



22 March 2013

### **Upcoming Events**

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

**Friday, 5 April** – End of 3rd Quarter., Science Fair Experimental Design due (grades 7-12)

**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 6**

*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.*

2,000 years ago, Pilate said to Jesus, "What is truth?"

People today still ask the same question. In 1997, 50% of Christians and 25% of non-Christians believed that there are moral truths that are unchanging.<sup>1</sup> In a study by the Barna Group in 2002, just five years later, the number had dropped to 44% for Christians, and by 2005 to 35%. The same study found that just 9% of born-again teenagers and 4% of non-Christian teens believe in absolute moral truth.<sup>2</sup>

Yet, in our FJS Parent Handbook, we state that we believe in, "The inspiration of the Bible, equally in all parts and **without error in its origin.** [emphasis added]" Because we embrace the Bible as the infallible [without error] Word of God, there are several things that we especially want our FJS students to understand.

- 1) The historical account of creation in Genesis is true – Moses and Jesus declared it to be historical fact, and science, correctly understood, supports the biblical account. Therefore, humans are not just the random result of evolutionary processes; we are the unique product of God's creative genius. In the Bible God also has many guidelines which he has planned for man's perfect happiness. When we don't follow these guidelines, God calls it "sin."
- 2) The account of the fall of man in Genesis is also an historical fact. As the result of Adam's sin, all humans born since then are sinners and deserve to die for their sins.
- 3) Jesus Christ is a real, historical person, but is also acclaimed by the Word of God to be the divine Son of God, eternally existent [has always existed without a beginning and without an end]. He came and lived a perfect life on earth, then evil men killed him on a cross where, the Bible says, he paid for the sins of the entire world – including your sins and mine. Three days after he died, he arose bodily from his grave and walked, talked, and ate with his followers and many others for 40 days before going back to his Father in heaven. This is the glorious gift of God which we celebrate at this Easter season.
- 5) The Bible teaches, and we believe, in a literal heaven where born again Christians will be with Jesus forever and a literal hell, where those who do not believe in Jesus will spend eternity separated from the Father.
- 6) Because we all have sinned, the only way to go to heaven is to accept God's free gift of salvation through confessing that we are sinners and accepting God's free gift of salvation through Jesus.
- 7) We believe, as Jesus taught, that he is coming again to judge the world. The righteous [those who have accepted Jesus as Savior] will go to their reward in heaven; the unrighteous [those who have not believed] will spend forever separated from God in hell.

As a faculty and school board, we accept the Word of God as true. It is one of our most important goals for our children to accept the Bible as absolute truth as well.

Spring is here! Enjoy!!

James E. Gochnauer, Principal

<sup>1</sup> "Does Absolute Truth Exist?" Ontario Consultants on Religious Tolerance, [http://www.religioustolerance.org/chr\\_poll5.htm](http://www.religioustolerance.org/chr_poll5.htm), accessed 21 March 2013.

<sup>2</sup> "Americans Are Most Likely to Base Truth on Feelings," The Barna Group, <http://www.barna.org/barna-update/article/5-barna-update/67-americans-are-most-likely-to-base-truth-on-feelings>, 12 Feb 2002, accessed 21 March 2013.