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From the Head of School

A few years ago, journalist and podcaster Malcolm Gladwell told a story in his book “Blink” about how surprisingly accurate human intuitions can be. In the early 2000s, a decorated general who had fought in Vietnam

was called to the Pentagon, along with other top military analysts, specialists, and software engineers, to help with a war simulation exercise. Worried about unstable conditions in the Middle East, a simulation was set up to play out strategy if, say, an unstable despot did something rash.

For the simulation, Pentagon officials studied and made calculations and built algorithms to plan for every possible contingency. The Vietnam veteran general was, on the other hand, assigned as the enemy. He was privy to none of the sophisticated strategizing, fancy equipment, software, or teams of mathematicians. Instead, he used intuition and the wisdom earned on the ground in Vietnam. Rather than calling meetings every time conditions changed, the General made decisions quickly. According to Gladwell, he trusted his gut. He won the battle in two days, humiliating the Pentagon.

Gladwell’s main point is that humans tend to overthink things. The amazing successes of our science and technologies have led us to idolize sophistication and, at times, complicate what is simple.

Many scientists and astronomers, of course, know and believe in the Creator. However, the better our technology and the more specialized our tools, the more we, as enlightened moderns, doubt older wisdom. Our algorithms and war game strategies and sophisticated techniques can, unintentionally become blinders that block the God-given intuition that comes from our created humanity. Recently, when light was discovered in a part of the galaxy where there ought not be any, maybe we have stifled the most plausible explanation. Long ago, Someone said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. That Someone, then, told us all about it.

Perhaps, it would be easier to see God in “the heavens” He made if we were not so convinced of our ability to explain everything by purely naturalistic causes or even, as some do, to dismiss all supernatural causes. Maybe our gut instinct to look upward when we encounter the unexplained is the right one. If the heavens indeed “declare the glory of God,” we would do well to listen.

Soli Deo Gloria.

Mark Bates

OCS WELCOMES NEW TEACHER

- **Miss Samantha Ross**

Samantha Ross grew up in Oroville playing competitive soccer, raising pigs, and studying Shakespeare. She was a student at Oroville Christian School and is excited to return as a teacher. Miss Ross is a recent graduate of William Jessup University where she earned a degree in English with a concentration in Literature. During her studies, she played Women's Soccer at Butte Community College and William Jessup University. In her free time, Miss Ross enjoys the outdoors, a good book, and live music. She spends her summers in Tennessee as the Director of Counselors and Activities for Flip Fest Summer Gymnastics Camp. The Lord has filled her with a passion for teaching and working with brilliant young minds wherever He calls her. She cannot wait to creatively explore biblical truths with the students at OCS this spring. Miss Ross will assume the role of a long-term sub, teaching middle school Bible and elementary PE.

Important Dates

Friday, January 8 - Mid-Trimester

Monday, January 18 - NO SCHOOL Martin Luther King Day

Wednesday, January 20 - Progress Reports

Thursday, January 21 - OCS Board Meeting, 6 pm

January's EAGLE CHALLENGE

It's a NEW YEAR! We know all of you had a few too many of Grandma's delicious cookies and candy canes, so now it's time for a **EAGLE PHYSICAL CHALLENGE**! We want YOU to share some pics of you exercising and getting fit!



We challenge you to a 1 minute or longer plank hold and the longest wall sit! Submit those pics and how long you held them for. In addition, share a fun picture of you doing tricks biking, skateboarding, scootering, rollerblading, jumping, dancing, or anything that'll make you move for 30 minutes! And if you feel like sharing a home workout video we can all get moving!

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

Oroville Christian School

Oroville Christian School admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin.