

School Calendar	
Dec. 5	V G&B BB vs Bancroft-Rosalie @ College of St. Marys, 7000 Mercy Road, Omaha 68106- 6:15/8:00 pm
Dec. 9	Ensemble to Elk Ridge - 1:15 pm
Dec. 9	V GBB vs Bergan @ College of St. Marys 7000 Mercy Road Omaha 68106 - 5:30
Dec. 12	V G&B BB @ Parkview - 6:15/8:00
Dec. 13	MS BBB Tournament @ Scribner-Snyder, 400 Pebble Street, Scribner, NE 68057 - 9:00 am
Dec. 15	Chili Dinner - OCA Cafeteria - 5:00-7:00 pm
Dec. 15	6th-12th Grade Christmas Concert - 7:00
Dec. 15, 18 & 19	High School Final Exams
Dec. 16	Ensemble to Christ Community Church - 9:45 am
Dec. 16	JV B/V G&B BB @ Cedar Bluffs - 4:30/6:00/7:30 pm
Dec. 19	School will be dismissed at noon.
Dec. 19	JV/V B BB @ Freeman - 6:15/8:00 pm
Dec. 22 - Jan. 2	Christmas Break
Dec. 29	Holiday BB Tournament @ Mead V Girls vs Mead @ 1:00 pm V Boys vs Mead @ 6:15 pm
Dec. 30	Holiday BB Tournament @ Mead V Girls Championship game @ 4:30 pm V Girls Consolation game @ 1:00 pm V Boys Championship game @ 6:15 pm V Boys Consolation game @ 2:45 pm
Jan. 5	School Resumes



FAN OF THE GAME

Are you the "Fan of the Game"? You could be! Tonight the Eagles' first home games of the season begin at 6:15 and 8:00 pm at the College of Saint Mary's. Wear your Navy OCA Spirit Wear to the game and you will be entered into a drawing to receive a prize and become OCA's first ever "Fan of the Game".

CHILI DINNER FUNDRAISER

Monday, December 15

5:00-7:00 pm

OCA Cafeteria

(Please see page 3, Carols of Christmas)

The purpose of this fundraiser is to help furnish the classrooms in our new school. Volunteers would be appreciated for after-school set-up, service and clean-up. Thank you to all who are donating items for this dinner. This allows 100% of the money donated to the dinner to go the new school.

PAN or call Margie Thierstein, 880-6604 if you have questions or are able to volunteer.

Serving Him, *Margie Thierstein*

Cookie Dough Fundraiser

Raising "Dough" for OCA classrooms...
40% Profit to OCA

The purpose of this fundraiser is to help furnish the classrooms in our new school. Each classroom will be credited the proceeds those students earn in selling cookie dough.

- Cookie Dough orders are due Wednesday, December 10 - turn them in to your homeroom teacher.
- Pick up date: Thursday, Dec. 18 from 3:00-5:30 pm in the cafeteria
- There are extra order forms in the school office if needed

Thank you for supporting OCA!



Carols of Christmas

Monday, December 15, 2008, 7:00 pm

LCC Sanctuary

Presented by

The Middle School Band

The Middle School Choir

The Senior High Band

The Ensemble

&

The Senior High Choir



Pre-Concert Festivities Include

Chili Dinner ~ 5:00 pm in the Cafeteria

Adults - \$5.00, Students - \$3.00 - All proceeds go toward furnishing new classrooms

Christmas Carol Sing-A-Long - 6:30 pm in the Foyer

With the Ensemble

Yuletide Yummies ~ 6:30 pm in the Foyer

By the Family Consumer Science Students

OMAHA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

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Excellence in Christ-centered Education

Gate/Concessions/Clean-up



Friday, December 5:

Gate: Girls' Game: Andrew & Kathy Webster
Boys' Game: Ray & Kathy Cummings
Concessions: Girls' Game: Heinemanns, Binkos
Boys' Game: Stella Lim, Kerri Tulsie
Clean-up: Slys & Freshman Families

Tuesday, December 9:

Gate: The Arndts
Concessions: Mike and Tricia Lewis
Clean-up: The Sweeneys and Freshman families

Cub Scout Corner

CONGRATULATIONS to the following Webolos for earning their Outdoorsman pin: Lyle Reinholz, Chris Smith, Joey Anderson, Dan Hempel, Matt Kempkes, Steven Reinholz, Bryce Taylor and Xristian Willars. Great job, Scouts!

Pack 415 is proud to report 100% participation in popcorn sales this year. You are AWESOME! Congratulations to our top seller: Eli King

December Den Meetings:
Weeks of December 1, 8, and 29

December Pack Meeting:
Thursday, December 18

School Lunch Menu

	Entree	Sides/Dessert
Dec. 8	HOT— Ham-burger on a Bun COLD—Ham Salad Sandwich	Potato Rounds Golden Apple Brownie
Dec. 9	HOT— Teriyaki Chicken over Rice with Chow Mein Noodles COLD—Turkey and Cheese Wrap	Carrot Coins Mandarin Orange and Pineapple Salad Ginger Sparkle Cookie
Dec. 10	HOT— Pizza Hut Pizza COLD—Oriental Chicken Salad	Lettuce Salad Pears Red & Green Kitty Chow
Dec. 11	HOT— Nachos & Beef & Cheese COLD—Chef Salad Box	Cheesy Beanie Dip Banana Dirt Cake
Dec. 12	HOT— Chicken Fried Steak COLD—Taco Salad Box	Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Cherries Chocolate Cake with Chocolate Frosting

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.

CONTAINERS NEEDED

Please save your plastic containers from sour cream, whipped topping, soft margarine, etc. for the foods classes. You may drop them off in the office or give them to Mrs. Lovgren. Thanks!



CHRISTIAN *School* COMMENT

ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS INTERNATIONAL

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The Very Heart of Christmas

The Christmas season has taken on disappointing characteristics in our highly secularized culture. These characteristics include removing Christ-centered displays and using verbiage that eliminates references to the namesake of the season's special day. Some businesses have removed the familiar and once prominently accepted greetings that include any reference to Christmas and instead have attempted to pretend the specially named day really is not. These businesses give it a bland moniker such as "winter holiday." My, what a threat this day must be to a secular culture.

It really is fascinating—try as secularists might to take Christ out of Christmas—that the popular and *seemingly* secular symbol of Christmas, Santa Claus, represents the work of God's Son. Santa Claus remains pretty much OK probably because the spoilers have not figured out how to explain from their vantage point, or do not know, the gradual transition of St. Nicholas to Santa Claus. The real Nicholas was born in Patara, a Greek area that is now a part of the southern coast of Turkey. His parents were wealthy and devout Christians, who died when he was quite young. Nicholas dedicated his life to serving God, and he became the bishop of Myra as a young man. He used his entire inheritance to help the sick, the needy, and others who were suffering. Because he was held in great esteem for his life and deeds, the anniversary of his death, December 6, AD 343, became known and celebrated as St. Nicholas Day (www.stnicholascenter.org).

In the 1800s, because of the work of artists and writers, St. Nicholas took on an elfish appearance and eventually a beard and a pipe. He gradually acquired a rotund appearance and a red suit. By the late 1800s, the saint's name shifted to Santa Claus, "a natural phonetic alteration from the German *Sankt Niklaus* and Dutch *Sinterklaas*" (www.stnicholascenter.org). It must be noted though, when you dig down, he is still Nicholas, who modeled true giving and faithfulness—a result of his love for Christ.

And so, may I take this opportunity during the Christmas season to remind you of the importance of your choice of Christian schooling for your students? Your school is intent on indelibly imprinting the heart of

Christmas on the heart of every one of its students—helping each student understand God's gift of a Savior, one whose life would give us a taste of the kingdom of heaven and whose sacrificial death, undeserved, would provide redemption and eternal life.

Christmas is that wonderful opportunity to reexamine the boundless love of God for us, His creation. Your school is a place where the richest and deepest meaning of Christmas is honored and celebrated, where your children are reminded that the birth of the Savior not only opened the door to the family of God for all who choose Him but also opened the door to a new way of life—life having the fullest meaning, opportunity, and responsibility. Your Christian school is intent on integrating the kingdom of heaven into every aspect of living, on providing a richer depth and level of preparation for higher education, future vocation, and fullness of life.

Even in these most challenging economic times, a good investment is still a good investment, one that will pay dividends far, far into the future. Discipling and nurturing children in the fullness of their education is

Your Christian school is intent on integrating the
kingdom of heaven into every aspect of living.

crucial. So even as we recognize the significant role of the school, we do most importantly recognize the work of God Himself in the life of a student. Dallas Willard writes in *The Great Omission*, "Well-informed human effort is necessary, for spiritual formation is not a passive process. But Christ-likeness of the inner being is not a merely human attainment. It is, finally, a gift of grace. The resources for it are not human, but come from the interactive presence of the Holy Spirit in the lives of those who place their confidence in Christ" (2006, 105). That spiritual formation is Christian schooling's greatest desire for your children.

May this Christmas be a celebration of the gracious gift from God—His Son, Jesus Christ, the Light of the World.

Reference

Willard, Dallas. 2006. *The great omission: Reclaiming Jesus's essential teachings on discipleship*. New York: HarperCollins.



Ken Smitherman, President
Association of Christian Schools International

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