



FJS Graduates Two Seniors

Victor Tejada, son of Victor Tejada, Sr. and Salome Estrella, graduated from FJS with a Local School Diploma on Friday evening, June 23. Tejada is the first FJS graduate to receive a bona fide local high school diploma recognized by New York State.

Tejada has been accepted by the State University of New York, Albany campus, where he plans to attend this fall. He



Victor Tejada and Janel Rivera share memories of their years at FJS.

wants to pursue a liberal arts course of study in preparation for entering law school. His career goal is to become a lawyer, "to make a difference in the whole government system. That's the way I know I can learn the most about it."

Janel Rivera, daughter of Wilfred and Iris Rivera, joined Victor in the graduation ceremonies. Janel expects to complete her remaining requirements for graduation over the summer, allowing her to become the second FJS graduate to receive an NYS approved diploma. Rivera has been accepted at both Long Island University and York College, Brooklyn, pending completion of her requirements.

Tejada entered FJS as a 6th grader in 1999. During his high school years, his homeroom teacher, Mr Nisly, "appreciated his disciplined approach to his work." Tejada is especially grateful for the small student body at FJS. "[I was] able to know everyone at school since it was not so big."

Rivera has attended FJS for seven years and hopes to pursue a career in the medical field upon graduation. Janel appreciates the personal care and help she received from her teachers, especially Mr. Roth.

FJS congratulates Victor and Janel and wishes them God's guidance as they continue to pursue their education.

Eighth Grade Graduation

This year, FJS graduated five eighth graders: Billy Alvarez, Gene DeCamp, Steven Gavin, Elizabeth Oporta, and Edgar Phillips.

The eighth grade graduation was held in conjunction with the FJS awards ceremony on Thursday morning, June 15th.

Public Relations Tour to Pennsylvania

by Kimberly Arevalo

On April 20th through 23rd Mr. Gochnauer, Mrs. Gochnauer, Miss Miller, Miss Graybill, Janel Rivera, Joel Oporta, Chris Gochnauer, and Kimberly



Arevalo went to Pennsylvania on a Public Relations Tour to two churches, a school, and a retirement community. It was a long trip, but on the way to Miss Graybill's house in Pennsylvania we stopped at Cabela's, an outdoor sporting goods store, for a break.

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Fourth Quarter Honor Roll

Principal's List (97%-100%)

Brianna Schwartz
Angel Vasquez, Jr.

A Honor Roll (93%-96%)

Karina Guerrero
Harry Joseph

B Honor Roll (85%-92%)

Samuel Alvarez
Diane Aviles
George Aviles
Dina Bú
Natán Bú
Sabrina Edwards
Chris Gochnauer
Stephanie Guerrero
Yessenia Oporta



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Harry Alvarez jumps the Running Long Jump on Track and Field Day.

American Museum of Natural History Trip

by Sarah Gavin

On June 6, 2006 the first through eighth grades went to the American Museum of Natural History. First, our group (Yessenia, Natan, Carlos, Stephanie, and I) went to a place with rocks that the scientists said



Pamela Arguello and Brittany Turpin ride the Central Park Carousel.

were 140 million years old, but we knew that was not true. Then we went to the top floor to see the African Mammals. They had clay models with real animal skin. There were ostriches, monkeys, wolves, and other animals. We then went to the dinosaur exhibit. The dinosaurs were really big. They had cool stuff at the gift shop, but it was too expensive.

After we met the other groups outside, we walked all the way to the carousel in Central Park. After we were finished with lunch we rode the carousel and then left for home.

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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 Tim. 2:2

Principal's Corner

by Pastor Allen Roth



Well Done!"

"Nicely done, class. Excellent!" With these words, the generous teacher in our Tuesday evening *Fundamentals of Music Class* tries to encourage us onward as we struggle to write triads, make inversions and sing from the notes on the page of music before us.

But I have this suspicion that I am not doing excellently! I try, but somehow I can't get the material into my head. I just can't seem to master it. And I worry about my final exam.

I am sure all of FJS students can sympathize with my plight. As the end of the school year approaches, we wonder how we will do on the final exam. What will the report card show? What comments will the teacher write about our performance? Will we pass to the next grade?

This yearly drama of wonder and worry, fun and fear, failure and success points forward to a much greater drama: the end of life and the final exam when we shall all appear before God as our Creator and Judge to give an account of how we have faced the struggles and tests of life. Will we fail or pass?

Jesus told a parable (a earthly story with a heavenly meaning) to illustrate this greatest of all exams (found in Matthew 25:14-30). To three servants a man gave talents for them to invest during his absence. Each talent was

worth more than a thousand dollars of our money. The first two men doubled their talents. The third hid his in the ground and did nothing to make it grow.

When the master returned he praised the first two men by saying, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!" (NIV)

But the last servant was cast away into darkness to suffer in torment because he had been wicked and lazy.

Students and staff of the Followers of Jesus School, what will the Master say to us at the last, great, Final Exam? What are we doing with our knowledge, abilities, energies, time and money? Will the Lord say to us "Well done, good and faithful servant?"

This is my desire and prayer for each of you. Our school was established with the goal to prepare students for life and eternity. Even our school name indicates this purpose: each student and staff member a faithful follower of Jesus Christ.

How I want you to hear those wonderful words at the Judgment Day, "Well done! Come and share your master's happiness." Let's take our summer (and all of life) to thoroughly prepare for that Final Exam.

Public Relations Tour

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After we left Cabela's we went to Miss Graybill's house in PA and then went to visit some Amish people who raised deer. We left their house and went to Miss Graybill's brother's house for supper and to get ready for our first program. When we were ready, we went to the Crossroads Mennonite Church in Juniata County, PA, and did our program which consisted of a few songs, student and teacher testimonials about the school, and a report from Mr. Gochnauer about the school.

The next day we went to Tidings of

Peace School in York, PA, and gave the same program. Saturday was a day of sight-seeing around Lancaster County including a visit to the Tabernacle. This is a full-size model of what the tabernacle in the Old Testament might have looked like. On Saturday evening we went to Landis Homes Retirement Community. The next day, Sunday, we gave our program at Life Mennonite Fellowship in Conestoga, PA, and had lunch there. After lunch we got ready to leave for home.

Each of the places we visited are supporters of Followers of Jesus School. It was fun to give a report of what God is doing at FJS to these friends.

Missions Trips

The Bowery Mission

by David Narvaez



This year the High School mission trip was to the Bowery Mission. We started with a new routine for making sure everyone was there: we all had numbers and we had to say them aloud in order. If one person didn't say their number we would not move on. This way the teachers made sure no one had been left behind. My classmates and I thought this was embarrassing when we had to shout out our numbers in a packed train!

When we arrived at the Bowery Mission we saw trucks unloading food for the needy. This would soon be our job, though we didn't know it.

The first thing we were assigned was to fold and separate clothing by sizes. This wasn't the most enjoyable job, but after awhile it was finished. Then we returned upstairs to wait for our next assignment. In the meantime we entertained ourselves in a variety of ways, including arm wrestling. Mr. Gochnauer even arm-wrestled a student. Guess who won – not Mr. Gochnauer!

Next, we unloaded a truck filled with food. While we were doing this, we got to pick what we wanted out of the candy box. That was the fun part!

When we finished that, we got another assignment. One group loaded a whole bunch of iced teas. The other group served the people their lunch. I got the unloading and loading job. Unfortunately, about the time we got a lot of iced tea on the truck, a van pulled up and we had to take the iced tea from the truck to the van because it was faster. Then we had to load the truck again from the storage room!

It was really hot and everyone grew tired, but a cool guy we met helped us have fun. He lived at the Bowery Mission in a 6-month program.

He didn't get paid for helping. His pay was food and a place to stay.

When I got home, I threw myself on my bed, fell asleep, and dreamed about the great experience I had at the Bowery Mission.

The Food Pantry

by Emily Suarez



On May 17, 2006, the fifth through eighth grades went on a trip to the Door to Life on Jamaica Avenue.

First we helped pack the food. We packed juice, crackers, tomato sauce and a scoop of onions and we put them into plastic bags to give to the people who don't have much food. While we waited for the gate of the pantry to open, the girls played jump rope and double dutch while the boys played basketball.

When the gate to the food pantry opened, Nicole and Kimberly checked the IDs of the elderly. They did a great job and they spoke Spanish to a few who were amazed at this. The rest gave the bags to the elderly people who were so thankful at how helpful we were. That is how we spent our day at the Food Pantry.

1st - 4th Grades to Nursing Home

by Pamela Arguello



For our mission project, the first to fourth grades went to the Wartburg Lutheran Nursing Home. First, we went to the second floor. We sang songs and we said memory verses. It was fun. After we sang and said memory verses, we gave out cards.

The first person I met was a lady named Ela. Ela is half of my name: Pam-Ela! I thanked the Lord for what

joy he brought to me, but ... it wasn't done. We had two floors to go!

On the third floor, we did the same things, but everyone that I met in the room could not talk. But I saw the TV was on. It had fighting on and most of them were watching the TV. The lady turned off the TV and said, "Listen."

On the fifth floor we did the same thing all over again, but one man heard us sing and he began to cry and shiver. Mr. Dwight also talked to a man who believed that the world was made out of chance and some force. Mr. Dwight said, "Who made the force?" The man said, "None of your [blank] business."

Mr. Dwight tried and tried to make him understand that God made the earth, but the man said, "No!"

At one point, one of the students turned green because she could not breathe because it was too hot.

After that we went back to school. When we were going back, I saw a dirty man. I noticed that I have clean clothes, a house, Mom, Dad, and FJS. So I thank God for the things I have, like some clothes or toys. At least we have something.

Cloisters

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church or marriage. One shows a unicorn chained to a tree and enclosed by a fence. The chain was to represent the faithfulness of the man to his wife and the fence was to represent the marriage bond. Another one showed a unicorn and a beautiful woman. From the picture you could see the unicorn (which was supposed to be the most wild beast alive) become tame and calm in the presence of the woman. This is to represent how Christ gave up his power and glory to die for the church or how a man gives up his singleness to be married. Then the hunters came and killed the unicorn and on another carpet you can see how the unicorn was resurrected as his pure and powerful self. After that we headed home and I left with more knowledge about the Medieval church.

Coming Events

Aug. 29, 31 Parent Orientation.
7:00 p.m.

Aug. 30-Sep. 1 Teacher
Orientation. 9:00 a.m.

Sept. 5 First Day of Classes.
1:30 dismissal.

Pioneer Leaves FJS

After nine years at FJS, Mr. Nisly is moving to Kansas. Mr. Nisly was an integral part of starting FJS, serving as its first principal. The past five years he served as Assistant Principal. He has invested many hours as high school homeroom teacher and setting up the FJS computer network.

Mr. Nisly “looks forward to the wide open spaces” of Kansas, but will miss the “friendships I've built here.”

FJS salutes Mr. Nisly for his pioneering and selfless work and his commitment to excellence and integrity in the classroom. He will be sorely missed.



High School Trip to the Cloisters

by Austin J. Gavin



On May 30th, the high school went to the Cloisters museum in Manhattan to learn about the medieval church since we've been studying Church History. After eating lunch, we looked in a chapel that had a statue of Mary, the mother of Jesus. In this statue Jesus was sitting in her lap. He held a book in one hand and his fingers in an arrow position. The book symbolized that he was smart and had a lot of knowledge. The position of his fingers symbolized that he was a teacher.

The second thing we observed was an actual cloister brought over from Europe. A cloister is an enclosed garden surrounded by columns. They constantly had to tell us not to touch or lean on the walls because some of the walls in the building were the actual walls from monasteries and were about 800 years old. This one had a fountain in the center and was supposed to be roofless but since it was in a museum it was covered for preservation.

The museum had another cloister with trees and a huge fountain in the central garden. This cloister had red columns. Our tour guide showed us gargoyles and other demonic looking things at the top the columns. She explained that at this time the church

received lots of donations and was becoming corrupt. They started to make the monasteries look more glamorous by carving these images and symbols on it.

Next we visited a garden full of special plants for medicines and painting. Some were considered magical plants. In those days, when you were sick the plants were used to heal you by the way they looked. If you had a sickness in your ribs then you would get a plant that resembled your ribs.

Our tour guide then showed us a tomb with a man carved in stone. She asked us to see if we could figure out what kind of man he was. Mrs. Allert said that he was a soldier because he had a sword in his hands. The tour guide said that was right but he was also something else. Then Davy Oporta correctly guessed “a knight.” The spurs on his feet showed that because the original meaning of knight is “a horseman.”

In the last room, we saw objects encrusted in pure gold and used in the church by the bishops for communion. This showed another way wealth had corrupted church. We also saw some carpets hanging on the wall called tapestries. These carpets had detailed pictures of men hunting a unicorn woven into them that took at least 15-20 years to finish. The tour guide said that these tapestries represented Christ and the

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