



17 February 2017

*Planning Ahead*

Monday, 20 February – **Presidents’ Day**. No school.

Thursday, February 23 – **MACSA Bible Quiz-a-thon**. Lancaster Co., PA

Thursday-Friday, 9-10 March – **MACSA Bible Quiz Retreat**. Black Rock Retreat, Lancaster Co., PA

Friday, 24 March – **FJS 20th Anniversary Banquet**, 6:15 p.m., Shady Maple Banquet Center, Lancaster Co., PA

Monday-Friday, 27-31 March – **Missions Week**, parents invited

Friday, 31 March – End of 3rd Quarter



*What Is Love?*

Last Tuesday was Valentine’s Day. It was hard to miss with all the advertisements for flowers, gifts, special restaurant deals. I even got a chocolate rose from a student!

In our culture, love seems to be defined as a warm fuzzy feeling; when the feeling is gone, the love is gone. In marriage relationships, that can mean leaving ones partner for someone else for whom one has developed new feelings of affection.

The Bible definition is much different. Jesus commands us to love – not only each other, but also our enemies. Can we have “warm, fuzzy feelings” for our enemies? Not likely! So then, how do we love?

Jesus says that we return good for evil, demonstrate kindness and forgiveness. Paul writes that true love “always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres” (1 Corinthians 13:7 NIV). The writer to the Hebrews says that love even disciplines to produce character. The father or mother who does not discipline is not showing true love (Hebrews 12:5-11). The apostle John went so far as to say, “For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen” (1 John 4:20 NIV).

I will admit that, sometimes here at school, it is occasionally difficult to imagine warm, fuzzy feelings for some of your children. But we do ask God for love – a love that demonstrates patience, that believes in a potential beyond what they are demonstrating at the moment, that desires the very best for each of them. For that reason, we are sometimes more patient than is deserved when deciding whether or not to keep students in school at FJS. We want to give them one more chance to respond to our love.

God loves our kids! By his grace, we love them, too.

Enjoy long President’s Day weekend!

James E. Gochnauer, Principal