

WILLING WORKERS



Mrs. Lynn Hook

BIDS FOR KIDS: The Willing Workers held their annual Bids for Kids Auction Feb 13 - 18. The silent auction was held online Feb 13 - 17, while the meal and live auction were held February 18. A big hearted thank you to all the people who generously donated and purchased items. Through your generosity, we raised over \$30,000.00! We'll get you final amounts next month. Also a big THANK YOU to the committee who spent countless hours to make this such a success! And thank you to all our loyal supporters of our school!! We appreciate you all!



ONGOING POP CAN DRIVE: A reminder that the pop can shed is open for drop off at any time. We have changed redemption centers and therefore glass and cans do NOT need to be separated anymore.

AMAZON SMILE: Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to our school! AmazonSmile gives you the same products, same prices, same service. If you already shop on Amazon, even just a little, you can help our school! Go to smile.Amazon.com or to the app and you can select Oskaloosa Society for Christian Instruction as your donation of choice. We are currently receiving approximately \$20 monthly. Please consider helping us make this easy fund-raiser grow!

Pastors Day!

On Friday, February 11 we were excited to welcome many of our pastors to our school! They joined us for morning chapel, met with Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Jim Eveland for refreshments, and joined students in their classrooms. We appreciate our pastors and we thank them for their visit to our school!

Grandparents Day!

Grandparents, be sure to reserve Friday, April 29 to be our special guests! The day will include a welcome and refreshments with Mr. Mitchell, classroom visits, lunch, and an afternoon musical by the KK-4th graders!

UPCOMING EVENTS @ OSCI

District V Fine Arts	-----	March 3
Kinder Kamp	-----	March 4
Pops Concert	-----	March 8
Parent/Teacher Conferences	-----	March 10 & 11
Spring Break	-----	March 14-18
SONshine Preschool Open House	-----	March 28
SONshine Preschool Online Registration	-----	March 31
Knowledge Bowl	-----	March 31



726 North "E" St.
Oskaloosa, Iowa 52577

Return Service Requested



Boxtops for Education - Thank you to everyone who supports our Boxtops fundraiser! You can still clip boxtops and send them to school if they have a valid expiration date. You can also learn how to scan them with your phone by using the links below. If you have any questions about boxtops, please feel free to email Kari Fite at kari.fite@cir3.com.

The New Box Tops App: Scan for your school: <https://youtu.be/Hh94b2BvFK4>

How to scan: <https://youtu.be/v-bN-cykyK5Y>

How to Submit Digital Receipts: https://youtu.be/ZfUGb_3JzZg

Can you help?

Elective Classes!

We will again offer elective classes to our Junior High students this year. If you would like to share a hobby or interest with them on Thursday afternoons, please contact Mrs. Boonstra or Mr. Mitchell at 641-672-2174.

If you are willing to share YOUR ideas, we are interested in hearing them! Our electives classes will be held on Thursdays from 1:15-3:00 on the following dates:

1st session: March 24, 31, April 7, 14

2nd session: April 21, 28, May 5, 12

PUBLISHING INFORMATION

HIGHLIGHTS 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, Don Mitchell, at 641-672-2174.

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February 2022

HIGHLIGHTS

Vol. 41 No. 6

PRINCIPAL'S PERSPECTIVE

By Mr. Don Mitchell



2 Corinthians 12:10 - "For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

From a biblical perspective, contentedness means being satisfied with what God has provided. Putting the above passage in context, Paul is referring to his 'thorn in the flesh' that he has asked God to take away from him. However, God answers Paul directly in the previous verse, telling Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

When did we lose the ability to be content? In a culture where the individual is the central focus and entitlement runs rampant, the biblical concept of contentedness is lost. We are inundated with the philosophy that we deserve more, that we should never settle, and that if I do not get my way, then I have the right to complain. This is the very opposite of what God teaches us through Paul in the above verse. Paul claims contentment in Christ despite his circumstances, which is truly countercultural. So, how can Paul say this, and yet we struggle with the concept today?

The answer lies in perspective. In today's world, our tendency is to compare ourselves with other people. Whether it is someone we know or someone we simply know of, we want what someone else has. If we only get that thing or that lifestyle, then we will be content. God warns us about that early on. He calls it 'covetousness'. The tenth commandment tells us not to covet what others have. Yet, our sinful natures draw us to that attitude of wanting what others have. However, Paul looks at his life from a very different perspective. Instead of looking to the future for what he might receive in this life, he looked back to where he had been and forward beyond this life. Paul was a Pharisee who rejected the LORD Jesus Christ and even tortured and imprisoned those who followed the LORD. When the LORD changed Paul's life and heart on the road to Damascus, that event left an indelible imprint on Paul. He realized that he only deserved eternal wrath and punishment, and that God appeared to him to change the course of both his earthly life and his eternal destiny. He immediately became grateful for what God had done in his life. In writing his letter to the Corinthians, Paul also saw his eternal destiny and reward. He looked beyond the circumstances of his present life and knew what was to come. This view made Paul's present circumstances bearable, and allowed his focus to be set on eternity.

We live in an instant world. We want things now, and tomorrow will not be fast enough. We need to teach our children (and remind ourselves) that contentment lies in understanding that '(e)very good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.' (James 1:17) It is easier to be content when we know from where we have come, from Whom all blessings flow, and to where we are going. May God teach all of us how to be content in this life, that we might reflect Him more brightly and clearly.



The Board and Staff of Oskaloosa Christian School would like to acknowledge and thank the families of Elsie Kelderman and Jerome Van Den Heuvel for gifts recently received in their memory.

Gifts in memory of Elsie Kelderman will be used for our Phase 1 Capital Campaign to replace our roof and windows.

The gifts for Jerome Van Den Heuvel will be given to our Endowment Fund.

We humbly thank all the family members and friends of Elsie and Jerome for blessing our school during their time of loss. All of these gifts will greatly benefit our school families for many years to come.

1946-2022

The mission of Oskaloosa Christian School is to assist families in equipping children to be effective disciples of Jesus Christ.





For Generations to Come

For Generations To Come (FGTC) is our in-school tuition program. At Oskaloosa Christian School, we are aware that private school tuition requires sacrifice. This is why FGTC was created. We want to be able to help as many families that need help with tuition to send their children to our school. Our goal for fundraising for this school year is \$60,000.

Our Celebration of Friends banquet in November netted donations in excess of \$20,000. Our fall mailing continues to reap the kindness of others, as we have received contributions of \$18,590 from that endeavor thus far. Combine these two events with other gifts received, and we have been blessed with over \$45,000 towards our goal. Praise God for the provision of His people!

Our spring mailing will come out in a couple of months. In the meantime, I cannot thank our Oskaloosa Christian School family enough for the generous support for FGTC so far this year. Families will benefit from your kindness and will be able to access Christian schooling in Oskaloosa because of your willingness to bless others. May God bless you in great measure for your kindness to us!

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

We want to give you an update on the progress of our Phase 1 Capital Campaign, where we are raising money to address our exterior (roof and windows) school needs. To date, your generosity has added up to \$240,930.52 collected in hand. The school board is accepting bids for roof repair at this time, and hoping to begin work as soon as possible. However, we are still collecting funds to complete Phase 1. Would you be willing to help us with this endeavor? Or do you know someone who may be able to help and would like someone to speak to them? Please contact the school at 641-672-2174, or email me at mitchell@d@oskaloosachristian.net, and I would be happy to help. Thank you for your support, and praise God for the blessings He has given us thus far!

THANK YOU!

BASKETBALL SEASON



Over the past four years, I have been blessed enough to coach the Oskaloosa Boy's Basketball program. We have been able to consistently compete with the teams on our schedule and I am pleased to say that we've never had a losing record. This year, between the talent, size, and athletic ability the boys' team possessed, the expectations for the squad were the highest they've ever been. There was more demanded of this team than any of my squads in the past. These boys answered the bell. This team played hard and fast. We focused on the work and let the results take care of themselves, but most importantly, we had fun! We finished the season 9-3.

It was my privilege to watch all of the young men grow, not only in their athletic ability, but also as young men in Christ. I am confident these young men will go on to do great things in whatever they put their minds to. The young men on the team this year were: Ian Fay, Dane Van Mersbergen, Brandon Groenendyk, Trent DeBruin, Finn Spronk, Grant Main, Harrison Mullens, Landon Van Donseelar, and Elijah Boender.

Over the past four years, I am grateful for the support of Don Mitchell in his role as principal and man of Christ, for Shannon Semini in her role as Athletic Director and friend, and for all of the families who have supported the program over the past four seasons. I am excited to see what these young men do with the gifts God has given them in the future! I'm proud of the squad this year; great season fellas! Go Crusaders!
-Coach Mullens



TRIP News (Tuition Reduction Incentive Program)

Ordering Schedule

Mondays - order by 12:00 noon
Fridays - pick up 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Order dates:

March 7, 21, 28

April 4, 11, 18, 25

There will not be a national order on the week of March 14 due to spring break.

Cash and Carry TRIP cards are available for sale in the office on school days from 8:00-3:00 on a first come-first served basis.

REMINDER!

We now carry both \$10 and \$20 Taso's gift cards in cash & carry!

Quick facts: June 2021--to date:

Total Sales to date: \$238,000!

Tuition Credit Accumulated: over \$9,300!

Weekly TRIP orders can be placed online! More information can be found in the office.

Want to make sure the cards are available when you need them? Submit your orders to the office by noon for local and national cards and they will be guaranteed by Friday of the same week!

Don't want to come into the office to place an order? No problem! Go to shopwithscrip.com and set up an online account. You can use a credit card or automatic withdrawal from your bank account. You will then have the option to use "ScripNow eCards" which allows you, for some stores, to download a card for immediate use to your smartphone. For more info, go to www.shopwithscrip.com or contact Kristin Plate at 641-670-0583.



KINDER KAMP

It's not too late to sign up! Kinder Kamp, our readiness assessment time, will be held at our school on Friday, March 4. The Kinder Kids team will use the time during the morning or afternoon session to assess the readiness of four-year-olds whose parents have expressed interest in attending our school in August. Sign up for Kinder Kamp on our school's website under the admissions tab at www.oskaloosachristian.net or you can call the school office at 641-672-2174 to sign up. Please share this information with anyone you know who may be interested! Questions may be emailed to kinderkids@oskaloosachristian.net.

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

February



- Matt Drost opened with devotions and prayer.
- Motion made, seconded, and passed to accept board minutes for January and consent agenda for February.
- January financial reports were presented.
- Scott Jarnigan from Caselli Roofing made a presentation to the board. Discussion followed, which included an update on the capital campaign.
- Committee motions
- Education Committee:
 - Motion to approve all faculty for contracts for 2022-2023 as listed in Education Committee minutes. Motion seconded and passed.
 - Motion to approve all staff for contracts for 2022-2023 as listed in Education Committee minutes. Motion seconded and passed.
 - Motion to approve Policy 501.1 as revised. First reading. Motion seconded and passed.
 - Motion to approve Series 600 Education Program - Edits - second reading. Motion seconded and passed.
 - Motion to approve Series 700 Auxiliary Services - Edits - second reading. Motion seconded and passed.
- Finance Committee:
 - Payment plans to be limited to 9 equal monthly payments on the 10th of each month with alternative option of 18 equal bi-monthly payments on the 10th and the 24th of each month. Motion seconded and passed.
 - Dual enrollment to be calculated using the full cost of education. Motion seconded and passed.
 - Unused staff personal days to be paid out to teachers at the rate of substitute pay at the end of the school year. Partial days paid at fractional portion of day. Motion seconded and passed.
 - Move the minimum substitute pay for partial days to the rate of half of a full day substitute pay, effective immediately. Motion seconded and passed.
 - Teacher compensation increase of 3% to base salary and 5% on increments. Employer will pay premium for plan similar to last year (depending upon Wellmark offering plans) including contribution from employer to HSA of \$75/month with matching 401k contribution of up to 4%. Motion seconded and passed.
 - 4% raise to all other staff and teacher aides. Motion seconded and passed.
 - To submit 2 past due accounts from last year over to collections. Motion seconded and passed.
 - Motion to approve to send 90 day notice to past due family. Motion seconded and passed.
- The board discussed board nominees for the 2022-2023 school year.
- Don Mitchell, Stacy Boender, Jim Eveland, and BJ Boender gave a review of the District V Board workshop attended on February 1.
- The board entered executive session. Entered at 9:03, exited at 9:05.
- The board discussed building rentals. The maintenance committee was asked to edit the rental agreement for future use beginning in the 2022-2023 school year.
- The board discussed strategic planning for financing future capital projects.
- The board had a follow-up discussion of the administrator's evaluation process.
- Next meeting: March 22, 2022 @ 6:30 pm.
- Jim Eveland closed in prayer.



Music! Entertainment! Pop! Popcorn!

The 6-8th Graders and the 4th Grade recorders will present their Pops Concert on Tuesday, March 8th at 7:00 pm in the OSCI gymnasium. The middle school will perform fun music that they have been working on in band, and they will sing and perform skits. The evening will also feature the 4th Grade recorders during the offering. You may sit back, eat some popcorn and sip on some soda during the performance and, of course, be entertained by the best. You won't want to miss this really fun evening!

-Mrs. Angela Dawson



FOR THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR:

SONshine Preschool Open House

will be March 28, 2022, 4:30-6:00 pm. Parents and children please come to the classroom to meet the teachers and learn about the Christ-centered learning at SONshine. The process of online sign up will be explained. SONshine Preschool is located within the Oskaloosa Christian School at 726 North E Street, Oskaloosa, IA.

Online sign up occurs on March 31, 2022, 1:00 pm at www.sonshinepreschool.org. It is required to obtain one of the forty spots available. Please attend the Open House for more details.

Other information:

- Class options are Mon/Wed or Tues/Thurs sessions from 8:00-2:00; 20 students per session.
- Students must be 4 years of age by September 15 of the current year to be eligible to attend.
- A confirmation email will be sent to the first 40 enrollees, outlining the final registration process.

If you have further questions about SONshine Preschool, please call 641-673-9472 or go to www.sonshinepreschool.org.