

LOVE, THINK, HONOR



February 2014

FROM THE OAKS
CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

509.536.5955
www.theoakscga.org

Religion, Politics, and Word-of-Mouth Marketing—The oft-repeated rule of etiquette, “Don’t discuss religion or politics,” makes talking about what we do here at The Oaks an interesting challenge. Sure, we’re here because we hold certain convictions about the nature of education, the training of children, and the fundamental workings of the world, but sharing these convictions puts us smack in the middle of a supposed breach of common courtesy. Or does it? It’s hardly surprising that our culture, which has confused what it means to separate church and state, gets nervous about bringing religion and politics together in the same conversation. This is especially true when it comes to decisions about education. But as more people begin to have doubts about the quality and value of an education “free” from religious influence and political consequences, The Oaks stands in a position to lead in love by bringing the 2 back into polite conversation. We often wrongly assume that loving our neighbors means that we should never present anything to them which would cause conflict or discomfort. Further, we are rightly trained to avoid inappropriate talk about our neighbors, bringing news in the form of gossip. As a result, we tend to avoid talking about religion and politics outside our trusted circles of Christian community, and sometimes we’re afraid to say even positive things about others where we ought to be building up their good reputations. But in both cases we make the mistake of actually loving ourselves more than our neighbors! If love first looks out for the betterment of our neighbors, it means bringing them the life-giving truth of the Gospel, elevating their good above our social rules of etiquette and comfort, and promoting the work and reputation of those who are doing the hard and good labor of kingdom-building for Christ so that *all* may be blessed. As a member of The Oaks community, when was the last time you dared to make a breach of etiquette by telling others about the educational work we do here, work which necessarily involves talking religion and politics? As ambassadors for the work we do on behalf of future generations, when was the last time you brought a good report about the education you have chosen for your own children to someone who wasn’t expecting it? While raw knowledge can puff up, love edifies. And if to edify is to build up, will you please join us in getting the word out about The Oaks to your friends, neighbors, and co-workers? Such a word-of-mouth campaign will definitely involve a good kind of tale-bearing about the work of others in the realm of religion and politics, but we’re confident that the result will be worth it for generations to come! - by Bill Stutzman and Bruce Williams

CAMPUS

The Oaks has been an ACCS (Association of Classical and Christian Schools) accredited member since 2007, having been reaccredited in 2009. This year marks our third time through the reaccreditation process. The staff already has been working hard, performing a self-study examination of our school and making sure that we meet all of ACCS’s standards and requirements. Next, February 23rd-26th we will be hosting an accreditation committee, made up of three ACCS members who will be traveling here from other ACCS schools around the country. While at The Oaks, they will be examining our entire school organization from school board oversight to classroom pedagogy, including student participation, conduct, and development; staff training; parent-teacher relations; operational and financial policies; community support; and the overall spiritual demeanor in the school classrooms. They will join us for Cantabile on Monday morning, interview students and staff, and observe both grammar and secondary classes. Of the 243 ACCS member schools in the United States, we are blessed to be 1 of 29 accredited schools. The reaccreditation process occurs approximately once every five years.

ACADEMICS

An exciting opportunity for Oaks teachers! March 6th–8th, the entire Oaks faculty will be traveling to The Ambrose School in Boise, to work and learn with the faculty there, helping to improve both of our classical, Christian schools. We pray that this time will encourage our teachers and enhance our schools. Please pray for safe travels.

Congratulations to Delaney Gold (junior) who will be representing The Oaks at the regional Poetry Out Loud competition on Thursday, February 6th. Congratulations also to first runner-up, Anna Tibbetts (sophomore), and second runner-up, Phoebe Dierdorff (freshman). Thank you to all of the grade-level winners who recited beautifully in front of the secondary. “A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver!”

Oaks students are still working hard to memorize Proverbs. For each chapter they can recite with five or fewer mistakes grammar students receive special recognition, which includes a certificate and a chocolate coin. Several teachers have also upped the ante with promises of ice cream parties, dinner out, and many other fun treats. None of these, however, will reward them as much as having the word of God embedded in their hearts. Over forty grammar students have already memorized one or more chapters and received their certificates. Pictures of these students are on The Oaks’ Facebook page. Way to go!

ENROLLMENT

Reenrollment time at The Oaks is quickly approaching. Existing families will be receiving their reenrollment packets soon, and open enrollment will begin in April. In the meantime, Headmaster Bruce Williams, is regularly meeting with many prospective parents. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about The Oaks, please call the school office at 509.536.5955 to schedule an initial meeting and tour of the school.

Mark your calendars for Friday, April 4th! Invite your friends and family. We will be hosting an evening program highlighting The Oaks and Classical Christian Education, followed by a dessert fellowship. Please plan on joining us and spreading the word!

RESOURCES

Praise be to God, from whom all blessings flow. Our year-end fundraising brought in \$48,000. Thank you to all our generous donors for your investment in The Oaks. In order to meet this year’s budget, we still need to raise around \$65,000 of newly committed funds by the end of the school year. The year-end giving letter is our largest fundraiser, but donations are accepted anytime—in person, on the phone, or on our website. Call us and we can even set up a monthly giving plan. We appreciate your support.

THE



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STUDENT LIFE

Oaks sophomore, Abby Schornick, has a small part in a local movie, *Different Drummers*. *Different Drummers* is a faith-based family movie based on the true story of a Spokane boy with Multiple Sclerosis. Currently showing only in Spokane theaters, the film has many locals in the cast.



Justin Cai, Oaks 8th-grader, has been invited to play piano at Salle Cortot in the Ecole Normale, located in the heart of Paris, on May 10th. Salle Cortot is famous for its exceptional acoustic quality which has attracted worldwide artists

since 1929; It's been called the Carnegie Hall of Europe. Justin was invited to accompany pianist Peter Mack for this performance. You can hear Justin perform during the school talent show on Grandparents' Day, Friday March 14th, and then again at this year's school play, *Little Women: The Musical*, May 22nd–24th. This fall, Justin also placed 1st in the junior piano division of the Wash. State Music Teachers' Assoc. Outstanding Artist Competition, making him the first from Spokane to do so. Congratulations, Justin, on these outstanding achievements!

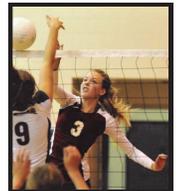
Parents are going to school, too! In its 4th year, Parent Academy continues to grow. Parent Academy is specifically designed for Oaks families with students in kindergarten through 3rd grade, but all are invited to learn more about classical Christian education. The next Parent Academy is scheduled for February 11th. Please call the school office if you would like more information.

ATHLETICS

The Oaks is hosting this year's Mountain Christian League Basketball Tournament February 6th–8th. Teams will be playing at The Oaks as well as at in Bowdish Junior High, across the street from us. All games are free to the public, so please come and support our teams!

Introducing...Jr. High Basketball! Yes, that's right, The Oaks now has both a boys and a girls junior high basketball team. Practices began the middle of January and the season-ending tournament is scheduled for April 10th and 11th.

Oaks junior, Sydney Schlect, was named the Greater Spokane League's (GSL) Volleyball Most Valuable Player this past season. Leading the GSL in kills and hitting percentage, Sydney helped her University High School team qualify for the State 3A Volleyball tournament this past season. Congratulations, Sydney!



ALUMNI

After spending a year in East Asia ministering with Campus Crusade, Scott Parmely ('08) is now serving at the University of Washington. Scott and his team are focusing on outreach to freshmen and the Greek community on campus. To see how the Lord is working through Scott, sign up for his newsletter by emailing him at Scott.Parmely@cru.org.

BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Arik Tedrow is this year's board President. Arik sat on the board all of last school year and became an official board member this September. Arik works for Eaton. He and his wife Ally (2nd grade teacher) are members of Crossover Church. Two of their three children currently attend The Oaks (Isabella-3rd, Delaney-1st) while their youngest, Landon, will begin in a couple of years. As Board President, Arik, is already proving to be a strong leader for The Oaks. We are blessed to have him. Thank you, Arik, for your service.

post scriptum...

"A mighty oak is yesterday's nut that held its ground." - A parent recently saw this sign and shared it, knowing that this is the desire for all of our acorns (aka students) here at The Oaks. "They shall be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of His splendor." -Isaiah 61:3b

Do you have a newsworthy story to share regarding Oaks' students or alumni? If so, please send it to anya.schnell@theoakscga.org.