

2023 Winter Edition

OCSI CONNECTIONS





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From the Head of School's Desk

Megan Roe

Welcome Back to School in 2023

Welcome back to school in 2023! I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year's holiday. I am especially thankful for all of the love and support from the OCSI community during my maternity leave this fall.

I'm curious how many of you made a New Year's resolution this year? Our family always takes time to share our goals for the upcoming year on New Year's Eve, and yet I'm never quite ready for the question even though I know it's coming. I think I might be better at making To-Do Lists than New Year's Resolutions; how about you? For most people, New Year's resolutions tend to be focused on things like exercising more or eating healthier. The top five resolutions from last year were to exercise more, eat healthier, lose weight, save money, and to spend more time with family and friends. Of course these are all great resolutions, but I believe God asks all of us to place something else at the top of our to-do list for 2023.

The Bible reminds us in 2 Corinthians 5:17-18 that "if anyone belongs to Christ they have become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun. And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him". We have been given a task directly from God to put on our to-do list for this year: to reconcile people to Him. What an amazing opportunity we have each and every day to live out OCSI's mission of equipping students to walk with Jesus and impact the world for Him. How can you share God's love to others in 2023?





We continue to make progress on our school improvement goals for this school year.

- We are working to further develop school culture and community to reflect the mission, vision, and values. We do this through life groups, social-emotional lessons in elementary, staff prayer time, and by partnering with PTF for events like the Christmas Market and Walkathon.
- We are finding ways to enhance and unify the academic program by updating the curriculum on a regular basis and through the development of divisional capstone projects.
- We use and analyze student assessment data by tracking our MAP, DRA, and other data to help teachers improve instruction and to guide curriculum decisions.
- We provide professional development opportunities for teachers and support staff to include training in Child Safety, CPR/First Aid, ongoing professional book studies, and Christian philosophy of education training.
- We identify and use key performance indicators to improve operational stability and long-term sustainability; we want to make sure our finances and facilities are prepared to support OCSI both now and in the future.
- We work to ensure there are funds for campus improvement projects and future rebuilding. Our current building is more than 25 years old; we need to keep improving things now, but also save for the future. This year we had a gym remodel project, a new health room, and a new PA system. Over the next three years we will be working to renovate classrooms, hallways, and bathrooms, as well as other safety-related improvements.

I hope that your family continues to have a great school year and a healthy, happy start to 2023!



OCSI Leadership Team



Elementary Principal Update

Sarah Turner

Winter PTF Highlights

Thanks to PTF this year we have 10+ after school clubs that students can participate in! Some clubs include karate, cheerleading, coding, running, English conversation, and so many more!

On November 4th, PTF organized an Elementary Movie Night for families. We spread out on the OCSI soccer field with the movie Encanto projected onto the wall of the gym. It was a great turnout and so much fun!



Celebrating Growth



As we reach the end of 2nd quarter – we are officially half way through the school year! Especially in elementary, students make so much growth in just half a year. It is important to celebrate the growth that students make.

Research shows that celebrating learning has many benefits:

- It fosters a sense of belonging and shows how much they're valued.
- It holds kids to high standards as they share their best work.
- It increases motivation to learn more.
- It leads to reflection on what they have learned, how they learned it, and what skills and habits they've adopted to improve learning.
- Source (<https://preparedparents.org/tip/celebrating-my-kids-progress/>)

One way we celebrate growth is by tracking students' academic growth by using some baseline assessments at the beginning, middle, and end of the year. The K-2nd grade students take the DRA (Developmental Reading Assessment) which is given by Mrs. Flores. Teachers use the data from this test to make small groups and lessons appropriate for each child. The test focuses on fluency and comprehension.

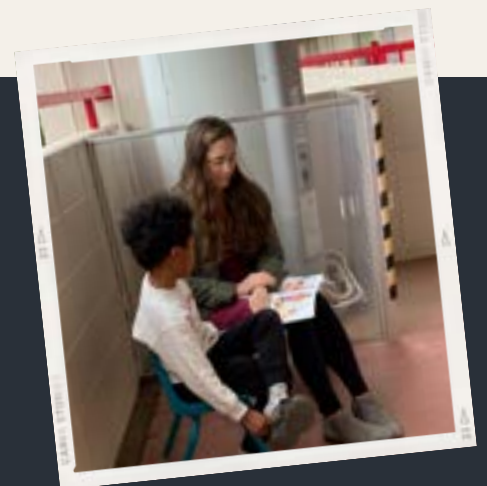
For 3-5th grade, the students take the MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) at the beginning and end of the school year. This year, we are offering the test at midyear for newly enrolled students and students in the literacy program. Students take the reading, language and math tests. Teachers also use this data to help students in their class.

When the 2nd quarter report card comes out, please take some time to celebrate areas of growth with your child!

Coming Up

- 5th graders will be taking a trip to Okinawa World
- Kindergarteners will be taking a trip to Fruit-land
- PreK and Kindergarteners will go carrot harvesting
- 4th and 5th graders will be going to Elementary Camp
- 3-5th graders will be presenting to the K-2nd graders on their Culture Projects

- January 20th – End of 2nd Quarter
- January 27th – Report Cards emailed out
- February 20th – NO SCHOOL
- March 21st – Student Led Conference day – No school for students



Secondary Principal Update

Dan Pallmann



The second quarter is a really busy time with midterm exams and many other special events.

Here are some activities we were blessed to have:

Ishikawa High School Visit

On November 2nd, some students from Ishikawa High School came to visit OCSI. They were able to participate in two classes and have lunch. Later, some OCSI students were able to go to Ishikawa on November 28th. They enjoyed taking part in both a baking class and a Japanese Calligraphy class. It was a great opportunity to experience a different culture.

Parent Observation Day

January 9th was a chance for parents to visit student classrooms. We were able to see many parents come out that day. Thank you for supporting your son or daughter.



Secondary Christmas Concert



Middle and High School Students performing at the Christmas Concert

Students in middle and high school have the opportunity to take Music class with Ms. Tuzi. On December 8th, both classes combined to give a wonderful concert at Yomitan Hall. It was so nice to be in a proper hall again after two years of distancing and masks.

If you missed it, here is a link to the video: https://youtu.be/Xpgrj_4qT3U

Spirit Week & Homecoming

January 23–27 is Spirit Week!

- Middle and High school students will have the chance to dress up each day (still in dress code, though!)

Friday, 1/27, we will have our Homecoming basketball games:

- The girl's game starts at 5:00 pm
- Around 6:30 pm we will have our Senior Send-off and our Homecoming Court
- The boy's game should begin about 7:00 pm

Coming Up

- January 20th – End of 2nd Quarter
- January 27th – Report Cards emailed out
- February 20th – NO SCHOOL
- March 20th – Parent Teacher Conference day – No school for students
- March 27–31 – Spring Break (No School)



Director of Teaching & Learning Update

Brad Skarin

On January 4th, while students were enjoying their last day of Christmas vacation, teachers and staff were hard at work preparing for the their return. OCSI had three professors from South Eastern University in Florida come and lead professional development seminars for our teachers. 14 teachers were working towards their Christian Philosophy of Education requirements for ACSI certification and a few others were learning about how to mentor and evaluate student teachers. Mr. Harris will be hosting a student teacher, Ms. Alvare, in his classes this spring.



The rest of the faculty spent part of the day reviewing the new ACSI Indicator standards for our upcoming accreditation visit next year.

This winter we had a few more teachers finish their Master's degree courses so OCSI now officially has half of the teaching staff holding advanced degrees.

Winter Highlight

In elementary, we have been able to provide even more personalized instruction to struggling readers and we are starting to see an improvement in reading fluency and comprehension in the mid-year DRA scores. Great job Mrs. Flores, our Elementary Curriculum Coordinator!

The Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA) is an individually administered assessment of a child's reading capabilities. It is a tool to be used by instructors to identify a student's reading level, accuracy, fluency, and comprehension. Once levels are identified, an instructor can use this information for instructional planning purposes. For more information on the DRA assessment, check out this article from Scholastic.

<https://www.scholastic.com/parents/books-and-reading/reading-resources/book-selection-tips/assess-dra-reading-levels.html>

Service Opportunities!



Chaplain Andy Roe

9th graders collected and donated food items to Yomitan Yuimaru food bank.



8th graders raised money to give to a local animal shelter.



Service Highlight

Service learning opportunities during the COVID era has been challenging. We want to see our students interact and help people directly, however, most of the facilities we would like to support still do not allow visitors or volunteers yet. This doesn't stop our students from coming up with creative ways to serve the Lord by serving the community. Recently, our ninth graders organized a food drive to provide food for a local food pantry here in Yomitan. Our students were able to send five boxes full of food. Our 8th graders set up a game booth at the Christmas Market to raise money for a local animal shelter. Our 8th graders were able to raise over 11,000 yen to give to the shelter. It is so important to instill the value of sacrifice into our students as we desire to see them to model a life like Christ.



A man with a beard, wearing a grey t-shirt and dark shorts, stands at a podium on a stage, addressing a large group of students seated in the foreground. The room has wood-paneled walls and large windows. A keyboard and other musical equipment are visible on the stage.

Middle School Camp

10/26-10/28

The Middle Schoolers had a blast at camp this year and were so blessed to be able to go back to Eco Park for the first time since Covid. Paster Woolery from Keystone Church spoke on the theme of "Wonder" and students were able to see God's glory as they interacted with His creation. On the second day, the students enjoyed a battle royal playing the game "Ultimate Chaos" which the teachers agreed, adequately expresses a normal Tuesday in the life of a Middle School teacher. On the final night, students help prepare a mouth watering all-you-can-eat BBQ. It was a great time for teachers and students to build memories and relationships as they wrapped up 1st quarter.

Athletics

Go Eagles: Soar High!

For the second quarter we transition from Cross Country and Volleyball to Basketball and Cheerleading. Both the boy's team and the girl's team had competitive teams this year thanks to the coaching of Coach Tommy and Coach Brittany. Also a big thanks to the assistant coaches, Mr. Shelby and Ms. Hannah. You all did a great job coaching the basketball teams this year.

A special congratulations to the girl's team-- they won the JV Tournament on January 14!

Cheerleading was led by Miss Jentry. We were able to have both male and female cheerleaders this year. Thank you all for a great season!





Coming Up

- January 25th – Alumni Basketball Game
- January 27th – Homecoming Basketball Game

Elementary

Harvest Fest

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



Elementary

Learning Trips

3rd Grade Trip to Bios on the Hill
Kindergarten Trip to Comprehensive Park
2nd Grade Trip to Neo Park
5th grade Trip to go Ice Skating



High School
Thanksgiving
Celebration





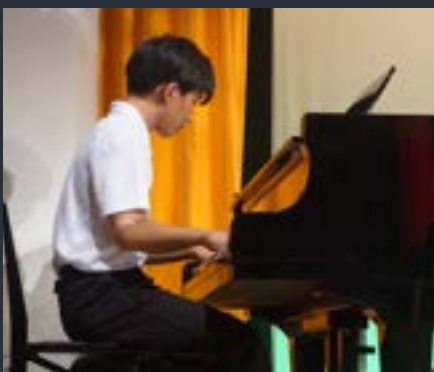
Christmas Celebration



"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."
John 3:16



12/8 Secondary Christmas Program



Business Update



Sosro Karsosoemo

OCSI & CAJ IT Collaboration



Health Check Bus for all Staff



Re-enrollment, Collaboration, and Health Check

Re-enrollment is in full swing! So far, 97% of students chose to re-enroll for SY23-24. Re-enrollment rate is one of the key indicators of a healthy school. We are very grateful that you continue choosing OCSI.

We continue to invest in improving staff professional development, health, and well-being. Last November, we had six teachers and an IT specialist from CAJ, Christian Academy in Japan, come and share how they used technology to enhance the education experience for their students in Tokyo. Our Human Resources Manager also organized annual employee health checks through a Japanese company that sends doctors, nurses, and a bus to campus. We hope this will help all OCSI staff maintain their health in a more efficient, convenient and consistent way.

The OCSI Business Office is committed to improving our business processes to serve OCSI families better. We welcome feedback from the community at any time, please contact us at businessmanager@ocsi.org.





Operations Update

Alex Sartore

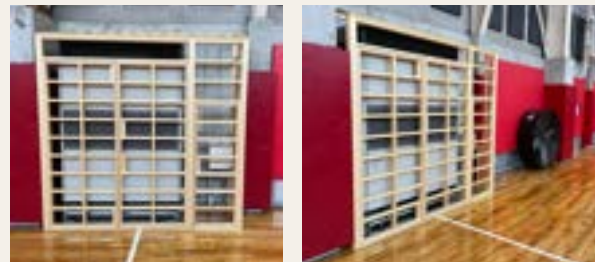
A New Year, New Projects

Happy New Year! I pray and hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year, and that you are as excited as I am for the year we have ahead.

As we finished out all of our major projects last year, and as we look forward into the projects ahead, I am humbled by the opportunity to serve the school in this way.

One of our major projects of last year was tackling the issue of humidity and moisture in the OCSI Gym. The humidity in the gym has always been an issue, and we are glad to finally address it through the installation of industrial dehumidifiers.

The dehumidifiers will help keep the humidity down in the gym during the humid months of the year, which will go a long way to help the gym last longer and hopefully be more tolerable!



This year, our main mission is to start the process of renovating various areas of the main building. Our goal is to invest in the building and the classrooms now to get the most out of our facilities in the next 25 years.

We are also making plans to invest in lights to brighten up the campus, as it can get very dark at night. **A huge thank-you to the PTF (Parent Teacher Fellowship) for designating this year's Walkathon donations to this project!**

Keep an eye out for the next edition of OCSI Connections for more details on some of our projects of the coming year!





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