



EAGLE EXPRESS

Oroville Christian School Newsletter

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Message From The Head of School

In 416 BC, during the Peloponnesian War between Athens and Sparta, Athens decided to attack the neutral island of Melos. When the Melians protested that they had done Athens no wrong, the Athenians replied, “The strong do what they can; the weak suffer what they must.” The Melians were starved into surrender, their men were killed, and their women and children were sold into slavery.

None of this was unusual in the ancient world. The strong, it was supposed, had every right to dominate the weak.

Cruelty, rape, torture, and slaughter were ordinary means of enforcing power. Neither the gods nor the moral codes opposed dominations. Atheist historian Tom Holland, describes his feelings about the Greco-Roman world this way: “It was not just the extremes of callousness that unsettled me, but the complete lack of any sense that the poor or the weak might have the slightest intrinsic value.”

So, what changed? As Holland notes, the difference was Christianity.

Christians and Jews believed that all persons were made in the image of God. Thus, every person had intrinsic worth and dignity, no matter their race, ethnicity, gender, or strength. On this basis, oppression of the poor and weak was condemned. Neither might nor wealth made right. Christianity further emphasized the spiritual and moral equality of all people. Not only do we all share the same humanity, but we all suffer from the same problem (sin) and need the same solution (salvation through Jesus).

Because of these ideas, Christianity is the sole historical source of concepts now taken for granted: human dignity, human equality, and universal human rights. As not only Tom Holland but other prominent atheists such as Jürgen Habermas and Luc Ferry admit, these ideas are at the root of our modern concern for the poor and oppressed.

And therefore, it’s accurate to call “wokeness” a Christian heresy.

“Heresy” comes from the Greek verb *hairein*, which means to choose. The idea is heresy is the result of choosing one thing that is true and then running with it until it distorts everything else. “Wokeness,” a way of seeing the world built on critical theory, fastens onto the Christian idea that oppression is evil, but makes it the sole significant fact about humanity and society, while rejecting so much else that Christianity teaches — original sin, forgiveness, and salvation.

It should not be difficult to see why various expressions of critical theory and “woke” rhetoric resonates with so many Christians. The appeal is rooted in legitimate biblical concerns about the poor, the marginalized, the oppressed, and the potential misuse of power. However, it fails on many other levels.

First, the anthropology of critical theory misunderstands who we are by assuming that the only relevant fact about us is where we fit within the various categories of oppression. We are the group we belong to, which serves a social role as either oppressor or oppressed. As such, this theory rejects any universals that unite humanity, including the image of God.

Second, the understanding of sin, or what’s wrong with the human condition, is limited to oppression. In this view, oppressors are guilty and the oppressed are innocent. The universality of human guilt before God, that we all are broken and sinful, that we are all in need of forgiveness and redemption is replaced by a moral reckoning that is dependent on which group we belong to. Human identity, human nature, and human problems are all flattened onto a single spectrum of oppression.

Given its failure to diagnose sin, it’s not surprising that critical theories lack an adequate understanding of salvation. At best, a semblance of acceptance is offered to those who accept its worldview, but even then, the guilt of certain groups and the moral superiority of other groups is fixed and perpetual. This also means that forgiveness and reconciliation are effectively ruled out a priori. Even for the oppressed, there is no path for healing; no bearing one another’s burdens; no easing the burden of pain by forgiving another.

In the end, wokeness is built on a worldview without salvation and offers an eschatology with no real hope. Though the proclaimed goal is to end oppression, it’s what the late sociologist Philip Rieff called a “deathwork,” dedicated to tearing down things but unable to build, or offer, anything better. Advocates of critical race theory, for example, argue that although race is a cultural construct, racism is an inevitable and irredeemable trait. They cannot offer a vision of the world in which this sin is defeated or redeemed, much less one in which the guilty are forgiven and restored. Instead, Peter reminds us that our hope lies only in Jesus and His redeeming work on the cross.

1 Peter 1:3: *"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."*

Soli Deo Gloria.

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT—Mrs. Goodwin, 2nd Grade

I love teaching at OCS. Yes, I have a small class that makes it easy to get to know all the children. And yes, we have the freedom to work on our learning goals with flexibility and not be tied to the standardized measurements used in the public schools. Our second graders are improving their reading fluency and comprehension, developing their spelling skills, rein-



forcing arithmetic skills learned last year and introducing new concepts important for their success in third grade next year. But most importantly, I love teaching at OCS because we can talk freely about Jesus! Recently, a Bible lesson turned into a discussion about Jesus' love for us and several students stated their desire to pray for Jesus to come into their hearts. This simple act of faith and clear movement of God's Holy Spirit in our classroom is what Christian education is all about! Pray for our students regularly, not just for their academic excellence but for their souls. Pray they will come to Jesus at this tender age, and with God's grace, hopefully avoid the many pitfalls in our culture awaiting them as they grow up. I'm thankful for OCS!

RE-ENROLLMENT 2022-2023

February starts the beginning of the re-enrollment process for the 2022-2023 school year at Oroville Christian School. The fee for current students who re-enroll during the month of February is \$100 per child or \$200 per family. Starting March 1, the fee to re-enroll jumps to \$175 per child, with no family discount. The deadline for current students to re-enroll is March 31.

By taking advantage of the early re-enrollment period, you not only save money, but reserve a spot for your child. As you know, OCS has several classes that are full, several that are almost full, or have a waiting list. We will begin accepting applications from new students for next year. However, we will wait until March 1 to begin admitting new students.

Look for the re-enrollment form to come home with your child or you can find it on our website at www.ocseagles.com.

Historical Sites Tour Dinner - Friday, Feb. 4

Our 7th and 8th grade classes are hosting a dinner at school to raise money for their Historical Sites Tour. This trip is one of the memorable opportunities all 7th and 8th grade students at OCS get to participate in.

In April, our students will be taking a visit to Ohio and Kentucky. Highlights of the trip include visits to the Underground Railroad Museum, the Ark Encounter, and the Creation museum.

Dinner tickets are selling fast at \$40 per person. If you would like to buy tickets, connect with a 7th or 8th grade student, or contact Nicole Johansson at 530-990-0383. We expect this dinner will be sold out.

Another way to support HST is through sponsorship AND auction items. If you would like to contribute or have your business repre-

Welcome to 2022!

Happy New Year from your PTPF Committee! It is hard to believe we're already halfway through the school year. We have some fun events and activities coming up between now and the end of the school year and we want to make sure you have these dates on your calendar.

As always, the more the merrier! Your involvement in PTPF is welcome and appreciated. If you already signed up to help with one of these events below, you will be contacted. You see something you can help with, it's not too late! Please contact Julie Ching at 530-370-8196 and we will get you plugged in.

Important Dates

Monday, **Jan 17** - NO SCHOOL—MLK Birthday

Tuesday, **Jan 18** - Boys Basketball Playoff, 5 pm

Wednesday, **Jan 19** - Boys Basketball Playoff, 4 pm

Thursday, **Jan 20** - OCS Board Meeting, 6 pm

Friday, **Jan 21** - Chapel, 8:45 am

Tuesday, **Jan 25** - HST Planning Meeting, 6 pm

Friday, **Jan 28** - Chapel, 8:45 am

Friday, **Feb 4** - Chapel, 8:45 am

Friday, **Feb 4** - HST Dinner Auction, 6 pm



Please check the lost and found table outside the school office for any missing items. We have many jackets and other items that need their owner!

January 17 — Hearts for Hoops - PTPF Valentine Grams are here!!

This is an opportunity for you to express your love to your student(s) through a Valentine's Gram that will be delivered to their classroom on Monday, Feb. 14. Your message - along with a heart shaped mylar balloon and a red carnation are included for a \$5 donation. A sheet of valentine grams will be coming home with your child. Fill out as many messages as you would like! Grandparents and other family members are welcome to participate at \$5 per message. The deadline to turn in Hearts for Hoops **Valentine Gram messages is Feb. 1.** Funds raised through Hearts for Hoops will be used to purchase a new basketball hoop for the school playground.

February 9, 3 p.m. — Spelling Bee, Grades 5-8

Oroville Christian School is hosting Woodland Christian and Faith Christian for the Association of Christian Schools (ACSI) Spelling Bee! Mrs. Stark is the teacher contact for this event. PTPF will be providing refreshments, running check-in, and offering our overall hospitality to the students from the other schools. If you are available to help, we'd love your participation. Ask your students about the spelling bee word lists and if they are planning to represent OCS at the Spelling Bee!

March 11, 2022 - OCS Talent Show

It's back and better than ever and we know your kids have got talent, so come out and show us! Whether you play an instrument, sing, dance, do magic, we are rolling out the red carpet and showcasing God's gifts at work in our school. Parents plan to come and bring your friends and family!

Auditions will be held Feb. 23 and Mar. 2 at OCS after school.

Auditions are open to all students.

Additionally, PTPF needs judges, decoration committee, auditions team, prizes, and awards committee, please contact Julie Ching at 530-370-8196 for details.

March 23, 3 p.m. - Speech Meet, Grades 1-8

This is another ACSI event designed to help your child with public speaking. More information will be coming, stay tuned to The Eagle e-news for details.

March 24, 5:30-7:30 p.m. - Academic Fair and Admissions Night

Do you know a family that would be interested in learning more about Oroville Christian School? Invite them to join us for dinner and learn more about our school. Dinner will be served in Fellowship Hall (school gym, behind the sanctuary), afterwards, classrooms will be open, students work will be on display, and we will have a fun night of fellowship and welcoming new families. More details to come!

Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6

Oroville Christian School

Oroville Christian School admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, financial aid programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.