

News & Notes

From the Director

March 14, 2008

Did you catch a commentary by Cal Thomas in the newspaper earlier this week? As he does so often, he hit the proverbial "nail on the head!" He was writing in response to the recently passed *California Student Civil Rights Act*.

The act "requires 'nondiscrimination' against sexual orientation. Opponents take that to mean favorable teaching about homosexuality, bisexuality, gender identity and any and every other form of sexual expression for which there is an advocate." He says that the bill "has resulted in California schools not being allowed to use

the words 'mommy' and 'daddy' anymore. Children will be taught that sexual orientation and gender are merely a matter of personal choice and they will be taught to find what is 'right' for them. The legislation represents a complete reversal of 2,000 years of Christian moral teaching on human sexuality, family, and marriage."

Thomas goes on to say that this is "symbolic of a larger problem. The government schools want to shape a child's mind in ways that reflect a mostly liberal, humanistic worldview. This has implications for a child's understanding of economics, foreign policy, American history and the size and purpose of government, in addition to what once were known as 'traditional values'."

"The tragedy is that too many

conservative Christian...parents who want their children to have a different worldview — their own — willingly participate in the destruction of their children's minds by turning them over to a way of thinking that is antithetical to their beliefs. Parents who worship at conservative churches on Sunday willingly send their children to schools five days a week where what they are taught undermines what they learned in church and at home. They would never think of taking their kids to a church that teaches doctrines opposed to their beliefs, but they don't give a second thought to doing the same thing by sending them to government schools. It makes no sense."

Great food for thought --- and just maybe motivation for action!

Tim Thompson, Director

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ATTENTION PARENTS

Third quarter report cards will be mailed out on Thursday, March 20. Even though we have no scheduled parent / teacher conference day this spring, parents are welcome to contact any teacher directly to schedule individual conferences as needed.

School Calendar	
March 15	Quiz Bowl @ Wesleyan
March 15	Wesleyan Track Invite - 9:00 am
March 17	Elementary Art Projects Due for Trinity Festival
March 17	Lancers Read to Elementary Classes - 9:00 am
March 18	7th Grade to Lincoln - 8:15 am
March 19	Elementary Speech Meet - 9:00 am
March 20	Elementary Read-In - 2:00 pm
March 20	Day of Prayer
March 21-28	NO SCHOOL - Spring Break
March 25	B SO vs Conestoga - TBA
March 31	B SO vs Ralston - TBA
April 1	Foods Field Trip - 8:50 am
April 1	B SO vs Boystown - TBA
April 2	NO Elem/MS Classes SMART Meet - 8:00 am
April 5	Quiz Bowl - Lincoln Northeast - 9:00 am
April 7-11	SAT Testing Grades 2nd-11th
April 8	Track @ Wesleyan - 10:30 am
April 8	B SO @ Gretna - TBA
April 14	NFC Quiz Bowl @ Concordia - 4:00 pm
April 14	Board Meeting - 6:30 pm
April 15	6th Grade Field Trip - 8:15 am
April 15	Track @ Syracuse - 9:30 am
April 17	B SO @ NE Lutheran
April 18	District Music Contest @ Yutan
April 18	Booster Club Meeting - 8:00 am

LOOKING AHEAD

April 25 - Junior/Senior Banquet



OCA DAY OF PRAYER

OCA will have a Day of Prayer on Thursday, March 20th. Students & Staff will spend time in prayer for school and family needs. Please pray with us as you are able during the day. Please submit any prayer requests to kerri.tulsie@omahachristianacademy.com.

WELCOME!

I would like to introduce to you, and welcome to OCA, a new employee. Lori Pickette will be working part-time as Marketing and Development Coordinator. Her responsibilities will include assisting with fund-raising for the new buildings as well as helping to develop marketing opportunities for the school. Lori comes to OCA from Bayer Cooperation where she worked as a Senior Sales Specialist. She and her husband, Michael, have 2 children at OCA -- Brooke (4th) and Dillon (1st). As you have opportunity, please welcome Lori to her new role at OCA.

Tim Thompson, Director

PARTNERS IN PROGRESS

OCA would like to recognize business partners who contribute to the development of our new property & buildings on Weisman Drive.

BEST BUY SIGNS

Owned & operated by OCA parents
Jim & Kim Paulison.

"If you can read it we can make it."

THANK YOU to Best Buy Signs for donating OCA's sign at the new property!



EDUCATING the BOARD

The school board and Mr. Thompson attended a half-day workshop on school board governance on Saturday, March 8. We are grateful to Dr. Michelle Lundgren for spending the time with us.

All who attended appreciated the wisdom and good ideas which were shared. It is the strong desire of the board to improve our policy and practice. Our intent is to continue seeking training from qualified sources, and improve our role within OCA.

Keith Strasser, School Board President

Spring Achievement Testing



It is that time of the year again to begin thinking of Spring Achievement Testing. OCA students, grades 2-11, will be testing the week of April 7th. It is important that all students are in school that week to participate in the testing. It is also important for the students to get a good night's sleep and have a good breakfast. Please contact the Guidance Office if you have any questions or concerns.

ELEMENTARY ART WORK



Elementary student artwork is due Monday, March 17. The artwork will be displayed at the Trinity Spring Festival Friday, April 25. All entries must be work completed since April 2007 and may be projects done at home or at school. Students can submit several entries. **Each work needs to be matted or may be mounted onto a stiff piece of mat board or paper.** The competition accepts all types of media: pencil, water color, collage, tempera, pastel, sculptures, clay, etc. There is a \$2.00 fee for each entry. Please submit the entry fee with the student's artwork. The artwork will be delivered to Trinity and judged the week of the meet.

Speech Team Takes 4th at Districts

Five OCA speakers came home with medals from one of the toughest competitions our district has posted. Sean West's humorous interpretation of a "Mouse that Saved the World" received 3rd place, Meghan Vilter and Allison Rozema's duet act from "Girl Talk" earned 4th place, Kelly Nupson's poetry interpretation of "Out of the Dust" received a 4th place, Meghan Vilter's serious interpretation of "The Act" received 4th place, and Ari Berg brought home a 4th place in informative speaking for her speech on "The Bible: an Historical Document."

Brownell-Talbot will be representing our district at state competition in all nine speaking categories. They won the sweeps with 87 points. Lourdes Central Catholic came in 2nd with 42 points, and OCA earned 35 points. Eight class C-2 schools participated in this year's competition hosted by Brownell-Talbot.

Eleven of our sixteen speakers earned Superior ratings, the highest rating a judge awards. This is a commendable feat.

Congratulations to the speech team for a fine season.

An added note of praise...

Mr. Recker from Brownell-Talbot emailed Mrs. Nupson to say, "Many people have remarked about how well-prepared and well-behaved your kids (the OCA Speech Team) were yesterday (March 10 District Speech Meet). They seem like great kids!"

What a nice commendation to OCA's students!

ELEMENTARY SPEECH MEET

Elementary Speech Meet will be held on Wednesday, March 19 in the Activity Room and Assembly Room on 2nd floor. The schedule is as follows:

1st & 2nd Grade: 9:00 am

3rd Grade: 10:15 am

4th Grade: 9:50 am

5th & 6th Grade: 1:00 pm

Middle School Students Receive Awards at Metropolitan Science Fair



The Metropolitan Science and Engineering Fair was held Saturday, March 8, on the UNO campus. This science fair is open to all 7-12 grade students in the Metro Area. OCA was represented by five 7th graders: Jonathan Hempel, Lizzy Lyle, Katherine Marshall, Lisa McLean, and Olivia Lovgren. These students received the following awards:

Alia Brown: Honorable Mention - Chemistry

Lizzy Lyle and Lisa McLean: Honorable Mention - Biochemistry

Katherine Marshall: Honorable Mention - Medicine and Health

Olivia Lovgren: Honorable Mention - Plant Science

Jonathan Hempel: First Place - Engineering

Alia Brown and Lisa McLean - Society of Women Engineer Awards for best engineering related projects by female participants.

Congratulations to all our participants and their parents.



Guidance Corner

- ⇒ High school students interested in a career in fire and rescue may want to participate in the Ralston Volunteer Fire Dept. Exploring Program. The kick off meeting will be held on Saturday, March 29 at 9:00 am at the Ralston Fire Dept., 7629 Park Drive, Ralston. There is a \$25 registration fee. To RSVP contact Suzie Skaff at sskaff@mac-bsa.org or call 514-3018.
- ⇒ EducationQuest is sponsoring two spring college fairs. These events are a great way for juniors and sophomores to jump-start the college selection process. The Omaha College Fair will take place on Thursday, March 27 from 6:00-8:00 pm at Millard North High School. The Lincoln College Fair will take place on Thursday, April 3 from 7:00-9:00 pm at Lincoln Southwest High School. EducationQuest will conduct financial aid sessions at both events.
- ⇒ High school students interested in business may want to participate in the Business Explorer Post at UNO in the College of Business Administration. If interested in human resources, finance or economics you would want to attend the March 15th session from 9 am to 11:30 am. If interested in marketing and advertising, accounting, or management

information systems you would want to attend the March 29th session. For more information and to RSVP contact Suzie Skaff at 431-9272 or sskaff@mac-bsa.org.

- ⇒ The Assistance League of Omaha is offering an ACT Review Course at Westside High School. The course consists of two sessions with an optional third session for the writing portion of the test. Both sessions must be attended to receive full coverage. The first session will be held on Monday, April 7 or Tuesday, April 8 from 6:30-9:30 pm. The second session will be held on Wednesday, April 9 or Thursday, April 10 from 6:30-9:30 pm. The optional third session will be held on Thursday, April 10 from 6:30-8:30 pm. There is a \$30 fee for two sessions and \$40 for all three sessions. Registration forms are available in the guidance office.

Calendar:

- March 21 - Late ACT Registration Deadline for April 12 Test
- April 1 - SAT Registration Deadline for May 3 test
- April 7-11 - Spring Achievement Testing for Grades 2nd-11th
- April 10 - Late SAT Registration Deadline for May 3 test

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Excellence in Christ-centered Education

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 continuing to prepare for these areas of competition in their classrooms.

Note: Elementary and Middle School do not have school on Wednesday, April 2nd.

National Honor Society Deadline

Just a reminder to all who applied to NHS this year that all recommendation forms and your cover letter must be received by Tuesday, March 19 at 4:00 pm.

Box Tops for Education

Please see the attached flyer explaining the Extreme Dream Sweepstakes sponsored by Box Tops for Education.



School Lunch Menu

	Entree	Sides/Dessert
March 17	HOT—Pot Roast COLD—Corned Beef Sandwich	Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Kiwi Dinner Roll Green Jell-O
March 18	HOT—Hot Dog on Bun COLD—Smart Box w/ Hard Boiled Egg	Baked Beans Fresh Apple Smiles Apple Crisp
March 19	HOT—Chicken Taco w/ Lettuce & Cheese COLD—No Cold Lunch	Corn Applesauce Tres Leche Cake
March 20	HOT—Spaghetti Macaroni COLD—No Cold Lunch	Lettuce Salad Mixed Fruit Dinner Roll Shortbread
March 21	NO SCHOOL	

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.

7th & 8th Grade Soccer



OCA 7th & 8th grade soccer team needs a couple more players! Mr. Arndt will be coaching. We do not have any subs on the team at this time. The late fee will be waived. Registration forms are available on the OCA website as well as, in the school office. This is a good way to enjoy the spring weather with classmates!

Re-Enroll Now!



extreme dream sweepstakes

Sponsored by Box Tops for Education

**What are you dreaming of for our school?
Imagine the possibilities...**

Enter **every day** from March 9th to April 9th for a chance to win
100,000 Bonus Box Tops
for our school! – that's over 30 chances to win!

Give our school a chance to dream!
Go to: boxtops4education.com/extremedream
from now through April 9th. It's that easy!

Valid through April 9, 2008. See website for sweepstakes official rules.