

News & Notes

From the Director

February 29, 2008

I recently ran across a little book titled, *School Choice: the Findings* by Herbert Walberg. Interesting reading! He begins by stating: "The United States of America is arguably the world leader in income, wealth, military power and cultural influence. Yet US schools are behind those of most other economically advanced countries in both effectiveness and efficiency. In addition to being ineffective, American public schools are inefficient or unproductive."

Strong words! As far as I know Dr. Walberg is not a Christian and he is not writing from the prospective of promoting private education. He is attempting to objectively evaluate American education.

I did some research and discovered that average

public school spending was \$8,701 per student in 2005. At 5% growth per year that would be \$10,072 for 2008! [Source: US Census Bureau] For 2008-2009 Omaha Christian Academy's highest tuition rate will be \$5,650 – 56% of average public school cost per student.

Interesting statistics in light of student achievement! For the 2006-2007 school year OCA's scores on the Stanford Achievement Test were higher than national norms in every subject at every grade level. Could it be that Christian schools do more with less?

Stay tuned for more next week!

Tim Thompson, Director

OCA WORK DAY

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THANK YOU!! The OCA Family was at it best last Saturday!! What you all accomplished was truly AWESOME. Thanks to the hard work and perseverance of parents, faculty, and students, we saved at LEAST \$20,000 through your demolition efforts at our new building!

ONE MORE TIME!!

We need one more big push to finish the job. There are a few walls to knock out, the ductwork to come down, and the remaining carpet to be pulled up.

WHEN?

This Saturday, March 1 from 8 am until whenever we finish. It may not take all day this time because of all that was accomplished last Saturday.

WHO?

All of you who want to come back and be a part of finishing the job.

WHAT TO BRING?

Work gloves (everyone) and if you have it – metal and wire cutters, crowbars, hammers, ladders, sledge hammers, wheel barrows, push brooms. Also, if you could bring snacks for everyone to enjoy that would be great!

<i>School Calendar</i>	
Feb. 29	Family Fun Night @ Family Fun Center - 6:00 pm
Feb. 29	HS Lock In @ Family Fun Center - 1:00-3:00 am
March 1	Workday @ New Building, 10244 Wiesman Drive - 8:00 am-5:00 pm
March 3-7	Teacher Appreciation Week
March 3	Ensemble to VA Home - 10:00 am
March 3	Board Meeting
March 6	Elementary/MS Music Recital
March 7	Quiz Bowl @ Bellevue U - 8:00 am
March 7	HS Band @ Cornerstone - 1:30 pm
March 10	District Speech Meet
March 10	NFC Honors Band - 7:00 pm
March 11	HS Band to VA Home HS Band to Cornerstone Christian
March 11	Kindergarten Round Up - 1:30 pm
March 12	HS Music Recital
March 13	Booster Club Mtg - 12:00 pm
March 13	Red Wheel Pick-up - 3:00-5:00 pm
March 15	Wesleyan Track Invite - 9:00 am
March 18	7th Grade to Lincoln - 8:15 am
March 19	Elementary Speech Meet - 8:30 am
March 21-28	NO SCHOOL - Spring Break
March 25	B&G SO vs Conestoga - TBA
March 31	B SO vs Ralston - TBA
April 1	G&B SO vs Boystown - TBA
April 2	NO Elem/MS Classes SMART Meet - 8:00 am

LOOKING AHEAD

April 25 - Junior/Senior Banquet

TEACHER APPRECIATION DAY

Teacher Appreciation Day is March 1st. We will be honoring our teachers the week of March 3rd. Room Parents will be organizing activities for the elementary teachers. Parents of middle school and high school teachers may send monetary donations to school (checks made payable to OCA are tax deductible). Gift certificates will be purchased and distributed to the middle school and high school teachers. A luncheon will be provided for all teachers on Tuesday, March 4th.

If you are bringing items for the luncheon, please have them to school by 11:00 am Tuesday, March 4th. There will be a drop-off person with a cart in the lobby who will be collecting lunch items from 7:30-8:30 am. You may also bring them to the second floor activity room before 11:00 am. Please label your dish. All dishes will be left in the Activity Room on 2nd floor for you or your child to pick up. Thank you for your willingness to help!

Please contact Kimber McLean if you need any further assistance with dropping off.

National Honor Society***Qualification Letters***

Students in grades 10th-12th who meet the minimum GPA requirement of 3.25 will be receiving a letter in the mail inviting them to apply for membership into OCA's Chapter of National Honor Society. All eligible students will need to pick up a recommendation form packet by Friday, March 7. Packets will not be available after that date.

QUIZ BOWL

On Saturday, February 23rd the OCA Quiz Bowl team competed in Iowa at the Thomas Jefferson High School Quiz Bowl Meet. Out of a field of twenty-four teams, the OCA A-Team took fourth place, falling to Pious X, who went on to win first place.


Our next competition will be Friday, March 7th at Bellevue University. We are hoping to break our run of fourth place finishes and bring home a trophy! You can help. If you see a quiz bowl player, challenge them to a thumb wrestling match... we need to work on strengthening our buzzer fingers!!!

Coach Arant

Foreign Exchange Student Program

Would your family like a rich cultural experience of hosting a Korean exchange student? By opening your heart and home, you and your family can have this kind of experience. These students are in grades 4th-8th from the Korean American (KoAm) Education Alliance, a non-profit organization based out of Seoul, South Korea. The exchange students speak English. They are fully insured and bring their own spending money. Host families provide room, board and a loving environment. Contact your area coordinator, Mison Cowell at 402-991-4616 or by email at misony@koameduall.org.

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS SOCCER

Monday, March 3rd at 3:45 pm there will  be a high school girls soccer meeting in Room 308. All high school girls interested in playing soccer should attend this meeting. There is a need of more players.

SMART MEET - APRIL 2ND

OCA will host the SMART Meet on Wednesday, April 2. This competition in **Speech** (grades 7-8), **Science** (grades 5-8), **Math** (grades 3-8) and **Art** (grades 7-12) includes students from 5 area Christian schools. Our students are beginning to prepare for these areas of competition in their classrooms.

The following information regarding art entries comes from Mr. Dods, art teacher: All students in grades 7-12 are eligible to enter their art creations in the SMART Meet. The categories are not restricted, and include painting, drawing, photography, crafts, clay, lettering, posters, cartoons, and media designs. Any art made since last April, either at home or at school, is eligible. We are hoping for a wide variety of entries reflecting the diverse skills and interests of our students.

The selection of arts and crafts to represent OCA at the SMART Meet is a two-step process: (1) Students submit up to 4 entries to art room by **Monday, March 10th**, then (2) on Friday, March 14 a committee will select the best blend of work to represent OCA. The selected entries will be prepared for display by the art department. There is a \$2.00 entry fee for each piece that is entered in the SMART Meet.

Cub Scout Corner

Mark your calendars for the following events:

February 29 - Blue & Gold Banquet - **Postponed**
(Enjoy the Family Fun Night)

March 6 - Den Meetings

March 13 - Den Meetings

March 20 - PINWOOD DERBY

(Get those derby cars ready!)

March 27 - Easter Break - no meetings

G u i d a n c e C o r n e r

- ⇒ The Lincoln Builders Bureau is sponsoring an annual \$750 scholarship. Member company employees and their children can apply for the scholarships. The number of awards is yet to be determined. Applicants must be enrolled, or planning to enroll as an undergraduate in the upcoming year of an accredited college or trade school with a focus of construction science. For company member eligibility, go to www.buildersbureau.com. Click on the buyers guide tab, then membership directory to confirm a member company. Application forms are available in the guidance office. Deadline is April 1
- ⇒ La' James International College is hosting a Senior Spring Break day on Wednesday, April 23. Call 1-888-880-2108 for details.
- ⇒ Iowa Western Community College will be hosting its second annual Communications Day on Tuesday, March 25. The programs featured will be television/video broadcasting, graphic communications, literature, sign language interpreting, radio broadcasting, journalism, and Spanish. If interested in attending contact the guidance office by Friday, March 21.
- ⇒ Iowa Western Community College will be hosting its 36th Annual Iowa Western Community College Career Day: Kickoff Your Career! It will be held at the Council Bluffs campus on Thursday, March 13. Fifty-four career fields will be represented. If interested in attending please contact the guidance office by Thursday, March 6.
- ⇒ Cappex.com/scholarships is a website that students can go to to search for scholarship opportunities.

Calendar:

- March 5 - Grace University Rep Visit for juniors and seniors
- March 6 - Nebraska Wesleyan Rep Visit
- March 7 - ACT Reg. Deadline for April 12 Test
- March 21 - Late ACT Registration Deadline for April 12 Test
- April 1 - SAT Registration Deadline for May 3 test
- April 10 - Late SAT Registration Deadline for May 3 test



BAG 'N SAVE®

SCHOOL REWARDS

HELP OCA EARN UP TO \$2,000

Bag 'N Save will donate \$1.00 for every \$150.00 spent.

Please turn in your Bag 'N Save receipts to school now thru April 14.

OMAHA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

5612 "L" Street
Omaha, NE 68117

Phone: 402-399-9565

Fax: 402-399-0248

E-mail:

kerri.tulsie@omachristianacademy.com



A Christian Community of Learning

Omaha Christian Academy's

KINDERGARTEN

ROUNDUP



Tuesday, March 11, 1:30 pm

All incoming Kindergarten students and their parents are invited to experience OCA's excellent Kindergarten program.

5612 L Street in our Kindergarten Classroom

(Near 60th & L in Liberty Christian Center)

We're moving to 10244 Wiesman Dr. near I-680 & Fort St. for the 2008-2009 school year.

Excellence in Christ-centered Education since 1972!

School Lunch Menu

	Entree	Sides/Dessert
March 3	HOT—Teriyaki Chicken over Rice w/ Chow Mein Noodles COLD—Pepperoni & Cheese Sandwich	Celery Sticks Pineapple Cookie
March 4	HOT—Pancake & Sausage COLD—Salad Box with Salmon	Hash Brown Potato Casserole Banana Yummy Chewy Fig Bar
March 5	HOT—Pizza Hut Pizza COLD—Salmon Salad on Croissant	Lettuce Salad Peaches Chocolate Cookie
March 6	HOT—Fried Chicken COLD—Smart Box	Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Red Cabbage Slaw Biscuit Apple Crisp
March 7	HOT—Egg & Cheese on a Bun COLD—Chicken Picnic Box	Tiny Triangles Orange Smiles Cinnamon Crumb Cake

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

Milk will be served with all meals.

Cost: \$2.45(Pre-K-4); \$2.60 (5-12); \$1.00 Extra Entrees

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Register Now and Save!

Registration for classes next fall is in full swing. Returning families receive a \$50 discount per child off the registration fee if registered before March 15.

Elementary & MS Music Recital

Time	Name	Event	Title
8:30	Joanna James	Piano	Indian Celebration
8:33	Macy Myers	Piano	Pony Express
8:36	Mitchell Taylor	Piano	Caterpillar Crawl
8:39			
8:42	Samuel Gregory	Piano	There's a Nip in the Air
8:45	Mitchell Francis	Piano	Eight-O-Four
8:48	Kari Nupson	Piano	Indian Drumbeats
8:51	Serenity Bryce	Piano	Why?
8:54	Madison Vesely	Piano	Beautiful Things
8:57	Joslyn Brewer	Piano	Mulberry Bush
9:00	Bryce Taylor	Piano	Down By The Lake
9:03	Jeremy James	Piano	The Crazy Computer
9:06	Colt West	Piano	Old Time Train Ride
9:09	Mikayla Arrington	Piano	Diddley-Doodley
9:12			
9:15	Morgan Myers	Piano	A Wonderful Day
9:19	Ashley Peterson	Piano	Scary Larry
9:23	McKenna Lewis	Piano	Tambourine Dance
9:27	Drew Sorensen	Piano	Mustang
9:31			
9:35	Julianna Meyers	Piano	Buckeye Rag
9:39	Jonathan Howell	Piano	12th Street Rag
9:43	Stacia Howell	Piano	Chop Sticks
9:47	Caitlyn Ostry	Piano	Hold My Hand
9:51			
9:55			
10:00	Richard Sweeney	Trombone	Jack-in-the-Box
10:06	Kelcey Arndt	Violin	When I Survey
10:12	Stacia Howell	Alto Sax	Sonatina
10:18	Jonathan Howell	Trumpet	Soldiers March
10:24	Lizzy L. & Micaela M.	Flute Duet	
10:30	Mixed Ensemble		
10:36	Lauren A. & Tyler D.	Sax Duet	
10:42	Brass Ensemble		
10:48	Clarinet Quintet		
10:54	Mark Clifton	Xylophone	



Children's Scholarship Fund

giving parents a choice • giving children a chance

2008-2009 PRELIMINARY APPLICATION

A limited number of new scholarships will be offered for the **2008-2009 academic year** by the Children's Scholarship Fund. These scholarships are for families who meet the scholarship qualification guidelines and who need tuition assistance to enable their children to attend the private school of their choice in the Metropolitan Omaha area and the communities of Northeast Nebraska. *The children must be entering grades K-8 in the Fall of 2008.* Families interested in receiving this scholarship need to complete the information below and return the form to us no later than **Monday, April 21, 2008**. If a family is selected, they will then be asked to complete registration and financial verification forms. Scholarship guidelines are detailed on the reverse side of this form.

Return this completed form to: Children's Scholarship Fund
P.O. Box 4130
Omaha NE 68104-0130

Preliminary application deadline: **APRIL 21, 2008**

This form must be filled out completely.

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE (home) _____ (work) _____

HOUSEHOLD SIZE _____ ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME **2007** \$ _____

(Line #37 on your 2007 Federal 1040 Tax Return)

Names of Eligible Children:

Child's Name	Current School (2007-2008)	2008-09 Grade	2008-09 School

This form must be filled out completely.

CHILDREN'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND GUIDELINES

1. Scholarships will be awarded in time for admission to the school of your choice in the **Fall of 2008**.
2. Students must be eligible to enroll in Grades K-8 in a legally operating, private school in the Omaha Metropolitan area and the communities of Northeast Nebraska. Scholarships cannot be used for pre-school or pre-K students.
3. Scholarship amounts will be a percentage of the tuition costs and be based on the family's income and household size. (See the guidelines below.)
4. Scholarships are awarded to families. All of the children in the family entering grades K-8 are eligible to receive a scholarship.
5. Scholarships are for tuition costs **ONLY**. Registration fees, book fees, activity fees etc. are the responsibility of the parents.
6. Families are expected to pay a minimum of \$500 of the tuition costs per year for their child/children.
7. Scholarships can be transferred to other private schools in the Metropolitan Omaha area and the communities of Northeast Nebraska as long as the student(s) is/are in good standing and appropriate forms are completed and approved.
8. Scholarship payments will be made directly to the school.
9. **FAILURE TO RETURN YOUR APPLICATION BY THE PUBLISHED DEADLINE MAY JEOPARDIZE YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE SELECTION PROCESS.**

INCOME ELIGIBILITY SCALE

Household Size	Maximum Eligible Income *
Two	36,963.00
Three	46,359.00
Four	55,755.00
Five	65,151.00
Six	74,547.00
For Each Additional Family Member	9,396.00

- Maximum Income based on 2007 Adjusted Gross Income.