

News & Notes

From the Director

February 20, 2009

Last week I referred to an article written by Dr. Jim Eckman, President of Grace University. He writes, "That America as a nation is abandoning God and the entire moral/ethical code of behavior that goes with a belief in God is evident." Dr. Eckman points us to Romans 1 where we can see the "consequences of suppressing the truth about God, His existence and His moral law." Here are a few examples from a study conducted by the Josephson Institute, a Los Angeles based ethics institute, in which 29,760 students at 100 public and private schools were surveyed.

- "35% of boys and 26% of girls (30% overall) acknowledged stealing from a store within the past year; 20% admitted that they stole from a friend; 23% said they stole something from a parent or relative."
- "64% of students [admitted] cheating on a test in the past year and 38% did so two or more times."
- "36% said that they used the Internet to plagiarize an assignment."
- "42% said they sometimes lie to save money – 49% of the boys and 36% of the girls."
- "Amazingly, 93% of the students surveyed said they were satisfied with their personal ethics and character!"

These statistics are shocking! Dr. Eckman writes, "There is a connection between abandoning God and the demise of personal integrity and character. They are inextricably linked."

Is there a continuing need for the existence of Christian schools in our society? Absolutely yes! Biblical-based, Christian education (whether it occurs in the home, church or Christian school) is our offense in the lives of our kids against the tide of godlessness overflowing our nation. As Christians, our hope for the future, in this world, rests here.

Enroll Now!

Online at www.sycamoreeducation.com

"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	
Feb. 23	V BBB Sub-districts at Yutan - OCA vs Brownell-Talbot - 7:00 pm
Feb. 24	Kindergarten Roundup - 6:30 pm
Feb. 24	8th grade Wax Museum - 9:00 am
Feb. 26	Preschool Parent/Teacher Conferences
Feb. 26	MS GBB @ Lighthouse, 4423 Bancroft Street, Omaha 68105 - 4:30 pm
Feb. 27	5th grade to Strategic Air & Space Museum - 9:30 am
Feb. 28	Quiz Bowl @ Thomas Jefferson HS
March 2-6	Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week
March 3	Teacher & Staff Luncheon
March 5-8	HS Band Tour
March 6	Quiz Bowl @ Bellevue University - 9:00
March 9	Board Meeting - 6:30 pm
March 10	District Speech Meet @ Cross Country - 7:00 am
March 11	Elementary & MS Music Adjudication - 8:00 am
March 12	Elementary Speech Meet
March 13	4th Grade to NE State Historical Museum & NE State Capital Bldg. - 8:30
March 16	No School Elementary
March 16	NFC Band Clinic @ OCA - 2:00 pm NFC Band Concert @ OCA - 7:00 pm
March 18	HS Music Adjudication - 8:00 am
March 19	6th & 7th Grade to Morrill Hall & NE History Museum- 8:00 am
March 19	Boys Soccer @ Brownell-Talbot - 4:30
March 20	Quiz Bowl @ Wesleyan - 9:00 am
March 21	Track Meet @ Wesleyan - 9:00 am
March 24	Kindergarten Roundup - 1:30 pm
March 30	NFC Quiz Bowl @ College View - 4:00
March 31	Boys Soccer @ Conestoga - 4:30 pm

SPELLING BEE RESULTS



Last week's *News & Notes* listed the results for the ACSI Spelling Bee. We neglected to state that Elizabeth Hawk was 1st place winner in 3rd grade spelling bee. We apologize for the omission. Congratulations, Elizabeth!

LAST WEEK for RED WHEEL



There is only one week left to collect those Red Wheel orders! For every 15 items sold, mark the bottom of your order form to indicate your choice of one free chocolate chip cookie dough or a combo pizza. In addition, the top seller will receive a \$50 Visa gift card.

Need another order form? You can pick one up in the office. Turn in your paid orders next Friday, February 27. Delivery will be on Thursday March 12, from 3:00 to 5:30. The Booster Club thanks you for supporting OCA's performing arts and athletic programs by participating in the Red Wheel Fundraiser.

Heartland Gatekeeper Seeks Experienced Writer



"The Heartland Gatekeeper, a non-profit ministry based in Omaha, is seeking experienced writers to contribute one or two news articles per month for publication in the print edition of the Gatekeeper and/or on the website. Articles are assigned by Gatekeeper editorial staff. Candidate should have strong research and interview skills and provide crisp, clear writing that is spiritually impacting. News articles are written from a biblical worldview without becoming denominationally specific. (At this time, we have no need for creative writing, devotional writing or poetry.) If interested in joining this ministry to the Heartland, contact publisher@heartlandgatekeeper.org or 926-2633."

BE A MISSIONARY RIGHT AT YOUR HOME

You might have thought that you have to travel far abroad to spread the gospel. You may have also wondered if the few days or weeks of a mission trip ever made a lasting impact in those you have ministered to.

God has used KoAm to bring Jesus Christ into the lives of many students while they stayed with our Christian families and attended the Christian schools. Exchange students are learning about the Word of God and experiencing life in a Christian home.

The following is a testimony of one of KoAm's exchange students, Jei Wook Lee (Tony) 5th grade:

"When I first came to America, I didn't believe in Jesus. When I got this book about Jesus (More Than a Carpenter by Josh McDowell) I got interested. Mr.

Moe gave it to me. It was about how and what Jesus was and is. This book showed me how Jesus is real. I became more interested in the Bible when I met Mr. Moe and Mr. Morrison. I love being with Mrs. Moe. I feel great to be around them. I feel great to be a student at Bethany Academy. If it wasn't for them, I wouldn't have become a Christian."



You can read more testimonies on KoAm's website www.koameduall.org.

Hosting KoAm's exchange student gives you the opportunity to share your faith with the student, a future leader of Korea. Please contact the school office or KoAm coordinator, Mison Cowell at 402-991-4616 or 402-301-5257.

Guidance Corner

- ⇒ The Carriage House Foundation is sponsoring a scholarship program for students interested in attending one of Nebraska's Community Colleges to study in an automotive related field. A \$1,000 grant will be awarded in each of the six Community College areas. Applications are available in the guidance office. Deadline is April 3.
- ⇒ Kaplan is offering small group tutoring for students taking the ACT and SAT. Students who enroll by Feb. 28 can save \$400. For more information call 1-800-KAP-TEST or visit www.kaptest.com/sgt.
- ⇒ Fraser Stryker is offering the Fraser Stryker Diversity Scholarship for students interested in pursuing a career in law. Applicants must be of African-American, Asian, Latino, or Native-American origins; have financial need; rank in the top 20% of their class and have a minimum SAT score of 1650 or 24 ACT score. More information and applications are available in the guidance office. Deadline is March 20.
- ⇒ The Sertoma Club of Omaha is offering one \$1,200.00 Nursing Scholarship to a graduating senior from an Omaha area high school. Applicants must have a minimum GPA of 3.0. Applications are available in the guidance office. Deadline is March 13.
- ⇒ Southeast Community College will be offering an Automotive Summer Camp for any high school students interested in Automotive careers. It will take place at the Milford Campus June 12-13. The tuition is \$20 per participant and includes tools, meals, housing and tour transportation. Participants must be 16 years of age and register by May 8. This camp is limited to 52 participants. To register or for more information, contact Rick Morphew at 800-933-7223, ext. 8317 or e-mail rmorphew@southeast.edu.
- ⇒ The Kearney Area Community Foundation is offering the Joshua Benson Memorial Scholarship to seniors that are active in a form of martial arts. For more information and an application form contact the guidance office. Deadline is April 15.

Calendar:

- Feb. 23 - LaJames Int'l Rep Visit
- Feb. 24 - Wayne State College Rep Visit
- Feb. 24 - Late SAT Reg. Deadline for March 14 Test
- Feb. 27 - ACT Registration Deadline for April 4 Test
- March 13 - Late ACT Reg. Deadline for April 4 Test
- March 18 - Metro Rep Visit
- March 23 - Missouri State University Rep Visit
- March 31 - SAT Reg. Deadline for May 2 Test

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E-mail: ktulsie@ocamail.org

www.omahachristianacademy.org



Excellence in Christ-centered Education

Thank you!

Thank you to all of the volunteers who worked at the gate, concessions or clean-up during football and basketball seasons. Your help is essential to the Booster club.

Cub Scout Corner

CONGRATULATIONS to the following Cub Scouts who earned their badges and honors at Friday night's Blue & Gold Banquet:

Wolf Badge

Noah Krehbiel, Levi Rapaich, Zachary Willars

Bear Badge

Eli King, Trey Morales, Mitch Taylor

Webelos Badge

Joseph Anderson, Daniel Hempel, Matt Kempkes, Lyle Reinholz, Stephen Reinholz, Bryce Taylor, Kristian Willars

God & Family Award

Joseph Anderson, Daniel Hempel, Matt Kempkes, Lyle Reinholz, Stephen Reinholz, Bryce Taylor, Kristian Willars

Arrow of Light

Joseph Anderson, Daniel Hempel, Matt Kempkes, Stephen Reinholz, Bryce Taylor

We are proud of you!

School Lunch Menu


	Entree	Sides/Dessert
Feb. 23	HOT— Hot Dog on a Bun with Chili COLD—Crispy Chicken Salad Box	Veggie Pasta Salad Peach Cup Brownie
Feb. 24	HOT— Nachos with Beef & Cheese COLD—Turkey & Cheese Sandwich	Corn Banana Snickerdoodle Cookie
Feb. 25	HOT— Macaroni & Cheese COLD—Taco Salad Box	Peas Soft Pretzel Strawberry Shortcake
Feb. 26	HOT— Hot Open Face Turkey Sandwich COLD— Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich	Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Apple Wedges Chocolate Cake with Chocolate Frosting
Feb. 27	HOT— Cheesy Ciabatta Boat COLD— Chef Salad Box	Baby Carrots Fruit Cocktail Oatmeal Cookie

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.

Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week

Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week begins Monday, March 2. We will be honoring our employees 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 3. If you would like to help or have any questions, please contact Margie Thierstein at 763-9978 or Pass-a-Note. 

EducationQuest Foundation

College Planning Bulletin

A monthly college planning guide for Nebraska high school students

March 2009

Check out the new EducationQuest video –“The FAFSA Made Easy”!

Seniors...for a humorous and comprehensive overview of how to complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), check out our new 10-minute video – [“The FAFSA Made Easy.”](#)

What happens after you submit the FAFSA?

If you have already submitted your FAFSA, here’s what will happen next...

Expect your SAR and Award Notification

You’ll receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) after you submit the FAFSA. This acknowledges that your form was processed and can be used to make corrections to your FAFSA. You’ll need the PIN you used to file the FAFSA to make electronic corrections.

The colleges you listed on the FAFSA will send you a financial aid award notification detailing the assistance they’re offering. They may offer a combination of scholarships, grants, work-study and student loans.

Compare award notifications

Compare award notifications from the colleges. Some may offer more in scholarships and grants, while others rely on student loans. Calculate your out-of-pocket expenses for each school to get the whole financial picture. Use our [Award Letter Comparison Calculator](#) to determine which school offers the best deal. Sign and return the award letters.

Keep looking for scholarships!

Many local, state and national scholarships have deadlines in March, April and May. Talk to your guidance counselor about scholarships that meet your criteria. For local and state scholarships, visit *ScholarshipQuest* at [EducationQuest.org](#).

Juniors: It’s time to start your campus visits

Start looking at colleges your junior year so you can narrow your choices by the time you’re a senior. Follow these tips for successful campus visits.

Visit your top college choices while the schools are in session. You won’t get the true flavor of the school during breaks or finals week.

Schedule your visits at least two weeks in advance. Ask for appointments with an admissions representative, financial aid counselor and a faculty member in your area of interest.

Talk to a faculty member about upper-level classes in your anticipated major. Many students change majors because they don’t understand the subject matter or the degree of difficulty.

Ask the financial aid counselor how the college may offset tuition costs and about college-based scholarship applications and deadlines.

If possible, stay overnight in a residence hall and eat in the cafeteria. Ask about the personality of each hall so you can request one that suits you.

Check out college Web sites. You'll find admission requirements, academic and social information, and campus photos or a virtual tour.

College Profiles can help with college search

Find information about Midwest colleges in the [College Profiles](#) section at EducationQuest.org.

March “To Do” List

Seniors

- If you haven't already done so, complete your FAFSA!
- Expect college acceptance letters during March and April.
- Continue applying for scholarships.

Juniors

- Register by February 27 for the April 4 ACT.
 - Register by March 31 for the May 2 SAT.
 - Schedule campus visits.
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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

EducationQuest.org