

# The Lion's Epistle

Serving the community of Faith Christian School

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A New School Mascot?

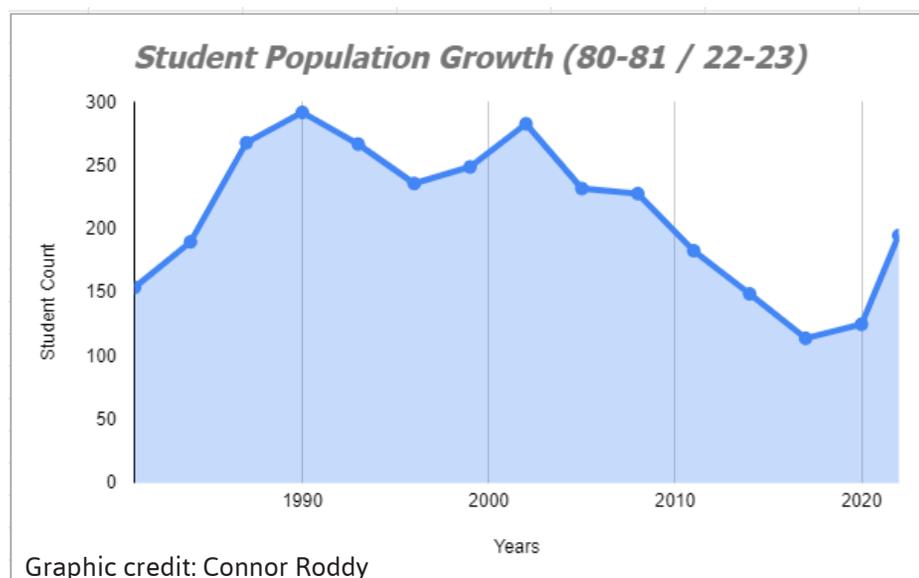
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## Skyrocketing School Growth Has Intriguing Impacts

By Michelle Ortiz



Graphic credit: Connor Roddy

Across the years at Faith Christian School (FCS), the student population has grown at a fairly steady rate. However, as of 2020, our school has seen a massive increase in students. As stated by the principal of FCS, Mrs. Leeann Long, "Never in my 41 years in Christian education have I seen the growth increases we have experienced in the last two years." With such a big leap in our student body numbers, the signs of big changes in FCS are appearing.

But how did FCS come to such a point? About three years ago, Covid-19 heavily affected the world, causing the education system to change drastically. According to Mrs. Janel Trout, Marketing Director for FCS "Covid-19 was a catalyst for the growth we have been seeing. Many of the parents coming to FCS have expressed varying reasons for choosing private Christian education." Covid-19 acted as a catalyst to much of the growth. Reasons for parents' decisions have included FCS being one of the few schools continuing to meet in person five days a week; smaller class sizes, which allow for a closer relationship between teachers, students, and other classmates; the use of a biblical perspective in academics, and unhappiness with public and charter school curriculum.

Though some students coming from public schools may have missed a year of education, FCS has been working hard to ensure that all are helped with their needs, such as offering new tutoring classes and adapting schedules to meet student needs. Encouraged by the higher enrollment, the school's ministry will now be able to reach more people than ever.

Not only has our school grown in the amount of students we have this year, but we have also expanded greatly in other aspects as well. Students from previous years of Faith will already know about our coming school expansion. Due to a growing number of kids, especially in elementary classes, our school has decided to

*continued on p. 2*

### Just for the Fun of It

School has started and a lot of work is being done and acquired during the school day, every week. All this work can lead to stress and anxiety, so per your requests, here are some of the most amazing, interesting, and fantastic, fun facts on the Internet.

- The Eiffel Tower can be 15 cm taller in the summer due to the iron structure getting hot and expanding.
- Australia is wider than the moon at a diameter of 4,000 km; the moon's diameter is only 3,400 km.
- The probability of seeing a blue lobster is 1:2 million.
- Crows can recognize your face and remember it. (Try not to upset one!)
- The actors who originally played Mickey and Minnie mouse got married in real life!
- Ketchup was once sold as medicine.
- The earth has earthquakes and the moon has moonquakes.
- Japan has over 200 flavors of Kit-Kat candy bars, which include baked potato, wasabi, and cheese. Truly!

Compiled by Stephen Williams

## Skyrocketing School Growth

Continued from p.1

expand the school to meet the needs of future middle school and high school students. As of earlier this year, the school has purchased a new facility on Lincoln Avenue to help expand the school to serve its growing number of students. With this new facility will come the new middle school program, which will launch next year. "In August FCS did purchase that property and will move K – 3rd grade into that building for the 2022-23 school year. Fourth – eighth grade will move into the current elementary building," stated Mrs. Trout.

Additionally, because of the new middle school program slated for the 2023/24 school year, more electives will be offered within the high-school program. As stated by Mrs. Long, "Now that high school teachers have a little extra time because they are not teaching 7th and 8th graders, we are planning together for some additional electives for high school students." Though the electives are still a secret, students are getting a taste of what is to come with several new courses this year including Newspaper Journalism, Fiber Arts, Strength Training and Professional Practices (college and career preparation).

Students say the funniest things! "Heard Around Campus" will feature the best of the one-liners, ha-ha's and silliness of our students & staff. If you hear a funny comment, question or conversation, submit it on the "I heard..." form and put it in the "Heard Around Campus" box located outside the gym. No hurtful or inappropriate content.

# See You at the Pole 2022: Praise and Prayers

By Meg Erwin



Students, parents and school staff gathered for prayer at 7 AM on Wednesday, September 28, 2022.

Each year, students from around the world gather together on the fourth Wednesday in September to pray around their school flagpoles at an event known as *See You at the Pole*. Started in 1990 by ten kids in Texas, this event has grown into a global phenomena involving millions of students. Students join together around the flagpoles at their schools to pray for a variety of things—family, friends, communities, teachers, their country, and of course, their schools. Faith Christian School has been taking part in this event for many years now, and it is evident from the results of this year's *See You at the Pole* event, that it continues to be a blessing to the school and everyone in it.

The theme of *See You at the Pole* this year was "Ablaze." Matthew Ocasio and Laura Magnin led the devotional based on Romans 12:11-12: "Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." This verse inspires believers to be on fire for God and have a passionate desire to

follow after Him. As was stated, when Christians lose their fire for God, they begin to fall short of His glory. It is important to be on fire for God to reach others for His kingdom.

Laura Magnin, Lucas Gonzalez, and Matthew Lala served as pledge leaders. The students who led the individual prayer groups were Megan Erwin, Kilee Goss, Matthew Lala, Laura Magnin, Matthew Ocasio, and Hill Wilson.

The event was considered a success. There were a total of 54 people including students, family members, and FCS staff. The event began with pledges and singing. Mr. Anthony Gianantonio led the music, "Raise a Hallelujah" and "The Lion and the Lamb." The devotional and prayer time followed. People lifted up topics such as unsaved family and friends, FCS, the local community, America, and that God would move in the school and help the students, families, and faculty to reach those who are lost.

This event has been historically important to FCS, in that it allows students, family, and faculty to join together and present their requests to God. The Bible states that when two or more people gather together in God's name, He is there with them (Matthew 18:20). Organizers expressed hope that Faith Christian School would continue to participate in this event for many years to come.

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for more info

## 2022 Theme Verse & Student Challenge Commentary By Connor Roddy

**"Whatever you do, work at it wholeheartedly, as though you were doing it for the Lord, not merely for people." - Colossians 3:23**

Colossians 3:23 is an important verse that speaks about Faith Christian School's values. It tells students to work at everything with all their heart as if working for Him, and FCS has seen exceptional displays of such character in our student body and in the sports teams at games. The school keeps a banner up in the hallway as an excellent reminder for students to embrace this attitude. The verse, chosen by the school board and Mrs. Long, is a New Testament verse about working faithfully through everything you do. This is something that can be applied to life in any situation, whether it's school or work, or in providing services in communities like church or your neighborhood. Here at school, you can take part in that through small, but important acts, such as helping a student study, getting copies from the office for teachers, or various other things that have an impact, despite these being only small decisions in the span of a school day. What matters, though, is that you work at it as if working for God!



Left: Coach DeFranco gives pointers to the boys' varsity soccer team during a recent game. Photo credit: Oneida Wilson. Right: Putting a best foot forward, members of the girls varsity team pause for a quick photo. Photo credit: Betsy Gonzales.

# September Sports Highlights

By Stephen Williams

Fall sports have started and here are the sport highlights for this month. The coach for the middle school (MS) team is Andrew DeLorme. The coaches for the varsity girls' (GV) team are Jim Snyder, assisted by Sarah Dempsey. Coaching the boys' varsity (BV) team are head coach Nick DeFranco, assisted by Christian McElroy and Cameron Whistler.

After a season opening tournament for the BV, both varsity teams went to battle Warren Tech as the first game of the season. The girls ended up tying, 4-4 with Laura Magnin scoring all 4 goals. The boys were defeated against Warren Tech. Game 2 for both were against Summit and were quite a treat. The GV was unable to get the win, but the BV beat down Summit 6-0. Scorers were Tim DeLorme (3 goals), and Jeffery Hazelton, Stephen Williams and Joeraan Williams (1 goal each). The BV then challenged

Veritas, but could not find a win.

On September 19th, the boys had a huge win against Trinity (3-1) with goals scored by Tim DeLorme, Joeraan Williams, and Joseph Blair. On the 22nd, both varsity teams had games against Canaan. Although the girls could not grab a hold of the win, Nina Gonzales and Veronica Kharonov each scored. The BV won 10-2; goals were scored by Tim DeLorme, Jeffery Hazelton, Joeraan Williams, Stephen Williams, Matthew Lala, Matthew Ocasio, and Hill Wilson. Moving on, the BV won over Bethlehem Christian, 5-2. Hill Wilson, Stephen Williams, Tim DeLorme and Michael Stoltzfus all contributed to the win. Both varsity teams went on to play Veritas, which both lost, but Tim DeLorme and Leah Roometua each scored in their respective games. The final boys' game, against Quakertown, was a tough loss in

overtime.

The middle school has also shown signs of strength and energy as they make their way through their season. So far the MS team had huge wins over Bergen (11-3) and Trinity (7-0). Their last game of September was a very intense game against Nutley. They were losing 0-2 in the first half, but together they managed to pull off a once in a lifetime comeback, beating Nutley 3-2. Their game against Arrow Academy was canceled and will be rescheduled on our home field.

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## Spiritual Emphasis Week *By Meg Erwin*

For the past four years, Faith Christian School has spent a week each October learning about and working for God's Kingdom in an event known as Spiritual Emphasis Week. This year's Spiritual Emphasis Week began on Tuesday, October 18 and lasted until Friday, October 21. The first three days of the week, students started off their mornings with chapel. The speaker for elementary

school was Mr. Peter Mackevich of Wildlife Encounters, and the speaker for middle school and high school will be Mr. Jerry Majors, the executive director of NEPAYFC (Northeast Pennsylvania Youth For Christ). The week ended with the middle school and high school going to Mt. Gilead Camp to do volunteer work for Faith Serves. Elementary students took part in Faith Walks at Roseto Ball Park.

Both events are part of one of the school's biggest fundraisers for the year.

Student Council supported this year's event by praying individually for the entire student body, staff and school board members. They also sponsored scripture scavenger hunts for both the elementary and upper grades. The goal of all activities is lasting spiritual growth for the school community.

# Friendly Fox Makes a Name for Himself

By Megan Erwin



Attention all Faith Christian School faculty and students! Did FCS adopt a new mascot? Not exactly. Dubbed "Franklin the Fox," this furry fellow has been sighted roaming around the school property over the past few days. It was first seen in the parking lot by Mrs. Martin followed by some other teachers and students, and has more recently been seen in the parking lot and playground on Friday, September 22nd at the FCS Movie Night. As interesting and exciting as this is, it is imperative that everyone who sees this intriguing creature admires it from a distance. We are unsure of how long this fox will be lurking around, so don't get too used to it, and, of course, don't get too close!

# We Have a Winner!

by Michelle Ortiz

"HEY! YOU!  
Are you still paying attention?"

If you are, the newspaper staff is proud to present the winner of the "Name the Newspaper" contest! The winner of the contest is Samantha Wainwright from third grade with *The Lion's Epistle*. Congratulations to Samantha for winning our contest and a bag full of goodies, including an Amazon gift card and a free pizza lunch. The staff would like to recognize some entries which did not win the contest, but caught our attention and will possibly be featured as future column titles. These include: *The Nosy Newsies* by Carter Simon in Kindergarten and *Faith Talks* by Kaden Beresk in 2nd grade.



The winner, Samantha Wainwright (center), shown with the newspaper staff after receiving her prize.

Though our journalism group and the school staff chose *The Lion's Epistle* as our official name, some honorable mentions go out for those names which were also loved: *Hedgehog* by Nolan Lopez in Kindergarten  
*Poptart Newspaper* by MaryPat Lanham in 4th grade  
*The Fantastic Faith Fanzine* by Cody Kimes in 8th grade  
*The Jesus Journal* by Megan Erwin in 11th grade  
*The Write Faith* by Moelani Roometua in 9th grade

While not necessarily a newspaper title, the journalism students also enjoyed the confidence in our school shown in third grader Hunter Schaarschmidt's submission, *God's Almighty School*. Thank you to all who entered the contest!

FALL IS HERE AND IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE! DUE TO ALL THE BEAUTY AND WONDER IN THE FALL SCENERY, WE ARE HOLDING AN ART CONTEST FOR THE NEXT ISSUE! YOUR ARTWORK MUST BE ORIGINAL AND SUBMITTED IN THE BOX LOCATED NEAR THE COOLER OUTSIDE OF THE GYMNASIUM. ALL ARTWORK MUST BE AUTUMNAL IN THEME. THE DEADLINE FOR YOUR ARTWORK IS NOVEMBER 2ND. INAPPROPRIATE ARTWORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.



## FOR LAUGHS AND GIGGLES

- Jokes compiled by  
Michelle Ortiz

- ★ There's three kinds of people in this world: Those who can count and those who can't.
- ★ My grandfather has the heart of a lion and a lifetime ban from the zoo.
- ★ My wife accused me of being immature. I told her to get out of my fort.
- ★ I know a joke about unemployed people, but none of them work.
- ★ You know what they say about cliffhangers...

By Michelle Ortiz