



New Teachers Join Faculty

MR. JAMES GOCHNAUER, PRINCIPAL

Mr. Gochnauer, our new principal, moved to Brooklyn in September to work at FJS. He lives on Cleveland Street with his wife, Ruthi, and son Christopher, who is in ninth grade at FJS.

Before this, Mr. Gochnauer owned a print shop in his house for sixteen years. In the print shop he worked for many mission organizations and schools, helping them with their fund-raising letters and newsletters.

The first job Mr. Gochnauer had after college was to be principal and teacher at Faith Mennonite High School in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. He and Mrs. Gochnauer were the first two teachers for thirteen ninth and tenth grade students. He taught at FMH for a total of fourteen years, eight of them as principal.

Mr. Gochnauer graduated from college with a Bachelor's Degree in Biology. Then he went to Grace Theological Seminary in Indiana to get a Master's Degree in Christian School Administration.



One of Mr. Gochnauer's biggest challenges is trying to learn how to motivate students. He says that the things that were important to kids in Pennsylvania to make them study don't work the same with FJS kids.

His goal is to help FJS develop a good high school program to go with the elementary school.

Best wishes Mr. & Mrs. Gochnauer.

MISS MISTY WEAVER, 5TH & 6TH GRADES

My teacher, Misty Weaver, was born on March 17, 1982 in Virginia. She has three brothers and two sisters who have given Miss Weaver lots of nieces and nephews. Misty Weaver went to North Fork Mennonite School and Sharon Mennonite Bible Institute. North Fork

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Students Perform "The Bethlehem Project"

Singing, acting, tech crew – all students were involved in some way in the musical "The Bethlehem Project," the FJS Christmas drama.

The play featured a gang of Bethlehem kids and shepherd kids who could not get along with each other until they met together at the manger.

Every grade performed one or more songs in addition to the all school choir at the close of the program.

Acting parts were performed primarily by upper school students. Joel Oporta played Joseph and Janel Rivera played Mary. Comic relief was provided by Lionel Alvarez who played the donkey!

Elizabeth Oporta, playing Ruth, was the leader of the shepherd kids while Teo Tejada who played Uzi led the Bethlehem street gang. The reconciliation was helped by two friends, a shepherd named Jessie, played by Nicole Vasquez, and Elizabeth, one of the Bethlehem kids, played by Kimberly Arevalo.

The play was affected somewhat by the transit strike, which prevented some students and parents from attending.

Second Quarter Honor Roll

Principal's List (97%-100%) Angel Vasquez, Jr.

A Honor Roll (93%-96%)

- Diane Aviles
- Natan Bu
- Sabrina Edwards
- Sarah Gavin
- Karina Guerrero
- Harry Joseph
- Yessenia Oporta
- Brianna Schwartz

B Honor Roll (85%-92%)

- Oved Alvarez
- Samuel Alvarez
- Pamela Arguello
- Brandon Arguello
- George Aviles
- Dina Bu
- Chris Gochnauer
- Stephanie Guerrero
- Kevin Philips
- Jada Rizzo
- Brittany Turpin
- Andre Vargas
- Nicole Vasquez



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Students Attend AiG Conference

Students in grades 1 through 12 attended the morning sessions of the Answers in Genesis Mega-Conference in Wayne, NJ on January 20, 2006.

The morning session featured Ken Ham and Buddy Davis teaching about dinosaurs. Students especially enjoyed Buddy's demonstration of a fire-breathing lizard. Most students returned to school at noon; however, upper school students were given the opportunity to stay for the high school session in the afternoon.



Standing with Ken Ham are (back row) Shani Abrahams, Chris Gochnauer and A. J. Gavin, and (front row) James Edwards, Steven Gavin and Joel Oporta.

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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 Timothy 2:2

Principal's Corner

by James E. Gochnauer



Lots of things make an FJS education special, but, perhaps one of the most important is the quality, dedicated faculty who teach the students each day.

This year, one half of the teachers are new, and three of the four of us have come from small town America into the big city of Brooklyn. But each of the teachers, whether returning or new, comes to FJS with a call from God to serve him here.

FJS is privileged to have an academically qualified faculty. With two master's degrees and three bachelor's degrees, the teachers come well-prepared for their responsibilities. Those without degrees have had significant on-the-job training before joining the FJS team.

Anonymous Donor Matches Gift

A donor who wishes not to be named contacted FJS in the fall to pledge \$7,500 to the school if the church would match the gift.

On a Sunday morning in November, the Followers of Jesus Mennonite Church gave FJS a gift of over \$10,100! The following month, "The Blessor," as he/she is known, sent the matching gift of \$7,500 as agreed.

FJS depends on gifts both large and small to meet nearly one-half of its annual budget. Tuition is \$1,000 per student less than the cost of education. In addition, approximately one-third of the students receive tuition assistance. Together, this need is over \$500 per school day in gifts!

Tuition Partners contribute toward the Tuition Assistance fund. Gifts like the one from FJMC and "The Blessor" help to offset the cost over tuition.

If the Lord is prompting you to assist in the ministry of educating urban children in a Christian school please use the enclosed envelope to send your contribution.

I am also impressed with the length of service of the faculty. Two have served the school since the beginning nine years ago; others have seven or eight years of service. The new faculty bring a combined 24 years of experience.

But most important of all is the spiritual strength and commitment of each of the teachers. Like at any school, working with the kids at FJS can be at times exhilarating, and at other times extremely stressful and discouraging. But the consistency of the staff to commit each day, each situation, to God for his leading, and to rely on him for emotional strength and courage to make right choices, has blessed me and strengthened my faith.

Perhaps our greatest challenge is the need to administer discipline with love and grace. Time and again I have seen teachers come before God in prayer asking for wisdom in relating to a specific student or situation.

I praise God for a faculty that depends on him for strength for each day, and loves each student and desires the best for him or her.

They truly are what makes FJS special.

FJS Web Site Enhanced

Regular updates to the FJS web site have kept students and parents up-to-date with school news and events.

News and pictures of major events such as the Thanksgiving Feast, the field trip to the Answers in Genesis Conference, and the Principal's List outing snow tubing at the park keep families coming back to check for regular updates.

Also on the site are the principal's weekly letters to parents and general information about the school.

Friends can access the web site at www.fjschool.org.

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was a BCE school like FJS. This year is Misty Weaver's 4th year of teaching.

Miss Weaver taught second, fourth, and fifth grades in Haiti in 2002 to 2003. She taught first grade in West Virginia in 2003 to 2004. She also taught third to ninth grades in 2004 and 2005.

My teacher's hobbies are singing and cooking. She loves to go on the computer, hang out with her friends, and go shopping. When friends visit, they go to Manhattan and Times Square.

This year, Miss Weaver's goals are to teach her students who God is.



She wants to make a difference in our lives and show us how to love our classmates and other people. She wants us to be kind to others, and wants to teach us things that will be of value and importance in life. When we get older and go to college Miss Weaver hopes that we have learned to be more responsible in our lives and work.

– Andre Vargas, Grade 5

MISS ERLEEN DETWEILER, 7TH & 8TH GRADES

Erleen Detweiler was born in Filadelfia, Paraguay. When Miss Detweiler was much younger she enjoyed school, but she had no interest in being a teacher. Instead she wanted to be a nurse.

Once she had cheated on her test. The next day she was feeling upset because of what she had done, so she went to school and told her teacher what happened. Then, of course, she got in trouble.

Later on in her life she got a job at a nursing home. She enjoyed the work and the people even though it was difficult sometimes. The old people would bite, spit, and say things that I probably should not repeat. Miss Detweiler thought she had fulfilled her hopes of being a

nurse, but God had other plans.

One day she got a telephone call.

It was someone saying they needed a teacher to teach for just one year. After thinking and praying about it, she thought it was God's will, so she took the job. She said, "I thought it would be for just one year to help out."



After that year was over, she decided that teaching was much better than her other job. So she taught another year, then another, and now, in her seventh year of teaching, she is at FJS. It is different than the school at which she used to teach, but she is getting used to it. Now she has more years to teach and some more years to learn, also.

– Elizabeth Oporta, Grade 8

MR. ARLIN ROTH, 9TH-12TH GRADES

This year a new high school teacher came to FJS.

Though he is new, teaching seems to be in his blood. Before Mr. Arlin Roth was born his dad, Pastor Allen Roth, taught in Nicaragua. After he was six years old he felt like he lived a nomadic life style since they were always on the move until they came to New York.

He grew up sandwiched between his two sisters, Lanita (Hartzler) and Mary Roth. So he did what any typical child would; he sided with his parents.

Mr. Roth enjoyed reading about and making paper airplanes. He also enjoyed collecting baseball cards and was a Mets fan.

Mr. Roth was home-schooled through all twelve grades. He graduated with the first class that graduated at FJS. After school he attended Sharon Mennonite Bible Institute (SMBI) for two years. Then he went to The King's College in Manhattan where he graduated top in his class.

What motivated Mr. Roth to become a teacher? While he was at

Coming Events

March 2 – PTA Meeting and Science Fair. 7:00 p.m.

March 8-10 – MACSA Bible Quiz Retreat.

March 31 – 3rd Quarter ends.

April 6-7 – Parent/Teacher Conferences. Progress Reports given to parents.

April 7 – EARLY DISMISSAL, 1:30 p.m.

April 14 – NO SCHOOL, Good Friday.

April 17-21 – NO SCHOOL, Spring Break

April 20-23 – Spring PR Tour to Mid-Atlantic States.

April 25- 28 – Achievement Testing for all students.

SMBI, he met a fellow student who had never gone past sixth grade, but who didn't let that stop him from learning. This young man was determined to learn no matter what. This motivated Mr. Roth to do the same. Then at The King's College he



worked as a teacher's assistant, and enjoyed it enough to consider teaching later. Last year when FJS needed a high school teacher, Mr. Arlin Roth answered the call to be the new Followers of Jesus high school teacher.

His goals this year are to become a good teacher and to help his students learn self discipline. He wants to learn to improve his writing – amazing, he never stops learning! Like everyone else he wants to manage his time wisely. He also wants to strengthen his relationship with his girlfriend.

Mr. Roth has done a very good job and most likely will continue doing so this year.

– Joel Oporta, Grade 11

News in Brief

- Students from Faith Mennonite High School, Lancaster County, PA, joined FJS 7th-12th graders for a **day of Christmas caroling** on Thursday, December 22. Students sang together in two convalescent homes and along several city streets.
- **FJS plans a promotional tour** with several students and faculty members on Thursday, April 20, through Sunday, April 23, 2006.
The program will feature music, student testimonies, and an inspirational message.
If your church or Christian school is interested in having the team visit your church, call or e-mail the school.
- **FJS has applied for registration with the NYS Department of Education.** Registration will allow the school to administer the Regent's Tests and to award NYS-recognized diplomas so that qualifying students do not need to take the GED to "graduate."

Thanksgiving Feast a Fall Highlight

Wednesday, the day before Thanksgiving, is always a highlight for FJS students. The difference was apparent as soon as the students came into the building dressed as Pilgrims and Indians.

The day began with a special chapel service by the youth group from the Pine View Mennonite Church in Florida.

At 10:30, all classes went to the first floor where Mr. Nisly and Miss Detweiler had prepared a special project for everyone to do. Upper school students brought the various ingredients for making soup to each table. Students layered the beans, rice, and other items into pint jars. Then they put lids on their jars and decorated them. Students were supposed to give their soup jars to a friend or neighbor as a Thanksgiving gift.

After the project, Rich and Sandy Schwartz performed a skit about being thankful.

Then it was time for the Thanksgiving Feast. Pilgrims and Indians went through buffet lines filled with food provided by parents and teachers. Turkey, chicken, potatoes, stuffing, rice and beans, and many more kinds of food were more than

enough for all the students. Many different pies completed the meal.

More pictures from the Thanksgiving Feast can be seen on the web site at www.fjschool.org.

Thanks to all the parents who provided the food and a special thanks to Mr. Nisly and Miss Detweiler for planning a nice day.



Miss Weaver looks on while Jennifer Lewis, Emily Suarez, and Sara Alvarez make their jars of soup.