



9 October 2015

Upcoming Events

- 12 October – Columbus Day, **NO SCHOOL**
- 15-16 October – ACSI/NYCACS Teachers' Convention, Long Island City, **NO SCHOOL.**
- 21 October – **Grandparents' Day**, grandparents arrive at 11:00 a.m., hot lunch at 12:00 noon.
- 29-30 October – Spiritual Life Days for upper school, Bro. Moses Sanchez, Evergreen Bible Chapel
- 11 November – Veteran's Day, FJS **has** school.
- 13 November – Last day of 1st quarter
- 19-20 November – Parent-Teacher Conferences.

What Makes an Education "Christian"? (part 1)

Followers of Jesus School is a Christian school, operated by Followers of Jesus Mennonite Church. Does that make us a "Christian" school? Christian teachers, who care for students as God's special children, begin each day with a devotional and prayer, sometimes including singing. Is that what a "Christian" education is? While all of these things are good, and we believe that they are true of FJS, Christian education is much more.

In a Christian education, God and his Word is central to all of the curriculum – math, science, history, English, Bible, and the arts. Every teacher in every classroom starts from a set of personal beliefs which affects how they teach. Many public school teachers start from the viewpoint that there is no God, or, if there is, he is not relevant to the classes they teach. At FJS, Christian teachers have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ because they have accepted him as their Savior, and teach from the viewpoint that the Bible is the true Word of God for us today.

In science class, that means that students are taught that world we live in has been specially created by God for us, his children. God told Moses, *"In six days [I] made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, ... "* (Exodus 20:11). Students are given scientific evidence for believing and accepting the biblical account of a young earth – fossils, coal, and oil created by the great flood of Noah's time, dinosaurs created on day six with all the other land animals and man himself showing that people and dinosaurs co-existed, explanation for how Noah could have gotten all the "kinds" of animals on the ark, how the amazing design of all life forms shows the incredible creativity of a creator God. Evidence is also given showing how unrealistic evolution is – how impossible it is for mutations to have produced all the different forms of life we see today, from single-celled organisms in the oceans to whales, birds, and humans, how it is impossible for fossils to have formed gradually over millions of years because the plants and animals would have rotted and decayed before they were fossilized, how the soft tissues recently found in some fossils shows that they can not be millions of years old.

Most importantly, we teach that humans are the special creation of God with a unique place in his creation. We are not the accidental product of millions of years of random mutations. As someone has said, "God made me and God don't make junk!"

Our Christian viewpoint on education also affects the other curricular areas as well. In my next essay, I'll address some more of them.

Enjoy a beautiful Columbus Day weekend!
James E. Gochnauer, Principal