

**NEWS FOR
FAMILIES AND
FRIENDS OF
TALL OAKS**

Special points of interest:

- State of the School
- Day of Prayer and Fasting
- Science Fair
- Pastor Appreciation Breakfast
- Math League
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Our Korean Students
- Teddy Bear Tea
- Honor Roll

**Hannah's Psalm of Praise
by Hannah Jo**

Praise the Lord for He is good,
Praise the Lord all the day.
Trust in Him and He will listen,
Have confidence in Him and
pray.

Thank the Lord for His
creation,
Thank the Lord for land.
He has blessed us with many
friends,
He has blessed us with
companions.
He has given us the scripture,
It tells us what to do....



by Aaron Weber

Visit our website to see
samples of student work
such as the original psalm
and illuminated
manuscript above.
(www.talloaksde.org)

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 3

Accredited by the Association of
Classical and Christian Schools

Winter 2010 - 2011

State of the School

by Dory Zinkand, Principal

Classical Christian education is hard work. Students work hard. Parents work hard. Teachers and administrators work hard. Sometimes we feel as if we have been pushed to the edge of ourselves. What a refreshment an evening like our State of the School meeting can be!

On January 20, Tall Oaks gathered for our annual State of the School event. The meeting featured our Board members, members of our administration, a teacher, Miss Abigail Clevenger, a student, senior Miss Kelly Weber and a parent, Mrs. Beth McGarvey. We reflected on our school's history and the accomplishments and challenges of the past year. We talked about our plans for the coming years and how God has used Tall Oaks to impact our lives. We were able to lift our heads from the weeds and be reminded of the bigger picture - of that vision for God-centered and rigorous education that brought us here in the first place.

Because steady growth is important to our financial stability, a new referral program was discussed. For every full-time, full-tuition student they refer, current Tall Oaks families can earn a thousand dollar discount on their annual tuition payment. We are looking for more families who share our vision of classical and Christian education.

We also heard from Director of

Stewardship, Mr. Harold Naylor, about the Tall Oaks Day of Service scheduled for April 15. All Tall Oaks students will spend the day serving community organizations, such as nursing homes, food pantries, crisis pregnancy centers and soup kitchens. What a great way to encourage our students to make service to others a lifelong habit!



Mr. Dan Mengel, Board Member and Parent

Our Headmaster, Mr. Don Post, announced a Day of Prayer and Fasting for Tall Oaks for February 16. As we look back in gratitude at all God has done here, we do not want to presume upon His continued blessing, but present ourselves before Him to express our thanksgiving and our dependence upon Him.

Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. (Psalm 127:1)

A Day of Prayer and Fasting - February 16, 2011

So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes. Daniel 9:3

Prayerfully consider joining us as we set aside Wednesday, February 16, as a Day of Prayer and Fasting for Tall Oaks. The purpose would be to express concern for the work of God here by praying for the Board, the faculty, the staff, the parents, the students, the recruitment of new families and students, our finances, our culture and our community. We desire to humble ourselves before God and give Him honor and praise for all that is accomplished daily at and through Tall Oaks. We want to implore his protection and guidance as we step into the future. Please pray and fast with us.



THE ASSOCIATION of CLASSICAL
& CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS
Sine doctrina vita est quasi mortis imago

Science Fair

by Christina Schneider

Our annual Science Fair was held on November 15th. It was a wonderful opportunity for the students to interact with scientists from the local community.

Tenth through twelfth grade students began independent research projects during the first few weeks of school. They were free to pursue any scientific field of interest, provided their investigations actually measured something. Upon completion of their research, students presented scientific papers and posters to a panel of 3 judges. Tall Oaks was blessed to have a total of 21 men and women from outside the school donate their time to serve as judges. These judges came from academia, medicine, private industry, and government research and represented a wide variety of scientific fields. Students were judged on background research, methodology, analysis, and presentation of both the poster and paper. They were also judged on a brief oral presentation of their research and had the opportunity to address the judges' questions directly.

The winners of this year's Science Fair were:

- 10th Grade: 1st Place: Courtney Lang – “Does Added Sugar Increase the Growth Rate of a Plant?”
 2nd Place: Josh Brunson – “Who Has the Upper Hand - Boys or Girls?”
 3rd Place: Michelle Kim – “How Do Various Foods Compare at Tooth Decay?”
- 11th Grade: 1st Place: Lydia Stinson – “How Does Frequent Singing Affect Lung Capacity?”
 2nd Place: Kassiya Yarovoy – “Will Caffeine Increase Heart Rate?”
 3rd Place: Phillip Chaffee - “Can You Create a Perfect Reaction between Baking Soda and Vinegar?”
- 12th Grade: 1st Place: Juliann Welch - “Which Produces a Greater Velocity: Follow Through or Stopping on Impact?”
 2nd Place: Karen Shaw – “Which Volleyball Serve Has a Higher Velocity: Underhand or Overhand?”
 3rd Place: Jennifer Ziegler – “Does the pH of Orange Juice Change Over Time?”

Overall Winners: 1st Place: Juliann Welch 2nd Place: Karen Shaw 3rd Place: Lydia Stinson

Pastor Appreciation Breakfast

One of the highlights of our year is when the pastors of our students come to visit them in their classrooms. On January 14, we were able to honor thirty-two pastors, youth workers and their wives by serving them an excellent breakfast prepared by our parents, by giving them a snapshot of what classical Christian education looks like at Tall Oaks, and by escorting them to the classrooms to visit with the students from their churches. It is always fun to observe the excitement in the faces of the children when their pastor enters their domain. Tall Oaks appreciates the many pastors and youth workers from approximately seventy churches who disciple our students. We are thankful for the opportunity we have to support these pastors by teaching and praying for our students to become godly leaders in their churches and communities. Please pray for these men who have been called by God to pastor their flocks.



Upcoming Teddy Bear Tea

On Friday, April 8, 2011, Tall Oaks Classical School will be hosting its annual Teddy Bear Tea from 12:00 noon - 1:30 p.m. This event is held to allow prospective Kindergarten parents the opportunity to have lunch with our Kindergarten teachers, Mrs. Barbara Post, Mrs. Holly Chaffee, and Mrs. Jenny Hardcastle as they share an overview of what classical Christian kindergarten looks like at Tall Oaks. Simultaneously, the little ones have the opportunity to attend a Teddy Bear Tea party (lunch) complete with teddy bear games, songs, and crafts in the Kindergarten classrooms. If you know of a family that is looking for an excellent Kindergarten, please contact the school office. We would be delighted to send an invitation to interested families.
 302-738-3337

Math League

by Robin Gray

For the first time, Tall Oaks is participating in Math League, which is sponsored by The Delaware Council of Teachers of Mathematics, Inc. This is a regional competition for 7th-12th grade students. We have one 9th grade team and one 10th-12th grade team. There are 39 Delaware schools participating in the 9th and 10th - 12th grade competitions, eleven schools in our region with which we compete, and four meets scheduled throughout the year. Students compete both individually and as a team. Each team meets in a room with at least three other teams. The format involves answering six timed individual questions and either one or two timed team questions. The correct answers are scored immediately following each question. Unfortunately, we do not yet have the overall results from the meets we have participated in; however, within the groups our teams were assigned, we did comparatively well and many individuals improved with each meet.

In addition to participating for the first time this year, we also hosted the December meet. We served 130 high school students hot dogs, chips, cookies and water and then led them to our upper school classrooms where the teams were divided for the competition. We are thankful for both faculty and parents who helped serve, directed our visitors and made them feel welcome. Several coaches reported back to me that their students enjoyed having the meet in our facility.



Ase Chioma, Hannah Crismon and Ryan Armstrong

Although we have one meet left for the season - Monday, February 14th at Red Lion Christian Academy - I am already looking forward to the years ahead as we have room to add teams in our current categories as well as add 7th and 8th grade teams. It has been exciting and an encouraging to see growth in our mathematics department.

Our ninth grade team members are Sarah Chaffee, Brendan Donnelly, Joshua Franck, Jaime Weber and Valerie Ziegler. Our tenth through twelfth grade team members are Phillip Chaffee, Chris Choi, Phoebe Hu, Megan Palmer and Kassiya Yarovoy.

Stewardship and the Tall Oaks Scholarship Fund

by Harold Naylor

Everyone has something to share. God blesses us with time, talent and treasure to be used to reflect our love for Him and our gratitude for our salvation in Christ. Sharing these gifts is a regular occurrence at Tall Oaks. We have many parents who volunteer their time and talent in the office, classrooms, lunchroom and in other ways.

There are also many who have been blessed financially. Financial blessing does not mean wealth by society's standards, but it means that we have enough to provide for the essentials and to be able to invest in Kingdom work.

Our goal for this year is \$225,000. By God's grace and through generous givers, we have received over \$75,000. We are very grateful for these gifts, not only

to help meet our financial needs, but also because they are a tangible expression of support for the work being done here. However, we will need another \$150,000 to finish the year.

Thank you to the families and individuals who have already contributed. Please think and pray about Tall Oaks and the blessing it is to your family and to the community at large. Consider what you can and should do to financially support this school over the next five months. He will direct you.

If you have special assets, such as securities or real estate, that you would like to contribute, please call Mr. Naylor at 302-738-3337 or email him at Harold.Naylor@talloaksclassicalschool.org.

Fine Dessert

by Tiffany Sorey

Tall Oaks Classical School recently held our annual Fine Dessert and Annual Fund Kick-off on November 5, 2010. This cherished tradition allows prospective families to 'taste and see' firsthand what is entailed in a Classical Christian education by observing students' presentations on every grade level.

We began the evening by giving our guests a chance to mingle with parents, teachers, students, and administrators over a buffet of fine desserts and coffee. Next, our headmaster, Mr. Post, prayed and gave an overview of Tall Oak's vision and mission. There was also a chance to listen to parents' testimonials of their family's experience at Tall Oaks. Part of the school's mission is to give our children the tools to acquire, process, express, and defend knowledge from a Biblical worldview. Students from kindergarten through twelfth grades demonstrated the latter with examples of not only what they are learning, but also how they are learning. Grammar school students recited chants and songs about presidents, classification of insects, geography facts, etc. Dialectic students gave

examples of affirmative and negative arguments during a debate, and Rhetoric students shared essays they had written and recited poems in Middle English.

This year, we were blessed to have nearly 400 attendees. It was quite evident after witnessing each grade level's presentations that parents and guests ultimately left with the knowledge that Tall Oaks is producing amazing results and fine-thinking members of our community through Christian principles and classical methods of teaching. Many parents left this event having a much more thorough understanding of what is embodied in the classical method by observing each level of learning and thinking delineated in the Classical Christian Trivium (i.e. the Grammar, Dialectic and Rhetoric stages).

At the end of the evening, we hope that all in attendance were inspired by the high level of education that TOCS students are receiving. It is our hope that everyone would prayerfully consider supporting Tall Oaks Classical School through their time, talents, and treasure.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

by Andrea Baines

On Monday, January 18, Tall Oaks took time out to remember Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and learn some of the hard lessons of our nation's past. As Woodrow Wilson said in 1911, "A nation which does not remember what it was yesterday, does not know what it is today, nor what it is trying to do. We are trying to do a futile thing if we do not know where we came from or what we have been about."

In the day's first assembly, the third through fifth graders participated in an activity that used a pretend bus to illustrate segregation. They learned that segregation is contrary to the biblical doctrine that all people are made in the image of God. They watched a documentary about the Montgomery Bus Boycott and had a lively discussion of how Martin Luther King stood on God's Word as he led the fight against the injustice of segregation.

The upper school assembly focused on prejudice. Our visiting speaker, Ron Smith, gave a presentation which helped deepen our students' understanding of prejudice, discrimination and racism. We watched a documentary clip called "Bloody Sunday" in which the evil of hatred was clearly shown in Selma, Alabama. The students learned that prejudice has its source in corrupted hearts. We rejoiced to see people's hearts changing as they came together to right a wrong.

Finally, we ended our day with an assembly for the first and second graders. We focused on the story of Ruby Bridges, an African-American girl who was not allowed to attend school with white children. By the end of the story, the students knew the true meaning of courage and how a small girl, who had faith in God, made a big difference.



Janna Baltar, Colin Jennings and Solomon Abdullah

"Faith is taking the first step, even when you don't see the whole staircase."
Martin Luther King, Jr.

Our Korean Classmates by the American Literature Class

Tall Oaks currently has two students from Korea who have come to the United States to finish their high school education. Do Ha Jin, who goes by the name of Andrew, is a senior; Kwang Hyuk Choi, who goes by the name of Chris, is a sophomore. Andrew and Chris take most of the classes in our core curriculum along with an English as a Second Language (ESL) class taught by Mrs. Jennifer Rippon. The following information is based on interviews gathered in the American Literature class.

Chris Choi is from the city Icheon in South Korea. It is a beautiful mountainous region and is famous for its peaches, rice, and ceramics. One difference between our two countries that Chris has observed is that in the U.S. you need

a car in order to go anywhere. South Korea is small, so in Icheon the buildings are very close together. Chris misses being able to walk to school and other places in the city; school was roughly a ten minute walk from his house. However, Chris likes the U.S. because here he can learn of different cultures. He hopes to be more proficient in all aspects of the English language.

When Chris grows up, he wants to be a dentist or a chemical engineer. He has wanted to be a dentist since the first grade, when his sister had a decayed tooth and needed treatment. He also likes working in laboratories, and chemical engineers get to do that a lot. He says they are both interesting professions. Who knows, one day he might receive a Nobel Prize or tell you to say "aaahhh!" Chris has played the violin for four years and is currently part of the Tall Oaks string ensemble. Some of his favorite foods include chicken, meat, fruit, soup and ice cream.

When Andrew Jin was a boy, he had the dream of becoming a police officer. Over the years, his passion for becoming a police officer faded and he envisioned becoming a successful business man.

Andrew had many hobbies when he was younger. He started ice skating at the age of five and continued to do so for nine years. Unfortunately, he had to stop due to hand surgery. He also enjoys taekwondo and swimming. He has been in America for four years.

Like Chris, Andrew has been surprised by his experience coming to America. He explains that a few years back he was just another kid in South



Do Ha Jin (Andrew) and Kwang Hyuk Choi (Chris)

Korea and had no idea or intention of leaving for the red, white and blue. "Go to America," a very familiar voice said to Andrew; it was the voice of his mother. Before he knew it he was on the plane for America - Delaware to be exact. The plane ride was a

journey, but once he stepped off, the real journey began. He breathed the same air and felt the same sunshine, but he quickly realized that this was, indeed, not Korea. Korea's busy streets filled with people were replaced by fields of grass and trees; the apartment buildings were replaced by neighborhoods and corner Wawas. Tall Oaks Classical School was also something Andrew was not used to. Back home, Andrew would be attending school from 6:00 am till 9:00 pm six days a week.

When asked about food, Andrew prefers Korean food the best. The only thing that tops Korean food is Italian; he enjoys lasagna, spaghetti and garlic bread. In his free time, Andrew also likes to play computer games and go to the mall especially to *Express* and *SukiHana*.

Although Andrew can do his favorite things anywhere, he would like to travel more to Australia, New Zealand, Taiwan and even China. Despite talking about where he would rather be, he seems to be warming up to this place - to Delaware, to America.

Second Quarter Grammar Honor Roll

Grade 1			Grade 2			Grade 3		
Solomon	Abdullah	All A Honor Roll	Zechariah	Carter	All A Honor Roll	Erin	Babatunde	All A Honor Roll
Teni	Babatunde	All A Honor Roll	Ruth	Praveen	All A Honor Roll	Rose	Brown	All A Honor Roll
Victoria	Barnett	All A Honor Roll	Margaret	Schneider	All A Honor Roll	Caroline	Ho	All A Honor Roll
Lydia	Brown	All A Honor Roll	Lauren	Scott	All A Honor Roll	Nathan	Lu	All A Honor Roll
Justin	Byrd	All A Honor Roll	Adaire	Stone	All A Honor Roll	Rachel	Man	All A Honor Roll
Tyler	Crison	All A Honor Roll	Katherine	Winstead	All A Honor Roll	Samuel	McGarvey	All A Honor Roll
Elliot	Dunham	All A Honor Roll				Katie	Rippon	All A Honor Roll
Delainey	Gray	All A Honor Roll	Dante	Brinkley	AB Honor Roll	Aiden	Schmiedel	All A Honor Roll
Faith	Hollister	All A Honor Roll	Giovanni	Casagrande	AB Honor Roll	Zion	Weeks	All A Honor Roll
Colin	Jennings	All A Honor Roll	Grant	Gray	AB Honor Roll	Jack	Hardcastle	AB Honor Roll
Kiersten	Mengel	All A Honor Roll	Noah	Griffin	AB Honor Roll	Ja	Haygood	AB Honor Roll
Abi-Grace	Savizon	All A Honor Roll	Dru	Johnson	AB Honor Roll	Andrew	Monson	AB Honor Roll
Thomas	Stinson	All A Honor Roll	Gracelyn	Landis	AB Honor Roll	Micah	Pitts	AB Honor Roll
Richard	Turley	All A Honor Roll	Rebekah	Pozsonyi	AB Honor Roll	Katie	Rhoades	AB Honor Roll
			Treasure	Sikes	AB Honor Roll	Marc	Sherman	AB Honor Roll
Maggie	Armstrong	AB Honor Roll	Shaun	Simmons	AB Honor Roll	Ryan	Silver	AB Honor Roll
Janna	Baltar	AB Honor Roll	Evan	Weston	AB Honor Roll	Mariko	Turley	AB Honor Roll
Samuel	Hardcastle	AB Honor Roll						
Aniya	McAfee	AB Honor Roll						
Jake	Mercer	AB Honor Roll						
Abigail	Pitts	AB Honor Roll						
Joslyn	Spedden	AB Honor Roll						
Xavier	Storey	AB Honor Roll						

Classical education equips students to think clearly, to argue persuasively, and to understand where philosophies and ideas come from. I am convinced that men and women who are able to do this will always lead those who can't.
Susan Wise Bauer, *The Well-Trained Mind*

Grade 4			Grade 5			Grade 6		
Annaleah	daPonte	All A Honor Roll	Lezlie	Gray	All A Honor Roll	Lydia	Collins	All A Honor Roll
Alexee	Gray	All A Honor Roll	Hannah	Jo	All A Honor Roll	Jordan	Hunt	All A Honor Roll
Thomas	McGraw	All A Honor Roll	Hannah	McGarvey	All A Honor Roll	Sophia	Schmiedel	All A Honor Roll
Jaylen	Rowe	All A Honor Roll	Naomi	Mengel	All A Honor Roll	Benjamin	Schneider	All A Honor Roll
			Ruby	Mercer	All A Honor Roll	Kana	Turley	All A Honor Roll
Nise	Allen	AB Honor Roll	Eric	Ziegler	All A Honor Roll	Aaron	Weber	All A Honor Roll
Taylor	Baines	AB Honor Roll				Badia	Weeks	All A Honor Roll
Adrian	Baltar	AB Honor Roll	Trevor	Baines	AB Honor Roll			
Aidan	Briggs	AB Honor Roll	Daniel	Donnelly	AB Honor Roll	Taylor	Henry	AB Honor Roll
Jalynn	Brunson	AB Honor Roll	LaNaya	Garrett	AB Honor Roll	Emma	Mercer	AB Honor Roll
Savannah	Horton	AB Honor Roll	Natalie	Monson	AB Honor Roll	Dana	Sorey	AB Honor Roll
Clarke	Johnson	AB Honor Roll	Merissa	Price	AB Honor Roll	Victoria	Taylor	AB Honor Roll
Jessica	Johnson	AB Honor Roll	Anthony	Roundtree	AB Honor Roll			
Jacob	Munson	AB Honor Roll	Luke	Sherman	AB Honor Roll			
Joshua	Pozsonyi	AB Honor Roll	Jessica	Silver	AB Honor Roll			
Isaiah	Taylor	AB Honor Roll						

For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love.

Second Quarter Dialectic Honor Roll

Grade 7

Gabriella	daPonte	Summa Cum Laude
James	Donnelly	Summa Cum Laude
Tabitha	Harvey	Summa Cum Laude
Samantha	Abdullah	Magna Cum Laude
Joy	Brunson	Cum Laude
Michaela	Kelly	Cum Laude

Grade 8

AnnaClaire	Schmiedel	Summa Cum Laude
Amy	Armstrong	Cum Laude

So they will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD that He may be glorified.

Isaiah 61:3b

Second Quarter Rhetoric Honor Roll

Grade 9

Hannah	Crismon	Summa Cum Laude
Brendan	Donnelly	Summa Cum Laude
Jaime	Weber	Summa Cum Laude
Valerie	Ziegler	Summa Cum Laude
Christina	Mentzer	Magna Cum Laude
Sarah	Chaffee	Cum Laude
Joshua	Franck	Cum Laude
Abigail	Pfenninger	Cum Laude

Grade 10

Terry	Brunson	Magna Cum Laude
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Grade 12

Karen	Shaw	Summa Cum Laude
Kelly	Weber	Summa Cum Laude
Brian	Davison	Magna Cum Laude
Shannon	Groth	Magna Cum Laude
Jennifer	Ziegler	Magna Cum Laude

Grade 11

Kassiya	Yarovoy	Summa Cum Laude
Megan	Palmer	Magna Cum Laude
Lydia	Stinson	Magna Cum Laude
Phoebe	Hu	Cum Laude



Joy Brunson



Isaiah Taylor, Elizabeth Kelly and Jalyynn Brunson

Average SAT Scores - Class of 2011

Critical Reading: 664
 Mathematics: 610
 Writing Skills: 631

Cum Laude = 3.5 - 3.69

Magna Cum Laude = 3.7 - 3.99

Summa Cum Laude = 4.0



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb.	9	7:50 - 9:00 am	Second Wednesday Tour
	9	9:30 - 4:00 pm	Open House
	16		Day of Prayer and Fasting
March	2	8:30 - 12:30 pm	Fine Arts Presentations - Grades K through 5
	3	8:30 - 1:30 pm	Fine Arts Presentations - Grades 6 through 12
	9	7:50 - 9:00 am	Second Wednesday Tour
	10	9:30 - 4:00 pm	Open House
	11	7:00 pm	Fine Arts Festival
	17 - 18		History Day
April	1	9:30 - 4:00 pm	Open House
	8	12:00 - 1:30 pm	Teddy Bear Tea
	13	7:50 - 9:00 am	Second Wednesday Tour
	15		Day of Service
	19	9:30 - 4:00 pm	Open House

Ushered to His Throne

Mr. Post's mother, Mrs. Patricia Post, met the Lord "face to face" on November 3, 2010 as did Mr. Karl Mason's father, Mr. Thomas R. Mason, on January 6, 2011. We offer our deepest sympathies to both families and ask you to keep them in your prayers as they walk through this deep valley of sorrow.

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God." 11 Cor. 1:3