

Campus

This year's talent show was "funniest one I've ever seen," according to fourth grader Enver Adjiasmanov. From stand-up comedy to sibling duets, from dance routines to violin solos, the talent show provided both sidesplitting humor and examples of beauty and grace. In all things,



whether on stage or in the classroom, we pray 1 Corinthians 10:31 for these students: "Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." Thank you to all who came to support these students!



Alumni Spotlight

Ben and Michelle (Parmely) Ferderer (both Class of '04) have been back in Spokane since 2015 after serving as nurses in Indonesia for over 2 years. Ben also had the opportunity to teach Old Testament in Indonesia and loved teaching so much that he is pursuing his Masters in Theology at Whitworth. He works at Spokane Eye Surgery Center and among his varied skills he has become an expert at folding little girls' laundry! Michelle is a full-time Mom to their beautiful girls, fellow laundry expert, and part-time infusion nurse at Arthritis NW. After Ben graduates he hopes to teach theology and as Michelle says, "we know our primary job is to teach our children about Christ and we will do that wherever the Lord calls us next."



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To: Oaks Family & Friends
From: The Oaks Classical Christian Academy
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A young student sat in my office for the first of what would be many times over the course of her education at The Oaks. This child had a will to disobey stronger than my will to discipline: she'd dig her fingers deep into the chair cushion and refuse to move, at least until she decided to move on her own terms. Her heart bristled against authority, obstinate in her refusal to see discipline as a blessing. Over time, through the discipline process, countless conversations with her parents, and the work of the Holy Spirit, this student grew from giving the stink-eye to giving me hugs; from dramatically disobedient to a capable, respectful, delightful student. What started out as a difficult discipline situation became by God's grace major heart change and transformation.

What this student learned over time were the dynamics of living in superabundance. Think of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden; it was lush, bountiful, and intended for their joy. Even their work in keeping it was for their joy. God gave clear directions for living amidst the superabundance of the garden for their safety and sheer delight. God lovingly supplied protection for Adam and Eve from the harmful tree,

much like a loving father not allowing his children to put their fingers in an outlet.

God's generosity is often mistaken for thievery when our sinful hearts cling to idols. How often is this mistake made at The Oaks? Things like discipline, uniforms, or homework can often be viewed as thieves of students' freedom, happiness, time. But by God's grace, transformation happens. As God begins to chip away the idols of students' hearts, homework is no longer viewed as a hurdle, but a gift that requires grit and develops work ethic. Uniforms are no longer viewed as dull, but a way to bless others. Discipline is no longer viewed as robbing a student from her freedom, but a loving investment that grows, shapes, and equips her to glorify God with the whole of her life. This shift in perspective is the difference between choosing life in the desert or life in the garden. By God's grace, students, families, and faculty at The Oaks will taste the bounty of the garden life; it is a most blessed and beautiful way to live. May the Lord give grace and send His Spirit upon the teachers, parents, and ultimately the children, that we might together rejoice in the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

- *Charlie Dowers, Headmaster*

LOVE | THINK | HONOR

Academics

“Now that it’s over, I kind of miss it,” said senior Sarah Kim after presenting her senior thesis. From ethical implications of genetic testing to first amendment rights, this senior class tackled a variety of topics that are extremely relevant to many of today’s current events. Rachael Schlect was given the honor of presenting her thesis in front of the entire school on the topic of criteria for returning ancient artifacts to their location of origin. Seniors, may God continue to grow you in your ability to defend truth humbly and winsomely for His glory!



The first grade class celebrated Presidents’ Day in style. Donning Abraham Lincoln beards and their fathers’ shirts and ties, Mrs. Holland’s class recalled and presented facts they learned about different presidents. The first graders were all smiles as they munched on patriotic refreshments including red, white and blue fruit skewers, popcorn balls, and cookies, and recalled

the wisdom of God who “changes the times and seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise and much learning to men of understanding” (Daniel 2:21).

Staff Spotlight

This is Emily Woodroof’s (’09) fifth year teaching at The Oaks, but her experience at The Oaks reaches a decade back. “It is a great blessing to put down roots and be a part of the same family of faculty and students that I joined ten years ago,” said Miss Woodroof as she reflected on her time at The Oaks. Now, in her position as a secondary teacher, Miss Woodroof delights to “share the things [she] loves with [her] students,” especially all things Chesterton and Augustine. While reading and hiking have been her favorite activities outside of teaching, Miss Woodroof has added musical theater to her list of enjoyments. She recently played the role of Ida in the Spokane Children’s Theater production of *Honk!* The show was directed by Oaks alumnus Jessica Belisle (’09), and the experience whet Miss Woodroof’s appetite for more musical theater in the future: “I’m hooked!” she declared, along with her intentions to audition for *Oliver* later this Spring. Miss Woodroof, thank you for sharing the gifts God has given you to bless those around you!



Resources

205 people gathered in the elegant Isabella Ballroom at the Historic Davenport Hotel for the 2018 Oaks Benefit Auction.

Secondary students helped usher guests through the events of the evening, which included for the first time a dessert auction and paddle raise for tuition assistance. The evening yielded \$76,362, each cent of which will directly benefit growth, impact, and opportunity at The Oaks. Join us in thanking God for His great provision!



Enrollment for the 2018-2019 school year is open to new families! Spread the word with those who might be blessed by the educational experience of The Oaks. Recall what you love about The Oaks and invite others to be blessed similarly!

As The Oaks welcomes new families, the Board plans to implement an extended New Family Orientation in the Fall, along with New Parent Seminars throughout the year, that will provide platforms for new families to ask questions as they arise.



Student Life

The Senior Physics Class took their annual trip to Seattle that included visits to a planetarium, the Museum of Flight, a demonstration at the UW Physics Lab, and a conversation with an evolutionary biologist, an addition to the trip that supplemented the Physics’ class understanding of what makes good science. “It was good to see the underlying assumptions that accompany evolution,” commented Andrew Walker. Fellow seniors Justin Cai and Luke Moore agreed that, through that conversation, the group was able to see more clearly how assumptions shape personal and academic convictions not just in Physics, but in other sciences and areas of life as well.



After a week of protocol classes that reviewed proper etiquette, students donned their formal gowns and suits for an evening of elegance and entertainment. “I enjoyed getting dressed up and sharing a special meal together with my class,” said sophomore Anna

Kolarsky of her second Protocol. After dinner, the students enjoyed a brisk walk down the street to the INB Performing Arts Center for Roger and Hammerstein’s *The Sound of Music*. Events like Protocol give students an opportunity not only learn to honor others by their conduct and dress, but to engage the community at large in a new way. Chaperone Kelly Ruffcorn shared that an elderly gentleman commented that seeing these students enjoy an evening in such a way “gave him hope for the next generation.” Many thanks to Miss Stacey Miller and Mr. Jason Farley for the time and intentionality with which she prepared these students for Protocol!

The cast of *Annie* has been hard at work memorizing lines, music, and choreography in preparation for the Spring Theatre Production. **Join us May 24th- 26th!** Tickets are on sale now; visit The Oaks’ website for more information.

Athletics

After overcoming numerous obstacles and injuries, both the boys’ and girls’ teams placed higher than their seed in the season tournament. This season, the girls were coached by Heidi Reimer, and the boys were coached by alumni Levi Szymanowski (’13) and Spencer Ansett (’11). Good work, Junior High!

