



# Footsteps



Toward a Better Tomorrow

Volume 15, No. 1

A periodic publication of FJS, designed to keep you aware of FJS facts and faces

Winter 2014-15

## New Classroom Configurations

Teachers are experiencing a number of new challenges this year as class sizes and budget constraints have necessitated a shift in classroom assignments.

Elizabeth Rodriguez, in her second year at FJS, has moved from the 5th and 6th grade homeroom to 1st and 2nd grade, replacing Karen Graybill who is on a leave of absence this term.



Elizabeth Rodriguez  
Grades 1 & 2

Miss Rodriguez says she is really enjoying the younger students but is stretched by needing to adjust to a whole different grade level this year.

Dwight Nisly, now in his 18th year at FJS, is teaching the combined 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades with 14 students in his homeroom. Dwight and his students both enjoy their chapel times together in the mornings. When asked what they most like about school, "Chapel," is one of the frequent responses from Mr. Nisly's homeroom.

In the upper school Erleen Detweiler added 6th grade to her junior high homeroom, making it officially our "middle school"

classroom. Having younger students in her classroom is a challenge for both them and her as they adjust to the higher expectations both academically and in social maturity.

Lily Allert is a new face on the top floor, teaching some of the classes taught by both Ruthi Gochnauer and Jim Gochnauer last year. Lily is the daughter-in-law of Eleanor Allert, a 16 year veteran at FJS and parent to five FJS students.

Miss Lily, as she is called, says that "one of the most rewarding things about my new position is that I have the privilege of helping students achieve a higher score than they thought they could in a subject where they may have lacked the motivation to do so."



Bernalda (Lily) Allert  
Upper school

Jim Gochnauer continues to split his time between the office as principal and the high school homeroom of 18 students, the largest in the history of FJS.

Jim values the privilege of being able to relate to his students as young adults and discussing important life issues with them.

### 1st Quarter Honor Roll

#### Principal's List (97%-100%)

Adina Allert (3rd)  
Liam Herschberger (3rd)  
Samuel Siguenza (7th)

#### A Honor Roll (93%-96%)

Abigail Allert (9th)  
Eve Barnhart (3rd)  
Heidi Bu (5th)  
Xavier Coit (3rd)  
Jaedon Mast (5th)  
Amaryllis Rodriguez (4th)  
Abraham Suarez (3rd)  
Keanna Wharwood (5th)

#### B Honor Roll (85%-92%)

Dina Bu (10th)  
Natan Bu (12th)  
A.J. Vasquez (11th)  
Deborah Vega (4th)  
Kaylah Wharwood (4th)

### 2nd Quarter Honor Roll

#### Principal's List (97%-100%)

Liam Herschberger (3rd)

#### A Honor Roll (93%-96%)

Adina Allert (3rd)  
Arielle Allert (6th)  
Eve Barnhart (3rd)  
Heidi Bu (5th)  
Isaiah Marte (5th)  
Jaedon Mast (5th)  
Amaryllis Rodriguez (4th)  
Abraham Suarez (3rd)  
Kaylah Wharwood (4th)

#### B Honor Roll (85%-92%)

Javier Marte (4th)  
Deborah Vega (4th)  
Keanna Wharwood (5th)

## Upper School Elects Execs

The upper school students elected their 2014-15 Student Council in September. Selected were A. J. Vasquez – President, Kencel Andrews – Vice President, Tiara Gonzalez – Secretary/Treasurer, Felicia Feliciano and Robert Sifontes – Members-at-large.

Due to the size of the high school homeroom, the high school class also elected a homeroom executive committee for the first time. George Aviles was elected President, Dina Bu serves as Secretary and Natan Bu as treasurer.

Both committees hope to plan a number of exciting activities throughout the year to keep students interested in and excited about school.

The Footsteps is a periodic publication of:

### Followers of Jesus School

3065 Atlantic Ave.  
Brooklyn, NY 11208  
TEL: (718) 235-5493  
FAX: (718) 484-1477  
E-mail: fjs@fjschool.org  
Web: www.fjschool.org

Mr. Gochnauer – editor

*And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.* 2 Tim. 2:2 (NIV)

FJS is a ministry of Followers of Jesus Mennonite Church.

# Grades 3-5 Highlight Annual Christmas Program

Mr. Nisly's students in grades 3-5 were the primary feature in the annual Christmas program singing "O Come, All Ye Children" and "O List' to the Story."



Grades 3-5 perform their mini-drama, "Out of the Box Christmas Gifts"

annual FJS Christmas program on Tuesday evening, December 16.

The program began with a candlelight procession as students and faculty sang "Silent Night" followed by the upper school choir singing "The Lord Is in His Holy Temple" as a call to worship.

After a welcome and prayer by Mr. Gochnauer, the 1st and 2nd graders sang "Away in a Manger" and "Feliz Navidad."

In the mini-drama, "Out of the Box Christmas Gifts" by the 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders, the gifts of a Savior, joy, worship, and love were illustrated in narration and song. The drama was directed by Linda Gavin. Marilyn Barnhart accompanied the students on the piano.

Following the performances by the lower school, the upper school choir performed two traditional carols, "How Great Our Joy" and an enthusiastic rendition of "Carol of the Bells."

Concluding the evening was the traditional all-school choir as faculty, students, and volunteers joined in

The evening was capped off by a time of fellowship and refreshments provided by the school parents.

## Cooking Class Started

Five high school students are enjoying a cooking class taught by Ruthi Gochnauer.

Ruthi hopes to include topics in nutrition, understanding and following recipes, shopping trips to the market, and cooking a variety of dishes. She notes that many families primarily eat prepared foods which are more expensive and less nutritious than home-cooked meals.

Tiara Gonzalez says she signed up for the class because she wants to learn to cook for her family. Joseph Lopez joined the class because "I enjoy cooking and I would like to be a chef someday."



# 2015 Bible Quiz Season in Full Swing

FJS has entered five teams in the 2015 MACSA Bible Quizzing Competition sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Christian Schools Association.

The teams are comprised of students from FJS as well as FJS homeschool affiliates.

The junior high "3 Witnesses" include Janae Yoder – Captain, Arielle Allert, and Katlyn Blank. They are coached by Yessenia Oporta, an FJS 2014 graduate.

Gene DeCamp ('10) coaches the junior high "Yet Leaders" captained by Avery Schwartz with Jonathan and Josiah Stoltzfus.

The senior high "Elect" is comprised of A. J. Vasquez – captain, Joshua Allert, and Robert Sifontes. Ruthi Gochnauer is their coach.

Coaching the senior high "Vasos de Honor" is Joel Yoder. Kristen Yoder is the team captain, assisted by Josh Blank and Dina Bu.

Dave Graybill coaches "Wholly Brooklyn," captained by Brianna



The senior high "Wholly Brooklyn team of Dave Graybill - coach, Joziyah Pollard, Abi Allert, and Brianna Schwartz - captain with their 3rd place trophy earned in the play-off round at the regional quiz-a-thon on February 12.

Schwartz with Joziyah Pollard and Abigail Allert.

At their first meet on Saturday, January 31, at Lititz

Area Mennonite School, both junior high teams and the senior high "Vasos de Honor" made the play-offs.

The second meet was a regional meet held at Proclamation Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia.

The junior high "Yet Leaders" won all of their four quizzes, placing 2nd overall in the junior high division during the regular quizzes. Both "Yet Leaders" and "3 Witnesses" advanced to the junior high play-off round where "Yet Leaders" earned a 3rd place.

The senior high teams, "Vasos de Honor" and "Wholly Brooklyn" also made the play-offs where "Wholly Brooklyn" earned a 3rd place trophy.

The teams quiz again on February 26 at Calvary Church in Lancaster, PA, then eagerly anticipate the two-day retreat at Black Rock Retreat in March.



The junior high "Yet Leaders," Gene DeCamp - coach, Jonathan Stoltzfus, Josiah Stoltzfus, and Avery Schwartz - captain, earned 3rd place in the play-offs at the Regional quiz-a-thon on February 12 at Proclamation Presbyterian Church.

# StuCo Plans Half-year Celebration

Monday, January 26th was the first day of the second semester and the day of the annual "Half-year Celebration."

To liven up the day, Student Council planned a special activity every hour on the half-hour throughout the day.

At 9:30 a.m., students were greeted with a half cup of iced coffee, half coffee and half whipped

cream, generously mixed with chocolate syrup. That was followed

an hour later with a half-finished picture to complete, then half a cupcake, and "Mad Libs" to complete.

The day concluded with a whole school assembly in basement where a prize of a half cookie was given to a student in each homeroom for the best drawing followed by some group games.



Students look for their partners after A.J. calls "Fire in the mountain!"



**Followers of Jesus Mennonite Church**

3065 Atlantic Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11208  
E-mail: fjs@fjschool.org

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## FJS Winter 2014-15 Newsletter

**Mark Your Calendar**

**Feb 26**  
Parent-Teacher Fellowship, 7:00 pm. (reschedule from Feb. 5)

**Feb 19**  
High school field trip to Brooklyn Central Library

**Feb 26**  
MACSA Bible Quiz-a-thon, Calvary Church, Lancaster, PA

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