



## 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.



## Class Of 2022



The graduation ceremony was held for the 8th grade Class of 2022 on Thursday, May 26th at First CRC in Orange City. The class chose Matthew 6:34 as its verse, which reads, "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself." Addressing the class was Mrs. Karlyn Brunst, Literature and Language Arts teacher for the class the last two years. She spoke on all the worries that seem to pile on our plates, from the smallest to the biggest. Through a visual representation of blocks and the assistance of parents, teachers, and classmates, we saw we are able to help one another with our burdens, but true relief of our worries only comes from giving them over to Christ.

The twenty-one graduates received their diplomas and Bibles from board representatives Mr. Dan Foreman and Mrs. Melanie Van Grouw, parents of two of the graduates. Lily Bonnema and Kallie Zwart were selected to speak on the graduates' behalf, providing memories of their time at OCCS and thanking teachers, staff members, and parents for their roles in helping the graduates reach this milestone. The ceremony closed with the class singing the class song "He Will Hold Me Fast".

Afterwards, family and friends gathered with the graduates in the gym at Unity Christian High School to express their congratulations and share in the celebration.

*Matt Van Schepen, Middle School Teacher*

### IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

*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

*August 2-4, 9-11*

GUFS for those registered  
10:00am-12:15pm

*August 11 & 15*

Registration for 2022-23  
year, music rooms  
6:30-8:00pm

*August 22*

Back-to-School Night  
6:30-8:00pm

*August 23*

First day of school for  
2022-23 school year  
8:45am Dedication Service

*September 5*

Labor Day - No School

*September 6*

Preschool begins

## Fruit of the Spirit

Summer is here, the halls are quiet.

Our theme of “The Fruit of the Spirit” was a blessing. Spending the year looking at each of the characteristics and studying together how to apply them to our lives was great to do as a school.

A year ago in July, when I introduced the theme, I pointed out that in Galatians the “fruit” is singular. Meaning, you can’t pick which of the fruits you want to take and which ones to leave like a fruit salad at a buffet. You need to have all of them, like the characteristics of an apple. Without one characteristic, an apple is no longer an apple.

We ended the year with our Hymn of the Month program, a favorite of so many of you. We went through each month and looked at a different characteristic each month. It worked out really well since there were 9 months in school (roughly) and 9 characteristics. The Bible verses that we put with each characteristic were so fitting. I really enjoyed how they all worked together and complemented each other. The different pieces really work together like all the different characteristics of an apple to make one apple.

I want to leave you with the verse from May: Peace. It is Numbers 6:24-26. “The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.” What a fitting verse to end the school year.

Thank you for your support and being a part of a great school year. We had a good year, the Lord is on the throne, and he has certainly blessed OCCS. Have a great summer.

*Shalom, Mr. Jason Alons, principal*

## Sports Update

As we put the finishing touches on another school year, we see the end of our 2021-22 athletic events! This spring was a busy one for our Junior High students. We had students participating in marching band, track and soccer on top of many other school related activities.

Our track team was able to participate in all 4 of their meets this year with great weather. Once again our track teams were very successful and we saw another record fall. Our boys 4X400 meter relay team consisting of James Foreman, Tyler Poppema, Owen Reitsma, and Tyce Van Donge broke the record with a time of 4:09.15. The previous record of 4:09.56 has stood since 1997. We also a heartbreaking near miss in the open 800m run by James Foreman. It was a fun spring this year and we are thankful we were able to participate in all 4 meets.

Our soccer teams had another successful season. The coaches really enjoyed working with our athletes and felt they grew a lot in their skills. A big emphasis was put on understanding the game better and they did a great job picking that up throughout the season. On top of that the coaches were very appreciative of how hard the boys and girls worked this season and how well they grew together as a team as the year went on.

We would like to thank our coaches: Melanie Witt, Karlyn Brunst, Kinsey Schiebout, Luke Andres, Jordan Helming, Travis De Jong, and Dillan De Jong. Thank you for you taking the time to work with our athletes. It is a big commitment and we appreciate you doing it.

That is a wrap for our 2021-2022 athletic season.

*Travis De Jong, Athletic Director*

## Honors Orchestra



Congratulations to Kallie Zwart and Emily Oordt who were accepted into the ISTA State Honors Orchestra on violin and bass violin. The girls rehearsed and performed in concert in Cedar Falls on May 14 with students from around the state of Iowa. Great work, Kallie and Emily!

## Math Bee Season

Many OCCS students in grades 4-8 participated in local math bees during the spring months. The math bees hosted by Northwest Area Education Agency (6th grade) and Northwestern College (7th-8th grade) focus on concepts taught in each grade level while the bees for 4th, 5th, 7th, and 8th hosted by Dordt University challenge students’ mathematical reasoning skills. The students enjoyed testing their individual knowledge as well as working together as teams to solve complex problems. Below are the participants from each grade level and individual/team awards:

**4th Grade:** Abbey Beadner, Zemirah Bogaard, Garrett De Groot, Tanner Dykstra, Elsie Mellema, Lizzie Philipsen (top 20 individual), Caleb Pontier, Maggie Visser, Audrey Zuiderveen, Eliana Zwart

**5th Grade:** Selah Breen, Collin Dykstra, Levi Dykstra, Claire Hellinga, Elizabeth Muilenburg

**6th Grade:** 1st place team—Kaden De Weerd (top 20 individual), Meraya Dittman (top 20 individual), Arielle Moreau (top 20 individual), Leyton Woudstra (top 20 individual), Henry Zylstra

**7th Grade:** Dordt 1st place team—Drew Noteboom (Dordt & Northwestern-top 20 individual), Jericho Breen (Dordt & Northwestern-top 20 individual), Kaylee Dykstra, Owen Mellema, Ben Philipsen; Beckett Masters, Cael Millard, Emily Oordt, Ayva Van Schouwen (Dordt-top 20 individual)

**8th Grade:** Lily Bonnema, Joshua Campbell, Emma De Rooy, James Foreman, Kallie Zwart

*Kim Philipsen, STEPS Teacher*



## Strings Night

Strings Night 2022 was a bit of a blast from the past! 2018 to be exact!

The 8th graders raided Mr. Alons' office in the dark of night to find the EASY button...yes, the same easy button that they used for their 4th grade musical to travel ALL around the world. Unfortunately Mr. Alons was IN his office in the dark of night and foiled their plan. (Everyone knows the principal lives at school!) Fortunately, Mr. Alons kindly handed over the easy button and String Night 2022 began! The 8th grade class, even the ones NOT in orchestra, visited many of the same countries that they visited in 4th grade and many even squeezed into the same costumes! There were a few new surprises included. Fortune cookies, a Wellerman Body Percussion Song that the audience knocked out of the park, and a trip to UNITY all added to to the fun.

We say good bye to Ariel King, Gunner Whitman, Emma De Rooy, Olivia Kuiper, Makenna Huizenga, Katie Young, Kate Van Grouw and Kallie Zwart as they leave the OCCS orchestra. May the Lord bless them and keep them as they go on to high school!

*Dixie Wielenga, music & orchestra teacher*



## Grandparents Day 2022

If you walked through the door of OCCS on April 29, you could feel the excitement and love in the air. Hundreds of grandparents and special friends came to show their support to the Kindergarten through 8th grade students. The gathering began in the gym with the K-4 musical. Forty-two fourth grade students, supported by the students in K-3, showed how trusting the carpenter (Jesus) is the best way to live. He defeats the dragon (Satan) and his Word is a firm foundation to build our lives upon. Jesus Christ is the one who guarantees our "Happily Forever After."

After the musical, the middle school students had the opportunity to share a few musical numbers. The 7th-8th graders sang "Kyrie" and "Give Me Oil in My Lamp" followed by the 5th-6th graders who sang "Shine" and "This Land is Your Land" (accompanied by the 5th graders on ukulele).

Following the middle school performance, the classrooms and hallways buzzed with grandparents and students. The students gave their guests a glimpse into their work at OCCS as well as honored their grandparents through poetry, interviews, cards, and memories. Thank you to all those who attended Grandparents Day! You are very much appreciated!

*Kim Philipsen*



## OCCS Tiger Marching Band Travels to Pella

On Friday, May 6, the OCCS Tiger Marching Band travelled to Pella, Iowa, to perform at their Tulip Time. The trip went exceptionally well and was fun for all! The beautiful weather added to the experience as well! 96 students and 34 adults left Orange City in two charter buses early that Friday morning. The students marched in the afternoon and evening parades on Friday and the afternoon parade on Saturday. The students especially liked marching in the evening parade when it was dark and they got to wear glow necklaces and be cheered on by the large crowd. The rest of the time was spent eating, playing organized games, enjoying the festival downtown, swimming, worshipping together and sleeping on the gym floor. A big thank you to Pella Christian Grade School for hosting us on Friday night. We also want to thank the chaperones who came along on the trip and the adults that were on the planning committee. Without the help of these people, we would not be able to participate in such an event! Thank you for cheering us on as we marched in the parades!

*Mrs. Huizenga and the OCCS Tiger Marching Band*



## Tiger PAWS Update

The end of the school year is a whirlwind with field trips, concerts, projects, and Tulip Festival. We are so thankful for the many hands that serve the school through Tiger PAWS events, especially in the busy month of May. We had another great year representing our school and our Father through the tent and the Straatmarket booth. Many smiles can be seen on both sides of the serving counters, and for that we are thankful. We are thankful for the connections made within our school this year as we work side by side, we are thankful for the money raised to support our school, we are thankful for willing hearts and able bodies, and we are thankful for new friendships formed.

We are especially thankful that we are able to continue what was started over 100 years ago through the work of countless generations that have the same commitment to OCCS as we have today. On Friday, May 20, we were able to hold a celebration of the 100 years Monica and Tiger PAWS have been supporting OCCS; we were happy to host around 40 women! Memories were shared through pictures and stories, laughter was heard, and God's faithfulness was evident through the generations that were present.

Thank you for a great Tiger PAWS year. We look forward to all that God has in store for the 2022-23 school year. Have a great summer!

Blessings,  
*Kristin Mellema, Tiger PAWS Board President*



## Board Report

May balance sheet: \$154,511.81

A special society meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 15, to review plans and vote on the next building project. Your attendance is requested and appreciated. No absentee ballots will be accepted.

Tuition and fair share amounts have been approved for the 2022-2023 school year along with a new sliding scale for tuition. Be watching for registration information as it becomes available late summer.

Travis De Jong has been hired as our next Development Director and will continue to teach 4th-8th PE classes. Missy Brummel will be taking the PE classes for grades K-3 to make room for the new responsibilities.

We thank God for a wonderful school year and pray that our students and staff will be able to enjoy their summer break.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Jen Elgersma, board secretary*

## Farewell to Staff

OCCS bids farewell to some staff members who have served our school faithfully in different capacities.

- Mary Beth Breen has been at our school in 1st grade for 8 years. She is transitioning to be a professor at Northwestern in the education department.
- Morgan Schoonhoven has moved with her husband to Edgerton, MN. She will be teaching middle school literature at Southwest Christian School.
- Kim Starkenburg is retiring after 37 years at OCCS and 42 years overall.
- Denise Blankespoor has been a helper in our preschool for 17 years. She is "retiring" from the classroom to follow other opportunities.
- Mary Goslinga has been helping in our preschool and other classrooms for 3 years. She will fully retire now.
- Justin Schrock worked as our development director for 1 ½ years. He will be focusing on his business, The Triple Box.
- Barb Bouma has worked in our kitchen for 3 years and subbed this past year. She will fully retire now.

We wish them well as they begin these new chapters in their lives.

### 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	\$93,503.96	\$4,496.04
First CRC	76,000.00	70,748.91	5,251.09
Hospers CRC	16,000.00	0.00	0.00
Immanuel CRC	100,000.00	100,000.00	0.00
Living Water	70,000.00	41,157.33	28,842.67
Redeemer URC	46,000.00	46,000.00	0.00
Other Supporting Churches	12,000.00	12,000.00	0.00
Partner Society	176,000.00	163,991.77,	12,008.23

### MEMORIALS

Leland T. Woudstra  
Mary Addink  
Gertrude M. Woudstra