



1 March 2013

Upcoming Events

Wednesday-Friday, 6-8 March – MACSA Bible Quiz Retreat, Black Rock Retreat, Lanc. Co., PA

Friday, 8 March – 2013 FJS Spring Banquet at Shady Maple Banquet Center. **EARLY DISMISSAL: 12:00 noon. There will be NO LUNCH period on this day.**

Friday, 15 March – NEW DATE for rough draft for Science Fair research

Monday, 25 March - Monday, 1 April – Spring Break. **NO SCHOOL.**

FJS Mission Statement, Part 3

*Followers of Jesus School exists to provide a quality, academic education from an Anabaptist perspective to **Christian families in the Cypress Hills community**. Our mission is to partner with parents in equipping their children to become lifetime learners who embrace Truth and become servant-leaders.*

Why Christian families and why only Cypress Hills?

Actually, FJS practices what is frequently called "open enrollment." We accept nearly all students for a four-week probationary period if we get a good recommendation from their previous school and they appear to be a good fit for FJS. However, our target group is Christian families in our neighborhood.

There are many small Christian elementary schools scattered throughout the city and we do not want to be in competition with them. Parents who live close to the school can more easily come in for parent interviews, generally do not need to pay for transportation, and, in the case of FJS, are already very familiar with the multi-ethnic nature of this community. At FJS, as in the neighborhood, most of the population comes from the Caribbean and from Latin America. Several of our teachers do as well. This diversity is one of the strengths of FJS and families which come from the community blend into the school environment the best.

Raising godly children is always a challenge. All children are born with a sin nature which needs to be trained and disciplined. This is evident to parents the first time their child shakes their head away when being fed or the first time they say, "No!" to a direct command. Christian parents raising godly children in the urban setting is especially challenging because of all the different influences which impact the family. FJS wants to be part of the spiritual community helping Christian families help their children accept Jesus as their Savior and grow in following him as Lord in their choices. On the other hand, we do also accept families who do not attend church regularly or at all if they are willing for their children to participate in worship each morning, take the Bible classes, and do the Bible memory. We expect, as well, that when students are encouraged to make choices which are taught in the Bible – such as the choice to respond non-violently to aggression – they will cooperate with the school and their teachers in making those choices. We also pray that all students, whether from Christian homes or not, will accept Jesus Christ as their Savior – the one who forgives their sins, and follow him in life.

We thank God for the many families of many ethnic and religious backgrounds who have chosen FJS as the place for their children to receive an education, but we have experienced the most long-term success with the families who best fit our primary target group.

Celebrating the diversity of our community,
James E. Gochnauer, Principal