

SCHOOL LIFE

Oaks students have been exploring God's wonders in the northwest! Two groups of 10th-12th grade students embarked on the "Olympic Trip" at the end of the summer. They hiked through the lush Hoh Rainforest, visited Sol Duc Hot Springs and Falls, and



toured Fort Worden. Swimming in the Hoh River and the ocean rank among the best memories of their trip. The 7th graders visited nine northwest landmarks on their trip to Mt. St. Helen's (see above). Some of their favorite memories include hiking through Ape Cave and visiting the Mud Flats.

The Oaks Staff Retreat at Coeur D'Alene Lake was a refreshing time to fellowship and plan for the year ahead. Everyone shared in the



cooking and cleaning and potentially record-breaking coffee consumption. Evenings were filled with live music, impromptu performances, and lots of laughter! Thank you, Roys and Tings, for your gracious hospitality.

ALUMNI

Beth Spurgetis ('09) is the Director of Operations at Seattle Classical Christian School in downtown Seattle. From making sure a student can take the bus, to working directly with the Headmaster in administration, to writing checks,



to fixing the copy machine, Beth's hands bless each person at SCCS. Her favorite part about her job is, in fact, the people. Many school moms are her best friends, and she has fond memories of "nerdy" conversations with staff members about Dorothy Sayers. She can testify that the seeds of loving learning planted throughout her education at The Oaks and Grove City College are bearing fruit. God bless you, Beth, in the daily operations of classical Christian education!

THE



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LOVE, THINK, HONOR



OCTOBER 2016

FROM THE OAKS CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

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I love walking the hallways, greeting students, and giving high-fives as we all engage in a new year of searching out what God has concealed in this world. His lovingkindness is palpable. You can see it on the surface level of smiles and new friendships, but there is more substantial evidence of this lovingkindness: change. The young man who greets me as I walk by who, once upon a time, rarely said "hi." A once shy girl is now beautifully singing our new lunchtime song in the hallway. What strikes me about this kind of change is the depth of meaning behind a gift we call "grace."

The grace God has demonstrated at The Oaks over the years is deep grace. It has reshaped not only students, but families and teachers as well. This type of grace has been a goal of our school since its beginning. Listen to these lines from our vision statement: "We aim to find [students] well-prepared in all situations, possessing both information and the knowledge of how to use it. We desire they be socially graceful and spiritually gracious...knowing and loving the Lord Jesus Christ. And all these we desire them to possess with humility and gratitude to God." Such a vision for a child is impossible but for the transforming work of God's grace.

As the young man I mentioned earlier walks past, I cannot help but smile at the change in him. There were many untold ways God worked this change. Yet we can know for certain that countless people have shown him deep grace. He was shown

grace by being corrected and stopped in the hallway. Possibly the greatest grace he experienced was through men and women in his life communicating exactly what the standard was. Praise the Lord!

Take a math assignment for example. There is a way to apply "grace" in grading by marking off fewer points than the student deserves. This grace accomplishes the goal of a higher grade, a scenario which has its proper time and place. Yet what this young man experienced was another type of grace, the grace that does *not* give extra points on the assignment. This grace develops humility, understands knowledge, and opens up conversations about character.

Grace means lovingkindness, favor, and goodwill. Whether it is grading, singing, or simply saying "hi" to those who walk by, I am delighted to work in an environment where we are able to aim our grace to the depths of a student's heart. What a blessing to partner with parents for something that lasts longer than the fading ink at the top of a paper. Thank the Lord for eyes of faith that see the path to true joy requires a view of grace that loves biblical correction and high standards.

Please join me in thanking God for such a place to learn and labor. Please also join me in praying for diligence as parents and staff partner together to raise up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord!

Charlie Dowers, Headmaster

CAMPUS

On September 19th, 319 smartly dressed students gathered for the first day assembly. The line of staff members stretched across the whole stage when they came up to introduce themselves, with several teachers beginning their 18th years, and many beginning their first years. May God bless the 21st year of The Oaks!



Announcing The Oaks Academy for the Performing Arts! Offering Christ-centered instruction in acting, dance, and voice, this academy launched on October 5th and runs for seven weeks. Space sold out in less than a week, and students ranging from grades 3-12 are enthusiastically participating. As Gracie Singer (3rd) said: "I just love to perform!"

This December 6th-8th graders will present "A Midwinter Night's Dream: An Evening of Shakespeare." Students will perform a shortened version of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, sonnet selections, soliloquies, song, and dance. Some upper school students and staff will join in the production as well. Mrs. Teri Woodroof looks forward to helping Jr. High students express their creativity and gratitude to God through theatre. Dulci Stutzman (8th) is especially excited for the costumes! Marketh thy calendars for several fortnights hence: December 2nd-3rd.

ACADEMICS

Launched last week... The Glass Wall Blog, an inside look at The Oaks. We love having parents, grandparents, and visitors in our classrooms. Yet how can we give an inside look to those of you who cannot be here? Welcome to The Glass Wall Blog, a place where you can pull up a virtual chair and start sitting in on classes. Please enjoy Ben Palpant's sneak peak of a new way to experience Oaks academics:

"Here's the problem as I see it: I get to spend around nine or ten hours every day in hallways and classrooms that throb with purpose and praise, but you do not. I get to join the next generation on a hunt to discover God's fingerprint in our lives and in the world, but you do not. I get to see small acts of grace and courage and hope and thankfulness every hour (fifty hours each week, roughly 2,000 hours per school year), but you do not... Why can't we tear down our current walls of brick and sheet rock and install a glass wall? Why can't we? Well, for many reasons, but there is no reason why we can't do it all virtually. So this is the ribbon cutting ceremony for our new virtual glass walls."

Come visit <http://theoakcca.org/blog/>

ATHLETICS



High school volleyball ladies won their first three matches at the NICS Preseason Jamboree and took 2nd place after playing Kootenai Thunder in the championship. Eager to face Kootenai in the regular season, Oaks girls battled at home on October 3rd and beat an undefeated Kootenai Thunder! Oaks varsity ladies are still undefeated in the regular season. Way to go, ladies!



The Oaks' new Athletic Director, Scott Welch, is cheering from the sidelines as a dad for three of the four fall sports he oversees. He has children playing on the high school volleyball team, JH volleyball team, and cross county team (see his daughter on the far left). As both a dad and an AD, he has appreciated hearing the doxology so much, eavesdropping on team devotions, and the general atmosphere of encouragement on Oaks teams. Scott also teaches logic, classical literature, and rhetoric classes in the secondary school. We are thankful to have Scott and his family at The Oaks!



ENROLLMENT

Abby Kwon flew over 11 hours to make it to America for her first day of high school. Growing up in South Korea, Abby did not know a place like The Oaks existed. After she and her sister had the opportunity to attend The Oaks for a large portion of junior high, Abby decided she wanted to be back in this learning culture for 9th grade. "I love writing essays, [and at The Oaks] in every class you write" she says. In South Korea, students spend more time studying, but the goal of education is putting knowledge in your brain and memorizing. "Here, you think more," says Abby, and "you can hear what other people think." Her favorite subject is science when she is in science class, and Bible when she is in Bible class. In Abby's words: "It changes by the hour!"

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

Latin teacher Eric Indgjerd is beginning his 10th year at The Oaks after spending 8 weeks in Rome attending Latin immersion training. Being a



Mr. Indgjerd at the site where St. Augustine's mother, Monica, died.

student at the *Accademia Vivarium Novum* was not a typical summer break. Eric and more than 50 other Latin teachers from around the world daily attended 9 hours of sessions conducted completely in Latin. The Academy recognizes the key role of singing to aid learning and gave Eric a whole new repertoire of Latin songs. After a late Italian dinner each evening, Eric and fellow classmates would act out didactic Latin plays, sing more Latin songs, or play Latin grammar games. Since his return, Mr. Indgjerd can tell he is communicating more clearly. The other day in 6th grade, less than 25% of the class period was conducted in English! After talking to teachers in Europe who are required to teach a grammar translation method, Mr. Indgjerd is especially thankful to be able to teach Latin how it has been taught for hundreds of years: in Latin. As much as he enjoyed being a student, he is delighted to be back teaching song-filled, acting-filled, and conversation-filled classes. Welcome back Magister Indgjerd!

post scriptum...

"It is good to give thanks to the Lord, and to sing praises to Your name, O Most High; to declare Your lovingkindness in the morning, and Your faithfulness every night." Psalm 92:1-2

Dinnertime Question: How did God show you His lovingkindness today?