



STUDENT LIFE

The youngest Oaks “acorns” celebrated 100 days of school on March 9th. “Zero the Hero” and “Zip” visited from the planet “Zero” (i.e. from their senior classroom), to talk about Zebras and Ziraffes from their planet and to lead 100 exercises. Odds are there were zero frowns at this celebration!

During protocol classes, Stacey Miller encouraged students to “enjoy and display beauty” in how they carry themselves, and her challenge to “delight in beauty” really stood out to Jena Krell (10th). Protocol classes culminated in a formal dinner downtown at the Spokane Club (see Jena and her family pictured right). After dining, this elegant crowd walked to The Fox Thea-



ter to see Altan, an Irish band, perform with the Spokane Symphony.

ALUMNI

Ethan Coffey ('10) was recently admitted to the University of Washington School of Medicine in Spokane. Just weeks before being accepted, Ethan and his wife, Julia, welcomed baby Chloe into their family. Congratulations, Coffeys! Ethan has always loved to figure out how things work and has tackled a variety of subjects since his Oaks graduation. He earned a double major from WSU in Chinese and Biology and currently works at an eye clinic. An overarching desire for Ethan since he was seven has been to be a doctor, and in August he will officially begin his new venture. “[Medicine is] just so fascinating,” he says, “and ensures a lifetime of learning.” As he looks back on his Oaks education, he is struck with the “genius” of the method of the “The Oaks’ system” (the Trivium!) in preparing students to perceive and learn the truth. Blessings, Ethan, on your new journey of fatherhood and doctor-hood!



THE



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LOVE, THINK, HONOR



March 2017

FROM THE OAKS CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

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If you had to put an exact number of years on the time frame referred to as ‘long-term thinking’, how many years would you choose? Five years? Ten years? As I thought about the future of The Oaks the other night, I made the determination that ‘long-term thinking’ is exactly sixteen years, and by that I mean the year 2033. How am I going to ‘invest’ in the next sixteen years? What would I like to see happen? What goals could I set? Thinking ‘long-term,’ I can start to imagine the impacts of compounding interest. I will never forget that lesson, learned in college, of the power of compounding interest. I am pretty sure it was a math class exercise. I have forgotten the math concept, but the notion of interest has stayed with me. It has now been more than 16 years since that class and I am no longer in the engineering world. The lesson of interest still applies, only in the education world, we are talking about real lives and real children, and the outcome is not more dollars, but fatter souls (Proverbs 13:4, KJV).

In sixteen years, my two-year old son will be graduating. Right now he is beginning to experience the joy of putting words together, though calling

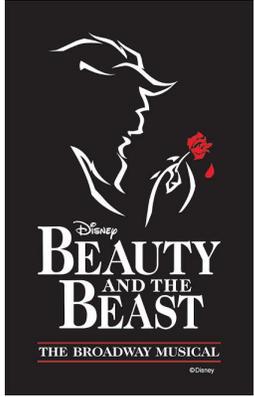
them sentences is giving more credit than is due. His word for “basketball” consists of his own noun-verb combination: “Bulldog-shoot.” Sixteen years from now, it won’t be two words, but it will be a sustained thesis intended to be put to full scrutiny by a panel of judges in a public setting. That is surely an example of compound interest!

Some have said that it is important to begin with the end in mind and as I hear that quote, it is a bit unsettling. Is our children’s graduation really the final end we have in mind? Is sixteen years of compound interest long enough? Though it will get my youngest through an Oaks education, I truly want more for him than a high school diploma, more than a college education, more than simply starting a family. I want him to grow up, live a life fully and faithfully before the Lord and for him to have the joy of seeing his children grow and walk faithfully before the Lord. Who knows, maybe even see his children’s children. Sixteen years cannot be enough. (...and neither can two short columns. To be continued...)

Charlie Dowers, Headmaster

CAMPUS

The Talent Show on March 3rd included a variety of songs and instrumental pieces, original music, sibling acts, and even a backflip by a first grader. Evan Tibbetts (6th) received loud applause after his performance of "River Flows in You" on the piano. Evan was born without a left hand or left forearm. While he is thankful for his new prosthetic, he still prefers to play piano with his short arm and his bass line is truly impressive! Watch the recording on The Oaks' Facebook post from March 3rd.



Grandparents Day (May 19th) and the spring musical coincide on the same weekend. Come see Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*, May 18-20 at University High School. Maddie Burgess (10th) will play Belle, whom she describes as "not your typical Disney princess." Below the surface of the well-known story, Maddie sees a lot of complexity in characters like Belle and the Beast as they wrestle with forgiveness, and she is enjoying trying to make her character a little deeper. Come watch 86 students dance and sing this story of redemption to the glory of God!

Mark your calendars for Christian Biographies: A Light the Dark Event at Fourth Memorial Church on Friday, March 31 at 5:30pm and Saturday, April 1 at 8:30am. Come hear Keith Krell, pastor of Fourth Memorial Church; Dan Jarms, pastor of Faith Bible Church; Bruce Gore, Spokane educator and former Oaks teacher; and our own Jason Farley speak about five faithful Christian men.

ACADEMICS

Over 70 Grammar School students recited whole chapters of Proverbs in front of classmates and gathered to receive certificates last month. Many sixth graders could still say Proverbs chapter one along with the first graders. Here are the goals by grade level for the end of the year: first—Proverbs 1-2; second—Proverbs 3-4; third—Proverbs 5-7; fourth—Proverbs 8-9; fifth—Proverbs 10-11; sixth—Proverbs 12-13. Parents and grandparents are welcome to join this challenge with their students!

Second graders brought their Old Testament and ancient Egyptian history cards to life earlier this month with costumes, poster boards, and oral reports. Luke VanHorn decided to tell the story of the Exodus from an Egyptian soldier's perspective, while Phillip Tishenko shared that 2,300,000 blocks, each weighing as much as an SUV, were used to build each pyramid. Drew Hubbell led his classmates through singing the Ten Commandments and Brendan Cavanaugh presented on Moses' birth and impressed his teacher, Mrs. Jones, as he highlighted "the irony of how one Hebrew child rescued by Pharaoh's daughter would become the God-appointed leader of His people when they escaped Egyptian captivity." Well done, second grade!

RESOURCES

The Oaks Benefit Auction on February 3rd was a big success and raised \$40,713. This evening could not have happened without God providing a community of people willing to donate their time and resources. Thank you! As we continue to stretch our facility capacities with a growing student body, The Oaks has an opportunity ahead; Valley Fourth Memorial Church, our campus host, has agreed to sell the field behind campus to

The Oaks, pending an agreement on price and conditions. We look forward to seeing where God leads.

ATHLETICS

Oaks boys started off the MCL Varsity Basketball Tournament winning a tough matchup against Covenant Christian School (read and watch the backstory at www.TheOaksCCA.org, *The Glass Wall Blog*). After losing to the top seed in the league, they faced Christian Center School to battle for third place, a team they had lost to only weeks before. This time, they won 42-30, bringing home a hard-fought third-place trophy. Luke Long (12th) was nominated by league coaches, athletic directors, and players to the All-League team. Congratulations, gentleman!



The Oaks' basketball ladies took first place in the regular season and brought home the gold ball trophy! In the tournament, the girls had an opportunity to play in the championship game against the only team to defeat them in the regular season. They won the championship for a second trophy. Way to go, ladies! Additional congratulations to

Phoebe Dierdorff (12th), Grace Netjes (10th), Claire Love (11th), and Courtney Jackson (10th), for being nominated to the All-League team.

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT



When he is not swing dancing with his wife, Lisa, Matt Dykstra teaches what he claims is the greatest subject in The Oaks' curriculum: science. After 18 years of teaching, one of his favorite anecdotes to tell his students is the story of when Johannes Kepler discovered the laws of planetary motion. Kneeling in worship, Kepler was overcome to realize that in this discovery, he was the first one to think God's thoughts

after Him. This year, Matt is thrilled to have Joel Dowers (Class of '04) as a fellow science teacher and "brother-in-arms." With Joel's input and abilities, he is excited to keep repairing the ruins of education and continue building "a beautiful, robust, classical science program." According to Aaron Cook (7th), Mr. Dykstra makes class "exciting" and "makes complicated things easy to understand." When he explained to the seventh graders how Mt. St. Helens' lava created Ape Cave, Aaron Cook remembers thinking, "how did God make the lava move in a way that created something so cool?" Whether talking about lava on a field trip or drawing a cell on the whiteboard, Matt hopes that students leave The Oaks loving God's world and tangibly understanding it as His handiwork. A love "for science as God's creation has really impacted my desire to be a physician," says Ethan Coffey (Class of '10), who is featured on the back of this newsletter. "Thank you Mr. Dykstra!" We are grateful to Matt for continuing to inspire young Keplers to think God's thoughts after Him.

post scriptum...

"Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it... Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth."

Psalm 127: 1a,3-4