



Orange City Christian School

SPOTLIGHT

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 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

"Let's Pray" . . . "Join me for a moment of prayer" . . . "Shall we pray?" . . . "Let's come before the Lord in a time of prayer" . . . "Close your eyes and fold your hands"

All the previous statements are common phrases or invitations that are used prior to prayer. (The last one being very common in elementary schools.) You can probably think of many more prayer "invitations". This year at OCCS there will be many invitations and opportunities to pray. Our theme for the year is "prayer" and the model prayer that Jesus gave us, which we refer to as The Lord's Prayer. In the early weeks of the school year it has been a tremendous blessing for me to hear and participate in much prayer. From the basic and genuine blessings for food that the youngest children recite to the specific, heart-felt, and more lengthy prayers of older students, this year is being bathed in prayer.

The focus on prayer this year has caused me to notice the numerous prayers we find in God's Word. This past summer I spent time reading and studying a number of prayers that are found in the Bible. One of my favorite examples of prayer is Hannah's prayer found in I Samuel 2. I would encourage you to read this prayer and take note of the acknowledgment of God's power, deliverance and provision. Hannah's prayer is rich with descriptions of God's sovereignty. Job's prayers were also a blessing to read and study. Job's pleadings with God are heart wrenching. The losses he suffered and the pain he endured are hard to comprehend. My admiration for Job

only increased as I read his prayers and how following his expressions of frustrations, he always returned to an attitude of trust and reliance. For Job to be able to say in chapter 19 verse 25, "I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth", is amazing.

The list goes on and on regarding models and examples of prayers in the Bible. David in the Psalms. The prophets of the Old Testament. New Testament characters such as Stephen. We can learn much from these pray-ers and prayers. But we must also challenge ourselves to not just be readers and studiers of pray-ers and prayers. We must pray ourselves. Prayer is a discipline. It takes effort and work to carve out the time to pray. I must confess that this past summer, I enjoyed reading about prayer and reading Biblical examples of prayer, but my actual time in prayer was often minimal. Looking back on this past summer, and on my life in general, I realize that the seasons and times when I engaged in regular prayer it was a tremendous blessing. Did prayer cause all my problems to go away? No. Did prayer transport me into a state of bliss and complete harmony? No. But regular prayer did give me a sense of God's power, deliverance, and provision . . . similar to what Hannah experienced.

As this school year unfolds, I invite each member of our school community to join us as we study and learn from the many prayers God has provided for us, as well as commit to growing in prayer and praying.

Fall Society Meeting

The OCCS Society met on Monday, September 20 to receive information regarding the 2010-2011 school year. At the meeting new board members were elected to serve three year terms. Laura Malenke was elected to represent Immanuel Christian Reformed Church. Jeff Van Bommel was elected to represent Redeemer United Reformed Church. Gary VandeVegte was elected to an "at large" position on the board. Following the Society meeting, the board met for its September meeting. At the meeting officers were elected and committees were appointed. Dave VanDenBrink will be the president. John Wagenaar will serve as Vice-President. Laura Malenke will be the Secretary. Gary VandeVegte will be the treasurer. Randy Jeltema will serve as vicar. The committee assignments are as follows: Building Committee - Ward Van Peurseem, Dan Niezen, Jeff Van Bommel. Education - John Wagenaar, Kurt Zevenbergen, Laura Malenke. Finance - Gary VandeVegte, Dave VanDenBrink, Randy Jeltema.



Staff members recognized for years of service were: 5 years of service--Denise Blankespoor, Jerry Goedhart, Audrey Schuller and Shelly Wassenaar ; 10 years of service--Diane Krommendyk and Sheryl Slegers, and 20 years of service to OCCS--Pat Ahrenholz and Linda Juhl.

September Theme

Lord, Listen to your children praying. Lord, send Your Spirit in this place. Send us love. Send us power. Send us grace.”

The words of this familiar song by Ken Medema are often heard around the halls at OCCS this fall, because



our theme for this year is on prayer. Each month we are looking at an aspect of the Lord’s Prayer.

In September, our focus is “Our Father in heaven”. In this day and age, God is often addressed as “Father”. However, a few years ago, a German scholar was doing research in New Testament literature and discovered that in the entire history of Judaism, actually in all existing books of the Old Testament and all existing books outside of Jewish writings from the beginning of Judaism until the tenth century A.D, there is not a single reference of a Jewish person addressing God directly in the first person as Father. There were only certain specific appropriate forms of address that were used by Jewish people in the Old Testament. Children were trained to address God only in certain proper phrases of respect. These titles were memorized, and “Father” was not among them. The first Jewish rabbi to call God “Father” directly was Jesus. It was a radical departure from tradition. In fact, in every recorded prayer we have of Jesus, except one, He does call God “Father.” For that reason, many of Jesus’ enemies wanted to destroy Him. He assumed to have this intimate, personal relationship with the sovereign God of heaven and the creator of all things, and He dared to speak in such an intimate way with God. But, now think about what Jesus says to us, His people, “When you pray, you say, ‘Our Father.’” He has given to us the right and privilege to come into the presence of the majesty of God! We may address him as Father, because indeed He is our Father. In love, He has adopted us into His family and made us coheirs with His only begotten Son. We may even cry “Abba” (Daddy) to Him! How absolutely wonderful that we may encourage our children to come near our awesome, majestic, yet totally approachable loving God with this common term of endearment - Father. We, at OCCS join with you in our hope that each of our students will come to know and be able to honestly speak with their heavenly Father, in this intimate way.

October Theme

In October, our Lord’s Prayer theme will focus on the phrase, “...hallowed be your name”. In ancient Jewish tradition the name of God was held in such high regard that it was neither spoken or written in the Jewish customs. When Jesus taught his disciples to pray in the Lord’s prayer, he was calling them to do two things.

First of all, Jesus was calling us to treat God’s name with reverence and respect. Christian schools are an important way to recognize God’s name and His sovereignty by allowing Him to speak to our social studies, math, devotions, recess, as well as all of our activities. A social studies teacher who recognizes that government’s authority comes first of all from God or a science student who appreciates God’s creativity in a butterfly’s wing is ‘hallowing’ God’s name. Christian schools ‘hallow’ God’s name when they help students uncover God’s power and sustaining grace in His world.

Secondly, as we are called to honor God’s name, we also must live lives of holiness. In our actions at school, home, or church we ‘hallow’ God’s name when we obey his commands and seek to bring harmony between Christians and their neighbors. A student coach working out a squabble on the playground during recess or second and seventh graders sharing time reading together are both seeking holiness in social relationships. Christian schools ‘hallow’ God’s name by seeking his holiness for their lives.

Our second and seventh graders are planning a chapel on Friday, October 29 at 8:30 to remind us of our Lord’s Prayer theme. Justin and Vicki Schrock will be coming to speak about their recent trip to Guatemala. They will focus on how prayer helped to sustain them in the opportunities and experiences they went through.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UNITS

Church Unit	Requested for 2010-11	Contribution 2010-11	Balance Remaining
Calvary CRC	\$67,600.00	\$11,761.51	\$55,838.49
First CRC	37,700.00	2,267.47	35,432.53
Hospers CRC	6,500.00	0.00	6,500.00
Immanuel CRC	65,000.00	0.00	65,000.00
Living Water	29,375.00	1,516.67	32,283.33
Redeemer URC	20,800.00	0.00	20,800.00
Partner Society	33,800.00	8,750.16	25,049.84

Welcome New Staff



Kendra Heitritter

Kendra Heitritter joins OCCS as a Kindergarten Aid. She graduated from Northwestern College with a degree in K-6 Elementary Education. Kendra and her husband Joe live in Sioux Center and were recently blessed with their first child, Lucy.



Maggie Laverman

Maggie Laverman joins OCCS as a Resource Department paraprofessional. Maggie graduated from Dordt College with a degree in Elementary Education and K-12 Physical Education. Maggie and her husband Matt live in Alton.



Peggy Vander Meulen

Peggy Vander Meulen joins OCCS as our Lunchroom Monitor and classroom volunteer. She recently retired from dual careers in the retail industry and hair styling. Peggy lives near Alton.

Dedication Service

The OCCS Dedication Service took place on Tuesday, August 24, at the First Christian Reformed Church. Students, parents, grandparents and friends were present. The service revolved around the school theme of the Lord's Prayer. We enjoyed a prelude by Joseph Bartels and a welcome and opening prayer by the school board president, Darin Blankespoor. We sang "Living for Jesus" as a whole group and then listened to a flute duet by Paige Huitink and Kelsey Cooper.

The Mark Turek family helped introduce our theme by performing a skit about prayer. The main emphasis of the skit was to show the need to be taught how to pray. After the skit we listened to Pastor Bob Drenton and Pastor Dave Heilman share some words about the Lord's prayer. Mike Krommendyk and Mrs. Kuiper blessed us by singing "The Lord's Prayer". Mrs. Huisman led a commissioning litany for the beginning of a new school year and we enjoyed some group singing.

We ended the service with the OCCS teachers and staff singing "Be Thou My Vision" and recognizing how we are all working together to further God's kingdom. Mr. Tien closed in prayer and the students were introduced to and dismissed with their teachers to begin a new year of school.

First Grade News



Clifford Day, field trip, and puppets are three of the highlights that we have already enjoyed during our short time in first grade! On Clifford Day we all dressed in red, read lots of Clifford books, made a Clifford class book, did several Clifford activities and even played a Clifford game! We went on a field trip to Sioux Center to attend the Harvest Festival where we saw a sod home, watched them make applesauce, saw a blacksmith and learned more about how people used to do things many years ago. That was a great way to learn! The third week of September we had Mrs. Laird share her puppetry skills with us as part of the Artist in the Classroom program. Some of us had heard her before so we were excited to be able to hear and watch her again and learn more about making puppets and even make some of our own. Our school theme for this year is

The Lord's Prayer so in our classrooms we have been talking about prayer, spending time in prayer, and learning more this month about what it means that God is our father. We are really looking forward to the rest of this year!

Mrs. Huisman, Mrs. Koning

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

October 7 & 8	No School, Heartland Conference
October 13	Middle School Strings Festival
October 29	12:00 noon dismissal, teacher inservice
November 9 & 11	2:00 p.m. dismissal, 5:00-9:00 p.m. P/T Conferences
November 10	No School
November 17	2:00 p.m. dismissal, teacher inservice
November 24	2:00 p.m. dismissal
November 25 & 26	Thanksgiving Break
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

3rd Grade News

We are off to the start of a busy year for the 3rd grade students. The students have been working hard and growing in the knowledge of our Lord and his world.

- * In Bible we started “In the Beginning” with the stories of Creation through the Tower of Babel.
- * In reading we have been enjoying a reading book/series. Our stories so far have been working with the idea of money and how God wants us to use this gift wisely. Brushing up on our reading skills has been important.
- * For math it has been a review using our basic facts and understanding things about the order and pattern in God’s creation.
- * Social Studies time has been spent exploring the Native Americans of the Plains, especially the Sioux(Lakota) tribe.

We have constructed tipis, coup sticks, and a winter counts. We never knew there could be so many uses for a buffalo!

- * Science has brought us amazement about how God has constructed each one of our senses in a very detailed way. We have made models of our eye, ear, nose, mouth, and skin. We have praised God for the blessing each sense gives to us each day.

The Third Grade students have already had two field trips this year! We went on the Sioux County Farm Tour where we experienced the various forms of agriculture in our area. We also took a short trip down the street to the museum to view the exhibit for the Sioux Indians. We enjoyed seeing many artifacts we have studied such as a winter counts and a tipi.

With so much to learn and do, we look forward to a great year in third grade!

Mrs. Boer, Mrs. Van Den Brink

Monica

The new school year has just begun and some of the Monica Committees are already hard at work. “Thank you” goes out to those on the school supply committee for their work at registration. We had a great turnout at both registrations and many supplies were purchased. Remember you can purchase additional supplies as needed throughout the year.

Have you purchased an OCCS water bottle or any of the new apparel? If you wish to purchase a water bottle please stop in the office. The cost is \$10 each. For apparel, please fill out an order form and pre-pay and drop your order off to Pat or Audrey in the office. The deadline for ordering apparel is Sept. 24.

The Monica dessert social was held Thursday, Sept. 9. We welcomed the new families to OCCS and “thanked” the retiring board Monica board members - Teresa Van Sloten, Deb De Jong, & Sheila Zevenbergen for all their hard work. Their work was greatly appreciated.

The Monica Board for this school year is: Karla Kroese, President; Wendy Eason, Vice President; Treasurer, Melanie Van Grouw; Secretary, Carma Louwerse; At-large, Shirley Beltman, Jill Jacobsma, Brenda Walhof, Denise Driesen, & Cathy Tien. We look forward to serving OCCS in these roles.

In the next few weeks you will receive an updated Monica Work Group listing and the list of all the Chairs & Co-Chairs for all the Monica Committees.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding Monica please feel free to call me @737-3599.

Karla Kroese, Monica Board President

Fall Sports at OCCS

Even though the calendar might not agree, fall is here! As we anticipate the changing of seasons our students at OCCS are also anticipating the start of a new sports season. Seventh grade students are able to participate in sports for the very first time as Tigers. Eighth grade students are looking ahead to the last time they will be wearing the orange and black.

Our seventh and eighth grade girls have been passing, serving, and spiking volleyballs since the beginning of September. They were able to start the year off at the Christian Coaches Club Round Robin held at Dordt College. This was a Saturday filled with fast-paced fifteen minute games. Teams from all of the Christian Schools in the area participated, so our girls received a lot of valuable playing time to start the season. The girls will continue to play through the month of October. If you would like to attend a game, please check the OCCS website for the dates. Also, if you have a chance, please thank Mrs. Timmermans (8th grade) and Mrs. Diemer (7th grade) for giving their time and energy to coach this year!

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

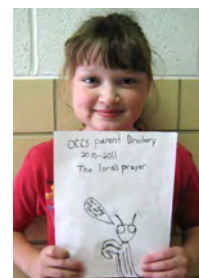
Cover Design Contest

OCCS again asked the fourth through eighth grade students to submit a design for our new 2010-11 Parent Directory. The students used our theme of The Lord’s Prayer in their designs. Congratulations to our cover design winner, eighth grader Emily Wielenga who did an excellent job of drawing praying hands! Congratulations also to fifth grader, Heidi Niezen whose praying mantis will be inside the directory.

To all those students in grades 4th-8th who took time to use their artistic talents to enter a design in the contest we say thank you!



*Emily Wielenga
- cover design
winner*



*Heidi Niezen
- cover design
winner*