



# Orange City Christian School

## **SPOTLIGHT**

MARCH/APRIL 2010

Orange City Christian School provides academically sound, Scripturally-directed instruction to assist Christian parents in teaching their children to know God and His world, to develop godly character as Christ's image bearers, and to acquire knowledge, skills, and values to fulfill their calling as His servants.

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### Principal's Thoughts

Partnership . . . One dictionary defines "partnership" as a person or persons associated with another person or persons in some common activity. This dictionary also notes that people within a partnership can also be allies.

This definition describes two levels of partnership.

The first is the basic idea of simply being involved in an activity with someone else. There is not much depth or commitment associated with this idea of a partnership. Circumstances put you and someone else together so you fulfill your obligations but not much energy is required nor does much exertion occur.

The second part of the definition connotes a next level of partnership . . . being allies. This level is deeper and will require more commitment, energy, and exertion. There will be more effort required but there will also be opportunity for greater reward.

At Orange City Christian School, there are many partnerships that are naturally in place. Two that I would like to focus on in this article are the partnership between the school and families and the partnership between the school and churches. Looking back at the two-part definition in each of these two partnerships . . . school and home, and school and church . . . it is possible to achieve the first level of simply being involved in a common activity and never becoming allies. I am thankful that in my first year at Orange City Christian School this is not the case.

This year has been rich with contacts and interactions with families who truly want to be allies with the school. I have

seen this at music concerts, sporting events, Parent-Teacher Conferences, soup suppers, chapel services and other positive contacts and interactions. I must also say that through this year there have been a number of contacts and interactions that were initiated as a result of concern and distress. Again, it has been a blessing to see that even in these situations, which began in the context of disagreement, can have closure, end in agreement, and prove that the school and the home can be allies. This topic reminds me of what is often called, "The Administrator's Conflict Prayer". "Dear Lord, there will probably be 'fire' during this meeting. I pray that the 'fire' provides not only 'heat' but 'light' as well."

Recently the alliance between the school and churches has been very obvious. This past month I had the privilege of meeting with the deacons and elders of a number of churches that provide support to Orange City Christian School. These meetings were wonderful times of sharing and reciprocal encouragement. Questions were asked, topics were discussed, and plans were described. Most meaningful was that at each meeting, time was spent in prayer. It was made crystal clear that the leaders of these churches truly desire to be allies with Orange City Christian School.

Both of these partnerships, school and home, and school and church will take work and effort. Each partnership will require prayer and communication. These last two sentences remind me of a memorable chapel service I attended while in high school. The Reverend Marvin Heyboer of Hull 1st CRC used

Proverbs 14:4 as a passage to help us see that the blessings of life are almost always preceded by effort. "Where there are no oxen, the manger is empty (clean), but from the strength of an ox comes an abundant harvest." Reverend Heyboer shared that if you don't have an ox, you won't have the cost and effort of feeding it or caring for it. If you don't have an ox you won't have to do any work cleaning the manger. But if you don't have an ox you also won't have its strength and value either. Reverend Heyboer transferred this idea to life and the reality that rarely does satisfaction take place without there first being prayer and hard work.

I thank God for the wonderful partnerships and alliance that are in place at OCCS and pray that these partnerships will continue and deepen in the years ahead.

### Tulip Festival 2010

The time is fast approaching! Monica will again be serving soup, taverns, hotdogs/coneys and pie under the Big White Tent during the Festival, May 13-15. Many willing hands make light work. Plan to attend and help make this fundraiser a great success!

*Gifts given in  
memory of.....*

Willemina Pals  
Henrietta Hoogland  
Carolyn J. Niezen

## March Theme

The theme we are focusing on for the month of March is the “E” of our TIGER traits. The “E” represents being an encourager. As students and teachers it is important for us to encourage one another in our daily tasks and activities. The Bible verse we are learning to help us with that is Hebrews 10:25 which says “Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us *encourage* one another-and all the more as you see the day approaching.” We are also learning the Hymn “Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”.

It can be so easy to pick out the bad in someone instead of the good. As we focus on this TIGER trait and the verse, our prayer is that each student will see the importance of encouraging one another and not tearing each other down.

## April Theme

For the month of April we will continue the TIGER traits that have been worked on throughout the year. In the beginning of our school year we focused on how to be respectful to God, others, and the earth. For the month of April, we will return to the idea of being respectful in all areas of our life. Our verse for the month comes from I Peter 2:17 and it says, “Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.” The song for the month is “The Servant Song” which is a reminder that being a servant to others is a way to show our respect to God and others. Our prayer for the students is to show this respect not only here at OCCS, but to continue this respect in all areas of their life.

## Board Report

- Balance sheet \$200,131. This does not include any cash from the building campaign.
- January income of \$152,414. Expenses \$114,974, increase of \$37,440 for the month of January.
- As of February 1, the total for the building campaign is \$788,000 in cash and pledges.
- The school calendar for 2011/2011 school year was approved with a starting date of Tuesday, August 24.
- A pancake supper is being planned for late March or early April.
- The board has met with various church councils.
- As a result of the society meeting held February 1, it was decided to form a core group of individuals to work with an architect to obtain final drawings for the building expansion project.
- The budget for the 2010/2011 school year was approved at \$1,390,000.
- Faculty contract date was March 3, 2010.

*Respectfully submitted Brad Bosma, board secretary*

## First Grade News

This year has gone amazingly fast! With all the snow days the weeks seem to fly! We have been enjoying a new reading series this year and have been challenged to really work hard and it has been paying off. Many of us have become quite the readers! We also are working hard in math with facts all the way up to 20! We always learn the addition ones first and then the subtraction ones. We have been very concerned about Haiti this year and have prayed often for the victims of the earthquake. In February we celebrated our 100th day of school! We also wrote what we would do if we had \$100.00. For many of us, we thought giving it to Haiti would be great. For others we thought a new i-pod, TV or using it to buy gas to go visit Grandpa and Grandma sounded like a good idea. We look forward to the rest of the year as we continue to learn more in our subject areas as well as in how we need to live for Christ and specifically how we must always show respect to God, others and ourselves.

## Monica

Monica Society continues to be busy raising funds to lower tuition costs for every family at OCCS. The Soup Supper had a great turnout with around 850 people attending and we raised over \$6,000.00. Thank you to everyone for making the night a great success!

Remember that you can always bring in your coin banks, pop cans, Box Tops, labels and milk jug caps throughout the year to add to our earnings. And if you need more school supplies, talk to Amy Van Roekel. She has everything you need in stock.

In the mean time, Tulip Festival committees are busy planning for the upcoming festival and we are praying for another good year in the tent. The big white tent will be up in the north parking lot by Iowa State Bank during Tulip Festival and we’ll be serving all your tasty favorites. So bring your friends and family and join us at the tent!

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UNITS

Church Unit	Requested for 2009-10	Contribution 2009-10	Balance Remaining
Calvary CRC	\$72,500.00	\$48,870.71	\$23,629.29
First CRC	400,00.00	16,636.04	23,363.96
Hospers CRC	6,250.00	2,600.00	3,650.00
Immanuel CRC	70,000.00	38,608.65	31,391.35
Living Water	29,375.00	15,830.00	13,545.00
Redeemer URC	22,500.00	15,557.96	6,942.04
Partner Society	25,000.00	12,091.00	12,909.00

## THIRD GRADE ABC'S *(Written by Mrs. Boer's and Mrs. Witt's third graders.)*

**A** is for **Australia**. Australia is known as the land down under because it sits 'under' the equator. Most Australian families live on a coast. Australia is the second driest continent. The word 'Boomer' means huge, and many Aborigines still live on reservations protected by their government. Aborigine art work is awesome! And don't forget about the unique animals living there!

**B** is for **Black History Month**. We studied Ruby Bridges, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Harriet Tubman. Harriet became a slave when she was six. While in her late twenties, Harriet ran away to the North to find freedom. Later she returned to the South to rescue more than 300 slaves in a short amount of time.

**C** is for **City**. We loved building our third grade cities and our suburbs. We learned a great deal about an industrial area, a central business district, and a residential area.

**D** is for **Dog Breeds**. In Reading class we studied different dog breeds. We learned that dogs can be helpful, obedient, loyal, and very loving.

**E** is for **Electricity**. We learned that static electricity shocks you, that current electricity only runs through circuits, that meter readers read our home meters, and we learned how a light switch works and how a circuit breaker works.

**F** is for **Five Senses**. We carefully studied each of the five senses to see what specific jobs they have and how they work. We made models of each sense to show us the intricate parts of each sense and to remind us how each one works.

**G** is for **Geometry**. We studied the names of many solid figures and geometric figures. We learned that many shapes form angles, and that a line of symmetry isn't a line of symmetry unless each time you fold a shape all sides match.

**H** is for **Helping Haiti**. Haiti had a terrible earthquake that destroyed most of the country. Our school collected money to send to Haiti so that Haitians could begin to rebuild their lives and their properties. We saw God working in our hearts.

**I** is for **Indian Unit**. We found out that the Native American people set up their tipi doors facing east. We saw how these people were resourceful and used everything wisely. We also enjoyed touring the Orange City Museum to learn more about the Native American people and their culture.

**J** is for **Jackie Robinson**. Jackie Robinson was the first black American to play on an all-white baseball team. Even though Jackie's family was poor, he made the most out of his life.

**K** is for **Knowledge**. We gained a great deal of knowledge about water. We learned that water can be a solid, a liquid, or a gas. We each were able to present a water experiment to the class. Did you know that all living things contain water and need water to survive?

**L** is for **Listening**. Mrs. Ribbens taught us many things about the importance of good listening. We learned that when we don't listen well we mess up our work.

**M** is for **Multiplication**. We learned several tricks to help us

memorize our facts. We keep practicing because we want to be fast at knowing the multiplication answer.

**N** is for **Natural Resources**. Did you know that everything is made from a natural resource? Natural resources are so important to our lives that we must replace them when we use them or we must reduce, reuse, and recycle them.

**O** is for **Our Penmanship; Cursive**. We have had a good time learning cursive. We learned how to make words without picking up our pencil. Cursive is cool. We love using it!

**P** is for **Parent Presentations**. Many of our parents told us about their jobs and the many things they do in a day. We learned that there are thousands of careers for people to consider going into when they are older.

**Q** is for **Quoll**. It is an Australian animal. The quoll is the size of a cat. It eats insects, rabbits, and mice. It's hair is thick and soft.

**R** is for **Reading**. We read many stories in the third grade. One of our favorite stories was "Your Dad Was Just Like You". We interviewed our dads and compared ourselves to them. We found out some interesting things! We read "Tornado Alert!" In this story we learned that a tornado can spin up to 300 mph! Sometimes they are called cyclones. Reading is awesome!

**S** is for **School**. We love learning in school. It is fun. Our school is the best place in the world to learn!

**T** is for **Tiger Traits**. T is for Trustworthy. I is for Imitator of Christ. G is for Grateful. E is for Encourager. R is for Respectful. S is for Self-Control. These six letters stand for six words that teach us how to live.

**U** is for **Underwater Machine**. Dr. Robert Ballard was the first scientist to discover the Titanic wreckage at the bottom of the North Atlantic. We enjoyed reading the story, "The Marvelous Underwater Machine" which taught us many facts about this historic event.

**V** is for **Valerie Kroll and Bethany Vander Zouwen**. They were our student teachers in third grade. They were the best student teachers ever! They taught us many new things.

**W** is for **Word of God**. Each day we learn lessons from the Bible during our devotion time and in Bible class. In the book of Exodus, God rescued the Israelites from Egypt. He led them through the Red Sea. The Ten Commandments were given to them at Mount Sinai.

**X** is for **eXtra special year**. Third grade is a special year. We look forward to our Ancient Egyptian reports, the K-4 program, Grandparents' Day, our President Parade, Dutch Games, a field trip to Sioux City, and the K-8 Hymn of the Month program.

**Y** is for **You**. Each person is created by God with special gifts, talents, and abilities. You are a special child of God!

**Z** is for **Zebulan**. Jacob had twelve sons. We memorized their names in order from oldest to youngest. The sons of Jacob are Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulan, Joseph, and Benjamin.

## Marsville

The 5th graders would each like to share with you one of the many interesting facts that they learned as they studied Mars, and prepared for their pretend journey. These facts helped them to know how to create a simulated system that would help them to “survive” on Mars.

We learned that:

- Mars has the largest known volcano in our solar system and its name is Olympus Mons. *-Anna*
- The country of North America is about as big as the canyon Valles Marineris on Mars. *-Max*
- There are craters, mountains, valleys, and sand dunes on Mars. *-Alli*
- The communication from Mars to Earth takes 20-30 minutes. *-Amber*
- The gravity on Mars is 38% of Earth’s so it would be hard to walk, run or do sports. *-Makendra*
- If you weigh 90 lbs. on Earth, you would weigh 30 lbs. on Mars. *-Eli*
- There are 200-300 mph winds on Mars that create dust storms that can last for months. *-Jadon and Joel*
- Mars has big dust storms and dust devils that are like big tornadoes. *-Trey*
- Mars soil has no organic particles which makes it sandy. *-Allison*
- Static electricity is a big problem on Mars because of the sand and dust. *-Noah*
- Mars is red because the whole planet is covered with rust and iron oxide. *-Joey*
- Mars was named after the Roman god of war. *-Nicolas*
- The temperatures on Mars can drop deep down to -280 degrees. *-Ashley C.*
- The warmest Mars ever gets is 80 degrees on the equator. *-Charlie*
- The highest temperature ever recorded on Mars was 80 degrees. *-Daniel*
- Your skin can freeze at -81 degrees on Mars. *-Josie*
- There are no Martians on Mars. *-Kade*
- There are no living organisms on Mars. *-Ashley V*
- There’s no bacteria on Mars. *-Travis*
- There is no water on Mars that is not frozen. *-Raegan, Tristan, and Juliana*
- There is hard, packed, frozen soil on Mars. *-Kelsey*
- Mars air is 95% carbon dioxide. *-George and Levi*
- There is 0.2% oxygen on Mars. *-Jos*
- At times Mars can be far from Earth and at times it can be close because of its orbit. *-Kit*
- Mars has 2 moons. *-Zach*
- Astronauts use a special chair that makes you have less gravity to train for space. *-Klayton*
- They have already sent many rovers on Mars. *-Jordan*
- In 1965 Mariner 4 got twenty-two images that revealed craters like the moon’s. *-Luke*
- Astronauts have planned a trip to land on Mars and return sometime between 2009-2015. *-Lyndsey*

We had a great time learning about Mars!!

### IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- March 30 & 31 . . . P/T Conferences - 5:00-9:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m. dismissal
- April 2-5 . . . . .Easter Break
- April 20. . . . . 4:00-8:00 p.m. Solo/Ensemble at Sioux Center Christian
- April 22. . . . . K-4 musical, 7:00 p.m. OCCS gym
- April 23. . . . . Grandparents’ Day, 10:00 a.m. K-4 musical
- April 27 & 29 . . . 5:30 p.m. - finish, Monica Pig-in-the-Blanket at OCCS gym
- May 4. . . . . Strings’ Night
- May 5. . . . . 7:00 p.m. Preschool program
- May 13 & 14 . . . Tulip Festival, 11:30 a.m. dismissal
- May 24 . . . . . 7:00 p.m., Kindergarten program, OCCS gym
- May 26 . . . . . 7:00 p.m. Hymn of the Month program, First Ref. Church
- May 28 . . . . . Noon dismissal
- May 28 . . . . . 7:00 p.m. OCCS graduation at O.C. 1st CRC
- August 24 . . . . . First day of 2010-2011 school year, half day of school

### Congratulations!

Congratulations to Ben Kuiper for winning first place in the Northwest Iowa Reading Council’s Creative Writing Contest. He consequently went on to win first place in the Iowa Reading Council as well.

Congratulations to Martina Hoogland and Kendra Kroese for winning second and third place respectively in the Northwest Iowa Reading Council’s Poetry contest.

Congratulations to Jeff Jeltema and Michael Wolgen for representing our school in the state spelling bee to be held on March 20.

## 2010 OCCS Science Fair!!



Orange City Christian Middle School was a hub of excitement in March as 87 students in grades 6-8 prepared science experiments for display and presentation. The planning and actual experimenting took place earlier but it was in March that students exhibited their work on a display board and had an opportunity for it to be evaluated by science fair judges. The science fair is one way students are able to take a direct hands-on approach to science in our curriculum. Our science fair is alternated every other year with History Day in grades 7-8.

Our school had some excellent projects this year which required a lot of hard work. Our students were able to share these with other classes as well as parents at conference time. A big thank you has to go out to our judges this year who gave up some of their time to evaluate and encourage our students. Our judges this year were: Phil Bach, Harvey Obbink, Brian Rosenboom, Dave

Mulder, John Wagenaar, Jan Altena and Sharon Rosenboom.

All of the boards reflected much effort on the part of our students. A sampling of science fair boards and their key questions are:

### 6th Grade

Darienne Driesen & Sara Ackerman for *Can You Taste It?*--Can you identify the flavor of a sucker after smelling mint or almond extract?

Dalton Vande Weerd, Trey Kroeze, & Calvin Korver for *Drop, Plop, Fizz*--When you drop a mento in pop, which pop makes the fizz go highest?

Hannah Jorgensen, Jayci Nibbelink, & Samantha Bombaars for *Gerbil Genius*--Do gerbils have a memory and how long does it last?

### 7th Grade

Trey Poppema, Micah Vande Vegte, & Emily Wielenga for *Flushing Out the*

*Truth*--What brand of toilet paper is the best overall deal?

Klay Byker and Caleb Herman for *Rinse 'Em Out*--What mouthwash kills the most oral bacteria?

Jennie Droog and Lyvia Wagenaar for *The Perfect Pan*--Can you blame the burnt cookies on the cookie sheet?

### 8th grade

Logan Mars & Kaleb VandenBrink for *Just Fling It!*--How does arm length on a trebuchet affect the distance thrown?

Emma Walhof for *Crystal Clear*--Does starting temperature affect growth of sugar crystals?

Jeff Jeltema for *Playing with Fire*--Which type of household fabric burns the quickest?

Ben Kuiper & Tyler Van Surksun for *Leaning Tower of Pasta*--Which spaghetti tower supports the most weight?

## Congratulations Honors Orchestra

Twelve OCCS Strings students participated in the Northwest Iowa Middle School Honors Orchestra in LeMars on February 11. The students rehearsed under the direction of Mr. Joe Shufro from Morningside College. An evening concert was held with the students playing, "A Swedish Melody", "Mantras" and "Shores of Ireland".

Students involved were: Violin: Paige Nibbelink, Ava Grossmann, Caleb Herman, Abby Vanden Bosch, Micah Vande Vegte, LeAnna Zomermaand.

Viola: Jeffrey Jeltema. Cello: Emily Wielenga, Klay Byker, Jeshua Witt. Bass: Alex Blankespoor, Geoffrey Scholten.



## March is Youth Art Month!

Have you been to an art museum or exhibit lately? From March 10-April 7 take time to visit the Orange City Christian School's art exhibit in the lower level of the Orange City Public library to see the artistic gifts of our students. The exhibit shows student work in a variety of art forms such as drawing, painting, collage, printmaking and ceramics. Of course, art work is almost always on display within the school building. Check out the various hallways to see work from 1-8 grade levels.

When God finished a day of creation, he stopped to evaluate what

he had done. "It is good." God stopped to enjoy the work of his "hands" and we should too. One way to enjoy the beauty of God's creation is through the responses of artists in their artwork. A great way to see a variety of artwork is in an art museum. Recently, I had an opportunity to visit the the J. Paul Getty museum in Los Angeles with my family. What an exciting place! People of all ages were enjoying the art and architecture of the museum. I'm wondering how often museums are considered when visiting cities on our travels? In many cases, the cost could be comparable to going to a

movie. If you have not found yourself in a art museum before, I would recommend checking the museum's website to get a feel for the type of art featured or for special exhibits they might offer. Details about admission and hours would also be listed there. If you are concerned about bringing young children, museums provide suggestions for behavior. Many have interactive areas for children. Give some thought to visiting an art museum or even our local galleries. Imagine the interesting conversations that could be shared along the way?

*In January the NW Iowa AEA Traveling art exhibit was on display in OCCS hallways. Participating students: Max Wolgen, Kyle Oolman, Paige Nibbelink, Logan Mars, Mitchel Vander Stoep and Hannah Van Roekel.*

*Not pictured  
Joseph Bartels and  
Klay Byker.*



## Labels For Learning

A big "thank you" to all the kids, parents, grandparents and everyone else for bringing in your labels this year! They are really adding up! We are having a great year and looking forward to a strong finish. Did you know that with your help, we have been able to purchase printer ink, office supplies, teaching supplies, sporting and outdoor equipment, plus earn money for Monica? These are just a few of the areas that have benefited from all your hard work!

Remember to have the expiration date visible on the Boxtops labels and to include the entire UPC on the Campbells labels. Here's a reminder of what we collect... Pizza Ranch wagons found on medium and large pizza and chicken boxes, Boxtops for Education labels found on General Mills cereal boxes, Betty Crocker cake mixes, Kleenex boxes and many other products, Land O Lakes milk and orange juice lids, Tyson Project A+ labels found on the top of chicken packages, Fast Fixins Home Team labels and Campbells Labels for Education. Don't forget you can donate your labels at Fareway and Don's Food Center as well as school.

So, keep snipping and seeking out those tiny rewards. This is a great project for OCCS and so easy to benefit from! Let us know if you have any questions or would like to know more. Jen 722-1246 or Rachel 567-3528.

*-LAL Committee*

## Spring Sports at OCCS

As the snow and ice slowly melt away, the excitement for spring athletics is quickly coming around. This spring many of our 7th and 8th grade students will be participating in track and/or soccer. The week of March 14 will mark our second week of soccer open gyms. While the soccer teams will patiently play indoors until the fields dry out, the track team will officially start practices after spring break. The track team will be coached this year by Mr. Eekhoff and Mrs. Witt while the soccer teams will be coached by Troy Leusink, Stephanie Van Ruler, and Mr. Van Ruler.

Please come out on the following dates to support our track team:

Wednesday, April 28: Unity Christian Jr. High Track Meet  
Wednesday, May 5: Western Christian Jr. High Track Meet  
Wednesday, May 12: Dordt College Jr. High Track Meet

Our soccer games and track/soccer practices will be scheduled soon and will be posted on our sports calendar on our web site, [www.orangecitychristian.net](http://www.orangecitychristian.net). Hope to see you out there soon!

*In His Service,  
Dan Van Ruler, A.D.*