

LOVE, THINK, HONOR

Love Learning, Think Clearly, Honor the Lord Jesus Christ



January 2012

FROM THE OAKS
CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

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www.theoakscga.org

Think of the last time you were at a really good restaurant and enjoyed a fantastic meal. As a matter of fact, think of the best meal you have ever had. Got it? Now, tweak your memory just a bit: imagine how you'd feel if the maitre d' came to your table and told you your meal would be half price that night! Wow you'd be smiling, already thinking of who you could tell *this* story to. Then when the check comes, you find out it's not half but a full *third* of what you'd expected. Whoa, when that bill arrives not only would you be happy to pay it, you'd also probably leave a pretty nice tip. You'd be telling everyone you know about this screaming deal: best service, best food in town, for a third of the cost. You certainly wouldn't begrudge the cost, & probably wouldn't be able to keep it to yourself. If one of your friends found out about it before you told them, you'd be disappointed you didn't tell them, wouldn't you? So, how do you feel about The Oaks? We are providing a learning environment with small class sizes (less than a dozen in most high school classes), foreign travel (2/3 of the cost of a 2 week trip to Italy/Greece is built in to tuition), producing some of the highest SAT scores and scholarships in the region for a third of the price of our closest comparator. It's always the season for fine dining. Bon Appetite!

"Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good." Psalm 34:8a

ACADEMICS

N. D. Wilson, Author, Speaker, Movie Mogul and unabashed caterpillar watcher was our honored guest recently at The Oaks. Mr. Wilson is the author of "Notes from the Tilt-a-Whirl", one of the texts used in our senior Apologetics class, has been made into a movie recently released by (!) He spoke to our students about God's wonders. Isn't it odd that a caterpillar would turn itself into soup inside the cocoon and then incredibly reform into a completely different being? Or why do bumblebees even exist? Aerodynamically they simply should not be able to fly. These were just two of the wonders that point to an incredible infinite God which we should in no way be ashamed to serve. Let's all say it together: "I believe in Unicorns!" (Ok, you had to be there...ask a student)

Our secondary students have had some very heated debates. These debates have been with students from all over the city as part of the Greater Spokane League debate tournaments. The resolutions have been juicy and as Christians it has given our 9-12th graders a glimpse of the battles raging in our country. How would you affirm or negate the following resolutions: "Individuals have a moral obligation to assist people in need." or "It is morally permissible for the victim to use deadly force in response to repeated domestic violence." Go ahead, ask a secondary student...we dare ya! Our students have faced hostile judges and students and are learning how to shine God's light into a dark world.

ENROLLMENT

Our first ever Skip School Day was a success! We had 20 visitors to The Oaks on Veterans day this year. For some it was a chance to just see what their friends had been talking about. For others it was a convenient way to visit and seriously consider enrolling their students. As you may have gathered by now, no one skipped school, it was one of those anomalies where we were in session and the public schools were on break.

We are blessed with growing numbers. While we hear from many institutions about the increased pressure on their enrollment and their shrinking student body, by God's grace we are growing. Through your efforts of spreading the word and talking freely about the good things God is doing here at The Oaks, more and more

families are able to seriously consider making this a priority for their children.

STUDENT LIFE

You can enjoy Christmas all year long. And why wouldn't we? Celebrating the coming of Immanuel, God With Us, doesn't need to be confined to a four week season. The sights and sounds of our Christmas program can be relived or shared with others from our website. Go to www.awesomemusic.com and relive the magic. We also have a couple dozen cd's available for relatives. Check with Anya in the Development office.

Speaking of blessed...Kent Young and our Madrigal Choir went on a Christmas tour appearing at two nursing homes, and Riverpark Square, complete with a flash mob impromptu performance at Panda Express! The highlight of the day, however, was the stop at Alderwood Manor where our students were greeted with seniors in a much more convalescent state, including a family who was expecting their mother to pass on any day after being taken off all life support the previous week. As the students sang outside her door, she opened her eyes and even tried to sit up at the beautiful sounds. Needless to say there was not a dry eye to be found in the manor's staff, our students or her family. What a privilege to be there at that time to imitate the sounds of heaven for this beautiful soul and her family.

RESOURCES

A Heart for The Oaks Benefit Dinner is rapidly approaching on Friday, February 3rd. As our annual event continues to evolve we will be having a homecoming of sorts this year. While there will be no auction this year, we will still include an invitation for guests to partner with us by donation or enrollment. We will be raising funds for our tuition assistance fund, but this event is also a great opportunity to invite a neighbor or friend who has always wanted to know more about The Oaks. This evening is intended for ALL Oaks families, interested guests, or anyone who would like to know what we are up to here at The Oaks. Pick up your invitation at the school office or view and print online.

The Fourteenth Year. We are a K-12 school. Families of our gradu-

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ates who have been here since Kindergarten have been paying tuition for thirteen years. And by god's grace they and their children will reap the benefits of their hard work and sacrifice for the rest of their lives. You may have heard of The Fourteenth Year. This is simply a chance for families to continue in the financial discipline they have developed over those thirteen years for one more year, this time as more of a spiritual discipline of generosity or giving back or paying forward as some may say. We would hope that our families don't think of The Oaks as a burden they can't wait to be free from financially, but rather a blessing they are sad to see end. By taking advantage of the fourteenth year, you are helping to further our mission of raising up the next generation in the way they should go.

ATHLETICS

Basketball Season is well under way! We've already had some dramatic, buzzer-beater, game saving shots. These games are high school competition as it should be. We work hard to instill a Godly standard of competition in our athletes. We as fans also want to demonstrate Christian hospitality and charity as hosts even in the midst of fierce competition. As we watch bench clearing brawls on ESPN, the antidote is on our gym floor. It's in the simple acts such as a hand up off the floor, or our student athletes leading their opponents and fans in the singing of the doxology after every contest, win or lose. Come to an Oaks game over the next few weeks. It will renew your outlook on the fate of collegiate or even professional athletics. A complete schedule and details for the next games can always be found on our website: www.TheOaksCCA.org

Our own Nathan Weitz ('12) raced in the Footlocker National cross country competition last month. Nathan placed third. Ho hum. The official rankings have come out for the year and officially, WE HAVE THE FASTEST HUMAN OF THAT AGE IN THE COUNTRY memorizing Proverbs in our classrooms! (The two runners ahead of Nathan were not-US citizens). This is another example of how elite athletes can compete at city/state or even national levels and still get a quality education through The Oaks. When asked about the event in typical Nathan style he said one of the neatest things was how he and regular season rival, Andrew Gardner (Mead), were able to work

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together in this race to have both Spokane runners finish in the top ten in this national race. Nathan runs for Shadle Park High School Cross Country Team but listed himself as attending The Oaks Classical Christian School at this event. Thanks for the love, Nathan!

ALUMNI AND PARENTS

Alumni Dinner 2012 was another enjoyable evening of reconnecting with our alumni and sharing some of their experiences in their years since leaving The Oaks. Our Seniors, parents, and alumni families were treated to a steak dinner and was a wonderful opportunity for everyone to renew their friendships and refresh each others spirits after the holidays.

Zach Lipton ('10) has been named as our first ever Alumni Director. Zach has always been an enthusiastic alumni of The Oaks. He has prayerfully agreed to use that energy to be the go-to coordinator in communicating with our alumni and maintaining our relationship with this growing and important part of our school.

Caleb Korver ('08) was accepted as a Naval aviator Student and will be attending flight school this fall in Pensacola, FL having beat out candidates from all over the country. Congratulations Caleb!

Sarah Woodroof ('10), accepted in to The Whitworth Choir, has been performing and competing all over the Northwest. Congratulations on fulfilling a longstanding dream!

post scriptum...

Yes, Ted-Ted, and Snowflake are safe! There are hazards and blessings to living so close to the school as Mr. Williams can attest. It's late one evening and he gets... the call. A distraught, yet sheepish parent calling to see if they can get into the school to search for their lost and must needed sleep aids for their little one. All is well that ends well; they were able to locate TedTed and Snowflake (two of the cutest bears you ever saw) which were safely inserted into the sleepy arms of an Oaks student. They were later seen riding in said student's backpack the next day while she delivered to Mr. Williams the cutest thank you note imaginable. Hazard or blessing? You decide.