

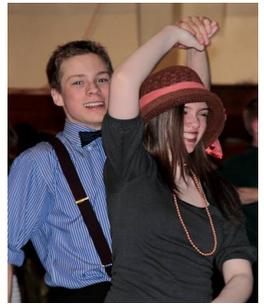
# STUDENT LIFE

The Oaks' Chess Club sent five qualifying members to the statewide Elementary and Middle School Chess Championships. Congratulations to Malia Brown (4th Grade), Orrin Keener (4th Grade), Ben Barrett (1st Grade), Josh Wallach (1st Grade), and Cole Watkins (1st Grade) for representing our school well.

The souls of Grammar students and Secondary students are a little fatter after a fill of annual traditions. Grammar students traversed the continents



learning about the world's instruments on Geography Day. Two weeks later, Secondary students were immersed in the culture of the Roaring 20s and the Great Depression during History Emphasis Days. Events included an antique cars presentation, lectures on the Scopes Trial and the art of the times, and break-out sessions on



topics from poetry to surgery. Thanks to Men of Rhythm, an 18-piece big band, who made our swing dance authentic and fun!

Natalya Ferch received a scholarship from the Spokane Scholars Foundation at their annual banquet. Over 140 nominees attended from 24 high schools. Six Oaks Seniors were nominated in select categories: Hannah Dierdorff (English), Natalya Ferch (Fine Arts), Rachel Yates (Mathematics), Noah Kim (Science), Jordan Strandness (Social Studies), and Sydney Schlect (World Languages). Natalya won third place in the Fine Arts category and received a cash award of \$2000!

THE



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Education Association  
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Spokane, WA 99214

# Oaks

A CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

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## LOVE, THINK, HONOR



April 2015

FROM THE OAKS CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

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"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, his own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." And Amen! Our Spring *Light the Dark* event began with this passage from 1 Peter 2:9. Peter names the owner of light, and he puts a laden adjective in front of it, which a Greek dictionary describes as, "passing human comprehension," "causing amazement joined with terror," "extraordinary, striking, surprising." Possibly most surprising is that God's people are called to step into this light. What a blessing to be in a school culture committed to shining the light of God's Word onto and through every subject! As the event concluded, I announced to our community the direction we are aiming for as a school. Two weeks later, we met with families to discuss this announcement further. Before those details though, a little history.

Most classical, Christian schools begin around someone's kitchen table. Providentially, likeminded families cross paths and small student bodies come together. As schools grow, there is the inevitable discussion about size. Should we stay at one class per grade, or grow to two classes per grade? Over the past number of years, The Oaks has made two steps toward a two-class per grade model. We have placed our cap at 26 students per grade in the Grammar School. While not a sufficient number

of students to split a class, it moves closer to a split class model than a smaller cap would. In the Secondary School, we now split Math, English, Latin, Debate, and Rhetoric classes as the need arises. This enables more teacher-to-student interaction with the added advantage of increasing our student capacity in the Secondary.

Going into this Fall, we are beginning to take steps to split our large Grammar School classes into two, smaller classes that have a maximum of 20 students. This will be a slow process. The Board and I have determined a 5-7 year time frame, which will enable us to balance and maintain three critical priorities. First, we desire to maintain a high educational quality. A bunch of new teachers and new students all at once makes quality control nearly impossible. Second, we desire to maintain strong financial stability through the process. Finally, and most critically, we desire to cultivate and increase the strong Biblical culture that pervades life at The Oaks.

We want "His marvelous light" to be ever more pervasive in our midst. Imagine, 13 years of study as subject after subject is illuminated by that light! Imagine your child immersed in a love for God, a love of His light, a love is more powerful than any adjective the world puts next to the word 'darkness.' May the Lord continue to bless The Oaks in this exciting calling!

Charlie Dowers, Headmaster

## CAMPUS

Thank you to all who attended the *Light the Dark Drama and Dessert*. “(It’s a) Thesis Life” gave a visual taste of what a student receives throughout a 13-year process of classical, Christian education. From handwriting to chants to maxims, illuminated under the marvelous light of Christ, these studies truly are gifts that can yield astounding fruit.



May is an exciting month on campus, beginning with Grandparents Day on Friday, May 1st. It is always an honor to welcome grandparents and to witness their joy in their grandchildren’s education and daily nurture. On Tuesday, May 12th at 7:00pm, students will present the **Annual Spring Program** in the sanctuary at The Oaks. The much-anticipated **Secondary Spring Ball** will be held on Friday, May 15th. Another school favorite, the **Civil War Reenactment**, is coming up on May 22nd. Visitors and family are always welcome; just beware of flying flour sacks!

The Oaks presents *The Sound of Music* during the 50th Anniversary of



this beloved musical. Director Mrs. Teri Woodroof, who claims to be a professional yodeler, has a choreographer, a music director, and a host of parent volunteers by her side as they lead the cast in this tremendous undertaking. The show features 9 talented Seniors, including a theater debut by Jordan Strandness who plays Rolf. Performances are at Mt. Spokane High School at 7pm Thursday, April 30th and Friday, May 1st, and at 2pm and 7pm on Saturday, May 2nd.

The Oaks hosted ACCS school leaders at the Northwest ACCS Administrators Conference on April 23rd and 24th. Fifteen Administrators gathered around the Harkness table for mutual encouragement and edification, discussing topics such as Godly Culture, Points of Excellence, and Marketing.

## ATHLETICS

**Junior High March Madness** concluded at the MCL Tournament, where The Oaks boys gave #1 seed NICS a run for their money. The Oaks boys took 4th overall and received the MCL Team Sportsmanship Award. Oaks girls ended a winning season as a #2 seed. Athletic Director, Ben Tate, witnessed his Oaks coaches training both the skill and character of these young players. Congratulations to both Junior High Teams for a commendable season!

## ACADEMICS

**A Prize More Precious than Rubies...** Almost 4 years ago, our founding Headmaster Bruce Williams began a tradition of Proverbs memorization at The Oaks. Kim Mewes, Head of Grammar School, gathered some statistics and collectively, students in grades 1-6 have memorized and individually recited 109 chapters, totaling over 3500 verses, just this year! Way to go, students!

**Oaks Freshman are busily collecting data** and will present their discoveries on Thursday, May 7th from 6:30-8:30pm at the Science Fair. The evening will include select formal presentations, poster presentations, and a vibrant atmosphere of hypotheses and conclusions.

The Senior Physics Class convened in Seattle for several days, stopping at Omeros, a cutting edge biotech company, and Flow Corporation, world leaders in ultrahigh-pressure (UHP) waterjet technology. University of Washington’s John Davis treated them to 2 solid hours of live Physics demonstrations. The Seniors also met world-renowned molecular biologist Dr. Jonathan Wells at the Discovery Institute, an international hub for the Intelligent Design Movement.



The Seniors Delivered their Theses as the *Light the Dark* drama previewed, using their storehouse of gifts to defend arguments such as, “No Society Should Institute the Practice of Physician-assisted Suicide,” “The United States Should Return to a Flat Income Tax System,” and “Christian Religion Must Fill America in Order for its Society to Flourish.” We are thankful for the years of hard work these students and their teachers have

brought to fruition, and we welcome you to come witness the same kind of fruit at the Junior Theses Defenses on May 26th-May 29th.

## ENROLLMENT

Enrollment for the 2015-2016 school year is underway. We are encouraged by the upcoming year’s enrollment. Of our current student body of 279, 22 students will graduate in June, and 281 students are signed up for next year! Several grades still have open spaces, and prospective family meetings are in full swing. Please join us in praise and petition for God to keep filling our classrooms.

## BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



**Richard Damiano**—Richard grew up in Spokane and graduated from Mead High School before attending Washington State University. He graduated from WSU with a degree in Electrical Engineering and moved to Corvallis Oregon, where he met and later married his wife,— Lisa. While in Corvallis, their daughter Cassie (‘15) was born, and in 1998, they moved to Spokane and soon had their second child, Ben (‘18). Their third child, Joshua, will start Kindergarten just after his sister graduates. Rich has attended Oaks Board meetings since September 2013 and has been a member since September 2014. The Damianos attend Crossover Church and they all enjoy participating in the Living Nativity and other ministries at their church. Rich visits a prison each week to serve in a Bible teaching ministry, and he says that so far the prison staff has seen fit to release him every time! Thank you, Rich, for your service at The Oaks.

## post scriptum...

“The world is nothing but our nursery, our nurturing place, and our school, and there is, therefore, a place beyond, whither we shall be transferred when we are dismissed from the classes of this school and are sent to that university which is everlasting.” Jean Amos Comenius