

RESOURCES

We are grateful for the generosity of our donors who participated in the 25 Days of Christmas Matching Gift Campaign. From September through December, we received \$92,046 with \$62,625 of given during our year-end-giving campaign! Every dollar you give to The Oaks is reinvested at The Oaks. Thank you for sacrificing for the next generation and helping to position the school to move forward.



Senior Christa LaVoie has been chosen as Princess for the 2016 Lilac Festival! Representing The Oaks on the Spokane Lilac Festival's Royal Court, Christa joins Oaks alumnae Princess Christa Gentili ('11), Princess Brittany (Tenold) Ficek ('06), and Queen Jenna (Johnson) Tenold ('04) in wearing royal shoes. Christa's sacrificial spirit stood out amongst the final "Fab 14" contestants, and she received the "Purple Thread" scholarship. Pictured here with her mother, we are excited to see what road God takes Christa on next!



SCHOOL LIFE

All 305 students filled The Fox stage in downtown Spokane on December 15th for the 20th Annual Christmas Concert. God has turned a small chorus of 33 back in 1996 to a choir of over 300 praising our Savior with strings and winds to boot! The evening was full of rejoicing over the gifts we have in Christ as God's children.



The Third Grade Greek Feast never disappoints with its abundance of togas, Olympic reenactments, and of course, Greek cuisine. Each year, grammar school teachers orchestrate two history events or projects that allow students to taste and relive the past. The fourth graders recently decorated epic gingerbread cathedral cookies to sweeten their study of the Middle Ages. Cheers to Mrs. Tedrow, Mr. Williams, and to many parent costume designers, Olympic trainers, bakers, and frosting makers!

THE



The Oaks
Education Association
P.O. Box 141146
Spokane, WA 99214

Oaks

A CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

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LOVE, THINK, HONOR



February 2016

FROM THE OAKS CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

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A passage recently jumped out and smacked me in my devotions: "Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit," says the Lord of hosts." The Lord sent these words through His prophet to Zerubbabel, the man charged with rebuilding the temple. What a task! The exile of Israel was over. The people were starting to pick up the pieces. No doubt Zerubbabel felt lacking in power and might, and so God provided the bolstering promise of "by My Spirit."

Examples of "By My Spirit" moments literally compose the history of The Oaks and this past semester. How does a hard-hearted child come to the office, turn into a puddle, and walk out with joy? "By My Spirit." How do 300+ students end the semester able to read, spell, derive equations, speak Latin, and articulate God's actions in the world winsomely? "By My Spirit." How does a group of hard-working teachers and parents have any hope in 21st century America of building souls, the very temples of the Holy Spirit? "By My Spirit." This kind of cliff-hanging dependence produces a stockpile of personal and communal examples like these. This dependence makes biblical education much harder. It requires faith, "the evidence of things unseen" after all. At the same time, biblical education is much easier because God accomplishes it. And Amen!

As we enter the second semester and look forward to the next 20 years of The Oaks, we have plans. The Oaks Board of Directors hosted a meeting with parents on February 9th. They laid out our goals to gradually expand the enrollment of The Oaks toward a two-class per grade model, to hire another administrator, and to develop more classroom space. While we are excited about all the possibilities, I am so thankful to be here now, working shoulder-to-shoulder with men and women who love the Lord, and hungering for the blessing of His Spirit to be increasingly poured out on the children surrounding us.

As we pray and work for more 'By My Spirit' moments, we hope that you can join us for the upcoming events at The Oaks. Please join us for The Oaks Benefit Auction on March 4th. Also, we welcome you to a community-wide celebration of the Lord's work at The Oaks over the past 20 years on May 13th & 14th. We will begin with a Friday evening concert retelling The Oaks story and have food, face paint, and fellowship on Saturday. May the Lord bless you and continually fill our duties and devotions with the strength of His Spirit.

Charlie Dowers, Headmaster

CAMPUS

Remembering two decades of God's faithfulness at The Oaks deserves several acts of celebration. Act one will begin on Friday evening, May 13th, as the whole school performs a concert celebrating the works of the Lord over the school's history. Acts two and three on Saturday, May 14th include a staff reunion breakfast, family fun, face painting, fellowship, and a chili feast. Stay tuned for additional encores and join us in praising the Lord for His wonderful deeds at The Oaks!

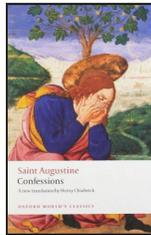
Grandparents Day is on Friday, May 20th! Come join us on campus Friday morning where you will be escorted to your grandchild's classroom presentation, followed by a luncheon with your grandchild. Always a highlight, this year's Grandparent's Day coincides with the High School play, *Seussical the Musical*. Performances are May 19th-21st at University High School. We hope to see lots of Oaks grandparents at both events!

Hearing rumors of skydiving? The Oaks Benefit Auction is fast-approaching. Join us Friday, March 4th at 6pm for a festive evening with a full-course meal and silent and live auctions. The Auction Catalog will be published by February 29th, but word has it there be a chance to bid on skydiving with the Headmaster. Visit www.theoakscca.org for further details. Please support this preview event as we begin celebrating 20 years of God's faithfulness in the lives of our children.

ACADEMICS

Freshman wordsmiths Tabitha Verhage, Maria Guglielmo, and Elenor Wiens deserve a good word themselves. Tabitha and Maria returned from a debate tournament last month as the top two Novices. After debating in class, Maria received first place. Elenor Wiens competed in the Regional finals for *Poetry Out Loud* on February 3rd. Tod Marshall invited Elenor and a few competitors to participate at his pronouncement as Washington's Poet Laureate. Congratulations, ladies!

Looking for a good book? Grammar school teachers are reading Joe Rigby's *Things of Earth*. Secondary teachers are enjoying St. Augustine's *Confessions* where he beautifully penned: "Thou hast made us for thyself and restless is our heart until it comes to rest in thee."

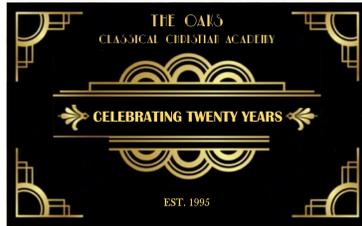


TEACHER SPOTLIGHT



After 10 years at The Oaks, Choir Director Kent Young has vision for the next decade. He sees "a huge choir behind a full orchestra at The Fox singing glorious Christmas songs." Headmaster Dowers saw an article calling The Fox Theater the "Jewel of Spokane" and is thrilled to think of the cumulative impact students could have in the jewel of our city. Some of the kids in that future orchestra already want to play the bass. Why? Because Mr. Young

does! According to Senior Erika Demmert, High School choir promises some good stories, Mr. Young's own compositions, and the lesson to "believe the truth in the songs you sing, and sing like you believe it." This year he composed a selection for the Juniors and Seniors unique from all his other pieces. "[Mr. Young] has been one of the most vital



people in moving the school culture forward and in lifting up the name of Christ at The Oaks," says founding Headmaster, Bruce Williams. "I can't wait until that day [at the Fox]," says Kent. "It is a way of saying 'thank you' for the many years God has been faithful to us." Thank you, Mr. Young, for a decade of directing!



ATHLETICS

Third grade going on. . . High School!

The Boys basketball team welcomed some shorter teammates to a practice this season. This kind of attitude did not go unnoticed, and the Varsity Boys were awarded the Team Sportsmanship Award at the MCL Tournament. Oaks Varsity Girls, the #3 seed, advanced to the tournament championship game. With 30-30 on the scoreboard and less than 2 seconds left, Claire Love (10th) drove to the basket, picked up a foul and made a free throw to win by one! Congratulations to all JV and Varsity players and coaches, and to some up-and-coming Oaks players for a great season!

ALUMNI

What a highlight to have over 100 Alumni, parents, and teachers from New York to California, England to Hawaii attend the Alumni Open House this past December. Returning alumni represented 10 of our 13 graduating classes (2006-2015). Kennedy (Catton) Sanderson ('06) shared about knowing the "what" but not the "why" of God's will in her journey from The Oaks to Cambridge. Joel Ansett ('08) delighted the crowd with brand new songs about life, love, and Aspens. We cannot wait for this reunion to keep multiplying! Next year's ideas include Travis Walker ('08) debating whoever will challenge him on Aspen trees and free will. Special thanks to Kennedy, Joel, and our Master of Ceremonies, Zach Lipton ('08).



The Brothers Szymanowski, in addition to being candidates for a Russian novel, are the stuff of Oaks basketball legend. They both played undefeated senior seasons, and, in Levi's words, "the brothers I made are a lifelong deal. That's the beauty of Oaks Athletics." Titus Szymanowski ('07) married Melissa (left) in 2012 and is now the new Athletic Director for a classical, Christian school near Houston, Texas. After a day of teaching math, Bible, and literature, you could likely find him in the gym helping his students improve their game. "I've noticed that [they] feed off my passion for sports," says Titus. Levi Szymanowski ('13) was



back on his home court as the new Oaks JV Assistant Coach this season. After he earns his bachelors degree in exercise science at Eastern Washington University next spring, he plans to attend a Physician Assistant program. Levi and his fiancée Alexa (right) are getting married this August. If the brothers go one-on-one after the rehearsal, Titus predicts that in a "best of 7 series, I'd win in 6." May God bless both Szymanowski families!



post scriptum...

"Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit," says the Lord of hosts. The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this temple; his hands also shall finish it." Zechariah 4:6,8