Love, Think, Honor

April 2013

From The Oaks
Classical Christian Academy

509.536.5955
www.theoakscca.org

All of us are easily enslaved by convenience, and what was once meant to save us time can swallow up our time and attention entirely. The virtual world, vividly colorful and dynamic, has sucked the color from the real world that God made especially for us to enjoy. Is it any wonder, then, that one of the greatest battles of Christian education is against the sin of apathy? Attending The Oaks is no guarantee against this apathy. In order to combat this apathy we need to aggressively urge each other on to greater and greater attentiveness, as Allan Jacobs calls it, an "omnivorous attentiveness." Christ had this attentiveness while he walked among us. Like him, we are to be "omnivorously attentive" to each other and to what is in front of us. One of the ways this is being encouraged at The Oaks is in Harkness discussions. Simply put, the Harkness method circles the students with a text in front of them and asks them to navigate the text together. Not only must they prepare well to uphold their position/part, they also learn to listen well, communicate clearly, and pursue truth actively: all of which are foundational to our school's vision statement. Harkness method is not student-lead learning where just any conclusion, regardless of truth, is allowed. Students are not pursuing a relative truth, but *The Truth*, and the only way to do so is by attentively holding everything to the light of Scripture. Our mutual hope is that the classroom will become a "No Passive Regurgitation Zone" as we take more ownership of our learning. After all, a classroom filled with attentive learners (teachers and students) is a fun place to be—a dynamic and vivid experience. - Ben Palpant, Secondary English Teacher. *My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart; For they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh.* - Proverbs 4:20-22

ACADEMICS

"With a God-centered objective, rhetoric at The Oaks trains students first to discern in every situation what honors God and loves others, then how to express this in words." - Kevin Kimball, Oaks' Rhetoric Instructor. At The Oaks, the culmination of a student's education and the rhetoric stage of the Trivium is Senior Thesis Presentation and Defense. The first week of April, all eighteen Oaks seniors presented a controversial issue of their choosing in a twenty minute, memorized speech along with a twenty minute defense in front of an audience. Topics ranged from "Lying is always wrong," to "Nuclear energy should be used in the place of fossil fuels in the U.S.," with many topics in between. For more on the importance of rhetoric, please visit the "Staff Literature" section on our website at http://www.theoakscca.org/OaksStoreLibrary.aspx and read "Rhetoric at The Oaks" by Kevin Kimball. And be sure to come to the **Junior Thesis Presentations May 28th—31st**.

Civil War is relived at The Oaks! For three days, that is, during this year's History Emphasis Days (May 15th-17th). Secondary students will study various aspects of the Civil War, including its causes and outcomes. On Friday, May 17th, 6th through 12th grade students will conclude the week by reenacting The Battle of Chancellorsville for The Oaks' annual Civil War Reenactment on the Glenrose property. Plan on joining us for this event!

STUDENT LIFE

Congratulations to Senior Hannah Cvancara on being named Miss Spokane 2013! Hannah has attended The Oaks since the 4th grade when her family moved to the Spokane area. Hannah is the first ever amputee to win the title of Miss Spokane and be an entrant in the Miss America pageant. Her community service project is "Honoring Their Sacrifice: Recognizing and Supporting Our Disabled Veterans." Please pray for Hannah as she goes on to compete in the Miss Washington pageant in July!

Do you like live music, dancing, and performances by our own Oaks teachers? If so, you won't be disappointed at this year's Secondary Spring Ball! Friday, May 10th, all 7th-12th grade students as well as their parents and grandparents are invited to attend this event. Music will be provided by the musical ensemble, The Charlatans (who are actually Kent Young, Bill Stutzman and Bruce Gore). And of course there will be LOTS of dancing!

Tuesday, May 14th, secondary students will be singing Psalm sets for the Secondary Spring Program. Students will be performing multiple settings of different Psalms with several congregational settings which the audience will be invited to join. All are welcome to come!

DRAMA

***The Fiddler on the Roof!* May 2nd—4th.** Rehearsals are underway, sets and props are being built, and anticipation is growing for The Oaks' second-ever musical production. Play details, pictures, and ways to get involved can be found on The Oaks' theatre website at http://oakstheatre.wordpress.com. If you are interested in advertising in the play program, please contact the school office. **Be sure to plan on attending!**

ENROLLMENT

Enrollment for the 2013-2014 school year has begun! Out of our current student body of 294, 18 students will graduate in June and 270 have re-enrolled for next year; that's a 98% re-enrollment rate! We currently stand at 287 students enrolled for the coming year, with 7 spots still available in kindergarten. **Please help us to fill these kindergarten seats by spreading the word about The Oaks with other like-minded families!**

Kindergarten	19		
1st Grade	25	7th Grade	24
2nd Grade	26	8th Grade	23
3rd Grade	26	9thGrade	16
4th Grade	26	10thGrade	20
5th Grade	18	11thGrade	26
6th Grade	23	12thGrade	15
Elementary	163	Secondary	124
School Total:	287		

The Oaks
Education Association
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Spokane, WA 99214

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RESOURCES

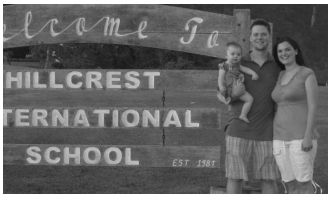
The Oaks' Spaghetti Dinner was a huge success! Almost all (84%) of our school families enjoyed an evening of penne pasta, fellowship, and a theatrical performance of "From Little Acorns Come Mighty Oaks." We are still receiving many gracious compliments. Thank you to everyone who made this evening possible!

PARENTS

The Oaks' Board would like to invite all Oaks Parents to a Family Business Meeting Tuesday, May 7th at 7pm. The purpose of this meeting is to share the school's current financial situation and the direction we are headed. Our goal is to have at least one parent from each of our existing families in attendance at this meeting.

It's time for this year's final session of Parent Academy! Tuesday, May 21st, Kim Mewes, Head of Grammar School, will be speaking to Oaks parents about "Repeated Practices for the Summer." If you are interested in attending, please contact the school office.

ALUMNI



Oaks alumni Ben ('04) and Michelle (Parmely) Ferderer ('04) arrived in January at Hillcrest International School in Sentani, Papua, Indonesia, where they will be living and serving for the next few years. Ben is currently teaching high school health at Hillcrest, a Christian school for the children of missionaries, and plans on teaching more classes in the fall. Ben and Michelle are the only full-time staff in the school's medical clinic, and as such have already recognized the tremendous void in adequate medical care within this missionary community. They are learning that their responsibilities will be a stretch from what they have been used to. But, in Michelle's words, "Although our heightened responsibility may be unsettling, it is at least one way we can use our gifts and skills to serve and love people, and ultimately progress the spread of the Gospel into new tongues." To learn how you can pray for the Ferderers, read their most recent newsletter at http://eepurl.com/wapJz. And be sure to check out their blog for compelling stories like, "How to use an Indonesian toilet," at http://www.theferdererstale.blogspot.com/

BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Tim Ansett is one of The Oaks' founding fathers, has served on the board since the school's inception, is a permanent board member, and is this year's board Vice President. He and his wife, Leslie, met in college and have been married for twenty-seven years. Together they have four children, three of whom are Oaks alumni (Margaret Dowers-'06, Joel-'08, Spencer-'11), while their youngest, Eric, is currently a junior. Tim and Leslie are overflowing with thankfulness to God and the staff at The Oaks for the education their children have received. Tim has been employed as the golf course superintendent at Manito Golf & Country Club for twenty-three years. Leslie volunteers regularly at The Oaks and is active in women's ministry at Christ Church, where the Ansetts are members. Please keep them in your prayers as they help to lead our school.

post scriptum...

"We live into the stories we've absorbed; we become characters in the drama that has captivated us. Thus, much of our action is acting out a kind of script that has unconsciously captured our imaginations. And such stories capture our imagination precisely because narrative trains our emotions, and those emotions actually condition our perception of the world" (James K.A. Smith, Imagining the Kingdom). So, what stories are you absorbing? What stories are your children absorbing? Those stories heavily influence how you see the world and everything that God is doing in it. As long as The Oaks is a place full of "omnivorously attentive" learners who love God and love each other, then the impact on our present and future lives together will be nearly incalculable. - Ben Palpant

Do you have an idea for a future newsletter? Write up an article and send it to **anya.schnell@theoakscca.org** to have it published!