



Happy Thanksgiving from the Willing Workers Committee to all of you!

Bake Sale/Vendor Sale - Save the Date for our bake/vendor sale on December 4 from 8 am-1pm.



Cookie Decorating - Mark your calendars to join the Bake Sale Committee for a fun morning of decorating cookies on Friday, December 3. They will begin at 9:00 in the gym. Unfortunately no child care will be provided this year. All skill levels are welcome and stay for as long as it works for you!

Poinsettias Pick Up - Remember to pick up poinsettia orders December 4 from 8am-1pm during the bake/vendor sale.



Pop Can Shed: A reminder that our new pop can shed is located east of our parking lot. Cans can be brought and placed in the shed at any time. Bags are available inside the shed for your use. A reminder that the shed is for pop cans only. For glass bottles, please use the new glass bin that is located against the school. Thanks to everyone for your support!

Thank you for all the love and support shown to our teachers and staff this past week in observance of Staff Appreciation Week!!



COOKBOOKS FOR SALE!

The Oskaloosa Christian School Cookbook 2004 edition is filled with lots of delicious family favorite recipes! They are great gifts for Christmas, bridal showers, house warmings, or a keepsake for your OSCI graduate. Cookbooks are on sale for \$10 each and are available for purchase from the school office.

UPCOMING EVENTS @ OSCI

Society Meeting	December 2
Christmas Cookie Decorating	December 3
Christmas Vendor/Bake Sale & Poinsettia pick-up	December 4
Parent Christmas Dinner & Chapel	December 10
December 22	Christmas Carol Sing-along
December 22	2:15 dismissal for Christmas Break
Classes Resume	January 3



726 North "E" St.
Oskaloosa, Iowa 52577

Return Service Requested



Oskaloosa Christian School students and staff gathered in the gym on Friday, November 12 for a Thanksgiving Chapel. The chapel was hosted by teachers and focused on giving thanks to God for His faithfulness as seen in the story of Jesus healing the ten lepers in Luke 17. Thanks to all the families who joined us and to the teachers for reminding us that "Forever God is Faithful!"



PSBLM 107 1

ASBESTOS UPDATE

In compliance with the AHERA Asbestos Emergency Act our school is regularly surveyed to determine the condition of any asbestos containing materials. Most of the materials that posed a problem have been removed from the building. The remaining materials have been inspected and are encapsulated under the floor tile which is sealed with floor finish. In its present condition it poses no health threat to students or staff. Oskaloosa Christian will continue to monitor the materials and keep our facility a safe and healthy place in which to work and learn.

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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726 North "E" Street
Oskaloosa, Iowa 52577

Telephone: 641-672-2174
www.oskaloosachristian.net

Twitter:@OsKyChristian
Facebook: Oskaloosa Christian School

1946-2021

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



My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. (James 1:2-4, NIV)

In the adult Sunday School class where I go to church, we are studying the book of James. After his greeting, the author jumps right in with the verses listed above. These are verses that speak some tough truths that, as Christians, we need to address and live out. Let's take a look:

Truth 1: We will face trials. Note in verse two the word 'when'. Not 'if', but when. God never promised us a life of ease or prosperity when we came to know him. Rather, this verse reminds us of the certainty of trials.

Truth 2: We are to be joyful through trials. Again in verse two, "Count it all joy...". Joy is not a feeling. It is not happiness, gladness, or any other fleeting emotion that comes and goes, based on our moods or circumstances. Rather, it is a choice to live in the presence of God and to know that his presence in our lives is enough to endure the circumstances of life.

Truth 3: God has a purpose for our trials. Verse three this time: 'knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.' Other translations replace the word 'patience' with 'endurance' or 'steadfastness'. The idea is still the same. God intends trials for our growth in grace, as patience is a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22). This is not to ignore or minimize the pain of trials. Certain trials can be extremely painful. However, this truth reminds us that, whether living through a trial or coming out on the other side of it, patience is the goal, which makes us more Christ-like and holy. (Matthew 5:48)

Truth 4: We come out better equipped on the other side, if we allow it. Verse four to conclude: 'But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.' By going through the trial, we are prepared to use the experience of the trial to be more patient and usable in the Master's service. It is often only in hindsight that we see the purpose of the trial. Maybe the trial was due to circumstances, or the trial was something that was a result of a choice we made. In any case, what we learn from the trial prepares us for the future. Perhaps we learn from our mistakes and endeavor not to repeat them. Or what if God puts us through a trial so we can help someone else in the future endure a similar trial? We can be empathetic and encouraging and bless someone else. Whatever God's purpose is, we can be sure that '...all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.' (Romans 8:28). Furthermore, we are prepared to fulfill our calling to Christ. 'For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.' (Ephesians 2:10)

As we come up on the holiday season, many of us will enjoy time with friends and family. However, some of our brothers and sisters are enduring trials. May we keep our eyes open as to how we can bless and encourage others as the holidays approach. May all of you be blessed with a safe and Happy Thanksgiving!

The Board and Staff of Oskaloosa Christian School would like to acknowledge and thank the family of Matilda (Sis) Roozeboom for gifts received in her memory. We humbly thank all of her family members and friends for blessing our school during their time of loss. These gifts will be used for our Endowment Fund, where it will benefit our school families for many years to come.



For Generations to Come

We want to take this time to thank those of you who attended our Celebration of Friends banquet. A great meal, followed by entertainment by Friday Night Fire, were the highlights of the evening. This banquet serves as a fundraiser for our internal tuition assistance program, *For Generations to Come*. Thanks to the generosity of God's people, the event raised \$21,000 for the program. Praise the LORD for His provision, and thank you to everyone who gave to this worthy cause.

Our yearly Celebration of Friends Banquet is just one way that we raise funds for tuition assistance. We will also be reaching out to families, grandparents, alumni and other supporters by way of a mailing in December and again next spring. We would be grateful if you would consider a gift to this year's tuition assistance program.

Legacy of Grace

SCHOOL TUITION ORGANIZATION

One of the means for us to bless families to have access to a quality Christian education is through the Legacy of Grace School Tuition Organization (LOG-STO). This state program allows for individuals and businesses to donate money to help families with tuition at a private school, receiving a **75% state tax credit** of the donation. As an example, if you donate one hundred dollars to the LOG-STO, you will receive a state tax credit of \$75, which reduces your state tax liability. In other words, you can dictate where some of your state tax money will go by making a donation to LOG-STO. Please visit the website, www.logsto.org, for more information.

Our LOG-STO can raise a total of \$489,751 to help families who desire to send their children to a Christian school. A donation of any size would help us to move closer to our goal. Would you please prayerfully consider a gift to the LOG-STO to help a family access Christian education for their children? A donation form was included with last month's Highlights, can be picked up from our school office, or can be found at www.logsto.org.

SPECIAL SOCIETY MEETING!



The board of Oskaloosa Christian School would like to invite all Society members to a special Society meeting on Thursday, December 2, at 6:30 pm at Bethel Christian Reformed Church. The purpose of the meeting is to vote on a motion to raise money for a capital campaign to address interior and exterior building needs for our current school building. Voting can be done in person at the meeting, or you may obtain an absentee ballot, either by coming to the school to pick one up, or by emailing the office at westrap@oskaloosachristian.net to have one emailed to you. For more information, our Town Hall Meetings can be viewed from our website, www.oskaloosachristian.net or please feel free to call the school at 641-672-2174 with any questions. We look forward to seeing you on December 2nd!

OSCI BASKETBALL

BOYS BASKETBALL GAMES 2021-2022

Nov. 18	Grandview Christian	Away	4:15
Dec. 9	Ankeny Christian	Away	4:15
Dec. 14	Twin Cedars	Away	4:00
Dec. 20	North Mahaska	Home	4:30
Jan. 6	Ankeny Christian	Home	4:15
Jan. 11	Twin Cedars	Home	4:00
Jan. 13	Pella Christian	Away	4:30
Jan. 18	Pella Christian	Home	4:30
Jan. 27	Oskey Public	Away	4:30
Feb. 1	Newton	Home	4:30
Feb. 8	Oskey Public	Home	4:30

Basketball Season has begun for Oskaloosa Christian!

Our boys' team is working hard and have already played their first game. We did not have enough interest to have a girls' team this year, but they will be cheering the boys team on for sure!

Our boys team has four 7th graders and five 8th graders. The 7th graders are Elijah Boender, Ian Fay, Grant Main, and Finn Spronk. The 8th graders are Trent De Bruin, Brandon Groenendyk, Harrison Mullens, Landon Van Donselaar, and Dane Van Mersbergen. They will again be coached by Mr. James Mullens.

We'd love to have you check out the game schedule and come to cheer for our student athletes!



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:

November 30, December 6, 13, January 3

TRIP cards make great Christmas gifts....
December 13 is the last order date before Christmas Break!

Quick facts: June 2021--to date:

Total Sales to date: \$116,000!
Tuition Credit Accumulated: over \$4,400!

Cash and Carry TRIP cards are available from the office on a first-come, first-serve basis: Amazon, Applebee's, Arby's, Bredeaux, Casey's, Culver's, Eagle's Nest, Fareway, Great Clips, Hy-Vee, JC Penney, Kohl's, Mahaska Drug, Maurice's, Menards, PC Mall, Pizza Hut, Pizza Ranch, Subway, Sunnyslope, Taco Bell, Taco John's, Target, Taso's, Tupperware, Two Rivers Pella, WalMart, Wendy's

Did You Know - TRIP isn't just for school families! Anyone can purchase TRIP gift cards. It's quick, it's easy, & it's free!! Your earnings can benefit your own family, up to 4 current school families, or even future families of our school. Stop in the office to sign up.

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 make 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 certain stores, to download a card for immediate use to your smartphone. For more information, go to www.shopwithscrip.com or contact Kristin Plate at 641-670-0583.



Soccer balls, stuffed animals, markers, stickers, toy cars, soap, toothbrushes, colored pencils...

These are just a sample of some of the items that filled the gym on November 12 for our packing party!!

The junior high students spent part of their morning packing shoeboxes full of special things to send to a child in another part of the world. This year, we packed 64 boxes!!! That's ten more than our record last year!!

Operation Christmas Child is a ministry of Samaritan's Purse. Each year, the junior high students write letters to and pray for the child who will receive each box. We pray that the recipients' hearts will be open to hearing the good news of Jesus that will be presented to them with their box. What an exciting and fun way for us to be Living Stones of God's Church as we have the opportunity to share God's love in a real way to kids around the world! "Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations..." Matthew 28:19 -Mrs. Stam



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

November



Special Board meeting November 10, 2021

- Dan McKinney called the meeting to order.
- The board asked Don Mitchell to prepare an email to be sent out to parents and staff, announcing a special Society meeting on December 2, 2021. The definition of a Society member is to be included in that communication.
- The board discussed the parameters for absentee ballots. Absentee ballots can either be picked up in the office, or can be requested from Patti Westra via email. Absentee ballots must be signed and accompanied by a printed name to be accepted as a countable ballot.
- Board motions to present to the Society at the meeting:
 - Motion to count absentee ballots on the first vote only. Motion seconded and passed.
 - Motion to complete exterior projects (roof and windows) when 50% of the money is raised and to complete interior projects when the money for exterior projects is completely raised and 50% of the money is raised for interior projects. Motion seconded and passed.
 - Tim Westercamp closed in prayer.

Regular Board meeting November 16, 2021

- Stacy Boender opened with devotions and prayer.
- Motion made, seconded, and passed to accept board minutes for October and consent agenda for November.
- October financial reports were presented.
- Finance Committee Motions:
 - To submit 2 past due accounts from last year over to collections - total- \$8,193.29. Motion seconded and failed.
 - Compensate staff for additional work duties due to Covid from PPP funds. Motion seconded and passed.
- Education Committee Motion:
 - Motion to accept revisions to 600 series of board policy manual as presented. Motion seconded and passed.
- Board Motion:
 - Motion to extend Christmas gifts to staff. Motion seconded and passed.
- Don Mitchell reminded the board of the board workshop on February 1, 2022 and encouraged them to attend.
- Don Mitchell asked for help with parking and offering collection at the fall concert.
- Jim Eveland presented forms for the administrator evaluation for both board and staff. The board reviewed the forms. Motion made and seconded to use the forms for the administrator's evaluation. Motion passed.
- Don Mitchell reviewed the logistics for the upcoming special Society meeting.
- Don Mitchell gave an update on the discussion with the IHSAA regarding cooperative agreements. The board instructed Don to begin the appeal process with the IHSAA.
- Matt Drost reminded board members to be considering possible board members for the 2022-2023 school year.
- BJ Boender made the board aware that visitors from Pella Christian High School would like to attend the board's January board meeting.
- As chairman of the Advancement Committee, BJ Boender asked the board for direction regarding the FGTC fall mailing, given the possibility of impending fundraising for a capital campaign. The board advised the Advancement Committee to proceed as scheduled with their fall mailing.
- Next meeting: December 21, 2021 @ 6:30 pm
- Motion to adjourn. Motion seconded and passed.
- Jim Eveland closed in prayer.