

CONGRATULATIONS BOYS



2024



CONGRATULATIONS TO CALLEN AND JORDAN ON GRADUATING 8TH GRADE! CALLEN HAS SHOWN A REMARKABLE PASSION FOR READING AND TAKES GREAT PRIDE IN GROWING PLANTS, DEMONSTRATING HIS LOVE FOR LEARNING AND NATURE. JORDAN, WITH HIS VIBRANT SOCIAL PERSONALITY AND OUTSTANDING ATHLETIC ABILITIES, HAS TRULY SHINED AS A STAR ATHLETE. BOTH HAVE MADE US INCREDIBLY PROUD WITH THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS. WE ARE EXCITED TO SEE ALL THE WONDERFUL THINGS THEY WILL ACCOMPLISH IN THE FUTURE. AFTER THE SUMMER BREAK, THEY WILL BE ATTENDING NEW LIFE ACADEMY, OUR ON-CAMPUS HIGH SCHOOL.



OUR 4-H KIDS HAVE AN EXCITING SUMMER AHEAD WITH NUMEROUS PROGRAMS AND OUR 4-H SHOW IN JULY. RECENTLY, THEY VISITED FAIR OAKS FARMS, WITNESSING THE MIRACLE OF LIFE AS COWS AND PIGS WERE BORN. THIS EXPERIENCE DEEPENED THEIR CONNECTION WITH AGRICULTURE, HIGHLIGHTING ITS IMPORTANCE IN OUR LIVES.

THE BUILDER

A publication of the Oblong Children's Christian Home
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www.oblongchristianhome.org
or visit us on Facebook

SUMMER 2024

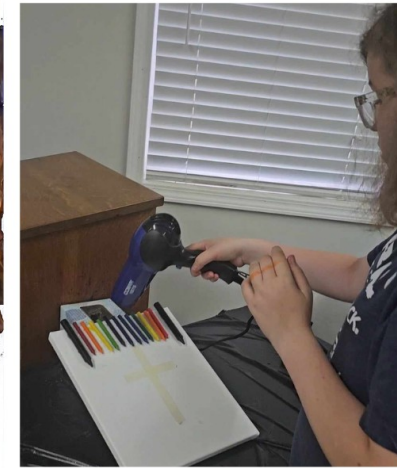


HELP to children
HOPE to families
HEALING through Christ.



THE BUILDER

NEWSLETTER OF THE OBLONG CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN HOME



As we wrap up the semester, we invite you to enjoy some beautiful art created by our students at New Life Academy, our on-campus school. Art therapy has proven to be incredibly therapeutic, offering a creative outlet for self-expression and emotional healing. These artworks reflect the personal journeys of our students, showcasing their talent and resilience. We are proud of their achievements and the joy they bring to our community.



PUPPET MINISTRY DELIVERS UPLIFTING PERFORMANCE



Remarkable Bible stories brought to life through amazing puppetry.

Holy Hands Puppet & Drama Ministries from Charleston, IL, recently graced us with a marvelous music production that beautifully narrated the journey of growing up in faith and the joy of a parent celebrating a child choosing God. Their incredible, Broadway-quality team, based here in Southern Illinois, left us in awe with their performance. The music was uplifting, the light show was spectacular, and the original puppets were nothing short of magical. The team's dedication and talent truly shined, reminiscent of the legendary Jim Henson's work. Their commitment to supporting our mission, along with their performances for free-will donations, is truly commendable. These donations are used to support even more missions for our Lord.



Our family and the incredible Holy Hands crew, praying, spreading joy and faith together!



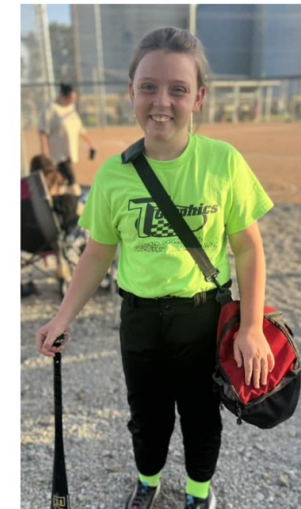
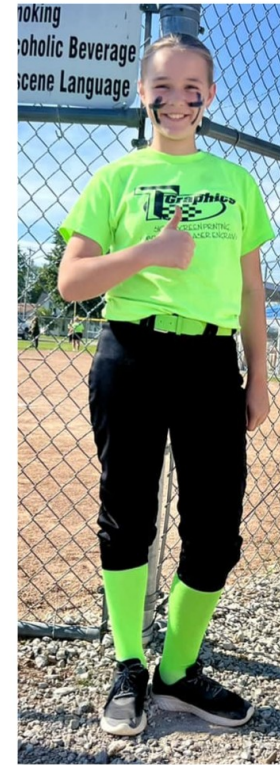
An amazing light show featuring "tamed" ostrich performers—what a fun twist!



Their best puppets? Themselves, with hilarious little puppet bodies!

If you are looking to encourage the youth in your area, reach out to Holy Hands Puppet & Drama Ministries at (217) 348-5827, via email at holyhandsbooking@gmail.com, or visit their website at holyhandspuppets.org.

PLAY BALL! OUR SUMMER WITH AMERICA'S PASTTIME





Feel free to follow us

**STAY CONNECTED WITH US ON YOUR FAVORITE SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS! WE'RE JUST A CLICK AWAY, READY TO SHARE OUR JOURNEY AND STORIES WITH YOU.
#STAYCONNECTED #OBLONGCHRISTIANSHOME**

IN LOVING MEMORY

IN MEMORY

CHARLES & CHERYL MILEWSKI IN MEMORY OF HARRY & BETTY PRATHER ♥ KAY & DONNA YOUNG IN MEMORY OF LAVENE MAXWELL ♥ MICHAEL ROBISON IN MEMORY OF DEBBIE ROBISON ♥ JOHN & SUZANNE BRADY, GREGORY & MARY ELLEN MEADOR, AND MICHAEL & DEBORA WALLS IN MEMORY OF JULIE THOMAS ♥ FLORA FOSS, PAUL & JANICE THODE, ERNESTINE BEOUGHTER, AND FCC VILLA GROVE CHOSEN ONES SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS IN MEMORY OF DELLA MAE FRAHM ♥ KEMPER CPA GROUP, BILL THOMAS, WILLIE MCKINNEY, RICH & CHERYL STALEY, ALAN & KRISTA BUERSTER, K.L. & RHONDA KIMMEL, SUE DICKERSON, STAN & BARB PROBST, JIM & GINGER ROBINS, RANDY DILLIER, WILLIAM THOMAS, ATTORNEY, JUNE ZUBER, GREG & THERESA ZUBER, STEVE & LORI ZUBER, CRAIG & STEPHANIE WEBER, ANDY & JAMIE MCREYNOLDS, TOBEY & LORI RICE, EILEEN HARTRICH, DAVE COOPER, DAN & THERESA SCHACKMAN, ANGELA & STACY MOORE, BILL & PATTY JENNINGS, RODNEY & STACIE OGLE, BRUCE & DEBRA HILL, FRANK & WANDA WEBER, HERB & MARTHA DEIMEL, BOB & DIANE GLEZEN, MT. GILEAD SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS, MARCIA ELDER, FIRST ROBINSON SAVINGS BANK, AND CHRIS WEBER IN MEMORY OF RANDY HATTEN ♥ RICHARD & CHERYL YAGER, HONORATO JAPSON, RALPH & LINDA HUME, PHILIP & SHIRLEY ATKINS, LAWRENCE Klier, CHAD & MELINDA BARTHELME, AND DOUG STALEY AND LANA LINGAFELTER IN MEMORY OF HENRIETTA LINGAFELTER ♥ CONNIE WALSH, DEE ADOCK, JOYCE BLAISDELL, GREG & YOYO BOOKOUT, CRAIG HEINDEL - REAL ESTATE, MIKE & SUSAN DURHAM, JEFFREY & SUE FAWBUSH, MANDY HANCOCK, MORITA AND MARCY, PHILLIP HIPSKIND, WILLIAM HUNTER, STEVEN & CHERYL KERSHAW, SUE MARTINDALE, MARK & BECKY MAYFIELD, KAREN MCNAMARA, JANE POWELL, CHARLES RICHMOND, ALISON SHEETS, ERICA SMITH, JOYCE BLAISDELL, KENNETH & MARCIA GORDON, MARJORIE SHELL, AND MARCELLA WHIPPLE IN MEMORY OF FRANK JACKSON ♥ WANDA GREIFZU IN MEMORY OF CLYDE & LORETTA BUCKLES ♥ JAMES & KAREN RICHARDSON, RANDY & ELLEN GROUNDS, NOVELLA ALKA, AND GORDON & COLLEEN WHYTE IN MEMORY OF MARILYN BOSECKER ♥ MARILYN KING IN MEMORY OF HAL KING ♥ JESS NEWTON IN MEMORY OF ROY & PAULINE HILL AND JASON NEWTON ♥ WILLOW CREEK CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN MEMORY OF JERRY NEIDIGH ♥ CHUCK & PAULA MIDGETT, OBLONG TOWNSHIP BOARD MEMBERS, RHONDA MUSGRAVE, KEVIN & ELAINE HASTY, RANDY & PAM WHEELER, RONDAL & DEBORAH NEWLIN, DAVID & JUDY DIX AND ANN KIRTS IN MEMORY OF KEITH WALDROP ♥ ROSE HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH IN MEMORY OF LEO & BETTY WATSON ♥ CONNIE JONES IN MEMORY OF DENNIS JONES ♥ JOSEPH & JEANETTE FORBES IN MEMORY OF BRENDA GALLION ♥ JOHN & SUZANNE VELTRI, JAN STUCKEY & CORINNE BOTTERBUSCH, AND LINDA NULL IN MEMORY OF CARL BLANTON ♥ DOYLE & JEANNE STEFFEY, JERRY & PAM BRIAN, CHRIS & ANGELA HEDRICK, DON DECKER & SHANNON STEFFEY AND CHERYL NULL IN MEMORY OF DONALD KENNARD ♥ DOYLE & JEANNE STEFFEY IN MEMORY OF ANITA AKERS ♥ JESS NEWTON IN MEMORY OF ROY & PAULINE HILL, JASON NEWTON AND LINDA NEWTON ♥ TAMSEN MURRAY AND RUTH ANN FLEENOR IN MEMORY OF SHIRLEY BENNETT ♥

IN HONOR

MIKE & SUE BUMPUS IN HONOR OF CATHY DAUGHERTY ♥ JANICE THODE IN HONOR OF JOANN STROBEL ♥ WEST UNION CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE IN HONOR OF STEVE DOLSON ♥ MARCY BURKUM, JEFFREY & LULA VORICK IN HONOR OF JOHN BRANT & MANDY DONALDSON'S MARRIAGE ♥ TOM & JUDY DAVIS IN HONOR OF FRED OLDS' 95TH BIRTHDAY ♥

"HOLD YOUR HORSES"

THE OBLONG CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN HOME'S YOUTH OPEN SHOW

Saturday

Sept. 14th | 10AM

4094 E. 1050th Ave.

Oblong, IL 62449

618-592-3633

OblongChristianHome.org

Youth Classes - Ages 18 & Under

All Entry Fees - \$5.00. Each



Exciting News! Join us for the 2nd Annual "Hold Your Horses" Charity Event at the McCoy Riding Arena on campus at the Oblong Children's Christian Home! The event takes place Saturday, September 14th at 10:00 A.M.

We're hosting our 2nd annual youth open show, and everyone is welcome – riders of all levels and spectators too! Don't miss the fun stick horse race for those less equine inclined. We've made some great improvements from last year, so come out and enjoy a smoother, more exciting event. See you there!



**Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him."
- 1 John 3:1**



In 2024, a breathtaking solar eclipse took place right in our backyard—literally! Our Talitha Koum house, with houseparents the McCarters, hosted a special backyard solar eclipse party for our girls. This rare celestial event drew people from around the world to our little slice of heaven to witness the majesty of God's creation. The McCarters and the girls celebrated together, marveling at the awe-inspiring sight and feeling truly blessed to experience such a momentous event up close.



ROOTED IN FAITH TRADITIONS



Many of our kids come from backgrounds where, sadly, they do not go to church or know what God's word says. This can be common nowadays, but while times have changed, we do not change with them. "Thus says the Lord: 'Stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; then you will find rest for your souls'" (Jeremiah 6:16, NKJV). Not only do our children in our care go to church, but they also learn to look forward to it and enjoy it. When they leave, they tend to stay active in church, because they were active while they were here—serving, singing, and doing outreach.

LANDING ON YOUR FEET



Finding peace with animals is a beautiful experience. Genesis 1:26 tells us we have dominion over animals, and it is our duty to care for them. Lainey here is enjoying some pretty kitty time with our Oscar, showcasing the gentle bond we share with God's creatures. This simple act of companionship brings tranquility and joy, reminding us of our role as caretakers of all living beings.

