



STUDENT LIFE

On a cold winter's night, December 13th, The Oaks Christmas Concert was held at The Fox Theater in downtown Spokane. The students have grown in beauty and skill on their instruments and vocally, and it was arguably the most beautiful Oaks performance to date. One of the magical songs of the night was *See Amid the Winter's Snow* as Oaks staff joined the High School choir, accompanied by gorgeous strings and percussion. More audience favorites included the special ensemble's *Little Drummer Boy*, and the high school boys singing *Mighty Lord, Extend Your Kingdom*. You can watch the concert at <http://thecube.com/event/695720> or visit www.theoakscsa.org for a link to the audio recording.

Oaks students were invited to sing with Christian artist Chris Tomlin at the INB Performing Arts Center on December 15th. After hanging out and taking pictures with Mr. Tomlin backstage, these 9 students from grades 4 to 8 came on stage and snapped their fingers for a solid 5 minutes while



singing an upbeat version of *Away in a Manger*. What an honor for these kids—we are proud of you!

ALUMNI

What a joy to reunite at the Alumni Open House on December 27th. We

were honored to have Bruce and Susan Williams back from Texas, Alumni from classes 2004-2016 and their families, and teachers who have watched these students grow up. Emily Woodroof ('09), who teaches rhetoric, literature, and debate at The Oaks, sang some beautiful jazz. Matt & Sydney Linnell (both '11) shared about their overseas adventures that included Sydney's study of neuropsychology as a Fulbright scholar in the Netherlands. The Linnells are now in California while Matt attends law school at Pepperdine University.



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THE



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Oaks

A CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

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LOVE, THINK, HONOR



January 2017

FROM THE OAKS CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

509.536.5955 www.theoakscsa.org

Greetings! Every year we have the opportunity to hold a Christmas concert and celebration. It is a great privilege to gather and rejoice together in the birth of the Word made flesh, celebrating with our utmost capacities for adornment and beauty. For us this means singing Christmas songs at The Fox Theatre.

For those in the audience, my prayer each year is that this concert encourages you on a deeper level than the sights, sounds, and the beauty of the evening. Truth be told, this concert is not for those sitting in the seats first. It is for those smiling faces on stage. They are proclaiming truth and Scripture, but only partially for the seated audience. We ask them to do this with skill, in a beautiful venue, to bless others, so that they experience the *joy* of their inheritance in Christ.

Education does not save us, but it does reveal layer after layer of the depths of our inheritance in Christ. Christ has given us the ability to learn math, literature, science, history, and the depths of His Scriptures. We teach these children all of these things and more not to make them future productive worker bees, but because, in Christ, they have received the fullness of every spiritual blessing. We do this so they may

know the fullness of their inheritance...and what to do with it.

The Oaks Christmas program, seen through the eyes of faith, is an exercise aimed at expanding these young souls' capacities and appetites. And this is the second aspect of my prayer for each concert: that the Lord, by His spirit, would expand the skills and desires of these children to glorify His name so that this generation would far exceed our own efforts at praising the Savior of the nations.

This type of undertaking is not only eternally lasting, it is an absolute joy to participate in. Further, we hope it is a source of great encouragement to your own souls. The year 2017 is now upon us and I am eager to see what God brings our way over the next 12 months. One thing I fully expect is that in the days between now and the next concert on December 12th, God will be busy using teachers and parents to grow, stretch, and expand the capacities of the students at The Oaks. When we gather again downtown at The Fox, the next generation will know, understand, and rejoice even more fully in the glories of our glorious inheritance in Christ! Praise the Lord!

Charlie Dowers, Headmaster



CAMPUS

“Asking junior high students to convincingly perform Shakespeare is no easy task,” says Teri Woodroof, who directed *A MidWinter Night’s Dream* on December 3rd. These 6th-8th graders and one freshman began their rehearsals stumbling through difficult lines of “Shake-speak,” a foreign language to many. By performance day, they delivered them with real understanding and “pizzaz.” With the backdrop of a stunning

set and beautiful live music, these students demonstrated they are ready for more Shakespeare in class and more acting challenges!

Pastor Rodney Kleyn drove 400 miles through the night to be at Pastor Appreciation Day on Monday, November 14th. He enjoyed it so much last year he did not want to miss it! Pastor Rodney’s highlight was singing praises to God with a gym full of saints at *Cantabile*. After *Cantabile*, everyone received a blessing from Pastor Keith Krell, who shared Colossians 3:6-7: “Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him.” What a fitting verse for students who are daily being “built up in Him” by their parents, teachers, and pastors. Abe Wiens’ (1st) highlight was singing for all the pastors and he was excited to see not one of his pastors, but three! We are grateful for many faithful shepherds in this community.



ACADEMICS



Each year every Grammar School student in grades 1-6 commits a poem, literature selection, or Scripture passage to memory to share at their class speech meet. This year, two students from each category competed in the inter-school speech meet in early November.

Whether they recite from Exodus or “I am Boom” (a thunder dragon) like two of the third graders above, these young minds are being shaped for memorizing truth and giving it to others for the rest of their lives. Congratulations to all 34 speech meet winners!

High school debaters have competed in various tournaments this first semester. In the novice division, Ellie Cook (9th) received 1st place speaker and Paul Lindauer (9th) received 4th place speaker. During the most recent JV Debate Tournament, Jessie Nettles (10th) received 5th place speaker and Jenae Nettles (10th) advanced to quarter-finals. Clara Cimijotti (10th) advanced all the way to the finals round, which means she competed in 8, forty-five minute rounds. Clara ended her long day in 2nd place! For an inside look at an Oaks debate class, come visit the new Glass Wall Blog at www.theoakscca.org.

RESOURCES

It’s time to register for the Oaks Benefit Auction on Friday, February 3rd from 6:00-9:00pm at the Spokane Valley Event Center. Last year’s auction was a blast so set aside your suit or party dress now! Please join us



as we seek to meet our goal for the Annual Fund this academic year. Visit www.theoakscca.org to register and check out the latest details on the dinner menu and auction catalog.

ATHLETICS

The girls varsity volleyball team and the boys soccer team both made it to the championship games at their respective tournaments. Oaks volleyball girls faced their rival, Kootenai Thunder, in two back-to-back matches and took 2nd place in the championship. They were named regular season champions and brought home the gold ball trophy. At the MCL soccer tournament, Oaks boys came back after losing to CCA at the end of the regular season and faced them 4 days later at the championship. Cobi Kim (10th) scored both goals for a 2-0 victory and the tournament trophy!

Oaks girls and boys basketball teams are already in mid-season! Please join us in praying for varsity boys coach, Andy Mattson, who is recovering from extensive knee surgery in December. Thanks to JV coach Levi Szymanowski ('13) for stepping up to coach practices during Andy’s down time. Come support all your JV and varsity teams at some upcoming home games: January 10th, 13th, and 17th. Go Oaks!

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT



Teri Woodroof came to The Oaks nearly ten years ago and after the former drama director moved to England, Teri requested to direct her first Oaks play and first ever Oaks musical, *Oliver!* Since then, Teri has accomplished many a drama feat. This past semester, in fact, she was involved with two bold ventures. First, she helped start the Academy for the Performing Arts which offered students coaching in voice, acting, and dance. “I’m so thankful there is a Performing Arts Academy” says 4th grader Liam Lundberg. “Mrs. Woodroof makes me feel warm and happy and excited about drama.” Teri also successfully directed Junior High students in the art of Shakespeare for the Junior High Dessert Theatre. The future of Oaks drama only looks brighter. In the immediate future, Teri is excited for a second session of the Academy for the Performing Arts in January and directing the spring play, *Beauty and the Beast*. Ten years down the road, her vision is to see Oaks Theatre as a beacon of light in Spokane. “God’s gift of story is played out beautifully onstage by our students who are skilled in acting, voice and dance performance. Giving them the opportunity to grow and use these gifts is my passion.” Thank you, Teri, for your radiant smile and diligence!

post scriptum...

At the recent Alumni Open House, Zach Lipton ('08) shared this quote from *Total Truth*, a book that he read at The Oaks:

“As with every aspect of our sanctification, the renewal of the mind may be painful and difficult. It requires hard work and discipline, inspired by a sacrificial love for Christ and a burning desire to build up His body, the church. Developing a Christian worldview means submitting our entire self to God, in an act of devotion and service to Him.”

-Nancy Pearcey