



Three Seniors Graduate in 2009 Class

Three seniors, Austin J. Gavin, Christopher D. Gochnauer, and Teodoro Tejada, graduated from FJS on Saturday, June 27 in FJS's largest graduating class to date.

Each of the students contributed to their senior year in significant ways.

A. J. Gavin was elected the high school's first Student Council president in the fall of last term. In that position A. J. and the Council planned special student activities, presented an enjoyable and

for graduating high school students. Chris taught 3rd grade math and Teo taught Physical Education to the 1st through 6th graders for the school term. While both students had the natural knowledge and ability for the content of their classes, both acknowledged that they were stretched at times in knowing how to present the material on the ability level of their students and in relating appropriately to the various discipline problems which arose.

In another first, Chris completed more than the required 22 credits of work and scored well above 65 on the required Regents exams to earn the first regular Regents diploma given by FJS. Previous students received a Local School Regents, also good for admission to CUNY and SUNY schools.

Both Chris and Teo applied to and were accepted at several colleges. Teo is planning to attend Buffalo College (SUNY), majoring in business, while Chris plans to attend the Polytechnic Institute of NYU, majoring in Civil Engineering.

Two weeks earlier, two students graduated from 8th grade – Nickarel Forbes-Allen and Emily Suarez. Emily plans to return to FJS for 9th grade while Nickarel will be continuing her studies in music, especially clarinet, at one of the city high schools.



2009 High School Graduates (from left) Teo Tejada, Christopher Gochnauer, Austin Gavin

challenging high school chapel, and organized a dinner before the Saturday performance of the spring play as a fundraiser for the student body. A. J. plans to attend technical school in fall majoring in auto repair.

Chris Gochnauer and Teo Tejada both completed Senior Projects, a new venture

Honor Roll

Second Quarter

Principal's List (97%-100%)

Angel Vasquez, Jr.

B Honor Roll (85%-92%)

George Aviles

Third Quarter

A Honor Roll (93%-96%)

Angel Vasquez, Jr.

B Honor Roll (85%-92%)

Carlos Abreu

George Aviles

Sabrina Edwards

Lazarina Luna

Emmeline Martinez

Fourth Quarter

Principal's List (97%-100%)

Angel Vasquez, Jr.

B Honor Roll (85%-92%)

Scott Adams

Christopher Gochnauer

Lazarina Luna

Yessenia Oporta



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2008-09 Firsts

- First Student Council in upper school planned special activities for upper school and Half-year Celebration, a special chapel period, and dinner for the spring Dinner Theatre.
- "100 Prayer Warriors" campaign (see article to right).
- Spring Banquet at Shady Maple Smorgasbord in Lancaster County, PA (see article back page).
- Largest ever senior class of three graduates (see article front page).
- Two students completing Senior Projects, teaching classes in the elementary – Chris Gochnauer, 3rd grade math and Teo Tejada, elementary Phys. Ed.

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Followers of Jesus School

3065 Atlantic Ave.
Brooklyn, NY 11208
TEL: (718) 235-5493
FAX: (718) 484-1477
E-mail: fjs@fjschool.org
Web: www.fjschool.org

Staff: Chris Gochnauer – editor,
James Edwards – asst. editor,
Nicole Vasquez – layout editor,
Elizabeth Oporta – asst. layout editor,
Gene DeCemp.
Mr. Gochnauer – advisor.

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)

FJS is a ministry of Followers of Jesus Mennonite Church.

Principal's Corner

by James E Gochnauer, Principal



In Ephesians 6:18-19, the Apostle Paul teaches us to "pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints." He follows his own advice when he writes to the church at Philippi, "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, ..." (Phil. 1:3-4). Jesus himself on several occasions spent all night in prayer.

As we close one school year and prepare to open another, we praise God for the prayers of his people for FJS. This year, at the suggestion of one of our board members, we initiated the "100 Prayer Warriors" campaign. Throughout the year, over 60 people committed to pray daily for the school and its needs. We sent a list of daily prayer requests by email most weeks so that the "warriors" would know what to pray for.

And God blessed in remarkable ways!

- Teachers were given strength and wisdom to persevere with heavy academic loads.
- Students from 1st grade through the high school grew in their respect and obedience to teachers and each other.
- A record number of students applied themselves to Bible memory in the MACSA Bible Quiz Teams.

- As families struggled to meet tuition obligations in the midst of a difficult economy, Tuition Partners doubled from the previous year to pick up the slack.
- God blessed financially in other ways as well to allow us to balance the books and finish the year in the black for the first time since 2005.
- Coming into the new school year, we have a 100% returning faculty.

Our 2009-10 term will be no less challenging, and once again we call on God's people to join with us in prayer. Over half of last year's Prayer Warriors have signed up to pray again this year for the school.

We invite you, as God leads you, to join them. Prayer Warriors generally receive an email each week with answers to prayer, news about the school, and a prayer request for each day of the week. Unfortunately, we are not able at this point to make the requests available by mail in a timely manner.

You can sign up to participate by emailing the school at fjs@fjschool.org. Within a day or two you should receive an acknowledgement email confirming your address and welcoming you to the list.

We expect great things from God again this year, and look forward to your participation with us on the journey.

Annual School Trip to Bronx Zoo

For the first time in several years, the whole school went together on the annual school trip. This year's destination was the Bronx Zoo which is free to NYC public and private school students, as is the train [subway] ride there and back again.

Nearly all students found something at the zoo to fascinate them: from the peacocks who were showing off their feathers – even getting into a fight – to the lemurs in the Madagascar House (showing animals from Madagascar, the movie) to penguins, lions, and seals.



High school students enjoy a day at the zoo.

Everyone Wins in Bible Quizzing

The 2009 MACSA (Mid-Atlantic Christian Schools) Bible Quiz season is over and FJS's four quiz teams did an outstanding job again this year.

The students memorized all of Ruth and Ephesians, as well as Proverbs 4 – a total of 269 verses. Five students – Rashida Abrahams, Shani Abrahams, Christopher Gochnauer, Elliot Yoder, and Natasha Yoder – said the entire

Yoder were the Ambassadors. They quizzed in Division B and came home without a trophy.

For the first time ever, FJS had a team in the senior high AA division. Shani Abrahams, Christopher Gochnauer, and Elliot Yoder were the Foreigners. They earned a 1st place trophy in the regional meet in February and placed 9th in their division, as well as

9th out of 48 senior high teams overall.

Shani and Christopher were recognized as graduating seniors, Shani with seven years and Chris with five years of Bible quizzing. That includes over 2,000 verses for Shani and over 1,400 verses for Chris.

MACSA also recognizes All-Star quizzers and coaches in each division. Rashida Abrahams, Shani Abrahams, James Edwards, and Natasha Yoder all earned All-Star awards.

Additionally, three of our four coaches were recognized as All-Stars. Head coach Dave Graybill, junior high coach Ruthi Gochnauer, and Foreigners coach Larry Beiler were all recognized for their outstanding coaching and development of team spirit and character.

Ultimately, each of the students is a winner as 269 verses of scripture have now become an indelible part of their memory. FJS congratulates this year's Bible quiz teams on their remarkable achievements.



All-Star Quizzers and coaches

(back row from left) Rashida Abrahams, Natasha Yoder, James Edwards, Ruthi Gochnauer (coach), Shani Abrahams (front row from left) Larry Beiler (coach), Dave Graybill (head coach)

passage in one sitting for a \$50.00 award from David Graybill, the head coach.

The junior high team of Yessenia Oporta, Isaiah Pollard, A. J. Vasquez, Jr., and Natasha Yoder won a trophy at one of the earlier regional meets and came in 4th in the BB division at the final quiz retreat at Black Rock in March.

The senior high Pickles, comprised of James Edwards, Elizabeth Oporta, and Nicole Vasquez, won a 3rd place trophy in Division C at the March retreat.

Senior high students Rashida Abrahams, Gene DeCamp, and Donovan

Lula Miller "Retires"

Lula Miller is leaving her post as secretary at FJS to serve God at the DNI Mission Training Center in Corona, Queens.

Lula came to FJS in the fall of 2003 to teach second



grade. The following year she began volunteering as office secretary, a

position which she held for the past six years.

During her years at FJS, Lula says that she most enjoyed "interacting with the students and parents."

Sabrina Hartzler, from Lock Haven, PA, has accepted the position of Office Assistant for the coming year.



Box Tops for Education

We collect Box Tops for Education from General Foods products. FJS receives 10¢ for each Box Top label.

For a list of qualifying products, go online to <boxtops4education.com> and click on "All About Box Tops" and "Participating Products."

Then mail your coupons to us and we'll send them in. Thanks for your help!



Coming Events

Sept. 2-3 – Parent Orientation. 7:00 -9:00 p.m. All parents expected to attend one of these two night.

Sept. 9 – Wednesday. First day of school. **This is a change** due to a change in the citywide schedule.



More "100 Prayer Warriors" Needed

We praise God for the many blessings we experienced during last school term through the prayers of our "warriors."

However, we have still not met our goal of "100 Prayer Warriors." If God is prompting you to pray each day for the ministry of FJS, read the "Principal's Corner" on page 2 for more information on how you can participate in this vital ministry.

First FJS Banquet a Success

On Friday evening, March 13, FJS held its first promotional banquet at Shady Maple Banquet Center in Lancaster County, PA. 265 guests and program participants attended the Friday evening event.

After a delicious meal served buffet style by a gracious Shady Maple staff, students, faculty, alumnae, and board members presented the evening program.

The program included music by a high school worship band comprised of A. J. Gavin, Chris Gochnauer, Lazarina Luna, Shacara McLaurin, and Nicole Vasquez. Edgar Phillips, a 10th grader, gave a testimony of how God has been using teachers at FJS to help him grow and mature. Valerie Mast, a 2000 graduate and volunteer, shared how her time at FJS prepared her for college. After a PowerPoint presentation about the school, Angel Vasquez, Board Chairman, gave an address and asked the guests to support the school as one of our 100 Prayer Warriors or by becoming a Tuition Partner.

FJS was blessed by a large offering as well as 15 new Prayer Warriors and several new Tuition Partners.

A committee chaired by Board

Treasurer Lowell Herschberger, along with Jim Gochnauer, Sharon, Nolt, Daniel Pollard, and Angel Vasquez, planned the event. The entire cost of the evening was underwritten before the banquet by friends of the school who sponsored tables.

We are grateful to God for his blessing on the evening and to everyone who helped to make the event a success.



Students Visit Chinatown

1st to 3rd grade students visited Chinatown and Little Italy as part of their Social Studies unit on neighborhoods this spring.

The students traveled by train [subway] with Miss Graybill and Mrs. Gochnauer, visited various stores, including an Italian meat and cheese store and a pasta shop. At an Italian pastry shop, students sampled cannolis, an Italian dessert.

In Chinatown, students observed stands along the sidewalk which sold Chinese vegetables and fish. In a Chinese market, they were treated to Chinese dumplings.

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Followers of Jesus Mennonite Church

3065 Atlantic Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11208
E-mail: fjs@fjschool.org

