



Oroville Christian School Newsletter

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From the Head of School

Why do we have a Christian school as a ministry of the Evangelical Free Church of Oroville? Here are some thoughts:

1. The church clearly has a Biblical mandate to evangelize and disciple (Matt. 28:18-20). James Smart insists, "The Church must teach, just as it must preach, or it will not be

the Church....Teaching belongs to the essence of the Church and a church that neglects this function of teaching has lost something that is indispensable to its nature as a church." He goes on to add, "For education to avail for discipleship, it must be Christian education." He continues with, "Such Christian education includes, among other things, a theologically informed purpose (for the glory of God, growth in the faith, and advancement of God's kingdom), a theologically informed selection of content (from, for example, Scripture, theological tradition, and church history), and a theologically informed design (regarding the relationship between teacher and student, the educational environment, and instructional methods." "

2. Parents also have a clear directive from scripture to lead in their child's spiritual development. Proverbs 22:6 exhorts, "Train up a child in the way he should go..." But what does it mean to train a child? The word used by Solomon, the Hebrew *chanak*, appears in the Old Testament four other times, in three verses of Scripture. In these instances (Deut 20:5, 1 Kings 8:63, 2 Ch. 7:5), *chanak* is translated as "dedicate" and is related to sacrificing or dedicating something to the Lord. Used as a verb with an object, the English word, *train*, is defined as developing or forming thoughts, habits, or behavior through discipline and instruction. Parents, the church, and the school become partners in the educational journey of the child, teaching them to do all He has commanded (Matt. 27:19-20).

3. The public school is not neutral. Sometimes subtle, sometimes blatant, today's children are not raised in a bubble. In 21st century America, children are bombarded with worldly wisdom, and tempted at earlier ages with things that would have stunned parents of previous generations. Many of these challenges come during the ages of 10-13, when pre- and young teens are especially moldable and teachable. In her blog *Teach 4 the Heart*, Linda Kardamis reminds us that:

- ◆ The public school has an agenda.
- ◆ Our kids need to do more than just survive.
- ◆ Our kids are still in training.

4. Today's children will be tomorrow's leaders and defenders of the faith. Alisa Childers grew up in the church, graduated from L.A. Baptist H.S., and eventually became a member of the very successful Christian pop group "Zoe Girl." Then she learned her pastor was a skeptic, who confronted her with questions and counterclaims about the reliability of Scripture, or even the existence of God. Flailing in doubt, Childers went to work to find answers, studying Scripture, church history, great apologists for the Christian faith (past and present), and critiques of the claims of progressivism. In the process, she found that her beliefs had rock-solid foundations, and answers to the toughest questions. Recently, she authored a book titled *Another Gospel: A Lifelong Christian Seeks Truth in Response to Progressive Christianity* to address the ideas deceiving so many Christian.

Many Christian schools have forgotten their why and drifted off-track. It is good for us to stop and recalibrate, to avoid, as C.S. Lewis put it, "Education without values, as useful as it is, seems rather to make man a more clever devil."

Soli Deo Gloria

Mark Bates

Chapel, EDSS, and Band Return



In our effort to return to in-person instruction, it was necessary to suspend several of the ministry opportunities that make OCS a special place. It is now time to bring several of those back on line.

EDSS will begin on November 9 after school for those who have already pre-registered. To check on availability, please contact the office.

Band will resume for 5th & 6th graders on November 12. Sixth graders will begin at 7:30 am in the sanctuary and 5th graders will follow. Seventh graders will begin the following week. Check back later for more details.

Our first all-school **Chapel** will be Friday, November 20. The theme will be Thanksgiving Praise & Worship and each class will have a part. Unfortunately, we are unable to have parents join us at this event. However, we anticipate that chapels will be open to everyone in the near future.

Fall Festival A Success

On Friday, October 30, the OCS PTPF and the Children's Ministries from the church combined to host a drive through Fall Festival. The event was well-received and well-attended. It is estimated that over 100 students attended. Thank you to Julie Ching (PTPF President) and Alyssa Bell (Children's Ministries) for heading up this fun event. Plans are in the works for another event in December.



Samaritan's Purse
INTERNATIONAL RELIEF



The holiday season is upon us, and so it's time to start thinking about how we, as a school, can bless others. We have decided to partner with Samaritan's Purse again this year to raise money to help families purchase goats, or other dairy animals, which will supply milk to help families in need in places like Kenya, Vietnam or Nepal. Just one goat can produce enough milk each week to sustain a family, with plenty left to sell at a local market.

This will be a contest between the classes to see who can raise the most money. We will be collecting funds (cash or check only, please make checks payable to OCS) Monday, November 9th thru Friday, Dec 4th You can give it to Mrs. Stanton in the office or to your teacher.

If God is leading you to give, we would love to have you participate.

Important Dates

Nov 6 Noon Dismissal - End of first trimester

Nov 11 Veteran's Day - **No school**

Nov 12 Report cards sent home

Nov 13 Picture Day

Nov 20 Noon Dismissal - Campus closed at 1 pm

Nov 21 - 29 Thanksgiving Break

Nov 30 School resumes

And from far away the Lord appeared to his people and said, "I love you people with a love that will last forever. That is why I have continued showing you kindness. Jeremiah 31:3

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