

**THIS IS ONEIDA
A FABULOUS FRIDAY AT ONEIDA**

On a recent Friday, my calendar was full of events. It was not a typical office day, but it turned out to be a great Oneida day. After first period that morning, I traveled with Angie, our principal, our development director, and one of our very best students to the ninth annual Bert T. Combs Symposium in Manchester. At that symposium, I was given the opportunity to share some about Oneida and Bert T. Combs' time as a student at OBI. Mr. Combs attended Oneida as a middle school student in the 1920's, and of course went on to serve as governor of our great state from 1959-1963.

Governor Combs wrote about his Oneida experience in the foreword of *Dawn Comes to the Mountains*, a pictorial history of Oneida published in 1981. He talked of his teachers and what he learned from them. He also shared about the work ethic and life lessons he learned at OBI, which he would carry with him throughout his life. Although the world around us has changed, Oneida is still in the business of teaching young people life lessons that they can carry with them into this wide world.

I often wonder what our current students will one day do with their lives. I know there are future doctors, missionaries, pastors, and perhaps even a governor walking our hallways today. It is our staff's job to introduce Jesus to our students and educate them "for time and eternity" so they can go on to become what God would have them be. At the symposium I learned that Bert T. Combs did not have the easiest of transitions as an Oneida student, and even ran away on more than one occasion. Hearing this, I was reminded that we must be longsuffering with our young people. Who knows which of them will be the next governor?

After returning to the office and handling a few day-to-day items, I made my way to our newly renovated Anderson Hall for a new staff reception. It was a great opportunity to spend time with our new staff and hear how their Oneida transitions were going. The Lord has blessed us with some great new staff members this year, and I want to be sure we help them as they settle in and begin ministering to our kids.

Shortly after the new staff reception, we held a new student reception. Most of our 104 new students made their way to Anderson Hall for food and fellowship. As I stood in the doorway and greeted each young person, I was amazed as I heard each one tell me where they were from. Our kids come from all over Kentucky, the United States, and the world. Please come and meet some of these new staff and students when you can!



**Larry A. Gritton, Jr.
OBI President**

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