

# News & Notes

*From the Director*

May 1, 2009

Following is an excerpt from an article written by Joel Belz for *WORLD Magazine* in their June 4, 2005 issue. Food for thought & prayer!

"Most evangelical Christians continue to leave the primary task of teaching their children...to the secularist state. Statistics are hard to come by—but I don't know of a single evangelical denomination where at least two-thirds of the children don't get the bulk of their education from the state. The result, of course, is that a huge majority of our churches' young people inherit an education to which we should be objecting on two critical fronts: first, because that education is so ineffective; and second, because it is so effective!"

"But it's the effectiveness of statist schools, much more than their ineffectiveness, that should concern us. In the task of secularizing our society, they have been wildly, overwhelmingly, and devastatingly successful. It is not too much to say that in many cases, they have neutralized the work of our evangelical churches."

"Such secularism is never as neutral as it sounds. It is a high-octane religion of its own, imposed on Christians at their own expense. These high priests of ultimate American values, from kindergarten through the great graduate programs of the state universities, tell us what is politically correct. They tell us what to believe about our origins, about what is wrong with the human condition, and how to make everything right again. Those are not merely educational concepts; they are the most profound of all religious issues."

"And we in the evangelical church have sat by while 85 percent of our young people are indoctrinated with such alien theologies. We wring our hands as we watch more and more of our young people forsake the faith of their fathers. We wince every time another poll tells us how little different our kids are from those of the public at large. But why should we be surprised, when they are all basically products of the same system?"

## ***Suggestions and Recommendations from the CDC (Center for Disease Control) Regarding H1N1:***

1. Any student or faculty with flu-like symptoms will be sent home and will need a doctor's note in order to return to school.
2. Parents are encouraged to take their kids to the doctor right away if symptoms of fever, sore throat, body aches, chills and fatigue occur. (Those who died from this virus are those who waited too long to be treated).
3. Please encourage your student as usual to wash hands with soap and water.
4. Students will be encouraged as well to cover their nose and mouth with a tissue when they cough or sneeze, and then throw the tissue in the trash.
5. We also encourage parents to keep kids who are not feeling well at home in order to limit contact with others.

<b>School Calendar</b>	
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
May 5	Board Meeting - 6:30 pm
May 6	Foods Class Field Trip - 11:36 am
May 7	National/OCA Day of Prayer
May 7	AP English Exam - 7:45 am
May 7	Athletic Awards - 6:30 pm
May 8	Track: Orville Retig Invite - 9:00 am
May 8	2nd grade to MUD - 11:30 am
May 8	Yearbook Workshop - 3:30 pm
May 8	Kindergarten Graduation - 6:30 pm
May 9	MS Band to Adventureland - 7:30 am
May 11	5th grade Band Recital - 1:50 pm
May 11	MS Track Meet @ Fremont Bergan - 3:00 pm
May 11	HS Awards - 7:00 pm
May 12	Physics Field Trip - 5:30 am
May 13	Last Day of Preschool & Childcare
May 13	Elementary Awards - 9:00 am
May 13	Kindergarten Field Trip - 9:25 am
May 13	A.G.A.P.E to Cornerstone - 2:00-3:30pm
May 14	Elementary Field Day Last Day K-5th grade
May 14	District Track Meet @ David City
May 15	MS Awards - 9:00 am
May 15	Graduation Rehearsal - 2:00 pm Last Day Seniors
May 16	Commencement - 10:00 am
May 18-21	Senior Trip
May 20-22	HS Final Exams - Grades 9-11
May 22	Last Day HS - Grades 9-11
May 22-23	State Track Meet at Burke

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### SPORTS AWARDS NIGHT



High school students who have participated in any athletic event this school year (2008-2009) are invited, with their families, to the Sports Award Night on Thursday, May 7 at 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. Sophomore and junior families are asked to bring one pie per family. Senior parents are to set up, serve and clean up. **Chapel dress is required.**

### JR./SR. PICTURES AVAILABLE



**You May Purchase Photos from the 2009 Junior~Senior Banquet.**

**Parents of Juniors and Seniors: You may view and purchase professional photos by Megan Isaacson and Jessica Thorberg from this year's banquet online at:**

[www.doubletaketwins.com](http://www.doubletaketwins.com) (click on the order online tab & enter oca in the log-in box).

**Photo proofs are also on display in the high school hall, between rooms 304 and 306. PAN Mrs. Smagacz if you have questions.**

### SUPPORT OUR OCA CHEERLEADERS



**PURCHASE A CAR MAGNET!**

**Cost: \$5.00**

**Cheerleaders will be selling car magnets before and after the High School Performing Arts Concert.**

# District Music Results



High School Band		I +
High School Choir		I+
Ensemble (vocal)		I+ - OPA
Mixed Duet	Stephanie & Titus Hamilton	II
Mixed Quartet	Brendan Byal, Czarinna Lim, Kelly Nupson, Nate Manus	II
Vocal Solo	Cody Pearson	II
Vocal Solo	Jacob Richards	III
Vocal Solo	Katy Schulz	II
Vocal Solo	Lizzie Webster	I
Piano Solo	Janelle Ostry	II
Piano Solo	Michael Howell	II
Brass Sextet	Jonathan Howell, Stacia Howell, Brendan Byal, Steven Hamilton, Rachel Sweeney, Nick Jenkins	I
Flute Duet	Kendra Strasser & Kathryn White	I
Flute Quartet	Czarinna Lim, Allison Rozema, Sarah Reinholz, Kelly Nupson	II
Trumpet Trio	Michael Howell, Stephen Jay, Kyle Nupson	I - PS & OPA
Percussion Ensemble	Alex Patterson & Steven Putman	II
Percussion Ensemble	Tyler Deaver & Nathan Lyle	II
Violin Solo	Steven Hamilton	I - PS OPA & HM
Trumpet Solo	Jonathan Howell	I
Trumpet Solo	Michael Howell	I - PS OPA & HM
Trumpet Solo	Kyle Nupson	I
Saxophone Solo	Stacia Howell	I
Saxophone Solo	Christian Kersey	I - PS & OPA
Saxophone Solo	Caitlyn Ostry	I

**OPA = Outstanding Performance Award**

**HM = Honorable Mention**

**PS = Perfect Score**

# Christian Arts & Academic Meet

## Music Results

5th Grade Band		Excellent
Middle School Band		Superior
4-5 Grade Choir		Superior
MS Choir		Superior*
Lizzie Lyle	Flute Solo	Superior*
Jessica Colegrove	Flute Solo	Superior
Young Hwan Na	Clarinet Solo	Superior*
Kristen Nupson Hannah Lindsey	Oboe Duet	Superior
Jesse Wirges Katherine Marshall	Clarinet Duet	Superior
Lisa McLean Jesse Wirges Erin Clifton Joshua Fong Rachel Walter Kaitlyn Pearson	Clarinet Sextet	Superior

Rachel Lee Morgan Myers	Alto Sax Duet	Superior
Tyler Deaver Lauren Abell	Saxophone Duet	Superior
Jesse Richards Cody West Zachary Lee Richard Sweeney	Brass Quartet	Superior
Alex Tulsie Christian Cuzzo Mikaela Rye	Snare Drum Trio	Superior
Large Band Ensemble <i>Grandfather Clock</i>		Excellent
Kari Nupson	Vocal Solo	Superior
Olivia Lovgren	Vocal Solo	Superior*

\* = Perfect Score

### A.G.A.P.E. Debuts in May

Actors Glorifying the Almighty with Parables for Eternity (A.G.A.P.E.) is an elite group of drama students. They are preparing eight pieces of religious drama including the classic one act "Ten Miles to Jericho" by Earl Reimer.

We also have scripted scripture, monologues, spiritually challenging skits, and serious duets. We will be performing in elementary chapel on May 6 in the activity room, and then in both high school and middle school chapels on May 13 in the cafeteria. You could attend all three performances and see the range of our material. We are excited for the opportunities this group will experience. They are able to perform for church youth groups, elementary schools, church senior groups, etc. If you are involved in a small group and would like them to perform for you, please contact OCA and we will schedule a date. Our pieces are flexible to allow for a 10 minute program or a 90 minute program. These students look forward to ministering to you.

~Ellen Nupson & Pam Rozema, Drama

### Guidance Corner

The Assistance League of Omaha is offering an ACT Review Course at Westside High School. The review includes, two, three-hour sessions with an optional third session addressing ACT writing. The first session will be held on Monday, June 8 or Tuesday, June 9 from 6:30-9:30 pm. The second session will be held on Wednesday, June 10 or Thursday, June 11 from 6:30-9:30 pm. The optional third session will be held on Thursday, June 11 from 6:30-8:30 pm. There is a \$30 fee for two sessions and \$40 for all three sessions. Registration forms are available in the guidance office.

#### Calendar:

- May 5 - SAT Reg. Deadline for June 6 Test
- May 7 - AP Exam - 8:00 am
- May 8 - ACT Reg. Deadline for June 13 Test
- May 15 - Late SAT Reg. Deadline for June 6 Test
- May 22 - Late ACT Reg. Deadline for June 13 Test

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[www.omahachristianacademy.org](http://www.omahachristianacademy.org)



*Excellence in Christ-centered Education*



## OCA/West YMCA Fall Youth Sports



**K-6th Co-ed Soccer**  
**5th & 6th Boys Flag Football**  
**5th & 6th Girls Volleyball**

**Season: August 29 - October 17**

**Cost: \$52.00 per player**

Fall Sport Sign-ups going on now!

- Registration forms will be accepted with a postmarked date of April 17 to May 9 with *no late fee*.
- If you would like to have a neighbor, friend, or relative on an *no late fees* time frame, that's okay!
- All OCA families will have first priority.
- Registrations postmarked May 10 to May 16 will acquire a \$10.00 *late fee*.
- New families joining OCA for next fall, have a June 30th deadline with *no late fee*.
- No registrations accepted after postmarked date of June 30.
- We will deposit all checks no sooner than June 30.
- Make checks payable to: Youth Sports
- Mail payment and completed registration form to:

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



## School Lunch Menu

	Entree	Sides/Dessert
May 4	HOT— Smoke-house BBQ Chicken Sandwich w/ Bacon and Cheese COLD—Bagel w/ Hummus and Veggies	Glazed Carrots Peach Cup Snickerdoodle Cookie
May 5	HOT— Crispy Tacos COLD—BBQ Chicken Salad Box	Lettuce and Cheese Cup Corn Banana Brownie
May 6	HOT— Fried Chicken COLD—Taco Salad Box	Baked Beans Biscuit with Honey Strawberry Shortcake
May 7	HOT— Breaded Mozzarella Sticks with Marinara Sauce COLD—Chicken Picnic Box	Roasted Zucchini Fresh Seasonal Fruit Garlic Breadstick
May 8	HOT— Chicken Fried Steak COLD— Bagel Box	Mashed Potatoes and Gravy Melon Dinner Roll Apple Crisp

**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.



# For Sale

OCA has two pianos for sale. They are old and in need of some TLC, but they still play and are in tune. The asking price is \$100.00. If you are interested, please contact Larry Niluis.



Senior High

***Performing Arts  
Awards & Appreciation  
Concert***



***Monday, May 4, 2009  
7:00pm***

**Liberty Christian Center Sanctuary**



**Featuring Performances by:**

***The Senior High Band  
Drama  
The Ensemble  
The Senior High Choir***

**Prelude at 6:30pm by Outstanding Performance Award Winners**



**ICE-CREAM SOCIAL**

**Following the concert**



*OCA Ensemble parents will be serving Ice-cream Sundaes and Root Beer Floats to everyone who comes to the cafeteria. All donations will support the Ensemble Members who will be singing at Carnegie Hall this summer.*



# EducationQuest Foundation

# College Planning Bulletin

*A monthly college planning guide for Nebraska high school students*

May 2009

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## Seniors ... borrow wisely for college!

The financial aid award notification you received from your college(s) indicates the loans you qualify to borrow. It may include loans you borrow directly from the school (Perkins), from a lender (Stafford Loan), or from the federal government (Direct Loan). In addition, your parents may qualify for a PLUS loan. Your college will provide borrowing procedures.

Before you borrow, estimate your future monthly loan payments using our [Student Loan Repayment Calculator](#) at [EducationQuest.org](#).

Follow these tips to avoid unnecessary debt:

- Carefully research the college you plan to attend to make sure it's a good fit. Transferring to a different college can add additional years of school and loan debt.
  - Compare the estimated starting salary of potential careers to your estimated college debt to ensure you can afford future loan payments.
  - Work while you go to college and use that money to pay living expenses.
  - Use your student loan money *only* for tuition, books and fees.
  - Keep track of your student loan debt throughout college at [nslds.ed.gov](#) so you're not surprised by the amount when it's time to graduate.
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## Juniors...use the summer to prepare for college!

If you're a high school junior, summer is the time for you to do some serious college planning. Here are your assignments:

- **Start narrowing your college choices.** By the fall of your senior year, you should have narrowed your choices to three or four schools. Visit some college campuses this summer and check out college Web sites.
  - **Update your [Activities Resume](#) at [EducationQuest.org](#).** Include extracurricular activities, honors, awards and part-time jobs.
  - **Look for scholarships.** Check out [ScholarshipQuest](#) at [EducationQuest.org](#), which has over 2,000 local and statewide scholarships. Pay attention to the scholarships seniors are earning.
  - **Find a summer job to help pay for college expenses.** Ask prospective employers if they offer education assistance programs.
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## May “To Do” List

### Seniors

- Apply for student loans, if necessary.
- Register for freshmen orientation.
- Start a list of dorm room essentials.
- Get a summer job to help pay college expenses.

### Juniors

- Register by May 5 for June 6 SAT.
  - Register by May 8 for June 13 ACT.
  - Continue campus visits.
  - Attend a spring college fair if there is one in your area.
  - Get a summer job and save for college.
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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](http://EducationQuest.org)

## Train Up a Child: It Takes Much, *Much* Hard Work!

As another school year draws to a close, it is my hope that you will pause to reflect on the crucial investment you have made in your children. Your choice of Christian schooling is one that warrants commendation and encouragement. Scripture commends your decision: “Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it” (Proverbs 22:6, NIV). No one doubts the significant role of education in the training of children, and an education imbued with biblical principles and inspired by teachers who not only are professionally prepared but are also followers of Christ adds a dimension and depth that will produce fruit.

I continue to stress the importance of being alert to the unbelievable and vast competition for the hearts and minds of our children. The range of competition—from entertainment media to a culture immersed in serving self—continues to offer highly tantalizing portions of low-level values packaged deceptively and seductively. As parents you have much, *much* hard work to do.

The notion of training up children in the way they should go is a directive that at times can seem absolutely overwhelming—after all, when is someone “trained up”? Best-selling author Malcolm Gladwell, in his most recent book, *Outliers: The Story of Success*, recounts the results of a study done in the early 1990s at Berlin’s elite Academy of Music. Psychologist K. Anders Ericsson and two of Ericsson’s colleagues questioned the school’s violinists in an attempt to discover what sets apart those who have potential to become world-class soloists from those who may be considered merely “good” and those who are unlikely to ever play professionally (2008, 38–39).

What Ericsson and his colleagues discovered was—and perhaps we are not surprised—that by age 20, those in the elite group were training intently, investing significantly more than 30 hours a week. The violinists in that group had each accumulated 10,000 hours of practice. Those categorized as merely “good” had each accumulated 8,000 hours, and those in the group exhibiting the least proficiency had each accumulated only slightly over 4,000 hours of practice (Gladwell 2008, 38–39).

Gladwell writes the following:

The striking thing about Ericsson’s study is that he and his colleagues couldn’t find any “naturals,” musicians who floated effortlessly to the top while practicing a fraction of the time their peers did. Nor could they find any “grinds,” people who worked harder than everyone else, yet just didn’t

have what it takes to break the top ranks. Their research suggests that once a musician has enough ability to get into a top music school, the thing that distinguishes one performer from another is how hard he or she works. That’s it. And what’s more, the people at the very top don’t work just harder or even much harder than everyone else. They work much, *much* harder. (2008, 39; italics in original)

In concluding comments regarding the study, Gladwell adds, “In fact, researchers have settled on what they believe is the magic number for true expertise: ten thousand hours” (2008, 40).

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Please understand clearly: I am not putting a determinate number of hours on what it takes to train up children or to become parents who possess true expertise. I do believe, though, that the illustration gives credibility to the analogy that just as honing a gift in the arts requires intense practice and training, so does the great work, or art, of training up our children. And to capitalize on the crucial hours spent in formal education that is from a faith-based, Christ-centered perspective brings the richest and highest level in the godly work of *training* we have been called to as parents.

May you be richly blessed in your commitment to Christian schooling.

#### Reference

Gladwell, Malcolm. 2008. *Outliers: The story of success*. New York: Little, Brown and Company.



Ken Smitherman, President  
Association of Christian Schools International

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