



Founded in 1899

Education for Time and Eternity A bi-monthly newsletter of Oneida Baptist Institute September/October 2015

OBI expands program to include day students in grades K-5

The 2015-16 school year began with a major addition to our program -- local students in grades K-5.

The theme scripture verse for this project has been Matthew 19:14, in which Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me." Oneida president **Larry A. Gritton, Jr.** (OBI '93) stated, "We are doing all we can to let them come to Him because we know the kingdom of God belongs to these little ones."

When Oneida Baptist Institute first opened its doors on January 1, 1900, 100 children of all ages took their seats. Our founder, **James Anderson Burns**, believed the best way to stop the feuding in the area was to educate the children. Tens of thousands of young people have since passed through this unique little place called Oneida.



house on August 25. Family members were invited to visit their children's classrooms and talk with the teachers about how the students were doing. One of the parents who attended was **Rachel Barger**. Her daughter, **Raylon**, is in the fourth grade. "We had several different reasons for wanting her to come to OBI," Mrs. Barger explained. "Our friends talked of how good it is here, how friendly everyone is, and how their kids were never bored." Another advantage Oneida has for local families is that their children may attend free of charge.

Lower school principal, **Bonita Robinson**, is excited about opening our K-5 program to the community. "Our first goal is to be diligent and intentional about teaching our students the two most important things for a successful life -- education and salvation," she shared. "If our students learn how to be good citizens, the importance of service and characteristics of leadership taught through the life of Christ, the rest will come." □



The population at OBI has changed through the years. When public elementary education became available in the area, Oneida began accepting only high school students. In the 1970's, we brought back the middle school grades. Then in August of 1984, the primary and elementary grades were re-opened, but only for the children of OBI faculty/staff who lived in school housing. Now, however, local families are welcomed and encouraged to send their K-5 youngsters to Oneida.

In the 1990's we typically had 100 local students each year. Two years ago, that number had dropped to nine. By late August of this year, we had 59 day students, not counting our 52 staff children. Gritton hopes that number will continue to grow. "I love that our kids come from all over our state, country, and world, but I also know our own back yard is filled with kids who need an *Education for Time and Eternity*," he explained. "My favorite thing about this school year has been seeing the little K-5 children on our campus. It warms my heart and gives me great satisfaction to know we are fulfilling our original calling and mission."

Our lower school (grades K-5) hosted an open



An Oneida kindergarten child in 1906

The news in pictures -- summer at OBI

(Left) Students got creative with their cleaning during the summer work program. (Below) Summer school was a good time to get caught up academically and to enjoy a more laid-back atmosphere.



Our campground can be a lively place when Campers on Mission come to town.



These ladies helped package the Father's Day Offering materials.



This group was from the Kentucky Blood River Baptist Association.



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Meet some of our award winners

“What OBI is all about”

Each year our faculty and houseparents vote on the recipients of our major student honors. **Julia Smith** was awarded two titles -- Most Outstanding and Most Improved sophomore.

FFA has been one of Julia’s areas of involvement, and FFA advisor, **Jennifer Sink**, described her as “a leader in her own way. She has grown in confidence as a student and as a Christian.” Mrs. Sink continued, “I know young girls look up to her. I voted for Julia because she is what OBI is all about.”



Julia thought her improved social skills had a lot to do with why she was chosen for these awards. She explained, “My first year here, I didn’t talk to anyone.” She believed her family background was a big influence when she first enrolled at OBI two years ago from Ohio. “I have 12 siblings,” she said. “We’re all adopted. My sister is my best friend.” Julia had never needed to extend her reach much beyond family until she came to Oneida.

“I really improved my social life here,” she recalled. I went from being anti-social to talking to people I didn’t even know.” Dormitory life played an important role in Julia’s transformation. “When you live with people, you can’t really avoid them,” she said with a smile. Julia found herself doing nice things for people without being asked.

Houseparent **Anna Woods** remarked, “Julia is such a blessing in my life. Her smile makes me smile.. When I first met Julia, she had this underlying attitude that all things Oneida were ridiculous. She had no faith in herself or her abilities. She has blossomed, matured and grown, and is much more confident about herself.” □

“Trying my hardest”

Jalen Bailey was named our 2014-15 Most Studious sixth-grade boy. He came to OBI at the start of last school year from Ohio. Jalen wanted a different situation because “The schools are pretty rough at home,” he explained.

According to Jalen, his grades were typically A’s and B’s even before he came to Oneida. He maintained the good scores here, noting that the work usually came easily for him. “I don’t really have to study much,” he stated.

Sheryl Baker was one of Jalen’s sixth-grade teachers. “He has a love for reading,” she recalled, “and he can interpret literature analytically. He’s good in social studies, too, because he comprehends it so well.” She also commented on Jalen’s personality, saying, “In my class, he was always so respectful. And any time he saw me around campus, he would say, ‘Hi, Mrs. Baker!’”

Jalen said his dad was proud of him when he earned the Most Studious Award. What is Jalen’s goal for this year? “I want to keep trying my hardest,” he said. □



Bits and tidbits

Our mission statement

The mission of Oneida Baptist Institute is to provide a Christian living, learning and working environment in which each of its students, Christian or non-Christian, is diligently challenged to grow mentally, physically, socially and spiritually in order to acquire an *Education for Time and Eternity*.

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Does your church have a web site?

If so, ask them to link to OBI:
Web: www.oneidaschool.org
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/OBI.KY
Twitter: https://twitter.com/Oneida_Baptist
Connect with Mr. Gritton:
https://twitter.com/Igritton

OBI continues these programs:

Campbell’s “Labels for Education”™
Send us the entire “Labels for Education”™ labels of Campbell’s foods and others, like Vlasic®, Franco-American®, Prego®, Swanson®, Pace® & Pepperidge Farm®. Points earn free educational equipment and other items.
http://www.labelsforeducation.com/

Tyson’s “Project A+”™
Send entire labels from specially marked Tyson chicken products. They are worth 24 cents each, and return to us as cash.
http://projectaplus.tyson.com/

General Mills “Box Tops for Education”™
Send specially marked box tops, each worth 10 cents with points-to-cash.
http://www.boxtops4education.com/

Will we see YOU at Homecoming?

It will be in October this year. All friends of OBI are welcome! Bring family and/or friends; introduce others to our school.



Highlights for Homecoming 2015

Friday, October 23

- ▶ 2nd annual Homecoming Golf Scramble at London Country Club, London, Kentucky. Shotgun start, lunch provided, prizes awarded.
- ▶ Alumni dinner in Burns Hall cafeteria
- ▶ OBI drama production

Saturday, October 24

- ▶ Registration throughout the day at Rush Hall and the Gritton Gym.
- ▶ Garden tour, hymn sing and contemporary praise music
- ▶ Lunch served in the air-conditioned Burns Hall cafeteria
- ▶ Book signing, petting zoo, swimming, county fair
- ▶ Alumni/student volleyball game
- ▶ OBI Athletic Hall of Fame induction, recognize 50th anniversary class of 1965, recognize all anniversary classes, class group photos
- ▶ Supper outdoors picnic-style at Barkley Park
- ▶ OBI drama production

Questions? Call Alumni Director **Amanda Roberts:** (606) 847-4111, ext. 229 or contact her by e-mail for more info.: amanda.roberts@oneidaschool.org

Aisha Biyo wins Brad Dorough Friendship Award

The Brad Dorough Friendship Award is the only major honor given to a student that is voted on by his/her peers. Our 2015-2016 recipient is sophomore **Aisha Biyo** (right, talking with **Spencer Montgomery**).



When asked why she thought she received this particular award, Aisha responded, “People have told me it’s because I’m nice, and because I’m always offering a helping hand. I especially try to welcome new students.” Aisha said being friendly and helpful comes naturally for her, perhaps because of her own Oneida history. “When I first came, I was welcomed that way,” she remembered. This is Aisha’s fourth year at OBI; she enrolled as a seventh-grader from Maryland.

Chloe Zika is Aisha’s friend and roommate. She described Aisha as “the most responsible person I know,” adding, “I can talk to her about something she doesn’t know anything about and she’ll still care. I can tell her anything and it won’t be repeated. She’s really trustworthy.”

The Brad Dorough Award was established in 1990 by the family of a former OBI student, **Brad Dorough**, after his death. The award provides full room and board for the following year. Brad had talked of how special his Oneida friends were. The student body is told to vote for someone sensitive to the needs of others, particularly those of new students. □



OBI Drama
cordially invites you to our fall play . . .

The
Family Man
by Benjamin Bernard Zavin and Carl Leo

October 22, 23 & 24
7:00 PM in the OBI Chapel

All are invited, admission is free!