



Orange City Christian School

SPOTLIGHT

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 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.

Telephone 712-737-2274 • Fax 712-737-8608 • E-MAIL office@occhristian.pvt.k12.ia.us • WEBSITE www.orangecitychristian.net

Principal's Thoughts

"Thankful to God for His gifts to me, I pledge myself to be ready to serve . . ." If you were ever involved in the Calvinist Cadet Corps (a ministry to grade school and middle school boys similar to Boys Scouts), that phrase will be familiar to you. It is the opening line of the Cadet Pledge. The Cadet Pledge goes on to describe a commitment to serving God, parents, country, church, neighbors and the Cadet Corps. I greatly appreciate the opening line and foundational reason of why we serve. . . we are serving out of gratefulness and thankfulness. We serve as a response to what we have already been given from God. We are not serving in the hopes of achieving or acquiring something from God.

As a nation, we have just completed a Thanksgiving holiday. As a nation we have so much to be thankful for. Is our nation perfect? No. Have the last few years been a challenge for many in our country? Yes. While acknowledging the imperfections, as well as fully recognizing the challenges, the list of reasons to be thankful is still quite lengthy. We live in a nation that has been richly blessed. I always appreciate the season of Thanksgiving and the reminders to be thankful for all that I have. I must admit that for much of the year I take for granted things such as food, clothing, shelter, roads, cars, telephones, cell phones, and books. My post-Thanksgiving prayer is that God will help me to be thankful . . . all year long.

I am also thankful that the next religious or spiritual season we have following Thanksgiving is Advent . . . the time of longing and looking forward to the celebration of Jesus Christ's birth. I love the focus on Advent that takes place in many churches and the things such as Advent wreaths and Advent calendars. The month of reflection about Jesus and his birth is very appropriate because God's gift of salvation through His Son is what we should be the most thankful for. Food, clothing, shelter, roads, cars, telephones, cell phones, and books are all nice and wonderful. They are part of God's creation and have usefulness in our lives. But these things all pale as gifts when compared to the gift of salvation we have through Jesus.

As the Advent season unfolds and we light Advent wreath candles . . . as Christmas day approaches and we open daily tabs of Advent calendars . . . it is my prayer that from now until we celebrate Jesus birth we will continue the spirit of thankfulness and gratitude. Thankfulness and gratitude for the many blessing we have but most importantly, thankfulness and gratitude for the gift of Jesus Christ.

November Theme: Thy Kingdom Come

Psalm 22:27-28 "All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations will bow down before Him, for dominion belongs to the LORD and He rules over the nations."

In our classrooms this month we have been trying to understand these words from the Lord's Prayer. We have been reminded daily through Mr. Tien's daily announcements and words for the day, that God's Kingdom is NOW. When we pray those words, we are praying that all our families, students, church friends, community members, and all peoples of our nation and world will be drawn closer to God now, and that His kingdom and power may come into their lives now. God's Kingdom has already come! We place our confidence in knowing that the work has been completed in bringing the Kingdom in power because of the resurrection of Jesus - the victory is here!

We need to be the hands and feet of God in bringing God's love and message of salvation to the world. As children of God, we need to reflect the Kingdom right now in the way we live - we are the workers in His kingdom.

Ways that we can do that at OCCS is to learn about God's world and His gifts to us. As we grow, we can see how God has given each of us different gifts and abilities. He also has gifted us with time and the financial means to reach out to others. This month we have learned more about our local Food Pantry. We were able to view a short video made by some Middle School students that told us of the mission of the Food Pantry and how they are helping others in our community. We are hoping for an abundance of items to be brought in for our OCCS Chapel on November 22. We are also going to be able to bring in items and money for Mission Haiti in December. This gives us opportunity to reach out to those in far away countries with God's love.

Pray that students of OCCS may be messengers of the "good news" in God's kingdom NOW.

Memorials

Hattie Kleinhesselink

Margaret Goehring

December Theme: Submitting to God's Will

(Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.)

From week to week our thoughts center generally on what is our will. How often do we think about what is God's will? Do we know what his will is? Do we know how it is done?

Jesus taught us to ask our heavenly Father, "Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." Our Father in heaven has a most blessed, gracious, and holy will. It has our welfare and salvation at heart. His will can be summarized in three parts. First, his will is that his Word would be proclaimed in its truth and purity to all people. "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation." Second, his will is that all people would believe his Word and be saved. I Timothy 2:4 says, "God our Savior desires all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth." Third, his will is that we would lead holy lives according to his Word. The Scriptures state that God's will is that we should be sanctified and live lives that are pleasing to God.

In heaven God's will is done perfectly. God himself carries out his will as he wishes. Psalm 115:3 tells us: "Now our God is in heaven, he does all that he desires." He works out everything according to his will.

When we pray, "Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven," we ask our Father to enable us to be like his holy angels and to imitate them in doing his will perfectly. Then, like the angels, we also can do his good and gracious will.

May our students submit to God's will as they lead lives worthy of his calling.

Fun Night

The annual Fun Night for Orange City Christian School was held on Saturday evening, October 2. Many of the same booths were available as in previous years, and parents of seventh and eighth grade students along with their children were asked to man the booths, work in the kitchen, and sell tickets. This venture takes the place of seventh and eighth grade students going out to sell fund raiser items. It was successful again this year.

A profit of \$3,653.42 was reported. This is after expenses were subtracted.

Thanks for all the support for this event.



Board Report

- Balance sheet reflects \$243,646 in assets. This does not include any cash from the Campaign.
- October income \$143,633, expenses were \$30,638 greater than income and this is typical for the start of the school year as many supplies and expenses happen right away.
- Minutes from board meetings and the Society meeting were approved.
- NICSTO applications have been received and the processing has begun.
- Reviewed policies on Section 200 of the Board Manual.
- Discussed ideas on how to best use space of the existing classroom space once the Kindergarten and Preschool classes move to the new addition. Further discussion will be brought to the Building Committee.
- Reviewed Treasurer reports
- The new building expansion is going well and has a completion date of late January 2011.
- This year's school theme is the Lord's Prayer. Mr. Tien reported on recent school activities.
- Enrollment is down 15 students from last year.

Seventh Grade Votes

Students at Orange City Christian School participated in Iowa's student mock election held in schools across the state and sponsored by Michael A. Mauro who is Iowa's Secretary of State. Thousands of students were able to vote in the elections for governor, senator, and representative race.

Orange City Christian School prepared for voting in social studies classes for the past month and information was included on bulletin boards and multimedia presentations on all of the candidates and issues of importance such as the economy, taxes, marriage, and abortion. On Thursday, October 28, each student in grades 6-8 had an opportunity to vote.

US House of Representatives

Steve King 74
Matt Campbell 5

Iowa Governor

US Senate

Charles Grassley 77
Roxanne Conlin 2

Terry Branstad 59
Jonathan Narcisse 17
Chet Culver 3



Chapel

Our Christmas chapel will be held on Wednesday, December 22, at 8:30a.m.. We look forward to a special time of worship together. Mrs. Pam Plasier will give us an update on Mission Haiti. This will also provide a time for the students to present her with our Christmas gifts. As in the



Mike and Pam Plasier from Mission Haiti

past, Mission Haiti will be the focus of our Christmas giving at O.C.C.S. Mrs. Plasier shared with us during our November chapel that there are large numbers of families and orphans who were taken out of the city by bus following the January earthquake. These families and children were dropped off and left to find their own food and shelter with no one to help them. Many have found their way into the villages served by Mission Haiti. Mission Haiti has also filled both orphanages. The children and adults have no means of support and need food. Mrs. Plasier also informed us that almost none of these people are able to read. If there is to be hope for the spiritual, emotional, and financial future of Haiti, the children need to be able to go to school. Then they can learn to read God's word and know that He loves them, has died to save them, and has a plan for their life to serve Him. For this reason, we will be encouraging classrooms and families to sponsor as many of these orphans and school children as possible. We also will be gathering donations of food and other items. We feel we are being called to help and bless the people of Haiti through this very worthy ministry. As in the past, we know that seeing and being involved in selfless giving has a huge impact on our students. Please watch our home bulletin for details and look for ways to help your child become part of this ministry.. "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'" "The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:37-40.

Should you wish to contact or find out more about Mission Haiti, they can be found on the web at www.mission-haiti.org.

Bridges

One of my favorite units in 5th grade is on "Bridges." The students (and their parents) have an opportunity to work together to create a unique bridge. The students display a great amount of excitement in presenting their creations to the class, and we all learn about a wide variety of structures that are built to provide "a way across a gap."

As I teach the students about the variety of bridge structures and we look at many from around the world together on the internet, I am reminded of Jesus Christ, our bridge to God the Father. Without his amazing sacrifice there would be no hope, no bridge to a future life forever in heaven, no hope for tomorrow here on this earth.

Another bridge that God has lead me to include in the 5th grade curriculum is our weekly service learning project at "The Bridge." The Bridge is a local women and children's shelter, which provides a "bridge of hope" to many families who find themselves in desperate situations.

Two summers ago, as I was immersed in a graduate course on "Spirituality in the Classroom," taught on the campus of Dordt College by Syd Hielema, I was convicted of the need for my students to become involved in a regular, ongoing service project. That fall I prayed and searched for the project that would fill a need in our community and also benefit the spiritual development of my students. After several months of searching, God led me to call Sandi Altena at The Bridge. She was immediately on board with the vision for this partnership and we are now into our second year of weekly visits to The Bridge. It is a great privilege for my students, their parents, and myself to assist each week for 40 minutes with childcare, cleaning, and baking.

This joint partnership bridges a gap between the school environment and life in the community to allow for learning that becomes authentic. The service that takes place each week also allows for an authentic expression of faith. I watch my students shine for Jesus as they offer their services in a variety of ways each time we visit The Bridge.

Even though the work is not always fun, I have never heard a complaint from any of the 5th grade students. They work together showing a genuine caring attitude towards the people and the work to be done. We have grown to love the women and children there, we have learned many things about cleaning and baking, but most of all we have been blessed. We are blessed by the Holy Spirit confirming that the work we do each week is bridging the gap into eternity, as we show the love of Jesus Christ. We are blessed to be a blessing!

One of my personal favorite Christian bands, "Casting Crowns," sings, "What this world needs is a Savior who will rescue, a Spirit who will lead, a Father who will love.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UNITS

Church Unit	Requested for 2010-11	Contribution 2010-11	Balance Remaining
Calvary CRC	\$67,600.00	\$21,965.48	\$45,634.52
First CRC	34,775.00	6,204.26	28,570.74
Hospers CRC	6,500.00	2,000.00	4,500.00
Immanuel CRC	65,000.00	20,524.14	44,475.86
Living Water	36,725.00	6,516.67	30,208.33
Redeemer URC	20,800.00	17,589.33	3,210.67
Partner Society	33,800.00	18,176.50	15,623.50

Artist in the Classroom: ‘A Whole Lot of Puppet Fun!’

Lisa Laird, owner of “Pockets Full of Fun”, was our Artist in the Classroom from September 20-24. The overall goal of this artist residency was for the students to recognize puppetry as an integral art form that is used to communicate, entertain, tell stories, and teach lessons. The fifth and eighth grade students were the core groups and met with Lisa every day. They led a closing assembly on Friday, the 24th, with a wonderful performance! Those in attendance will never forget the finale of... “It’s a Wonderful World”, starring the puppet, ‘Giant Pete’. The other OCCS students were able to perform skits and readings with their puppets to their grade level partners the following week. Everyone

thoroughly enjoyed their time with Lisa. She inspired each student to stretch their creative mind. A special thanks to those who supplied the many needed items to create the puppets!

The “Pockets Full of Fun” Artist in the Schools residency was funded through

a matching grant between the Iowa Arts Council, the National Endowment for the Arts, Orange City Christian School, and the Orange City Arts Council. OCCS thanks the Iowa Arts Council for their matching funds, which enabled our students to learn about the art form of puppetry.



Fifth grade performs at the bridge



Lisa and second grade make puppets

November Sports Update: Introducing our Basketball Coaches

November marks the start of the basketball season for 7th and 8th grade boys and girls. Thirty-nine middle school students are participating in basketball this year. Our coaches this year are: Craig De Haan (7th boys), Randy Jacobsma (8th boys), Rebecca Reints (7th girls), and Amy Kallemeyn (8th girls). Last week I asked our coaches to tell a little bit about themselves and share a few goals for this year:

Coach De Haan: I attend and am on the session at Harvest Community Church in Orange City. I have four children - Dalton, Paxton, Chadon, and Jazlin. I have been married to the love of my life, Sandi, for 20 years. Goals: First and foremost they understand that they live and play for Christ’s glory alone. Basketball is another gift along with all their abilities. Second, that they are good teammates that help and encourage each other to not only be better players but better young men. Finally, to be intentional in building the core fundamentals of basketball so they are equipped to play at the next level.

Coach Jacobsma: My name is Randy Jacobsma and I am the Sioux County Treasurer. This will be my third year of coaching middle school basketball at OCCS. Additionally, I have coached tournament basketball for grades 5-10 for many years. I really enjoy getting to know the boys and working with middle school players. As usual, we want to do three things: work hard, display outstanding sportsmanship, and have fun. Also, we have other goals this season including working on being a great teammate.

Coach Reints: I am a sophomore Business Education Major at Northwestern. I am from Orange City and attended MOC-FV. My parents are Robert and Pamela and my younger siblings are Rachel, Abby, & Jacob. I love to coach middle school girls! My goals for the year are to instill a passion and

love for the game in our girls, improve everyone’s skill level, unite the girls as a team, and to have fun with all of the girls. I look forward to a great season with all of the 7th and 8th grade girls.

Coach Kallemeyn: I am a senior at Northwestern College majoring in Physical Education. I’m from Edgerton, Minnesota. My dad works here at Quatro and my mom is an interior painter. I also have two brothers. I hope to have a fun year and improve on each player’s skill level. I had a great time coaching last year and am looking forward to the season.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- December 14 P.S. - 8th Christmas Concert at NW College Christ’s Chapel
- December 22 2:00 p.m. dismissal
- December 23-31 Christmas Break
- January 4, 2011 Classes resume
- January 17 Noon dismissal
- January 21 Noon dismissal
- February 21 No School - President’s Day
- March 11 Noon dismissal
- March 18 Noon dismissal
- 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

Honor Band



The 43rd annual Northwest Iowa Junior High Honor Band Festival took place on Saturday, November 6, 2010, in Storm Lake. Approximately 400 seventh and eighth grade musicians from 44 northwest Iowa schools auditioned on October 16th for places in one

of two equal bands. These two bands rehearsed during the day of November 6 and then presented a concert that evening at the Storm Lake High School Gymnasium. Students who were selected from OCCS to participate in the festival were: Josh Vollink and Trevor Mulder, both on trombone. Congratulations to each of these students for working very hard at developing their musical gifts and doing a great job of representing OCCS at Honor Band this year! Josh was also selected to participate in the state honor band festival in May since he placed first chair in northwest Iowa.

Honor Choir

The 34th annual Junior High Choral Festival was held on Tuesday, November 2, 2010, at the Storm Lake High School. Approximately 45 schools in Northwest Iowa participated in



this festival. Students from OCCS that participated in the festival include: Paige Huitink, Martina Hoogland, Lyvia Wagenaar, Emily Wielenga, Lane Vande Voort, Josh Vollink, Geoffrey Scholten, and Klay Byker.

Congratulations to these students for doing a great job of representing our school at this festival!

Orchestra

The 6th-8th Orchestra students participated in the Northwest Iowa Middle School Festival on Oct. 13, 2010 at MOC/FV high school on a beautiful fall day.

Guest conductor, Joe Shufro, led the students in rehearsals throughout the day and a concert was given at 4:00 p.m. for parents and grandparents.

OCCS students joined strings players from Sioux Center Christian and MOC/FV to play Momentum, Variations on an Irish Tune, and Sinfonia Song.

Another group included LeMars, Sioux City East, North and West, and Storm Lake. A total of 243 students participated in the festival.

A big treat was going out to Pizza Ranch to eat lunch for fun, fellowship and food! The OCCS students used their talents well and came home playing even better than before, after practicing together for a whole day!



Four Orange City Christian School students were accepted into the Iowa Junior Honors String Orchestra which was held in Ames on November 19, 2010. Micah Vande Vegte on violin, Emily Wielenga and Klay Byker on cello, and Geoffrey Scholten on bass, rehearsed with a guest conductor during the day and performed in a 4:30 p.m. concert at Fisher Theatre on the ISU complex.



Iowa Core: Accomplishments and Promises

You may or may not be aware of the fact that the state of Iowa has implemented legislation to help improve Iowa schools. This legislation is titled “Iowa Core” and focuses on 6 major outcome areas for Iowa schools to focus on:

- Outcome 1: Shared Leadership within Schools
- Outcome 2: Community Involvement and Participation in Schools
- Outcome 3: Continuous School Improvement Utilizing Iowa Core Characteristics
- Outcome 4: Curriculum Alignment with Iowa Core Essential Skills
- Outcome 5: Professional Development for Faculty Members
- Outcome 6: Effective Instruction and Best Practices Used in Classrooms

For the past year and a half, OCCS has developed an Iowa Core Committee that has been working on our alignment to the Iowa Core. Committee members include: Ardene Huisman, Nicki Kuiper, Kim Philipsen, Dan Van Ruler, Sheila Van Den Brink, and Melanie Witt. Through the work of this committee, several action items have already been accomplished this past year, including the following:

- A vision statement for implementing the Iowa Core at OCCS has been written
- OCCS staff members, board members, and School Improvement Committee members have been introduced to the Iowa Core implementation process
- OCCS staff members have been introduced to the idea of curriculum mapping and will soon start to use a mapping program that will help us align and define our current curriculum
- New methods of collecting academic and behavioral data have been devised and will be used to drive our future curriculum decisions
- OCCS has been involved with other area Christian schools in joint professional development sessions revolving around Effective Instruction and Best Practices. These seminars have been organized and held at Dordt College. (There are additional seminars scheduled later this year as well.)

The Iowa Core Committee has more work to do this year, **promises** we’ve made to help OCCS achieve alignment with the Iowa Core:

- More communication will take place from the Iowa Core Committee to the OCCS staff, board, and community
- The OCCS staff will continue to learn and use curriculum mapping; future discussion will take place after the mapping process that will help teachers make more informed curriculum choices
- Further work will continue on collecting academic and behavioral data and using that to drive future curriculum decisions
- Iowa Core Essential Skills will be considered when making choices for future curriculum purchases for OCCS
- Options for service learning will be considered and implemented
- A rotation schedule for curriculum evaluation will be written so that OCCS will continually be looking at ways to improve each curricular area
- Teachers will work as a larger group and as smaller groups to discuss implementation of Effective Instruction practices

Our vision for Iowa Core Implementation reads:

As part of its mission statement, Orange City Christian School strives to provide academically sound, Scripturally-directed instruction to assist Christian parents in teaching their children to know God and His world, leading students to acquire knowledge, skills, and values to fulfill their calling as His servants. To that end, the Orange City Christian School staff considers different curricula and teaching practices to determine the best materials and practices to use in our education process. The Iowa Core Curriculum has components that may assist us in accomplishing our mission. A leadership team has been established to review, recommend, and integrate components of the Iowa Core Curriculum that fit appropriately into our Biblical framework.

The Iowa Core Committee at OCCS is committed to using the Iowa Core model to help improve instruction, assessment, curriculum alignment, and professional development to help our students better succeed at Orange City Christian School. If you have any questions about this work, please contact Nicki Kuiper. Future postings and information will be available on the OCCS website.