

# LOVE, THINK, HONOR

*Love Learning, Think Clearly, Honor the Lord Jesus Christ*



February 2012

FROM THE OAKS  
CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

509-536-5955  
www.theoakscca.org

*“Cursed be all learning that is contrary to the Cross of Christ” - Reverend Jonathan Dickinson, Princeton’s University’s first President.*

We have a tough job. Now please don’t read this as an appeal for sympathy or the whining of exhaustion. It is simply an acknowledgement that in our partnership with parents The Oaks is doing something very difficult and tricky. By God’s grace we are seeking to stem not one, but two cultural tides at once: The erosion of Christianity and the erosion of truth, beauty, and goodness. It’s important that we recognize our task and count the cost of this journey because there are endless off ramps. Whether they be the little compromises along the way, or a bigger decision to just give up and blend in with culture. Certainly grace must abound, but we should never take the foot off the pedal of striving to bring every thought captive to Christ. This is where the real battle lines are drawn: in our own hearts and minds. We heard at the Benefit Dinner from Mr. Williams that, *“we can prove statistically that our students do very well but if our goal is to produce well educated sinners, then we should close the doors of the school.”* There seemed to be much agreement in the room. So how does an institution like Princeton start from the quote above and arrive where it is today? Probably a lot of little compromises. We pray that God grants us all the courage and stamina to run the race well. Ph3:12

## ACADEMICS

**TSA would have been proud.** With passports in hand and travel attire our K thru 6 classes traveled the seven continents on Geography Day recently. Our Seniors provided ‘security’ in the gym as they passed out everyone’s passports and sent them on their way to each of the elementary classrooms which had been transformed into one of the seven continents...everyone that is except Mr. Williams who was detained and subjected to, ahem, ‘enhanced security measures’. We received many wonderful comments such as the ones from one of our guests that day was a retired teacher from District 81 who was volunteering to share his Antarctica presentation in Beccy Holland’s room. He was very impressed by the excited atmosphere, the involved parents, and the wonderful students. “In over 30 years of teaching,” he said, “I have never before had kids address me, and say, ‘thank you’.” While that saddens us that he never experienced the joy of this small blessing over his 30 years of hard work, we are reminded of what a privilege it is to teach these students. May God continue to plant these seeds in this generation so that by His grace we can reverse this societal trend.

**Independent Study projects concluded with a bang!** Our Seniors have concluded their independent study projects. This class allows our Seniors to pursue a topic of learning of their choice and then present their project to their peers. Here’s what everyone did: Gabe Cheeley designed, built and operated a brick wood fired pizza oven. Sarah Gotzian volunteered in a physical therapy clinic, Regan Siglin re-wrote three hymns for worship, Nathan Weitz designed and built a cinder block patio, Josh Korver shadowed journalists, Janson Card researched and wrote a grant request for choir risers. Eric Walker built and demonstrated a Tesla coil in the gym. Yes, the sparks were flying!

**Oaks Orchestra.** In our ongoing effort to reduce class sizes we are pleased to announce the hiring of Bill Stutzman who will start next year teaching Rhetoric with Mr. Kimball, Classical Literature and Orchestra. That’s right, we will offer Orchestra next year! Bill comes to us with experience from St. Ambrose School in Boise, ID. We are lucky to have him and look forward to the new offering next year. If your 4th grade or older student might be interested in Orchestra next year, contact Mr. Young.

## ENROLLMENT

**Re-enrollment season is here!** We are excited to report that our enrollment has been steadily increasing since the beginning of the school year . We began at 265 and now stand at 268. This month our families received a letter from our Board of Directors announcing next years’ re-enrollment process and deadline (3/9). This is important so we know our capacity and space availability to offer our new families who are inquiring. Please pray that God will continue to bring the right families to join our school family.

## STUDENT LIFE

**Spring is heating up!** As we return from mid-winter break there are non-stop activities coming that you will not want to miss. We hope that you can make plans now to be a part of them:

Grandparent’s Day & Talent Show (March 9th): This is our chance to roll out the red carpet for our beloved grandparents. Our elementary grades look forward to greeting our honored guests.

Spring Ball (March 30th): a unique and wonderful evening for our secondary students and parents.

Secondary History emphasis days (April 11-13), This year’s emphasis: The Scientific Revolution. What? A Classical institution emphasizing science? How can this be? We will have some very interesting guest speakers for parents and students in addition to the fun activities for the students. Stay tuned to the website for specific times and talks that you’ll want to hear.

The Roots of Modern Science in their Christian Soil (April 13-14) In conjunction with History Emphasis, we are hosting an ACCS sponsored conference that is intended for the larger Spokane area community. We will hear from Guest Speakers James Nickel, Dr. Mitch Stokes, and Dr. Gordon Wilson as they elaborate on the necessary role Christianity has played in our modern understanding of science.

Spring play (May 3-5): Rehearsals for this year’s production, *Pride and Prejudice* are underway. This promises to be another blockbuster!

6th-12th grade Civil war re-enactment (May 18th): This year we will

THE



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witness the battle of Stones River. Come join us and view the battle just as spectators did many times during the Civil War.

These are just a few of the highlights. As you can see we have many event that make up our culture here. Stay tuned to the News and Events page on the website or our detailed school calendar both of which can be found at [www.TheOaksCCA.org](http://www.TheOaksCCA.org)

## RESOURCES

**Benefit Dinner 2012 was a wonderful evening.** Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers including our secondary students, especially the Senior and Junior classes who spent a long day on Friday setting up, working, singing, and cleaning up after the event. Our guests were treated to a wonderful Italian family feast steak dinner in our transformed winter wonderland gym. After a stroll over to the sanctuary we were treated to powerful student poetry readings, beautiful choral sounds, and a senior rhetoric presentation by Josh Korver. The highlight was our keynote address from Headmaster Williams who truly showed us a glimpse of the Heart of The Oaks. Following our grandparent address by Glenn Dobbs our audience was given the opportunity to support The Oaks and by god's grace we were able to raise \$20,000. This is on par with the giving portion of last year's banquet and brings our year-to-date amount raised to \$118,000 toward our annual goal of \$175,000. We thank God for all of the Table Sponsors & Hosts who made the evening possible. While this event matures into our primary fundraiser for the year it is also important that we gather as a school family to remember what it is that we are doing here at The Oaks and it's significance in light of eternity. Please pray with us that God will continue to move in the hearts of all of our supporters to provide the resources necessary.

*"How do I get one of those great parking spaces right in the front of the school? And how is it that some parents are always first in line at everything?"* Oaks Madness will precede March Madness as we will be holding an online blog auction on March 6th from 3-8pm for these and other priceless school items. You can call or email in your bids for such valuable commodities as Front Row seats at next years' Christmas program, or student's choice of locker and microwave, Aide de Camp during the Civil War re-enactment or best park-

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ing space on campus. For full details and description of our items up for auction go to: [www.oaksmadness.wordpress.com](http://www.oaksmadness.wordpress.com)

## ATHLETICS

**The Mountain Christian League concluded their basketball season** this month. We are extremely proud to announce that both the boys and the girls varsity basketball teams earned the Sportsmanship award for the second year in a row! This award is bestowed through voting of the coaches and players from other teams and is a measure of how we are perceived in the league. Our boys team placed second in league play for the season and also in the tournament behind Logos school, Moscow. Congratulations to our athletes for a great season.

*Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts, boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord." Jeremiah 9:23-24.*

## ALUMNI AND PARENTS

Our Parent Academy will be meeting again on 3/13 to continue their study of what it means to educate in a truly classical and Christian manner. The parents of our current Kindergarten and 1st grade classes have been gathering periodically to discuss and understand our teaching philosophy and methodologies. The upcoming meeting will delve into Dorothy Sayers essay, *The Lost Tools of Learning*. Other recommended readings have been *Millstones and Stumbling Blocks* and *Recovering the Lost Tools of Learning* all of which can be found on our website. If any 'older' parents wanted to sneak in to the Parent Academy meeting, that would be OK.

## post scriptum...

Another quote? Joke. Cute story.