

# Congratulations Oaks Class of 2019



On June 8th, The Oaks Class of 2019 joined the ranks of over 200 Oaks Alumni. Greyson Gold delivered the Valedictorian address and reminded his class of the words of Augustine: “our heart is restless

until it finds its rest in [Christ].” The beauty shared through speeches, choir performances, and the poignancy of fathers handing a diploma to their graduate is unlike any other Oaks community event.



Please mark your calendars and join us for next June’s graduation! God was truly glorified and we encourage parents of Kindergarteners through Juniors to come and see His faithfulness year after year. We praise God for this class and their families!



**The Oaks  
Education Association  
P.O. Box 141146  
Spokane, WA 99214**

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Spokane, WA  
**Permit #4**

To: Family and Friends of The Oaks  
From: The Oaks Classical Christian Academy  
Issue: Summer 2019

Some moments in life are “thick” with meaning. They are the kinds of moments that have layers. They evoke heaps of memories in an instant. Graduation at The Oaks, and specifically the handing out of the diplomas, is exactly that: a “thick” moment.

It goes like this. The President of the Board reads off the graduate’s name, the father walks up the steps where I hand him the diploma, then the dad gives his son or daughter the prize. Quick, simple, and thick.

This ceremony embodies the partnership of parents and school for the sake of children. This relationship that has lasted for years, layered with victories, forgiveness, difficulties, and fundamentally, by growth, is all packed into the moment of the father taking the diploma from me and passing it onto his child. Something of substance is being passed on. The Oaks diploma is a stamp that the goals and vision of our school have been given to the child. It is a gift jointly given by the school and the parents, a gift we long for this graduate to embrace and run with.

## LOVE | THINK | HONOR

As I reflected on graduation this year, I was struck by the simple act of passing along a diploma. Stepping back, this seems so fundamental to what God calls us to do in all aspects of life: pass something on. We can pass on a smile, love for a sport, or on a bigger scale, we pass on an education and a worldview. Further, we can pass on godly heritages to our kids and grandkids. *All* of us are engaged in passing along a heritage. The question is not *if* we will pass it on, but *what kind*. So, what are you passing on?

The Oaks partners with parents to help them raise up the next generation in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; this summarizes what we want to pass on. Whether your kids have years until graduation or have grown and gone, you are still passing on a heritage. This summer, I encourage you to reflect with me and celebrate the milestones of a godly heritage being passed on to the next generation. May the Lord bless and keep you.

~Charlie Dowers, Headmaster

## Student Life

Around 250 grandparents attended **The Oaks annual Grandparent's Day** celebration on May 17th, breaking the record attendance by over one hundred. Kindergartener Jack Schaefer said his grandparents learned "how well-behaved we are" in his class presentation. That answer may have been prompted by his Grandma! Jim and Patty Schaefer loved their first Grandparents Day, and frequently start out their week at Monday morning Cantabile. "We always leave with a smile," says Patty. New to the program this year was an invitation to join The Oaks Grandparent Association. Sam and Judy Palpant are stepping out in faith to lead as Grandparent Advocates (GPA). If you are interested in the Grandparent Association, please contact Bruce Williams at [bruce.williams@theoakscga.org](mailto:bruce.williams@theoakscga.org).



Jack Schaefer with his grandparents: Patty Schaefer, Kris Bjorklund, and Jim Schaefer

**After rescheduling due to rain, this year's Civil War Reenactment** was held on May 31st, a beautiful sunny day. Mr. Bill Stutzman addressed the soldiers before they reenacted the Battle of Stones River. With a slight revision to history, the South won! Southern General Carter Stepper attributes their victory partly to their strategy to fall back at the right time and stay in a concentrated group, forcing the Northern soldiers to advance in an open field as easier targets. Sixth graders enjoyed their first reenactment and said their "gruel" (oatmeal) was pretty good! Thank you to all the parent volunteers who literally outfitted and fed an army.

## Academics

**Twenty-four juniors delivered their theses** in May and presented on topics such as insuring your business, a Christian ethic of space travel, and the importance of science education in classical Christian schools. This year's defenses included the first all-Alumni panel as Oaks dad Zach Lipton ('08) joined Emily Woodroof ('09) and Joel Dowers ('04) for a panel. We hope this becomes a



Brayden Tibbetts ('20)

tradition! Congratulations, Juniors, for your accomplishments.

**The "Miss Mewes Scribe Award"** acknowledges elementary students who demonstrated the most beautiful handwriting this year. Students begin learning cursive in first grade to help grow a love for words and beautiful work. Third grader Cedric Schultz's favorite letter to write in cursive is probably "z" and one of the longest words he has written is "Mount Kilimanjaro." Congratulations to Cedric, Olivia Dimeler (1st), Wyatt Harken (2nd), Avilla Sun (3rd), Lindy LejaMeyer (4th), Elena Thompson (5th), Samantha Palpant (6th), and Julia Maier (6th) for glorifying God with pencil and paper!

## Development

**Land Update:** Valley Fourth is continuing the process of segregating its property into two lots. All major hurdles have been cleared! The final edits on the plat map are being reviewed by the city. Look for more updates to come later in the summer! Praise God with us!

**Summer Meetings:** We are in the process of meeting with all school families for the purpose of deepening our partnership in parenting, our partnership in the future and vision of the school, and talking about spreading the word about The Oaks.

## The Arts

**The Oaks spring musical Cinderella** delighted the audience with an incredibly realistic horse, skilled singing, a live orchestra, and excellence in the details. Teri Woodroof once again drew out the best in her cast and crew. Thank you to Teri and her team for investing in our students' love for beauty and excellence to the glory of God!



Seniors Maddie Burgess and Coby Kim

## Staff Spotlight

**When asking Amy Kim her favorite book to teach,** Amy responded: "That's like asking me to pick a favorite child!" Familiarity with books like *The Chosen*, *Frankenstein*, and *The Fellowship of the Ring* has blossomed into great affection. Amy continues to faithfully teach seventh and eighth graders great books like these and writing skills that will serve

them through their secondary career and beyond. While she cannot think of her favorite book, she can certainly think of a favorite senior this year. Amy had the privilege to give the commencement address to her son Coby and The Oaks Class of 2019. In classic Amy style, she seamlessly wove song into her speech and serenaded the audience with fitting lines from the spring musicals she has conducted for this class. Conducting is when Amy feels "most alive" and it draws on her God-given passions for music and mentoring all in one. We are so grateful for Amy's diligence with her students for over thirteen years and look forward to the years to come. Thank you Amy!

## Alumni Spotlight

**Jordan Strandness (Oaks Class of 2015) graduated this Spring from Westmont** where he double-majored in English and Philosophy. With a strong foundation of writing at The Oaks, he continued writing in college and took Screenwriting II this past year from a professional screenwriter. His final project? A full-length screenplay. Jordan's sci-fi *Mission Impossible*-type movie script was over 100 pages, and he now understands the "mood swings that come from thinking one moment that



your screenplay is basically offal (pun intended), and then believing it's the best thing ever." His thoughts for believers who want to plant flags for Christ in the television scene are to: 1) write good stories, 2) do not compromise, and 3) be unashamed of the stories we tell. Jordan is working as a tennis counselor back East this summer and may pursue more creative writing after that. Congratulations, Jordan, and may God bless you as you seek His will (Col. 1:9-12).