



# Footsteps



Toward a Better Tomorrow

Volume 15, No. 2

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

Summer 2015

## 8th & 12th Graders Graduate

FJS held its 18th Annual Graduation and Awards Ceremony on Thursday morning, June 13. Unique this year was the combined 8th grade and 12th grade graduations.



8th graders Isaiah Vega and Xavier Worrell

Natan Bu, son of Pedro and Esther Bu, graduated with a Local School Regents diploma. Natan spent nine of his school years at FJS. Natan is exploring several different college options for the fall.



Natan Bu, grade 12

Two students graduated from 8th grade, Isaiah Vega and Xavier Worrell. Isaiah is hoping to go to public school in the fall while Xavier plans to return to FJS.

Moses Sanchez was the graduation speaker. Bro. Sanchez

is a youth leader at Evergreen Bible Chapel where Natan is in the youth group. Bro. Sanchez challenged the graduates to think about how they face major life events. Using the story of Paul's farewell in Acts 20, he told the audience to "Face our fears" and "Trust God completely."

Students also received awards in various categories of school life. Samuel Siguenza in 7th grade was recognized for both "Perfect Punctuality" and "Perfect Attendance." Erykah Anil, a 10th grader, earned 7.2 credits in the school year, the most of any stu-

*continued on page 2*

## Professional Position Available

FJS has a 3/4 time, salaried position available in the high school for the coming school term, 2015-16.

Applicants must be committed Christians, regularly attending a local evangelical church and should have training and/or experience teaching high school students. Expertise in high school math and/or English literature would be helpful.

Interested individuals should call 718-235-5493 or email the principal at <fjs@fjschool.org>.

### 3rd Quarter Honor Roll

**Principal's List** (97%-100%)  
Adina Allert (3rd)

**A Honor Roll** (93%-96%)  
Eve Barnhart (3rd)  
Liam Herschberger (3rd)  
Abraham Suarez (3rd)  
Isaiah Marte (5th)  
Jaedon Mast (5th)  
Keanna Wharwood (5th)  
Samuel Siguenza (7th)

**B Honor Roll** (85%-92%)  
Christian Bueno-Rivera (4th)  
Javier Marte (4th)  
Deborah Vega (4th)  
Heidi Bu (5th)  
Felicia Feliciano (9th)  
Dina Bu (10th)

### 4th Quarter Honor Roll

**Principal's List** (97%-100%)  
Liam Herschberger (3rd)

**A Honor Roll** (93%-96%)  
Adina Allert (3rd)  
Eve Barnhart (3rd)  
Abraham Suarez (3rd)  
Heidi Bu (5th)  
Isaiah Marte (5th)  
Jaedon Mast (5th)  
Keanna Wharwood (5th)  
Samuel Siguenza (7th)

**B Honor Roll** (85%-92%)  
Javier Marte (4th)  
Amaryllis Rodriguez (4th)  
Arielle Allert (6th)  
Isaiah Vega (8th)  
Felicia Feliciano (9th)  
Dina Bu (10th)

## 4th Biennial Spring Banquet

The fourth FJS spring banquet at Shady Maple Banquet Center was held on a bitterly cold Friday evening in February.

Although attendance was less than half of previous years, participants enjoyed inspiring presentations.

Kencel Andrews, a 9th grader, told about her journey dealing with dyslexia and the faith that Miss Detweiler and Mrs. Allert had in her ability to succeed.

Speaking through an interpreter, school parent, Rossana Sifontes, gave God glory for opening the door for their son to come to school in the fall of 2010 when they were told they were on a waiting list.

FJS was also blessed to receive a generous offering for student assistance.

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.

# High School Exec Plans First Ever "Ditch Day."

The high school homeroom enjoyed a "Ditch Day" out of the classroom on Friday, May 15. At 8:30, students went to their normal, Friday morning, Bible Memory chapel time, only to be warned by George Aviles, homeroom president, to be very quiet; he had an announcement to make. After telling the students that they would be spending the day at the park, not at school, his request for quiet was immediately forgotten!

After a brief chapel time led by Mr. Gochnauer at the soccer field, the class divided into four teams for a race. Teams were given an envelope with an instruction for an activity. When the activity was completed to the satisfaction of their faculty supervisor, they received their next clue. From finding a specific book on the shelf at the Arlington Library to a game of Charades in front of Mr. Nisly's apartment on Cleveland Street to locating a gravestone in the Cypress Hills National Cemetery, students quickly completed their tasks, finishing about an hour earlier than expected! Mrs. Gochnauer's team finished first.

After several group games and lunch, the students enjoyed an hour of free time to be with friends and explore the park.

A. J. Vasquez observed, "Going around the whole neighborhood on the scavenger hunt" was his favorite part of the day.

While this may have been the first "Ditch Day," by the enthusiastic



Mr. Gochnauer's team uses their bodies to form a word in the playground at Highland Park.

response of the students, it is unlikely to be the last!

## 2015 Graduation and Awards

*(continued from page 1)*

dent. Students also received awards for Bible Memory and Honor Roll.

Karen Graybill and Erleen Detweiler received plaques along with a cash gift from FJS parents for their years of service at FJS. After sixteen years, most of it teaching grades 1 & 2, Karen Graybill will be teaching the children of a missionary family in Haiti this fall. Erleen Detweiler came to FJS in the fall of 2005 and has completed ten years of teaching at FJS.

Natan Bu is the fifteenth student to receive a Regents Diploma. To earn the diploma, students complete the curriculum required by the New York State Department of Education and pass Regents examinations in five different subjects. All FJS students earning Regents diplomas have been accepted into several CUNY or SUNY colleges as well as a variety of private colleges.

# Homerooms Visit the City on School Trips

For their spring class trips, all homerooms elected to go to downtown Manhattan this year. While each group took a different route, the 9/11 Memorial was a primary point of interest for each group.

## Grades 1-5

The lower school homerooms joined together to visit the city. Travelling by train (subway) was a rare experience for some of the students. After walking down Broadway past the bull, the class rode the Staten Island Ferry then walked along the Hudson to the 9/11 Memorial, stopping to play in a playground along the way.

Eve Barnhart said, "Being outside on the top floor of the Staten Island Ferry was my favorite part." Her sister Eden was fascinated by the water going down the center of the 9/11 Memorial ponds.

Getting the return train at the newly-renovated Fulton Center was an awe-inspiring experience to end the day.



Grades 3-5 enjoy a ride on the outside upper deck on the Staten Island Ferry.

## Grades 6-8

The middle school started on the Brooklyn side of the East River and walked the Brooklyn Bridge to the city. On Wall Street, they stopped at Federal Hall where George Washington was inaugurated in January 1789. The building at the site of Federal Hall was the capital of the United

States from 1788-1790. The students ended their trip with a ride on the Staten Island Ferry.

Xavier Worrell said that riding the Staten Island Ferry and seeing all the historical sites was great, but the best part of the trip was talking with fellow students and his teachers.

## Grades 9-12

The high school students also started their trip by walking across the Brooklyn Bridge to City Hall Park.

After visiting St. Paul's Church and walking the "Canyon of Heroes" (Broadway) to the Battery, the class rode the Staten Island Ferry, a first for several of them. A walk from the west side through the newly-opened concourse under the World Trade Center plaza to the 9/11 Memorial completed the trip.

Kencel Andrews enjoyed stopping at the bull on Broadway and seeing the Statue of Liberty from the ferry, but observed that just spending the day away from the classroom with friends was the best part of the trip.



High school students at the bull on Broadway near the New York Stock Exchange.

# Rashida Abrahams Graduates

Rashida Abrahams, FJS Class of '11, received her Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies from Concordia College, Bronxville, New York, in May 2015.

In addition to her academic studies, Rashida was a member of several of the college choirs including the Tour Choir, of which she was president. She was recognized by the college with the "Chorale Leadership Award" and received the "Contribution to Spiritual Life Award" from the Student Government Association.

Rashida notes, "FJS was very resourceful for my [time] at Concordia

College. I was an exceptional student at Concordia because I received a fundamental and biblical education at FJS. The writing class that I took at FJS provided me with the tools I needed to excel in my writing courses in college and tutor many of my friends with their writing assignments. Engaging with the other students and learning core beliefs about the Bible and faith in God also paved the way for a smooth transition from high school to college. I'm truly grateful for my experience at FJS!"



Rashida Abrahams



## Followers of Jesus Mennonite Church

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

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT # 1746  
LANCASTER, PA

## Summer 2015 Newsletter

**Mark Your Calendar**

Sept 1-2 Parent Orientation, 7:00 pm. Parent attend one of the nights. Special high school emphasis on Wednesday, 2 September.

Sept 7 Labor Day

Sept 9 First day of school, 1:30 p.m. dismissal

**In This Issue**

Page 1 Graduation and Awards Ceremony

Page 2 High School "Ditch Day" FJS Spring Banquet

Page 3 Annual Class Trips

Page 4 Rashida Abrahams graduates