

LOVE, THINK, HONOR



November, 2013

FROM THE OAKS CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

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Are We Raising Males or Men? Recently, I had the pleasure of hearing a wonderful sermon from Stuart Bryan, a former teacher here at The Oaks. It was on a topic, gender identity, that we shouldn't have to be clarifying from the pulpit, since the Bible's teaching is clear. But due to the times we live in, we must pay particular attention to whether we are thinking about this issue biblically. Gender identity is a critical issue in our world today. Terms like "gender roles" and "complementarianism" can create a hostile reaction in certain crowds. The discouraging part is that Christians have grown to be a significant part of that "certain crowd." As Christian parents, we can no longer assume that our children will understand the beautiful way that God has created them distinctly male and female unless we teach them. Ray Ortlund wrote: "God did not create man and woman in an undifferentiated way, and their mere maleness and femaleness identify their respective roles. A man, just by virtue of his manhood, is called to lead for God. A woman, just by virtue of her womanhood, is called to help for God." We have a country that is moving at the speed of light to overthrow God's established ways. Fathers must be more deliberate about not only raising boys but raising them to be MEN. 1 Kings 2:4, "If your sons take heed to their way, to walk before Me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul," the Lord said, 'you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.'" Simply having boys does not guarantee that they will become men. Boys must learn particular abilities to mature into men. "At the heart of mature masculinity is a sense of benevolent responsibility to lead, provide for and protect women in ways appropriate to a man's differing relationships." -John Piper. Piper states three conditions here that are necessary for a male to become a man. One, that he learn to lead with benevolent responsibility; two, that he learn to provide; and, finally, that he learn to protect. How are we talking to our boys at the dinner table about establishing biblical practices of loving others sacrificially? What discussions and practices are being put in place now that display their understanding of what it means to provide for and protect those in their care? For example, when your son says he will mow the lawn, will he do it? Someday he will be asking a father for his daughter's hand and promising to take care of her, but if he cannot mow the lawn when he says he will, what assurance have you that he will fulfill his promise to care and provide for that father's precious daughter? If we are going to fulfill our role as parents, we must teach our sons what it means to be men.

CAMPUS

Seventeen new school families! For the past three years the board has welcomed new families by hosting a dessert at their homes, giving each family the opportunity to connect with at least one board member, learn more about The Oaks, and meet a few other new families. If you haven't already, please be sure to welcome these new families.

We are also welcoming five new teachers. Gary Woodroof, Oaks alumni parent and past worship pastor, is our new 6th grade teacher and Athletic Director. His daughter and Oaks alum, Emily Woodroof, is joining the secondary teaching staff, taking on logic, debate, literature and rhetoric. Russ Lipton, another Oaks alumni parent and past Oaks teacher, is teaching our technology class. Ariane Schmidt currently has three children attending The Oaks, works for the Spokane Fire Department, and is teaching physics to the seniors. Erika Long, a parent of two Oaks students and a past 4th grade teacher in the Seattle area, is taking on teaching physical education to the grammar students. Courtney Cimijotti's three children attend The Oaks and she is using her Whitworth art degree as the 1st through 3rd grade art teacher. For more detailed bios of all our teachers, visit the "Board & Faculty" page of our website. Each of these new teachers is thriving, but they could always use your encouragement, support, and prayers.

New people are not the only changes this year. Over the summer our resident handyman, Berne Launay, along with many others, was busy preparing our new portable to be used for the 5th and 6th grade classrooms as well as converting part of one of our existing portables into administrative offices. These offices are occupied by Susan Williams (Business Manager), Lynn Gibson (Director of College Counseling), Teri Woodroof (Drama Director), and Anya Schnell (Development Assistant). These changes also freed up an office space in the main office. Charlie Dowers moved into this office as he switched roles, becoming Head of the Logic and Rhetoric school. As you visit the school, you will also notice that Nona King and Anya Schnell have been hired as our new part-time office secretaries, working alongside office manager, Shelly Barber. Feel free to come in and look around at all the changes.

ACADEMICS

Sixteen years ago, when The Oaks was just in its infancy stage, Headmaster Bruce Williams taught a geography class. As the school grew, new staff were hired, new classes were added, and this class was no longer offered in the secondary. This year, after hearing from Oaks alumni about their desire to have learned more about this subject we are glad to reintroduce Geography, taught again by Mr. Williams. As students learn about the lands, features, inhabitants, and phenomena of the Earth, they will have the opportunity also to learn about current events and discuss other religions.

Mr. Palpant is performing "eye surgery" on the juniors this year as he begins the brand new Fine Arts class. With the use of reading, discussion, guest speakers, and even YouTube (yes, YouTube!) students will develop a vocabulary and an eye for design principles in the universe. This will also help to better equip these students for their Grand Tour trip next summer.

STUDENT LIFE

Friday, November 22nd, The Oaks proudly presents our first ever junior high production—*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer!* Teri Woodroof, Oaks Drama Director, and her crew will put on this one-day-only production at 3:15pm and 7:00pm in the Valley Fourth Memorial Church sanctuary. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased ahead of time on Thursdays and Fridays leading up to the event (Nov. 14th and 15th) in the school foyer, on Fri., Nov. 15th, in the classrooms, or at the door. We hope to fill the sanctuary for this performance, so please plan on joining us.

Kent Young, Music Director, assembled a group of fourteen high school students to compete in the Eastern Washington Music Educators (EWMEA) Chamber Choir Festival at St. George's November 5th, where they were adjudicated and were able to work with a clinician. The Oaks has competed at the EWMEA Large Group Festival in past years, but this is our first time participating in the Chamber Choir Festival. Look for them at the upcoming Christmas concert.

Mark your calendar for Tuesday, December 17th, **The Oaks' Annual Christmas Concert!** We are excited to announce that this year's concert will be held at the Spokane Valley Church of the Nazarene, located only a few short minutes from our school. This facility will allow us to accommodate our ever growing audience as well as provide a more acoustically pleasing environment.

RESOURCES

Oaks students are not selling candy bars or wrapping paper, or participating in any other classic school fundraiser this year! Actually, they never have. From the school's inception, the board decided that students would not participate in traditional fundraising. This does not mean that The Oaks is not in need of additional financial support. Each year your donations help us to meet our current expenses, but in order for the school to grow, further resources are needed. This year, parents, grandparents, and all others interested in learning about the growth of The Oaks are invited to meet with Headmaster Bruce Williams. Call the office today and set up a meeting to learn about the history of the school, where The Oaks is going, and how we are getting there!

ATHLETICS

For the first time in Oaks history the soccer team led by Kent Gold and Zach Lipton placed 1st in The Mountain Christian League and won the league tournament. Four of the team's seniors also were chosen for the All-League Teams: Nick Potter (1st team), Augustin Cheeley (1st), Erik Peterson (1st), and Brandon Johnson (2nd). Way to go, boys!

As a part of The Mountain Christian League, both the Varsity and JV Volleyball teams placed 3rd in their respective tournaments. Three varsity players were named to the All-League team: Deziree Phinney (2nd team), Kalianna Lundin (1st), and Naomi Kim (honorable mention). Well done, girls! And thanks to the coaching staff—Ted Broadway (V), Natasha Cheeley (JV), Stacey Miller (Jr. High), and Brian Collins (Jr. High).

The junior high boys cross country team, led by Dave Christensen and Erika Long, placed 1st at each of their meets this season and finished the season by placing 1st at the All City Parochial Championships. Nice job!

ALUMNI

Eric Walker ('12), as a student of Hillsdale College, recently won an Amway Free Enterprise scholarship through the Michigan Colleges Foundation. Congratulations Eric!

Meanwhile, his brother, Chris Walker ('06), recently won the TechConnect competition in Boise, ID, for a 3D printer developed by the company he began, Element Robot. To learn more visit idahocconnect.com (competition), or elementrobot.com (Chris's company). Way to go, Chris!



BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Please welcome **The Oaks' newest board member, Travis Harken.** Last school year, Travis sat in on board meetings and began the process of joining the board. In September, he was officially voted in. Travis has been employed with Johnson & Johnson for the past 12 years. He and his wife, Cara, have 6 children, 4 of whom currently attend The Oaks, while the other 2 will attend in the future. The Harken family have been active members of Grace Christian Fellowship church for 11 years. Thank you, Travis, for serving our school!

The Oaks Board for the 2013-2014 School year is:

Arik Tedrow, President Tim Ansett, Vice President
 Travis Harken, Secretary Jerry Cimijotti, Board Member

post scriptum...

For the past three years The Oaks student body has been memorizing the book of Proverbs. This year we are challenging you to memorize it as well. Why Proverbs? Start with memorizing the first seven verses and you will understand.