



## Student Life

The eleventh grade Rhetoric class just completed their first Mock Trial, a special event created to provide students with an opportunity to practice creating and presenting an argument clearly and thinking quickly. The Junior Class set up a room on campus to imitate a

courtroom and acted as attorneys, witnesses, and a jury in order to complete the scene under the watchful eye of "Judge" Scott Welch, their teacher. In addition to preparing for this Mock Trial, the Junior Class has also



begun preparations for their theses presentations, which will take place toward the end of May.

## Alumnus Spotlight

**Forrest Andresick ('17) showed up for Mock Trial tryouts as a freshman at Hillsdale College and, after writing an impromptu closing statement, made the team.** During the first semester, his team

traveled to various colleges including Michigan State and Yale, securing a first place win and an honorable mention along the way. Forrest is looking forward to more Mock Trial this semester and is leaning toward a major in philosophy. Forrest said that while Greek, in all its "joy/agon," was his favorite class first semester, Greek is up against some "strong competitors" for favorite classes in the coming semester, including a challenging Great Books course. Way to jump in with both feet, Forrest! God bless you.



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## LOVE | THINK | HONOR

Over four years ago, a freshman student arrived at The Oaks, silently staring through hair that fell over his eyes. He was the picture of Proverbs 18:1, preferring to isolate himself rather than engage in the community in front of him. He had faithful parents, he attended church, and his teachers pursued him, and God used each of these influences as catalysts by the power of the Holy Spirit for this young man's growth as a disciple. His silent stare became an engaging smile; he not only met academic expectations, but sought out the books his teachers read for fun. God changed him. He has continued his education at a challenging college where he has enjoyed continued intellectual and spiritual stimulation. Turn to the Alumni section and read more about what God has done in this young man's life!

The longer I am involved in it, the more I am convinced that Christian education is Great Commission work. "Go, therefore and make disciples," Jesus proclaimed before His ascension, "teaching them to observe all the things I have commanded you" (Matthew 28: 19, 20). Discipleship in education involves more than the mind of a student; it involves his whole person. The miracle of Forrest's transformation (and

other stories like his) is not so much that his grades improved, but that he began to love what is true and good. To summarize the Trivium in one sentence, The Oaks seeks to teach facts and rules (grammar), their logical relationships (logic), and how to express them beautifully (rhetoric), all the while working to shape the mind, heart, and soul along the way.

When Christ gave the Great Commission, He knew He was calling us to shape whole people. He knew how much diligence and faith this would require. As our 330 disciples show up each day, I am overwhelmed with gratitude that students become like their teachers who are passionate not about academics, but about true discipleship. God has blessed The Oaks with some of the best caliber classical Christian educators. These teachers love kids, they love their subjects, and they are diligent in fulfilling the Great Commission. Most of all, they do all things by faith in their Teacher who promises to all of His disciples, "Lo I am with you always, even to the end of the age." What a privilege it is to partner with our 178 families in this weighty calling of raising disciples! Join me in thanking God for His faithfulness as He teaches us how to disciple these students in both mind and heart.

- Charlie Dowers, Headmaster

## Campus

**All Oaks students and faculty mingled together in the gym for a pizza feast on the Friday before Christmas break.** This gathering has become a beloved tradition for students and staff members alike. "I'm thankful that the big kids help us get our pizza," commented first grader Andrew James. Seniors Sarah Kim, Rachael Schlect, and Justin Cai led the student body in a series of toasts they had composed, encouraging their fellow students to demonstrate gratitude for all of God's many blessings.



**The Oaks is excited to announce that *Annie the Musical* is coming May 24-26!** Over 60 students grades 2nd-12th have been cast in this beloved musical, along with a few faculty members as well. "I'm looking forward to the music and tap dancing," said Sarah Love (5th) who will be playing the role of the beloved orphan, Annie. Tickets will be on sale in the first few weeks of April. Mark your calendars; you won't want to miss it!



## Academics

**Both Strings and Concert Band members performed in The Oaks Instrumental Concert on February 6th.** Instructors Jennifer O'Bannan and Gary Woodroof have taught Strings and Concert band respectively for the past few years, and have delighted to see the program grow. Malia Brown (7th) and Claire Guglielmo (7th) both have appreciated the time their instructors have taken to teach them to play

music. "We are pushed to not just learn the notes, but to play the pieces well," commented Claire, who plays clarinet. What a blessing it is to hear these students raise their instruments in song, living out the words of Psalm 150: "Praise Him with the sound of trumpet... praise Him with stringed instruments and flutes... Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!" Students who participate in Strings and Concert Band also recently accompanied the whole school for Cantabile. You are invited to join the school for Cantabile each Monday at 8:05 and each Friday at 2:30 to sing!

**The entire secondary participated in an event called "Poetry Out Loud,"** a speech competition that requires participants to memorize and present a poem of their choice in front of an audience. Their presentations included not only poetry recitation, but interpretation as well. After winning first place in the school's "Poetry Out Loud" competition, sophomore Jonathon Ganji presented "A Poisonous Tree" by William Blake for the regional level of "Poetry Out Loud," competing against several other high school students from the surrounding areas.

"Poetry Out Loud" gave me an opportunity to invest in poetry that meant something to me personally. I love how poetry is able to accomplish that," commented Jonathan.



## Resources

**The Oaks is open for tours!** Families who are interested may contact the office to arrange a private tour, or they can benefit from experiencing the school culture by attending an open house. There are two open houses left, so be sure to invite friends, family, and neighbors who might be blessed by The Oaks in the same way you have been! **Open house dates are February 27th and March 26th, from 9a.m.-11a.m.**

**Enrollment season has begun!** Kindergarten is still open for enrollment, and enrollment for grades 1-12 is coming soon. As you prepare to enroll your children, consider who in your family, neighborhood, or church might be interested in a Christ-centered education for their kids! See The Oaks website for more information on how to enroll.

### Upcoming Enrollment Dates:

March 1st: current families, grades 1st-12th

April 1st: new families, grades 1st-12th



**The Oaks Annual Benefit Auction is approaching quickly.** On the evening of March 2nd, join friends from the Spokane community for an opportunity to support the work God is doing at The Oaks. All funds raised at the event will directly benefit The Oaks by providing for current and future facilities costs, equipping faculty and staff with stronger resources to educate your children, and bolstering the scholarship fund that will enable more families to be blessed by The Oaks. Peruse the Auction Catalog using the link on The Oaks website.

**Tickets are now available for purchase!**



## Staff Spotlight

**Allyson Tedrow began teaching at The Oaks six years ago and has spent the most recent years as the third grade teacher.** Allyson loves teaching third grade, and the reasons "all begin with the children," she said. From their delight in learning to their soft-heartedness, the third graders clearly delight in Mrs. Tedrow as much as she loves them. "I love how Mrs. Tedrow reads

with so much expression," commented Audrey Correa. "I feel like my mind goes into the world she reads about." Ally's passion and delight to teach is clear in her classroom and when she talks about teaching her students. "It is the goodness of the Lord to allow us such a precious gift of honoring Him in educating the next generation," Ally said. She and her husband, Arik, are seeing the fruit of that gift as three of their children currently attend The Oaks: Isabella (7th), Delaney (5th), and Landon (2nd). May God bless you, Tedrows!

## Athletics

**This year's Varisty tournament was hosted by Pullman Christian, and both Oaks teams played valiantly!** The girls' team won first place, and the boys' team, who came in as the sixth seed, placed second! The JV boys' team placed second in their tournament as well. Thank you, coaches and teams, for your diligence and sportsmanship this season!

