



Footsteps



Toward a Better Tomorrow

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June 2010

Clean-A-Thon

by Lazarina Luna

2010 was a year to show leadership at FJS. From teachers exercising patience with certain students to the lower grades doing mission work, FJS has grown spiritually.

My favorite activity was the 2010 FJS Clean-A-Thon! April 30 was a day of hard work, but also a day of joy and leadership.

The day started with free donuts and juice donated by Dunkin' Donuts. We even got free FJS t-shirts! Lowell Hershberger, the chair of the committee that planned the Clean-A-Thon, led us in prayer. To get us into a cheery spirit, we sang "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot."



Mr. Nisly helps his team clean up our community

At about 9:00, after a long speech about rules, what to use, where to clean, and where to meet for lunch, we were headed off on our mission: Clean the City! Ok, not the whole city. We were split into groups of four, and each group had to clean a certain block of Fulton Street and the streets around it, from Atlantic to Fulton. Various groups of students cleaned all of Fulton Street from Crescent to Jerome Avenue. It was a lot of work, but we stayed at it and

got it done.

Seeing the kids and teachers work together showed that we may be different but the same in Christ. That day there was no difference between age; we all worked together as a team.

Teamwork deserves rewards. And that's exactly what we got. When we completed our mission at 2:30 p.m. some students received awards for showing leadership. The students weren't the only ones who received awards; the school

did too. The whole point of the Clean-A-Thon was to make the school known and raise money by having people sponsor the students for the Clean-A-Thon. We were greatly blessed by a large number of sponsors.

As a thank-you gift, the Clean-A-Thon committee planned a banquet for the sponsors. Pacific Hall let us occupy their space for the banquet without charge! There was delicious food and the worship team performed three

songs. Later, Edgar Philips and Joel Oporta each gave a speech about the how the school has helped them.

From early morning to late night, each minute turned out to be awesome.



Gerardo sweeps the sidewalk

U. S. Gov Class Visits Washington D.C.

The 10th through 12th grades left school on Wednesday, March 24, to visit our nation's capital, Washington D.C. Mr. and Mrs. Gochnauer were the official tour guides, as they led us to a big van that would soon be our prison. After about five hours of driving with a rest stop in between we had finally reached our destination.

D.C. was not what we expected. The section where we stayed overnight was much like Brooklyn. After a delicious dinner, we all headed for bed. We were going to have some long, touring days ahead of us so we needed to get as much sleep as our eyes could catch.

The next few days seemed to happen in a blur with the most interesting facts and experiences appearing most clear. One thing that the students enjoyed was seeing the helicopter containing President Obama fly over our heads as we walked to see the great big money factory – the Bureau of

Printing and Engraving. Our tour guide gave us interesting facts on how they try to develop new techniques to prevent the printed money from being counterfeited, which is a serious federal crime.

Of all the places that we visited, the Smithsonian, the king of museums, was the most

fun to explore. We saw aircraft, missiles, giant tropical cockroaches, butterflies, spiders, modern art, and 2D optical illusions, that appeared 3D. We also got to meet our Congresswoman, Nydia Velasquez.

One of the spectacular sites was inside the capitol building. In the capitol rotunda, the whole ceiling was painted.

The most laid back, enjoyable time we had was when we went to TGI Fridays to eat dinner. Mr. and Mrs. Gochnauer enjoyed a break from us as they sat by themselves at a table for two. We got to sit by ourselves and we ate and talked to our hearts content. After we paid our bill and realized we had accidentally tipped double, our fun came to an end.

It was an interesting, fun, challenging, and tiring trip but we were glad to have a unique experience where we could bond in a way that wouldn't have been possible at school.



The U. S. Government class on the capitol steps with Nydia Velasquez, our congresswoman (center)

School Spirit Week

On May 24 through May 29, Student Council sponsored FJS's very first School



Dress Up Day

Spirit Week for the upper school students.

Throughout the week students went on with their school routine, but there were a variety of daily themes going on simultaneously. Students got the opportunity to have a break from mediocre school life by witnessing the sight of their classmates dressed as radical hippies, die hard sports fans, intelligent nerds, supercilious jocks, spiffy professionals, and fraternal twins.

School spirit week started on Monday with Baby Picture Day. Students and teachers were to bring in their baby pictures and they were supposed to keep identities a secret. The shocking pictures were later displayed on a table and students had to guess each others identities. The student that had the most correct guesses would be given a prize. James Edwards and Yessenia Oporta, with their keen sense of matching facial features tied for the prize.



James and Sabrina Edwards dressed as hippies

Principal's Corner

God is good! As I reflect on the school year just completed, I am overwhelmed once again with the many ways in which God has demonstrated his love and grace at FJS.

This year, one-half of our student body was new. Several of the new students came with minimal religious upbringing or church affiliation. It was gratifying to see them soak in the Word of God during chapel times and in Bible class.

A second grader had a difficult time learning what it means to live in peace with his classmates and forgive offences, real or imagined. At the end of the school year, after a skirmish with a friend, he was the one to offer forgiveness to his friend.

Every year for as far back as I could calculate (2003), we ended the year with fewer students than we started with. This year, we closed the year with five more students than we had enrolled the first day of school. Already we have even more students enrolled for next fall with one of the classrooms already full.

Since FJMC purchased the building from the adjoining church next door, we have been trying to get the permits needed to renovate the building to make it more suitable for both church and school. Last fall, two of the U. S. Government students had the privilege of sharing in a hearing before the NYC Board of Standards and

The next day was Jersey Day, where each student got to show off their favorite sport team, or player by wearing their team jerseys. To some students their jersey had a lot of meaning although a spectator commented, "Some of them just want to be out of their uniform." The majority of students were very loyal to those they

were representing and were delighted for the opportunity to do so.

Wednesday was by far one of the most entertaining day of the week. It was Clique/Stereotype day! Student Council had a hat full of common high school cliques that the students had to randomly choose from. The students then had to come on Wednesday dressed as that particular stereotype. It was fun to see the irony in what people wore. "That was the best part," one student commented. The students and some of the faculty enjoyed the opportunity to express their creativity and resourcefulness in their costumes. Many teachers and students agreed that the nerds were some of the more authentically dressed participants, especially Yesinia's red nail polish painted bifocals.

The next day was Dress-up Day, in which the students wore clothes that would usually be worn for a professional job inter-



Nerds – Yessenia (left), Diane (right), Nicole (center)

view. This day was more of a blessing to the teachers than the students since "students who dress well behave better too," Mr. Gochnauer commented to Student Council. Although it was a bit hot to be dressed up, Thursday was a pleasant time that was enjoyed by both students and teachers.

Friday, the last day of Spirit Week, was

Twin Day; the day on which students could pick their very own fraternal twin! Students had fun choosing their twin and an outfit that best matched. Twin day was full of surprises! Instead of twins, FJS had triplets and quadruplets. Gene Decamp and A. J. Vasquez were twins and wore blue jeans and red shirts, but it just so happened that James and Sabrina Edwards had planned to wear the same outfit. Also three other girls decided to dress up together because of the odd number of girls.

Dianne and Alicia were one of the cutest matching twins! Their yellow scrunchies, striped knee-high socks and matching shirts were adorable.

School Spirit Week was a fun week in which students and teachers bonded and learned new things about each other, but sadly all good things must come to an end.

Thanks to Student Council and the Administrative Team for making Spirit Week a reality.



Jocks – A. J. , Gene, and Mr. Miller

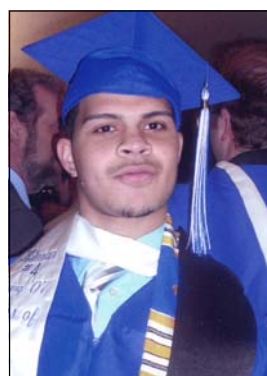
First FJS College Grad

Followers of Jesus School is proud to announce its very first college graduate!

Victor Tejada, Class of '06, graduated in May from Buffalo University. Tejada and Janelle Rivera were the first two FJS students to graduate with Regents diplomas.

After graduating from FJS, Victor was admitted to Buffalo State College where he completed his first two years of college. He then transferred to Buffalo University where he graduated with his B.A.

FJS congratulates Victor on his achievement and wishes him the best as he plans for his career.



Victor Tejada

Honor Roll

Third Quarter

Principal's List

Abigail Allert
A. J. Vasquez

A Honor Roll

Joshua Allert
Brittany Gonzalez
Shianne Hartzler
Isaiah Vega

B Honor Roll

Aimee Hill
Sabrina Edwards



Diane and Alicia as twins

Fourth Quarter

Principal's List

Abigail Allert

A Honor Roll

Joshua Allert
Brittany Gonzalez
Shianne Hartzler
A. J. Vasquez
Isaiah Vega

B Honor Roll

George Aviles
Lazarina Luna

DeCamp, Oporta Graduate

Saturday, June 26th, was the sixth FJS high school graduation.

Gene DeCamp and Elizabeth Oporta both graduated with FJS Regents diplomas.

After several congregational songs led by a Worship Team comprised of FJS students and alumni, Gene DeCamp shared memories of his twelve years at FJS. The first student to attend the school for all twelve years, Gene thanked each of his teachers for something specific that he learned from each one.

Elizabeth Oporta gave the Senior Address. Elizabeth recognized many of the people who made it possible for her to achieve her goal and challenged her fellow students to persevere, even when it seems overwhelming or doesn't make sense.

The class selected Bro. Allen Roth for their graduation speaker. Bro. Allen was Senior Pastor of FJMC when the school was started thirteen years ago, and was a school board member and chairman during most of the years that the graduates were in school.

A week earlier on Thursday, June 17th, 8th graders Diane Aviles and Yessenia Oporta graduated from middle school. Both will be coming back to FJS in the fall as 9th graders.

While neither Gene nor Elizabeth have specific plans for the fall, FJS wishes both of them God's blessing and direction on their journeys.

Coming Events

Aug. 31, Sept. 1 – Parent Orientation. 7:00 p.m.
Plan to attend **one** of the two evenings.

Sept. 6 – Labor Day.

Sept. 8 – First day of school.

High school parents invited to attend high school orientation at 9:30 a.m.

Sept. 24 – Fall Celebration.

Sept. 30 – PTF Meeting. 7:00 p.m.



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History Fair



James Edwards – 1st place & Elizabeth Oporta – 2nd place in high school

Like volcanoes in science fairs, Native Indians and WWII were popular in this year's History Fair.

Although there were many similarities in projects, they were all very interesting and detailed. Luis and Amanda Lebron from 1st & 2nd grade did a creative model of King Tutankhamen as a mummy who reigned in Egypt during 1333 B.C.

A well-made model of the Battle of Gettysburg won Amy Hill 1st Place in her 3rd - 5th grade classroom. Emmeline Martinez and Abigail Allert did a model of an Indian village with an attractive board display and got 2nd place.

In the 6th-8th grade classroom Josh Allert and A. J. Vasquez did a fantastically detailed model on the Attack of Pearl Harbor that included smoke and fire, planes attacking ships and a river that swallowed up half a burning ship. Their hard work and creativity got a well-deserved 1st Place blue ribbon. 2nd Place winner, Yessenia Oporta, did a model of a certain type of Native Indian's home, and also had an authentically decorated display board. Jayquan Stevenson did a model of an Indian Tepee complete with feathers and earned 3rd Place.

James Edwards bravely chose to do an eight page essay on the Battle of Midway. His descriptive writing paid off after receiving a 1st Place ribbon. Elizabeth Oporta made a bloody but creative model of the French Revolution's guillotine, and received 2nd Place.

1st through 5th grade winners took a special trip to the Brooklyn's Children Museum. The upper school winners were rewarded for their extensive mental labor by a full day trip to Philadelphia.

History Fair Reward Trip

by Yessenia Oporta

A trip to Philadelphia was the reward for the winners of the History Fair (see previous article). Sadly A. J. and Elizabeth were not able to join us.

Though it seemed the long hours of driving would never end they finally did and we were in Philadelphia!

During our hours of walking around we visited various tourist attractions such as the U.S. Mint, Independence Hall, the Federal Reserve Bank, the Liberty Bell and many other places.



History Fair winners visit the Liberty Bell.

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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 (NIV)

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