

# News & Notes

April 6, 2009

## Calendar Reminders

*April & May are months full of school activities; some of the most significant are listed below.*

*Please check Sycamore Education for more events – Athletic Events, Field Trips, Class Events, etc.*

Christian Arts & Academic Meet (Speech & Math) – Friday, April 3 at OCA

*(No school for Preschool – 8<sup>th</sup> Grades)*

Spring Break *(No school)* – April 6-10

Stanford Achievement Testing *(Grades 2-11)* – April 13-16

Christian Arts & Academic Meet (Music & Art) – Friday, April 17 at Trinity

Spring Concert *(Grades 4-8)* – Monday, April 27 at Liberty Auditorium

High School Rally – Thursday, April 30 at Evangelical Bible Church

High School Performing Arts Concert – Monday, May 4 at Liberty Auditorium

Athletic Awards – Thursday, May 7 at OCA

Kindergarten Graduation – Friday, May 8 at OCA

High School Awards Program – Monday, May 11 at OCA

Elementary Awards Program – Wednesday, May 13 at OCA

Last Day for Preschool & After School Care – Wednesday, May 13

Elementary Field Day – Thursday, May 14

Last Day for Kindergarten – Grade 5 – Thursday, May 14 *(Dismiss at 12:30)*

Middle School Awards Program – Friday, May 15

Last Day for Grades 6-8 & Seniors – Friday, May 15 *(Grades 6-8 dismiss at 12:30)*

High School Commencement – Saturday, May 16, 10:00am at Liberty Auditorium

Final Exams Grades 9-11 – Wednesday-Friday, May 22-22 *(Dismiss at 12:00)*

Last Day for Grades 9-11 – May 22

# Enroll Now!

Online at [www.sycamoreeducation.com](http://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*



<b>School Calendar</b>	
April 3	No School Elementary & MS
April 3	Christian Arts & Academic Meet @ OCA - Speech & Math
April 4	Quiz Bowl @ Lincoln - 9:00 am
April 6-10	No School - Spring Break
April 7	Boys Soccer @ Boystown - TBA
April 13-17	SAT Testing Grades 2nd-11th
April 14	Track @ NE Wesleyan U. - 9:15 am
April 14	Boys Soccer vs Gretna - 6:00 pm
April 16	Boys Soccer vs Elkhorn - 5:00 pm
April 17	Christian Arts & Academic Meet @ Trinity - Music & Art
April 17	Preschool Donuts with Dad - 10:00 am
April 17	Junior/Senior Banquet - 6:00 pm
April 18	Quiz Bowl @ Norris HS, Firth NE
April 18	MS Track @ Iowa School for the Deaf, Council Bluffs, IA - 1:00 pm
April 21	Track @ Syracuse - 10:00 am
April 21	Boys Soccer vs Creighton Prep - 5:00
April 22	NHS Induction
April 24	District Music Contest
April 25	Track @ Wahoo - 9:00 am
April 27	Boys Soccer @ Conestoga - 4:00 pm
April 27	4th-8th Grade Spring Concert - 7:00 pm
April 28	Track @ Fort Calhoun - 3:00 pm
April 28	Board Meeting - 6:30 pm
April 29	Rotary Club Honor Roll Luncheon
April 30	High School Rally @ Evangelical Bible Church- 7:00-8:30 pm
May 1	HS Ensemble Concert @ Grace U.
May 2	NFC Track @ Wahoo
May 2	Quiz Bowl @ Norris HS
May 4	HS Performing Arts Concert - 7:00 pm

## **Spring Achievement Testing**

It is that time of the year again to begin thinking of Spring Achievement Testing. OCA Students, grades 2-11, will be testing the week of April 13th. Please note that this is the week after Spring Break and Easter. It is important that all students are in school that week to participate in the testing. It is also important for the students to get a good night's sleep and have a good breakfast. Please contact the guidance office if you have any questions or concerns.

## **HIGH SCHOOL RALLY**

On Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, OCA will host a High School Rally from 7:00-8:30 PM at Evangelical Bible Church (7820 Fort Street). The purpose of this event is to provide an opportunity for prospective high school parents and students to experience the school spirit and learn more about student life at OCA. The attached color flyer is being mailed to Trinity, Bellevue, Lutheran schools and home school 8<sup>th</sup> graders. I encourage you to email this electronic flyer to parents you know who are looking for MORE. Also, I will provide color flyers that you can distribute to parents in your adult SS class. See Kathy Larsen for flyers or for more information.

## **Quiz Bowl Team Takes 1st Place!**

The OCA Quiz Bowl team has had a busy schedule, competing on Friday, March 20 at Wesleyan University and again on Saturday, March 21 at Thomas Jefferson High School. The Friday competition ended for OCA with a loss to Elkhorn by only one question. Saturday's meet found the advanced team seeded number two for afternoon play. OCA won rounds against Norris (Firth, NE), Ralston, and the number one seeded team from Sioux City North to win the first place trophy. The novice team also had a great day, scoring well and showing great improvement. They also competed on Monday, March 30 at the NFC Quiz Bowl Meet. The varsity team brought back the first place plaque and the JV team took fourth place. Congratulations to Coach Arant & the OCA Quiz Bowl Team!

# OMAHA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

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*Excellence in Christ-centered Education*



## OCA/West YMCA Summer Youth Sports K-8th Boys/Girls Baseball/Softball Sign-ups!

**Season: May 30-July 25, 2009**

**Cost: \$52.00 per player**

Summer sign-ups going on now,  
Please include late fee!

- Registration forms postmarked April 5th-April 11 will require a \$10.00 late fee.
- Registrations postmarked April 5-11 will acquire a \$10.00 late fee.
- No registrations accepted after post-marked date of April 11.
- Checks will be deposited no sooner than April 12.
- Make checks payable to Youth Sports
- Mail payment and completed registration form to:

Youth Sports  
c/o Joyce West  
6813 N. 102nd Ave. Cir.  
Omaha, NE 68122





## School Lunch Menu

	Entree	Sides/Dessert
April 13	HOT— Popcorn Chicken COLD— Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich	Veggie Pasta Salad Fruit Cocktail Dinner Roll Toll House Cookie Bar
April 14	HOT— Home- made Turkey Pot Pie COLD—Crispy Chicken Salad Box	Broccoli Peaches Dinner Roll School Fuel
April 15	HOT— Pizza Hut Pizza COLD—Turkey & Cheese Sand- wich	Lettuce Salad Pears Sugar Cookie
April 16	HOT— Teriyaki Chicken over Rice with Chow Mein Noodles COLD—Cottage Cheese & Fruit	Oriental Vegetables Orange Wedges Ginger Cookie
April 17	HOT— Hot Dog on a Bun COLD— Oriental Salad Box	Baked Beans Baby Carrots Brownie

**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

**Gentlemen Start Your Engines! The April Pack Meeting will be our annual Pinewood Derby. Check with your Den Leader for the information you need about your car.**

**Troop 812 will be hosting us and providing the track at Christ Community Church.**



# Omaha Christian Academy

## High School Rally

*An opportunity for prospective parents & students to experience the spirit and learn about student life at OCA.*

**Thursday, April 30, 2009**

**Evangelical Bible Church**

**(7820 Fort Street)**

**7:00—8:30 PM**

**\$50 Discount  
if registered  
by May 15**

- **Hear the vision for OCA's future**
- **Get an overview of curriculum, special programs, clubs, leadership opportunities & extra-curricular activities**
- **Meet school personnel including administrators, coaches, counselor & teachers**
- **Hear parent & student testimonials**
- **Hear OCA's vocal ensemble**

*Contact Kathy Larsen at 399-9565 or email [klarsen@ocamail.org](mailto:klarsen@ocamail.org) for more information*



# Bible Bee



Evangelical Bible Church  
7820 Fort Street, Omaha, NE 68134

For students age 7-18  
Grand prizes ranging from \$25,000 - \$100,000

\*\* see website for details on prizes and registration fees

For information about the Bible Bee  
**Visit [www.biblebee.org](http://www.biblebee.org)**

For contestant information  
Please call Brian or Kit Fox at 455-0362  
or e-mail [omahabiblebee@hotmail.com](mailto:omahabiblebee@hotmail.com)

*\*\* Registration deadline for Bible Bee is April 30<sup>th</sup> \*\**

"There is no greater investment than investing our lives in the Word of God—learning, speaking, and living out the commands and promises of Scripture. No man can begin to calculate the amazing eternal rewards that are obtained when we hide God's Word in our hearts! ... The long-term vision of the Bible Bee Competition is to equip children and youth to be bold ambassadors for Jesus Christ to the next generation!"

--From the Bible Bee website

## Who Has the Advantage Now?

In the last edition of *Christian School Comment*, volume 40, number 7, we pursued the issue of worldview, exploring the question, Does worldview matter? We may also ask some follow-up questions: Does it matter enough for families who have school-age children to continue the significant—in these times the extremely significant—investment in Christian school education? Simply put, does it really matter?

I would like to suggest that yes, it does matter—that it matters a whole lot. In March of this year, Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut, released the findings of the American Religious Identification Survey (ARIS), conducted by Barry Kosmin and Ariela Keysar. The survey was the third in a series, the first in 1990 and the second in 2001 (Office of Communications 2009).

This third survey questioned more than 54,000 U.S. adults living in the 48 contiguous states. The survey took place between February and November of 2008. A few brief findings from this crucial research offer a view of how Americans identify themselves religiously while providing evidence of an alarming trend: This study reflects that 15 percent of Americans claim no religion. The earlier studies in 1990 and 2001, which employed the same research methodology, reflected 8.2 percent and 14.2 percent respectively. Hence from 1990 to 2008, that percentage nearly doubled. In real numbers, that is an additional 4.7 million adults in the United States who claim no religion (Office of Communications 2009).

According to the press release from Trinity College's Office of Communications, "The percentage of Christians in America, which declined in the 1990s from 86.2 percent to 76.7 percent, has now edged down to 76 percent" (2009).

Other findings of interest in the ARIS indicate the following (Office of Communications 2009):

- "The Muslim proportion of the population continues to grow, from .3 percent in 1990 to .5 percent in 2001 to .6 percent in 2008."
- "The number of adherents of Eastern Religions, which more than doubled in the 1990s, has declined slightly, from just over two million to just under."

- "Adherents of New Religious movements, including Wiccans and self-described pagans, have grown faster this decade than in the 1990s."
- "The number of outright atheists has nearly doubled since 2001, from 900,000 to 1.6 million."

In light of these findings indicating significant shifts from Christianity in particular, it should be of great concern to Christian families that they take every opportunity to ensure the most effective teaching and nurture possible for their children regarding the development of a Christian worldview. From the above evidence, it seems relatively clear that significant influences in our culture have, at least for nearly the past two decades, been gaining advantage in a great contest for the heart, mind, and soul of our nation. That advantage is leaning more heavily toward secularism and non-Christian religious influences.

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"The number of outright atheists has nearly doubled since 2001."

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Not since the Great Depression have Americans faced such a significant challenge in weighing the economic priorities of life. So as you consider those priorities now, will you choose Christian schooling and thus gain the advantage of Christian-worldview integration in your students' education, or will you take a chance—a chance on fighting alone against the non-Christian culture, which is gaining ground in the war of worldviews?



Ken Smitherman, President  
Association of Christian Schools International

#### Reference

Office of Communications. 2009. Catholics on the move, non-religious on the rise. *Trinity News*. Press release. March 9. [http://www.trincoll.edu/AboutTrinity/News\\_Events/trinity\\_news/030909\\_Religion.htm](http://www.trincoll.edu/AboutTrinity/News_Events/trinity_news/030909_Religion.htm).

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