



# OUR WITNESS

Newsletter of Oostburg Christian Preschool, Elementary and  
Jr. High School

Psalms 24:1 "The Earth is the Lord's and everything in it."

**Volume 35-Issue #4**

**Summer 2006**

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## **Coming in the Next Issue of Our Witness**

- \* Opening Chapel
- \* Welcome to New Families and New Staff
- \* Soccer & Volleyball Info
- \* Classroom Happenings
- \* Grace Board News
- \* School Hymn Voting

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## Presenting the Oostburg Christian School Class of 2006



The staff and Board of Oostburg Christian School are very happy and pleased to present the class of 2006 pictured above. We congratulate them and pray that they will continue in their leadership and dedication to God as they move forward into High School. More Graduation information found on page 2 of this issue.

**Back Row:** Andrew Stecker, Jennifer Ongna, John Taylor, Erika Voskuil, Joe Meerdink, Kristen Slotman, Lee Veldkamp (Salutatorian), Rachel Slotman (Valedictorian), Mr. Bob Adams, Administrator.

**Middle Row:** Christiana Beckley, Nathan Hendrikse, Sara Lemmenes, Andrew Walvoord, Amanda Scheidt, Spencer Jacque, Crystal Simmons, Tyler Ledeboer, Ellie DeMaster.

**Front Row:** Mrs. Hancock (Class Sponsor), Angela Jensen, Cassondra Meyer, R.J. Velier, Brynn VandeSlunt, Eric Robinson, Melanie Mullikin, Brooke Sarver, Justin Roerdink. (not pictured, Carl Weingaertner)

## Calendar of Events

August 8 - Registration

August 30-31 - Teacher Inservice

September 4 - Labor Day

September 5 - 1st Day of School

September 20 - Early Release at  
1:20

Sept. 28-30 - GRACE Board  
Volleyball Tournament

## Early Release

This year we will again be dismissing students at 1:20 on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. This allows teachers planning time as well as time for all staff meetings.

Please mark your calendars for the following Early Release dates:

**September 20**

**October 18**

**November 15**

**December 20**

**January 17**

**February 21**

**March 21**

**April 18**

**May 16**

## Enrollment Policy

Do you know someone who is interested in Christian Education? Please tell them about OCS and have them contact the school office by phone at 920-564-2664, or by email (oostcs@excel.net). Also see information on our website at oostburgchristian.com. "No child shall on the grounds of race, color, national origin, or sex be excluded from admission to this Christian school."(policy#412.2)



# 8th Grade Graduation

8th Grade Graduation at OCS was held in the OCS Gym on Thursday, June 8th. Mrs. Shelba DeMaster provided beautiful prelude music on the piano and the traditional "Pomp and Circumstance" was played as the Class of 2006 processed. Nathan Hendrikse gave the opening prayer followed by the Valedictory Address by Rachel Slotman. Jennifer Ongna read the scripture and Amanda Scheidt introduced the Graduation Speaker, Mr. Ben Johnson. Mr. Johnson is currently serving as the Youth Pastor at First Christian Reformed Church in Oostburg. Mr. Johnson challenged the graduates to live their faith wherever they go, whatever they do and whatever High School they attend. They were challenged to live a life that reflected their faith in Christ Jesus at home, at school and in their communities.

Following Mr. Johnson's advice to the Graduates, Lee Veldkamp gave his Salutatorian Address and several awards were presented. One of the awards presented annually is the **President's Education Award**. This award is given by the President of the United States to 8th Graders who have a 3.5+ GPA and have achieved at least an 85% score in either Math or Reading on a Standardized Test. This year we were able to give this award to eleven of our Graduates. Awards of the evening were presented as follows:

### **Christian Citizenship:**

6th Grade: Caitlin VerVelde & Heather Velier

7th Grade: Kaitlyn Stecker, Hannah TeWinkel & Adrianna Walvoort

8th Grade: Joe Meerdink, Melanie Mullikin & Brynn VandeSlunt

**Kiwanis Award:** Lee Veldkamp

**Optimist Award:** Andrew Stecker

**Presidents Education Awards:** Christiana Beckley, Ellie DeMaster, Nathan Hendrikse, Sara Lemmenes, Amanda Scheidt, Kristen Slotman, Rachel Slotman, Andrew Stecker, Brynn VandeSlunt, Lee Veldkamp & Andrew Walvoort.

**SCCHS Tuition Scholarship:** Andrew Stecker & Brynn VandeSlunt.

Board President, Jeff Heinen, then presented the Class of 2006 with their diplomas and Mr. Adams, Administrator, handed out the Devotion Books to the students. The class sang "I Give You My Heart" as their class song and Andrew Stecker offered the closing prayer.

## Class Verse

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."  
Jeremiah 29:11

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# Principal's Message

## ***Incredibly Blessed***

This summer I have had the honor to write many thank you notes. The theme in the thank you notes was the same as the theme of this Principal's Message. That theme is taking the time to reflect on the many blessings God has showered upon Oostburg Christian School. Which blessings I am thinking about? Well, let me tell you:

**Volunteers** – Oostburg Christian School is incredibly blessed to have so many people – parents, grandparents, and friends - with servant attitudes. One quick example is the Farm Technology Days that were just completed. GRACE Board filled 136 time slots to make our food tent the best food tent at Farm Technology Days. How was that possible? Volunteers! There were people who took vacation days to work this project. That is just incredible! And it is just one example. Throughout the school year our volunteers worked hard to keep our school running smoothly. For this I praise God and realize we are incredibly blessed.

**Fundraising** – With Registration on August 8, many parents are probably concerned with the rising cost of Christian Education. Did you know that tuition is now less of a percent of our total income than it was last year? Last year tuition accounted for 72% of the cost of education. Tuition will be 67% of the total cost of education in the new budget. How is that happening? The answer is fundraising. The GRACE Board, our many volunteers, all of the "cheerful givers" who continue to support OCS, and our fundraising coordinator – Joyce Eggebeen – are to be thanked. For this I praise God and realize we are incredibly blessed.

**New Play Structure** – I would be wrong not to mention something I am sure the children are excited about. In the next few weeks our new play structure will be installed. For all those individuals who are used by God to look ahead and plan for the future I am very thankful, and I, again, realize we are incredibly blessed.

**New Staff** – One of the great advantages of being a part of Oostburg Christian School is seeing the experience and expertise of our staff at work. However, we also praise God for new staff. We welcome our new Kindergarten Teacher, Mrs. Georgia Smies, and our new After-School Care Provider, Miss Tammy Gantner. We look forward to the upcoming school year and realize again how incredibly blessed we are to always have God providing our school with great teachers and staff.

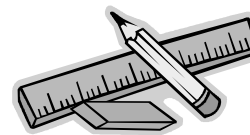
**Grandparents** – How do we properly thank the many grandparents who spend so much time on their knees praying for OCS? Our grandparents and "grand-friends" are the backbone of our school. They volunteer, donate time and finances, and most of all continually pray for the children and staff. For this I realize we are incredibly blessed!

**Our Lord and Savior** – Of course the greatest blessing we have is the love of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He is the reason we exist, and He is the reason for all of our blessings! Yes, we are an incredibly blessed people! — Bob Adams

*"Now glory be to God! By His mighty power at work within us, He is able to accomplish infinitely more than we would ever dare to ask or hope." Ephesians 3:20 NLT*



# First Day of School Info!



**Welcome Back!** The 2006-07 school year begins on Tuesday, September 5th. The teachers are ready, the hallways and classrooms have been cleaned and waxed, new books have been ordered and received and the busses will be running. To make the first day of school a bit less intimidating for parents and students alike, here are a few things you should know:

- \* **Busses** will be running - however, don't be surprised if some busses are a bit late. Please be patient as the bus schedules are finalized. Bus students will be dropped off at the East side of the building on 6th Street. **(NO PARENT PARKING ON 6TH STREET!)**
- \* **Parking:**  
Bicycles are to be parked in the rack on the West side of the building only!  
Car/Vans are to be parked in the new south parking lot. **ALL DROP-OFF AND PICK UPS ARE TO BE MADE IN THIS LOT AND NOT ON 6TH STREET! 6TH STREET IS RESERVED FOR BUSES ONLY! PLEASE ABIDE BY THIS!**
- \* Any parent with new students may bring their children inside the building before the 8:30 bell rings to help them understand the layout of the school and help them find their classroom.
- \* Preschool does not begin until Wednesday, September 6th. Mrs. Oliver, Preschool Teacher, has sent a letter home with information concerning their scheduling.
- \* Kindergarten will meet daily from 8:30-noon with optional day care following.
- \* 8:30 a.m. the bell will ring and students are to line up by grades as follows:  
*Grades 5th - 8th* will line up outside the south parking lot entrance near the main office. The playground teacher will let the students into the school.  
*Grades K- 4th* will line up by the south playground door near the new play structure. The playground teacher will let the students into the school.
- \* Teachers will each be by their classroom doors and in the hallways available to help the students get to where they need to go.
- \* 9:00 a.m. will be our All-School Chapel. Mr. Adams, the Principal, will lead the chapel and all parents, grandparents and friends of the school are invited to attend. The chapel will last approximately 30-40 minutes and then we will begin the typical routine of the first day of school.
- \* 3:22 p.m. Bus Students Only are dismissed.
- \* 3:27 p.m. Students who walk, ride a bike or get picked up by parents are dismissed.

**PLEASE DRIVE CAREFULLY IN THE SCHOOL PARKING LOT AND ON THE STREETS AROUND THE SCHOOL!** We have many children walking or riding bikes and they don't always watch carefully where they are going! **DRIVERS MUST WATCH FOR STUDENTS!**

# G.R.A.C.E. BOARD INFO.

## Gods' Redeemed Advancing Christian Education

President	Paul Modahl
VicePres	Patti Duenk
Secretary	Sandy Gartman
Treasurer	Laurie Ackley
	Carolyn Morgan
	Joel Van Ess
	Lynn Wilterdink
	Hope Winkel
	Janell Otte
	Jacki Adams
School Board Liaisons	Steve Wisse
	Carol VanderWaal
Charger Shootout Chair	Marjorie Oliver
Fund Raising Coordinator	Joyce Eggebeen

**Our Mission:** To reduce tuition costs for all families by sponsoring fundraising events that make effective use of our parents' various talents and efficient use of their limited time.

**Our Goal:** To select and fashion projects that will allow us to meet our Pledge while requiring fewer man hours, fewer parent donations, and reflect a "true profit".

**Our Plan:** Combine fundraising efforts to best utilize the available hours when parents work on projects and be good stewards of our time and money.

**GRACE Board meetings** are held monthly August through July, excluding December.

**Additional Sub-Committee** meetings are held as needed.

**GRACE Board Annual Membership Meeting** is held in May along with the Association Meeting.

### GRACE Board Liaisons for Planned Projects

September	Bank Collection	Joel VanEss
September	Volleyball Tournament	Lynn Wilterdink & Janell Otte
October	#1 Pizza Sale	Paul Modahl/Carolyn Morgan
October	Faith Campaign	Steve Wisse
November	A Heart for Education Auction	Joyce Eggebeen & Patti Duenk
Jan/Feb	Charger Shootout	Marjorie Oliver
March	#2 Pizza Sale	Paul Modahl/Carolyn Morgan
April	Night of Praise	Carol VanderWaal
May	Run-Jog-Walkathon/Spring Fry	Sandy Gartman & Jacki Adams
Ongoing	\$CRIPT	Laurie Ackley & Hope Winkel

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# Interest Wheels