



8 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 4

*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.*

At the bottom of our letterhead is the phrase, "*partnering with parents ... equipping students ... embracing truth.*"

Research has shown that, when parents are involved in their children's education (1) school attendance is better, (2) grades, achievement test scores and graduation rates all increase, (3) drug and alcohol abuse and violent behavior are decreased, (4) students are more motivated and feel better about themselves, and (5) detentions and suspensions are less.

So what does a "parent partnership" look like? Parent involvement in a child's education begins long before the child begins school. Reading story books aloud to your children, providing creative play with blocks, puzzles, and paper and crayons all help get a child ready for school. Asking questions of toddlers like "What color is that?" "How many of those are there?" "What time is it?" all help children be more successful in school. Research has also shown that, if these activities are done with parents, rather than pre-school or day care instructors, the overall effect is much better.

Once a child starts school, many things can help him/her succeed. (1) Establish a daily routine for play, meal time and homework. (2) Model hard work and personal discipline in your own life. (3) Encourage reading and continue to read to your elementary children. When our family went to the library, we took a box along for all the books we brought home. Miss Ruthi tells me that I read all seven of the Narnia Chronicles to our children when they were young, although I don't remember it. Apparently the boys still do. (4) Encourage questions and ask questions about what they are learning in school.

Finally, learn to know your child's teachers and keep in communication. Attend PTF meetings and Teacher-Parent Conferences. Your absence from school event clearly tells your children that school is not important. Visit the school from time to time and sit in your child's classroom. (Be sure to call ahead so the teacher can make a place for you.) Communicate regularly about homework and missing assignments. Keep in touch with your child's teacher. Miss Detweiler has most of the text numbers for her students' parents on her cell phone and regularly texts them about their children's progress.

More than preschool and Head Start, more than race or ethnicity, more than socioeconomic status, parental involvement in a child's education is the best predictor of long-term success. Let's partner together in the education of your children to provide the best opportunity for their success.

For the success of our children,
James E. Gochnauer, Principal