

# THE OCS Mind & Soul

OCTOBER  
2012



## Giving Thanks, Piece by (Little) Piece

(An excerpt from a Chapel Address by Pastor Chris Cooke)

Imagine, having the Lord in control of your life, and putting all the pieces of that life together so that what comes out of you in response are songs of thanksgiving and the sound of rejoicing! That would be a pretty neat thing to see...

But isn't that what God offers us in Jesus Christ? The privilege of our spiritual fortunes restored, our dwellings blessed with compassion, and the ruins of our lives rebuilt. The promise from God to us is that it is His desire to build us into a spiritual house that will sing His praises. We don't think of that very often, but it's the truth! God has a really big plan for each of us: to build us up, to heal us when we're hurt, and to plant us to be a holy temple for His glory in the world- a cool structure that is going to last forever and ever. The pieces that God uses to build His temple are often the materials that we overlook from time to time. We may have even been tempted to throw away these areas of our lives without thinking...



Like our time in school, the projects we do, the homework we have, the subjects teachers give us to learn, math tests, history lessons, memorizing Bible verses that we're going to get tested on later; pieces like our attitude when we do our work. The little pieces that God uses to build us into His holy temple can be how we treat our families and how we love one another.

God uses all the little areas of our lives to build us up into witnesses that will shine Jesus' light to others so they will know how awesome He is. And in Jeremiah 30:18-20, God is asking us to look at how we feel when all of the pieces of our lives are assembled, both the big ones and the little ones. He is asking us to look at our lives to see whether our attitude is like the writer of this article, who, when playing with Lego as a kid, thought it was too much work to get to all the



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fun! Who couldn't figure out why anyone would spend all that time assembling all the little pieces just to play with a toy, when you could go into the store and buy an already-put-together toy and play with it right away!

One temptation is to act like this in real life, to see the little pieces of our lives and say; "This is too much work," or "This is no fun," or "Why would anyone waste their time paying attention to any of this?" When we face moments like that, we can forget what makes God truly happy. To God, each moment of our lives matters and each moment is a gift that He gives us. God uses each little moment to make us to be like Jesus. And what makes Him happy is how we feel in the small moments: is our heart full of songs of thanksgiving and the sound of rejoicing?



ORILLIA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

*Educating the mind. Nurturing the soul.*

# Equipping Mind, Heart, and Body

**CARING TEACHERS** EXCELLENT ACADEMIC PROGRAM **BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW** INTRAMURAL SPORTS  
 WEEKLY HOT LUNCH PROGRAM **READING BUDDIES** SUPPORTIVE RESOURCE PROGRAM **FULL-SIZE GYM**  
**PRAYER ROOM** WELCOMING COMMUNITY **SPIRIT DAYS** ANNUAL YEARBOOK **COMPUTER LAB** FUN  
 SMALL CLASS SIZES **DISCOVERY PROGRAM—NILD** SMILING FACES **PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT**  
**SCHOOL-WIDE CHAPELS** SPONSOR A SCHOOL IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC **WORSHIP** GRANDPARENTS' DAY  
 DOWNSTAIRS HOCKEY LEAGUE **JUNIOR & SENIOR KINDERGARTEN** GRADUATION **CLASS TRIPS**  
**COMPASSION CLUB** PRIVATE PIANO & VOICE LESSONS AVAILABLE **QUALIFIED TEACHERS** CLASS DEVOTIONS



## Toronto North District Christian Schools Cross-Country Meet

### OCS Top 10 Finish:

- ✦ Janel D., 6th in Midget Girls
- ✦ Dawson N., 8th in Senior Boys

### OCS Team Results:

- ✦ Midget Girls, 3rd
- ✦ Senior Girls, 3rd

## Toronto North District Christian Schools Soccer Tournament

### OCS Results:

- ✦ 2 wins
- ✦ 1 tie
- ✦ 3 close losses

Good effort, team!



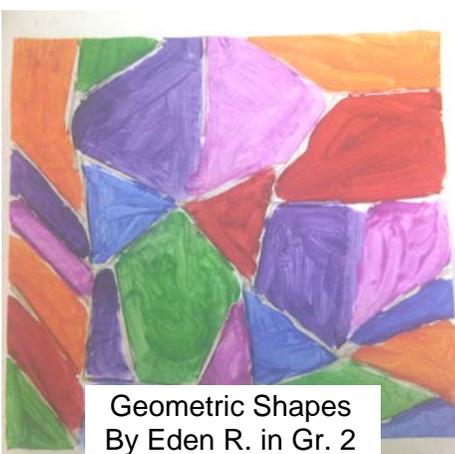
Flight School  
Gr. 5/6 Visits Mr. Betsworth



Spirit Day  
Teddy Bear Day with Gr. 1/2



Let's Face It!  
By Owen N. in Gr. 6



Geometric Shapes  
By Eden R. in Gr. 2



Let's Face It!  
By Alayna S. in Gr. 6

## Jennifer Rupke Class of 2004 Teaching English in China: Lessons in Teaching, Lessons in Trusting

For the past four and a half years I have been attending Briercrest College and Seminary. In December 2012, I will be graduating with a B.A. in Applied Linguistics: TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages). After returning from my main internship in China this past summer, I have become so confident in the Lord's direction. Because of this experience, I have grown in my love for people, culture, and languages. The following write-up is a more detailed explanation of the events that occurred on this trip to Sichuan, China.

For six weeks this summer, four TESOL classmates and I joined with the organization ELIC (English Language Institute China) for their Summer Teaching Program. We had the unique opportunity to work with Chinese teachers of English to help them improve their English skills and provide them with new methods of teaching. We were placed in an area of China where evangelism of any kind was not welcomed, so I was not surprised when I found out none of my teachers were

believers. Although this was the case, it did not take away my confidence in what Christ could do in this place!

Below is a picture of my class in all their fullness. Every face you see represents a different story, many of which I had the privilege of learning about during my time there. All stories, however, share a common thread of a time in history that affected every piece of them. Most of these teachers were from the area of Dujiangyan, the town our team taught in. In 2008,

Dujiangyan was affected by a natural disaster that would shake every family in

this area. On May 12, 2008 at 2:28pm there was an 8 magnitude devastating earthquake that struck Dujiangyan. Mountains fell and houses and schools in both urban and rural areas collapsed. This is the most serious natural disaster that Dujiangyan city has ever faced, and they have yet to heal from the suffering that was caused with the losses of life and property. The loss of



many teachers caused for a great deal of stress on the school system. They did not have enough teachers, including English teachers, to run various programs. Many of the teachers who studied other subjects such as Math, History, or Chinese were put into school systems to teach English-- a subject they were very poor at. This is why we came to Guanya School in Dujiangyan. These teachers were put into our program to improve their English so that they can be more effective in the class-

room. We helped equip these teachers to fill in the gap that the earthquake caused.

From the first day I had the opportunity to learn about their lives, hearts, desires and fears I knew these teachers would be people that would change my life, and they have. They are the most welcoming, caring, and forgiving people I have ever met. They have taught me what it means to be the best you can be, and to put your heart into everything you

do. Just as much as they have changed my life, the Lord is also changing theirs! I had the opportunity to share about Christmas in North America during the first week of teaching, and when I asked the classes what new things they learned, more than once they said, "I never knew about Jesus!" I was also given the opportunity to share part of my story and how the Lord has changed my heart in a conversation with one of my teachers. I came into this trip wanting the Lord to save souls, but I came out more aware of how the Father truly works. I may not have witnessed someone come to know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour, but I have witnessed the Lord planting seeds in many lives here. This was a definite highlight to the trip! Galatians 6:9 served as a constant reminder to never grow weary or give up, for we never know when our Father will use us as tools to reap!

## IN TOUCH Alumni News

If you are a former student of Orillia Christian School, we would love to hear about where you are at in life and how God is using you. Drop us a line with some specifics:

[principal@orilliachristianschool.com](mailto:principal@orilliachristianschool.com)

## MARRIAGES

**Hilary Triemstra ('06)** and Tyler Knegt were married on October 27, 2012.

## BIRTHS

**Russell ('02)** and Jessie **Whittaker** were blessed with a son, Ryker Scott, weighing 7 lbs. 15 oz., on September 25, 2012.

## GONE TO GLORY

"Shared joy is joy doubled; shared sorrow is half a sorrow." (Swedish proverb)

## Our Mission

To support Christian families in educating to equip the mind, heart, and body of children through Christ-centred curriculum and teaching for service in the world.



## Our Vision

To enhance excellence in Christ-centred education for students through strong leadership, improved facilities, and solid community relationships.



Image source: ebbibleteacher.com

2012-2013 Annual Theme

**Act Boldly for Christ**  
The Parables of Jesus



## Upcoming Events

<b>OCS Society Membership Meeting</b>	<b>11/13</b>
<b>TND Volleyball Tournament</b>	<b>Week of 11/12</b>
<b>Moms 'n Tots Christmas Stay-and-Play</b>	<b>11/30</b>
9:30 A.M. till noon. Call the school office for more info! Come for a grand time!	
<b>Christmas Program and Gathering</b>	<b>12/18</b>

November Chapel Schedule		
11/2	Annual theme after home groups	Guest Speaker: Pastor J. Welch
11/12	Remembrance Day	Led by gr. 3/4 class
11/23	Focus on Unity Christian High	Guest Speaker: Mr. P. Bulhuis
11/30	Annual theme after home groups	Guest Speaker: Mrs. H. Goodall

## Community Support

Maybe you've heard that it takes a community to raise a child. Here are some ways you can help!

### Mabel's Labels Fundraiser

Personalized award-winning labels for kids and adults. Dishwasher safe.

Microwave safe. Waterproof. Ship worldwide. A fabulous gift idea as well!

Go to [www.orillia.mabelslabels.com](http://www.orillia.mabelslabels.com) and make your purchase to benefit OCS.

### Poinsettia Fundraiser

6" \$8.00                      10" Mix Tropical Centre Piece                      \$22.00

10" \$28.00                      3' Poinsettia Tree                      \$50.00

Great for home, business, or church. Must be picked up from OCS and paid for on November 29. Call Michelle at 705.326.6199 or Judy at 705.259.3115 to order. All orders must be placed by 3 P.M. on November 15.

**Collect Campbell's labels, Zehrs grocery tapes, and empty ink cartridges and drop them off at the school office.**

**Buy gift cards from OCS for grocery stores in the PC or Metro chain.**

**Be a faithful prayer partner. Join us in praying for...**

The administration and staff that they may daily walk with the Lord as they direct and teach the students;

The 76 students at OCS that they may be healthy and learn and relate well;

The Board and committees as they serve and provide leadership;

The financial needs of the school to be met through increased enrollment, donations, and successful fundraising;

More families to be convicted that Christian education is the right choice for their children.



[www.orilliachristianschool.com](http://www.orilliachristianschool.com)



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