

HOME BULLETIN
April 29, 2009

WHY A CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Last week we invited parents and friends, in celebration of Christian Education Week, to share with us why they have chosen a Christian education for their children. We have already begun to receive comments. Please send your comments to school. You may email Mr. Adams: bobadams@wi.rr.com or send your comments to the school office. I would like to share with you one story that clearly states the benefits of a Christian education. After reading, I am sure you will join me in praising God for the way He works in our children.

In our family devotions, on Thursday, April 16, we were reading our "Today" devotional. The title was "Who am I". The following was written by Rev. Gordon Pols:

"Who do you say I am?' In this question Jesus looks us straight in the eye even after Easter: 'Tell me—who am I?' People have given a variety of answers: John the Baptist, Elijah, a prophet, a pacifist, a storyteller, a miracle worker, a forerunner of Muhammad. Some even say Jesus was a fraud. But you... who do you say he is?"

Even though we kept reading, we heard a faint answer to that question. We stopped and asked our little daughter, "What was that that you just said?"

And she answered...

"I AM WHO I AM"

...with all of the straightforwardness and confidence that you would expect from a six year old. Nothing more needed to be said because He is the Christ. There she was listening intently to the devotional and then giving a testimony that has as much conviction that would be expected out of many of us as mature followers of Christ. We pray that she will proclaim that statement to many more.

I attribute this heart and mind understanding to God's working through Oostburg Christian School. Thanks to what goes on in her classroom, our daughter talks to God in her prayers as if she's talking to her Lord and her friend. May we all come to Him as little children... ☐

GYM USE RULES

Many of our families enjoy using the gym for a quick game of basketball or some other physical activity. These quick uses of the gym are not family rentals but are instead times when a dad might bring his children in for some fun during a rainy day. Whether the gym is being rented or is used by a school family for a short game of physical activity the same rules apply. No students may use the gym without adult supervision. Please follow this rule. We would hate to have an accident take place and there not be an adult around to help the children. This really boils down to a liability issue for the school. In summary, we want our families to enjoy our wonderful facility as much as possible, but we do insist an adult be present. Thank you.

HELP OUR CEDAR GROVE PARENTS

On Monday night our OCS parents who live in Cedar Grove met in our school library. The purpose of the meeting was to explore ways to transport students living in the Cedar Grove - Belgium School District to our school. The Cedar Grove School District has decided to discontinue bussing students from Cedar Grove to Oostburg Christian. In place of the bussing, Cedar Grove will give our parents a financial stipend. If you know of any retired person or others who may be willing to help with car pooling please call Mary Huenink (668-8078) or Bob Adams (564-2664). Also, please pray for all our families who struggle with transporting their children to and from our school. Thank you.

MAY / JUNE HOT LUNCH ORDERS

These orders were due today. If you did not get yours in you may turn it in by 9:00 AM tomorrow (Thursday). No orders will be accepted after that.

SWINE FLU OUTBREAK?

I am sure many of you have heard about the outbreak of swine flu in Mexico, and the cases that have been reported in parts of the United States. Even though no cases have been reported in Wisconsin and there is nothing for us to worry about, we want you to know Oostburg Christian School does have a binder of information provided by the Sheboygan County Division of Public Health detailing proper planning for schools. We can help our children stay healthy by taking some very simple steps. These steps would be the first steps taken to prevent the spread of any influenza and make sense in all situations of illness at any time of the year. Quoting from the manual:

- **Keep children who are sick home. Don't send them to school.**
- Teach your children to wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds. Be sure to set a good example by doing this yourself.
- Teach your children to cover coughs and sneezes with tissues or by coughing into the inside of the elbow. Be sure to set a good example by doing this yourself.
- Teach your children to stay at least three feet away from people who are sick.
- People who are sick should stay home from work or school and avoid other people until they are better.

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

Next week, May 4 to 8, is Teacher Appreciation Week. Parents and friends are asked to pray specifically for our teachers next week. Start with your child's teacher and then please remember all the teachers at O.C.S. It might be useful to use the school directory. All the teachers' names are listed on the third page of the directory. Also, if anyone would like to show his or her appreciation with a gift, this would be a great time to do it. A friendly note of encouragement is always a blessing. In addition, OCS has a Teacher's Wish List account from which teachers may withdraw money during the school year to purchase items that will be used to enhance their teaching in the classroom. This account is beginning to run low and could use an infusion of gifts if you would like to show your appreciation in this way. Thank you, in advance, for your support and prayers for our teachers.

INTENT CHANGES?

Enrollment intent forms for the 2009 – 2010 school year were sent out and returned over one month ago. Since that time some families have had changes in their employment. If your intent has changed since our pre-registration forms were sent out, please send a note to the office. Please let us know if our Tuition Assistance Plan can be of help to you. We do not want to lose any families due to the economic difficulties facing our people. Please request a TAP form and send it in as soon as possible. The Board understands there will be greater tuition assistance needs for our upcoming year and is planning for it.

ASSOCIATION MEETING

Please set aside the evening of Tuesday, May 19, for our Annual Association Meeting. The meeting will begin at 7:00 PM, and we will be seeking God's will concerning the future of OCS. The meeting activities will consist of election of school board members, approving the general fund budget and the new tuition scale, and the choosing of GRACE Board members. All families will receive an agenda in the near future. All parents or guardians with children enrolled in OCS are automatically Association members. All supporters who have paid the Association Dues or contributed at least \$100 to the school and filled out an Association Membership application are also members. Only Association members may vote at this meeting. If you need an agenda or an Association Membership application please call the school office, and we will send you one when they become available. Please be in prayer for our school in the days leading up to this important meeting. Thank you.

MUSIC NOTES

The video tapes of the K-5 Musical are ready. If you ordered a copy you may pay for and pick it up in the school office. Thank you, Mr. Sliemers, for making the additional copies!

The Jr. High Mini Music Fest. will take place this Thursday evening, April 30, beginning at 6:30 PM. All Jr. High students will perform their solos and ensembles, and the band and choir will also perform. The schedule is attached to this Blue Note.

Information and schedules for the Wisconsin Christian Schools Music Festival on Friday, May 8, will be available next week.

4K REGISTRATION

Although final registration for grades K – 8 takes place in early August, registration for our 4K class has already begun. Please come in and pick up the information needed to register your child. We will decide on the number of sessions to

open based on the number of children enrolled. Those registering first will have the first opportunity to choose the session they want if we do have more than one session. Please call the school office for more information (564-2664). Thank you.

TUITION ASSISTANCE

Oostburg Christian School is partnering with the Christian School Tuition Service of Fulton, Illinois, to determine how best to distribute the school's tuition assistance to those seeking help paying tuition expenses for 2009 – 2010. This "outside" service can impartially evaluate family needs. The only charge is \$15 per family payable to Christian School Tuition Service and sent in with the application. Please call the school office and ask for an application if you so desire. All applications should be sent in by April 30, 2009. Please remember that families currently receiving aid through the TAP fund must fill out an application and use this service if they wish to continue that assistance in 2009 – 2010.

The GRACE Place

**CAN YOU BELIEVE—ONLY 16 MORE DAYS to an
exciting weekend event!**

May 15 and 16, 2009

RUN-JOG WALKATHON-Friday, 3:30 p.m.

**All-you-can-eat SPAGHETTI SUPPER, Friday serving
4:00-6:30 p.m.**

**UNITY BIKE RIDE, Saturday
Walk-up registration beginning at 6:00 a.m.
Rides beginning at 7:00 a.m.**

**SPRING FRY, Saturday
Serving brats and hamburgers right off the grill
11:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

WORKER AND DONATION SCHEDULES ATTACHED!

Please note information below for each event!

RUN – JOG –WALKATHON

For your information: The class that wins this year will be treated to a party at the Blue Harbor on Thursday, May 21. When the winner is announced permission slips and information will be sent home with that class for your immediate notification on Thursday (14th) or Friday (15th).

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

Check the worker sheet attached to be sure that you are available—thanks so much!

UNITY BIKE RIDE

Some highlights:

- ✚ We have some Junior High students who have already raised \$35 or more and registered for the ride. Please remember that parents are responsible for their safety and behavior during this event.
- ✚ Families interested in a Soccer Ride are encouraged to be at school and be ready to ride between 12:00 and 1:00. We will keep the rest stops open at Smies Beach and Belgium for your convenience. Please indicate that you will be joining the Soccer Ride when you register!
- ✚ We have over 100 registrations for this event! (Last year at this time, we had around 20.) Website hits are over 150 this week—keep praying!
- ✚ Walk-up registrations on Friday from 4:00-8:00 p.m. and Saturday from 6:00-9:00 a.m.

SPRING FRY

Fresh brats and hamburgers taste so delicious after a long winter. A list of donated groceries is attached to this note today. Your generosity has almost filled the list—just a few things left! Call Teresa VerVelde today (254-1335)

Praise God with us and pray for nice weather and that His name will be praised throughout the weekend.

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

CEDAR GROVE – BELGIUM SWIM LESSONS

Information and registration forms were sent home with your student late last week. Registration is TONIGHT and TOMORROW (Apr. 29 & 30) from 6:00 – 7:30 PM at Cedar Grove Middle School.

SHARE THE HARVEST

Share the Harvest Community Farmers' Market is planning our second season. The mission of Share the Harvest is to raise funds through vendor sales as well as through the sale of donated garden produce. Profits from the sale of donated produce and vendor fees are used to provide financial assistance and support for identified needs in our community. This year we will be located at 919 Center Avenue, next to Oostburg State Bank, rain dates at Oostburg Christian School. We will also schedule monthly craft sales in addition to our seasonal vendors. Please consider becoming a vendor, donating your extra garden produce, volunteering to sell at the market, recycling your produce containers (the stackable strawberry and cherry tomato size), shopping the market, and most importantly pray that God will bless this ministry. To participate or volunteer, contact Patti Duenk at 564-3221 or visit www.sharetheharvest.org. **Our First Market Date is May 30, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon, and will feature a Craft and Plant Sale.**

SCCHS PLAY

Sheboygan County Christian High's Drama Department will present Deborah Brevoort's "The Women of Lockerbie" on May 7, 8, and 9, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the school gym. Loosely inspired by a true story, the play portrays a mother from New Jersey roaming the hills of Lockerbie, Scotland, looking for her son's remains that were lost in the crash of Pan Am Flight 103. The play is a poetic drama about the triumph of love over hate.

Tickets are on sale now: adults are \$8.00; students (through grade 12 with a valid student id) and senior citizens are \$4.00. SCCHS students and OCS / SCS students with Activity Passes are free. Due to graphic descriptions of the aftermath of the plane explosion and strong emotional content, this play may not be suitable for children under 12 – parental discretion is recommended. For tickets, call the SCCHS office at 458-9981. Christian High is located at 929 Greenfield Avenue in Sheboygan.

SUMMER TUTORING

Does your student need help in phonics, reading or math to make him or her more successful at the next grade level? Does he or she need some "catch-up" help? We can work with your child's teacher to provide the help your child needs. Call Mary Jane Gruett (564-3788) or Sandy Gartman (564-6279). Reasonable fees. Individualized instruction can make a difference.

MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST/CARWASH

Show mom how much you love her! The high school Youth Group at Oostburg First Christian Reformed Church will be hosting a Mother's Day breakfast and car wash on Saturday, May 9, from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. at First CRC. Treat your

mom to a delicious breakfast while our eager young people freshen up the shine on her car. All donations will be used to support our Youth Group's 2010 mission trip to help Dave and Jan Veldhorst in Bangkok, Thailand.

CAKE FUNDRAISER FOR THAILAND MISSION TEAM

The Thailand mission trip team of the Oostburg First Christian Reformed Church Youth Group is selling party cakes for any occasion. Looking for a Mother's Day cake, birthday cake, graduation cake, or Father's Day cake? Call Doris Hendrikse at 564-2460 to order the cake of your choosing for \$20.00. Thank you for supporting the on-going work of Dave and Jan Veldhorst in Thailand.

COACHES NEEDED

Sheboygan County Christian High School is seeking coaches for its fall sports. Girls' varsity and JV volleyball coaches and boys' varsity and JV soccer coaches are needed. Please request more information and/or an application by calling Deb at 458-9981 or e-mailing dvandrunen@scchs.com.

BIBLE BEE

There are information flyers in the school office regarding the Shelby Kennedy Foundation very first National Bible Bee (www.biblebee.org), a Bible memory competition for children and youth from ages 7 to 18.

CAMP CALVIN

An informational/registration brochure for Camp Calvin (June 22-27, 2009) is available in the O.C.S. office.

DORDT DISCOVERY DAYS

Dordt Discovery Days, our summer camp for students who have completed 6th, 7th or 8th grades, is set for **June 22-26, 2009**. The week offers some exciting new classes like How do They do That?, Radio Drama, and Beginning Knitting. Returning favorites include War and Soldiering, Design on a Dime, and Digital Scrapbooking. More than 30 courses will be posted in early March at www.dordt.edu/events/ddd with registration opening at 12:00:01 a.m. on March 25. Registration fees are \$300 and three attendance options remain: Day Campers (9 a.m.-4 p.m.), Commuters (9 a.m.-9 p.m.) and Residents (students stay in a residence hall Mon-Thurs. evenings). If you have questions, call 712-722-6029 and ask to speak with Dianne DeWitt.

GREEN BAY PACKERS YOUTH FOOTBALL CAMP

Please check out www.packerscamps.com for information on community-based non-contact football camps for kids ages 6 to 14 featuring Green Bay Packers heroes and professional educators.

GREEN BAY PREVEA TITLETOWN 3-ON-3 BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Registration for this event which will be held on May 30 is available in the school office. Mail-in registration deadline is May 6, online registration deadline is May 11.

CALENDAR

April 30	OCS Mini Music Festival
May 4-8	Teacher Appreciation Week
May 6	Baked Potato Lunch
May 8	Music Fest. at Elmbrook
	Progress Reports

NON-ELECTRONIC ATTACHMENTS TO HOME BULLETIN

- *OCS Music Fest. Schedule
- *May Calendar and Interest Wheel
- *Spaghetti Supper/Unity Ride/Spring Fry Schedules & Donation Requests
- *Bike/Walk to School Week Information
- *Sheboygan County Historical Society "Third Saturdays" Program Information