



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.

Joy

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas! I love this time of year. I really like the weather getting crisp. I love spending the Thanksgiving holiday with my family and looking forward to the Joy of Christmas.

That is the focus of our theme this month, Joy. Our verse is Romans 15:13, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." This is a very busy season in an already busy culture. Knowing we trust in a God who can give us peace is comforting.

In our busyness, happiness comes and goes. This is true for adults and children. God doesn't promise to fill us with all happiness. His promise is for something so much deeper than that. Some of our days are filled with happiness, other days it feels like happiness is difficult to come by. But through it all we have a joy and peace from God that is difficult for some to understand.

In this season we remember our reason for joy - the gift of His Son, our Savior and Lord, and the power of His Holy Spirit. May the Joy you have be seen by others so they may praise the Father in Heaven. Have a blessed holiday season.

Shalom, Jason Alons



Honor Choir

It was great to be able to send students to the NWI Middle School Honor Choir after not having it last year because of COVID! The festival took place on Tuesday, November 2, at the Le Mars High School. Students from OCCS that participated in the festival include: Makenna Huizenga, Ariel King, Lily Bonnema, Kate Van Grouw, Emma De Rooy, and Andrew Poppema. Congratulations to all of these 8th graders for doing a great job of representing OCCS at this event!



Honor Band

Ten students from Orange City Christian School were selected to participate in the 54th annual Northwest Iowa Junior High Honor Band festival which took place on Saturday, November 6, in Storm Lake. They rehearsed during the day and then performed in a concert at 4:30 pm. Students from OCCS that participated include (front row): Amber Vande Zande, Emily Oordt, Ben Philipsen, Drew Noteboom; (back row) Lily Bonnema, Kate Van Grouw, Kallie Zwart, Katie Young, Joshua Bousema, and James Foreman. A special congratulations to Kate Van Grouw who was selected to participate in the All-Iowa 8th Grade Honor Band Festival which will take place in Des Moines in May.

Iowa Junior Honors Orchestra

Kallie Zwart was chosen by nomination to be a part of the Iowa Junior Honors Orchestra in Ames on November 19. The concert at the Fisher Theatre on the Iowa State campus consisted of two orchestras of 6th-9th grade students and was held in conjunction with All State Orchestra, Band and Choir. Congratulations, Kallie, on receiving this honor!



Kindergarten Update

Kindergarten at OCCS is a fun and busy place. Here are some facts about us, as well as new and enjoyable activities that have been keeping us busy these first three months:

- K is for Kindergarten students. There are 34 of us this year! We are very grateful for our wonderful helpers; Mrs. Dykstra & Mrs. Brummel.
- I is for Interesting Science with Mrs. Slegers, and Social Studies with Mrs. Krommendyk and trading rooms for learning time. It is fun getting to know both teachers.
- N is for the New interactive boards in our rooms. They are smaller, brighter, and are fun to learn to use.
- D is for the Dentist, who is one of our community helpers, along with Pizza Ranch. We are learning about how to be good citizens, future community workers, how to care for our bodies and for our beautiful smiles that God has given to us!
- E is for our Exciting trip to Fields of Fun, each picking out a pumpkin, experiencing an educational hay ride, exploring a maze and learning about the pumpkin life cycle that God creates.
- R is for Recess of course! We have three, and most of us have brought our snow pants as we anticipate the first snowfall!
- G is our great God who we are learning to know through His word, prayer, & learning about His world everyday! It is ALL about Him!
- A is for we Are Always excited to have our big friends in 5th grade join us. We will be making gingerbread houses together later this month!
- R is for Routines that help us to be organized and ready to learn. Add to that Really fun activities, like camping with a big tent in our classroom!
- T is for Twelve (yes, Twelve!) verses that we have memorized already this year, AND all of Psalm 100!
- E is Enjoying a new way to have a Thanksgiving celebration this year. We celebrated with our friends in first grade (Pilgrims) and the kindergarteners dressed like Native Americans. We traveled from room to room enjoying crafts, songs, easy history stories. (And a few silly ones too!).
- N is for New activities and learning that continues to take place in this special area of OCCS. Thank you to all of you for partnering with us as we continue our mission of helping our children to see Him, learn to know Him, love Him and equip them to use their gifts as His servants in His beautiful world.

Blessed to be their teachers, Sheryl Slegers & Diane Krommendyk

Fall Concert

This fall the middle school students of OCCS learned the classic patriotic songs of the United States of America. They researched the background of the songs, sang the songs, played instruments to the songs, and even had the opportunity to join a zoom call with a member of the United States Marine Band.

On Monday, November 15, dressed in red, white, and blue, the students were able to show their patriotism in a concert at the Unity Knight Center. The 6th-8th band started out with a few patriotic numbers, including *The Battle Hymn of Republic*. The final number by the band was the *Star-Spangled Banner* with the audience joining along by singing. Then everyone recited the pledge to the American flag and the Christian flag. After a quick re-setting of the stage, several more patriotic songs were performed: *Colonel Bogey's Grand Old Flag* (with kazoos!), *Yankee Doodle* (cup song), *The Fifty States in Rhyme*, *This Land is Your Land* (featuring the 6th graders on ukulele), *America the Beautiful*, and *God Bless America*. A special moment of the night occurred when the 7th and 8th grade choir sang *A Tribute to the Armed Services*, a medley tribute to The Coast Guard, Air Force, Navy, Marines, and Army. Any past or present members of the military were invited to stand during their branch's song. The eighth graders were able to share some of what they learned about the various songs throughout the night and Mr. Alons closed with a prayer for our country. It was a great night to celebrate our country's rich heritage and to hear it from the next generation.

Kim Huizenga, music teacher

1st Grade Update

We have had a busy fall already this year in first grade! We have welcomed four new students, went on a field trip to the Harvest Festival, have been learning to read many new words, and led chapel in November! For chapel and also our Thanksgiving party, we made pilgrim hats and collars. Our chapel was about God's goodness that He shows to us. With our sixth grade partners, we wrote sentences and created pictures of that. Some ways we see God's goodness is through our families, church, firefighters who help people, our world and the abundance of clothes and food. Seeing and thinking about God's goodness also helped us be extra thankful this year

Mrs. Breen & Mrs. Huisman, 1st grade teachers



Orchestra Festival

The 6th-8th Orchestra students spent the day at Unity on October 28 with other orchestra students from Sioux Center, Western, Unity, Rock Valley, Hull, and Sanborn Christian Schools. Practicing several pieces with a large group for several hours made it a day of hard work but culminated in a beautiful concert at 4:00 pm for family and friends.



Tiger PAWS News

We are thankful to report that because of God's faithfulness through the willing spirit of so many, we have been able to serve and support OCCS in many ways already this year.

- Tiger PAWS was again able to cover the cost of the chapel t-shirts for the staff and students this year. Tiger PAWS has been providing the shirts for the last 6 years and looks forward to continuing to cover this expense.
- The evenings that were spent making Frozen Pigs resulted in raising \$16,708.10 for our school! Those evenings together also resulted in laughter and community building as we worked side by side getting to know someone better or meeting someone for the first time.
- Tiger PAWS provided a home-cooked meal each night of parent-teacher conferences for the teachers and staff so they could take a break and fellowship with one another.
- Our Grade Level Coordinators (GLC's) continue to support our teachers through setting up Duty Free Lunches, helping with field trips, and classroom activities.

A couple of events that are currently being planned and prepared for are the Soup Supper and a 100 Year Celebration. The Soup Supper will be on Tuesday, February 1. We pray for good weather so many can come and enjoy a night of fellowship and great food. This coming spring we will be celebrating the 100 years that Monica / Tiger PAWS has been supporting OCCS! We look forward to sharing more about this celebration in the near future.

Hearing of the support that so many offer to OCCS through many different opportunities shows the heart of service that is shining through God's people, which is possible only because of His goodness in our lives. Thank you for your continued support and most of all prayers for Tiger PAWS.

Kristin Mellema, Tiger PAWS Board President

Pastors' Day

October 27 was an exciting day at OCCS! We welcomed about 2 dozen pastors and church leaders to our school. The students, Prek through 8th grade, love seeing their pastors at school. There is an energy you have to experience to understand. We welcomed the pastors at 10:30 for some classroom time. This is where the pastors can come in and do some different activities with the students. The students get to show off what they are learning. It is fun to see the pastors interact with the kids. Then we had lunch where we divided into churches and the pastors got to eat with all the students from their church. Some really great connections and memories were made here. Pastors were able to leave after lunch if they needed to or could stay and visit more classes if they had many students to visit. It was a fun day for everyone. Thanks Pastors and leaders for all you do!

Sports Update

We are officially in basketball season. The 7th and 8th grade boys and girls have been practicing for a couple weeks and started games this past week.

This year our girls teams will be coached by Sherri Bootsma. This is her first year coaching for us. She comes with many years of experience and we are excited to have her. Our 7th grade boys will be coached by Dryce Van Sloten and assisted by Logan Schoonhoven. We are excited to have both of these young men helping us coach this year. Our 8th grade boys will be coached by Blake Anderson. This is his second year coaching at OCCS, as he coached our 7th grade girls last year. He are thankful that he is back for another year.

Travis De Jong, Athletic Director

Staff Wish List 2021-22

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 or someone you know would like to give toward any of these wish list items, you may send it in to the office. We will then let the teacher know and purchase the item immediately. You can also give a portion of the cost of an item. Then several people can donate toward an item for a classroom.

Thank you for helping out in this way!

<u>Grade/Department</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Amount</u>
3rd grade	The One and Only Ivan	30	\$6.96 each
3rd grade	Vocabulary Binders	20	\$19.99 each set
4th Grade	Books for Classroom Library		Prices Vary
4th Grade	Keyboard Covers for Typing	32	\$14.88 each
4th Grade	Noise Cancelling Headphones	6	\$13.99 each
4th Grade	Wood Clipboards	2	\$9.95 for each 6 pack
4th Science	Indoor Plant Light	1	\$27.99
5th-6th grade	Flocabulary-website subscription		\$120 a year
5th-6th grade	Storyboarding		\$7.99/month
7th-8th grade	Electric pencil sharpener	1	\$30.00
Kindergarten	Playtime toys - dolls	2	\$22.00
Kindergarten	Playtime toys - beads	1	\$20.00
Kindergarten	Playtime toys - Legos	1	\$25.00
Kindergarten	Privacy shield durable washable	1	\$13.00
Kindergarten	Play doh brand playdoh any colors but white		
Library	Parachute	1	\$19.88
Library	Bookmarks	1	\$11.99
3rd grade	Noise Canceling Headphones	8	Any kind is fine
PE	Heart Zone Heart Rate monitors	Class Pack of 25	\$3,900
2nd grade	Heggerty Phonemic Awareness-teacher manual	1	\$79.99
Friday Care	Scissors		\$15.99
Friday Care	Throw Pillows	2	\$27.99 each

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

December 16	7:00pm - K-5 musical, OCCS gym
December 17	10:00am - K-5 musical, OCCS gym
December 21	Chapel, 2:45pm
December 22	12:00 p.m. dismissal
Dec. 23-Jan. 3	Christmas Break
January 4	Classes resume
January 10	7:00pm, music room - Financing/Tuition Changes Discussion
January 14	End of second quarter, 12:00 dismissal
January 25	7:00pm, music room - Financing/Tuition Changes Discussion
January 26	1:00pm chapel led by Preschool & 4th grades
February 1	Tiger PAWS Soup Supper
February 15 & 17	P/T Conferences
February 16	Chapel led by PS & 4th grades
February 18	No School
February 21	Presidents' Day - No School
February 24	Jr. High Choir Festival (7th & 8th grades)

MEMORIALS

Rudolph Boonstra
 Elsie Meendering
 Junior Poppema
 Lorna Reinders
 Arlene De Jong

Board Report

November balance sheet: \$372,793.11

We purchased the De Groot house on the corner of Iowa Ave and Third Street. Our plan is to demolish the house for additional parking.

The Phase 23 Committee is reviewing discussions from the staff regarding needs for the next Project Engage building project. Please be in prayer for those on the committee as they review various building plans and work to fulfill the needs of our school.

The board will be hosting three informational meetings on some financing/tuition changes being discussed for the upcoming school year. All three meetings will have the same information. The first was held on December 2 and the others will be held at 7:00 p.m. on January 10 and January 25 in the music room. Please plan to attend.

On behalf of OCCS we would like to extend a tremendous THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to NICSTO this year. We hope that your donation is not only a benefit to you with your taxes, but also know that your donation is benefit to the families here at OCCS.

Continued prayers for the board and its committees are appreciated.

*Faithfully submitted,
 Jen Elgersma, board secretary*

Year End Giving

You CAN give to the next building phase now! The board is in the process of planning the next phase of our building project. With your help, our school had an exceptionally successful phase 1. Even though the details for phase 2 (or newly named phase 23) have not been completed and approved, we anticipate great things moving our school forward meeting our needs for the next decade and more. We are currently accepting donations so we will be ready to move forward as soon as plans are finalized. Thank you for your consideration.

TRIP News

The office is open for TRIP sales. You can purchase TRIP on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 8:00am - 3:30pm and Wednesday and Friday from 8:00am - 12:30pm. The last time to purchase or pick up gift cards before Christmas will be Wednesday, December 22 before noon. Stop in soon to make sure you can get the gift cards you need for Christmas.

The TRIP office is closed over Christmas break and will reopen on Tuesday, January 4. During the shutdown, you can still order eGift cards and reload gift cards through the Shop with Scrip website or the RaiseRight app.

Kim Vande Zande, TRIP Coordinator

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UNITS

Church Unit	<u>Requested for 2020-21</u>	<u>Contribution for 2020-21</u>	<u>Balance Remaining</u>
Calvary CRC	\$98,000.00	\$46,103.51	\$51,896.49
First CRC	76,000.00	26,654.36	49,345.64
Hospers CRC	16,000.00	5,554.88	10,445.12
Immanuel CRC	100,000.00	40,089.08	59,910.92
Living Water	68,000.00	7,960.65	60,039.35
Redeemer URC	46,000.00	35,008.00	10,992.00
Other Supporting Churches	12,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
Partner Society	178,000.00	87,512.42	90,487.58