

News & Notes

From the Director

September 26, 2008



The fact is that Omaha Christian Academy needs money to operate. Tuition covers a large portion of those needed funds, but not all. OCA depends upon donations and fund-raising to meet those remaining needs. Parents, alumni, friends of OCA and even students have stepped forward over the years to contribute.

Magazine sales are also one way for students to take part in helping OCA. To make the magazine sale successful we need participation from all students and families! Most everyone reads a magazine; why not have the magazine purchased through OCA! **Over the past 10 years the magazine fundraiser has raised over \$145,000 for Omaha Christian Academy!** Let's all please help add to that figure this year.

Your child(ren) brought home a magazine sales packet on Monday. The packet explains the program fully. And remember, there are also many books and music CD's available for sale (at the back of the booklet).

If your child forgot to turn in the PostCard booklet that was due Wednesday we will still accept them on Monday! This is a great way to have people out of town get a look at what is for sale – a mini magazine booklet will be mailed to them. Also, you may enter friends' email addresses on qsp.com's website. An e-mail invitation will be sent to them so that they can order online! **And, yes, people may order online, through the mail or directly from you. Omaha Christian Academy will still get credit and receive 40% of the sales.**

Throughout the sale, orders placed online will receive **double tickets for the Prize Store.** Monday is a special turn-in day; everyone who turns in orders will receive a "candy bar coupon" redeemable at the Prize Store. **Please keep working to contact people for renewals or new orders all next week.** The sale goes through Monday, October 6. Thank you for giving back to Omaha Christian Academy!!!

"But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint".

Isaiah 40:31

School Calendar	
Sept. 26	FB @ Concordia - 4:00 pm
Sept. 29	6th Grade to Eppley Air Traffic Control Tower - 8:10 am
Sept. 29	JV/V VB vs Omaha Nation - 6:30/7:30 pm @ Grace University
Sept. 30	Explore Test - 8th Grade - 8:00 am
Sept. 30	JV/V VB @ DC West - 6:00/7:00
Oct. 2	MS VB @ Waterloo - 4:00 pm
Oct. 3	FB vs Mead - 4:00 pm - Homecoming
Oct. 3	Bands of Alumni Concert - 7:00 pm - Evangelical Bible Church
Oct. 4	VB Triangular @ Concordia - 10:00/11:00/12:00 pm
Oct. 4	Homecoming Dinner @ Caniglia's Venice Inn - 6:30 pm
Oct. 6	JV FB vs Cedar Bluffs - 4:00 pm
Oct. 7	MS FB vs Parkview - 4:00 pm
Oct. 7	JV/V VB vs Prague @ Grace U - 6:30/7:30
Oct. 8	PLAN Test - 10th Grade - 8:00 am
Oct. 9	1st grade to Platte River State Park & Aksarban Aquarium - 9:00 am
Oct. 9	JV/V VB vs Winnebago @ College of St. Mary's - 6:00/7:00 pm
Oct. 10	FB @ Conestoga, 8404 42nd Street, Murray, NE 68409 - 7:00 pm
Oct. 11	MS VB Tournament @ Scribner-Snyder
Oct. 11	JV VB Tournament @ Mead
Oct. 13	JV FB @ ISD - 4:00 pm
Oct. 14	4th grade to Lewis & Clark - 11:00 am
Oct. 14	MS FB vs Cedar Bluffs - 4:00 pm
Oct. 14	MS VB vs Lightning @ Westroads Club - 4:30 pm
Oct. 14	JV/V VB @ Cedar Bluffs - 5:30/6:30 pm
Oct. 15-17	No School - Teacher In-service
Oct. 20	No School - Parent/Teacher Conferences

HOMECOMING WEEK IS HERE!

Spirit Week days will be as follows:

Monday, 9/29 Pajama/Crazy Hair Day
Tuesday, 9/30 High School Musical Day
Wednesday, 10/1 Hat/Sweats Day
Thursday, 10/2 Blast from the Past Day
Friday, 10/3 Blue & Gold Day
 Have fun dressing for these days!

Activities associated with Homecoming:

September 26-28

Sponsors & classes decorate hallways

September 29

Hallway decorations are judged before school

October 2

8:00 am – Run-throughs are judged in the Cafeteria

October 3

1:00 pm Pep Rally on the football field
 4:00 pm Homecoming Football Game

October 4

6:30 pm Homecoming Dinner at Caniglia's Venice Inn
 8:00-11:00 – After party at Grandpa Sweeney's Farm which is located on Hwy 133, the first house east of County Road P30 (just outside of Blair). There will be two school vans taking students from Venice Inn to Grandpa's Farm. There are still 12 available spaces, with freshman & sophomores getting priority. A ten dollar deposit (refunded when you ride) is needed. Permission forms and directions are available from Mr. Lovgren. Parents will need to pick their children up from the After Party.

Snack Responsibilities for After Party:

Seniors 6 bottles of water
 Juniors Salty Snacks: crackers, pretzels, chips, etc. (Not popcorn!)
 Sophomores Sweets: cookies, brownies, candy, etc
 Freshman 2 two liter bottles of soda



QUIZ BOWL

The OCA High School Quiz Bowl team for the 2008-2009 season will be forming soon. An informational meeting will be held Oct. 10 in room 310 at 7:40 AM. Quiz Bowl competitions cover a wide range of materials in all subject matters. You do not need to be an expert in each area, but students should be prepared to learn new material. You **MUST** attend this meeting if you are interested in joining the team. If you cannot attend you **MUST** speak to Mrs. Arant (second floor, 3rd grade) **BEFORE** the 10th. Coming to the meeting does not commit you to the team, but it does give you a great opportunity to see what Quiz Bowl is all about and ask any questions you might have.

Adopt a Teacher/Staff Member

Parents, we have a unique opportunity to encourage the teachers and staff at OCA through an encouragement ministry called "Adopt A Teacher / Staff Member. I am in need of 12 teachers/staff members to be adopted for the school year. What this involves is sending each person anonymous notes of encouragement and special treats for his/her birthday and holidays. If you are willing to serve in this ministry, please contact me at 932-1006 or email at 5vilters@cox.net.

Blessings,
Elissa Vilter

ORDER YOUR 2008-2009 YEARBOOK

Monday, October 13, will be yearbook order day! This year Pam Rozema, Kerri Tulsie and their capable staff of eleven high school students are staging a yearbook revolution. We've contracted with Jostens Yearbook Company and added a yearbook class to the high school curriculum in order to improve the quality and timeliness of our yearbook. Our deadlines are set so that our yearbooks will ship from Jostens July 27, 2009, so that we can schedule an all-school "book signing party" in early August. Some older students may want to purchase their own books so that they can have their friends sign their book.

The other major change is that we will combine the high school and middle school/elementary school books into one comprehensive book. Our aim is improve coverage in the middle and elementary school. Each class will have a spread in the album section. More pictures of middle school classes will appear in the academic section. The organizations section will include organizations such as safety patrol and 5th grade band. In the student life section we will cover the Christmas and Spring programs for all ages. Pages featuring events such as 8th grade promotion, Kindergarten graduation, the Read-in, Kite Flying Day and much, much more will be included. The Sports section will include a spread covering the elementary Youth Sports program as well as high school and middles school sports. You'll be able to show your friends all the marvelous opportunities our dedicated and hard-working staff provide for all students at OUR Christian School.

Students will be completing an order form at school. The forms are sent to our yearbook printer, Jostens. A statement will arrive in the mail detailing the order placed by the student. Parents will have the opportunity to add to or cancel any part of the order. This simple method will eliminate the need for students to bring money to the school and allow parents the opportunity to discuss purchase decisions with students at home. Yearbook payments can be made through the mail, internet or by calling a toll-free service hotline. Additionally, a special feature of this program allows parents the option of an installment payment plan.

Students are entered into a drawing for a \$50 cash prize simply for filling out the order form.

Stay tuned for information about purchasing the 2007-2008 OCA Yearbook.

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



Be sure to wear your navy OCA shirts to the Homecoming game on October 3rd. You will be eligible to win prizes such as soda, candy, and other great items!

Gate/Concessions/Clean-up

Volleyball



Monday, September 29 at Grace:

Gate: Tammy Krumwiede
Clean-up: Anderson Family & Freshmen Families

Concessions: Ensemble

Tuesday, September 30 at DC West:

Gate: Kristy Reinholz
Clean-up: Kerri Tulsie & Sophomore Families

Football

Friday, October 3, Homecoming:



Gate: Pam Rozema & the Lindseys
Concessions: Clint and Jody Pearson & Arla Vohnout

Clean-up: Nupsons and Sophomores

GARAGE SPACE NEEDED

OCA owns a small trailer and a lawn tractor. If you know of a garage where we could store both items during the winter, please call Pete Smagacz at 990-3960.



School Lunch Menu

	Entree	Sides/Dessert
Sept. 29	HOT— Chicken Nuggets COLD—Smart Box	Baby Carrots Cinnamon Apple Slices Sugar Cookie
Sept. 30	HOT— Chicken Noodle Soup w/ Oyster Crackers COLD—Crispy Chicken Salad Box	Grapes Frosted Apple Bar
Oct. 1	HOT— Pizza Hut Pizza COLD—Cottage Cheese & Fruit	Lettuce Salad Mixed Fruit Chocolate Chocolate Chip Bar
Oct. 2	HOT— Enchilada Casserole COLD—Salad Box with Egg & Cheese	Potato Rounds Seasonal Fresh Fruit Apple Brown Betty
Oct. 3	HOT— Chicken Parmesan COLD—Cottage Cheese w/ veggies & Black Bread	Pasta with Olive Oil & Garlic Italian Vegetables Fresh Pear Fruity O's Bar

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

Regular Den Meetings:

Week of September 29

Week of October 6

Week of October 13

Pack Meeting:

October 23 - Raingutter Regatta!

See you there!

What About a Return to Decency and Manners?

May I never fail to commend you on the value of your decision to choose Christian schooling for your children. I recognize that these challenging economic times may cause you to second-guess whether or not you have chosen right. Well, be assured, you have.

Please, however, never think that investing heavily in Christian schooling will lighten your burden as you strive to successfully parent and mentor your children. You have nearly overwhelming competitors for the heart and mind of each of your children: the entertainment media. It is almost as if the media take on the character of some sort of being that is intent on being the very god that occupies every thought of every waking moment. This powerful “being” conveys to our young people things of unbelievable crudeness and vulgarity.

I am amazed at how the media can take those described as the “beautiful people”—glamorous, handsome, exuding great warmth and personality—and present them in situations that probe the depths of crudeness, coarseness, vulgarity, disrespect, and seemingly every other aspect of culture and manners once considered absolutely unacceptable. Somehow, the media have the power to take conduct that is truly unacceptable and make it appear acceptable.

I am afraid that our Christian culture may be similar to the proverbial frog that ends up lifeless—boiled in a pot of water. At first, all is comfortable; but as decadence generates heat, the water warms at such a pace that we never realize we are moving toward an intolerable 212 degrees Fahrenheit. Caught off guard, we are consistently immersed in low-life conduct that eventually becomes common—or, worse yet, the acceptable norm. At that point, we are boiling.

In light of our present culture, it is interesting to consider England in a bygone era. Herbert Schlossberg contributed an essay to a book published to accompany the recent movie *Amazing Grace*. In the book, *The Amazing Grace of Freedom: The Inspiring Faith of William Wilberforce*, Schlossberg points out that before the diligence of Wilberforce and the religious revival that erupted, Great Britain had been “an often brutal society in which a woman walking alone on the street could expect to be at least verbally molested” (2007, 47). In a companion essay in the same book, Ted Baehr says of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Great Britain: “It was the most powerful nation on earth, an empire upon which the sun literally never set” (p. 40).

Sadly, this great nation slid into a horrifically repugnant condition even without the powerful “being” of media to help transport her. But now we as parents daily accept multiple hours of insidious entertainment proliferated through movies, videos, music, and television. And the content of those hours is beating away at our children. Potentially, this influence could reach levels at which the return to decency in our culture is virtually beyond possibility. That is, we could reach those levels unless we assert higher expectations—ones reflecting intolerance of indecency, ones demanding the now-scoffed-at notion of manners and etiquette.

At first, all is comfortable; but as decadence generates heat, the water warms at such a pace that we never realize we are moving toward an intolerable 212 degrees Fahrenheit.

Christian schools cannot stand alone for a few hours each day in an attempt to counter such a powerful influence. Standing together to counter the media is a most important role for families who recognize the biblical concept of *imago Dei*, that all are created in the image of God. These families understand that therefore all should be treated as such. *Imago Dei* is a crucial concept. It offers a reason to be instrumental in nurturing an environment suitable for God’s creation, humanity. Would not Psalm 19:14 be worth our consideration? “May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer” (NIV). In fact, let’s go beyond considering it—to reflecting it and nurturing it in the lives of our children.

References

- Baehr, Ted, Susan Wales, and Ken Wales. 2007. *The amazing grace of freedom: The inspiring faith of William Wilberforce*. Green Forest, AR: New Leaf Press.
- Baehr, Ted. 2007. *The best of times, the worst of times*. In Baehr, Wales, and Wales 2007, 40–43.
- Schlossberg, Herbert. 2007. *How great awakenings happen*. In Baehr, Wales, and Wales 2007, 44–51.



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.
