

# ACADEMICS

Fourth grade families feasted with hand and dagger at the Medieval Banquet in April. Students performed chants, The Lord’s prayer



in Latin, a prayer of St. Francis, memory verses, and an impressive sound-off that covered over 100 events from St. Augustine through the Reformers in the 16th century. Jonathan Grauke’s (bottom right) favorite part was King Al-fred’s war dance. “Using swords in time to music was very fun!”

Sarah Kim (11th) was the opening act for poet Jamaal May who came to downtown Spokane on April 21st. He praised her reading of *There are*



*Birds Here* (Visit The Oaks Youtube page at <https://youtu.be/qq04F7sxJpk>) and said he even got some tips from her performance, saying it was a bit surreal to have a student recite his poem so beautifully. Congratulations, Sarah!

After delivering her Senior thesis, Sarah Guglielmo was selected to represent The Oaks in the national competition sponsored by the ACCS, the Chrysostom Oratory Competition. Sarah (pictured below, bottom row, second from right) also presented her thesis before the student body on the topic of why art is essential to the mission of the



Christian Church. “She argued for the special role of beauty in revealing the goodness and truth of God in His creation,” says her Rhetoric teacher, Bill Stutzman. Congratulations to Sarah and all the Seniors for completing your theses!

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 A CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

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## LOVE, THINK, HONOR



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(Continued from March 2017)... 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. In sixteen years, my two-year old son will be graduating... Is our children’s graduation really the final end we have in mind?

The problem, when it comes to education, is that the whole thing is not meant to stop with our children. It is meant to be passed on. It is generational by its nature. Long-term thinking in education is not so much about 16 years as it is about 60 years or 80 years. That perspective gives a lot more time for the compounding of interest to really work its magic! The young boys and girls, the kindergarteners, the ones who are barely tall enough to scrape their heads on their dad’s belt buckle, will deliver senior theses, have children, teach their children, welcome grandchildren into the world, and possibly even a great grandchild by the time that time frame is fulfilled. They will have made thousands of friendships, spent thousands of Sundays in a church service, and spent hundreds of thousands of hours working.

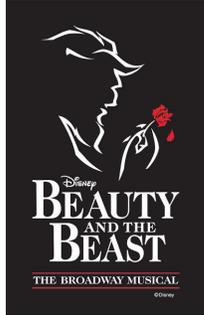
What if these future parents and grandparents lived in a culture saturated with the word of God—7 hours a day, 5 days a week— in school? What if they learned how to forgive peers and seek forgiveness, and not only loved to learn, but did everything to the glory of Christ? What might happen if several successive generations of those types of people grew up in the Inland Northwest? And just what if all of that was done in humble reliance on the Holy Spirit by a set of parents who believed that ‘all authority in heaven and on earth’ was vested in the Lord Jesus Christ and that He had commissioned them to make disciples of these little belt buckle scraping kids?

So I have roughed out a set of goals for The Oaks for 2033. It would probably be more accurate to call them wishes. But as I walk through our hallways and sit in our classrooms, I see thousands of little investments being made that, with The Lord’s blessing, may just have the potential to fill the Inland Northwest with scientists, teachers, doctors, and homemakers shining the light of God’s glory in their every day work and rest.

Charlie Dowers, Headmaster

## CAMPUS

**Grandparent's Day is Friday, May 19th**, and Grammar School teachers and students are eager to welcome grandparents into their classrooms. After enjoying the fourth grade wax museum and classroom presentations, everyone will gather to sing psalms and hymns at Cantabile. Students will be released at 11:30am from school so grandparents can feel free to make lunch plans with their grandchildren.



**Beauty and the Beast rehearsals are coming to a close** and the curtains will open soon! Tucker Christensen (11<sup>th</sup>) is thoroughly enjoying playing Cogsworth and being part of a show with so many friends and his two brothers. Spencer (9<sup>th</sup>) and Cooper (6<sup>th</sup>), will play wolves and other chorus characters. Come see the Christensen brothers and hear Tucker's predicted audience favorite songs, *Is this Home?* and of course, *Beauty and the Beast*, May 18-20th at University High School.

**High School students studied the Renaissance and the Reformation** at History Emphasis Week this year. They heard from Dr. Bruce Gore and other college professors who presented on the science, music, and legacy of the Reformation. One of their various hands-on activities involved "contrafactum" where students rewrote the text of Psalm 27 to match musical scores. They performed the winning pieces at the Spring Program. Corbin Young (10<sup>th</sup>) took up the challenge to build a Da Vinci invention. Using only Da Vinci's drawings, he built a siege engine with legos. Corbin and classmates learned that if Da Vinci had actually built the flying machine he drew on paper, he would have beat the Wright brothers by over 400 years!

**This year, on Geography Day**, students carried their passports from continent to continent to learn about the animals of the world. Have you heard of the Jesus lizard? This reptile earned its name for its ability to "walk" on water.



## ATHLETICS



**Junior High Basketball seasons wrapped up in April.** The girls finished the

regular season strong, winning 4 of their last 5 games. Two Oaks ladies were nominated for All-League honors: Katie MacKenzie (7<sup>th</sup>) and Ellyssa Harken (8<sup>th</sup>). The boys finished the regular season 10-0 and went to the tournament as the top seed. Isaiah Guillen (8<sup>th</sup>) was nominated for 1st Team All-League and David Love (8<sup>th</sup>) and Daniel Close (8<sup>th</sup>) were nominated 2nd Team All League. These gentlemen continued their winning streak and came home with the tournament trophy!

## ALUMNI

**Sara (Hilliard) Schrag ('03)** is a busy mom to one-and-a-half year old Sammi as well as a veterinarian in Liberty Lake, Washington. Sara and her



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husband, Mark, began dating right before they started veterinarian school and were married in 2010. Mark's clinic is in downtown Spokane and even Sammi is learning her fair share of animal care at home with the family's two dogs and two cats. They attend Valley Bible Church and Mark and Sara's hope is to someday work at the same clinic. May God bless you and your family, Sara.

**Delaney (Holland) Rapier ('06)** recently visited Oaks first graders with her Japanese students from Mukogawa Fort Wright Institute. Delaney has her Masters in Teaching English as a Second Language and works as an English instructor at



Mukagawa. "It has been such a blessing teaching such eager and appreciative students," says Delaney. They did a great job reading to the first graders! Delaney and her husband, Nick, live on the South Hill and in some of her free time, Delaney is learning the most difficult of the four Japanese writing styles, kanji. Thank you for the special visit!

## TEACHER SPOTLIGHT



**Thomas Kolarsky began teaching** fifth grade at The Oaks in 2010. Little did he know that playing recreational hockey the winter before was preparing him to be a teacher. In both hockey and teaching, "you must have your head up at all times" says Thomas. "Teaching is the more dangerous of the two." He delights in his fifth grade 'players' and how they are growing in independence but are "still into giving hugs." He loves all his subjects, especially history, and has composed songs and jingles about John Bunyan, memory verses, and the subordinate conjunction. Ask any of his current or former students and they will sing to you about onomatopoeia. One fifth grade parent, Tama Carter, is especially grateful to Thomas for helping her daughter to "understand the difference between a desire for perfection and the pursuit of excellence for God's glory. [Isabella] has mentioned many times that Mr. Kolarsky really listens to her when she speaks to him and that he isn't distracted." Thank you, Mr. Kolarsky for embracing this dangerous career and, as Isabella said, for teaching your students "how to see God and his gracious love for us in everything we do."

## post scriptum...

*"[The] Bible replaced the classical idea of the hero as world conqueror and the medieval idea of the hero as a courageous knight with the idea of a hero as someone who sacrifices himself for the good of others."*

- Vishal Mangalwadi, "The Book that Made Your World"