



Orange City Christian School

SPOTLIGHT

MARCH/APRIL 2011

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

"Living In Two Worlds" . . . that phrase implies the situation when we have more than one thing to think about or focus on. The phrase also connotes a person having multiple responsibilities or duties that have little or no connection or "overlap". Family obligations, along with professional requirements, as well as civic, community, and church involvements can result in a person feeling frazzled, frenzied, and frenetic. Often the phrase "Living In Two Worlds" has negative connotation. It can reflect busyness, hyper activity, and over commitment.

That is the "the cup is half empty"/pessimistic way to look at the phrase "Living in Two Worlds". There is also a "cup is half full"/optimistic view of the phrase. The conditions may still be the same . . . a person has more than one obligation, involvement, or responsibility. The difference is that those activities each have positive and enjoyable aspects associated with them. If we manage our time well and avoid over-commitment we can enjoy the blessings of the many activities that are given to us.

How does this all apply to a school and to Orange City Christian School in particular? During the months of March, April, and May schools are busy enjoying the many aspects of the current year but also beginning to think about and formalize plans for the coming year. We are to a degree, "Living in Two Worlds". Spring concerts and plays are being prepared. Grandparent Day is being planned. Numerous field trips and class activities are being anticipated. The spring sports season is beginning. At the same time, thoughts about next school year are being considered. Additions to the school technology program are taking shape. Full use of the new addition is being planned and anticipated. Ways to promote our school are being considered.

Thinking about the current year and planning for the coming year is also a time to be thankful to God for His love and provision. We are thankful for the completion of the Early Childhood Addition. The time of dedication and celebration on February 10 was a tremendous blessing. Multiple generations of school supporters gathered to sing, pray, and give God thanks for the wonderful new addition. We are also thankful for the work that God has done in the lives of many students at OCCS. Academic, social, and spiritual growth has been evident in many, many students across all the grade levels.

We don't know with 100 % certainty what the next year holds. We do have the certainty that God knows what the future holds. As we plan and prepare, we must do our part to make the coming year a season of trust and reliance on God.

Building Expansion Update

We praise God for the completion of the "building phase" of the Building on the Promise Expansion Project. Work started in June of 2010 and during the first week of February, 2011 students in preschool and kindergarten began to enjoy their new classrooms. On February 10, 2011 a dedication service took place. The preschool and kindergarten students, their parents, grandparents, and even great-grandparents, along with many Orange City Christian School supporters gathered for a time of singing, prayer, and thanks to God for the beautiful new space He provided. Various representatives from the school and the community expressed praise to God for His provision during the project.

Because of faithful and sacrificial giving, the "building phase" was completed without incurring any debt. There are still a number of aspects of the Building on the Promises "campaign" yet to be completed. The next phases include the retirement of debt that was incurred to construct the current west parking area and the establishment of an endowment fund to be used for future major building and facility needs.

To date, \$1,040,543 has been pledged toward the entire \$1,100,000 three-part project. (Early Childhood Wing, parking lot debt retirement, and future facility endowment)

As of March 14, \$875,777 has been received. As stated earlier, this allowed the \$850,000 Early Childhood Wing to be completed without debt.

The school board in a spirit of what the board believes to be appropriate assertiveness, is asking members of the Orange City Christian School community to consider additional pledging or additional giving to reach the \$1,100,000 project goal.

March Theme

The March theme, taken from the Lord's Prayer, is "as we also have forgiven our debtors." During this month we are reminded not only of God's great forgiveness for our sins, but also of our responsibility to forgive others. The theme emphasizes that if we are unwilling to forgive others when they offend us, how can we expect God to forgive us.

The Bible verse that we are memorizing along with this theme is Matthew 6:14 & 15 which reads, "For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins." The song going along with this verse is "Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive" which is from the grey Psalter Hymnal.

May God grant us the understanding of forgiveness as we go through this month.

April Theme: Resisting temptation with God's help

Hymn: Lord, I Pray

Verse: No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful, he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

1 Corinthians 10:13

For the month of April we will continue our study of The Lord's Prayer, focusing on "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one." We are not alone in temptation. Through God's help and the power of the Holy Spirit we are able to overcome it. May the words of our April hymn comfort us in knowing that our Father understands our struggles. He is with his children, listening as we sing these powerful words in prayer...*Lord, if this day I should stray, show my heart the road to take. Should I fear, please be near; hear my prayer for Jesus' sake. Amen.*

Board Report January/February

- * Balance sheet reflects \$270,648 in assets. This does not include any cash from the Campaign.
- * January income \$128,293, expenses \$132,156
- * We give thanks that the kindergarten and preschool students have moved into the new rooms and classes are taking place in the new addition! An Open House and Dedication service was held on February 10.
- * Building Expansion loan balance as of January is at \$0, pledges paid \$845,913, unpaid pledges \$192,091
- * Mr. Tien reported on recent principal and school activities
- * A church membership survey has been constructed and is available online
- * Applications were taken and interviews were held for the Middle School Language Arts and Bible position. We give thanks that Mr. Jeremy Mills has accepted this position.
- * Mr. Tien and Board members have been conducting teacher observations
- * Jenness Wolgen has taken over the duties as Head cook. Wendy Eason has replaced Jolynn Van DeBerg as assistant. Angela Vander Stoep has accepted the position to replace Esther Visser next year.
- * Recommendations for staffing for 2011-12 have been made
- * Iowa Tests of Basic Skills were given to students in grades 3-8 in January

*Respectfully submitted
Laura Malenke, board secretary*

Kindergarten has a new look!

The kindergarten class has felt so blessed by our new classroom. At the end of January we were anxious to make a move. We spent some time in the afternoon moving our supplies. It is amazing how fast you can move a classroom when you have 20 students helping out! Thursday, February 3 marked the first full day in our new room! We are enjoying the space and facilities so much! When asking the students what they like most about this room, some great responses were given. Here are a few:

"It's New"

"The floor is warm"

"It's more shiny"

"This room has more room for toys and crayons and stuff"

"I like the nice counter"

"I like the lights"

"The windows are the best!"

God has blessed our class with a wonderful gift! We are very thankful!



“Marsville”

The 5th grade class is preparing to “travel to Mars.” This educational, simulated space project was first organized and funded by the families of those who lost their loved ones in a tragic explosion. The “Challenger” space craft lifted off on January 28, 1986 with a seven member crew. It was the first time that civilians were included on a space mission, and thus a female teacher was also on board that day. Seventy-three seconds after liftoff the world watched in horror as the spacecraft ignited into flaming debris in the sky above. The cause of the explosion was later found to be faulty O-rings that allowed hot gases to leak into the external fuel tank.

June Scobee Rodgers, the wife of astronaut, Dick Rodgers, who was the commander of the controls that day writes, “It’s still hard to believe what happened that cold, somber January day, 25 years ago. But I know that there is life after tragedy, and a deeper strength to pull us through.” June, who had grown up as a child in very difficult home, had become a Christian as a teenager. She testifies to God’s strength pulling her through her childhood trauma, as well as the tragic loss of her husband.

As we prepare to learn about Mars in 5th grade, we are reminded, through the reason for the existence of this project, that God is a great and mighty God. He is the creator of the universe, which includes both Earth and Mars. He is in control of all things. He goes before us into the valleys, and leads us to the mountain top experiences of our lives. We are excited to learn about Mars, another part of his great creation. To God be the glory!

Memorials

Annette Eekhoff

Johanna Van Klompenburg

6th Grade Investigates Animals

During the months of February and March the 6th grade students studied many different types of animals throughout the world. Our unit began with vertebrates, or animals with a backbone. Each 6th grade student was grouped with two - three classmates to research one of the five classes of vertebrates: amphibians, fish, mammals, birds, and reptiles. In addition to discovering more about these classes of animals, the 6th grade students also did extensive individual research on one animal from their class. It is such a joy to be able to witness the variety and complexity that our God created in these animals.

In February we turned our attention to invertebrates, or animals without a backbone. The highlight of this unit was our squid dissection. Once the smell of formaldehyde went away, the 6th graders “dug in.” These “head-footed” creatures have little in common with animals that we are familiar with. We discovered how a squid’s siphon, pen, beak, tentacles, ink sac, chromatophores, and mantle help a squid survive in the ocean.

For the conclusion of our study of animals, the 6th grade class took a field trip to Dordt College’s Science Building. Professor Mahaffy displayed his many collections of preserved and living animals. (I’m quite happy that Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches are not native to Northwest Iowa). The 6th grade students were also able to see examples of living microorganisms that we studied earlier this year.



Honors Orchestra

Eight Orange City Christian School students participated in the 11th Annual Northwest Iowa Honor Orchestra Festival on January 20, 2011, at Dordt College.

The students were chosen by audition. They worked with guest conductor, David Swenson, Boone, Iowa, High School Orchestra Director, during the school day and performed in an evening concert.

The pieces “The Evil Eye and the Hideous Heart”, “Water Reflections”, and “Hubava Milka” were performed.

Chosen from OCCS were: Violin: Micah Vande Vegte and Josie Blankespoor, Viola: Jordan Bos, Martina Hoogland and Joe Bartels, Cello: Emily Wielenga and Klay Byker, Bass: Geoffrey Scholten.



History Day 2011

The seventh and eighth graders at Orange City Christian School participated this year in a nation wide project called National History Day. The target of this project is to give students opportunities at researching, compiling, analyzing, and presenting information about a specific topic of their own choosing. Each project also needed to relate to a theme which this year was: Debate and Diplomacy in History: Successes, Failures, and Consequences. Our classes began work in December and culminated their work March 2-4 with presentations to other grade levels at OCCS and before a pair of judges. Many thanks to our volunteer judges for their time and encouragement. Our judges this year were: Tim Allen, Gary Regnerus, Gale Tien, Minerva Van Peursem, Judy Hilbelink, Bob Winn, Mickey Snieder, and Justin Hofmeyer.

These are the eight projects for groups that will move on to the district competition sponsored by Northwest AEA in Sioux City on Thursday, March 31.



Exhibits

Success of a Train

Emily Turek and Darienne Driesen

Kaboom!

Haley Noteboom and Jessica Timermans

Elizabeth Cady Stanton: lifetime of Debate

Nicole Visser, Jennifer Droog,
and Paige Huitink

Jesse Owens

Charlie Hubbard and Jeshua Witt

What Nine Can Do!

Micah Vande Vegte and Kelsey Cooper

Executive Order 9066

Kendra Kroese and Emily Wielenga

Media Projects

Pearl Harbor

Josh Vollink and Geoffrey Scholten

Braving the Mobs

Samantha Bomgaars and
Hannah Jorgensen

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

March 29	2:00 p.m. Dismissal, 5:00-9:00 p.m. Parent/Teacher Conferences
March 31	2:00 p.m. Dismissal, 5:00-9:00 p.m. Parent/Teacher Conferences
April 7	1:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m. Jr. High Musical at MOC-FV auditorium
April 11-15	Christian Education Week
April 14	7:00 p.m. K-4 Musical at OCCS gym
April 15	Grandparents' Day, 10:00 a.m. K-4 Musical
April 19 & 20	5:30 p.m. Pig-In-The-Blanket nights
April 21-25	Easter Break
May 5	7:00 p.m. Preschool program
May 5	Last Day of Preschool
May 6 & 7	OCCS Marching Band to Pella Tulip Festival
May 10	7:00 p.m. Strings Night
May 19 & 20	11:30 dismissal for Tulip Festival
May 25	Hymn of the Month program
May 27	7:00 p.m. 8th Grade Graduation, O.C. 1st CRC
August 23	First day of school 2011-12

Monica

It's hard to believe it's the end of the third quarter already! As we reflect on this school year so far, we are reminded of God's blessings on Monica & our fundraising efforts. To God be the glory!

While some of our committees are done with their work, others, like the Pig, Tulip Festival, & Straatmarket committees are just beginning. To all

the committee Chairs & Co-Chairs, your work, time & efforts are greatly appreciated—**THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO!** As the process to fill their co-chair positions will begin in the next few months, please prayerfully consider being part of these committees!

Watch the home bulletin for the work times for making Pig-in-the-

blankets. This is always a fun time to interact with friends and to meet new families of OCCS.

Do you know how old Monica is? The year 2011 is a significant anniversary for Monica. Watch for details in the next weeks/months on the fundraiser Monica is going to do in honor of this anniversary.

Karla Kroese, Monica President

Spring Sports at OCCS

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 first 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

toward the end of March. The track team will be coached this year by Mr. Eekhoff and Mrs. Witt while the soccer teams will be coached by Troy Leusink, and Mr. Van Ruler.

The goals for the track team this year can be remembered using the acronym 'SMART':

'SMART' TRACK GOALS FOR 2011

- S** tart by training. Take time to run on your own and log down your minutes.
- M** ake sure you have good 'running' shoes and that you eat healthy during your track season.
- A** void injuries by stretching carefully at practices and at meets.
- R** un with the right mental preparation. Do your best for God!
- T** ake practices and meets seriously, try to improve your times, and praise the efforts of your teammates.

The soccer teams will be focusing on conditioning, ball control, and spacing. My high school soccer coach always told us: "Ninety-five percent of soccer is running, so we better practice!" Ball control and spacing require communication, teamwork, and trust in one's teammates. All of our drills during practice will incorporate at least one of our goals this year.

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

Wednesday, April 27 Unity Christian Jr. High Track Meet (3:45 p.m.)

Wednesday, May 4 Western Christian Jr. High Track Meet (1:00 p.m.)

Wednesday, May 11 Dordt College Jr. High Track Meet (5th - 8th at 12:00 p.m.)

Our soccer games and track/soccer practices are posted on our sports calendar on the school web site, www.orangecitychristian.net. Hope to see you out there soon!

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



Tulip Festival Tent 2011

The time is fast approaching!!! Monica will again be serving soup, taverns, hotdogs/coneys and pie under the big-white tent during Tulip Festival. We are busy planning and many willing hands are needed to make this big event a success! Spread word of the great food and plan to attend, May 19-21. Hope to see you there!

The Monica Tent Committee

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UNITS

Church Unit	Requested for 2010-11	Contribution 2010-11	Balance Remaining
Calvary CRC	\$70,793.00	\$41,791.19	\$29,001.81
First CRC	34,775.00	19,461.09	15,313.91
Hospers CRC	6,500.00	3,500.00	3,000.00
Immanuel CRC	66,300.00	40,525.98	25,774.02
Living Water	36,725.00	22,626.14	14,098.86
Redeemer URC	20,800.00	20,800.00	0.00
Other Supporting Churches	11,700.00	7,963.00	3,737.00
Partner Society	27,950.00	22,217.55	5,732.45

ORANGE CITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL TUITION SCALE 2011-12

	2010-11	2011-12
Kindergarten only	\$2,925	\$2,990
2 Kindergarten only	\$4,975	\$5,080
1 Student in grades 1-8	\$4,150	\$4,240
Kindergarten + 1 student in grades 1-8	\$6,375	\$6,500
2 students in grades 1-8	\$7,150	\$7,295
Kindergarten + 2 students in grades 1-8	\$9,300	\$9,520
3 students in grades 1-8	\$9,350	\$9,540
Kindergarten + 3 students in grades 1-8	\$10,000	\$10,210
2 Kindergarten + 3 students in grades 1-8	\$10,000	\$10,210
4 students in grades 1-8	\$10,150	\$10,345

Total cost of Education: \$ 4,882/student for 2010-11 school year

- Supporting churches are asked to contribute \$ 1,350/ student for 11/12 school year
- Partner Society members are asked to contribute \$650 per student for 11/12 school year