

STUDENT LIFE

How can Christians change culture? "Create it right where you are," was the answer George Grant offered during October's *Light the Dark* event. Instead of merely teaching our kids to say "no" to the world's parties, why not throw better ones? Take the Spring Ball, for instance. Combine beautiful gowns, bow ties, and whirling polkas with gentleman making sure the ladies get to dance, a live band, and parents learning to jig. Now who would want to miss that party?



Oaks students competed in piano, vocal, guitar, strings, and ballet divisions at Musicfest Northwest. Pianist Megan Tallman (5th) received an "Excellent." Juniors Christa LaVoie and Anna Tibbetts both received an "Excellent" in voice, Hannah Siglin (12th) received a silver medal in voice, and Daniel True (6th) was invited to play piano on the radio. Pianist Jeslyn Cai (4th) received 3 gold medals, and Justin Cai (9th) sprinted from the

Oaks Ball to play piano in the Highlights concert after receiving 5 gold medals and a silver.

Elementary Students were invited to "Poppa Severn's," for some jumping castle and waterslide fun. This "Poppa-lar" Oaks Grandparent also provided misters and ice cream to keep everyone cool in record-setting June heat. Thanks for the memories!



Five Oaks students spent Spring Break serving as pages for the Washington State Legislature in Olympia. These students were privileged to have a Q & A Session and dinner



with Representative Matt Shea, Representative Bob McCaslin, and Senator Mike Padden, three believers representing Washington's 4th legislative district.

THE



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A CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

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LOVE, THINK, HONOR



June 2015

FROM THE OAKS CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

509.536.5955 www.theoakscca.org

Last week, thirteen Oaks staff members flew to Dallas, Texas for the National Association of Classical Christian Schools (ACCS) Conference. It was an uplifting conference and rich time of fellowship. One of the highlights was hearing Dr. Albert Mohler speak. The current president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Dr. Mohler was called "the nation's leading Christian Intellectual" by TIME magazine (which, he commented with a smirk, goes to show just how little it takes to impress TIME these days). "I am here as your friend, to encourage you" he said. And what an encouragement he was.

But his talk did not start out encouraging. Appropriating the metaphor from Solzhenitsyn, Dr. Mohler called our society a "cut flower society." We have been cut off from Christ as a society, and as a result, the flower that is our society is wilting quickly. To change up the metaphor, our society is quickly turning to ruins. Dr. Mohler's encouragement came from his answer to the question, "So just what should we do about that?" Looking out over the gathering of nearly 1200 classical, Christian educators at the conference, Dr. Mohler said, "I see the rebuilding of the ruins all around me."

From his vantage point, the difficult endeavor of classical, Christian education is one of the reasons he smiles at the future. Drawing from one of St. Augustine's key works, *The City of God*, he posed the following question: "If we are Christians and members of the City of God, why are we still here in the City of Man?" Or, put another way, if we are not

of this world, why does God have us here? We are here to love our neighbor. As parents and teachers, God has sovereignly placed us here to shape the little ones in our charge. We are here to show love to our neighbors in more ways than simply providing for their future career. God has given us the role and the power of forming the souls of our children. What is at stake in education is very high. In fact, how we raise our children and teach in the classroom is more important than we can see. Echoing 1 Peter 2:5, Dr. Mohler said, "Our concerns are in the concrete, in the students given into our care." What we are doing is nothing less than touching the building blocks of the kingdom of The Lord. What a timely reminder as we head into summer.

The resurgence of classical, Christian education continues to gain momentum nationally. Just imagine the impact of this generation faithfully engaging in the "Great Conversation" about who God is, why He has placed us here, what it means to act justly, and how to wrestle with His revelation of Himself in all creation. How might each dinnertime story and classroom discussion be multiplied by the Lord, generationally, in His kingdom?

Throughout the summer, continue to pray for the Lord's blessing on your parenting, on our preparations for teaching, and for these "living stones" to be shaped for the glory of the Lord in the City of God and for the blessing of the City of Man. God bless!

Charlie Dowers, Headmaster

CAMPUS

Cantabile recordings are now on the website! The students and staff open and close each school week “teaching and admonishing one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs” (Colossians 3:16). You are sure to be encouraged by the podcasts at www.theoakscca.net. As the Class of 2015 joined their final Cantabile, the gym rang with Katherine Davis’s words: “[God’s] light goes before us...till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished, as forward we travel from light into light.” What a fitting war song as another group of graduates marches onto new battleground.



ALUMNI

Praise God for the Class of 2015 and their families. Seven of these families have now sent their entire prodigy to The Oaks, and 11 of our 22 graduates attended since Kindergarten. The matriculations of The Oaks’ Class of 2015 are as follows:

Auden Chu— Washington State	David Knecht— Spokane Community College
Haeden Coffey— University of Washington	Kalianna Lundin— Whitworth University
Cassandra Damiano—Eastern Washington	Timothy Potter— Eastern Washington
Hannah Dierdorff—George Fox University	Sydney Schlect— Northwest University
Natalya Ferch—Oklahoma City University	Baylee Schneider— Eastern Washington
Timothy Fisher—University of Oklahoma	Hannah Siglin— Berklee School of Music
Delaney Gold— Belmont University	Jordan Strandness— Westmont College
Neal Gray— Montana State University	Madison Tan— Gonzaga University
Trent Gray— Montana State University	Philip Tate— New St. Andrews College
Lydia Kim— St. John’s University	Amelia Wall— Liberty University
Noah Kim— Montana State University	Rachel Yates— University of Oklahoma

Sydney Lewis ('11) received a Fulbright scholarship to pursue a masters degree in neuroscience at Maastricht University in the Netherlands. Sydney will wed Matt Linnell ('11) this summer. In the fall, the newlyweds will cross the ocean as fellow graduates of Baylor University.

Mattias LaVoie ('14) was recently elected as Executive Vice President for the Associated Student Body (ASB) at Corban University in Salem, Oregon. The LaVoie family is praising God for Mattias’s election and the accompanying scholarship.



ACADEMICS

Elementary Traditions abounded in May as fifth graders travelled to the Oregon Coast, reliving some of Lewis and Clark’s adventures at Fort Clatsop, clamming, and tidepooling. Fourth graders hosted their annual Medieval Feast, complete with a sword dance, Latin songs, and guest appearances from Joan of Arc and William the Conqueror.

Kevin Lin placed first in a 7th Grade section of “Math is Cool” back in November. What’s even cooler, he competed as a fifth grader! He took first again at a 6th grade competition in January. In May, he competed at the state level in 6th grade Math and placed 2nd. Way to go, Kevin!

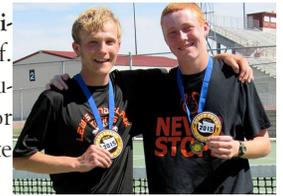
What do guns, vaccinations, and asteroid mining have in common? Ask the Oaks Class of 2016. The 19 Juniors studied these and other topics for their Thesis Defenses in late May. Other theses included: “Christians Need to Read Harry Potter,” “Embryonic Stem Cell Research is Unethical,” and “The Architectural Form of a Church Should Follow its Function.”

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



The Sound of Music sold out twice with a total attendance of 1,750 for the 4 shows. Special thanks to Mrs. Woodroof, all her assistant directors, and to our Seniors for producing a highlight of the school year.

Lydia Kim ('15) golfed at the Big East Invitational for Mead and won after a playoff. **Jordan Strandess ('15) won first place** in doubles tennis for the second year in a row for Lewis and Clark High School at the State Championships.



STAFF AND BOARD

Farewell to a beloved teacher and general, Eric Fugitt. Not only has Eric led the most Oaks Civil War battalions, he is also one of the 5 original Oaks teachers from its founding in 1996. God has opened a door for the Fugitts to continue the work of classical, Christian education in Hawaii. We know our loss is Oahu’s gain. Thank you, Eric and Debbie, for your faithful labors in Spokane. You will be missed!

Thirteen staff members made a mini-exodus to Texas to culminate the school year. One of their goals in attending this year’s ACCS *Repairing the Ruins* Conference was to collect “nuggets” to bring home to The Oaks. Dr. Albert Mohler and author Nancy Pearcey, two leading experts on Christian worldview, along with a host of workshop and plenary speakers, provided the staff with plenty of gold-mining opportunities.

Jerry Cimijotti has faithfully served on the Oaks Board since 2009. He and his wife Courtney have 3 children at The Oaks, Clara (9th), Paul (5th), and John (2nd). Jerry is completing his second term on the Board. We are thankful for his hard work and dedication in service to the staff and families of The Oaks.

ENROLLMENT

After watching God bless our enrollment, we have decided to split 6th grade into two classes. We are excited to welcome Stacey Miller, former Enhancement Teacher, to teach 6th Grade in the fall. Join us in praise to God for His provision and in supplication for His continual direction for the 2015-16 school year.

Kindergarten- 24	
1st Grade- 22	7th Grade- 17
2nd Grade- 23	8th Grade- 27
3rd Grade- 23	9th Grade- 27
4th Grade- 25	10th Grade- 23
5th Grade- 27	11th Grade- 8
6th Grade- 29	12th Grade- 19
School Total: 294	

post scriptum...

“[Christian education] is not possibly less significant than you think...it is far more important than you think.”
-Dr. Albert Mohler