

WILLING WORKERS



Mrs. Cathy Fay

With just a couple months of school remaining, the major Willing Worker fundraisers and activities are winding down. The District V Track Meet will be held Wednesday, April 18 and the 8th Grade Banquet is scheduled for the evening of Saturday, April 14.

OSCI teachers and staff are generating their wish lists which contain items they feel would enhance the education of our students. It will be published in next month's Highlites for those who would like to donate toward the cost of a particular need.

We would like to thank all who participated in the Take-n-Bake Meal fundraiser the last few years. Due to a decrease in orders, the Willing Workers Executive Committee has decided to discontinue this fundraiser beginning next school year. You still have the opportunity to place an order in April and/or May.

Did you know our school has an "O-Club"? O stands for "occasional" and the club's purpose is to assist the Willing Workers organization in support of our school. Those on the O-Club might be asked to bake cookies, help serve food at one of our fundraisers, or assist one of the WW committees in some other way. If you'd be willing to join the O-Club and occasionally serve in this capacity, please call our secretary, Patti, and let her know. Thank you!



Take-n-Bake Meals

Italian Meatball & Potato Bake

(includes beef meatballs and hashbrowns)

Please indicate number of meals you would like to order:

Meals to serve 6-8 @ \$15.00 each _____

Meals to serve 4 @ \$10.00 each _____

Name: _____

-meals can be picked up from the school kitchen on Monday, April 23 at 8:00 a.m. or 5:30 p.m.-



Order Form
due April 13

If your family has any specific dietary needs, please call Vickie at 673-3941.

please include payment
Checks payable to:
OSCI Willing Workers



Our next Papa Murphy's Pizza Day will be Wed., April 4. Please mark your calendars!

Next month's Take-n-Bake meal is Italian Meatball & Potato Bake. Orders must be received at the school office by Friday, April 13. Pick up is Monday, April 23 at 8:00 am or 5:30 pm. If you have any questions, call Vickie @ 673-3941.



PUBLISHING INFORMATION

HIGHLITES will be published monthly with the exception of June and August by the staff of the Oskaloosa Christian School. If you would like more information about Oskaloosa Christian you can call the principal Jason Alons at 641-672-2174.

UPCOMING EVENTS @ OSCI

Honors Band	March 27
Kinder Kamp	March 30
District V Fine Arts	April 3
K-8th Chapel @ 8:20 am, 5th Grade hosts	April 11
SONshine Preschool Open House	April 12
8th Grade Banquet	April 14
District V Track Meet	April 18
SONshine Preschool Registration	April 19
Grandparents/Friends Day	April 27



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HIGHLITES

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PRINCIPAL'S PERSPECTIVE

Iowa Assessments

By Jason Alons



Halfway through the school year during the week of January 16, our grades 3 through 8 took what was formerly known as the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills. They have been redone and re-normed this year and are now called the Iowa Assessments. They are still standardized tests to measure how proficient students are in school. They are also a way to gauge how we perform as a school. However, when doing that, we must remember that this is just one tool used to measure success. This test provides a single "snapshot" of the classes during the year.

Oskaloosa Christian School traditionally posts very solid test scores and this year was no different. Because of the re-norming, it is difficult to compare exactly how we have done in comparison to last year. One difference this year is that there are no Iowa norms available. Since that is what we used for reporting in years past, these norms will look a little different.

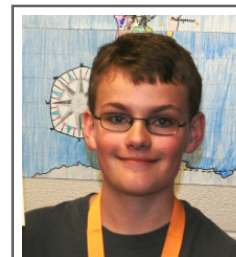
Knowing that, I am reporting two sets of scores to the right. The first column is the average grade equivalency of the students in each grade using the national norms. The second, shaded column is the average percentile ranking of those students using national norms. This is not a ranking of the class, but an average of the students in the class. That is different to what was reported last year. For instance, an average student score of 60% could put that class in the 85%-90% of all classes.

	Grade 3		Grade 4		Grade 5		Grade 6		Grade 7		Grade 8	
Grade at test time	3.5		4.5		5.5		6.5		7.5		8.5	
Reading	4.2	69	5.5	67	6.0	58	7.5	63	10.4	77	10.7	69
Language	4.5	75	5.4	72	6.4	66	8.4	76	11.7	87	12.0	79
Math	4.2	74	4.6	53	5.4	50	7.3	63	9.3	72	10.5	69
CORE TOTAL	4.2	74	4.9	62	5.8	57	7.7	67	10.3	78	11.0	73
Social Studies	4.6	77	5.2	66	6.4	65	8.1	69	13+	86	12.5	75
Science	4.6	77	5.3	66	6.1	59	7.8	65	9.5	69	10.7	66
COMPOSITE	4.4	77	5.1	63	6.0	58	7.7	67	10.6	78	11.4	72

Grade level equivalents are read as follows: 3.5 equals 3rd grade for 5 months or half a year

We do very well at our school. We enjoy partnering with our parents to provide an excellent education for our children. Thanks be to God we have the freedom to do this all while building a Biblical Christian foundation in all our subjects.

Please continue to pray for our school as we carry out our mission to "assist parents in equipping their children mentally, physically, and spiritually to be effective disciples of Jesus Christ by offering a quality Christ-centered education."



Congratulations to Nathan VerMeer in 6th grade, who has now qualified to compete in the 2012 Iowa Geography Bee. After winning our school contest earlier this year, he took a written test, which was submitted to the National Geographic Society. Nathan will now join the top 100 scorers in the State of Iowa to compete in the 2012 Iowa Geography Bee which will be held at Grinnell College March 30. Well done, Nathan!



LENT
is a time
to remember
God's Love

1946-2012

The mission of Oskaloosa Christian is to assist parents in equipping their children mentally, physically, and spiritually to be effective disciples of Jesus Christ by offering a quality Christ-centered education.



For Generations to Come

The school year is drawing to a close and we still have over \$35,000 yet to raise to meet our For Generations to Come Campaign needs. Please consider giving to this worthy program. You can send your donation to the office. This is a wonderful way to help out another family provide Christian education for their children.



Grandparents/Friends Day

at Oskaloosa Christian School this year will be on Friday, April 27. A time for coffee and refreshments will be held at 9:30 in the gym, and classroom visits begin at 10:00. A delicious lunch will be served in the gym beginning at 11:00. This year's menu is pulled pork, au gratin potatoes, green beans, rosy applesauce, cream pie dessert, roll, and milk. To reserve your meal, please call the school at 672-2174 or email to derondec@oskaloosachristian.net on or before April 23. A freewill offering will be taken to cover the cost of lunch. After lunch, middle school students will perform a variety of Fine Arts numbers and then a musical will be presented by grades K-4 at approximately 12:45. This is a very enjoyable time for our students, and we look forward to their grandparents/friends joining us on this special day.

KINDER KAMP



Kinder Kamp will be held this coming Friday, March 30 to help Mrs. De Bruin determine how many children will be ready for the 2012-2013 kindergarten class. Any child who will be 5 years old by September 15 is eligible to attend. The day will include kindergarten readiness testing which will be centered around a fun camping theme, and a parent meeting with Mrs. De Bruin and Mr. Alons. Afternoon sessions are still available. Please call the school Monday at 672-2174 to sign up or you may email the information to westrap@oskaloosachristian.net.

SPRING MUSICAL



Mrs. Cheryl Groenenboom

The First Action Heroes!

Come join the fun and adventure as K-4th grades present our spring musical, "The First Action Heroes!". Our school theme for this year is "Hero Headquarters." Ranger Clark, his assistant Nina, and some kids from church are arriving for their annual campout in Hero Park. Little do they know that lurking in the shadows is a gang of bullies called the Goliaths. The kids are surprised by the First Action Heroes from the Bible who each tell a story to help them understand how God wants them to react to bullies like the Goliaths. Finally they are reminded of the First Action Hero - Jesus! Later, when the Goliaths return, the children are able to face the bullies with God's power. Come, join us, as we experience how the teachings of the Bible can help us today. Meet The First Action Heroes. Meet Jesus! Your life will be changed as you live for Him each day!

We will have two presentations on Friday, April 27. After lunch at approximately 12:45 the K-4 will perform for Grandparents/Friends Day. At 7:00 p.m. that evening everyone is invited when SONshine Preschool will join the K-4th grades in presenting the musical. The 5th grade band is highlighted during our offering intermission. Reserve Friday, April 27, 2012 for this musical adventure of heroic proportions!

HONORS BAND JAMBOREE



Mrs. Gloria De Bruin

An exciting event is planned for Tuesday, March 27 at the Oskaloosa Middle School/George Daily Auditorium. Eleven of our band students will participate in the Honors Band, along with students from 12 other area schools. Coming together with the same music in hand, three separate bands (6th, 7th, & 8th) will rehearse for the afternoon under a guest conductor in preparation for the evening performance. Events such as this truly enhance the skills of each band student as they quickly practice and perform new songs geared to their individual levels. Parents, grandparents, relatives and friends are invited to attend the evening performance at 7:00 at the George Daily Auditorium for a small admission fee of \$3 for adults and \$2 for children.

A CAPITOL VISIT



Our 7th grade class visited the Iowa State Capitol on Wednesday, March 21. It was part of an education celebration when school choice advocates show legislators how vital non-public schools are to our state. They were able to hear the governor speak and meet Representatives Betty DeBoef and Guy Vander Linden.

YOUNG WRITERS' CONFERENCE

Mrs. Tracy Klucas

Congratulations to the following students who were selected to represent our school at the 25th annual Young Writers' Conference at William Penn University March 6 & 7:

- 3rd grade - Annika Boonstra and Gavin Higgins
- 4th grade - Kennedy Curry and Travis Hol
- 5th grade - Kyle Meinders and Cora Groenenboom
- 6th grade - Sam Carmichael and Mitaya Williams
- 8th Grade - Tristen Meinders, Karla De Bruin, Rachel Tvedt, and Kathryn Groenenboom

Students celebrated their talent by sharing their personal writing, hearing from published authors, and participating in small group workshops.



Front row left to right: Travis Hol, Annika Boonstra, Gavin Higgins, Kennedy Curry. Middle row: Sam Carmichael, Kyle Meinders, Tristen Meinders, Rachel Tvedt. Back row: Mitaya Williams, Cora Groenenboom, Kathryn Groenenboom, Karla De Bruin.



SONshine Preschool Open House will be Thursday, April 12 from 4:30-6:30 pm at Oskaloosa Christian School. Come to the classroom to meet the teachers, and learn about the Christ-centered learning at SONshine. **Online PRE-REGISTRATION is required. Please attend the Open House for more details.** Registration for next year's class will be at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 19 in our gym. Students enrolling must be 4 years of age by September 15. A \$35 fee is due at the time of registration, along with copies of your child's birth certificate and your pre-registration confirmation email. Only parents and legal guardians are able to register their children. Class options are Mon/Wed and Tues/Thurs sessions from 8:00-2:00. If you have any questions about SONshine Preschool, please call Cindy Broadway at 673-9472.

TRACK SEASON



Practice has begun for 6th, 7th & 8th graders who are participating in track this year. Below is the schedule for our upcoming meets.

Our school will once again host the District V Track Meet for area Christian schools at the Oskey Track. It will be held Wednesday, April 18. Field events begin at 9:30, running events at 10:00.

Come out and cheer on our athletes as they compete at this year's track meets.

2012 Track Meets

- April 14 Pella Christian 9:00 AM
- April 18 District V 9:30 AM
- April 23 Eddyville 4:30 PM
- April 30 Lynnville-Sully 4:15 PM

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS



March

1. Mr. Alons reported on a busy 4th quarter coming up with many events happening.
2. Mr. Alons reported that all the teaching staff have signed their contracts for next year.
3. Mr. Alons reported we did well on our Iowa Assessment. It was not easy to compare as Iowa norms were not available for comparison.
4. Representatives from the PCHS board met with our board for an annual sharing time.
5. Technology Committee reported on a proposal for technology updates over the summer. A couple grants have been written for these items.
6. Advancement Committee reported on a successful fundraiser with the Iowa Barnstormers.
7. Advancement Committee reported on ads for Kindergarten Preview (March 22) and Kinder Kamp (March 30).
8. Education Committee brought motions to purchase a writing curriculum for the middle grades as well as allowing 5th graders to volunteer to march in Marching Band this year.
9. Finance Committee reported on budget work for next school year.
10. Board visitors reported on their communication with the staff as very positive.

