

OCTOBER 2023

MIND & SOUL

News from Orillia Christian School

MICAH 6:8

SEEK JUSTICE
LOVE MERCY
WALK HUMBLY
WITH YOUR GOD

2023-2024

LATEST NEWS IN THIS ISSUE:

- Principal Note
- News & Prayer Spot
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The 2023-2024 school year is underway! We have had an amazing start and feel very blessed as we anticipate all that God will do at Orillia Christian School this year. Our Theme comes from Micah 6 and we will focus on the message of **ACT, LOVE, WALK** and what this means for our lives as followers of Christ! We are excited to share glimpses of our school year with you through this newsletter! Thank you for supporting our school and getting behind our mission here in Orillia!

Happy Thanksgiving from Orillia Christian School!

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow!"



PRINCIPAL NOTE

Jesus Cleanses Ten Lepers

11 jOn the way to Jerusalem he was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. 12 And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance 13 and lifted up their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." 14 When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. 15 Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; 16 and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. 17 Then Jesus answered, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? 18 Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" 19 And he said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well." Luke 17:11-19

Every night before bed I ask my children three questions for prayer, one of which is: "What are you thankful for?" Typically, answers don't vary much from "my toys", or "yummy food". If I am lucky they may even say "my dad!". Oftentimes I find myself frustrated at the limited answers they give, and want to open their eyes to how blessed they are. As I look at the account of the ten lepers and reflect on this, even in my own life, it makes me realize that a lack of thankfulness is something we as sinful humans struggle with. Despite the fact that we know the one leper who gave thanks worshiped the Lord rightly, we more readily identify ourselves with the other nine, we more often than not find ourselves as one of 'the nine'.

What impedes our ability to respond with gratitude? And how can we cultivate hearts of thankfulness?

It begins with mercy

And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." The ten lepers recognized that Jesus was the only one that could heal them. They went out of their way from their lives in exile to find Jesus because they had heard about the miracles he had performed. Jesus saw them and listened to their cries for mercy. Similarly, Jesus offers us mercy from the sin that separates us from God through his death and resurrection. It is this foundation that our thanksgiving is built upon. We should never tire of the beauty of this gospel truth, and it should bolster our faith and renew our attitude towards everything. It is only because of God's mercy to us that we can 'give thanks in all circumstances' (1 Thessalonians 5:8) and 'give thanks always and for everything' (Ephesians 5:20).

Stop and focus on who God is

When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. The ten lepers did what Jesus told them to, they left. Can you imagine their excitement as they left and were cleansed? All the things they had missed in exile for so long were waiting for them as they walked away. What they were doing wasn't wrong, but it wasn't right either. In their excitement and enjoyment they missed something even better—the chance to thank Him, to praise God, to show love and gratitude and happiness. Just a slight detour would have made the experience so much better, as they would have joyfully been in Jesus' presence. Too often, we miss out on giving thanks because our focus is in the wrong place. Instead of focusing on Jesus we are focused on our circumstances. This limits our thankfulness in a few ways: we are tempted to believe that we had a part to play in his blessings, we are thankful only when things are going well, or we have short memories of his goodness. So stop, take the detour, take time to focus on who God is and meditate on what he has done, and let your thankfulness flow from this. The reward is His presence, which is worth much more than the physical healing itself. The miracles of the New Testament are meant to point us to the Healer who can give us everlasting life.

Be thankful in the work of God's goodness

Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. The leper that did choose to turn back wasn't shy about expressing his gratitude. He saw the evidence of God's goodness in his life and his thankfulness was expressed in praise. This should be true of our lives as well. When God's goodness is evident in our life we shouldn't keep quiet. We must praise God for what he has done and continues to do. In doing this, God gets the glory and honour that he deserves.

The story of the ten lepers teaches us that God's mercy should lead us to thankfulness. We are saved, and our response to salvation should always be gratitude in all circumstances. It also reminds us to stop and be thankful for God's presence. Finally, it is an encouragement to turn our thanksgiving into praise, because He is worthy of everyone's worship.

Every night before bed I ask my children 3 questions for prayer: what is something you are thankful for? What is something or someone we need to pray for? What do we need to ask for forgiveness for?

OCS NEWS



Mrs. Kloosterman.



Mr. Harris



Mrs. Gibbs

WELCOME

With continued growth, we added yet another classroom to our school! Our new grade 2/3 class is taught by Mrs. Tamara Kloosterman.

Mr. Aaron Harris joined us teaching grade 7/8, and Mrs. Kelly Gibbs is teaching French school wide!

NEW ROOF

After several leaks, our building was in desperate need of a new roof, and we are happy to have had this project take place over the Summer! It is a blessing and relief for us heading into a new school year!



SPIRIT WEAR

Updated Spirit Wear is available! If you are not an enrolled family, but would like to purchase spirit wear please reach out to the school office!

Orders and payment due by October 31st

. . . PRAYER SPOT . . .

- Praising God for continued provision of 3 new staff members and 11 new families!
- 119 students are blessed with a Christian education this year. (64 families)
- Wisdom for our Board as they make leadership decisions for the upcoming year, while pouring so much into our school, and our staff who go above and beyond in their roles!
- For our upcoming Walkathon and Silent Auction fundraisers!
- For the thrift store leadership as they pursue this opportunity, finalizing the renovations & seek volunteers, and for an opening soon!
- For our graduates as they have started into High School, that they would remain steadfast.
- Priase for the new roof, which we desperately needed!

STUDENT LIFE



LEADERSHIP RETREAT

What a blessing it was to spend the day together with our grade 5-8 students! We focused on our theme for the year from Micah 6:8 and applied it by spending the day practicing teamwork and leadership activities. We are praying these lessons will stick with students throughout the year as they ACT, LOVE & WALK. Thank you so much to our staff and parents who took the time and energy to make this day amazing. Students at OCS are so well loved and it's amazing to see the community pouring into them in this way. And a giant thanks to the **Bob Rumball Camp of the Deaf** for hosting us, we had an incredible time!



SOCCER

Let's go Eagles! What an exciting day competing in the soccer tournament on October 5th! Our team did an amazing job and we couldn't be more proud of their sportsmanship, team work and level of play! With 1 win and 2 losses, we pushed through and made some great memories along the way! Way to go OCS!

*Check out our **BRAND NEW SPORTS JERSEYS!** We are so excited to get to use these for the first time, our team looked sharp rocking our eagles logo and recently updated school colours!!



FUNDRAISING



WALKATHON UPDATE

Our walkathon is underway! Our goal is to provide Christian education within the city of Orillia, and the Walkathon allows us to reach more families with affordable tuition options.

Our goal is to raise \$30,000 through this fundraiser! The students are very excited to work together to exceed this goal, as well as earn some fun prizes on October 12th! To sponsor a student, reach out to any OCS students you know! Or visit www.orilliachristianschool.com/walkathon



Grade 4 raised over \$600 at their 'coffee pop up shop', aiming for TOP CLASS this year!

Thank you to our 2023 sponsors!

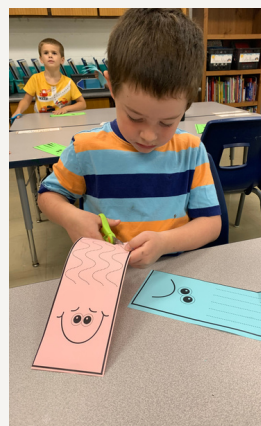


THE
BUCK
GROUP



SILENT AUCTION – SAVE THE DATE!

Our Dessert Night with final bidding will be Friday November 24th!
See our Facebook page for more information, including our online auction!



UP & COMING NEWS

DEVELOPING THRIFT STORE

The thrift store board continues to meet regularly as they plan next steps!

The store is progressing nicely with renovations being completed! The end is in sight! Please continue to pray for this up and coming ministry. We are grateful for the leadership of this project as they persevere towards an opening!



Your support makes a **difference!**

When you support OCS, you are investing in the lives of our students today and in the years to come as they live out their lives to glorify Christ. Please consider partnering with us, so that we can continue a legacy of building up the next generation.

Please consider partnering with us before the end of the year!

Email bookkeeper@orilliachristianschool.com

visit www.orilliachristianschool.com/donate or call 705-326-0532

Mail cheques to 505 Gill St. Box 862, Orillia ON L3V6K8

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