



Alumni Corner: More Homecoming 2022



Mark your calendar for Homecoming 2023: October 21. Plan now to attend!

David Fralix Settles Into Role of Principal



Last year the Holy Spirit gave us a gift in **David and Margaret Fralix**. The couple had ministered for 22 years in the same church --- New Hope Baptist Church in central Kentucky.

They had been aware of OBI for quite some time and hosted international students who attended OBI and spent their breaks with the Fralixes. Their knowledge of our program increased as their congregation continued to be generous in missions giving.

“Then an opportunity was offered to us from OBI,” Mr. Fralix explained, “and our skills matched what the school needed.” Both Mr. and Mrs. Fralix sensed that this was where God was leading them. “We are absolutely unified in this,” Mr. Fralix stated.

The Fralixes were comfortable and well-trained for ministry with children and youth. Mrs. Fralix had left nursing to be a stay-at-home mom for their two children. David and Margaret were leaders of a 400 student homeschool co-op which led to the beginning of a co-op in their own church with 80-100 students.

When they arrived at OBI in 2022, Mr. Fralix taught history, government, and economics, and Mrs. Fralix taught Preschool. This year, both were asked to take on new responsibilities—Mr Fralix as the school principal and Mrs. Fralix as a girls’ dormitory houseparent. Of his wife’s job change, Mr. Fralix noted, “She absolutely loves being a houseparent. The other day she said, ‘If I had known being a houseparent would be such fun, I’d have asked to do it sooner!’”

How was Mr. Fralix’s first semester as principal? “I’m learning a lot of new things. ... The biggest thing is to be sure the teachers have everything they need to succeed. They are on the front lines,” he answered, adding that **Mr. Larry Gritton**, OBI President (OBI '93) and **Mrs. Angie Gritton**, Assistant to the President (OBI '91) have been a source of knowledge and support. □

What does a principal do, anyway?

Most of us remember a principal from some period of our lives. But what did that person do? Was he to be smiled at or feared? Duties may include things like:

- Managing school activities
- Supervising faculty/staff
- Disciplining and counseling students.
- Meeting with parents and teachers.
- Evaluating teacher performance.
- Implementing curriculum standards.
- Putting security procedures in place.

Mr. Fralix has his own way of looking at it:

“The President casts the vision for the school. This year, his theme was “All In!” I have the privilege of encouraging teachers to stay right in step with the President on fulfilling this goal of being “All in” throughout the day-to-day responsibilities.” □

Also in this issue...

- New boys’ varsity basketball coach — Mitchell Madden p. 2
- Donated bus! — p. 3
- Homecoming date — p. 3
- Alumni Corner — more 2022 Homecoming pics - 4

What do students say about OBI?

“I think I’m doing very well in my faith. OBI has helped me with that.”



Shiloh -- Junior

“I am learning everything about the Bible that I wouldn’t learn otherwise.”

Aleyna -- Sophomore

Coach Mitchell Madden -- The Other End of the Court



OBI is pleased to announce **Mitchell Madden** as our new varsity boys' basketball coach. Mitchell was a decorated player, scoring over 2,300 points in his playing career at Jackson County High School, and has also been a very successful coach at multiple levels.

At the beginning of the season when we couldn't find a coach, President **Larry Gritton** (OBI '93) volunteered. He stated, "While I was excited to coach again, I have always contended that should a viable candidate present himself, I would happily step aside. Coach Madden is a builder and developer, and will build a great program for OBI and will be able to give our young men the experience they deserve. We are thrilled to welcome Mitchell and his wife, **Brandi**, to the Oneida family."

Mitchell responded, "I'm very happy for the opportunity to be part of the OBI family." He spoke to the fact that he was once on a team that competed against us. Now he will be at the other end of the court. He said, "My plan is to build a program that teaches these kids about life and getting back to a higher level as it once was back when I played against OBI. We are going to get these kids in all the work we can to help with that. Our goal is to get back to being a region competitor, competing for district titles and making it to regional tournaments, which OBI has not been part of for a very long time (over 30 years)

Welcome, Mitchell and Brandi! ☐

In memoriam

Frank "Stormy" Burns ('60)

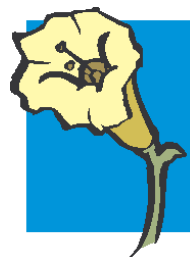
Bill Atto ('62)

Shirley Barger ('55)

O.W. Conrad
Former OBI Staff and Trustee

Richard DeBell ('54)

Dan Stockton
Teacher and Principal



Gifted Bus Arrived Just in Time



When we returned from Christmas break, all three of our large yellow school buses experienced problems and needed repairs. Daily routes had to be quickly replanned with the remaining school vehicles. In the middle of this stressful time, our president, **Larry A. Gritton, Jr.** (OBI '93) received a call from Kuttawa First Baptist Church (KFBC). They had voted to donate their 34-passenger bus to OBI.

KFBC only recently became connected with OBI when one of our trustees, **Kyle Franklin**, became the pastor of Kuttawa First Baptist Church in January, 2022. President Gritton and the OBI Choir visited KFBC for the first time in November, 2022.

Not only did Kuttawa's church bus meet an immediate need for our daily bus routes, the kids loved "riding in style!" You can read more about this providential gift by going to the OBI website. On the home page, scroll to "OBI Highlights" and click on the story. ☐



Third grade visits the Post Office

There are many reasons we appreciate our Oneida U.S.P.O. Postmaster, **Amy Davidson**. Here's another! A lesson in how to address an envelope led to a trip to the Post Office for our third graders to learn about the postal system. Mrs. Davidson gave them the "backstage tour" and patiently answered their numerous questions. One more experience for the students was mailing their individual hand-written thank you letters to a volunteer who had visited their class re-



cently. Each student was given money to buy a stamp which they affixed to their envelopes before placing their letters in the outgoing mail box. ☐.

Amazon Smile comes to an end

Amazon has discontinued its "Amazon Smile" program. Gifts received through the "Amazon Smile" endeavor were given to recipients four times per year. **Jerri Pierce**, OBI Business Office Manager, stated that we received an average of \$175 per quarter. Thank you so much to all who gave!

Other Ways to Give

There are, however, other promotions that can help Oneida. One of these is "Box Tops For Education."

General Mills "Box Tops for Education"

Specially marked GM box tops are worth 10 cents each!

Did you know the Box Tops campaign is now digital? Here's how to do it:

- 1) Download the BTFE app to your phone at <https://www.box-tops4education.com>
- 2) Register in the app and select Oneida Baptist Institute.
- 3) Scan your receipt after each purchase.



However you choose to help OBI, we appreciate you!!!