SCHOOL LIFE

Eighteen hours of weekly piano practice earned Justin Cai (10th) some exciting invitations. In March, Justin made his debut at Carnegie Hall in New York City (right) and claimed he has never had more fun playing in his life. In April he and duet partner Janet Phang flew to San Antonio, Texas and won the National Finals for the MTNA's Senior Piano Duet Competition. Congratulations, Justin, and thank you for including Oaks concerts in your national playing schedule!

Oaks uniforms have had some closet days this semester. Third graders donned Roman garb as they dramatized the wedding tale of "Pandora's Box." As the story goes, Pandora and her husband received a box from Zeus which he instructed them never to open. Curious? So was Pandora. Curious about how Roman soldiers become chummy with cowboys? It's what happens when Secondary History Emphasis Days on Ancient Rome and 6th Grade Cowboy Day coincide on the school calendar. "Veni. Vidi. Yeehaw!"

Thank you to nearly 200 attendees and over 300 donors for helping us raise $31,707.38 at the Roaring 20's Benefit Auction in March, over $6,000 beyond our goal. Special thanks to Jenny Florence (left) for hours of procuring and planning and to Cherie VanHorn (right) for the "boa"tiful 1920's décor.

The Oaks
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P.O. Box 141146
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Love, Think, Honor

MAY 2016 **From The Oaks Classical Christian Academy** **509.536.5955 www.theoakscca.org**

Recently, I read back through Psalm 78 and was reminded again of our purpose and mission. Speaking of the law of God and His wonderful works, verse 6 says, "That the generation to come might know them, the children who would be born, that they may arise and declare them to their children." Our aim in education is so much more than the people right in front of us. We aim to equip our children so that they are in a position to teach THEIR children.

Especially in an election year, it is rare to find examples of generational thinking. How many times have politicians encouraged you to seek your children's children's prosperity, promised that the kids graduating in 2046 will be well-educated, or voted in hopes that infants in 2039 will grow up to experience better health care? We are captivated with the here and now, the urgent, the tangible results. Yet, the Scriptures frequently speak in terms of children's children and a longer perspective (II Timothy 2:1-2; Proverbs 13:22; Psalm 128:6).

As Christians in 2016, this cultural milieu is becoming more than an unpleasant aroma for the nostrils. It is and should be making us 'do something!' Praise the Lord that He has not left us wondering what 'it' is that we should be about. Psalm 78 challenges us to remember. Remember God's works. Tell them to this upcoming generation. Take a moment and reflect with me: what are the works God has done? What comes to mind? Share that with the next child you see!

That is the first step of Psalm 78:6. The second step is what terrifies me in my calling at this school. It is the part that terrifies teachers and parents (and grandparents, so I have heard!) If our words are worthy enough to impact the next generation, our very lives have to match the point of the story. I find this truly humbling and yet God gives such beautiful grace and mercy. He transforms our terror into joy and our very lives into His image. We set out on this Psalm 78 task in full confidence that the Holy Spirit crafts the very work we seek in our children in our own lives. There are no bystanders in The Lord's work!

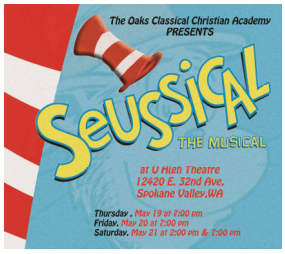
May the Holy Spirit be present with us even as He was at Pentecost 2000 years ago as we point the coming generations to "set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments" (Psalm 78:7). And with such a Comforter, it is no wonder that we are assured of a spirit of power and love (leaving the spirit of fear for the election season). May the Lord continue to bless you and the students at The Oaks.

Charlie Dowers, Headmaster

CAMPUS

The 20th Year Celebration Concert on Friday, May 13th commemorated the rich blessing of God through the history of The Oaks. At the culmination of the evening, the entire auditorium stood to sing "Holy, Holy, Holy." What a moving "Amen" to God's mercy, might, and His faithfulness to the families of this school.

Grandparent's Day is this weekend! This Friday on May 20th while Kindergarteners recite Psalm 56 and third graders recite Psalm 103, sixth graders will be singing their way through American history and reciting some Teddy Roosevelt. Please call the office at 536-5955 to find out when your grandchild's class is presenting and to RSVP for the luncheon. And you know WHO you are if your grandchild is in the play. The Oaks presents *Seussical the Musical* at University High School May 19th–21st.



ACADEMICS

Senior Kate Cvancara's Thesis Defense won second place in the National ACCS 2016 Chrysostom Oratory Contest. She first presented to the entire Oaks body, and according to Rhetoric teacher Bill Stutzman, her goal was to "offer her thesis as a gift." Now she has earned a flight to Atlanta to gift all attendees at the National ACCS Conference with her speech about the superiority of Science Fiction in Apologetics. Interested in her recommended reading? For ages 7-79, Kate suggests Ray Bradbury's *Illustrated Man*, a collaboration of short stories. Congratulations, Kate!

Speaking of scholarly Seniors, five Seniors were selected to represent The Oaks at the Spokane Scholars Banquet in April: Ian Burgess in Science, Kate Cvancara in Social Studies, Christa LaVoie in Fine Arts, Kiale Palpant in English, Lillian Ragudo in Mathematics, and Catherine Cable (not pictured), who won a $1,000 cash award in her category of World Languages. Well done, ladies and gentleman!

From the grandstands of North America to the game boards of Africa, K-6th Graders had a worldwide range of new sports to experience at Geography Day. Thanks to many volunteers and the 10th grade Geography class for helping to put on target, penny, and foil ball competitions in continent-transformed classrooms and outside in the sunshine.

ALUMNI

Regan Siglin ('12) received a full ride scholarship to Boston University this Fall to pursue a Master of Music in Collaborative Piano. Named the top senior at WSU's School of Music, Regan was recently featured on

Photo credit: Robert Hubner

WSU's homepage. "Her joy is infectious with players and with her audience," says Music Director Greg Yasinitsky. Regan (left) is thankful for Kent Young's encouragement in her choral accompanying as part of how she fell in love with collaborative playing. Congratulations, Regan!

Kate Gibson ('13), a Junior at Baylor, studied abroad first semester to further her Kinesiology degree. Studying in the vibrant city of Maastricht in the Netherlands, it was not uncommon for Kate to walk down the street and hear four different languages being spoken. Touring highlights for Kate included backpacking around Austria, which she called "one of the most beautiful places in the world", and visiting the D-Day landing beaches of World War II. God bless you in the coming year's adventures, Kate!

How did a New York Research Executive, Washington, DC Business Analyst, and Baylor engineering student come from the same family? Stay tuned for a Hafferkamp brothers feature, coming this summer.

ATHLETICS

Oaks Junior High Boys ended the season 13-1, losing only to the NICS Royals in overtime. When they faced NICS again at the tournament championship game, the entire Oaks bench stepped up. Noah Palpant, Daniel True, and Joshua Palakkat all hit 3-pointers in the 4th quarter and Oaks won 59-28. Clearly, Coach Randy Brigoli taught them some good BALL: Basketball IQ, Accountability, Love of the Game, Love the Lord. "Good work" to all Junior High players and coaches for your diligence this past season.

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

When Beccy Holland was raising her own 4 children, they jokingly named her a "frustrated rapper" in honor of her daily rhymes. When she came to The Oaks over 16 years ago to teach first grade, she finally had a comeback: "They like my rapping here; they call it jingles!" Wendy Dougherty, whose 4 children have all been taught by Mrs. Holland, appreciates Beccy's ardor to be a "student of her students." First graders end the year reciting 55 verses of Proverbs, and can memorize Beccy's compositions faster than she can write them. "[They] make me look good" Mrs. Holland says, and while their quotes and connections never cease to delight her, Math class is what gets her dancing. When one boy tried day after day to complete his 100 subtraction facts test, Mrs. Holland promised him she would dance on his desk when he accomplished it. The day came and she kept her promise. We are so grateful a frustrated rapper can be unanimously named what one of her former students dubbed her: a "word wizard." And a dancing one at that!

post scriptum...

"We will not hide them from their children, telling to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, and His strength and the wonderful works that He has done." Psalm 78:4

Do you have a newsworthy story to share regarding Oaks' students or alumni? If so, please send it to **anya.schnell@theoakscca.org**.