

THIS IS ONEIDA A BUSY, COOPERATIVE, AND GREAT DAY

There always seems to be much activity going on at our campus, but some days seem to be a little busier than others. Recently we had one of our busiest days of the year, and it was one of my favorite days we've had all year long.

The Lord continues to impress upon my heart the need to reach out to our local community and the young people of eastern Kentucky. On Monday morning, our middle school principal stopped by my office and shared with me an encounter he'd had with a local family while getting his hair cut. At first I was jealous because those of you who know me know I am follically challenged. My envy over our principal's ability to have his hair cut at a much older age than I am quickly turned to thoughts about reaching out to our local elementary schools.

Our spring play had just concluded on Saturday night. The set was still up. I called our drama director and asked if we could do the play again if we were able to get some local schools to come on Friday. She said we could, so I then called in our minister of advancement, who got on the phone with three local schools. All three schools said they would come and bring their fourth-sixth graders. My next call was to our food service director to see if we could feed 250 extra folks between our two lunch periods. She also had a can-do attitude.

The local school students came and seemed to enjoy the play, *Once Upon a High School*, by Flip Kohlar and Cindy Marcus. Many staff jumped in and helped make sure feeding so many people went off without a hitch. Our guests enjoyed pork sandwiches, chips, and baked beans.

Our praise band that leads worship for Friday chapel services had to relocate to the gym because the play was in the chapel. Due to the willing spirit of our staff, this went off without a hitch as well.

Our day didn't end there. The local school buses pulled away and up next was our spring fling. Our students piled into our Sparks Gymnasium for some class challenges and competitions. From there they headed outside for fun on inflatable slides, a dunking booth, corn hole, tie dyeing of t-shirts, and much more.

Backyard Ministries provided much of that entertainment and some great food. On the way in from Harrodsburg, Backyard Ministries had some mechanical issues and one of our staff members jumped in a truck and went to rescue them and get them to our campus. Have I mentioned that I love it when our staff members jump in and do what needs to be done?

Our annual talent show followed dinner. Many of our kids and staff entertained for nearly two hours. We have some amazingly talented young people. It never ceases to amaze me how the Lord blesses His people with gifts that can be used for His glory. After the talent show, nearly everyone was treated to pizza, chips, and drinks. We came up a little short on the pizza, and others shared, did without, or sacrificed without complaining to make sure everyone got something.

It was a long and busy day, but a great day in the life of Oneida Baptist Institute. Come and see for yourself what is happening at OBI!



Larry A. Gritton, Jr.
OBI President

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