

# News & Notes

January 16, 2009

## *From the Director*

I recently ran across this from Paul Harvey. Not bad! He writes, "We tried so hard to make things better for our kids that we made them worse. For my grandchildren, I'd like better."

"I'd really like for them to know about hand me down clothes and homemade ice cream and leftover meat loaf sandwiches. I really would. I hope you learn humility by being humiliated, and that you learn honesty by being cheated. I hope you learn to make your own bed and mow the lawn and wash the car. And I really hope nobody gives you a brand new car when you are sixteen. It will be good if at least one time you can see puppies born and your old dog put to sleep. I hope you get a black eye fighting for something you believe in. I hope you have to share a bedroom with your younger brother/sister. And it's all right if you have to draw a line down the middle of the room, but when he wants to crawl under the covers with you because he's scared, I hope you let him. When you want to see a movie and your little brother/sister wants to tag along, I hope you'll let him/her. I hope you have to walk uphill to school with your friends and that you live in a town where you can do it safely.

On rainy days when you have to catch a ride, I hope you don't ask your driver to drop you two blocks away so you won't be seen riding with someone as uncool as your Mom. If you want a slingshot, I hope your Dad teaches you how to make one instead of buying one. I hope you learn to dig in the dirt and read books. When you learn to use computers, I hope you also learn to add and subtract in your head. I hope you get teased by your friends when you have your first crush on a boy\girl, and when you talk back to your mother that you learn what ivory soap tastes like. May you skin your knee climbing a mountain, burn your hand on a stove and stick your tongue on a frozen flagpole. I sure hope you make time to sit on a porch with your Grandma/Grandpa and go fishing with your Uncle. May you feel sorrow at a funeral and joy during the holidays. I hope your mother punishes you when you throw a baseball through your neighbor's window and that she hugs you and kisses you at Christmas time when you give her a plaster mold of your hand. These things I wish for you - tough times and disappointment, hard work and happiness. To me, it's the only way to appreciate life."

## **No School on Monday, January 19 - Martin Luther King Day**

*"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*



<i>School Calendar</i>	
Jan. 16	JV B/V G&B BB vs Brownell Talbot @ Grace U. - 4:30/6:00/7:30 pm Pack the Gym Night/Bucks for Baskets
Jan. 17	MS GBB @ Mead - 10:00 am
Jan. 17	JV B/V G&B BB vs NE Lutheran @ College of St. Marys - 4:00/5:30/7:30 pm
<b>Jan. 19</b>	<b>No School - Martin Luther King Day</b>
Jan. 19	MS GBB vs Cedar Bluffs @ Omaha Sports Academy, 11726 Stonegate Circle, Omaha - 4:00 pm
Jan. 22	V GBB @ Boys Town - 7:00 pm
Jan. 24	Speech & Drama Concordia Classic @ Concordia College - 7:00 am
Jan. 24	V BBB NFC 1st Round - TBA
Jan. 26	AP English to The Greek Island Restaurant - 11:49 am
Jan. 26	MS GBB @ Yutan - 6:00 pm
Jan. 26	V GBB NFC 1st Round - TBA
Jan. 27	V BBB NFC @ College of St. Marys
Jan. 29	V GBB NFC @ College of St. Marys
Jan. 29	Kdg.-3rd Grade Field Trip - 9:00 am
Jan. 30	HS Bowling Social @ Thunder Alley - 7:30-10:00 pm
Jan. 31	V G&B BB NFC Finals @ SE Community College - TBA
Feb. 3	Association Meeting - 7:00 pm
Feb. 5	JV B/V G BB vs Omaha Nation
Feb. 5	Quiz Bowl @ Education Service Unit - 9:00 am
Feb. 6	ACSI Spelling Bee
Feb. 6	MS GBB vs Prague - 5:00 pm
Feb. 6	V G&B BB vs Prague - 6:15/8:00 pm Senior Night NHS Servant Auction
Feb. 9	NFC Speech @ Parkview - 4:00 pm
Feb. 10	JV B/VG&B BB @ Concordia

# Congratulations!

Congratulations to the winners of the OCA Spelling Bee.

- |                |           |
|----------------|-----------|
| Evan Kalkowski | 1st Grade |
| John Lim       | 2nd Grade |
| Elizabeth Hawk | 3rd Grade |
| Grant Rye      | 4th Grade |
| Jeremy James   | 5th Grade |
| McKenna Lewis  | 6th Grade |
| Erin Clifton   | 7th Grade |
| Jeong Won Cho  | 8th Grade |



The 3rd-8th grade winners will go on to compete at the ACSI District Spelling Bee, Friday, February 6th.

## QUIZ BOWL NEWS

The 2009 OCA Quiz Bowl team competed in their first meet of the new season on Saturday, January 10th at Elkhorn High School. The Advanced Team was seeded 11th out for 29 for the afternoon single elimination rounds, after beating Wahoo and Oakland-Craig and narrowly losing to Blair. In the afternoon, the Advanced Team roared past Thomas Jefferson High School with a score of 150 to 65, before falling to Ralston High School in the second round of play. The Novice Team was only able to compete in the morning and had to withdraw for the afternoon due to a conflict with basketball. Watch for their scores at upcoming events. Our next competition is on February 5th at the Educational Service Unit #3, here in Omaha.

## TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

Teacher Appreciation Week begins Monday, March 2nd. We will be honoring our teachers throughout the week. Room parents will be organizing activities for the elementary teachers. Parents of middle school and high school students may send monetary donations to school (checks made payable to OCA are tax deductible). Gift certificates will be purchased and distributed to the middle school and high school teachers. A luncheon will be provided for all school staff on Tuesday, March 3rd. If you would like to help or have any questions, please contact Margie Thierstein at 763-9978 or Pass-a-Note.



## FUNDRAISER FOLLOW-UP

I would like to extend a sincere thank you to all families who helped with the chili dinner and cookie dough fundraisers. We raised \$1,100 from the cookie dough sales and \$900 from the dinner.

Also, we had a special group of “A+ Helpers” who were eager to help in any way they could. Thank you to the following A+ Helpers:

Evan Kalkowski	Amanda Meusch
Zachary Roberts	Abby Tulsie
Gabe Farrington	Loyal Johnson
Noah Krehbiel	Sarah Krehbiel
Samantha Lee	John Lim
Levi Rapaich	Joanna Richards
Grant Schmidt	Cole Thierstein
Hannah Tulsie	Christina Wells
Joanna James	Eli King
Trey Morales III	Mitchell Taylor
Brianna Farrington	Kari Nupson
Jeremy James	Stephen Reinholz
Bryce Taylor	

These “A+ Helpers” were made up of volunteers from grades Preschool through 5th grade. Thank you for serving the Lord in any way that was needed.

We had many volunteers from our families, school staff and students from all grades. What a great show of school support from our cookie dough sales. Thank you!

Serving Him,  
Margie Thierstein

## REMINDER

Dishes left from the Chili Dinner are in the cafeteria on the counter behind the partition. Please pick up your dishes at your earliest convenience. Thank you!

## High School Boys Basketball

### Tuesday, January 6 JV BBB at Fremont Bergan

The Fremont Bergan team is very strong and probably the best team we will face all year. They scored often and put a stifling press that caused us great problems. The final score was 87-22. The most disappointing point was the first loss on the ‘rebound war’ – 26-35. A goal of the team is to out rebound the other team. We need to continue to work on protecting the ball, running the plays and meeting the ball. Phil Perkins had a good game hitting 2 of 3 from three-point land. The leading scorer for the team was Phil with 6. Other scorers: Nick Jenkins – 5, Josh Binko – 3, Kyle Krumweide – 2, Nathan Lyle – 2, Cameron Deckett – 2, Josh Buckingham-Weibel – 2.

### Tuesday, January 6 Varsity BBB at Fremont Bergan

The varsity played the C-2 1 Ranked, and reigning state champions Fremont Bergan Knights – a buzz saw of a team. They were extremely good in all aspects of the game. In talking to the coaches about Wes Eikmeier (now playing at Iowa State), they mentioned his practice routine was intense and long. He became a great player by practice. It was a disappointing loss in several aspects - intensity, focusing, running the offense and playing as a team. The final score was 83-25. We have an opportunity to excel in the upcoming games. Playing as a team will be key. Be looking for team play in the upcoming games. Also be looking for more intensity and control which will start in practice first. Gideon Ubben was the top scorer with 10. Other players scoring: Ben Deaver – 5, Blaize Smith – 5, Garrett Wirges – 3, and Jacob Richards – 2.

### Saturday, January 10 JV BBB at Lewiston

OCA Eagles traveled 120 miles to play Lewiston. The Eagles started out well but was challenged to put the ball in the hole the second half. The final score was a disappointing 35-15. The ‘rebound war’ was won by the fighting Eagles by 9 – way to go team! The leading scorer for the evening was Titus Hamilton with 5. Other scorers: Kyle Krumweide – 4, Nick Jenkins – 2, Josh Binko – 2, and Josh Buckingham-Weibel – 2.

### Saturday, January 10 Varsity BBB at Lewiston

The varsity started somewhat strong but then found a lid on the hoop. There were some highlights of playing hard and intense but also periods where they could have played better. The final score was 30-52. Ben Deaver was the top scorer with 9. Other players scoring: Dillon Runyon – 7, Garrett Wirges – 5, Titus Hamilton – 4, Blaize Smith – 3, and Jacob Richards – 2.

## Guidance Corner

- ⇒ Iowa Western will be hosting their first annual Iowa Western Program Showcase on Thursday, Feb. 19. The event will expose students to a wide variety of Iowa Western programs and related career fields by incorporating hands-on activities and an interactive format. If interested in attending please contact the guidance office by Feb. 6.
  - ⇒ South Dakota State University is hosting a Junior Day program on Saturday, Jan. 31. This program is designed for high school juniors to explore academic and career opportunities and to learn more about SDSU. Sophomore students are also invited to attend. If interested in attending call 800-952-3541 or register online at [www.sdstate.edu](http://www.sdstate.edu) (keyword: Junior Day).
  - ⇒ This summer the College of Architecture at UNL will be conducting a workshop for high school students interested in exploring careers in architecture, landscape architecture, and interior design. Workshop participants will make designs and learn about the process of design. The workshop is a residential program and will be held June 14th through June 20th. The anticipated cost is \$585.00 including room, board, and all supplies. If interested in applying please contact the guidance office for more information. Application deadline is April 10.
  - ⇒ The Assistance League of Omaha is offering an ACT Review Course at Westside High School. The course includes two, three-hour sessions with an optional third session addressing ACT writing. Each session of the basic review covers different information. Student should attend both sessions to receive full coverage of the material. The first session will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 3 from 6:30-9:30 pm. The second session will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 4 from 6:30-9:30 pm. The optional writing review session will be held on Thursday, Feb. 5 from 6:30-8:30 pm. There is a \$30 fee for two sessions and \$40 fee for all three sessions. Registration forms are available in the guidance office.
  - ⇒ PRIDE-Omaha, Inc. and the family of Dr. Liz Karnes are pleased to announce the annual Liz Karnes Memorial Scholarship for Drug-Free Youth. Omaha-area high school seniors who have lived, modeled, and promoted a drug-free lifestyle are eligible to apply for this \$1,000 scholarship. Applicants must be a high school senior in Douglas or Sarpy Counties. Applications are available in the guidance office or at [www.pride.org](http://www.pride.org). Deadline is Feb. 13, 4:00 pm.
  - ⇒ PRIDE-Omaha Inc. is offering the Susie Dugan Scholarship Fund For Drug-Free Youth. These scholarships will be awarded to seniors who have led a drug-free life and have taken a leadership role in fighting drug abuse. Applicants must be a high school senior in Cass, Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy, or Washington County. Applications are available in the guidance office or at [www.pride.org](http://www.pride.org). Deadline is Feb. 13, 4:00 pm.
  - ⇒ UNL will be sponsoring the 2009 Big Red Summer Academic Camps during the week of June 7-12. Several options are available, including: Our Changing Earth, Child Development, Companion Animals, Culinary Arts, Filmmaking, Food Molecular Biology, Golf, Quilt Design, Spider Science, Theatre, Unicameral Youth Conference, Veterinary Science, and Web Design and Animation. The camps are open to students currently in grades 8-11. All are residential camps and tuition varies. For more information visit [www.bigredcamps.unl.edu](http://www.bigredcamps.unl.edu).
- Calendar:**
- Jan. 16 - Late ACT Reg. Deadline for Feb. 7 Test
  - Feb. 2 - Northwestern (Orange City, IA) Rep Visit
  - Feb. 10. - SAT Reg. Deadline for March 14 Test
  - Feb. 24 - Late SAT Reg. Deadline for March 14 Test
  - Feb. 27 - ACT Reg. Deadline for April 4 Test
- Deanne Jenkins  
Guidance Counselor  
Omaha Christian Academy  
402-399-9565

# OMAHA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

5612 "L" Street  
Omaha, NE 68117

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

E-mail: ktulsie@ocamail.org

www.omahachristianacademy.org



*Excellence in Christ-centered Education*

## Gate/Concessions/Clean-up

### Friday, January 16 at Grace University

**Gate - 3:45 pm:** JV Boys & V Girls - The Lahms

**7:00 pm:** V Boys - Suzette Toelle

**Concessions - 4:00 pm:** JV Boys & V Girls

Kris & Sarah Smith

Kerri & Nikki Tulsie

**7:00 pm:** V Boys Game

Bill & Melanie Lovgren

**Clean-up:** Sophomore Families

### Saturday, January 17 @ College of St. Marys

**Gate - 2:45 pm:** Brian & Georgene Lahm

**Concessions - 3:00 pm:** John & Cindy Ostry

**Clean-up:** Senior Families

## Cub Scout Corner

Next week is our Pack Meeting!! Thursday, January 22 at 6:45 p.m. at Emmanuel Fellowship. Due to the weather cancelling our December meeting, we have TWICE as many awards and lots of fun planned. You won't want to miss this!

Plan ahead for our annual Blue and Gold Banquet! Save the date: Friday, February 20, and be thinking about who you would like to invite (family and friends are all welcome).

Either of these meetings would be a good time for interested OCA families to visit. If your son will be in 1st through 5th grades in the Fall of 2009, he may join in May!

## School Lunch Menu

	Entree	Sides/Dessert
Jan.	No School	
19	Martin Luther King Day	
Jan.	HOT— Rib-A-Que on a Bun	Corn Cobbette
20	COLD—Taco Salad Box	Strawberries Cornbread with Honey Sausage on a Biscuit
Jan.	HOT— Pizza Hut Pizza	Lettuce Salad
21	COLD—Ham & Swiss on Whole Wheat	Peaches Sugar Cookie
Jan.	HOT— Home-made French Toast & Sausage Links	Banana Toast 'O Munch
22	COLD—Cottage Cheese & Jelly Sandwich	
Jan.	HOT— Fried Chicken	Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
23	COLD—Chef Salad Box	Biscuit & Honey Apple Pie

**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.

## HyVee Receipts

Please turn in your HyVee receipts dated through December 31, 2008 to the box outside of the school office by January 29, 2009.

Thank you to everyone who has saved their receipts and turned them in to OCA. Your contribution is appreciated.

OMAHA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY  
HONOR ROLL – 1<sup>ST</sup> SEMESTER 2008-2009

**6<sup>th</sup> GRADE**

**GOLD**

**95 % or above**

Rachel Lee  
McKenna Lewis  
Hannah Lindsey  
Morgan Myers  
Lyle Reinholz  
Gabe Stiansen  
Trevor Zank

**SILVER**

**90 % or above**

Colin Brown  
Caleb Farrington  
Kaitlyn Pearson  
Sarah Smith

**BRONZE**

**85 % or above**

Kirk Irwin

**7<sup>th</sup> GRADE**

**GOLD**

**95% or above**

Erin Clifton  
Nye Fong  
Abby Gingrich  
Clay Hamilton  
Amanda Krehbiel  
Zach Lee  
Kristen Nupson  
Mikayla Rye  
Cody West

**SILVER**

**90% or above**

Curtis Byal  
Robin Chatterjee  
Jessica Colegrove  
Christian Cuozzo  
Jesse Richards  
Jared Saiz  
Richard Sweeney  
Rachel Walter  
Shye Wirges

**BRONZE**

**85% or above**

Amirah Patterson  
Raven Rapaich  
Catherine Vargas

**8<sup>th</sup> GRADE**

**GOLD**

**95 % or above**

Alia Brown  
Jeong Won Cho  
Tyler Deaver  
Jonathan Hempel  
Reid Jenkins  
Olivia Lovgren  
Lizzie Lyle  
Katherine Marshall  
Grace Stiansen  
Will Theroult  
Alex Tulsie  
Jesse Wirges

**SILVER**

**90% or above**

Lauren Abell  
Micaela Myers  
Addie Oliver  
Josh Roberts

**BRONZE**

**85% or above**

Andrew Intorre

## HONOR ROLL – FIRST SEMESTER 2008-2009

### 9<sup>th</sup> GRADE

#### **GOLD**

##### **3.75 or above**

Jessica Anderson  
Kelsey Arndt  
Cameron Deckett  
Steven Hamilton  
Jonathan Howell  
Stacia Howell  
Cody Pearson  
Meredith Roberts  
Heather Rozema  
Lauren Uhlig

#### **SILVER**

##### **3.25 or above**

Titus Hamilton  
Tim Marine  
Andrew Oliver  
Caitlyn Ostry  
Rachel Sweeney  
Rebecca Wells

#### **BRONZE**

##### **2.75 or above**

Briana Jasso  
Jennifer Kalkowski  
Lizzie Lempeotis  
Steven Putman

### 10<sup>th</sup> GRADE

#### **GOLD**

##### **3.75 or above**

Czarina Lim  
Kelly Nupson  
Kendra Strasser  
Nikki Tulsie  
Holly Sly  
Alyssa Sterling  
Carson Wirges

#### **SILVER**

##### **3.25 or above**

Josh Bebee  
Josh Buckingham-  
Weibel  
Brendan Byal  
Keirstyn Heinemann  
Nick Jenkins  
Kyle Krumwiede  
Nate Manus  
Mike Perry  
Cortney Simons  
Blaize Smith

#### **BRONZE**

##### **2.75 or above**

Josh Binko  
Nolan Crawford  
Alex Patterson

### 11<sup>th</sup> GRADE

#### **GOLD**

##### **3.75 or above**

Marietta Cosgrove  
Ben Deaver  
Luke Henkenius  
Stephen Jay  
Emily Lovgren  
Nathan Lyle  
Gideon Ubben  
Lizzie Webster  
Kathryn White

#### **SILVER**

##### **3.25 or above**

Parker Adams  
Nathen Crawford  
Jordan Glover  
Zach Lahm  
Marissa Lindsey  
Janelle Ostry  
Kaneesha Reed  
Katy Schulz  
Andrew Smutzer  
Nick Warnke

#### **BRONZE**

##### **2.75 or above**

Sam Minturn  
Jason Nilius  
Jacob Richards

### 12<sup>th</sup> GRADE

#### **GOLD**

##### **3.75 or above**

Michelle Gingrich  
Stephanie Hamilton  
Michael Howell  
Chris Kersey  
Kyle Nupson  
Allison Rozema  
Meghan Vilter  
Emily Weber

#### **SILVER**

##### **3.25 or above**

Andrew Bebee  
Tania Brim  
Anthony Intorre  
David Reinholz  
Jessica Steinke  
Debbie Wunderlich

#### **BRONZE**

##### **2.75 or above**

Casey Bailey  
Kandace McLean  
Chris Rubarth  
Garrett Wirges

## I Just Want My Kids to Be Happy!

“Happy New Year!” Oops. Could I correct that? I think I would prefer to say, “May you have a blessed New Year!” or “May you have all the joy of the New Year!” So what’s the big deal?

I had served for 26 years as a Christian school administrator before coming into my role at the Association of Christian Schools International. Over those years, the most common statement made to me by prospective school families or current school families was, “I just want \_\_\_\_\_ [their child] to be happy.” That statement or a variation of it was made so often that I concluded that happiness was the number one expectation of the families we served.

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### I suggest that the pursuit of happiness never delivers.

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Now, I know in reality that this focus on happiness was not the case with every family. But I continue to hear it over and over from Christian school leaders in every part of this country. The pursuit of happiness seems to find reinforcement even in our own nation’s Declaration of Independence. It is the part that people most readily recognize from that great document: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness” ([www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov)).

I suggest that the pursuit of happiness never delivers. It is illusive when sought and is, rather, the result of the pursuit of other things. Christian school educators certainly hope that children will be happy but clearly recognize that in the pursuit of nurturing and developing a biblical understanding and a love for God, there is much that is greater than the pursuit of happiness. The apostle Paul, in a letter to the New Testament church at Philippi, directed his readers to “rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!” (Philippians 4:4, NIV). In essence, Paul directed the Philippians to pursue joy, indicating that they could find it in a life yielded to the lordship of Jesus Christ. Paul’s words were a follow-up on Jesus’ own words recorded in the Gospel of John: “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain

in his love. *I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete*” (John 15:9–11, emphasis mine).

This spiritual joy wells up from within the soul. This joy results from a personal relationship with the Savior. It is not the temporary result of some pleasant circumstance or circumstances of daily living. Life and its varying array of experiences simply cannot and will not produce a state of ongoing happiness, but a life in Christ can and does perpetuate a life of spiritual joy.

The story is told of a thirteenth-century friar, the renowned St. Francis, as he attempts to explain what true joy is. He spins a seemingly unrealistic story of returning to a home of friars during the dead of a winter night in weather so frigid and cold that icicles hang from the edge of his tunic and pierce his shins. He portrays himself covered in mud and ice, desperately cold, and miserable. He knocks at the door. After incessant pleading by St. Francis, a friar repeatedly tells him from inside that St. Francis is not welcome there. St. Francis is ordered to go away—he will not be admitted in. Again he pleads, “For the love of God take me in this night.” Again and again he is refused entrance. In response to that miserable experience, St. Francis explains, “I say to you that if I will have had patience and will not have been upset, that in this is true joy and true virtue and soundness of soul” (McLaren 2008, 193–94).

What greater pursuit exists than to teach and train young men and women to pursue the joy that they can find in a relationship with Jesus Christ, a relationship that produces the wellspring of joy that is the abundant life? You are to be commended for your choice of Christian schooling and the pursuit of an education for your children that prepares them for a life of “true joy and true virtue and soundness of soul.”

#### Reference

McLaren, Brian. 2008. *Finding our way again: The return of the ancient practices*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson.



Ken Smitherman, President  
Association of Christian Schools International

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