

News & Notes

April 25, 2008

It Is Worth the Cost!

We are in the final weeks or days of the school year, depending on your location. It is my hope and prayer that this school year has been a blessed one for you and your family, particularly as you reflect on the role of Christian schooling in the lives of your children. As I stated in last month's *Christian School Comment*, we live in economically, politically, and spiritually challenging days.

Many of you wrestle with harsh and frightening economic issues as you consider the coming school year. I urge you to contemplate the impact of the culture on our lives and in particular on the formative aspects of your children's lives. Consider prayerfully what resources you will bring to bear when you see the culture molding—subtly and brutally sometimes—the development of your children.

I need hardly mention the seductive power of the media as they fuel our minds to indulge in every want and desire—converting narcissistic wishes into seemingly essential pursuits. Consider further the influence of entertainment mockery as it grinds away to destroy many of the Christian values that followers of Christ hold as dear and essential. As we sense the impact of the media on mature adults, we can only imagine how it works on kids in their growing and developing years.

The nation was stunned recently when nine third graders in a Waycross, Georgia, elementary school were alleged to have put together a plot to knock out, handcuff, and stab their teacher in response to the teacher's discipline of a classmate. People in the field of psychiatry gave responses that ranged from utter disbelief to casual dismissal. In an April 2 article headlined "3rd-Graders Plot Against Teacher Doubted," *USA Today.com* reported that "Dr. Louis Kraus, a child psychiatry expert at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago, said he doubts they would have actually attacked." One might have at least a slight concern about such a seemingly dismissive statement.

The brazen attack on faith-based stances, particularly those with their roots in the Christian faith, are astounding. Somewhere amid that noise and clamor, our national heritage—which has deep roots in Christianity—often languishes. Our court system has come to interpret separation of church and state to mean that faith-based thinking must be kept out of the public arena. In *What's So Great About Christianity*, Dinesh D'Souza addresses this matter by writing, "Somehow freedom for religious expression has become freedom from religious expression. Secularists want to empty the public square of religion and religious-based morality so they can monopolize the shared space of society with their own views. In the process they have made religious believers into second-class citizens" (2007, 53). And for some reason or other, too many of us have allowed that deception to become acceptable and even to prevail.

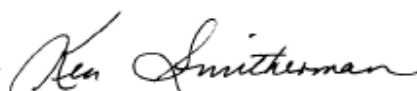
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It is the intent of Christian schooling to support your family in a serious focus on developing your children's Christian worldview—intentionally working through every aspect of the school's curriculum and school life to develop Christ followers who are willing to stand against the negative influence of a powerful culture.

It is worth the cost!

Reference

D'Souza, Dinesh. 2007. *What's so great about Christianity*. Washington, DC: Regnery Publishing.



Ken Smitherman, President
Association of Christian Schools International

We welcome you to download *Christian School Comment* and print it for distribution to your school's constituency. You are also granted permission to place this publication on your school's website. ACSI must grant permission for other forms of distribution.

School Calendar	
April 25	Junior/Senior Banquet - 6:00 pm
April 26	MS Quiz Bowl @ Lincoln - 7:30 am
April 26	NFC Track @ Lincoln - 12:45 pm
April 28	Spaghetti Dinner - OCA Cafeteria - 5:00-7:00 pm
April 28	4th-8th Grade Spring Concert - Auditorium - 7:00 pm
May 1	B SO vs NE Lutheran - 5:00 pm
May 2	Track @ NE City - 9:00 am
May 5	MS Track @ Fremont Bergan - 3:00 pm
May 5	HS Performing Arts Concert - 7:00 pm
May 6	1st Grade - Zoo Field Trip - 9:00 am
May 8	AP English Exam - 8:00 am
May 8	District Track @ Yutan - 10:00 am
May 9	All Elementary Library Books Due
May 9-10	Spring Melodrama @ Grandpa's Farm - 6:00 pm
May 10	MS Band to Adventure Land
May 12	HS Sports Awards - 7:00 pm
May 13	Preschool Track & Field Day Last Day Preschool
May 13	Physics to Worlds of Fun - 5:30 am
May 13	Board Meeting - 6:30 pm
May 15	Booster Club Meeting - 8:00 am
May 15	Kindergarten Graduation - 7:00 pm
May 16	Last Day of School: Elementary/Seniors Last Day of Childcare
May 16	Elementary Awards
May 16-17	State Track Meet
May 19	MS Field Day
May 19	Drama - "In Memoriam" - 5:00 pm

Building Project Update

Would you like to know the continual progress on the OCA Building project?
Go to the blog at
www.OCABuildingProject.blogspot.com

EARN \$500 ON YOUR SCHOOL ACCOUNT!

For Every New Family Referral You Earn \$500 Credit!

Bring Your Friends To OCA!
(Conditions apply - contact the school office)

Spaghetti Dinner 

Features Silent Auction

Monday's Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser (*see attached flyer for details!*) will also feature a silent auction of autographed prints of Cornhusker football legends Jerry Tagge and Tommie Frazier. Plan now to come and place your bid on these items. Bids will be taken through Friday, May 2, at noon. The winner will be announced in *News & Notes*.

Dinner is \$5.00 per person or a family price of \$20.00. Children ages 5 and under are free. Parents may pay for their students who have after-school activities and would like to eat later. Their name will be recorded and they will be served when they arrive.



Spring Melodrama Coming Soon!

The Paperbag Bandit Rides Again

Mark your calendars! Friday, May 9 & Saturday, May 10 are the dates for this year's Chuck-wagon Dinner and Melodrama at Grandpa Sweeney's Farm, 6782 Hwy 133, Blair, NE 68008. Dinner will be served at 6:00 pm. Tickets are on sale NOW! Don't miss this evening of fun, food, song and popcorn-throwing melodrama. Beware the evil Sludge Slyskull and the beautiful Diamond Dolly. Can Sheriff Buzz Saw save the town of Cooked Goose and his darling Clementine?

TABOR COLLEGE BAND

PERFORMS AT OCA

OCA families are welcome to attend a free concert by the Tabor College Band of Hillsboro, Kansas on Monday, April 28, 1:45 pm in the cafeteria. The program will feature classical musical pieces, hymns and pep band selections. The band's stop at OCA is part of its annual spring tour. Tabor College is a four-year, Christian liberal arts institution.

MISSIONS AT HOME

Interested in doing home missions? Never leave the comforts of home and get paid to show Christ's love with all the modern amenities. It's not too good to be true. KO-AM will place a child from Korea in your home for a school year. We will be finishing our year with our host daughter Ji-Won soon and truly the hardest part will be telling her good-bye. She has been the sister my daughter always wanted, a playmate for my youngest son and a good friend to my oldest son. Our family has been enriched by learning about another country and living out our Christian principles right at home. I was blessed to hear my children answer questions about what we believe and why in the safety of our living room. We were blessed to be able share the great truths of the Bible with someone who didn't know about David and Goliath and watch her interest grow. We learned better respect for the older generation as our host daughter really showed us how to honor them. We expanded our culinary interest, and met her family on-line with video conferencing. Ji-Won will always have a place with our family and our prayers daily. Don't miss this opportunity to be Jesus to someone from across the sea. Call Mison, the helpful area director, today at 991-4616.

Jennifer Oliver

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

SPORTS AWARDS NIGHT

High school students who have participated in any athletic event this school year (2007-2008) are invited, with their families, to the Sports Award Night on Monday, May 12, 7 p.m., in the cafeteria. Sophomore and junior families are asked to bring one pie per family. Senior parents are to set up, serve and clean up. **Chapel dress is required.**



"You are my rock and my fortress; Therefore for Your name's sake, Lead me and Guide me.

Psalm 31:3

Elementary Students Stick to Reading

OCA's elementary classes participated in Reading Month during the month of April.



The following students qualified to have Pizza with the Principal:

Kindergarten

Carrie Drake
Chloe Gregory
Vincent Holmes
Zach Roberts
Hannah Schafer
Abby Tulsie
Nina Willars

2nd Grade

Grace Hall
Cassady Hansen
Elizabeth Hawk
Joanna James
Mitchell Taylor
Isabelle Vargas

1st Grade

Gabriella Dyche
Jessica Evans
Judy Fourie
Loyal Johnson
Noah Krehbiel
Sarah Krehbiel
Samantha Lee
John Lim
Aaron Peterson
Joanna Richards
Grant Schmidt
Olivia Siebels
Cole Thierstein
Hannah Tulsie
Zachary Willars

3rd Grade

Serenity Bryce
Kelsay Combs-Brown
Mitch Francis
Sam Gregory
Josiah Krehbiel
Kari Nupson
Grant Rye
Maddie Schmidt
Madison Vesely
Kristian Willars
Dalton Wirges

4th Grade

Joslyn Brewer
Steven Gregory
Jeremy James
Naomi Maurer
Emmie Meyers
Lilly Paulison
Stephen Reinholz
Lucy Schmidt
Colt West

Kindergarten & 1st Grade girls and boys competed against each other for the "Most Minutes Read" Girls won! The girls read 4807 minutes and the boys read 2738 minutes.

Grades 2nd, 3rd and 4th competed against each other for the "Most Minutes Read". 4th Grade won with 8350 minutes! 3rd Grade came close with 8,200 minutes and 2nd Grade read 5,705 minutes.



PIE AND COFFEE ANYONE?

Who doesn't like a piece of pie and a cup of coffee after attending one of our wonderful performing art concerts. If you are one of those, please bring your family to Village Inn on L Street on May 5. Village Inn will be giving 10% back to the school that evening. You may arrive before or after the concert. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Richards at 573-1708.



Following legal counsel, the OCA school board has decided to discontinue the Tuition Reduction Program (TRP) effective immediately. We will, however, continue selling discount cards as before -- there just will not be a reimbursement credited to any individual family's account. All proceeds will go to General Fund. If you have any questions, please contact the school office.

Cub Scout Corner

CALLING ALL CUB SCOUTS
AND THEIR FRIENDS!

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

- April 29 - Den meets
- May 3 - Blue & Gold Picnic at Standing Bear Lake - 4:00 pm. Bring one side dish, your cake for the decorating contest, the things you've made this year AND invite a friend!
- May 6 & 13 - Den Meetings
- May 30-31 - CAMPOUT

DISTRICT MUSIC RESULTS

	Band	1+
	HS Choir	1+
	Ensemble	1
Stephanie Hamilton, Katy Phillips, Lauren Strasser, Cassie West, Gabe Jasso, Chris Kersey, Tyler Maskell, Matt Tulsie	Vocal Octet	1
Stephen Jay	Vocal Solo	1
Jackie Johnson	Vocal Solo	2
Kati Phillips	Vocal Solo	2
Kathryn Schulz	Vocal Solo	2
Nikki Tulsie	Vocal Solo	2
Elizabeth Webster	Vocal Solo	2
Caleb White	Vocal Solo	2
Jackie Johnson & Cassie West	Vocal Duet	2
Janelle Ostry	Piano Solo	2
Matt Tulsie	Piano Solo	1
Janelle Ostry, Katy Schulz, Kendra Strasser, Kathryn White	Clarinet Quartet	1
Michael Howell	Trumpet Solo	1
Stephen Jay	Trumpet Solo	1
Nick Jenkins, Chris Kersey, Jacob Richards, Garrett Wirges	Saxophone Quartet	2
Casey Bailey, Ben Deaver, Laura Henkenius, Lauren Strasser, Caleb White, Wyatt Wirges, Pam Zimmerle	Percussion Ensemble	2
Nathan Lyle & Wyatt Wirges	Snare Drum Ensemble	1
Andrew Bebee, Brendan Byal, Jared Cummings, Andrew Galvin, Michael Howell, Kyle Nupson, David Reinholz	Brass Ensemble	1
Christian Kersey	Alto Sax Solo	1
Pa Ra Kno	Flute Solo	1
Emily Lovgren	Flute Solo	2
Elizabeth Webster	Flute Solo	1
Sean West	Alto Sax Solo	1
Czarina Lim, Kelly Nupson, Allison Rozema	Flute Trio	1
Marissa Lindsey, Kandace McLean, Emily Lovgren	Flute Trio	1

OMAHA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

5612 "L" Street
Omaha, NE 68117

Phone: 402-399-9565
Fax: 402-399-0248
E-mail:

kerri.tulsie@omachristianacademy.com



Excellence in Christ-centered Education

FROM A SISTER ACSI SCHOOL

I am the parent of a young Christian man currently attending Aurora Christian High School in Aurora, IL. He and a few of his friends are serious baseball players looking for a host family June 15th through June 19th. They would like to attend College World Series games in Omaha. The ages of the young men are one graduating senior, one incoming senior, and 2 incoming juniors. Due to the schedule, they pretty much just need a safe place to sleep. All 4 are respectable boys in their school. We can supply references from school, if needed. If you know anyone who would consider hosting the boys, all of us parents would greatly appreciate any help.

Thank you,

Mary Morse
mnm1555@hotmail.com
630-514-7013

Lost & Found

Parents & Students, please remember to check the *Lost & Found* box on the 2nd floor landing for missing items.

School Lunch Menu

	Entree	Sides/Dessert
April 28	HOT—Cheddar Brat on a Bun COLD—Salad Box w/ Hard Boiled Egg	Baby Carrots Mixed Fruit Spring Kitty Chow
April 29	HOT— Chicken Patty on a Bun w/ Lettuce & Tomato COLD—Egg Salad Sandwich	Green Beans Pineapple Upside Down Cake
April 30	HOT—Pizza Hut Pizza (Pepperoni) COLD—Crispy Chicken Salad Box	Fresh Broccoli Pears Sugar Cookie
May 1	HOT—Creamed Chicken COLD—Salad Box w/ Scoop of Egg Salad	Mashed Potatoes Fresh Strawberries Dinner Roll May Basket Mix
May 2	HOT—Crispy Tacos COLD—Taco Salad Box	Lettuce & Cheese Cup Cheesy Beanies Cinnamon Applesauce Snicker Doodle Cookie

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.

Boys Soccer Corner



OCA - 1; Brownell-Talbot/Concordia - 2

Goals: Josh Bebee - 1

Goalie Saves: Jared Cummings - 12