



ORANGE CITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

Dec 2020/
Jan 2021

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.

Passion

It is such a blessing to be into the second semester of our school year. The cold winter temperatures are here and we are in the heart of the school year. Lots of wonderful learning is happening at OCCS.

This past month our theme included learning about Elijah. He was, in the Jewish mind, the epitome of passion for God. His entire life was about showing everyone that the Lord was God. That is literally what his name means. And through his passion, the people of Israel were able to see God's power.

The familiar story of Elijah on Mt. Carmel illustrates his passion so well. The picture below is from the top of Mt. Carmel looking down into the Jezreel Valley. The picture doesn't do justice to the 4 ½ mile trail to get to the top and 2200 feet ascent. Elijah climbed that trail up and down 2 times that day, slaughtered the prophets of Baal and Asherah, then ran a marathon faster than a horse and chariot. He did this all on about one biscuit a day while he lived with the widow and her son.

What a picture of passion for God. He definitely was sustained by God's Spirit, but think of the passion he showed. Because of that passion the people of Israel saw God's power in a dramatic way.

Even though most of us can only aspire to have Elijah's passion, we have an incredible staff here who strives hard each day to partner with our wonderful parents. With that passion we get the blessing to show God's power, goodness, and creation to our students. During these long months in the middle of the school year, please continue to lift OCCS up in your prayers. Thank you so much for your support. Blessings to you and your families.

Jason Alons, principal



Middle School Spirit Week

Our middle school spirit week took place February 1-5 this year, which was in-between our 8th grade tournament weekends. The week kicked off with our 8th grade girls taking time to decorate the hallways with balloons, streamers, ribbons, and pictures, which got everyone in the mood for school spirit! Prior to Spirit Week, our Tiger Council met to decide our dress-up days for the 5th-8th grade students and teachers. This year, our theme days were: America Day, Book/Movie Character Day, Decades Day, Class Choice Day, and School Spirit Day. The students did a great job of dressing up in so many creative costumes for the week!

Matt Van Scheven, Middle School teacher



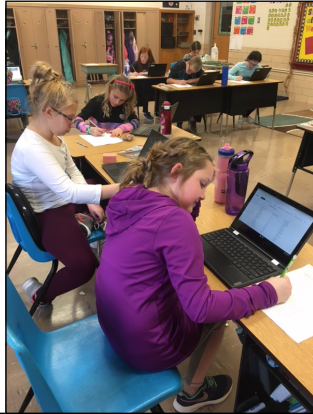
Regions, Websites, and Murals, Oh My!

One of the exciting things about fourth grade is the fact that it is the first year we get to use Chromebooks. Each student is given their own personal Chromebook to use at school for various activities. Throughout the year, the fourth graders get to learn how to use different digital tools, such as creating documents, presentations, videos, and even websites!

Since December, the fourth graders have been busy creating websites to help teach their classmates about different regions of the United States. They began by researching all about one region in their textbooks, discovering what the land is like, the industries, and the history of the region.

They then created a website about that region, adding pictures and videos to help explain the information. After the websites were completed, the rest of the class used the website to learn about the region, and then created a small mural that shows what that region is like based on what they learned. It has been a lot of fun seeing the fourth graders learn how to use research and presentation skills in a new way, discover more about God's unique world, as well as share their God-given gifts of creativity in both their website and mural!

Laura Joustra, 4th grade teacher



Honors Orchestra

Many OCCS Strings students were accepted into the Northwest Iowa Middle School Honors Orchestra for 2021!

Congratulations to:

- Violin: Autumn Bousema, Drew Noteboom, Kallie Zwart, Morgan De Groot, Joslyn Vis, Celeste Van Kley, Kate Van Grouw, Katie Young, Haley Schuller, Kaylee Dykstra
- Viola: Emma De Rooy, Amber Vande Zande, Dustin Vande Voort
- Cello: Brynn Vanden Brink, Kendra Breems, Kortney Hofmeyer, Amalia Visser
- Bass: Madison Hoogland, Emily Oordt

We are so thankful for the gifts and opportunities that our students have been blessed with! The Honors Festival and Concert will be held at a later date.

Dixie Wielenga, orchestra director

Welcome to kindergarten!

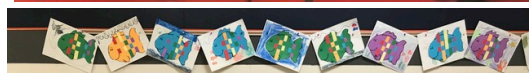
Our 29 kindergarten students are having a very exciting but unusual year. Here's a virtual look at it! Our day begins each morning with lining up outside (or in the gym if the weather is nasty) and all coming in together. We also have to go out of the building to meet our parents, helpers, or bus at the end of the day instead of having someone come to pick us up inside school. This was a little intimidating at first, but now we are pros!

How many times do you wash your hands each day? It is at least 5 times for us during the school day! During first semester, we had extra exercise by bringing our hot lunches all of the way down to our rooms to eat it. This was good, because we could eat with our pod friends. Just don't forget your milk or utensils! We also learned to use the right side of the hallway - oops, hallway to dump our trays and to go in and out for recess. We felt like cars at first! We have pods, which are really the table friends we sit and learn with. This helps us stay healthy. We can change them more often now, so we really know our classmates well. We also play at recess only with our kindergarten class. This too, has been good because we get to know our friends in the other kindergarten section. We are thankful for God's protection this year, as many of us were quarantined at home at times, but very few of us have become ill.

Our kindergarten Thanksgiving celebration was unusual too, this year. We joined with our first grade friends and had a traveling celebration using our 4 classrooms. Each room had something special for us to learn and enjoy. Speaking of thankful, we also give thanks that we now may have parents, and special visitors come into our classrooms for educational purposes. We like the change of lunch in the gym and the experience of K-3 group singing time! We are blessed to finally get to spend time with our 5th grade level partners in person too!

Our biggest event came in January, when it became our turn to lead K-4 worship in chapel. We enjoyed memorizing God's word and saying it with all of the other students. The Bible hero of faith for January at OCCS was Elijah. He had a passion for telling people that the Lord is God, and he gave God glory by fearlessly obeying Him and doing that. Miss Smidt encouraged us to think about our passions, and how we could use them for God's glory as well as to bless others. We made a video and showed it at chapel! You can see pictures of us with items that show our passions. Do you know what your passion is? We hope that you, like us, will consider how you may use it for God! Thanks for letting us give you a virtual peek into our classroom!

Sheryl Slegers, Kindergarten teacher



Christmas Concert

On Dec. 17, 2020, the OCCS 5th-8th graders were blessed to be able to perform in a concert at Northwestern Chapel. After a LONG sabbatical because of Covid, the students and teachers were excited to have the opportunity to showcase their work for an audience. The Orchestras, Bands and Choirs played and sang beautiful renditions of old favorites and new Christmas songs as they came together to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

The concert was opened with a look at the well known Christmas song, 'O Holy Night', which has a significant history. In 1847, a French priest was looking for something special for the upcoming Christmas Eve service. He asked a friend of his, an atheist poet, to compose a poem that would depict the story of Jesus.

The poet went to the story of Luke and penned the words to 'O Holy Night'. Realizing that the poem was something special, the poet turned to his friend, a Jewish composer, who did not believe in Jesus as Savior, to write music to go with the song.

Three weeks later the song was sung for the first time on Christmas Eve and was an immediate hit. Years later, however, the churches in France banned the song when they realized it had been written by a Jew.

Some time later, an abolitionist minister in America came upon the song and was touched by the lyrics. He refused to accept slavery as an option for people in America and used this song to promote his belief that in Jesus' name all oppression must cease.

On Christmas Eve, in 1906, a college professor and former chief chemist for Thomas Edison, broadcast his voice over radio waves. This had not been done before. Reading the story of Jesus coming into this world from Luke 2, he finished the broadcast by picking up his violin and playing, 'O Holy Night', the first song to be broadcast over radio waves.

From its humble beginnings, "O Holy Night" has been sung and played millions of times over the world and has become a well known and well loved depiction of the night Christ was born.

The music that was played and sung at the concert was a reminder of that first holy night and the meaning behind it.

O Holy Night, the stars are brightly shining. This is the night of our dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining 'til He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees: O hear the Angel voices! O night divine, O night when Christ was born.

Dixie Wielenga, music teacher

Honor Band

This year's honor band selections have been made, but were made in a bit of a different process than in the past. The kids had to send in audition videos this year instead of auditioning in person. We had 11 students selected to the Northwest Iowa Honor Band.

- Flute: Autumn Bousema
- Clarinet: Callie Karhoff, Madison Hoogland, Lily Bonnema, Kallie Zwart, Kate Van Grouw
- Tenor saxophone: Jaelye Woudstra
- Trumpet-Mackenzie Huizenga and Caden Oolman
- Baritone-Kendra Breems and Kortney Hofmeyer.

Jaelye and Mackenzie both got first chair for their instruments so they will also get to participate in the All-Iowa 8th Grade Band Festival in May.

Kim Huizenga, band director



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 throughout the year. This season definitely looked a little different than previous seasons. Through it all, we are thankful that we were able to get our season in and stayed healthy while doing it!

Our 7th grade girls team, coached by Josh Fakkema and Blake Anderson, finished with a record of 6 wins and 2 losses. Our 7th grade team consisted of one 7th grader and nine 6th graders. Our 8th grade team, coached by Brandon Woudstra, finished with a record of 12 wins and 1 loss. They finished off the season with a 1st place finish at the Christian Schools annual 8th grade tournament.

Our 7th grade boys were coached by Beau Risley. The boys finished the season with a record of 3 wins and 6 losses. Our 8th grade boys were coached by Jason Smit. The boys finished the season with a record of 6 wins and 8 losses. They finished up their season at the Christian Schools annual 8th grade tournament with a record of 1 win and 2 losses.

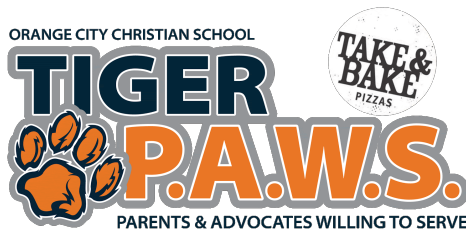
I would like to thank these coaches for the giving up of their time to work with our kids. We appreciate your commitment and dedication to our program.

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

Travis De Jong, Athletic Director

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

February 15	No School - President's Day
February 18	5:30-6:30pm Preschool Open House
February 24	1:00pm - P.S./4th grade lead chapel
February 25	Strings Festival at Western, concert at 4:00pm
February 25	5:30pm - Preschool registration
March 18	5:30pm - Parent meeting for kindergarten class of 21-22
March 19	End of third quarter, 12:00 noon dismissal
March 29	P/T Conferences for 5-8
March 30	P/T Conferences for 5-8
March 31	1:00pm - 3rd/8th grade lead chapel
April 1-5	Easter Break, No School
April 22	Covenant Kids Preschool Grandparents' Day
April 22	7:00pm - K-4 musical, OCCS gym
April 23	Grandparents' Day 9:30am - K-4 musical, OCCS gym



Tiger PAWS Update

The Tiger PAWS' Soup Supper committee has been working hard to find an alternative to our normal soup supper fundraiser in February (due to COVID, the soup supper has been canceled). We are excited to offer a Take & Bake Pizza fundraiser through Pizza Ranch!

- Online ordering of pizza sales will take place from Monday, February 15 – Sunday, February 28. The online order form will include details on types of pizza and prices.
- Payment will be cash or check at pickup.
- Proof of order will be required at pickup, so save your order confirmation email or print it!
- Drive-thru order pickup will be Tuesday, March 16 from 5 m – 7 pm on the East side of OCCS (kitchen entrance).

Thank you for your continued prayers and support of Tiger PAWS!

Anita Nykamp, Tiger PAWS Board President

Board Report

January balance sheet: \$512,621.28

A sincere thank-you for all of the prayers and financial support for Project Engage. Phase I is complete. We are completed our fundraising! We are so thankful for the space we have to educate students. We look forward to future plans as Phase II needs are being evaluated.

A strategic planning committee has been formed to evaluate and consider the financing model that best fits OCCS.

The COVID task force continues to meet regularly to monitor and advise based on current information.

Standardized testing at OCCS has been updated to MAPS testing three times throughout the year. This will replace the annual Iowa Assessments.

Grandparent's Day plans are being worked on. This event will look different this year. April 22 and 23 are the dates. Specific details are still being determined and will be published soon.

Kindergarten round-up parent meeting will take place March 18.

We are so thankful to have had a full school year of in-person learning. Thank you for being patient as we experience this pandemic. Your support has been an encouragement. We thank the administration, teachers and staff for accommodating all the changes. We thank God for the community of OCCS as we continue to move through this together.

Heather Hofmeyer, board secretary

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UNITS

Church Unit	Requested for 2020-21	Contribution for 2019-20	Balance Remaining
Calvary CRC	\$93,600.00	\$66,388.88	\$27,211.12
First CRC	77,400.00	46,431.17	30,968.83
Hospers CRC	12,600.00	8,400.00	4,200.00
Immanuel CRC	104,400.00	53,332.46	51,067.54
Living Water	64,800.00	32,296.13	32,503.87
Redeemer URC	48,600.00	39,085.00	9,515.00
Other Supporting Churches	3,600.00	3,600.00	0.00
Partner Society	106,650.00	75,449.35	31,200.65