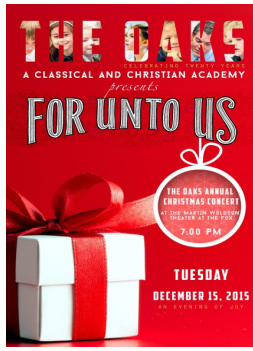


MUSIC AND DRAMA

Join us next week at The Fox Theater in downtown Spokane for The Oaks' Christmas concert! All alumni in attendance are invited up to the stage for the final song, "Gaudete," which means, "Rejoice!" Admission is free so invite friends and family to come rejoice together on Tuesday, December 15th at 7pm. For those out of town or unable to attend, the concert will be live-streamed; contact Russ Lipton at russ.lipton@theoakscsa.org for instructions. For further rejoicing, an adults-only wine and cheese reception will be held from 9-10pm in the Fox lobby. Contact The Oaks office to RSVP. We can't wait for this beautiful celebration of the birth of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!



Fifth graders journeyed to the pines of Ross Point Camp after their post-windstorm break. In Pilgrim garb, and with fresh gratitude for God's provision, they each

personified a different character to tell the first Thanksgiving story. They also joined their teacher Mr. Kolarsky (aka William Bradford) in presenting William Cowper's poem, *Light Shining Out of Darkness*. Cowper's words could not have been more fitting for Thanksgiving 1621 and Thanksgiving 2015: "God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform." Thanks be to God for the faith of our forefathers and for His good purposes for His children.



Lion sighted in Oaks gym, and no, The Oaks does not have a new mascot. Tamed by Jim and Joan Becker, Jonathon Ganji (8th), along with 11 classmates and two 6th grade peers, delivered a roaring performance of *The Magician's Nephew*. To view the play on youtube, search "The Magician's Nephew by The Oaks Classical Christian Academy." Here's to Narnia, the Beckers, and all the helping hands and paws that put on this desert theater!



THE

Oaks
 A CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

The Oaks
 Education Association
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LOVE, THINK, HONOR



DECEMBER 2015

FROM THE OAKS CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

509.536.5955 www.theoakscsa.org

Spokane has a new and vivid understanding of just what David meant when he said, "The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars" in Psalm 29. Windstorm 2015 caused the worst power outage Avista has seen in its 126-year history. A mere puff of breath by our God and school is canceled for 3 days. That is power! Yet as our Christmas trees remind us, the God who uproots spruces is also a Father with arms full of presents.

God has hidden (Proverbs 25:2). This is why we value math facts, logical proofs, and the art of persuasion: because the God Almighty, who was born of a virgin and has the power in His voice to cripple our power grid, gives Himself to His little children. What glorious opportunities do we as parents and teachers have to show these deep mysteries and glorious riches to the next generation?

Juxtapose these two events: Spokane's windstorm and Christ born in a manger. We tend to idealize the calm and the bright this time of year. Praise God for blowing a windstorm into our preparations! Pair the power of God's breath with the incredible connection we feel to the Word Himself who came from heaven to be near us, and we begin to know the depths of the mystery of our inheritance as His children.

On Tuesday, December 15th, we celebrate all these gifts piled together. Students at The Oaks, young and old, will join voices, in imitation of the Almighty, to extol our God. If God's voice topples Spokane's tall pines, what could He do when His children have His words on their tongues in power and beauty? We'll have to wait and see. We hope you can join us. It is a free concert. Donations are welcomed.

Yes, the Lord splinters the pine trees of Spokane. Yes, he comes wrapped in human flesh. But what a wonder that He does all of this to give an inheritance of unfathomable worth to kindergarten students. They learn their "doubles" facts...2+2=4, 5+5=10, etc. at the beginning of a quest to discover an unending inheritance. Education does not save one's soul, but it does reveal a treasure

Praise the Lord for His power this December. Praise Him because His power is manifest in splitting trees and the birth of Christ. And praise Him because we have the opportunity at The Oaks to show this next generation the inheritance their Father has given them, so that they might become strong-rooted "oaks of righteousness."
 Charlie Dowers, Headmaster

ACADEMICS

“Have you not heard” the impassioned delivery of a first grader? One Oaks mother, an actress herself, will never read Isaiah 40:28 the same way after the first grade speech meet. When each student from first through sixth grade presented in class competitions, several in each grade were chosen to advance to the Grammar School Speech Meet with 3 other ACCS Schools. Not only did numerous Oaks students receive the highest award of “Superior,” Beatrice Wiens (3rd), Heidi Meyer (4th), and Katherine VanHorn (6th) also received the highest scores in their respective divisions! Congratulations to these budding rhetoricians!

SCHOOL LIFE

Senior Christa LaVoie (middle) was recently selected to be in the Spokane Lilac Festival Association’s “Fab 14.” On January 31st, after a series of interviews and speeches, 7 of these 14 ladies will be chosen for the 2016 Royal Court, 6 as princesses and one as queen. Last week alone, Christa represented The Oaks at a Christmas parade, nursing home luncheon, and a shopping date with an 8-year-old girl who had never been to the mall. “Fabulous” job, Christa!



The NW Administrators Conference in October had its largest turnout yet. More than two dozen school administrators from Washington, Oregon, Montana, and Idaho gathered around the table at The Oaks to share ideas and encouragement. As iron sharpens iron, these leaders left with a refreshed vision for classical Christian education.



Seniors Kate Cvancara and Samuel Jenkins are violinists in the highest level of the Spokane Youth Symphony (SYS), where our own strings teacher, Jennifer O’Bannan, is the head of operations. First chair violist Gabby Jenkins (10th), Jeslyn Cai (5th), who plays first violin, and violinist Kevin Lin (6th), also play in SYS orchestras. What a delight to watch these students wield their bows to God’s glory.

ATHLETICS

Elementary PE Classes enjoyed a Taekwondo course led by Master Jung Kim, father of 2 current Oaks students and one alumni. Their final presentation had parents cringing as each student broke a board out of their parent’s hands. Thank you Master Kim for a riveting performance!



And the Gold Ball goes to...The Oaks! Our girls volleyball team went 13-1 to capture this traveling trophy for the first time. Two hours later, the girls secured a second piece of hardware...the tournament championship trophy. Special congratulations to seniors Lillian Ragudo, Naomi Kim, and Kiale Palpant for making school history!



RESOURCES

Thank you to all of you who have sent gifts to support the Annual Fund at The Oaks. These gifts help to advance the mission of the school and create

new opportunities. As we head into the month of December, there are several anonymous donors who have pulled together a matching gift fund. **Every gift made to The Oaks Annual Fund during the month of December will be matched, dollar for dollar, up to \$25,000!** Here goes the 25 days of Christmas (which extend until December 31st if you were wondering =). Thank you for your support! There will be donation boxes at The Fox the night of the Christmas concert.

ALUMNI

Alison Roy-Ting (‘09) jumped an Olympic hurdle for Los Angeles by helping develop the plan that won the US Olympics bid for the 2024 Olympics. Alison works for The Boston Consulting Group, and while most of her projects are confidential, she can share the inside scoop about this one: “My job was to map out all possible venues in LA and match them to sports based on considerations like space, capacity requirements, or travel times at different traffic hours. After a long journey for LA’s bid, I am excited that we have become the official US bid city! The final international selection will occur in the summer of 2017, and at this point I think our greatest rival for the Games is Paris.” Glance at her spreadsheet, and you cannot help but conclude Alison clearly took Math from Miss Nolan. Job well done, Alison!



The Alumni Open House will feature Kennedy (Catton) Sanderson (‘06), home from England, sharing about her post-Oaks adventures, followed by a live performance of some of Joel Ansett’s (‘08) brand new music album *The Nature of Us*. Don’t miss a chance to reconnect with fellow alumni, families, teachers, and the Class of 2016 on December 28th from 5-8pm.

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT



Lucy Nolan, a former Mechanical Engineer, is in her 17th year of teaching Math at The Oaks. Besides her love for Math, Miss Nolan is known for passing out candy. Current Senior Catherine Cable is thankful for that “daily dose” and for Miss Nolan’s time spent catering “to individual learning styles, providing explanations...until she knows the concept has become concrete.” Tyson Schlect (‘10) recalls declaring to Miss Nolan in 8th grade that he did not like Math. Her response? That her personal mission that year was to make him love Math. Mission accomplished. “I think of Miss Nolan every day,” says Tyson, who works as a Process Engineer in Boise, Idaho, “because I do Math every single day of my life.” His wife Laura (Walker) Schlect (‘09) also thinks of Miss Nolan fondly each day as she teaches her own 7th grade Math students about neatness on their homework. While Lucy does not rest until each student can find the right answer, and circle it, she does not stop there. “[She] ensures our graduates are equipped with the essentials of a strong math foundation,” says parent Joanna Cable, “not just formulaic razz ma tazz, but understanding.” Thank you, Miss Nolan, for unwrapping candy and the profundity of God’s wisdom for your students!

post scriptum...

“The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty. The Lord will give strength to His people.. and will bless His people with peace.” Ps. 29: 4,11

May the God of power indeed bless you with peace this Christmas!