

# OUR LADY OF GRACE SCHOOL

*Excellence in Catholic education for more than 50 years*

NEWSLETTER

www.olgraceschool.org

SUMMER 2008



*The OLG School Science Olympiad team celebrates its top-three regional finish in February at Purdue University Calumet. With its showing in regionals, the team advanced to the state finals for the fourth straight year, this time competing at Indiana University in Bloomington.*

## Top Catholic school in state

For the fourth straight year, Our Lady of Grace School's Science Olympiad team was Indiana's highest-finishing Catholic school in the middle school/junior high division.

At the 2008 state finals, held March 29 at Indiana University in Bloomington, the

OLG team – coached by veteran science teacher Georgia Veneziano – finished 14th in the state among 26 middle school teams that advanced from regional competition.

What makes the OLG team's effort so impressive is that it was competing in the state finals against schools boasting

enrollments up to even beyond 20 times that of Our Lady of Grace School's seventh- and eighth-grade enrollment.

OLG advanced to the state finals after finishing in the top three middle school teams in the regional competition Feb. 16 at Purdue-Calumet.

**OLG**school

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# Making the OLG vision real

As we conclude the 2007-2008 school year, we reflect on the work we do as a faith community in fulfilling the mission and vision of our educational ministry at Our Lady of Grace School. Together with our dedicated faculty and staff, our parents and volunteers, our School Board and Home and School Association, and our pastor and parishioners dedicated to furthering Catholic education, we can count many successes that have helped to further our mission.



**MARILYN  
TOMKO**

Once again this year, OLG has earned an exemplary rating from the state. Our Science Olympiad team's success at the regional took the team to the state finals again. The successes of our

athletic teams and band in competition contribute to the development of well-rounded individuals. Our students' contributions to an orphanage in Sierra Leone further our mission of providing service to others.

Additionally, the work of our School Board continues to be instrumental and inspirational. Through its efforts, our first Annual Fund campaign will enable us to continue to make real the mission and vision of our ministry here at OLG.

Education in our faith is vital to the life of our parish and community. Together with our parents as the first teachers of their children, we work not only to build, but also to live our faith and pass it on to our children so the vision of God's kingdom may become a reality for us all. We invite you to visit us and join us on the journey.

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## OLG SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Dan Dernulc	Dan Kalinowski
Leslie Dernulc	Virginia Lenart
Karen Golumbeck	John Sedia
Kathy Gortat	Stan Wrobel
Mike Kaim	Teresa Zahorsky

## Ex-Officio Members:

Rev. Edward J. Moszur, Pastor  
Marilyn Tomko, Principal  
Lisa Anderson, Home and School Association  
Donna Frazier, Recording Secretary



This year's Lester Shideler Award winners are Shelby Stickler and Joseph Pruitt.

## Shideler winners recognized

At the annual OLG School athletic awards banquet May 8, eighth-graders Shelby Stickler and Joseph Pruitt were recognized as recipients of this year's Lester Shideler Award.

The award is presented annually to the graduating OLG athletes – one girl and one boy – who have best demonstrated a Christian attitude toward sports and teamwork during their athletic career at Our Lady of Grace.

A recipient is one who leads by

example, and demonstrates school pride and spirit. The recipient respects and encourages teammates, coaches and officials, and works hard to improve his or her athletic skills. The athlete demonstrates hustle at all practices and competitions.

The award – determined by polling all of the eighth-grade coaches – is not a Most Valuable Player Award.

Congratulations Shelby and Joseph on your accomplishments.

## OLG students help first-place effort

OLG School students helped the local Knights of Columbus council to finish first in the state in collecting pop-tabs from aluminum cans to help those in need of kidney dialysis.

Knights of Columbus Council 8080, which comprises the Highland parishes of OLG and St. James, collected more than 200 pounds of pop-tabs – the largest amount collected by any of the

152 Knights of Columbus councils in Indiana. OLG School students, plus religious education students from both parishes, contributed to the effort.

You can join our students and the Knights in 2008-09 by contributing pop-tabs through our school. Keep in mind that every pop-tab collected from a can is worth one minute of dialysis for a deserving kidney patient.

## Family leaves legacy to OLG School

The family of Walter Bogusz, who passed away on Feb. 15, 2008, kindly designated that donations be made in his memory to the Our Lady of Grace School Annual Fund campaign.

As a result of their generosity, the first Annual Fund Campaign received

\$1,195.00 toward its goal of \$30,000.

Walter and his wife, Sophie, sent all seven of their children to Our Lady of Grace School. The generosity of their family members and friends to OLG in his memory is greatly appreciated.

# Where are they now?

**Jim Barenia** is a pediatric dentist living in Evans, Ga. After OLG, he attended Highland High, Indiana University School of Dentistry, University of Rochester (M.S.) and Eastman Dental Center. OLG really got him off to a great start.

**Agnes (Czysczon) Nahnsen** lives in Munster with her husband and three children. She works as a registered nurse at St. James Hospital in Olympia Fields credits her experience at OLG as a major influence in her decision to provide a Catholic education for her children.

**David Roche** is a performing artist and writer living with his wife in Roberts Creek, British Columbia. His parents, George and Virginia, two pioneers at OLG, have passed on as have two younger siblings, Kathleen and Kevin. His daughter, Amy, is in Bloomington, Ind. See [www.davidroche.com](http://www.davidroche.com) for more on David's career.

**Sue Sobek** lives and Darien, Ill., and owns her own consulting company, SLS Learning Solutions, LLC, which provides training materials and strategies for corporations. From 1980 to 1985, Sue taught at St. Mary School in Griffith and at OLG.

**Allison (Azar) Beckmeyer, OLG '76**, lives in Aurora, Ohio, and says she would not be where she is today if it wasn't for her education and the discipline at OLG.

**Tom Michalak** lives in Highland with his wife, Patty, and daughters Megan and Emily. He is employed at DLZ Industrial in Burns Harbor as a professional land surveyor, licensed in Indiana and Illinois. Patty is a registered nurse at Premier Oncology in Munster.

**Cherie (Helfen) McIntosh** lives in Renton, Wash., with her husband, Michael, and daughter, Ashley. She has a new baby on the way. She received her bachelor's degree in education from Purdue and her master's in educational technology. She taught for 13 years and is now an author for a children's chapter book series entitled, "Pinky and Peanut: The Adventure Begins" ([www.pinkyandpeanut.com](http://www.pinkyandpeanut.com)).

**Karen (Peres) Kalinowski, OLG '73**, and her husband, Dan, live in Highland and are the proud parents of two OLG graduates and one current OLG fourth-grader. Karen and Dan have both been ardent supporters of OLG School, volunteering on various committees and organizations.

**Paul Mullaney, OLG '73**, is managing editor of The Times newspaper in Munster. He and his wife, Kelly, live in Hammond with their six children – all of whom have attended OLG School. The youngest two are entering the fourth and fifth grades at OLG this fall.

## A-Plus for Energy efforts



*OLG junior high science teacher Georgia Veneziano*

For the second straight year, junior high science teacher Georgia Veneziano has been awarded a grant from BP in its "A-Plus for Energy" program. This year, she received a \$10,000 grant as one of 25 teachers in NW Indiana to be recognized by BP.

The grant is to help teachers pursue creative activities and projects involving energy education and conservation.

In addition to the grant, winning teachers are honored at a July luncheon and are invited to attend a three-day energy training conference.

## OLG School mission statement

Our Lady of Grace School, with the support of the school families, dedicated faculty and the entire parish community of Our Lady of Grace, cultivates academic excellence and Catholic values within a distinctive educational framework. The major goal is to prepare students to respond to the challenges in their lives by:

- Providing quality instruction;
- Encouraging students to lead "Christ-Centered" lives; and
- Developing a consciousness of the family of God by providing service to others.

## Looking for OLG alums! We want to know what you're up to!

Please take a few minutes to fill out this form and send it back to us, as we would like to remain in contact with you. School newsletters often will include a "Where Are They Now" section on our former students.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Please tell us below about your family, career, endeavors, etc.:

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please check at least one:  OLG alumnus, Class of \_\_\_\_\_

Former OLG parent

Former OLG teacher

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out, detach and mail form to: OLG School, 3025 Highway Ave., Highland, IN 46322 ■ You can also e-mail us at: [olgnews@yahoo.com](mailto:olgnews@yahoo.com)

# SPECIAL SUNDAY FOR OLG SCHOOL THIRD-GRADERS



*Third-grade students from OLG School pose with Father Moszur, Miss Tomko, teacher Mrs. Beth Franzen and other staff after they received the sacrament of Eucharist for the first time on Sunday, May 4. The children celebrated their special day by joining fellow parishioners at 11 a.m. Mass and receiving Holy Communion for the first time. Congratulations to all our students.*

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