

WILLING WORKERS



Mrs. Lynn Hook

As another year closes, it is a good time to reflect on the blessings God has given with another successful year! The year would not have been a success without the hard work of all the teachers, volunteers, parents, and students. All the pieces working together makes the school run smoothly!

Willing Workers Board 2022-2023 - The results are in and the following people have been elected as replacements for the Willing Workers board:

Vice President: Deann De Groot
Vice Treasurer: Morgan Younger
Secretary: Ariel Nance

Big thank you to our outgoing board members for their hard work this past year!
Kara Edel - president, Lindsay Watts - secretary, Lynn Hook - corresponding secretary

GIVING TREE: Thanks to everyone who have supported our teachers and staff this year through the Giving Tree. Your generosity is very much appreciated again this year!

ONGOING POP CAN DRIVE: A reminder that the pop can shed is open for drop off at any time. Feel free to drop off your bottles and cans during the summer months too!

AMAZON SMILE: Reminder that 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 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 fundraiser grow!

NO MORE CLIPPING BOX TOPS!! A big Thank You to everyone who has downloaded the Box Tops for Education app, and who is actively scanning EVERY receipt. As of today, our school has earned \$94.00 for the 2021/2022 school year. However, the collecting doesn't stop here, the app makes it simple to collect ALL SUMMER LONG!!! If you have questions feel free to email Kari Fite at kari.fite@cir3.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS @ OSCI

Teacher Work Day	-----May 26
School Cleaning	-----June 2, 3, 4
Society Meeting	-----June 27
Summer National TRIP Order Dates	-----June 28, July 26
Registration for 2022-2023	-----August 4 and 8
Teacher Inservice	-----August 16-19
First Day of School	-----August 23



726 North "E" St.
Oskaloosa, Iowa 52577

Return Service Requested

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES!

There are employment opportunities at Oskaloosa Christian School and SONshine Preschool for the 2022-23 school year.

Oskaloosa Christian is looking to hire a Custodian and a Jr. High Math and Science teacher for the 2022-2023 school year. If you are interested or have any questions about either of these positions, please call Mr. Mitchell at 641-672-2174 or email mitchelld@oskaloosachristian.net.

Oskaloosa Christian is also seeking a boys' basketball coach for the 2022-23 school year. Please call AD Shannon Semini at 641-660-7036 for more information, or email seminis@oskaloosachristian.net.

SONshine Preschool is currently seeking applicants for a teacher's assistant. More information can be found at sonshinepreschool.org/employment opportunities. Further questions can be directed to Vickie Van Donselaar at directorsonshineps@gmail.com.



PUBLISHING INFORMATION

HIGHLIGHTS will be published monthly with the exception of July and August by the staff of the Oskaloosa Christian School. If you would like more information about Oskaloosa Christian you can call the principal, Mr. Don Mitchell, at 641-672-2174.

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May 2022

HIGHLIGHTS

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



PRINCIPAL'S PERSPECTIVE

By Mr. Don Mitchell



"The heart of man plans his ways, but the LORD establishes his steps." Proverbs 16:9 (ESV)

For most families, summer is a time for planning. Vacations, family gatherings, and special occasions often occur during the summer months, and the Mitchell family is no different. Now that we have entered the stage of life where one of our sons is married and living in a different state, planning becomes more necessary if we want to spend time with him and our daughter-in-law. Those plans have been made, and we hope to see them multiple times this summer. However, plans can change.

How do we deal with change? The answer generally depends on a few factors:

- Who was in control of the change? If it was me, then I know the change is coming, and I have determined that the change is necessary, or I would not have put the change in place. If I was not in control of the change:
- Do I find the change to be necessary? For most people, the default is to leave things as they are. There is comfort and stability in routine, and change requires work that I may not want to do.
- Did I see the change coming? When I see the change coming, whether I agree to whether it is necessary or not, I can at least prepare for the change. Preparation can be mental, physical, and/or spiritual, and a 'heads up' can be helpful in processing what is coming my way.

All of the factors above are pragmatic in scope. However, if we believe that God is in control of all things, then He allowed the change to take place. Sometimes we will be prepared for the change; sometimes it is sudden and without warning. Sometimes we will welcome the change; other times, we will fight against it, scratching and clawing the whole way. The ironic twist to this is that God expects us to change, and to do so constantly.

We are taught in Scripture to 'work out [our] own salvation with fear and trembling.' (Phil. 2:12b, ESV) This is not teaching salvation by works, but rather that part of salvation is a process of sanctification. A process involves work... and change. I am so glad that God is patient with me, and that I am not the same person now as I was twenty-eight years ago, when I was saved by His immeasurable grace. He has changed me from the inside out, and my walk with Him has changed for the better. Sometimes, change came with tough lessons and difficult trials, but looking back, I know that God was doing a work in me that I would not have done myself, if not for the changes that came along the way. Change is good, as long as we know that 'all things' (including change) 'work together for good to those who love God'.

So, when change comes into your life, will you fight against it, or will you see God as the author of it, and trust His purposes and plans for that change? I pray that God would help us to see change through His eyes, and that His plans are not to harm us, but to refine us and to equip us to serve Him better, until the day we hear our loving Father's voice, saying, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

The School Board and Staff of Oskaloosa Christian School would like to acknowledge and thank those who recently blessed us with gifts in memory of John Van Engen. These gifts will be given to our Music Department and will be used for updating our sound system. We humbly thank those who honored John's memory by blessing our school in this way.

ANNUAL SOCIETY MEETING

Mark your calendars for Monday, June 27 at 7:00 p.m. Our school's annual Society meeting will be held at Cedar Christian Reformed Church in Cedar. We invite and encourage all friends and supporters of our school to attend.



For Generations to Come

Thank you for your generous and overwhelming response to our spring mailing, asking for support for our internal tuition assistance program, For Generations to Come (FGTC). With a gracious response of \$27,465, we have exceeded our goal of raising \$60,000 for FGTC over the course of the school year. Again, thank you so very much for sharing your resources to help families attend Oskaloosa Christian School! Have a blessed summer!

STAFF RECOGNITION

During the 8th Grade Graduation Ceremony on May 20, the following staff members were recognized and thanked by the Board for their years of service to our school.

5 Years:

Jayne Grafke, Kinder Kids Teacher
Kendra Foley, 2nd Grade Teacher

30 Years:

Cheryl Groenenboom, K-4th Music Teacher



TRIP News

(Tuition Reduction Incentive Program)

There will be no TRIP orders or Cash & Carry May 26-June 27.

SUMMER TRIP SCHEDULE:

Cash & Carry will be available for sale in the office of **First Christian Reformed Church** on **TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS** from 9:00-11:30 a.m. beginning June 28.

Cash & Carry dates:

June 28, 29
July 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20, 26, 27
August 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17

Summer National Order Dates (due by 10:00 a.m. to the church office):
June 28, July 26

If you have any questions about our TRIP program contact Kristin Plate at 641-670-0583.



"I CARE" AWARD WINNER



Every year the Bates Funeral Chapel in Oskaloosa sponsors the "I Care Award." This award is given to a student who demonstrates a spirit of volunteerism, community interest, and acts of kindness toward others. We are happy to announce this year's recipient, 8th grader Ben Spronk. Ben is the son of Jon and Keri Spronk of Oskaloosa. Ben received a plaque and a \$500 check in recognition of his award. Congratulations to Ben and his family!



PENMANSHIP AWARDS

The Joe Gray Award has been given to students in Oskaloosa in recognition of improved and exemplary penmanship for many years. Mr. Joe Gray, an Oskaloosa resident who thought his own handwriting was poor, wanted to encourage students to improve their own penmanship skills. He began the Joe Gray Foundation, and every year, he donated money to the Oskaloosa schools to use in a way to encourage students. After the passing of both Mr. and Mrs. Gray, Oskaloosa Christian has continued this tradition of awarding students the honor.

Congratulations to the recipients of this year's Joe Gray Penmanship Awards:

2nd Grade: Harper De Bruin, Kinley De Bruin, Kenzie Edel, Sophia Plate, Lilly Ramthun

4th Grade: Allison Boender, Natalie Boender, Cobie De Jong, Susie Muether, Emma Roberts, Eillie Watts

6th Grade: Adalli Boender, Clara De Boef, Olivia De Groot, Coleton Fawcett, Olivia Roberts, Luke Van Donselaar

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

God continues to work through His people in magnificent ways. One way He has shown Himself is through our capital campaign. As you may be aware, we are currently in the first stage of a multi-stage campaign to collect funds to upgrade our current school building, with the possibility of new construction in the future. The first stage involves raising money for our current roof, which we are intending to replace. Through the kindness and generosity of God's people, as of May 13, we have raised over \$290,000 towards the replacement of the roof. We have accepted a bid to repair the roof at a cost of just under \$308,000, leaving us less than \$30,000 towards reaching this first goal. Would you be willing to consider a gift that would move us closer to completing this project? Gifts are being accepted in our school office. Thank you for your consideration of this matter, and praise God for His provision thus far!

THANK YOU!



As we close another school year, we know that transitions are inevitable. Lives and circumstances change, and we find ourselves making necessary adjustments. At the end of this school year, we will say goodbye to two members of the Oskaloosa Christian School family, Jill De Bruin and Jana Boonstra.

Jill De Bruin has served as our custodian for the past two years and will be seeking other endeavors.

Jana Boonstra has served in our middle school for the past nineteen years. She has been a staff leader, and she has taken on numerous roles over nearly two decades. She is leaving to concentrate on her roles as wife and mother.

We thank both of these ladies for their service to Oskaloosa Christian School, and we wish both of them God's richest blessings as they continue to serve the LORD in different capacities.



Teaching for TRANSFORMATION

Our teachers are using TFT tools to create learning experiences that empower our students to play their part in God's Story.

TFT Spotlight:
See the Story. Live the Story.



Mrs. Leah Stam

Deep Hope: My Deep Hope is that as we EXAMINE God's Word, we will begin to RECOGNIZE and REALIZE our own roles as PARTICIPANTS in GOD'S STORY as LIVING STONES of HIS CHURCH.

Story Line: Our Part in God's Story

TFT Reflection: 1 Peter 2:4-5 "As you come to Him, the Living Stone, rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to Him, you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

When we were asked several years ago to write our deep hope and storyline for our classes, I knew immediately what I wanted mine to say. Although it took me a few days to wrestle with just the right wording, the meaning behind it has been what has fueled me as a teacher for years! As the junior high Bible teacher, I pray that as we dig deeper into studying God's Word, we will begin to see how it applies to each of us and where we fit into God's ongoing story! So often in our discussions, I am able to remind my students to take a step back and look at events from the bigger perspective of God's Story. It's a beautiful thing to see God's intricate plan unfolding throughout the course of history—and still today as we are a part of it! My prayer is that we truly are living stones of His Church, bringing the good news of hope and salvation to a world that so desperately needs to hear it!



Mrs. Shawna Goemaat

Deep Hope: My DEEP HOPE is that we **KNOW** Jesus and His Word deeply and **FOLLOW** Him joyfully as we boldly **SERVE** Him in our community and around the world.

Story Line: Be **bold** or *italic*—never regular.

TFT Reflection: 2 Timothy 1:7 reminds us, "For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline." During the middle school years, many students just want to fit in and follow the trends of their peers. Through the literature we have read, middle schoolers have seen examples of real and fictional characters that have fought for their beliefs and justice for others. As Christians, we have been able to reflect on how we should stand out from the crowd and be different. Others should see something unique in us, and it is good to stand out and stand up for our beliefs.



PRESIDENT'S AWARD

This year, six of our 8th graders qualified for the President's Award for Academic Excellence. This is a prestigious award given every year to 8th graders who maintain a B+ average in their core classes from 4th through 8th grade, and who scored in the 85th percentile or above in math or reading during their 7th or 8th grade year. It is a difficult award to earn. The 8th graders who received the award this year at their graduation ceremony were Sydney Bruxvoort, Trenton De Bruin, Anniston Meyer, Ben Spronk, Ava Westercamp, and Elie Westercamp. Congratulations, students!

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Being a part of God's Story includes following God's command to love and serve our neighbors. Students worked as 'community builders' this week with the following service projects:

- 1st, 4th, and 7th graders went to the Oskaloosa Care Center to play games, read to, and hang out with the residents.
- 3rd and 6th graders assembled Blessing Bags and then delivered them to businesses around our town square.
- 2nd and 8th graders cleaned at the Southern Iowa Fairgrounds.
- Kinder Kids and 5th graders planted flower pots and delivered them to school neighbors.

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS May

- Tim Westercamp opened with devotions and prayer.
- Motion made, seconded, and passed to accept board minutes for April and consent agenda for May.
- April financial reports were presented.
- Education Committee Motions:
 - 1) Motion to approve eight new families for admission to Oskaloosa Christian School. Motion seconded and passed.
 - 2) Motion to approve the middle school handbook as presented. Motion seconded and passed.
- Finance Committee Motions:
 - 1) Motion to accept proposed budget for 2022-2023. Motion seconded and passed.
 - 2) Motion to pay TRIP coordinator \$11.25/hr for 2022-2023 school year up to max of \$3,500. Motion seconded and passed.
 - 3) Motion to accept revisions to the 800 Series of board policy - first reading. Motion seconded and passed. First reading completed.
- Don Mitchell gave an update on the CARES Act Employee Retention Credit. Motion made to pursue this avenue of funding. Motion seconded and passed.
- Don Mitchell gave an update on the ISHAA appeal process.
- Board nominations were discussed. We are still in need of one member of a Reformed church to complete the ballot.
- Don Mitchell gave a staffing update.
- Don Mitchell gave a capital campaign update. \$292,387.26 has been raised as of 5/13/22. Further discussion centered around next steps to enhance the campaign moving forward.
- Next meeting: June 14, 2022 @ 6:30 pm.
- Motion to adjourn. Motion seconded and passed.
- Eric Hol closed in prayer.

Next month will be the last month for our monthly Highlights. Starting with the 2022-2023 school year, we will be sending out three issues of our new version of the Highlights; fall, winter, and spring. The new Highlights will include more pages and more information for you so you can be more informed about Oskaloosa Christian School and the ministry that God has entrusted to us. Thank you for your patience as we make this change.