

LOVE, THINK, HONOR



October 2012

FROM THE OAKS
CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

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www.theoakscca.org

To increase. What does it mean? To acquire more resources? To obtain more possessions? To receive more praise? In the opening school year assembly, we talked about the importance of students increasing as Paul describes in his letter to the Thessalonians:

“And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you” (1 Thess. 3:12). And again, “But we urge you, brethren, that you increase more and more; that you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you, that you may walk properly toward those who are outside, and that you may lack nothing” (1 Thess. 4:10-12).

How does this look inside a Christian school? More importantly, how does it look in our homes? Consider how, as parents and teachers, we are investing continually into our children with the desire to see them grow, or increase, in Christ. Character formation, centered in Christ, is what parents are exhorted to build into their children. There is no higher calling than to shape, form, and mold our children in Christ.

Do you have a plan, and are you helping your children pursue that which will bring about increase in their lives? Good questions encourage this kind of increase. How about starting dinner with the question, “Is there anything for which we need to seek forgiveness from one another?” The next question, as one parent suggested from Parent Academy, could be, “What was one high and one low from your day?” The dinner table is a great place, maybe the *key* place, to have these discussions. This year, may we all increase in our love toward God, demonstrated by growth in knowledge, understanding and wisdom. *Proverbs 3:1-6*

ACADEMICS

Calling ALL Oaks Parents...Back-to-School Night is Tuesday, October 9th! Get a 'sitter and plan on attending. This evening is an opportunity for both elementary and secondary parents to meet the entire faculty, learn about their child's class, and find areas where the school is in need of volunteers. This night gives you, as a parent, the resources to ensure your child has a successful upcoming year. All Oaks parents should plan on attending.

Did you know that a student who attends The Oaks for 13 years (K-12th) will have spent 14,000 hours in school?! This is why Oaks students were encouraged on the first day of school to work on “getting better.” Students were given the challenge of each picking up at least 50 pieces of paper off the floor this year and to greet everyone they see as they walk around the school campus. Getting better is not only about improving oneself, but it is about thinking more highly of others and it is about creating a pleasant environment for us all. *“Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.” Philippians 2:4*

It's a pleasure to introduce seven new teachers to The Oaks' faculty! Joining the staff this year are Cari Fisher (3rd grade), Andy Mattson (secondary math), Stacey Miller (elementary Latin and afternoon enhancement), Erik Strandness (biology, logic and Bible interpretation), Bill Stutzman (orchestra, rhetoric and classical literature), Ally Tedrow (pre-k), and Renee Williams (P.E.). One of them is the parent of an Oaks graduate, one is an Oaks alum, one is starting at The Oaks the same year his/her child is beginning kindergarten at The Oaks, one starred in *Star Wars* (not really), one began at The Oaks as a coach, then a parent and now a teacher, one is always smiling (actually that's all of them), and one has taught and been an administrator at another classical Christian school. Now can you guess which is which? You'll just have to read their bios on the board and faculty page of our website (<http://www.theoakscca.org/FacultyBios.aspx>) to find out for sure. In the meantime be sure to say, “Hello,” when you see them in the hallways and keep them in your prayers throughout this year.

STUDENT LIFE

As a part of The Oaks' 6th Annual Senior Grand Tour, all 19 seniors and 7 parents were led through Greece and Italy by Oaks teachers Eric Fugitt and Matt Dykstra. For two weeks they saw firsthand the history they've studied since grammar school. The group of 28 visited Acropolis, Athens, the remains of Corinth, Mycenae, Delphi, Pompeii, the Roman Forum & Coliseum, the Sistine Chapel, the Vatican City, the Pantheon, St. Peter's and St. Mark's Basilicas, Florence, Venice, and much more. Students played in the Tyrrhenian Sea, saw the navel of the world at the Delphi ruins, and sang the doxology inside the treasury of Atreus. It was an experience this group will long remember, and it has helped solidify the biblical and historical education they've received at The Oaks.



A field trip before the start of school?! While other students in the area were back in the classroom the first week of September, Mr. Dykstra was showing Oaks sophomores and juniors (and 13 parents) God's handiwork in Yellowstone National Park. Through scientific explanations and historical stories, the students learned about the history, biology, geology, and meteorology of not only the Yellowstone region, but the entire Northwest. They saw the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, walked through hot spring and geyser basins, soaked in the Boiling River, and witnessed elk bugling. But the highlight of the trip was when the entire group sang the doxology together in the cathedral room of the Lewis and Clark Caverns. *“Oh come, let us sing to the Lord! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation.” Psalm 95:1*

It's been 32 years since the eruption of Mt. St. Helens. What an awesome display of God's power! Do you remember where you were? October 2nd–5th, Oaks 7th graders (most of whom were born twenty years after the eruption) are experiencing this volcano firsthand as they learn about the geology and biology of the area, with Oaks science teacher, Matt Dykstra.

ENROLLMENT

Enrollment has grown!!! At the start of last school year we had 270 students enrolled at The Oaks. This year we are beginning with 298. That's an increase of 28 students (in case you needed help with the math). God is good! We are thankful for the new families and invite you to join us in welcoming them.

Pre-K	9	6th Grade	24
Kindergarten	23	7th Grade	24
1st Grade	26	8th Grade	18
2nd Grade	26	9th Grade	20
3rd Grade	26	10th Grade	26
4th Grade	19	11th Grade	16
5th Grade	22	12th Grade	19
		Secondary	
Elementary	175	School	123
		Total:	298

RESOURCES

It's the beginning of another fiscal year here at The Oaks and that means a new fundraising goal. "Doesn't The Oaks receive all the funds needed to operate from tuition?" you ask. Although the board has set tuition at a rate that will cover the school's operating costs, some families need a little financial help in order to make it possible for their children to attend. Therefore, we are pleased to offer tuition assistance to these families. Assistance is available due to the generous giving of our many donors, like you. This fiscal year we are seeking to raise \$132,000. If you would like to know more about The Oaks and how you can help, please call the school office to set up an appointment with Headmaster Bruce Williams. All donations are tax deductible, appreciated and helpful. Thank you for prayerfully considering supporting The Oaks this year. *"Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God which He has given you."* Deuteronomy 16:17

ATHLETICS

Sports provide an opportunity for students to learn what it means to be a part of the body of Christ by teaching them to respond with humility, respect and unity during the highs and lows of competition. This is the goal of athletics at The Oaks. The **soccer and volleyball** teams began practicing at the beginning of September and have won the first games of the season. **Cross country** this year includes 1st-8th grades and had a record-breaking turn out of 44 kids for its first prac-

tice. The fall sport coaches are: soccer—Kent Gold and Josh Reidt; volleyball—Renee Williams, Larry Myers, Cheryl Gotzian, and Stacey Miller; and XC—Kevin Kimball and Thomas Kolarsky. For a schedule of games and practices, please visit the "Athletics" page on the school website at <http://theoakscca.org/Athletics.aspx>

BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Jim McNeill, the board secretary, has also served as President and Vice President during his 13 years on The Oaks Board. The McNeills enrolled their children during The Oaks' second year of operation and have been active in the school for 16 years. Jim's wife, Cary, volunteers in kindergarten and art, participates in the mom's prayer, and serves as a lunch monitor. Their three older children—Jaime('07), Kelly('09), and David('10)—have graduated from The Oaks and their youngest, Alex, is currently a sophomore. Jim graduated from WSU in 1982 and Gonzaga University School of Law in 1985, was admitted to the Washington State Bar Association in 1986, and is a partner at Foster Pepper, PLLC. He was recently included in *The Best Lawyers in America*® 2013. Jim has proven to be an excellent leader for our school.

The Oaks' Board consists of Jerry Cimijotti—President, Tim Ansett—Vice President, Jim McNeill—Secretary, Tom Lewis—Treasurer, and Jeff Gibson—Member. Please pray for the board's leadership of our school throughout this year.

post scriptum...

The first day of school, Headmaster Bruce Williams asked students to write down three ways they would like to get better this school year. He explained that this was just the start of a goal. In order to set a goal, you must set a deadline and be able to measure your improvement with at least one of the five senses. Do you know what your child wrote down? We'd like to encourage you to discuss this with your child and help him set his goals. And while you're at it, set three of your own. How do you want to get better this school year?