

News & Notes

September 12, 2008

From the Director

The right of Christians – and Christian schools – to teach our core beliefs to our children is under attack. It's past time that Christians stand firm to defend these rights before they are gone forever!

The Association of Christian Schools International (in which OCA is a member school) joined with Calvary Chapel Christian School to file suit against the University of California for implementing an admissions process that they believe violates protections guaranteed by the Constitution.

The following summary was written by Erik Zimmermann of the American Center of Law and Justice:

"Students [applying to the University of California] may be eligible for admission if they have completed an approved class program. The university 'only considers courses that it has approved to ensure that admitted students [have] the knowledge and skills to succeed in their studies.' Under this admissions policy, the University of California rejected multiple courses offered by [Calvary Chapel Christian School] for a variety of reasons. For example, a history course was rejected for, among other things, failure to 'teach critical thinking and modern historical analysis.' The University rejected a Calvary English course that utilized a textbook entitled *Classics for Christians*, in part, because the text 'insisted on specific interpretations of its content.' In addition, a Biology course offered at another Christian school was rejected because the texts supposedly 'characterized religious doctrine as scientific evidence' and 'included scientific inaccuracies.' Government and World Religions courses offered by Calvary were also rejected."

"ACSI and Calvary Chapel Christian School argue that the University of California's method of course approval is unconstitutional. The plaintiffs believe that the review process 'discriminates against religious viewpoints and regulates speech based on content, shows 'hostility toward religious schools' and abridges equal protection.'"

"The outcome of this case is critically important to Christian high schools and high school students across the country. If the University of California is permitted to reject courses taught from a Christian perspective, numerous other public university systems across the nation could adopt similar policies. This would make it much more difficult for many students at Christian high schools to gain admission to public universities."

Could such a thing happen here in Nebraska? We, as Christians, MUST "watch and pray!"

PLEASE NOTE

Every family should receive an e-mail copy of this week's *News & Notes* in addition to a hard copy. If you do not receive a copy via e-mail please contact the school office. This will be the final week that hard copies of *News & Notes* will be sent home unless requested. Please contact the school office if you have any questions.

School Calendar	
Sept. 12	FB @ Lyons-Decatur - 7:00 pm
Sept. 13	Quiz Bowl - Bluejay Invitational @ Creighton Prep - 9:00 am
Sept. 13	VB @ Boystown - OCA/Boystown Challenge - 9:00 am
Sept. 15	World Studies to Omaha World Herald & Freedom Park - 11:36 am - 3:30 pm
Sept. 15	JV FB @ Parkview - 4:00 pm
Sept. 16	ASVAB Test - 11th Grade - 8:00 am
Sept. 16	Association Meeting - 7:00 pm
Sept. 18	School Pictures
Sept. 18	JV/V VB vs Brownell Talbot @ College of St. Mary's - 5:30/6:30 pm
Sept. 19	Booster Club Meeting - 8:00 am
Sept. 19	2nd Grade to Fontennelle Apple Orchard - 10:30 am
Sept. 20	VB @ Cedar Bluffs - TBA
Sept. 22	Magazine Sale Kick-Off
Sept. 22	3rd Grade to Mt. Vernon & Lauritzen Gardens - 11:15 am
Sept. 22	JV FB vs Concordia - 4:00 pm
Sept. 23	Career Exploration: 11th Grade - 8:00am
Sept. 23	JV/V VB vs Omaha Nation - 6:15/7:30 pm - TBA
Sept. 24	See You At The Pole - 7:30 am
Sept. 25	8th Grade to Fort Atkinson & Washington County Museum - 9:00 am
Sept. 25	V VB vs Mead @ College of St. Marys - 7:30 pm
Sept. 26	FB @ Concordia - 4:00 pm
Sept. 29	6th Grade to Eppley Air Traffic Control Tower - 8:10 am
Sept. 30	Explore Test - 8th Grade - 8:00 am

Omaha Christian Academy
ASSOCIATION MEETING
Tuesday, September 16
7:00 pm
OCA Cafeteria

SCHOOL PICTURES

School pictures will be taken of all students on Thursday, September 18. There will be no payment collected on Thursday, September 18. A color proof will be sent to you later. View the proof and then order the package from the assortments outlined on the proof envelope.



MAGAZINE SALES

OCA's magazine sale kick-off is Monday, September 22. The sale will run two weeks ending on Monday, October 6. You may go online and place orders early at www.qsp.com. After clicking "Shop Now" or "Just Shopping" enter OCA's school code "425000527". By entering our school code, all profits will go to OCA. The student will receive double tickets to the prize store for magazines sold on-line before Oct. 6.

On launch day, September 22nd, each student will receive a sales packet with order slips, magazine sales booklet, prize store information and more. You can order magazines for yourself, friends, relatives or support our school library by renewing magazines that our library needs.

Last year, this fundraiser brought in over \$10,000 in profit for OCA. Thank you for your support for this fundraiser!

BE SURE TO HAVE YOUR HOODIE FOR THE HOMECOMING GAME OCTOBER 3

- **Check out the new designs at the Association Meeting Tuesday night!**
- **Order forms will be available at the meeting or in the documents section of Sycamore Education or on the OCA website.**
- **Orders need to be in the office by Wednesday, September 17.**
- **Get your OCA Spirit Wear and cheer your Eagles on to victory!**



HOMECOMING DINNER

The Homecoming Dinner has been arranged. It will be held at Canigila's Venice Inn at 72nd and Pacific on Saturday, October 4 at 6:30 pm. Tickets will be on sale September 15-26. The dinner choices are as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|
| 1. 8 ounce Club Steak w/ Baked Potato | \$20.00 |
| 2. Fettuccini Alfredo | \$19.00 |
| 3. Chicken Parmesan w/ Baked Potato | \$19.00 |
| 4. Lasagna w/ Mixed Veggies | \$18.00 |
| 5. Spaghetti and Meatballs | \$16.00 |

All dinners come with a salad, bread and butter and a soft drink.

There are 100 tickets available, so get them while you can! An after dinner event is still in the planning stage. This event is for all high school students.

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

The Prudential Foundation

Spirit of the Community Awards

The Prudential Foundation's Spirit of Community Awards honor young people in middle level and high school grades for outstanding volunteer service to their communities.

Eligible applicants must meet the following criteria: 1) be a student in grades 5-12 as of the last weekday in October; 2) have engaged in volunteer activity that occurred at least partly during the 12 months prior to the date of application; and 3) submit the application to a school principal or the head of an officially designated local organization.

Local honorees will receive a certificate of recognition. State honorees will receive \$1,000, an engraved silver medallion, and an all-expenses paid trip to Washington, DC for a national recognition event. National honorees will receive additional awards of \$5,000, an engraved gold medallion, a trophy, and a \$5,000 grant from The Prudential Foundation for a nonprofit, charitable organization of their choice.

Deadline to for students to apply: October 31, 2008

Please contact Prudential Financial, Inc. directly for complete program information and application guidelines at the following website address: <http://www.prudential.com/view/page/public/12846>

Guidance Corner

- ⇒ Central Community College will be hosting an Open House on Wednesday, Oct. 8 from 4:30-7:30 pm at all three campuses (Columbus, Grand Island, and Hastings). For more information visit www.cccneb.edu/careercentral or call 877-CCC-0780, ext. 7420. Registration deadline is Oct. 1.
- ⇒ The Heartland Latino Leadership Conference & Expo annually offers up to ten \$1,000 academic scholarships to Latino students pursuing higher education in the state of Nebraska. Scholarship applications are available in the guidance office. Deadline is Oct. 1.
- ⇒ Xenon Cosmetology Academy will be hosting an Open House on October 26 from 1-4 pm. RSVP by calling 393-2933, ext. 1008
- ⇒ The Center for Professional Development at Creighton University is offering an ACT preparation course for high school juniors and seniors. Students will receive 16 hours of exam content instruction. The course is offered on consecutive weekends beginning September 27th and 28th. Course sections will meet on either Saturday or Sunday afternoons (1:00-5:00 pm). Tuition, including all course materials and instruction is \$389. To learn more visit <http://cpd.creighton.edu> or call 280-2424.
- ⇒ The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards were created to recognize students in middle and high school grades who have demonstrated exemplary community service. Any student in grades 5-12 as of Oct. 31 and has engaged in a volunteer activity that occurred at least in part after Sept. 1, 2007 is eligible to apply. Applicants must complete an online application and submit it to the principal by Oct. 31. For more information contact the guidance office.
- ⇒ In 1962, The United States Senate created the

United States Senate Youth Program to provide a yearly opportunity for talented young people with demonstrated leadership abilities to deepen their understanding of America's political processes and encourage them to consider careers in public service. Two high school juniors or seniors from each of the fifty states will be chosen to participate in an intensive week-long educational program scholarship. In order to apply you must be a junior or senior and be currently in one of the following capacities:

- a. Student Body President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer
- b. Class President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer
- c. Student Council Representative
- d. Student Representative elected or appointed to district, regional or state-level civic or educational organization.

If interested in applying contact the guidance office by October 1.

Calendar

- Sept. 16: Late SAT Reg. Deadline for Oct. 4 Test
- Sept. 19: ACT Reg. Deadline for Oct. 25 Test
- Sept. 23: ASVAB Test for 11th grade
- Sept. 26: SAT Reg. deadline for Nov. 1 test
- Sept. 30: EXPLORE Test for 8th grade
- Oct. 1: Trinity College Rep Visit
- Oct. 2: NE Wesleyan Rep Visit
- Oct. 3: Late ACT Reg. Deadline for Oct. 25 Test
- Oct. 8: PLAN Testing for 10th grade
- Oct. 10: Late SAT Reg. Deadline for Nov. 1 Test
- Oct. 21: Dana College Rep Visit
- Oct. 23: Midland Lutheran Rep Visit
- Oct. 29: PSAT Testing for 11th grade
- Oct. 29: Metro Community College Rep Visit

OMAHA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

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Excellence in Christ-centered Education



BOOSTER CLUB

The Booster Club will be meeting on Friday, September 19 at 8:00 am in the OCA cafeteria.

GAME DAY DONUTS!

Donuts, Donuts, Donuts... for sale on Fridays for \$1.00 outside beginning at 7:40 am. OCA cheerleaders will be selling Krispy Kreme donuts to get our game day off to a good start. Bring your \$1 and come and get your donut. **Yum!**



Gate/Concessions/Clean-up

Volleyball

Saturday, September 13 at Boystown:

Gate: Pam & Dan Rozema
Clean-up: Sweeney Family & Junior Families

Thursday, Sept. 18 at College of St. Marys

Concessions: Ensemble
Gate: Suzette Perry
Clean-up: Sweeneys & Sophomore Families



School Lunch Menu

	Entree	Sides/Dessert
Sept. 15	HOT— Whole Grain Grilled Cheese COLD—Chef Salad Box	Baby Carrots Applesauce Kitty Chow
Sept. 16	HOT— Honey Glazed Chicken over Rice COLD—Salami & Bagel Sandwich	Steamed Broccoli Grapes Dinner Roll Yellow Cake w/ Chocolate Frosting
Sept. 17	HOT— Pizza Hut Pizza COLD—Grilled Chicken Salad Box	Lettuce Salad Pears Chocolate Chip Cookie
Sept. 18	HOT— Spaghetti & Meat Sauce COLD—Salami & Cheese Roll-up	Green Beans Watermelon Garlic Bread Stick Shortbread w/ Rainbow Icing
Sept. 19	HOT— Nachos w/ Beef & Cheese COLD—Sunbutter on Whole Wheat Bread	Mexi Tots Banana Cinnamon Crumb Cake

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 This Week:

Webelos

Monday, Sept. 15 - 6:45 pm at the Hempel's

Bears

Monday, Sept. 15 - 6:30 pm at the Taylor's

Wolves

Thursday, Sept. 18 - 6:45 pm at the Willar's

See you there!

Christian Schooling: You Have Chosen Well!

At the very front of this new school year, I want to simply say, “Thank you.” Your decision to enroll your children in a Christian school is one that is to be commended at the very highest extent possible. Your decision truly demands that you put your money where your mouth is! Not only is a family investment in the education of their children a significant one—it is a very expensive one. Such a decision in a society that provides a free government education to its children has to be one arrived at from a very thoughtful and strategic vantage point because for most it demands significant economic commitment and sacrifice.

We live in a culture that less and less embraces spiritual formation as being significant, let alone crucial. We are experiencing an increased level of attack on any sort of orthodox belief in God and on any pursuit of spiritual formation that recognizes the authority of God—and these attacks often renounce the very existence of God. In America one of the great distortions of recent times has been the common perspective regarding “the separation of church and state,” and this distortion has very disturbingly resulted in the attempted and generally successful removal of any religious discussion in the government school classroom.

The attack on the very existence of God, and in particular on God as the Creator, has found a rich battleground in the ongoing and testy science-and-religion debate. On November 21, 2006, the *New York Times* reported on a conference that had taken place that month on science and religion at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in La Jolla, California. In that article, titled “A Free-for-All on Science and Religion,” George Johnson noted the following:

Carolyn Porco, a senior research scientist at the Space Science Institute in Boulder, Colo., called, half in jest, for the establishment of an alternative church, with Dr. Tyson, whose powerful celebration of scientific discovery had the force and cadence of a good sermon, as its first minister.

She was not entirely kidding. “We should let the success of the religious formula guide us,” Dr. Porco said. “Let’s teach our children from a very young age about the story of the universe and its incredible richness and beauty. It is already so much more glorious and awesome—and even comforting—than anything offered by any scripture or God concept I know.”

She displayed a picture taken by the Cassini spacecraft of Saturn and its glowing rings eclipsing the Sun, revealing in the shadow a barely noticeable speck called Earth.

A little later in the same article, Johnson reported on the comments of Sam Harris, the author of *The End of Faith: Religion, Terror, and the Future of Reason*:

“Every religion is making claims about the way the world is,” he said. “These are claims about the divine origin of certain books, about the virgin birth of certain people, about the survival of the human personality after death. These claims purport to be about reality.”

By shying away from questioning people’s deeply felt beliefs, even the skeptics, Mr. Harris said, are providing safe harbor for ideas that are at best mistaken and at worst dangerous. “I don’t know how many more engineers and architects need to fly planes into our buildings before we realize that this is not merely a matter of lack of education or economic despair.”

We live in a culture that less and less embraces spiritual formation as being significant, let alone crucial.

Sadly, these attacks against Christian faith and practice are being widely read and accepted as truth by many. We should be extremely disturbed that a Christian worldview is not simply described as stupid but emphatically defined as dangerous—with references to terrorism in order to embellish the point.

Your Christian school is working diligently to support you in the intellectual development and spiritual formation of your children, preparing them not merely to survive but to engage effectively in a culture that seeks to convert to fantasy all things Christian. Instead of perpetuating fear, your school is encouraging godly lives through Jesus Christ. These lives reach out and serve, truly enhancing our culture and our world.

So be heartened. Your choice of Christian schooling will be blessed—you have chosen well.



Ken Smitherman, President
Association of Christian Schools International