing games, and we do little projects around school, such as raking, picking up garbage, and writing notes to bless different people. There is never a dull moment, and we are so thankful for the many ways God helps us grow our minds and hearts throughout the year

*Laura Joustra, 4th grade teacher*

## Science Fair

Beginning in late December, 40 groups of 6th-8th grade students began research on their science fair projects. Experiments were conducted throughout January and when the calendar flipped to February, those projects became much more visible as students began printing and gluing their findings on display boards in the hallways. We invited judges in on March 10 & 11 to give the students an opportunity to share their work with an outside audience and receive feedback on their work and ability to communicate their results. The hard work culminated in a “Science Spectacular” in the afternoon of March 11th when family and friends were invited in to experience bubble gum blowing, catapult launching, grass growing, and bacteria growing.

At the Science Spectacular, the following awards were presented:

Judges Choice:

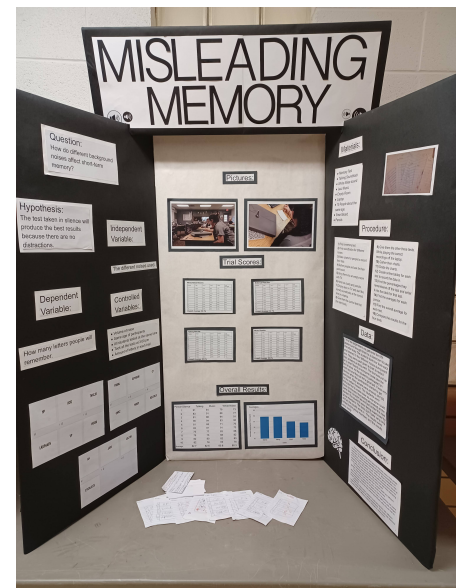
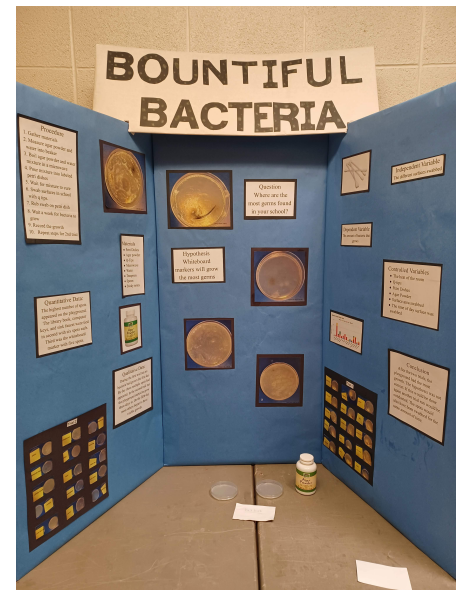
- 6th: “Paper Airplanes”: Abraham Hanson, Elliot Klompjen, Archer Huizenga
- 6th: “What Motivates a Bunny the Most?”: Olivia Bootsma & Ava Klemme
- 7B: “Misleading Memory”: Ayva Van Schouwen, Lauren Noteboom, Kaylee Dykstra
- 7S: “Motivational Effects”: Emily Oordt, Miya Schrock, Amber Vande Zande
- 8VS: “Battery”: Joshua Campbell, Owen Reitsma, Weston Huisman

Teacher’s Choice:

- 6H: “Hail Mary.”: Connor Van Dyke, Ryder Bebb, Greyson Moret
- 6O: “Touchdown.”: Troy Wiuff & Kaden De Weerd
- 7B: “Biology Etiology”: Cael Millard & Ben Philipsen
- 7S: “Launch Away” : Blake Wielenga & Tyler Brunst
- 8VS: “Accurate Ammo”: Lily Bonnema, Tyler Poppema, Brayden Harskamp

Persistence Award:

- 6th: “Super Soil”: Meraya Dittman & Morgan Cleveringa
- 7th: “Growing Crystals.”: Cody Vis, Aaron De Jong, Emmett Kiel
- 8th: “Caffeine Crops”: Joshua Bousema, Andrew Poppema, Mia Schuiteman





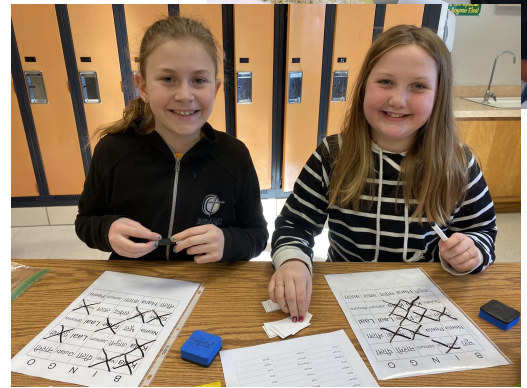
## Middle School Concentrated Studies: India

The third week of March was Concentrated Studies week in the middle school. 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 India was chosen. Topics included government, famous places and people, animals, the Hindu religion, historical architecture, and traditional Indian music and holidays. Students participated in many activities such as playing the traditional sport kabaddi, acting out India folktales, designing traditional clothing with paper dolls, and playing bingo with Hindi colors. Parent volunteers helped with a taste test of traditional Indian food including chicken masala, potato curry, and naan bread, and the week ended with the movie *Life of Pi* which referenced Indian culture, folktales, and language.

Throughout the week, students also worked on a booklet, recording what they learned through writing and pictures. The booklet ends with a letter explaining what they appreciate most about India and its culture. Concentrated Studies week is always a fun opportunity for students to break from routine, work with some new people, and experience more of the variety that God has put into his world and its people.

*Karlyn Brunst, middle school teacher*



## Sports Report

Our final athletic season of the year is off and running. Our Junior High students are busy practicing for both soccer and track. The weather has cooperated with us so far and we can be outside, which is always a good thing.

This year our track teams are again coached by Melanie Witt and Karlyn Brunst. Kinsey Schiebout is also helping out with our high jumpers. We will participate in four track meets this year. Unity Christian, Western Christian, Northwestern College, and Sioux Center Christian will all host a meet for us. We currently have 15 girls and 20 boys participating in track. We look forward to our meets to show how hard we have been working.

Our boys soccer team is coached by Dillan De Jong and Travis De Jong, while our girls are coached by Luke Andres and Jordan Helming. We have 15 girls and 22 boys participating this spring. Things have looked a little different so far. We are patiently waiting to get on our new soccer field but things are taking a bit longer than anticipated. We are thankful that Unity Christian let us use some of their extra space while we wait. We are hoping to host a couple games on the new field but we will wait and see if it is ready in time.

*Travis De Jong, Athletic Director*

## Memorial Stones and Patriotic Art

On January 6, 2022, Orange City Christian students were privileged to listen to a presentation by artist, Ray "Bubba" Sorensen from Greenfield, IA. He was invited to OCCS as part of the Artist in Schools project that brings artists of all types into the school each year. Ray is most known as the creator of the Freedom Rock Tour. His project goal was to paint a memorial rock in each county in the state of Iowa and he shared his inspiration and process for this project with students.

Ray's passion for patriotism is rooted in family members that served in the Armed Forces. After hearing stories about his veteran uncle and seeing the movie, "Saving Private Ryan" he felt called to create a painting to say thank you to all who serve our country. He was given permission to paint a vandalized rock in the county. That was the start of the Freedom Rock Tour.

In response to this experience, Mr. Hilbelink challenged 7th and 8th grade social studies students to choose a National or local memorial to research. From this research, they made a document that shared what they had learned. In art class with Mrs. Siemonsma, students took what they researched and designed a memorial stone to honor the purpose of the researched memorial. Stones were donated by GCC Ready Mix and students choose one that they thought might work with their design idea.

The 5th and 6th grade art classes are also participated in a patriotic project. After Ray's assembly, they noticed that the flag is used as an important patriotic symbol in his Freedom Rocks. The design of our country's flag was observed and they learned the symbolism of its design. In art class, students were challenged to design a patriotic painting using flag elements. Through these experiences, 5th-8th grade students learned how important it is to remember those that have fought and died for the freedoms we enjoy in our country. We cannot take these blessings for granted.

*Sue Siemonsma, art teacher*



## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

April 14-18	Easter Break
April 20	5th Grade Geology Fair
April 21	Kindergarten Visit Day 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
May 2	4:00-9:00pm - Pig-in-the-Blanket work night
May 4	7:00 pm Preschool Year End Program
May 6-7	OCCS Marching Band to Pella Tulip Festival
May 10	7:00pm - Strings' Night
May 12	Last day of preschool
May 19	11:30 dismissal - Tulip Festival, OCCS Tiger marching band
May 20	No School - Tulip Festival, OCCS Tiger marching band
May 23	7:00pm Hymn of the Month Program at First Ref. Church
May 26	12:00 noon dismissal 7:00pm - 8th grade graduation at First CRC
June 7	Pick up report cards from OCCS office
July 4	OCCS office closed for observation of the 4th of July holiday
July 18-29	School closed, no TRIP sales

## MEMORIALS

Joyce Hulst



## Board Report - April 2022

- March Balance Sheet: \$281,626.00
- Contracts have been signed and returned.
- Anna Zeutenhorst has been hired as the Covenant Kids Preschool Director and Paige De Jong has been hired as a preschool aide. We are excited to have them join the OCCS community next school year.
- The board approved a 3% increase in staff salaries for the upcoming budget year.
- We have hired Oleson+Hobbie Architects for the next building project. Preliminary drawings are looking great and we look forward to sharing more details about this project in the near future.
- Karlyn Brunst has been approved as the 8th grade graduation speaker.
- Thank you for your continued prayers for wisdom and discernment as decisions are made concerning OCCS.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Jen Elgersma, Board Secretary*

## Tiger PAWS

With spring among us, many Tiger PAWS committees are gearing up for the Tulip Festival Tent and Straatmarket booth! Behind these two serving opportunities are a number of committees that serve: Soup and Tavern, TF Pigs, Kitchen, Tent, and Straatmarket. Everyone will come together to make the festival pigs and to serve in some way at the festival. We look forward to hearing of new connections made with parents and supporters we are working with that we may not know and connections with people outside of our school community interacting with our school for maybe the first time. Our community is a family, we are blessed to have one another and have an opportunity to support our school while sharing our lives with one another.

Also, during the Tulip Festival we will be celebrating the 100 years that God has given Monica/Tiger PAWS. We are welcoming all associates for a get-together to celebrate 100 years of supporting Orange City Christian School! We'd love to have many associates attend this event on Friday, May 20. Please put the date on your calendar, and watch for more details to come!

*Blessings,  
Kristin Mellema, Tiger PAWS Board President*

## 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	\$92,232.63	\$5,767.37
First CRC	76,000.00	57,645.14	18,354.86
Hospers CRC	16,000.00	11,150.68	4,849.32
Immanuel CRC	100,000.00	80,297.74	19,702.26
Living Water	70,000.00	31,111.73	38,888.27
Redeemer URC	46,000.00	46,000.00	0.00
Other Supporting Churches	12,000.00	12,000.00	0.00
Partner Society	174,000.00	138,868.77	35,131.23