

LOVE, THINK, HONOR

Love Learning, Think Clearly, Honor the Lord Jesus Christ



March 2012

FROM THE OAKS
CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

509-536-5955
www.theoakscca.org

Are you encouraged? Right now, as you read this, are you feeling good about the future prospects of our world? How about the state of education for our next generation or even for your child? Are you encouraged even when your student brings home that sixth attention grabber ...this week? Well, don't lose heart. We know it's easy to grow weary, especially when things sound so dire in the media or from politicians seeking re-election. But when we look to God's word, we can take hope. Isaiah 40:31 says, "but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not be faint." You really are doing something profound and wonderful. By following the Bible's admonitions regarding education we are in the process of changing our world for the better; His better. By teaching our students *how* to think, not *what* to think, we are equipping them with the tools necessary to master any subject they may want to pursue. Dorothy Sayers, in her 1947 essay, "The Lost Tools of Learning", described classical education as providing "the proper training of the mind to encounter and deal with the formidable mass of undigested problems presented to it by the modern world." Coupled with God's promises in Isaiah, we can be truly hopeful and encouraged...even after the seventh attention grabber..... or the eighth....

ACADEMICS

Announcing Pre-Kindergarten for The Oaks! Our board announced last month they had been contemplating adding a Pre-K class. We are excited to share that God has opened the doors for this new addition to the Oaks for the coming year. Logos school in Moscow has had a Pre-K program for over seven years and reports that students have an easier transition to kindergarten, and that it has been a wonderful addition to their school. We are praying for a similar report, but we would first like to fill the class! If you happen to know of a family with a child in pre-school or may be considering Pre-K for next year, be sure to mention The Oaks to them. We have brochures in the school office you can give them. Or you can refer them to the website for more information.

The 100th day. This is a big day at The Oaks. It's not a big day at your house? What?! As every kindergartner at The Oaks knows, this is the day they met some bonafide superheroes: Zero the Hero and her sidekick, Zip from the planet Zilch! Mrs. Korver's kindergarten students were chanting to attract the superheroes all morning as they counted out 100 cheerios, colored pictures with 100 stamps, and made jewelry out of 100 candies and sure enough, the heroes arrived. Have you ever stopped and simply pondered how important the lowly zero is? Just check your 401-k and either add or take one away. A zero is a big deal!!! Our youngest students would certainly agree. Reporter **Josh Korver** ('12) captured the momentous visit with a great video. Go to YouTube.com/TheOaksSpokane to bookmark The Oaks channel for all our videos.

Senior Physics trip. Mr. Dowers took 11 of our seniors on the annual three-day Physics trip to Seattle this month. Highlights included stops at the Discovery Institute and the University of Washington-Physics Demonstrations lab where John Davis treated them to some eye popping surprises, many of which he will bring to The Oaks for our upcoming History Emphasis Days. Of particular note was a solid two-hour conversation with the head of the University of Washington Philosophy of Science Department. Our students' biblical worldviews were tested and stretched as they wrestled with the ideas discussed there.

Staff changes for next year: Mr. Gary Purkett will not be returning next year. He and his wife Kristy are moving to Michigan where Gary has been offered an instructorship which allows him to pursue his

second masters degree in actuarial mathematics at the University of Michigan. We wish Gary and Kristy God's best as they make plans for moving and beginning their new adventure this summer. Andy Mattson has been hired to teach Math next year. Most recently teaching in Tekoa, he and his wife Kristi are excited for him to teach closer to home, and we are excited to hear stories from the Alaskan commercial fishing boats where Andy spends his summers. Maybe we'll see him on the *Time Bandit* from Deadliest Catch!

ENROLLMENT

Our open enrollment begins April 1st and we are happy to report that we are well on our way to having another great enrollment year. We currently have 269 students. After graduating our seniors (God willing!) and accounting for our new students from existing families, we are starting our open enrollment with 273. That includes an attrition rate of less than 2%! We are praying for 296 students this next year. Thank you to everyone who is already actively spreading the word of our new Pre-K class and The Oaks in general. It is paying off! We had 10 families (13 students) attend our recent open house because of your kind word of mouth! Thank You! Spreading the word is one of the best things you can do to help our school.

STUDENT LIFE

It's time to take a deep breath in our school year. We have a number of things coming for which our students are already busy preparing:

3/30-Spring Ball. This is an opportunity for our secondary students, parents and grandparents to dance the night away! Our students have been learning The Virginia Reel, Posties Jig and many other dances in preparation for this beautiful evening.

4/3-5-Seniors are set to present and defend their theses. Stay tuned to our website for a complete list of topics and schedules. You won't want to miss these as they are challenging topics. Thesis preparation and defense is a distinctive of our school curriculum. It is always a blessing to see our students rise to this challenge.

4/10-Elementary Spring Program 7:00pm in the sanctuary. "Worship is Warfare". Our students will demonstrate their training for worship and the psalms and hymns of God's holy army that will encourage us all. Everyone is welcome.

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4/11-13-History Emphasis days. This year focuses on the scientific revolution. Our students will be conducting experiments, visiting a planetarium, and hearing nationally known, respected speakers in the fields of mathematics, biology and physics.

4/13-14-The Roots of Modern Science in Their Christian Soil Conference. The Oaks is hosting an ACCS-endorsed conference discussing how a biblical worldview intersects with our understanding of science. We are blessed to have some distinguished speakers on campus participating in this conference, which is already drawing attendees from across the country. The conference overlaps our History Emphasis week so our students (and parents!) have the benefit of being exposed to some high caliber thinkers and speakers. On Thursday, for instance, Mr. John Davis, University of Washington Director of Lecture Demonstrations, will be bringing his 'trailer of mysteries' to our gymnasium to wow our audience. For full vitas on the speakers and a complete schedule of events and registration go to:

www.RootsofModernScience.com

Best Grandparents Day ever. Don't we say that every year? Well, we mean it. It keeps getting better. We ran out of chairs! What a blessing to have grandparents and families enjoy the fruit of all the hard work of their students. We are blessed by a special batch of grandparents and we want to make sure they know how important they are to our school. For an intimate and very cute description of some of the activities, visit our facebook page and see Mrs. Holland's letter to her family describing her experiences that day.

RESOURCES

We have been blessed by wonderfully generous parents and grandparents. Would you take a moment, even as you read this, to offer your thanks to the Lord for our faithful supporters? We truly could not do what we do without them. As mentioned last month, we are approximately 70% toward our year-end financial goal and by God's grace we are confident He will provide for our needs out of His abundance.

"The Triune God of the Christian faith is distinct from all other so-called gods in that He is the God of generous giving and sharing. God the Father has given generously His only beloved Son for sinners, who are His enemies."

Sung Wook Chung, D.Phil. (Oxford University), Pastor

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"This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God."

2 Cor 9:12

ATHLETICS

Pride and Prejudice to open on May 3rd. (There's dancing in it so it's sort of athletic.) This Jane Austen classic play will be performed by our Oaks students and staff for three nights only on the University High School stage. Don't miss it. Many attendees have commented after past productions they wish more people knew what a quality performance our students achieve. This short run (May 3-5th) will be another excellent production. We know that every woman under the age of...well, *every* woman will want to see this. Men, it's not bad, and face it, March Madness is over, you owe these women. For show times, and directions, visit the website or facebook.

ALUMNI AND PARENTS

Daniele Modderman('14) and Stefanie Modderman('16) both recently served as pages in the Washington House of Representatives, sponsored by Representative Matt Shea R- Spokane Valley, and Larry Crouse R-Spokane Valley respectively. Our thanks to our area legislators for facilitating such a wonderful experience.

Natashia Cheeley ('10) is running for student body president of Biola University. It's fun to see the campaign video on facebook.

Jordan Lee('10) and some friends at University of Southern California are putting on a Jesus Party on Skid Row! Their promo video will inspire you.

Go to our facebook page to see the all of the clips described above.

post scriptum...

Has it been a while since you read Dorothy Sayers' essay, "The Lost Tools of Learning?" Have you ever read it? Do it soon. You will be encouraged. You can download a pdf or read online in the suggested reading section of our website:

<http://www.theoakscga.org/OaksStoreLibrary.aspx>