



13 March 2015

Upcoming Events

Friday, 27 March – End of 3rd Quarter

Friday-Friday, 3-10 April – Spring Break! **NO SCHOOL**

Thursday-Friday, 16-17 April – 3rd Quarter Parent Conferences

2014-15 Bible Quiz Season Closes; 2015-16 Announced

The 2014-15 MACSA Bible Quiz season is finished today. This year we had teams at all five levels from C (high school boys) to AA (three homeschool junior high boys).

Avery Schwartz and Jonathan and Josiah Stoltzfus, coached by Gene DeCamp, earned a 2nd Place trophy, the first ever trophy won by any FJS team in the AA division. Yessenia Oporta's junior high team of Arielle Allert, Katlyn Blank, and Janae Yoder received a 1st Place trophy in BB. Avery Schwartz, Brianna Schwartz, A. J. Vasquez and Janae Yoder received All-Star Quizzer awards. Dave Graybill and Joel Yoder were honored with All-Star Coach awards.

Students involved in Bible quizzing enjoy a number of important benefits.

- 1) First, and most importantly, they thoroughly memorize approximately 300 verses of scripture. Based on my experience as a quizzer while I was in college, I know that these verses stay with one throughout a lifetime. Now in his seventh year as a quizzer, A. J. Vasquez has committed nearly 2,100 verses to memory, equivalent to about 25% of the New Testament!
- 2) The act of memorization develops important memory pathways for memorizing and remembering all kinds of other knowledge. It is not an accident that our Bible quizzers regularly score highest on the tests in their other classes. They have developed the skills necessary to store and recall large amounts of information.
- 3) MACSA Bible Quizzing is a competition. Our five teams of FJS students and homeschoolers quizzed against approximately 85 other teams from Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. Sometimes they excelled; sometimes they lost. Some of their losses were very close losses, perhaps even due to a questionable ruling by the judges. In other cases, the team was able to totally dominate the other team. In either case, important life lessons are learned about winning and losing graciously, and handling unfair decisions without bitterness.
- 4) Significant friendships are also formed with students from other communities, cultures, and ethnicities. These friendships enrich students' lives and broaden their world. As a couple of our quizzers have become coaches, some of these friendships are maintained as their friends from other schools have also grown up to become coaches!
- 5) Students have the opportunity to travel to other places. Some have never been out of state, or even out of the city, before going to a quiz retreat or other school field trip. For kids from the city, the wide open spaces of the countryside and the spaciousness of our hosts' homes can be somewhat overwhelming but is an important part of their educational experience.

For 2015-16, the passage is John 13-21 from the King James Version of the Bible. Students who are currently in grade 5 and above are eligible to think about quizzing next fall and can begin now to memorize the passage. A quiz coach will briefly introduce the Bible quizzing program in homerooms sometime over the next several weeks and try-outs for the new season will happen in the fall.

Congratulations to all of our quizzers and coaches for another season of hiding God's Word in their hearts and learning more about and practicing what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

We're proud of you!

James E. Gochnauer, Principal