



15 March 2013

### **Upcoming Events**

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

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

**Friday, 5 April** – End of 3rd Quarter.

**Thursday, 11 April** – Parent-Teacher Conferences, please call Jen to schedule.

**Friday, 12 April** – **Early Dismissal, 1:30 p.m.** Parent-Teacher Conference, please call Jen to schedule

**Tuesday-Thursday, 16-19 April** – NYS ELA Testing, Grades 4 & 8

**Tuesday-Friday, 16-19 April** – Achievement Testing, Grades 1-3, 5-7, 9-10.

### **FJS Mission Statement, Part 5**

*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.*

I asked the students the other day what an educated person was, someone who knew a lot or someone who knew how to discover what they needed to know. I believe that the truly educated person is someone who has the knowledge and resources to learn and discover new things on their own. There is a core set of knowledge which is essential – language skills, mathematical skills, ability to access and use resources. However, beyond that, the highly motivated individual will discover many things on his own without needing direct instruction and supervision.

At FJS, we do not only want to help your children get a diploma; we want to put the tools into their hands so that they can continue to learn throughout life. Most high school students have learned by now that, if they ask Mrs. Gochnauer how to spell or define a word, she will send them for the dictionary. After students are shown how to format a document on the computer, I tell them to browse the menus to find the answer to their question if they forget what they were taught. When preparing to do the research for science fair projects, Miss Detweiler, Mrs. Gochnauer, and I took the junior and senior high students to the Brooklyn Public Library – Central Branch on Eastern Parkway to get books from which to do their research. Students were taught how to access the catalog online, then find the proper section of the library to get their books. Disappointingly, it was the first time most of the students had ever been to the main library. Science labs in grades 5-12 provide opportunities for hands-on discovery. Trips to the park for the lower school, to Miss Graybill's apartment to bake cookies, or to Mr. Nisly's apartment to see the animals expose many students to previously undiscovered worlds and provide opportunity for exploration and dialogue.

We find that students are fairly good at playing back to us what we tell them, especially on a test or in their homework. They are much less able to write their own thoughts and opinions about the things we have discussed in class or make application of classroom teaching to their own personal experience. If students can't take the concepts, ideas, and tools taught in the classroom and incorporate them into their own journey of discovery, the benefits of their education will be very limited.

A further skill is to be able to evaluate information to determine if it is true or not. What is the viewpoint of the author or speaker? Is he/she biased against the truth of God's Word? In the next essay, we will explore what it mean to "embrace Truth."

Until then, enjoy the last weekend of winter.

James E. Gochnauer, Principal