

News & Notes

September 21, 2009

From the Director

Nebraskans Prefer School Choice

This past week The Friedman Foundation released the results of a school choice survey conducted in Nebraska. Following is a synopsis of that survey:

“More than eight of ten likely voters in Nebraska would send their children to private schools, charter schools, virtual schools or educate their children in a home school setting if they could, according to survey results released today. Eighty-four percent of likely voters polled would opt for schools other than traditional public schools, according to the survey.

The survey of 1,200 likely voters has a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percent. It was conducted by Strategic Vision, an Atlanta-based polling agency whose surveys have been cited on MSNBC, Fox News, Newsweek, Bloomberg News, Time Magazine, BBC, ABC news and USA Today. The survey results were released by a group of state and national organizations.

‘Many recognize that facilitating, promoting, and enhancing educational choices for parents and families would contribute in a significant way to ensuring high quality education for young Nebraskans, instilling in them the knowledge and abilities they need to succeed. Nebraskans and their policy makers cannot ignore the need to improve student achievement, and one way we can address this is to ensure Nebraska families have educational options,’ said Jeremy Murphy, Associate Director for Education Issues for the Nebraska Catholic Conference and Secretary of the Nebraska Federation of Catholic School Parents board.

‘As we have seen in the other states where we have conducted polls, there is a wide disconnect between what the voters would like to see in terms of school choice options with what the system is able to provide,’ said Paul DiPerna, director of partner services for the Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, which commissioned the survey.

‘In the case of Nebraska, the results are clear: voters want more access and schooling options.’ The support for school choice concepts – such as tax credits, vouchers, and charter schools is significant, and cuts across numerous demographic groups. DiPerna noted that while 44 percent of the state’s K-12 parents would like to send their child to a private school, only about 12 percent of the state’s students currently attend private schools.

Today, nearly nine out of ten students – 88 percent -- attend regular public schools. “The implication of these results is that Nebraska, like most other states, does not have a sufficient school choice system in place to match parents’ schooling preferences,” he said.

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Other results of the survey:

The state’s Democrats (D), Republicans (R), and Independents (I) find common ground on school choice topics and issues. High levels of support exist for tax-credit scholarships (D: 52% | R: 59% | I: 53%) and school vouchers (D: 53% | R: 54% | I: 63%).

Nebraskans are more likely to favor (55%) a tax-credit scholarship system than oppose (41%) such a system.

According to voters, the top challenges confronting Nebraska’s public school system include a lack of accountability (29%); overcrowded classrooms and schools (23%), and poor engagement with parents (21%).

Voters are more likely to support a tax-credit scholarship system based upon financial need (57%) than oppose (39%) such a system.

Similarly, when asked about school vouchers, 55% of Nebraska voters say they favor the idea.

The survey was commissioned in April by the Friedman Foundation, an Indianapolis-based school reform advocacy organization, on behalf of the state and national partners. The Nebraska findings are the latest in a series of surveys commissioned under the Foundation’s *Survey in the State* project, which surveys state residents on a variety of education reform issues and attitudes.”

To read a full listing of the polling results, and to view other polls conducted on school choice, please visit the Friedman Foundation’s website www.friedmanfoundation.org.

Tim Thompson
Director



<i>School Calendar</i>	
Sept. 21	JV FB @ Concordia - 4:00 pm
Sept. 22	ASVAB Test - 11th grade - 8:00 am
Sept. 22	MS FB @ Parkview - 4:00 pm
Sept. 22	Worship Team Practice - OCA Cafeteria - 6:00-8:30 pm
Sept. 24	Ribbon Cutting - 9:30 am
Sept. 24	MS VB vs Cedar Bluffs @ Westroads Club - 5:00 pm
Sept. 24	JV/V VB @ Mead - 6:00/7:00 pm
Sept. 25	FB vs Concordia @ Concordia - 4:00 pm
Sept. 26	AP English to UNO Library
Sept. 27	Dedication Service - 4:00 pm
Sept. 28	JV/V VB @ Omaha Nation - 6:00/7:00
Sept. 29	EXPLORE Test - 8th Grade - 8:00 am
Sept. 29	C-Team/JV/V VB @ DC West - 5:00/6:00/7:00 pm
Oct. 1	MS VB @ DC West (Waterloo) - 4:00/5:00 pm
Oct. 1	MS FB @ Woodbine, IA - 4:30 pm
Oct. 2	1st-3rd Grade Field Trip to Plum Creek Literary Festival @ Concordia College - 7:30 am-3:30 pm
Oct. 2	FB @ Mead - 7:00 pm
Oct. 3	V VB Triangular @ College of St. Mary's - 10:00 am vs Concordia - 12:00 pm vs NE Lutheran
Oct. 5	C-Team VB vs ISD @ Westroads Club - 4:00 pm
Oct. 5	JV FB @ Cedar Bluffs - 6:00 pm
Oct. 6	PLAN Test - 10th Grade - 8:00 am
Oct. 6	MS FB @ Cedar Bluffs - 5:00 pm
Oct. 6	JV/V VB @ Prague - 6:30/7:30 pm

*Join with us as we celebrate
the opening of our new school facility
and dedicate it to the Glory of God!*

*You are cordially invited to attend
both the*

Ribbon Cutting

on

Thursday, September 24, 2009

9:30 am

and

Dedication Service

on

Sunday, September 27, 2009

4:00 pm

of

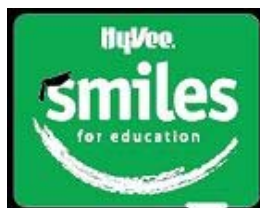
Omaha Christian Academy

at

10244 Wiesman Drive

Omaha, NE 68134

Enter at your local Hy-Vee for a chance to win \$5,000 for your school plus a new white Mac Book laptop computer for yourself!



It's as easy as 1, 2, 3...

1. Each week, register your school and (K-12) student
2. Shop and save with smiles for education products throughout the store
3. Ten winners each week: school receives \$5,000; winning student receives a new white Mac Book laptop computer

Registration forms are available in-store or online at www.hyvee.com

Serve-a-Thon Update



OCA's 1st Annual Serve-a-Thon was a resounding success. OCA's 267 students along with staff and parent volunteers served the Lord and their fellow man at the following locations:

- Heritage Pointe Assisted Living Home
- Waterford Assisted Living Home
- Bloomfield Forum Retirement Home
- Skyline Manor
- Omaha Street School
- Open Door Mission
- Emmanuel Fellowship Church
- Omaha Northwest Police Precinct
- OCA Neighboring Businesses
- Military Servicemen and Women
- Keep Omaha Beautiful - *Standing Bear Lake*
- Missionaries
- Samaritan's Purse - *Operation Christmas Child*
- Omaha Fire Station 43

Thank you to all of our students, staff and parent volunteers who made a positive impact for Christ to the City of Omaha, our nation's service men and women and children worldwide.

Serve-a-Thon Sponsorship Forms

Thank you to all who solicited sponsors for our 1st Annual OCA Serve-a-Thon. Contributions are coming in every day! If you need more sponsorship forms call Kathy at 614-5716.

There is good news for those who have not YET distributed your forms. Contributions for Serve-a-Thon sponsorships are being collected even AFTER the event. So, there is still time for you to send them to your extended family and friends.

Our students have done their part -- reaching out to our community; our teachers taught them the importance of serving others; and we're counting on YOU to help us find student sponsors! Your efforts are greatly appreciated!!

BAND OFFICERS

High School Band

President: Alex Patterson
 Band Manager: Lauren Uhlig
 Secretary-Recorder: Brendan Byal

Middle School Band

President: Richard Sweeney
 Band Manager: Zach Lee
 Secretary-Recorder: Cody West

"Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever".
Psalm 136:1



WORSHIP TEAM PRACTICE

Tuesday, September 22

6:00-8:30 pm

OCA Cafeteria

ITEMS NEEDED FOR ART ROOM

1. Baby Food Jars with Lids
2. Coffee Cans with Lids
3. Ice Cream Pails
4. Several 5 Gallon Buckets with Lids
5. 1 Gallon Plastic Jars with Lids



Guidance Corner

- ⇒ Iowa Western will be hosting their 2nd annual Iowa Western Program Showcase on Tuesday, Oct. 20. The event will expose students to a wide variety of Iowa Western programs and related career fields by incorporating hands-on activities and an interactive format. If interested in attending please contact the guidance office by Oct. 5.
- ⇒ UNK will be hosting a Health Careers Fair on Wednesday, Oct. 21. Over 40+ representatives from various health care professions will be sponsoring tables at the fair. If interested in attending contact the guidance office for more information. There is no need to register or RSVP.
- ⇒ The Duke, Georgetown, Harvard, Penn and Stanford admissions staffs are hosting a joint Exploring College Options Student/Parent Information Session in Omaha on Tuesday, Sept. 22 at 7:30 p.m. It will take place at the Omaha Marriott. For more information go to www.exploringcollegeoptions.org.
- ⇒ The Assistance League of Omaha is offering an ACT Review Course at Westside High School. The review includes two, three-hour classes with an optional third class addressing ACT writing. The basic ACT review consists of two sessions, offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays, with different content each session. Students should attend

- both sessions to receive full coverage of the material. The 1st session will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 20, from 6:30-9:30 pm. The 2nd session will be held on Thursday, Oct. 22, from 6:30-9:30 pm. The optional third session will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 21, from 6:30-8:00 pm. There is a \$30 fee for two sessions and \$40 for all three sessions. Registration forms are available in the guidance office or can be downloaded at www.omaha.assistanceleague.org.
- ⇒ The Center for Professional Development at Creighton Univ. is offering an ACT Preparation Course for juniors and seniors. Students will receive 16 hours of exam content instruction. The course is offered on consecutive weekends beginning Sept. 26 and 27. Course sections will meet on either Saturday or Sunday afternoons (1:00-5:00). Tuition, including all course materials and instruction, is \$389. For more information go to <http://cpd.creighton.edu>. To register call 280-2424.

Calendar:

- Sept. 22 - ASVAB Program for 11th grade
- Sept. 23 - Late SAT Reg. Deadline for Oct. 10 Test
- Sept. 29 - EXPLORE Test for 8th grade
- Oct. 1 - Dordt College Rep Visit
- Oct. 2 - Late ACT Reg. Deadline for Oct. 24 Test

OMAHA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

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E-mail: ktulsie@ocamail.org

www.omahachristianacademy.org



Excellence in Christ-centered Education

Gate/Concessions/Clean-up

Football

Friday, September 25 @ Concordia

Gate: Steve and Becky White

Jean Hempel

Concessions: Joyce Begg & Kristy Reinholz

Clean-up: Rhonda Deckett & Junior Families



A NOTE FROM BOOSTER CLUB

With the move to our new OCA home, there have been, and will continue to be, many opportunities for all of us to help our students and teachers in a variety of ways. So far this year, the Booster Club has already done this by sponsoring the Blue & Gold Rally, purchasing the new OCA sports and event tent, making Spirit Wear available, awarding "Fan of the Game" prizes, organizing half-time activities, providing concessions at sporting events, and purchasing equipment for both the performing arts and athletic departments.

In an effort to be good stewards of the funds we have available, and to provide for as many needs as possible, the Booster Club has decided to discontinue the spring scholarship program for seniors. It is our intention to use those funds in the future in a way that will benefit all OCA students.

Thank you for your past participation in the scholarship program, your ongoing participation in the athletic and performing arts, and your continued support of the Booster Club.

School Lunch Menu

	Entree	Sides/Dessert
Sept 21	HOT— Chicken Nuggets COLD—Turkey & Bacon Club Sandwich	Green Beans Apple Wedges Dinner Roll Oatmeal Cherry Bar
Sept. 22	HOT— Grilled Cheese Sandwich & Tomato Soup COLD—Chicken Picnic Box	Baby Carrots Applesauce Autumn Gelatin Cake
Sept. 23	HOT— Nachos with Beef & Cheese COLD—Garden Chicken Caesar Salad	Cheesy Beanies Banana Tie Dye Cookie
Sept. 24	HOT— Chicken Fried Steak COLD—Taco Salad Box	Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Melon Dinner Roll Chocolate School Fuel
Sept. 25	HOT— French Bread Pizza COLD— Garden Salad with Cheese, Bacon & Croutons	Grape Tomatoes Mixed Fruit Chocolate Mint Chip Bar

Students may choose yogurt & cheese stick as a main dish alternative.

Milk will be served with all meals.

Cost: \$2.60(Pre-K-5); \$2.75 (5-12); \$1.00 Extra Entrees

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Cub Scout Corner

Den Meetings

September 21 - 6:30-7:30 pm

September 28 - 6:30-7:30 pm

Meetings are held in the OCA cafeteria