

News & Notes

December 14, 2007

From the Director

A truly historic opportunity – that’s what OCA is facing this very moment!!

During its entire 35 year history Omaha Christian Academy has never really had a home that was owned by the school. To be sure, God has blessed and provided rental facilities over the years where OCA could be nurtured and grow to become the fine institution it is today. But, we have, in some sense, become the itinerate school. We need a home!!

Last week OCA became the owner of its very first building in northwest Omaha on Wiesman Drive. This building will house our elementary school. But, we’re only half way to the goal!

OCA needs YOUR help now as much as it ever has in its 35 year history! We can’t miss this **GREAT OPPORTUNITY!** Another building on Wiesman Drive is awaiting a new owner – and OCA wants to be that owner! Money is all that stands in the way. Let’s band together in prayer, giving and 100% commitment to bring this goal to fruition!

Have YOU prayed? Have YOU given? Have YOU shared this need with others who may be interested and willing to partner with OCA? PLEASE – during this wonderful time of year, give the BEST GIFT you can give to YOUR school – give the gift of a home for Omaha Christian Academy.

Tim Thompson
Executive Director

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What Is a Child Worth?

Obvious answer – priceless! A child’s safety and security are of the greatest importance to any parent. We feel the same here at OCA!

One of the times during the school day that has potential to become an unsafe environment for our students is the afternoon pick-up time. I want to ask each and every parent, grandparent or other driver who picks up students in the afternoons to be especially careful and sensitive of the presence of children. With the arrival of snow and ice the potential of an accident only increases.

PLEASE...

- Drive slowly and carefully along the road in front of the school when picking up children.
- Drive ONLY in the direction from “L” Street toward 60th Street.

- Do NOT park your car along the road to the right (and never on the sidewalk). If you need to park to speak to a teacher or someone else, please park in the spaces to the left or in the lower parking lot.
- Be respectful and obey all instructions given by parent volunteers helping during pick-up time, supervising teachers and safety patrol students.
- Remember that children sometime run across the street – and that children are always present.
- Be especially cautious when the roads are covered with snow and ice.
- Remember that all children should be picked up in front of the building – not behind the building.
- SLOW DOWN – there is nothing worth a child being injured.

Thanks so much for helping make OCA a safer place for children!

School Calendar

December 14	JV/V B BB vs Freeman @ Grace U - 6:15/8:00 pm
December 15	Quiz Bowl @ Elkhorn - 8:00 am
December 15	MS B BB vs Heartland Christian @ Central Christian School - 10:00 am
December 17	Christmas Concert 7th-12th Grade - 7:00 pm
December 19-21	HS Final Exams
December 21	Elementary Christmas Parties - 2:00
Dec. 24-Jan. 4	Christmas Break
Dec. 28	V G BB Tournament @ Mead - 1:00
Dec. 28	V B BB Tournament @ Mead - 6:15
Dec. 29	V G& B BB Tournament @ Mead
Jan. 7	Classes Resume - 2nd Semester Begins

Will You Be Hungry This Christmas?

Many will be! Liberty Christian Center, our host church, has asked that we make one last appeal for food donations for their annual food drive. They will feed 100's of needy or homeless families this Christmas season – including many children. OCA's Honor Society has done a super job of collecting food! Thank you so much to all who have given! But, the need is still great. If you are able and willing, share the gift of a hot meal this Christmas. The following items are still needed:

- Potatoes
- Canned Yams
- Boxed Stuffing
- Cranberry Sauce
- Corn Muffin Mix
- Gravy Mix
- Desserts
- Canned Pumpkin

Please take any donations directly to tables located in the cafeteria. LCC deeply appreciates any help and all donations will go to help feed those in need.

CHRISTMAS PHOTOS



An evening of fun awaits all that are planning on attending the Christmas Concert on Monday. Capture the fun with a holiday photo. Stop by and have your photo taken for only a \$10 sitting fee. Your image will then be emailed to you. Groups up to 12 will be accommodated. We will be set up in the back corner of the sanctuary. If you have any questions, please contact Kimber McLean.

Proceeds will go to the OCA High School Band

Middle School/High School Christmas Concert

1. Arrive early (before 6:30 pm) and reserve seats in the Liberty Christian Sanctuary.
2. Go to the cafeteria for the Christmas Carol Sing-a-long which starts at 6:30 pm.
3. Enjoy a cup of cold or warm Wassail provided by the Consumer Science Classes.
4. The setting for the Christmas Carol Sing-a-long is informal:
 - A. Come & go as you please
 - B. Enjoy your Wassail during the Sing-a-long
 - C. Reserve the small tables & chairs for our older guests.
 - D. Even though the Ensemble will sing some special carols, the majority of the carols are for everyone to sing-a-long. Join the fun!
 - E. Keep in mind we will be singing some fun Christmas songs as well as some traditional carols.
5. At 6:55 pm everyone will move into the sanctuary before the concert.

HIGH SCHOOL EXAM SCHEDULE

Wednesday, December 19

1st & 2nd periods	1st period exam
3rd period	3rd period classes
4th period	4th period classes
5th period	7th period "A" classes
6th & 7th periods	2nd period exam
8th period	8th period "A" classes

Thursday, December 20

1st & 2nd periods	3rd period exam
3rd period	5th period classes
4th period	6th period classes
5th period	7th period "B" classes
6th & 7th periods	4th period exam
8th period	8th period "B" classes

Friday, December 21

1st & 2nd periods	5th period exam
3rd period	MS/HS Chapel
4th period	MS/HS Chapel
5th period	Lunch / Study Hall
6th & 7th periods	6th period exam
8th period	Class Christmas Parties

Back By Popular Demand...

...OCA's famous "Walking Taco"! Enjoy your very own for \$2 at Friday night's basketball games at Grace University gym. They're just one of the items available at concessions, so give the chef in your house the night off and come on out and cheer on the Eagles!

Cub Scout Corner

Mark your calendars for the following events:

December 20 - Den Meetings

December 27 - Pack Meetings

January 3 - Den Meetings

School Lunch Menu

	Entree	Sides/Dessert
Dec. 17	HOT—Chicken Nuggets COLD—Salman Salad on a Bagel	Green Beans Apple Dinner Roll Bear Cookie
Dec. 18	HOT—Whole Grain Cinnamon Glazed French Toast w/ Sausage COLD—Crispy Chicken Salad Box	Potato Rounds Peach Crisp
Dec. 19	HOT—Pizza Hut Pizza COLD—Salad Box w/ Scoop of Salmon Salad	Lettuce Salad Jell-O w/ Sliced Bananas
Dec. 20	HOT—Chicken Fried Steak COLD—Salad Box w/ Cottage Cheese & Veggies	Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Cherries Dinner Roll Snowflake Cake
Dec. 21	HOT—Hot Dog COLD—Deli Sub Sandwich	Baby Carrots Fruit Medley Winter Sparkle Cookie

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

Milk will be served with all meals.

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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

GATE/CONCESSION/CLEAN-UP

Friday, Dec. 14 at Grace University vs Freeman

Gate: 5:45-8:30 - John & Cindy Ostry

Concessions: 6:00-9:00 - Bill & Melanie Lovgren and Andrew & Kathleen Webster

Clean-up: Ray & Kathy Cummings and sophomore families

BASKETBALL GAMES RESCHEDULED



The Varsity Basketball games that were cancelled on Tuesday due to the weather, have been rescheduled for Tuesday, January 8 at Cedar Bluffs at 6:00 & 7:45

OMAHA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

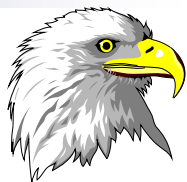
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A Christian Community of Learning

IMPORTANT

Please check Sycamore Education for the most up to date information regarding cancellations of any school events due to inclement weather.

CHRISTMAS BONUS

During this season of thanksgiving and remembrance, the OCA Board asks for financial contributions to honor our teachers and staff. Our employees sacrifice significantly to work at our school and this is a small token of appreciation for that sacrifice. The amount given will be divided equally among all employees based on their full/part time status.

These donations need to be in by noon on Wednesday, December 19th. Make your checks payable to OCA and note "Christmas Bonus". Your gifts are tax deductible. May the Lord richly bless you for your sacrifice.

Guidance Corner

⇒ High school students interested in a career in meteorology may want to participate in the Weather Explorer Post #999 Exploring Program. The first meeting will be Thursday, Dec. 20 starting at 7:00 pm at the Boy Scouts of America Building (1/2 mile West of 120th on Maple Rd.). There is a \$35 registration fee. If interested in attending please RSVP to Suzie Skaff at sskaff@mac-bsa.org or call her at 431-9272.

⇒ Students currently in grades 8th-11th have the opportunity to participate in UNL's 2008 Big Red Summer Academic Camps. The camps will be held on the UNL campus the week of June 15-20. The following camps will be available: Child Development, Culinary

Arts, Culinology, Dance, Food Molecular Biology, Golf, Landscape Design, Movie Making, Quilt Design, Spiders, Theatre, Unicameral Youth Conference (June 8-11), Web Design and Animation. For more information and registration deadlines and fees go to the web address: bigredcamps.unl.edu

⇒ Seniors interested in pursuing art at the college level may be eligible for scholarship opportunities at Wayne State College. Contact the guidance office for more information.

⇒ High school students interested in a career in the health care industry may want to participate in Children's Hospital Exploring Post. The kick-off meeting is on Jan. 16 with a

one hour gathering in the Glow Auditorium at Children's Hospital. The post is limited to 50 participants. There is a \$20 registration fee. If interested in participating please contact Suzie Skaff by email (sskaff@mac-bsa.org) with a subject line: Children's Hospital) or call her at 431-9272.

Calendar:

Dec. 26 - SAT Registration Deadline for Jan. 26 Test

Jan. 4 - ACT Registration Deadline for Jan. 26 Test

Jan. 4 - Late SAT Registration Deadline for Jan. 26 Test

Jan. 8 - Washburn University Rep Visit

Jan. 18 - Late ACT Registration Deadline for Feb. 9 Test



Carols of Christmas

Presented by

The Middle School Band

The 7th & 8th Grade Choir

The Sr. High Band

The Ensemble

and

The Sr. High Choir

Monday, December 17, 2007

LCC Sanctuary @7:00pm

Pre-Concert Festivities in the Cafeteria @ 6:30pm Include:

Christmas Carol Sing-a-long

With the Ensemble

Yuletide Yummies

By the Consumer Science Students

EducationQuest Foundation

College Planning Bulletin

A monthly college planning guide for Nebraska high school students

January 2008

Preparation key to applying for financial aid

Preparation is the key to successfully completing and filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA is the application for state, federal and college-specific financial aid. Even if you don't think you'll qualify for need-based financial aid, you should complete the FAFSA to qualify for low-interest student and parent loans.

Follow these steps to complete the FAFSA and the financial aid process:

Ask your college(s) for their FAFSA priority filing date. Because some types of financial aid are awarded first-come, first-served, it's important that you submit the FAFSA before that date.

Request a Personal Identification Number (PIN) for you and a parent at www.pin.ed.gov. The PIN is your signature for the online FAFSA.

Complete tax returns early as the FAFSA requires current tax information.

Gather these student and parent items:

- 2007 federal tax returns and, if applicable, Schedule K-1 (Form 1065)
- 2007 W-2 forms
- Student's driver's license number
- Social Security numbers
- Birth dates
- Date parents were married, separated, divorced or widowed
- Current cash, savings and checking account balances
- Current investment values (stocks, bond, mutual funds, CDs, etc.) excluding retirement accounts
- Value of business (if more than 100 employees)
- Value of investment farm (Do not include the value of a family farm that you or your parents live on and operate.)
- 2007 child support (paid and/or received)
- 2007 ADC/TANF welfare benefits
- 2007 Social Security payments received from SSI or SSDI
- 2007 Workers compensation
- Other untaxed income in 2007 such as veteran's benefits, housing/food/ living allowances for military and clergy
- Alien Registration Number for eligible non-citizens

Be prepared to answer these FAFSA questions which relate to grant eligibility:

1. Did your student or anyone in the household receive any of the following federal benefits?
 - Supplemental Security Income
 - Food Stamps
 - TANF
 - Free or Reduced Price Lunch
 - WIC

2. Did your student complete at least two Advanced Placement courses with a passing test score of 3 or higher?

3. Did your student complete and pass the following high school courses?

- 4 years of English
- 3 years of math (Algebra I and above)
- 3 years of science (2 of 3: Biology, Chemistry, Physics)
- 3 years of social studies
- 1 year of a language other than English

Complete and file the FAFSA electronically at www.fafsa.ed.gov before your college's priority date.

Expect a Student Aid Report acknowledging that your form was processed.

Expect Financial Aid Award Letters in the spring from the colleges you listed on your FAFSA detailing the assistance they're offering (could be combination of scholarships, grants, work-study and student loans).

Apply for student and parent loans (if necessary) in the summer through your college.

Check out these free FAFSA tools and resources

Visit the "Completing the FAFSA" section at www.educationquest.org where you'll find:

- **FAFSA Checklist** – provides a complete list of items you need to gather before you complete the FAFSA
- **College Funding Estimator** – estimates your FAFSA results
- **FAFSA Tutorial** – provides user-friendly clarification of each FAFSA question
- **Financial Aid Video** – explains the types of financial aid and how to apply

For free personal help with FAFSA completion, call the EducationQuest location nearest you to make an appointment. Contact the Kearney office at 308-234-6310 or 800-666-3721; Lincoln at 402-475-5222 or 800-303-3745; or Omaha at 402-391-4033 or 888-357-6300.

January "To Do" List

Complete these tasks during January to stay on the right college planning track.

Seniors:

- Ask your college(s) for their FAFSA priority date.
- Attend the [Financial Aid Program](#) at your school or in your area.
- Apply for FAFSA Personal Identification Numbers at www.pin.ed.gov.
- Make a FAFSA appointment at EducationQuest if you need help.
- Complete taxes early.
- Continue to apply for scholarships.

Juniors:

- Attend the [Financial Aid Program](#) at your school or in your area.
- Register by January 4 for the February 9 ACT
- Continue to research colleges.
- Start setting up college visits.

For free help with college planning, contact EducationQuest Foundation:

Kearney
308-234-6310

800-666-3721

Lincoln

402-475-5222

800-303-3745

Omaha

402-391-4033

888-357-6300

www.educationquest.org

EducationQuest Foundation is a private, nonprofit organization with a mission to improve access to higher education in Nebraska.