

LOVE, THINK, HONOR



November 2011

FROM THE OAKS
CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

509-536-5955
www.theoakscca.org

“Education is inescapably a religious discipline. The content, methodology, and the very culture in which education takes place are the product of the theologies which drive them. There is no neutrality. When parents choose between a Biblical vs. nonChristian educational paradigm for their children’s education, they are actually making a decision between competing faith systems. The question is simply this—in which religious educational system will my child be disciplined?” Doug Phillips

This type of quote might make many of us a little squeamish if we were to discuss it in mixed company (republicans/democrats, crunchy/puffed Cheeto lovers). This is some pretty hard-nosed, smash-mouth talk, isn’t it?! Or is it? Jesus had a way of saying, “The Emperor has no clothes!” in some fairly awkward moments. So why are we so timid? Probably because we don’t want to be a “noisy gong or a clanging cymbal” (1Cor 13:1). We want to be heard, right? But sometimes it’s just because we want to be appreciated or respected. Scripture calls us to share the truth, but to do so with love. We want to be winsome. Our prayer is to reach out to families in love, encouraging them to make wise decisions in educating their children. However, we must also be patient. Some people are just not ready to hear this, so we must quietly go about our business of “training up our children in the way they should go,” in faith that the Lord will change hearts. So where do you stand? How solid is your conviction that classical Christian education is the right thing for your family? We pray that God will continue to fill us all with gentleness and strength to share His truths of the gospel of Christ and our conviction about classical Christian education.

ACADEMICS

Our Secondary students are seeing some modifications to their daily class schedule this year. By carving out an abbreviated “First period”, grades 9-12 now have the opportunity to join together to sing once a day as a group. If you thought our ability to praise God wasn’t too shabby before, just wait until you hear our students now! In a corresponding change during that same morning period, the seventh and eighth graders participate in rotating 4-week small group meetings to cover a variety of topics in all thing classical: Drawing, Chess, Proverbs, Aesopus, and discussions of pop culture, books, short stories, math demonstrations, and logic games. There’s even Pensees, but you’ll have to ask the new guy (Tate) what those are.

Overheard in 2nd grade last week. After a riveting discussion about the Tower of Babel, teacher Teri Woodroof asked her thoughtful students where they thought the tower was located in modern terms. After standing to reply one student replied with a fair amount of confidence, “Kentucky!” Okay, maybe you had to be there.

Our eighth grade students are taking the PSAT test this year. Normally the PSAT test is reserved for secondary students and required of our Juniors, but this year we were approached by The College Board to participate in a study being conducted to identify best practices for schools that are consistently scoring well on the PSAT and SAT tests. We are encouraged that our students’ hard work is being noticed!

ENROLLMENT

We continue to grow! Praise God for leading more families to The Oaks. Praise God for leading more of our families to talk about and share The Oaks with their friends and acquaintances. We gained three more families since the beginning of school and will continue to accept new students until February so keep up the great work! There are still a lot of people in our community who do not know of this wonderful opportunity for their family. Our maximum enrollment is 312, we currently stand at 266.

Skip School Day! Okay, everybody relax. It’s not what you think. Friday, 11/11/11, aside from being a numerical anomaly, is Vet-

eran’s Day, and the public schools will not be in session. What a great opportunity to invite someone to experience The Oaks. Students, who do you know that would love it here? Parents, who do you know that has wondered or asked about what your kids are doing? Invite them to come visit. **Just let the office know by calling 536-5955 so we can host them properly.**

STUDENT LIFE

Competition is all around us! From sports to business to ideas, we are in a competitive universe. There is a very healthy and godly way to compete and we are involved in many areas at The Oaks. **Math is Cool** competition is a region-wide event we are a part of every year. We have recently had very good showings at the **all-city Debate** competitions. **Speech Meet** with Logos school is an oratorical recitation competition that we have had going for 10 years. This year we were joined by Westover Academy from Colville, WA. These are three examples of opportunities for training in godliness we are providing our students.

College Brown Bag lunches are in full swing. Lynn Gibson, our director of College Counseling, has arranged for 14 different colleges and universities to send representatives to The Oaks. Our students have the opportunity over lunch to hear about these institutions and to ask questions. Parents are invited! We’d love to hear the different questions: Parent: “What is the church community like?” Student: “How far to Burger King?”

RESOURCES

Mission Increase Foundation is a Christian Foundation The Oaks has partnered with that is dedicated to transforming our fundraising programs into donor discipleship programs through the principles of transformational giving. What is transformational giving? We’ll discuss this a little at a time through this portion of our newsletter, but our Development Director, Dale DuPree, is discussing this with families as he meets with them one on one through the course of the year. If you just can’t stand it, call him and he’d be happy to move you to the front of the line for a cup of coffee (yeah, he *needs* another

THE



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cup of coffee). In the meantime, stay tuned to this newsletter or visit the website to see more of a discussion at the ‘Support the Oaks’ link. So, what is transformational giving? Here’s a taste:

Three views of giving: Subtractional: I give, I lose.

Transactional: I give I get.

Transformational: I give, I am changed.

We want to cultivate a passion for the work we are doing here at The Oaks, by encouraging our families to move beyond just *participating*, to look for ways to *engage* and even *own* our mission of educating our students.

ATHLETICS

Our Fall athletics are coming to a close. The end of October marks the finish of the fall sports of Cross Country, Boys Soccer and Girls Volleyball. November marks the beginning of preparations for the Basketball season for both boys and girls. If you haven’t had a chance yet to see our students compete, it is a blessing to see the level at which they can compete, but also to see the manner in which they do it. Visit the Athletics link on our website for game times, or the Mountain Christian League website to see all of our sports and how our teams have fared this season and in years past.

Congratulations to boys soccer team for winning the Mountain Christian League tournament for the second year in a row!

Nathan ('12) and Kendra('13) Weitz will be running in the state cross country championships November 5th. Running for the Shadle Park High school team, Nathan and Kendra are great examples of student athletes at The Oaks who are also competing at our state’s highest levels.

ALUMNI AND PARENTS

Save the date for the Alumni Dinner. On Tuesday evening, December 27th, all 98 Oaks alumni and their parents are invited to join us for a meal to reconnect, reminisce, and rejuvenate. Stay tuned to Facebook for more details, but it will be a fun evening as always!

Alison Roy-Ting('09) was the recipient of the Lunsford Oral Presentation Award (LOPRA) at Stanford University recently. This award is

given to students in recognition of their rhetorical skills. What an encouragement to see our students preparing to impact our culture and being recognized for their skills at one of our country’s most prestigious universities. You can view Alison’s 9-minute presentation, “Messianic Dictatorship” at: http://www.youtunbe.com/watch?v=0zDyYc3wz_o

If you “like” The Oaks on Facebook, you can learn about newsworthy items and events like this in real time.

Two Kings beats two Jokers every time! We have two alumni who were crowned Homecoming Kings last month at their respective colleges: **Joel Ansett ('08)** at Grove City College in Pennsylvania, and **Houston Hough ('08)** at King’s College in New York. Congratulations to our royalty!

Oaks Gear: You may have noticed some very stylish parents and students wandering around with Oaks-branded apparel. You may ask, “How do I get some?” Head to the website. We’re working on adding new items, so take another look. The next order goes in November 14th, just in time for basketball season.

post scriptum...

Since we started this newsletter with a quote from man, we’re going to end it with God’s word. Try to slowly read and absorb each word of this popular, much skimmed passage:

“If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all that I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

1 Corinthians 13:1-7

Amen!

Do you have an idea for a future newsletter? Write up an article and send it to anya.schnell@theoakscga.org to have it published!